

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

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

From the President's Desk...

As I write this message, I am reflecting on our very inspirational and meaningful Sisterhood Shabbat service led completely by our members. It is my pleasure to thank all the participants who made it so special: Judy Arkin, Carol Bartman, Esther Berman, Amy Claver, Deb Dragon, Judy Frank, Carol Friedlander, Tamara Glassburg, Fran Givertz, Mickey Gordon, Carol Gottlieb, Davida Grossman, Elaine Lampert, Leah Lazere, Gloriann Levy, Evie Lowenthal, Ada Rabinowitz, Debby Rheinstrom, Rachel Schwab, Deanna Shoss, Nina Summers, Shelley Sutker-Dermer, Adrienne Tanner and Veronika Urban.

An extra special thank you goes to Julie Weill for preparing and reading a very inspirational D'var Torah and to Cheryl Sklar for leading both the Shacharit service as well as Musaf and for reading Torah so seamlessly.

A special thank you to Esther Javetz who spent so much time and effort in coordinating and setting up the service. Sisterhood appreciates the input and support of Rabbi Jeffrey Weill and Cantor Daniel Gale.

Thank you to Francine Schulman and her committee of Rose-Lynn Jaffe and Judie Pittel for coordinating and setting out the food.

Thank you to our Executive Director Jeanette Sigler, Bill Gerber and custodian, Ron Burke. Debbie Reich created the beautiful service outlines.

Please join us for our Culminating Luncheon and Installation of our incoming board on Wednesday, June 7th. Musical entertainment will be provided by Lindsey Baer. Also, check out the enclosed flyer for the exciting social action project that Julie Weill and her committee have planned for July.

I extend my appreciation to all of you, our wonderful members, for all of the support you have shown this past year by attending and participating in our events and programs. I wish you a relaxing and safe summer. I look forward to our 2023-2024 year and working alongside Co-President Judy Frank and the rest of our remarkable Board.

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 granddaughter Kristen Dressler's birthday and cousins Judy and Cliff Barasch's 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 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren),

Miriam Goldberger, Bobbie Levin, Dori Marks, Esther Manewith

(in honor of our grandchildren),

Miffie Nagorsky

(in honor of our grandson, Rafi and granddaughter, Madeline graduating high school),

Ada Rabinowitz and Judi Stein

Good and Welfare...

- **Mazel Tov** to Mickey Gordon on the birth of her great-grandson, Ezra Gordon Smith.
- **Mazel Tov** to Cheryl Sklar on the engagement of her son, Aaron to Eliana Horwitz.
- **Refuah Shlemah** to Marsha Brody.
- **Condolences** to Janice Solovy on the passing of her brother, Dr. Arnold Sutker.

If you have any "Good & Welfare" to share, please contact Judy Arkin at kjarkin99@comcast.net.

TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU

- *Thank you to all the Sisterhood members who sent me Happy Birthday wishes. I am truly overwhelmed by your generosity...Mickey Gordon.*

**A BIG WELCOME to our new
Sisterhood Members:
Rachel Schwab and Alona Anspach**



*A better life is not in the
thinking but in the doing.*

Torah Fund

by Rose-Lynn Jaffe, Torah Fund V.P.

I am writing this several hours after our Torah Fund luncheon which culminated our successful 2022-2023 Torah Fund Campaign. The afternoon was filled with good friends, good food from Zelda's, and an engaging speaker, Jacob Cytryn, Executive Director of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin.

We close this year's campaign, celebrating 80 years of Torah Fund. The 2022-2023 theme was *Chzak v' Ematz – Be Strong and Courageous*. We, the women of Women's League of Conservative Judaism and the women of our EHNTJC Sisterhood, continue to show our strength and commitment to the future by helping to support the education of our future rabbis, cantors and Jewish educators.

Thanks to all of you who donated to Torah Fund this year. We raised well over our annual commitment, an achievement that I am told is not matched by most other sisterhoods.

Our theme for 2023-2024 will be *Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Ba'Zeh -- All of Israel are responsible for one another*. More on that theme and a look at the new pin in the next bulletin.

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Sisterhood Judaica Gift Shop

by Judy Frank, Ways & Means V.P.

The gift shop is here to serve our members. If you have a suggestion of an item that you would like us to purchase for the gift shop, please don't hesitate to let us know. Are you or a loved one moving into a new house or condo – we have *mezuzot* and scrolls. Do you need a gift for a special occasion? Please browse the display cases in the social hall. If you have questions, would like an item, or are interested in ordering something, please call Judy Frank at 847-530-4572. Remember, supporting Sisterhood supports our synagogue!

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



EDUCATION CORNER

by Dr. Susan Boldrey, Education Committee

SHAVUOT

How do YOU say the name of this upcoming late spring holiday? What images and memories do you have of Shavuot or Shavuot? As a little girl studying in the basement of "Niles Township Jewish Congregation," my friends and I sang loudly "ShaVUos time is TOrah time! TOrah, TOrah time!" We sang the syllable "TO" at a fortissimo level. Torah was magical for us. It was hidden in the Ark. The words of Torah were hidden in the rolled up scroll. It was big! It wasn't to be touched by our little fingers, and yet the Torah touched all of our lives. Torah's stories of our Jewish people were colored in our imaginations and were meant to last forever!

We children knew that "Shavuot" meant "weeks" because we always wished each other a "Shavua Tov" after Shabbos. But the plural, "Shavuot" was a mystery to us. Why? Beginning on the second night of Pesach – or after the second Seder in the Jewish Diaspora – Jews begin to count the "omer" through Erev Shavuot. (An "omer" was a dry measure of a sheaf of corn or an omer of grain presented as an offering). The "counting of the Omer" lasts for seven weeks. It is hoped that this focus of counting will fill us with awe and remind us of our precious freedom as we realize how easy it could be to become slaves again. Thus we must remain conscientious and be our best selves as we get ready to "receive" Torah. Let each day of the 49 days bring us a moment of meditation, to ready ourselves for receiving rules to live by (Torah) on Shavuot. May we learn how to make our lives more meaningful as we celebrate in a small way each day, focusing on the important moments of life.

Along with Sukkot and Pesach, Shavuot/Shavuot is a celebration of agriculture and nature. There are "Bikkurim" - seven species – like the seven days of the week – to celebrate this happy holiday. They are wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives (for oil) and dates (for date honey). These were accepted as offerings in the Temple. We still enjoy these special foods at this time of year.

The images for Shavuot are vivid! Traditionally Jews eat dairy foods (cheese, blintzes, or cheese cake) on Shavuot. We wear white as a symbol of humility facing G-d as we received the Torah at Mount Sinai. The numerical number of "halav" ("milk" in Hebrew) is 40 ('het'/8, 'lamed'/30, 'vet'/2). Kabbalists rejoice in this reminder! "40". Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai. The Jews wandered 40 years in the desert before finally being allowed to enter the Promised Land. We read the Book of Ruth to remind us of her goodness and devotion. We remember the images of "milk and honey" in "Song of Songs."

G-d spoke to us children, through us and for us! At Shavuot/Shavuot time, it was and is still our chance to be a voice for G-d. Chag Sameach to Jews everywhere!

