

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation  
**SISTERHOOD CORNER—April, 2023**

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

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

There are many different customs and practices that families incorporate into their Passover seders each year. For two consecutive years, my grandchildren, then ages 9 and 10, put on a skit about the seder plate symbols getting ready for the seder. One year, my son-in-law bought cute pillows for each child attending to recline. He also bought blue material that looked like fish swimming in an ocean. This represented the Red Sea. He tacked the material up on both sides of the living room so that we actually felt like we were sitting on dry land in the middle of the sea.

But what about customs in other countries? Many Syrian Jews symbolically act out the Exodus a step further by taking some matzah, placing it in something like a backpack, and throwing it over their shoulders. This is followed by a Hebrew verse about leaving the desert in haste.

At the part in the Haggadah that says, "We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt," Jews in Romania fill a pillowcase with heavy objects and carry it around the table, with each person taking a turn.

When chanting *Dayenu*, some Persian and Afghan Jews have the custom of beating each other lightly on the back with scallions or leeks. The tradition symbolizes the whipping that the Israelites endured in Egypt while enslaved.

I look forward to seeing you all upon my return from Israel. Please join us on April 19th for lunch and a program which connects to Yom Hashoah. Local actress Megan Wells will portray Miep Gies who hid the Otto Frank family and found and preserved Anne Frank's diary during the Holocaust.

I wish you all a "Zissin (sweet) Pesach"!

*L' 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 grandchildren*

*Andrew and Raleigh Kaplan's wedding anniversary),*

**Carol Friedlander**

*(in honor of my grandchildren  
and great-granddaughter)*

**Fran Givertz**

*(in honor of my family and friends),*

**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 Rabbi Brief on the birth of his great-granddaughter, Neta Hallel Brief.
- **Refuah Shlema** to Elaine Lampert.
- **Welcome!**.....to new Sisterhood member, Nina Summers.

If you have any "Good & Welfare" to share, please contact Judy Arkin at [kjarkin99@comcast.net](mailto:kjarkin99@comcast.net).

**DATES TO REMEMBER...**

by Judy Arkin - Programming V.P.

**Wednesday, April 19th at 11:30 a.m.**

Miep Gies portrayed by Megan Wells

**Wednesday, May 3rd at 10:30 a.m.**

Book Club – (ZOOM only)

"The Matchmaker's Gift"

by Lynda Cohen Loigman

**Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**

Torah Fund Luncheon and Program

**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

Sisterhood Shabbat

**Wednesday, June 7th at 11:30 a.m.**

Culminating Luncheon and  
Board Installation

***Our Sisterhood is an affiliate of***



## ***WAYS & MEANS***

by Judy Frank - Ways & Means V.P.

### ***PASSOVER IS AROUND THE CORNER!***

Are you all set for Passover? Our Sisterhood has several items for all your Passover needs. We carry

hostess gift items as well as decorative serving pieces and dish towels with clever sayings on them.

Please check out our gift shop windows and give me a call if you would like to purchase anything or see Bill in the synagogue office.

847-530-4572 or [Judy@tcscorp.com](mailto:Judy@tcscorp.com)

**Our next**

***Sisterhood Book Club***



**will meet Wednesday, May 3rd  
at 10:30 a.m. on ZOOM to discuss**

### ***"THE MATCHMAKER'S GIFT"***

**by Lynda Cohen Loigman**

Even as a child in 1910, Sara Glickman knows her gift -- she is a seeker of soulmates and a maker of matches. But among the pushcart-crowded street of New York's Lower East Side, Sara's vocation is dominated by devout older men -- men who see a talented female matchmaker as a dangerous threat to their traditions and livelihood. After working in secret for more than a decade, Sara must fight to take her rightful place among her peers, and to demand the recognition she deserves.

Two generations later, Sara's granddaughter, Abby, is a successful Manhattan divorce attorney, representing the city's wealthiest clients. When her beloved Grandma Sara dies, Abby inherits her collection of handwritten journals recording the details of Sara's matches. But among the faded volumes, Abby finds more questions than answers. Why did Abby's grandmother leave this library to her, and what did she hope Abby would discover within its pages? Why does the legal work Abby once found so compelling suddenly feel inconsequential and flawed? Is Abby willing to sacrifice the career she worked so hard for in order to keep her grandmother's mysterious promise to a stranger? And is there really such a thing as love at first sight?

