

SISTERHOOD CORNER—September, 2022

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

From the President's Desk...

I recently viewed the livestream from one of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin's summer productions "Little Shop of Horrors" as my 15-year-old grandson had a part in this musical. I was completely mesmerized by the acting, singing, and dancing. I listened very closely to understand it as it was performed entirely in Hebrew. As many of you know, Camp Ramah is the summer camping arm of the Conservative movement. As I watched the finale, I reflected that many of these 14 and 15-year-olds will someday be the future leaders of the Conservative movement as rabbis, cantors, librarians, educators and teachers. For many of these young people, their educational expenses are supplemented by the donations that you generously give during our Torah Fund campaign each year. When you give your donation, you are ensuring the future leadership of the Conservative movement. Stay tuned as you will learn more about Torah Fund in the near future.

We are now in the Hebrew month of Elul. It is a time set apart for introspection, reflection and repentance (*teshuvah*). We try to spiritually prepare for the High Holidays. We say and write to others, "May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year." The shofar is blown in some synagogues every morning to awake in us the spark to repent. It is also customary to visit the graves of loved ones throughout the month in order to remember those from our past who have inspired and enriched our lives.

We have an entire array of programs planned for you to experience this year including speakers, musical entertainment, as well as thought-provoking and fun activities. We have also planned book reviews, social action and fundraising projects. I look forward to seeing you at our opening meeting on September 7 and our book review on September 21. See information in this bulletin about these events.

I am wishing you and your family a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Meaningful New Year!
L'shanah Tovah Tikatevu!

B'Shalom, Diane Rosenfeld

News and Notes...

Be a media mogul! A \$5 contribution makes you a sponsor of our Sisterhood Bulletin.

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 birthdays of granddaughter Harper Olivia Hobson, daughter-in-law Vickie Kaplan and cousin Bette Mendes),

Fran Givertz

(in honor of my family and friends),

Miriam Goldberger,

Mickey Gordon

(in honor of my grandchildren),

Bobbie Levin,

Esther Manewith

(in honor of our grandchildren),

Dori Marks, Ada Rabinowitz and Judi Stein

Good and Welfare...

- **Mazel Tov** to Jackie Lauwasser on the birth of her granddaughter, Adalyn Rose Little.
- **Mazel Tov** to Goldie Brandhandler on the marriage of grandson Jonah Brandhandler to Becca Haas.
- **Condolences** to Michele Reznick on the passing of her mother, Evelyn Klein.
- **Condolences** to Vivian Coretz on the passing of her son-in-law, Rod Bennett.

TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU

- Thank you to Andi Lieberman for her generous donation to Sisterhood in honor of Diane Rosenfeld.

SAVE THE DATE...

Wednesday, October 12th

for our

Luncheon and Program

with

Sheriff Tom Dart

**"Gun Violence Prevention
and Red Flag Law"**

(see enclosed flyer)

Our Sisterhood is an affiliate of



Membership Update!

by Roz Cherry - Membership VP

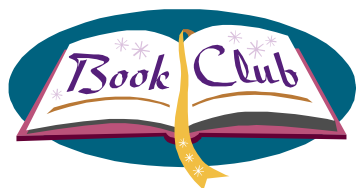
Our membership campaign began just a few weeks ago, and we are so thrilled to see that so many members have already renewed. If you have not sent in your dues yet for 2022-2023, please do so as soon as possible. You do not want to miss out on the programs, book reviews, social action and fundraising projects that have already been planned. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Questions about membership, please contact me at 847-975-3823 or rosalynrcherry@icloud.com.

Please consider asking neighbors, family members and friends to join along with you!

**A BIG WELCOME to our new
Sisterhood Member:
Florence Nelson**

Our next *Sisterhood*



**will meet
Wednesday, September 21st
10:30 a.m. on ZOOM
to discuss
"Woman on Fire"
by Lisa Barr**

A thrilling tale of secrets, love, and sacrifice that illuminates the destructive cruelty of war and greed and the triumphant power of beauty and love, *Woman on Fire* tells the story of a remarkable woman and an exquisite work of art that burns bright, moving through hands, hearts, and history. From Chicago to the South of France, from the mountains of Montana to the forests of Germany, we are carried along on an exciting, page-turning mystery.

Please join us for a lively discussion!

Carol Gottlieb and Dolly Zavell
Book Club Chairs



*Make someone happy every day
even if it is only yourself.*



Torah Fund

by Rose-Lynn Jaffe
Torah Fund VP

***Chazak v' Ematz –
Be Strong and Courageous***

The pins are in! The theme for this year's Torah Fund, reflected on our new Torah Fund pin is *Chazak v' Ematz*, Be Strong and Courageous. We summon strength and fortitude in these changing times to continue to make an important impact at our global Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher education. Your generosity helps provide essential scholarships and programs to educate future leaders of the Jewish Community. Donations of any amount are appreciated. For donations of \$180 or higher you will receive this pin as a thank you.

L'dor v'dor!

