The Ezra-Habonim, Niles Township Jewish Congregation

SISTERHOOD CORNER—December, 2016

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From the President’s Desk...

Thank you to everyone who shopped at our recent Holiday Boutique. Because of you, it was a huge success! If you still need a few items for the upcoming holidays, check out our Gift Shop which will be open before and after our Chanukah Party and Latke Luncheon on Wednesday, December 7th. Entertainment will be provided by the dynamic duo of Jeff & Janis. Many of us know Jeff Winter as we often hear him daven on Shabbat mornings and both Jeff and Janis have performed at our synagogue in the past.

As we look ahead to 2017, on January 11th we will have a Book & Author Luncheon featuring local author Richard Reeder, who will review his book “Chicago Sketches”. Our February meeting will include a wonderful presentation by our own Sisterhood member Joanne Stein. Our Torah Fund Luncheon will be on March 1st, and on March 29th Rebbeitzin Julie Weill will lead our annual Women’s Seder.

Watch your mail for more details on our upcoming programs and events! We look forward to seeing you. If you would like to become more involved in our Sisterhood, please contact me at Judy@tcscorp.com.

B’Shalom! Judy Frank

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News and Notes...

- Be a media mogul! A $5 contribution makes you a sponsor of our Sisterhood bulletin. Please mail your contributions to: Diane Rosenfeld c/o EHNTJC Sisterhood 4500 Dempster Street Skokie, IL 60076

Our Media Moguls this month are:

- Joanne Abelman, Esther Berman, Shimrah Bullock-Adkins, Marcy Feinberg, Abby Gurevitz, Ricki Herling, Esther Javetz (in honor of Dr. Zivit Cohen’s birthday)
- Bobbie Levin, Evie Lowenthal, Phyllis Marcus, Debbie Novoselsky, Ada Rabinowitz, Diane Rosenfeld, and Flora Steigman

If you have news to share, contact Diane Rosenfeld at raynesd@aol.com.

- Sisterhood donation cards are 8/$10 and the Chai cards are 6/$18. The cards are available in the synagogue office.

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“One kind word can warm your heart the whole winter.”

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A big WELCOME to our new Sisterhood members:

- Bette Blumenthal
- Sunnie Levin

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BOOK and AUTHOR LUNCHEON

Wednesday, January 11th

11:30 a.m.

“Chicago Sketches”

by Richard Reeder

In “Chicago Sketches”, we visit places as diverse as Maxwell Street, Riverview, Wrigley Field, the old Clark Theater, and the National Bohemian Cemetery. We meet the famous—Nelson Algren and Yevgeny Yevtushenko—and the other people who have touched Reeder’s life—Bubbie Gussie, Rabbi Mendel, and the Big Klu. We also witness moments in Reeder’s life that echo through history—November 4, 1960 and November 22, 1963. Leonid Osseny’s vivid illustrations make all these Chicago sketches come even more alive.

Please join us for lunch and a lively discussion!

$18 Sisterhood Members

$23 Guests and Non-members

RSVP and payment due by January 4th

Book Club Chairs:

- Dorothy Lipstadt (847)673-3525
- Elaine Lampert (847)537-1240
- Judith Rae-Ross (847)708-4541

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KNITLING PROJECT

Our Sisterhood continues to make shawls for breast cancer patients. The synagogue office has copies of the instructions. For more information, call Idelle Peaceman at (847)254-7745.
"What Happened, and Why Hanukkah Became A Holiday?"
by Dr. Esther Javetz
Education Vice-President

Did the Jews win the war against the Greek, and now they can eat latkes?

It was more complicated than that. The time was around 200 BCE when Judea ceased to be part of the Ptolemaic kingdom of Egypt and became part of Great Syria. King Antiochus III allowed the Jews to live according to their customs.

But King Antiochus IV Epiphanes invaded Judea and Judaism was outlawed. Why this change of policy? It had to do with disagreements among Jews…

After the rule of Alexander the Great, the entire Middle East (including Judea) was influenced by Hellenism (Greek culture). Modern scholars argue that the king was intervening in an internal civil war between the traditionalists and the Hellenized Jews.

Hellenism put emphasis on physical culture and beauty. The Greek language and the usage of Greek names (like Menelaus) were adopted by some. Even the position of High Priest was in dispute and Menelaus bribed the king to get this position. In the face of corruption, Antiochus intervened; services at the Temple stopped and an altar for Zeus was erected in the Temple.

This last act provoked a large-scale revolt with the leadership of a traditionalist, Mattathias (Mattityahu) and his 5 sons. Judah his son, was the military commander who fought the Greek army and liberated Judea. He also cleaned the Temple, rededicated it, and established the 8-day holiday.

These historical events and also the events leading to the destruction of the second Temple are indicators that weakness and failure start from inside. The celebration of the first Hanukkah was an act of Jewish unity; let’s hope it continues!

Meet the Artist…Paulette Levy!

My artistic talent is a gift that I enjoy and can share with others. Being cutting edge, the computer is my medium. I draw on it using the mouse or a pen and tablet. It enables me to “digitally” make my creative ideas materialize. I was inspired once by an article in Newsweek that read “throw away your paintbrushes, you’re electronic now!”

Mandalas are circles of belief. My belief is Judaism. The styled circle of the Mandala enables me to tell a never-ending story. The Mandalas that I have completed depict the Jewish holidays and festivals in symbols and geometric shapes. This is an ongoing body of work. They represent my interpretations of the holidays.

My work has been exhibited and juried into many group shows where I have achieved awards.

Prints of my work from this solo exhibition in the Brief Wing can be purchased from the Sisterhood. Please contact Judy Frank at (847)677-4950 for more information.

My latest body of work is titled “Feminism” and deals with “The Ladies” and feminine issues.

Paulette Levy

Gift Shop Gab: Volume Six

Our Gift Shop had a very successful day at the Sisterhood Holiday Boutique! We filled the shop with a variety of items to please everyone.

Looking ahead, the Gift Shop will always be available to meet your needs for gifts of all kinds, as well as items for yourselves. Please watch for announcements of special sales on feature items and coupons after Hanukkah.

Marcy Feinberg and Ronia Gross
Gift Shop Co-Chairs