

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation

SISTERHOOD CORNER—February, 2023

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

From the President's Desk...

When I was a young child attending Hebrew School, we observed Tu B'shevat by putting quarters on to cards with slots in order to raise enough money to plant a tree in Israel. The money would then be sent to Jewish National Fund (JNF), and we would receive a certificate for our efforts. Since my mother's birthday was at this time, I would always buy a certificate in her honor. I remember the "blue box that makes Israel green" referring to the blue metal box which sat in many Jewish kitchens, provided by the Jewish National Fund, so that we could collect money all year around.

JNF was founded in 1901 by Theodore Herzl, father of modern Zionism. In 1926, JNF was incorporated in the United States, becoming an American effort to support development in Israel. By 2007, it owned 13% of the total land in Israel. Since its inception, the JNF has planted over 240 million trees in Israel.

For many years now, JNF has done so much more than just facilitate the planting of trees. It oversees environmental issues such as afforestation, road construction and repairs, providing irrigation and reservoirs, creating parks and playgrounds, tourism, recreation and so much more. Many groups use Tu B'shevat as an opportunity to promote initiatives that focus on conservation, sustainability, recycling, healthy eating, spending time in nature and educating others about climate change.

The next time you travel to Israel, please contact JNF—Chicago in advance about going on a comprehensive one day tour (offered on Wednesdays) to see some of the projects supported by JNF.

Please join us on Zoom for our February 1st program, *The Jews of Cuba*. On February 15th our Book Club will be reviewing "*Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes*" by Ira Rosen. Looking forward to the spring, Julie Weill will lead our annual Women's Seder on March 23rd which will be offered both in-person and on Zoom. More information will follow.

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 the anniversary of cousins

Wayne and Susie Mendes),

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 Ronia Gross on the birth of granddaughter Razly Dolores Gross.
- **Condolences** to Elaine Koffman on the passing of her husband Bennett.
- **Condolences** to the family of Melynda Lopin.
- **Condolences** to Robin Cember on the passing of her husband Michael.
- **Condolences** to Shelley Sutker-Dermer on the passing of her mother-in-law Marilyn Dermer.
- **Refuah Shlema** to Carol Grad.

Sisterhood Shabbat

This year our Sisterhood Shabbat will be celebrated on May 13th and we would like to have as many women as possible participate!

If you would like to take part in the service, please send me an e-mail at javfam@aol.com and I will call you to discuss your preferences.

Thank you!
Esther Javetz – Education V.P.



TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU

- Thanks to all who have made donations in support of our Sisterhood programming!
- Thank you all for your good wishes on the birth of our great-granddaughter, Isabelle Marie...Esther and Bob Manewith.
- Thank you all for your wonderful Leagram birthday wishes.....Bobbie Levin.

DATES TO REMEMBER...

by Judy Arkin - Programming V.P.

Wednesday, February 1st at 1:00 p.m.

Jews of Cuba -

by Helene Herman (ZOOM only)

Wednesday, February 15th at 10:30 a.m.

Book Club - (ZOOM only)

"Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes" by Ira Rosen

Thursday, March 23rd at 7:30 p.m.

Women's Seder—led by Julie Weill

WAYS & MEANS

by Judy Frank - Ways & Means V.P.

Our Sisterhood Cards can be purchased through our gift shop. These cards can be used to send to someone in honor of or in memory of. There are two sizes: small are 8 for \$10 and large are 6 for \$18.

I want to remind everyone about our "Leagrams". It is a wonderful Sisterhood fundraiser in which all members can participate. A Leagram is sent to members with wishes for a Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary. Your name can be included on each Leagram sent for an annual cost of \$54..... (check out the form on the last page of the bulletin).

Also, our gift shop has some nice Judaica items. If you see something you are interested in purchasing, please contact me or ask Bill in the synagogue office to help you with your purchase.

847-530-4572 or Judy@tcscorp.com



It is the manner and not the length that determines the quality of life.....

EDUCATION CORNER

by Evie Lowenthal - Education Committee

Tu B'shevat

Tu B'shevat, celebrated throughout the Jewish world on the fifteenth day of Shevat, has an interesting history. It represents a symbolic tie to the land of Israel, where it is the season of nature's rebirth.

In our North American climate, it's still mid-winter. However, celebrating this spring festival, we are able to lift our spirits and realize that "spring is just around the corner"

There are many references in the Bible, and the Pentateuch lists many rules regarding planting, pruning, and harvesting the fruit of the trees and the produce of the fields. The importance of trees is indicated in Deuteronomy (20:19-20) where it is written that "when, in your war against a city, you have besieged it a long time in order to capture it, you must not destroy the tree...you may eat of them, but you must not cut them down."

Trees have always been a dominant creative force in the rebuilding and development of the land of Israel. Not only have they served the purpose of beautification, shade and reclamation, they have rendered nourishment and vitality to both the land and the people.

