SISTERHOOD CORNER—January, 2018
Judy Frank, President (judy@tcscorp.com) Diane Rosenfeld, Editor (raynesd@aol.com)

From the President’s Desk...

Once again this year, our Chanukah Party and Latke Luncheon was a big success! More than 80 people enjoyed our special lunch and entertainment provided by Lori Lippitz. Many took advantage of our Gift Shop and did some last minute holiday shopping. Our raffle winners found cash prizes hidden in the special candles in the Chanukiah. Thanks to all of our volunteers for their help!

Julie Weill and Miriam Davidson led us in celebrating Rosh Chodesh Tevet. It was a wonderful program as we talked about light and darkness and how it relates to each of us. We also discussed rededicating ourselves.

The Book Club will meet on January 10th to discuss “The Lemon Tree” by Sandy Tolan, and on January 31st, we will celebrate Tu B’Shevat and enjoy a little bingo for the holiday. Information on all of these programs and events can be found on the EHNTJC website at ehnt.org. Click on the ‘Community’ header and go to the Sisterhood section.

Still several months away is the Women’s League Spring Conference hosted by Congregation Beth El in Highland Park, April 22nd – 24th. Please mark your calendars now. Details will follow in the coming months.

We hope to see you at one of our upcoming programs!

B’Shalom! Judy Frank

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:
  Esther Berman, Marcy Feinberg,
  Ricki Herling (in honor of her beautiful
granddaughters—Olivia and Violet),
  Esther Javetz, Bobbie Levin,
  Evie Lowenthal, Diane Rosenfeld,
  Judith-Rae Ross 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 or through our Gift Shop.
➢ Please SAVE-THE-DATE for the Sunday, April 15th Tikkun Olam Fair, co-sponsored by Sisterhood and the Social Action Committee of EHNTJC. More details to follow.
➢ A big WELCOME to our new Sisterhood member – Caryn Bark.

BOOK CLUB TO DISCUSS

“The Lemon Tree”
by Sandy Tolan

The next meeting of the Sisterhood Book Club will be on Wednesday, January 10th at 10:30 a.m. at the synagogue.

In 1967, Bashir Khairi, a twenty-five-year-old Palestinian, journeyed to Israel with the goal of seeing the beloved stone house with the lemon tree behind it that he and his family had fled nineteen years earlier. To his surprise, when he found the house he was greeted by Dalia Eshkenazi Landau, a nineteen-year-old Israeli college student, whose family left Europe for Israel following the Holocaust. On the stoop of their shared home, Dalia and Bashir began a rare friendship, forged in the aftermath of war and tested over the next half century in ways that neither could imagine on that summer day in 1967. Sandy Tolan brings the Israeli-Palestinian conflict down to its most human level, demonstrating that even amid the bleakest political realities there exist stories of hope and transformation.

Please join us for a lively discussion! Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to one of our Book Club Chairs:
Dorothy Lipstadt (847)673-3525
Elaine Lampert (847)537-1240
Judith Rae-Ross (847)708-4541

EHNTJC Sisterhood
is affiliated with the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism
**Gift Shop Gab: Volume Sixteen**

We are very pleased and proud to report that the gift shop had a truly spectacular sales performance at the Holiday Boutique. Our table was always busy with many people purchasing both newer and sale items. We thank everyone who helped us—and our customers, too!

Marcy Feinberg and Ronia Gross
Gift Shop Co-Chairs

**Good and Welfare...**

- Wishing a Refuah Shlayma (a complete and speedy recovery) to Judith-Rae Ross and Marilyn Usen.
- Our condolences to Heddie Romanoff on the loss of her brother, Dr. Fred Solomon.
- Our condolences to Sally Jablo on the loss of her brother-in-law, Steven Jablo.
- Our condolences to Sandi Cowen on the loss of her uncle, Mark Greenburg.
- Our condolences to Adie Fuchs on the loss of her significant other, Ron Salsburg.
- Mazel Tov to Ruth Siegel on the birth of her grandson, Tyberius Gideon Lee Padilla.
- Mazel Tov to Shelle’ Malina on the birth of her great-grandson, Kellan Strummer Borkovitz.

**TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU**

- Thank you all very much for the LEAGRAM for my birthday. It made the day extra special.....Ruth Schack.

**Torah Fund 2017-2018**

Plans are underway for another great Torah Fund Campaign culminating event on Wednesday, May 9th, 2018. Join us for a wonderful luncheon and words from Rabbi Kenneth Berger, a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary, now retired. He will share memories, as well as recollections of his son’s experiences becoming a rabbi years later.

Thank you to all who have generously contributed to our Sisterhood Torah Fund Campaign. To those who have not yet contributed, there is still time—whether you give $18, or $180, or more. Help celebrate the Women’s League Torah Fund Campaign and the organization’s 100th anniversary.

Evelyn Lowenthal
Torah Fund Chairman

**Tu B’Shevat – Changing of Emphasis**

by Dr. Esther Javetz
Education Vice-President

The holiday is mentioned in the Mishnah. Originally, we needed the holiday to determine the age of each fruit tree. Why is that important? According to Torah laws, the fruits of the first three years are forbidden for human consumption. Then the fourth year crop went to Jerusalem. There was also a law about giving a tenth to the poor, and also providing for food while staying in Jerusalem. The calculation of the amount of fruit obtained in a certain year was from Tu B’Shevat to the next Tu B’Shevat. So, as we can observe, it was a holiday connecting nature to social justice.

Later, during centuries of Diaspora life, Tu B’Shevat was a reminder of the physical country that people missed. It was the custom to serve dried Middle Eastern fruits and almonds.

At the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century, a new custom was established: planting trees in Israel. The country suffered deforestation for many centuries under foreign rulers, so massive planting has been and still is useful in Israel.

Tu B’Shevat took the symbol of revival, so many Israeli institutions chose this day for inauguration, including the Knesset (Parliament) on Tu B’Shevat 1949.

The environmental awareness that is now in the Western world did not escape Israel; Tu B’Shevat became the holiday of the environment. Go out and enjoy nature, if weather permits, and if not—bring some in!

**Calling all cooks!**

We still need many more recipes to reach our goal! The deadline to have your recipes included in our Sisterhood cookbook will be at the Women’s Seder on March 21st. The cookbook will be available for sale at our Opening Luncheon next September. You can send your recipes to the synagogue office or e-mail them to Joanne Abelman at joabelman1@aol.com.

"If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

--Percy Bysshe Shelley--