

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation

## **SISTERHOOD CORNER—March, 2022**

Diane Rosenfeld, President (raynesd@aol.com) Judy Arkin, Editor (kjarkin99@comcast.net)

### ***From the President's Desk...***

This year, the month of March brings us many events to celebrate! One hundred years ago, on March 18, 1922, Judith Kaplan became the first girl in the United States to celebrate a Bat Mitzvah. It took place at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism (SAJ) in New York City. SAJ was also founded in 1922 by her father, Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism. Little did Judith realize at the time that her actions would change Jewish communal life forever. Since that time, Jewish women have followed in her footsteps--ascending the bimah as B'not Mitzvah, having ritual honors, and acceptance into leadership roles in all areas of synagogue life. It also helped pave the way for female rabbis, cantors, scholars and educators. All of this has helped to expand women's participation in Jewish life.

March is also International Women's Month which we will celebrate with a program on March 2nd by Sisterhood member Dr. Susan Boldrey on "Women in Music". Our book club will be discussing "*The Only Woman in the Room*" by Marie Benedict on March 16th.

And finally, Purim begins the evening of March 16th. Please check out the synagogue website at [www.ehnt.org](http://www.ehnt.org) for information about our Purim services and festivities, including our annual Purim *Shpiel* the weekends of March 13th-14th and 20th-21st. We hope you will join us!

Remember to be joyful during Purim. It is appropriate to say during the months of Adar (both 1 and 2) "Be Happy, it's Adar!"

*B' Shalom, Diane Rosenfeld*

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Please mail your contributions to:

Judy Arkin c/o EHNTJC Sisterhood  
4500 Dempster Street • Skokie, IL 60076

#### **Our Media Moguls this month are:**

**Esther Berman**

*(in honor of my grandchildren),*

**Joan Cook**

*(in honor of the birthday of my grandson,*

*Hayden Chandler Kaplan),*

**Fran Givertz**

*(in honor of my 71<sup>st</sup> birthday),*

**Miriam Goldberger,**

**Mickey Gordon**

*(in honor of my grandchildren),*

**Bobbie Levin,**

**Esther Manewith**

*(in honor of our grandchildren),*

**Dori Marks, Ada Rabinowitz,**

**Diane Rosenfeld**

*(in honor of nephew David and grandchildren*

*Josh, Avi, Zev, Ella, Max, Lexi, Jake and Ryan),*

**Judi Stein**

**Our next BOOK CLUB will be on  
Wednesday, March 16 at 10:30 a.m.**

**on ZOOM to discuss**

**"*The Only Woman in the Room*"**

**by Marie Benedict**

Her beauty almost certainly saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. Underestimated in everything else, she overheard the Third Reich's plans while at her husband's side and understood more than anyone would guess. She devised a plan to flee in disguise from their castle, and the whirlwind escape landed her in Hollywood. She became Hedy Lamarr, screen star.

But she kept a secret more shocking than her heritage or her marriage: she was a scientist. And she had an idea that might help the country fight the Nazis and revolutionize modern communication...if anyone would listen to her.

A powerful book based on the incredible true story of the glamour icon and scientist, "*The Only Woman in the Room*" is a masterpiece that celebrates the many women in science that history has overlooked.

We hope you will join us for a lively discussion!

Book Club Co-Chairs

Elaine Lampert (847)537-1240

Carol Gottlieb (847)501-1896

**NEXT UP:** "*The Last Summer at the Golden Hotel*"  
by Elyssa Friedland on May 18<sup>th</sup>.....

**A BIG WELCOME to our new  
Sisterhood Members:**

**Michele Reznick and Barbara Schwartz**

## Good and Welfare...

- Wishing a *Refuah Shlayma* to Janet Keiser
- Happy 100th Birthday to Ruth Saffro on March 22nd!

### TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU

- Thanks to all who have made donations in support of our Sisterhood programming!

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by Judy Arkin - Programming V.P.

Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Women's Seder with Julie Weill

Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Torah Fund Program

Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut with Jeff & Janis

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

Sisterhood Shabbat



### Torah Fund 5782

by Rose-Lynn Jaffe  
Torah Fund V.P.

Our speaker will be Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould. Rabbi Chankin-Gould, a graduate of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, has been a Rabbi at Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago since 2015. He will be speaking about how the money raised through Torah Fund assisted him and others to achieve their educational goals. The program will be offered in person (Covid restrictions permitting) and on Zoom. As I write this at mid-February, we do not yet know if we will be allowed to have a luncheon in the synagogue. I will send an e-mail to everyone before March 10th with final information regarding a Torah Fund luncheon with our program. Since we are still dealing with ever changing Covid restrictions, we are not planning a luncheon at this time.

### Our Sisterhood is an affiliate of



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## EDUCATION CORNER

by Gloriann Levy

The upcoming Purim Holiday, which starts on Wednesday—March 16th and continues through Thursday—March 17th, is based on the events of the biblical Book of Esther.

Purim has many traditions, but only five commandments: joy, reading the Megillah, enjoying a festive meal, giving gifts of at least two different types of food to at least one person (*mishloach manot*), and money to the poor—traditionally, enough money for two people to each buy a meal. The question is why did the Rabbis decide that these five commandments are a necessary part of celebrating Purim? What ties these acts to the central message of Purim?

One thing that binds these commandments together is the Book of Esther itself. Toward the end of the Megillah, we read that Mordecai wrote a letter to the Jews, explaining what had happened and telling them to “make days of feasting and gladness, and sending portions to one another, and giving gifts to the poor” (Esther 9:22). These commandments then, are about re-creating the original Purim.

Contained in the same verse from the Megillah is another theme of Purim that unites these commandments: Mordecai tells the Jews to mark “the month in which things switched from sorrow to joy and mourning to celebration.” We bring joy to ourselves and others by feasting, sharing food with our friends and the poor, and by retelling the story of Purim, knowing our happy ending from the beginning.

We Jews have always been optimistic about the future and have believed that there will be light and hope in the days to come. Even though we are now facing a difficult time of renewed anti-Semitism and the difficulties of the Covid-19 virus, which has disrupted our daily lives, we know that there is light at the end of the tunnel and that much of what we are facing today is temporary.

The story of Purim ends with hope and joy and the enduring strength and optimism of the Jewish people. “For the Jews there was light and joy!” And for us as well!

**Happy Purim!**



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