

SISTERHOOD CORNER—February, 2024

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From the President's Desk...

As it is written in the Talmud, *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh- All of Israel is responsible for each other.* This is Women's League theme in support of Torah Fund. Women's League along with each of its Sisterhood affiliates, helps to financially support our five Institutions of Higher Learning that train our future cantors, rabbis and Jewish educators.

We are reminded that we are responsible for helping our brothers and sisters in Israel; especially now during wartime. We know that to help financially is crucial now. What are some other ways we can show our support?

- If one is physically able, fly to Israel and volunteer your time for a week or more with one of several organizations that are arranging these solidarity trips.

- As I write this article, today marks 100 days since Hamas' brutal assault on Israel and the capture of the hostages. Nearly 130 hostages are still being held in Gaza under inhumane conditions. Write to the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the hostages and insist that they use their influence to release them. E-mail your local representatives.

- Join local events to show support to the families of the hostages! This is something you can do in our own Skokie community. You can join a march every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. to show our support of Israel and to make others in the community aware of the plight of the hostages. Meet at the Holocaust Monument in between the Skokie Village Hall and the Skokie Public Library. You will walk with others through downtown Skokie for about 20 minutes. You will receive a poster with a picture and name of one of the hostages. If you have a small Israeli or American flag, hold it high as you walk. When I joined the march on December 31st, there were more than 20 of us. After the march, we took a video of all of us standing together and saying "Bring Them Home"! I was so happy to see Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen among us.

Speaking of Mayor Van Dusen, we hope you will join us for our next Sisterhood event on Zoom—Wednesday, February 7th at 1:00 p.m.. We will welcome author Susan Van Dusen, wife of the mayor, as she reviews the newest book in her mystery series, *Poisoned Passover*.

L'Shalom, Judy Frank and 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,

Joan Cook

(in honor of cousins Wayne and Susan Mendes' wedding anniversary),

Fran Givertz

(in honor of my family and friends),

Miriam Goldberger,

Mickey Gordon

(in honor of my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren),

Bobbie Levin, Dori Marks,

Esther Manewith

(in honor of our grandchildren),

Idelle Peaceman

(in honor of the birth of great-granddaughter Yael Hason),

Ada Rabinowitz and Judi Stein

Our Sisterhood is an affiliate of



DATES TO REMEMBER...

by Judy Arkin - Programming V.P.

Wednesday, February 7th at 1:00 p.m. (ZOOM)
Susan Van Dusen will discuss her newest book—*Poisoned Passover*

Wednesday, March 6th at 1:00 p.m. (ZOOM)
Jerilynn Payne to discuss her
"Journey to Judaism"

Wednesday, March 20th at 10:30 a.m. (ZOOM)
Sisterhood Book Club

***A BIG WELCOME to our new
Sisterhood Member:
Renee Strum***

Good and Welfare...

- **Condolences** to Rosalie Persky on the passing of her brother-in-law Bernie Persky.
- **Condolences** to Sherry Petlin on the passing of her son Adam Petlin.
- **Condolences** to Mary Schenk on the passing of her brother-in-law Paul Shrader.
- **Refuah Shlama** to Leah Polin and Marlynn Fleischer.
- **Mazel Tov** to Jamie Pawlan on the marriage of her son Joey to Dana Nathan.
- **Mazel Tov** to Idelle Peaceman on the birth of her great granddaughter Yael Hason.
- **Mazel Tov** to Dolly Zavell on the engagement of her grandson Ben to Tamar Dallal.
- **Mazel Tov** to Beverly Miller on the engagement of her grandson Ben to Devorah Yael Cohen.
- **Mazel Tov** to Deanna Shoss on the engagement of her son Lucca.
- **Mazel Tov** to Sara Rabens on her 65th wedding anniversary.

Sisterhood Judaica Gift Shop

by Ada Rabinowitz - Ways & Means V.P.

Please check out the gift shop with our new merchandise including interesting sweatshirts and jean jackets for the cold winter months.

Any questions?
Call Judy Frank at (847)530-4572

Remember, supporting our Sisterhood supports our Synagogue.



I've learned you are never too small to make a difference... Greta Thunberg

TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU

- *With deepest thanks for the Leagram good wishes for my birthday.....Bobbie Levin.*



Our next BOOK CLUB will be on Wednesday, March 20th at 10:30 a.m. on ZOOM to discuss **"Kantika: A Novel"** by Elizabeth Graver

Our third book club discussion will give us a Sephardi perspective on the immigrant experience.

