From the President’s Desk...

November was a busy month for our Sisterhood! More than 70 people attended our Book & Author Luncheon with author, Ron Balson, talking about his latest book “The Trust”. There are several key people who I would like to thank for making this afternoon so successful: Gloriann Levy, Diane Rosenfeld and Judith-Rae Ross for working on the program; Davida Grossman for the creative centerpieces; Francine Schulman and Sandy Kaiz for working with the food; Debbie Reich for handling the reservations, name tags and seating; and our gift shop co-chairs, Marcy Feinberg and Ronia Gross, who set up the gift shop. And of course, thanks to our many volunteers who helped wherever needed!

Just a few days later we held our annual Holiday Boutique where we had quite a variety of vendors. A very big thank you to our Ways & Means Vice-President, Judy Arkin, who worked many long hours putting this event together. Again, a round of applause to Marcy Feinberg and Ronia Gross, who worked very hard getting the gift shop in shape for the boutique. Thanks to our many board members who helped in various capacities. We appreciate everyone who shopped at our boutique. It is not too late to buy gifts for Chanukah at our gift shop which will be open during the Chanukah Party and Latke Luncheon, planned for the first day of Chanukah, December 13th.

On January 31st, we will celebrate Tu B’Shevat and enjoy a little bingo for the holiday. Please join us for this fun afternoon. Watch your mail for more details about our upcoming programs and synagogue 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
Good and Welfare…

- Wishing a Refuah Shlayma (a complete and speedy recovery) to past Sisterhood President—Marlynn Fleischer.
- Our condolences to the family and friends of Sisterhood member, Clara Pirsch. May her memory be for a blessing.
- Mazel Tov to Lillian Lang on the forthcoming wedding of her daughter Hannah to Shmuel Rausnitz in Israel.
- Mazel Tov to Rabbi Neil Brief on being honored October 16th by the Village of Skokie with a proclamation for his more than 40 years of service to the community.
- Mazel Tov to Debbie and Stewart Reich on their 40th wedding anniversary.
- Mazel Tov to Idelle Peaceman on the birth of her new great-grandson, Moshe Noach Hason, who was born in Jerusalem.
- Mazel Tov to Marcia Cooper on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Avery Reese Armstrong.
- Mazel Tov to Sally Brown-Winter on the birth of her new grandson, Miles Brent Cooper.

TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU

- Thank you to Miffie Nagorsky for the generous donation to our Sisterhood in honor of her 75th birthday and to thank everyone for the good wishes!
- Thank you to Bobbie and Stuart Levin for the kind donation to our Sisterhood in honor of Idelle Peaceman’s new great-grandson.
- Thank you to Rabbi Jeffrey Weill and Cantor Benjamin Warschawski for the “most meaningful Kristallnacht remembrance I’ve ever attended”…..Marcy Feinberg.

The Miracle of Chanukah!

by Evelyn Lowenthal

The miracle of the discovery of the small amount of pure oil and its burning for eight days is the focus of the Chanukah celebration. It is thus necessary to understand the importance of the symbolism of the olive oil yet untouched by Greek hands, and why, since events were already in the realm of miraculous, was an amount of oil sufficient for eight days not immediately provided by G-d? The answer is clear when we consider the nature of the Greeks at that time.

The Greeks were not trying to kill all the Jews. They had in mind a subtler kind of destruction: they aimed to stamp out the Jews’ belief and faith in G-d by eliminating their study and observance of His commandments, such as circumcision, kashrut and Shabbat. With Judaism reduced to a rational structure, Jews and their Torah would easily be assimilated into the dominant Greek culture and approach to life.

The resistance to being stamped “Greek” at the cost of their traditional Jewishness is the reason that it was so important to find pure untouched oil. With this small quantity of oil, the Jews could begin lighting the menorah and from this, the light was sure to increase.

The spiritual strength of the Jews was sure to be achieved neither by might nor by power, but by faith in G-d’s spirit. This is the message for all of us as we watch the Chanukah flames increase in number and intensity night after night. The irreducible, uncompromising faith of the tiny band of Maccabees, which was then miraculously rewarded by God, represents for us one of those secrets of Judaism that has come down through the generations to illuminate and guide us today.

CALLING ALL COOKS!

We still need many more recipes to reach our goal! For the coming month, we would like side dishes, but will welcome recipes for all categories! You can send them to the synagogue office or e-mail them to Joanne Abelman at Joabelman1@aol.com.

Membership: The ♥ of Sisterhood

I truly believe that membership is the heart of any organization. That is why I am extending an invitation to those of you who have not joined or renewed your Sisterhood membership to join us this year.

Your help and support is important to our success. I know that many of you are not able to attend meetings and events. However, your membership means a great deal to us. There is strength in numbers, and your membership counts!

A big WELCOME to our new members—Ruth Alterman, Sharon Eisman and Debbie Groman.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

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