WAYS & MEANS

by Judy Frank
Ways & Means VP

Thank you to all those who came to Mizrahi Grill on Wednesday, August 17th for our "Dining Out Day." The weather was beautiful and many of us enjoyed dining outdoors, eating the delicious Israeli food.

I hope to see many of you at our Opening Sisterhood Program on September 7th. In addition to our special program and a wonderful lunch, we will also be having a small boutique. Please come a little early and check it out.

Sisterhood has two ongoing projects. We send *Leagrams* to all Sisterhood members when celebrating a birthday or anniversary. For \$54 per year you can have your name included on every *Leagram* sent to our members.

We also sell Sisterhood cards that you can use to send to people for any occasion. We have a package of 8 cards for \$10 and another package of larger cards that sell for \$18 for 6 cards. You will have an opportunity to purchase them at all our Sisterhood programs, or in the synagogue office

Thanks in advance for your support of Sisterhood!

EDUCATION CORNER

by Dr. Barbara Brotine
Education Committee

Six Things You Might Not Know About Rosh Hashanah

It's the start of the High Holy Days and the anniversary of creation of Adam and Eve – yet as a holiday we've all likely celebrated every year of our lives, there are still aspects of its history and customs that are not widely known. So let's look at some of them:

There is no one correct number of Shofar blasts. The Torah simply tells us to blow a *teruah* (the staccato sound) from a shofar on Rosh Hashanah. How many times? Here's where the Talmud brings its own interpretations, adding the requirement to blow a *tekiah* (the long unbroken sound) before and after each *teruah*, and also using the *shevarim* sound (three short wails). The most common custom is to blow 100 blasts in total, but some communities choose 71 blasts or 101 blasts.

The holiday isn't named in the Torah. The day is referred to only as *Yom Teruah*, the day of shofar blowing. Instead, the name Rosh Hashanah comes from the portion of the Talmud devoted to the holiday.

Apples dipped in honey is only one traditional food. Many people eat parts of a fish head, symbolic of the wish that “we be a head and not a tail.” Some eat pomegranates, symbolic of the wish that “our merits be many like the seeds of the pomegranate.” And carrots often appear, as the Hebrew words for “carrot” and “decree” are similar. Other holiday table foods include dates, string beans, beets, pumpkins and leeks.

But many people avoid nuts at the holiday table. Why? It's an interpretation of the gematria; the Hebrew words for nut (*egoz*) and sin (*het*) have the same numerical value.

You can rock to Rosh Hashanah melodies. Leonard Cohen's “Who By Fire” draws on the *Unetanah Tokef* prayer. And Scottish post-rock trio Mogwai's “My Father My King” borrows the melody of *Avinu Malkeinu*.

This is not the only Jewish New Year. Of course it's the best known, but according to the Mishnah, there are three others. The Book of Exodus calls out the first of Nisan — the month of Passover — as the beginning of the year. Tu Bishvat — the 15th day of Shevat — is celebrated as the new year for trees. And the least known is the first of Elul (usually in August) — the new year for the tithing (an annual sacrifice) of cattle, which nowadays is interpreted as a new year for all animals.

And to everyone, Shanah tovah!

HIAS Refugee Project Update

by Carol Gottlieb

I am happy to report the Mohammed Family who we are supporting through HIAS has arrived and is adjusting to life here in the U.S. The family of five, Mom, Dad and three sons (10, 8 and 5 years old) arrived at O'Hare on June 15th. They were greeted at the airport with signs and smiles from volunteers in our consortium (EHNTJC, Kehillat Shalom, Temple Beth Israel and Congregation Ahavat Olam). EHNTJC and KS have been particularly impactful in all areas of this project including financial support, the donation of goods, apartment set-up, pantry stocking and mentoring directly with the family. The family arrived during a heatwave, and it was immediately obvious they would need air conditioners to cool off their third-floor apartment—and now they have two!

Mentors meet with the family twice a week and have worked on everything from answering questions like “Is the tap water safe to drink?” to “What do you use to wash clothes?” We have worked on learning ABC's, counting, American money, using a calendar, singing songs, and finding the local park. Learning how to take the bus is an upcoming lesson.

The children were all registered for school and the consortium provided school supplies for the boys. Members have donated used clothes in good condition for the children. They will all need warm weather clothing soon, although HIAS provides winter coats. If any knitters out there want to help, a warm hat, gloves or mittens will be welcomed gifts.

As one of the most frequent visitors, I think the parents think I am the “good fairy” providing all of these items, although I've tried to explain many “aunties and uncles” want them to be happy here. They all have limited English which makes communication a challenge, but they are eager to learn. The dad has experience cooking Thai food and is hoping to find a job soon. He enjoys soccer/football and even knows how to play a little guitar! The family is involved with the Rohingya Center and has some family here for other support. They are very, very appreciative of everything, whether it be air conditioners or frisbees.

As a group we will soon need to think about our continued involvement beyond the three-month commitment we made with HIAS. I feel sure our continued help in some way would be welcomed.

Yasher Koach to all the volunteers who have participated in this mitzvah!



**Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.**

From our homes to yours.....



.....a Happy and Healthy New Year!

2022 - 2023 Sisterhood Board