Kantika—"song" in Ladino—is a remarkable, lyrical work that conjures and embellishes the journey of the author's grandmother Rebecca from Istanbul to Barcelona, Havana to New York. It is a beautiful work of historical fiction that tells the epic tale of a modern Sephardic family with sensitivity and cultural responsibility. Exploring identity, place and exile, it recovers a vanishing history, animates a rich range of characters, and is an inspiring mediation on the tenacity of women.

We hope you will join us!

Carol Gottlieb and Dolly Zavell
Book Club Chairs

Our EHNTJC Sisterhood 2024 Valued Volunteer..... **Judy Arkin**

Ever since the inception of our newly reactivated EHNTJC Sisterhood in 2009, Judy Arkin has been an integral part of our board, a leader and a mentor. She is currently completing 3 years as Programming V.P. and has been our bulletin editor for 5 years. One year she served as Gift Shop Chair. She has also served as our Nominating Committee Chair. Last year, Judy put in many hours helping to choose which of our programs should be submitted to the region for the Jewel of the Crown Awards. To sum up, Judy has given her heart and soul to our Sisterhood!

Judy also takes an active role in our congregation. She served as Religious School Chair for 4 years, was a board member-at-large for 2 years and has recently been elected to serve as Recording Secretary.

Judy regularly attends Shabbat morning services in person and attends Zoom minyans each evening. She religiously attends our Rabbi's classes.

Our EHNTJC Sisterhood Affiliate is proud to have chosen Judy Arkin as our Valued Volunteer this year. Judy will be recognized for her dedication to Sisterhood at the Central Great Lakes Region Conference April 7th – 9th in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Education Corner:

"The Merging of Diasporas"

by Dr. Esther Javetz

I recently returned from Israel, attending a family wedding. The bride is Ashkenazi (my niece) and the groom is Mizrahi (from a Yemenite Jewish family). You might ask how common is it in Israel?

Well, over 35% of all Jewish newborns in Israel are of mixed Ashkenazi and Sephardic/Mizrahi descent. The merging of diasporas did not occur immediately. First, people from certain diasporas immigrated to Israel. It was common in the first generation to marry people of the same country of origin. In the second generation, it was common to marry people of the same general background but not the same country. Now, in the generation of the grandchildren of the immigrants, many Jews marry people of other Jewish backgrounds.

How did it happen? Well, there are two major public school systems in Israel (General and Religious-General) where most children are educated. Then, most of them go to the army. The Israel Defense Force (IDF) is one of the biggest matchmakers in Israel, where Jewish youngsters from all backgrounds work or fight shoulder-to-shoulder. The same matchmaking is happening in colleges and universities. My niece and her new husband met during service in the IDF; then separated for some years and then met again and decided "That's it!"

The merging of diasporas to one nation is a positive process. Creating one Jewish people and overcoming group complaints and discrimination is building a foundation for unity among Jews. Unity is so much needed at all times, especially at a time of war.



Torah Fund

by Rose-Lynn Jaffe
Torah Fund V.P.

In 1934, National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America established an education fund to assist the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). Over the next several months, I will review the timeline of Torah Fund beneficiaries beginning with its creation to our current campaign. Below is the timeline from 1934 through 1958.

1934 - Education fund established to assist JTS. Each member of Women's League was asked to contribute at least \$6.11 annually, the Hebrew numerical equivalent of the word Torah.

1942 - Scholarship fund established for students of JTS seminary. First year goal was to raise \$10,000 through solicitations of \$6.11; by the 1950s, more than half the Sisterhoods in Women's League were conducting their own campaigns raising \$142,000.

1945 - Chai Club was formed. Members were encouraged to increase their annual contributions to \$18.

1957 - First Benefactor pin is produced. A gift of \$100 is acknowledged by a gold charm. Each year, a pin is created for donations above the Benefactor level.

1958 - Ha'yay Olam campaign launched with a commitment to a residents hall for students at JTS. Annual goal raised from \$500,000 to \$1 million.



Looking for the easiest and nicest way to wish your Sisterhood friends a Happy Birthday and/or a Happy Anniversary?

Send them a **Leagram** greeting!

Every two months, we send out a list of upcoming birthdays and anniversaries (our March and April list is on the back page of this bulletin). Each **Leagram** greeting is 50¢ or **for just \$54 (one check!)**, your name will appear on all birthday and anniversary **Leagram** greetings sent for an entire year.



To participate, just fill out the form and return with your payment to Debbie Reich at the synagogue office.