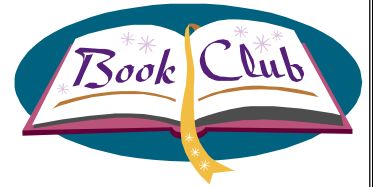
But there is another lesson to be learned from *Tu B'shevat*, taught in the familiar Talmudic story of the Emperor Hadrian, who met an old Jew planting a carob tree, which attains maturity in 70 years. The Emperor said, "By the time your tree bears fruit, you will be long dead." The old man replied, "Yes, father planted a tree whose fruits I enjoyed; so I will plant for my children."

As we have been nourished and strengthened by fruits of the trees planted by those who came before us, so too must we plant seeds and saplings for our children and grandchildren. As traditions and rituals that we carry out are rooted in a rich past spanning over five thousand years, so is the future dependent on our performance of the *mitzvot* today.



**Our next *Sisterhood* Book Club will meet Wednesday, February 15th
at 10:30 a.m. on ZOOM to discuss**

***"Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes
at 60 Minutes"*
by Ira Rosen**



Based on decades of access and experience, producer Ira Rosen takes readers behind closed doors to offer an incisive look at the show that invented TV investigative journalism, *60 Minutes*. Written with an eye for colorful detail, Rosen writes about his years as Mike Wallace's top producer. Rosen later became the senior producer of ABC's *Primetime Live* and *20/20*. He has won 24 Emmy awards as well as two Peabody Awards, for excellence in quality storytelling. Telling the stories of the famous, from Tom Brady to Hillary Clinton, and the infamous including corrupt politicians and mobster John Gotti Jr., from Israel to Pakistan and beyond, Rosen has been a part of the interviews with newsmakers and policy shapers from around the world. His investigations into wrongly imprisoned people, shoddy conditions at a Virginia VA hospital and the plight of refugees, had the capacity to right some of the wrongs of society. As the child of a Holocaust survivor, Rosen believed the long hours, frequent verbal abuse and pressure were worth it because journalism provided him with the opportunity to expose injustices. At times humorous, but always highly entertaining, this revealing portrait of one of American television's most famous and successful news shows is sure to be an interesting read.

Carol Gottlieb and Dolly Zavell – Book Club Chairs

CALLING ALL READERS!

Do you thrill at solving a mystery?

Curious about the lives of famous people?

Love to cozy up with a romance?

Tell us the categories of books you most enjoy reading.

A survey will be coming to you by e-mail to learn more
about your general reading preferences.

We want to be sure to select a variety of genres,
and the genres most preferred by our members.

Please complete the upcoming survey to help guide our
selections for next year.

Thank you!
Carol and Dolly



THE *Sisterhood* of EZRA-HABONIM,
THE NILES TOWNSHIP JEWISH CONGREGATION

Send a Leagram.....

March Birthdays

Bonnie Feinberg	March 2
Francine Schulman	March 3
Andy Reich	March 4
Janice Footlik	March 7
Ellen Bero	March 9
Arona Sarfatty	March 9
Carol Grad	March 12
Carol Friedlander	March 14
Tamara Glassburg	March 14
Shirley Michaelson	March 14
Paulette Levy	March 17
Fran Givertz	March 18
Becky Cherry	March 20
Joan Olson	March 20
Ruth Saffro	March 22
Sharon Rosenstein	March 23
Flora Steigman	March 23
Carol Gottlieb	March 25
Lillian Cohen	March 28
Adrienne Tanner	March 29
Debbie Groman	March 30

March Anniversaries

Mary Schenk	March 2
Shirley Michaelson	March 17
Sandy Kaiz	March 23
Janice Solovy	March 29
Evie Ruebner	March 31

April Birthdays

Barbara Brotine	April 2
Sarah Rabens	April 2
Sally Brown-Winter	April 7
Esther Manewith	April 10
Marlene Singer	April 12
Joan Marcus	April 14
Adie Fuchs	April 18
Judith-Rae Ross	April 18
Lee Golden	April 19
Rose-Lynn Jaffe	April 22
Mickey Gordon	April 23
Beverly Miller	April 23
Jamie Pawlan	April 25
Debbie Novoselsky	April 26
Janice Solovy	April 28

April Anniversaries

Dori Marks	April 2
Phyllis Marcus	April 10
Esther Berman	April 16
Esther Siver	April 16
Shaynee Lichtenstein	April 26
Debbie Novoselsky	April 28

Circle the names that you would like to send a *Leagram* greeting and return with your payment
(payable to EHNTJC Sisterhood) to:

Debbie Reich • 1520 Woodlark Drive • Northbrook, IL 60062

Each *Leagram* greeting is 50¢ or for just \$54.00 (one check!) your name will appear on all
birthday and anniversary *Leagram* greetings sent for a year.

Name: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

*If we missed your birthday or anniversary, or it is listed incorrectly, please contact
Debbie Reich at (847)272-4057 or dr0615@aol.com.*