Anyone whose life has been touched or inspired by a grandparent will be drawn to *The Matchmaker's Gift* -- its vision of how one generation can affect another through shared stories and connections.

***Don't forget to complete the e-mail survey we recently sent to you to help guide our selections for next year!***

Carol Gottlieb and Dolly Zavell - Book Club Chairs

## **EDUCATION CORNER**

by Dr. Esther Javetz- Education V.P.

### **Did You Know?**

***(Quotes from the Bible in general  
and about Passover...)***

Some relevant quotes from the Bible with my translation into English:

1) "Listen my son, to the discipline of your father, and do not forsake the Torah of your mother" (Proverbs 1: 8). Both parents contribute to the child's education, but the mother's role is more important—she transmits the Torah!

2) "Seven days you will eat matzah, because in the first day you will eliminate chametz from your home" (Exodus 12: 15). What are the practical implications? You clean your kitchen and dining area from chametz food; turning the whole house upside down is just a tradition, not a requirement. Remember: dust is NOT chametz!

3) "This month is going to be for you the first from all months of the year" (Exodus 12: 2). The Bible puts a high importance to the coming out of Egypt, the change from slavery to an independent people. As a result, there was a calendar created by the Israelites (a sun-based of 364 days) where the month of Nisan (April-May) was the first month. This Biblical calendar was used for about 1,000 years, and was replaced later by Rabbis, because of pressure from the Greek Empire that conquered the Middle East. As the Hebrew calendar was changed (to be moon-based) to start from the month of Tishrei (September-October), an additional holiday was created: Rosh Hashanah.

4) "And you will observe the feast of unleavened bread, because actually in this day, I delivered your multitude from the land of Egypt, and you will keep this day for generations, a forever constitution" (Exodus 12: 17). Again, Biblical based holidays have more weight in Judaism than holidays that were established after Biblical time.

5) Since when do we celebrate the Passover Seder? At least from the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE. When was the Haggadah created? Around 1000 CE. RAMBAM included it in his book. The Haggadah was written by Rabbis, and they continued the ideas that were in the Bible: "In every generation each individual is bound to regard himself as if he had gone personally forth from Egypt" (Passover Haggadah).



*Existing is easy.  
Living demands courage – daily.*

## **TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU**

- Thank you to all who participated in the *Leagram* for my birthday. It is nice to know that so many people whom I hardly know sent wonderful wishes. It means a lot to have the community that we have at EHNTJC! Hugs.....Fran Givertz.
  - Thank you for all the *Leagram* birthday wishes.....Carol Friedlander.
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## **Torah Fund**

**by Rose-Lynn Jaffe - Torah Fund VP**

***Chazak v' Ematz –***

***Be Strong and Courageous***

is the theme for Torah Fund for this year,  
Torah Fund's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

For 80 years, the women of Women's League of Conservative Judaism (WLCJ) have been truly dedicated to the cause of supporting seminary students to ensure that we will always have rabbis, cantors, educators, and lay leaders to serve our congregations, our people and especially our future. EHNTJC Sisterhood continues to be an important part of Torah Fund, raising funds to help support students and their learning at all five Conservative Seminaries around the world. We celebrate our accomplishments at our annual Torah Fund luncheon. This year's luncheon will be held Wednesday, May 10th at 11:30 a.m. Our speaker will be Jacob Cytryn, the Executive Director of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. Jacob earned his Master in Talmud and Rabbinics from JTS in New York. He also studied at Hebrew University and the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

Watch your mail for the luncheon invitation flyer.

***Please remember that All reservations must be in by May 3rd.***

***Late reservations will not be accepted due to the caterer's deadline.***

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## **Fudge Brownies for Passover**

Recipe from Francine Schulman

- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup oil for Passover
- 1/2 cup cake meal
- 1/2 cup potato starch
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 4 tbsp. cocoa
- 2 cups pecans chopped (optional)



Beat eggs well, add sugar and beat until creamy. Add oil. Sift dry ingredients together and blend well with the egg and sugar mixture. Fold in pecans. Place into greased 9"x9" pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.  
Cool slightly then cut into squares.

Enjoy!