As March begins, we know that spring is not too far away…..and we are busy! Our Torah Fund Luncheon on March 1st will feature guest speaker Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg, a graduate of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and a renowned author.

Our Book Club will meet on March 8th to discuss “Karolina’s Twins” by Ronald Balson. Purim is on Sunday, March 12th and we hope you will join the fun at our synagogue’s 8th Purim Shpiel—“Bye Bye Haman”. The Cinema Series co-sponsored by our Sisterhood and Men’s Club continues with the classic “Casablanca” on Wednesday, March 22nd. And at the end of the month as we begin to think about Passover, we are once again fortunate to have Rebbetzin Julie Weill lead our 5th Annual Women’s Seder on Wednesday, March 29th at 7:30 p.m.

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. Think Spring!

B’Shalom! Judy Frank

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**BOOK CLUB TO DISCUSS**

"Karolina’s Twins"
by Ronald H. Balson

The next meeting of the Sisterhood Book Club will be on **Wednesday, March 8th** at **10:30 a.m.** at the synagogue.

Just when you think there could not be anything new to ferret out from World War II, comes a spellbinding new novel by the bestselling author of “Once We Were Brothers” and “Saving Sophie”. In this richly woven tale of love, survival and resilience during some of the darkest hours, the unbreakable bond between girlhood friends will have consequences into the future and beyond.

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

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**GIFT SHOP GAB: VOLUME EIGHT**

Judy Frank, Judy Arkin and I (Marcy) just attended the Gift Show in Rosemont. We purchased some lovely items! We’ve added baby gifts, adorable foldable sun hats and unique wooden boxes that can be used as pill boxes or jewelry boxes. The wooden boxes are “unisex friendly”, so the men in your lives would enjoy them, too. Our night shirts have also been popular sellers.

Look for a big blowout sale coming soon. We will be selling some items at up to 75% off in order to make room for new merchandise.

And don’t forget to THINK SPRING! Our big boutique is scheduled for Sunday, April 23rd.

Marcy Feinberg and Ronia Gross
Gift Shop Co-Chairs

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**BOUTIQUE**

Sunday – April 23, 2017
11:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

We have great new Spring items for
Mother’s Day ● Father’s Day ● Graduation
UNIQUE AND SPECIAL GIFTS ● PERSONALIZED ITEMS
“The Megillah (of Purim)—Two Stories Linked Together!”
by Dr. Esther Javetz
Education Vice-President

The Megillah that we read on Purim reflects two stories with two opposing points of view: one Persian story and one Jewish story. The Persian story is about an absolute power, rich and self-absorbed king, who is the focus of a huge kingdom from India to Ethiopia. This story is full of descriptions of this power to include every material indulgence there is. But underneath that story, there are hints of a Jewish point of view, which is completely different from this old Persian worship of the king’s power. How does the Jewish story reveal itself? By several literary methods, one of them is the choice of names of the characters in the story. You just need to know Hebrew and some Aramaic to get the hints...

The name of the historical king was in Persian: Chashayarsha, but in the Megillah it is: Achashverosh. There are some similar sounds, but it is not the original name. The king’s name is: Achash-Ve-Rosh. It is two names attached together with the word Ve(=and, Hebrew). So, what are the two entities the king is? He is an Achashpedan (=messenger, Aramaic) and a Rosh (=head, Hebrew). It is clear that he is a “Head”, because he is in charge of 127 city-states. But why is he a messenger? And of whom? Well, according to the Jewish view, only G-d is the true king, and this king is just a human being, and he is a messenger from G-d.

There is another joke embedded there. The word Rosh is spelled with the letter Alef in the middle (every Hebrew speaker knows that!). It implies the Alpha male - the smartest, the strongest etc. But in this case the word Rosh is spelled with a Vav in the middle, which implies the word Tirosh (=wine, Hebrew). So, our Persian king, instead of being the smartest person in the kingdom, has a head full of wine... Well, there is a missing Alef here, we need to find another name with an Alef. There are many characters in the story, but from the main characters only one name starts with an Alef, you guessed it: ESTHER. She is the brain missing from the king’s head...

At the beginning of the story she was Hadassah, then Esther, and finally Esther, The Queen. She is called Esther, The Queen only from Chapter 5 onward, when she decides to go out of the rules and customs of the court, to face the king and fight for her people.

About the meaning of the other important names (Haman, Mordechai, Esther, Vashti), we will talk at other occasions. The Megillah is full of hints!

Good and Welfare...
- Mazel Tov to Shirley and Marty Lubowich on their 70th wedding anniversary.
- Mazel Tov to Rabbi Victor and Tamar Weissberg on their 65th wedding anniversary.
- Mazel Tov to Goldie Brandhandler on the Bar Mitzvah of her great-grandson.
- Mazel Tov to Elaine Wayne on the birth of her 6th great-grandchild.
- Mazel Tov to Debbie Reich on the birth of her granddaughter—Mackenzie Inez Kramer.
- Our condolences to the family and friends of Sisterhood member, Rosalie Eulenberg on her passing.
- Our condolences to Shelle’ Malina on the passing of her husband, Bernie.
- Our condolences to Judy Arkin on the passing of her sister-in-law, Sharon Arkin.
- Our condolences to Veronika Urban on the passing of her brother, Alfred Glück.
- Wishing a Refuah Shlayma (a complete and speedy recovery) to Evie Ruebner.

May 3rd—evening program with Guest Speaker, Judge Shelley Sutker-Dermer

May 13th—Sisterhood Shabbat

June 7th—Closing Luncheon

OUR DISTINGUISHED JEWISH WOMEN—PAST AND PRESENT:
Emma Lazarus
by Joanne Stein

“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free....”

These famous lines from the engraved plaque on the Statue of Liberty are from the poem, “The New Colossus”. This poem, considered a great testimonial to the American ideal of freedom, was written by a young woman who became one of the best known American Jewish writers of her time.

Emma Lazarus was born in 1849 into an upper class Sephardic Jewish family that traced its roots back to America’s first Jewish settlers. The Russian pogroms of 1881-82 moved her deeply. She met with Russian Jewish immigrants arriving in Ellis Island and became an advocate for their rights.

She proposed the idea that Palestine should become a Jewish homeland more than a decade before Theodore Herzl. This interest led her to study Hebrew and to translate the classic Hebrew poems of the great literary figures of Spain’s golden age. These translations were then published in prayer books used in many synagogues.

Emma Lazarus never married, and she died at the age of 38 after a lengthy illness. Memorial services were held for her in all the synagogues in New York and throughout the United States.