

SISTERHOOD CORNER—April-May, 2016

Evelyn Lowenthal, Sisterhood President

Judy Arkin, Editor (kjarkin99@comcast.net)

From the President's Desk...

It is officially spring, but snow just fell, Purim has passed and it's now just weeks from Passover. Speaking of Passover, to get us in that frame of mind, we are looking forward to our Sisterhood Women's Seder with Rebbetzin Julie Weill. I hope you have made your reservations to join us on Wednesday, April 6th. We will also be opening our restocked Gift Shop with many new items for Passover and beyond. And, we are offering to pick up anyone who doesn't drive at night or just needs a ride—contact Debbie Reich at (847)272-4057.

Our Sisterhood year is wrapping up with a Book Review & Luncheon on Wednesday, May 4th at 11:30 a.m., featuring author Ron Balson reviewing his latest book "*Saving Sophie*". On Saturday, May 14th, we will celebrate Sisterhood Shabbat and lead Shabbat morning services along with sponsoring the Kiddush Luncheon which follows. We invite you to join us!

Plans are underway for our Culminating Luncheon and Installation of the 2016-2017 Officers and Board of Trustees, so please save the date—Wednesday, June 8th. Invitations will be mailed soon. We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!

B'Shalom! Evelyn Lowenthal

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 Marcy Feinberg, Miriam Goldberger and Ruth Saffro. If you have news to share, contact Judy Arkin at kjarkin99@comcast.net.
- Sisterhood donation cards are 8/\$10 and the Chai cards are 6/\$18. The cards are available in the synagogue office.
- Our Sisterhood continues to make shawls for breast cancer patients. The synagogue office has copies of the instructions. For more information, please call Idelle Peaceman at (847)254-7745.

Membership Takes a Village!

Attracting new members to our Sisterhood is a year-round endeavor! Invite your friends and family to the next Sisterhood event. And if you know of someone who needs a ride—let us know or bring them with you so they can also enjoy the fun and our interesting programs! Thank you for your participation....we hope to see you soon! Happy Passover!

Ada Rabinowitz (847)530-5517
Vice President – Membership

BOOK and AUTHOR LUNCHEON Wednesday, May 4th @ 11:30 a.m.

***"SAVING SOPHIE"* by Ronald H. Balson**

Also the author of "*Once We Were Brothers*", his newest book "*Saving Sophie*" is the powerful story of the lengths a father will go through to protect his daughter and an action-packed thriller that will take you on an unforgettable journey of murder and deception, testing the bonds of family and love.

Please join us for lunch and a lively discussion!

**\$18 Sisterhood Members
\$23 Guests and Non-members
RSVP and payment due by April 29th**

THANK YOU to our Education Committee for their work on our Rosh Chodesh programs. These thoughtful Rosh Chodesh discussions grew out of their ideas and commitment. Thanks also to Davida Grossman and the Hospitality Committee for their mouth-watering light luncheons! And, thanks to each of you who attended—we couldn't have had these wonderful programs without you!

Kol ha Kovod!

Judith-Rae Ross
Vice President – Education

OUR DISTINGUISHED JEWISH WOMEN—PAST AND PRESENT:

Ruth Handler

(Creator of the Barbie Doll)

by Joanne Stein

Born the youngest of 10 children, Ruth Mosko was the daughter of Jewish immigrants from Poland. She married her high school boyfriend, Elliot Handler, and then teamed up with a friend named Harold Mattson to form a business partnership.

The business began to specialize in toys. Mrs. Handler liked to say that she came up with the idea for the Barbie Doll by watching her own daughter, Barbara, play with dolls. (Barbie was her daughter's nickname.)

Up to that time, toy manufacturers had always believed that little girls wanted baby dolls to pretend to be mommies—Mrs. Handler felt that little girls "wanted to pretend to be bigger girls".

The Barbie Doll, with its large breasts, was introduced in 1959 and sold more than 350,000 the first year. By the early 1960s, the Mattel Company, with Ruth as its president, had sales of over \$100 million. The Ken Doll, named for the Handlers' son, appeared, as did other dolls named for their grandchildren.

There was criticism based on the unrealistic measurements of the doll, the equivalent of 39-21-33. Mrs. Handler defended these dimensions, stating that Barbie's clothes would not fit well without them.

In 1970, Mrs. Handler underwent a mastectomy which led to her second trailblazing career: manufacturing and marketing artificial breasts. She named her product "Nearly Me" and crisscrossed the country as a spokesperson for early detection of breast cancer, as well as the sale of her invention. She fit former First Lady, Betty Ford, after Mrs. Ford's mastectomy. Mrs. Handler died at age 85 in 2002 of complications from colon surgery.

Her invention of the Barbie Doll is considered so quintessentially American that it was included in the official America's Time Capsule. More than one billion Barbies of every ethnicity have been sold, reflecting Mrs. Handler's belief that through the doll "a little girl could be anything she wanted to be".

Just this past year, the iconic Barbie Doll was given its first change. Now Barbie will come in three new body sizes and a variety of skin tones and hairstyles. Time will tell whether the diversity of Barbie will be successful for the company, or whether Mrs. Handler's original vision will prevail.

Torah Fund "Chai" Tea

Thank you to all who supported our 2015-2016 Torah Fund Campaign and joined us at our "Chai" Tea on March 2nd. Our guest speaker was Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann, Rabbi of Mishkan Chicago, and a 2010 Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies graduate.



Evie Lowenthal, Rabbi Heydemann, Gloriann Levy (Torah Fund Co-chair), Edna Schrank (CGLR President) and Yoni Dahlen (graduating from JTS in May)
Photo taken by Julie Weill (Torah Fund Co-Chair)

Good and Welfare...

- Wishing a speedy recovery to Paula Carroll, Barbara Wax, Judy Klowden and Henely Kramer.
- Our condolences to Ruth Siegel on the recent loss of her mother, Rachel Siegel.
- Our condolences to Judy Frank and Henely Kramer on the loss of their brother, Cyril Rubin.
- Thank you to Adie Fuchs for her recent donation in beloved memory of Bertelle Meyers.
- Thank you to David Solovy for his generous donation to Sisterhood in appreciation of our support for Janice while she was ill.
- Thank you to Judy Klowden for her donation in appreciation of the many cards and good wishes she received after her fall and surgery.
- *Mazel Tov* to Mickey Gordon on the Bat Mitzvah in Israel of her granddaughter, Tatum Gordon.
- *Mazel Tov* to Elaine Lampert on the birth of her grandson, Rowan Ames Lampert.
- For the first time in ten years, Dorothy Lipstadt will be having her 17 grandchildren and great-grandchildren from Toronto and Washington, DC at Passover. Enjoy!

GIFT SHOP GRAND RE-OPENING!

Our debut is on Wednesday, April 6th at 6:30 p.m.—right before the Women's Seder. Check out our new items for Passover, Mother's Day and gifts for all occasions. Contact Marcy Feinberg (847)318-9266 or Judy Frank (847)677-4950 for more information.

