

## **SISTERHOOD CORNER—April 2015**

Evelyn Lowenthal, Sisterhood President

Judy Arkin, Editor (kjarkin99@comcast.net)

### ***From the President's Desk...***

Spring is here (at least I hope!), though the chilly temperatures and snow make me question that! Passover is now just days away and whether you are busily changing your kitchen for the holiday and cooking the family's favorites or only doing a bit of spring cleaning, it is definitely time to be in the spirit of the season. *Kasher Hag Sameach Pesach* - Happy Passover!

On Wednesday evening, March 18th, our Sisterhood held its Third Annual Women's Seder led by Rebitzen Julie Weill. ***Thank you*** to Julie for the beautiful creative Haggadah and ***thank you*** to everyone who helped make the evening a great success.

April 22nd is the date for our next luncheon program celebrating *Yom HaAtzmaut*-Israel Independence Day, featuring "***The True Story of Golda Meir***" presented by Joanne Stein. Please see our flyer and make plans to join us. Lunch is \$18 for members and \$23 for guests.

On Saturday morning, May 9th at 9:30 a.m., we will be celebrating Sisterhood Shabbat as our women will once again be leading the services and sponsoring the Kiddush. We invite you and your friends to attend. A few parts are still available so if you'd like to participate, please contact Judith-Rae Ross.

*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 Bobbie Levin and Ricki Herling.**

If you have news to share, contact Judy Arkin at [kjarkin99@comcast.net](mailto:kjarkin99@comcast.net).

- Sisterhood donation cards are 8/\$10 and the Chai cards are 6/\$18. The cards are available in the synagogue office.
- Check out our **GIFT SHOP** cases for seder plates, hostess gifts, mezuzahs and kosher parchments! Call Evie Lowenthal at (847)673-2505 for more information.

### ***Good and Welfare...***

- *Mazel Tov* to Gloriann Levy on the birth of her granddaughter—Brooklyn Jean Levy.
- *Thank you* to Vivian Mitofsky for her generous donation in appreciation of her *Leagram* birthday wishes.
- *Get well* wishes to Dorothy Lipstadt and Carol Straus.
- **WELCOME** to our new and returning Sisterhood members—Susan Boldrey and Davida Grossman.

### **BOOK CLUB TO DISCUSS**

#### ***"THE SLAVE"***

by Isaac Bashevis Singer

The next meeting of the Sisterhood Book Club will be on Wednesday, May 13th at 10:30 a.m. at the synagogue.

After the Chmielnicki massacres of the seventeenth century, in which his wife and three children were murdered, Jacob was sold as a slave to pagan peasant farmers. Throughout his years of slavery, he struggled to maintain his Jewish heritage. While in captivity he falls in love with Wanda, his master's daughter. Even after he is ransomed, he finds he can't live without her, and the two escape together to a distant Jewish community. Racked by his consciousness of sin in taking a Gentile wife and by the difficulties of concealing her identity, Jacob nonetheless stands firm as the violence of the era threatens to destroy the ill-fated couple.

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

RSVP to one of our Book Club Chairs:  
Dorothy Lipstadt (847)673-3525  
Elaine Lampert (847)537-1240  
Judith-Rae Ross (847)673-7728

Next up.... "*The Mathematician's Shiva*"  
by Stuart Rojstaczer on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

## OUR DISTINGUISHED JEWISH WOMEN— PAST AND PRESENT:

**Bess Meyerson**

**FIRST AND ONLY JEWISH MISS AMERICA**

**by Joanne Stein**

In 1945 a Jewish girl from the Bronx was named Miss America. Five feet, ten inches tall, and an accomplished pianist, Bess was thrilled to have won. However, she found her victory bittersweet.

While competing in the New York City contest prior to her Miss America victory, officials had urged her to change her Jewish sounding name—which she refused to do.

During a World War II bond tour, she was denied admittance to a country club reception when the sponsor learned she was Jewish, and a tour of veterans' hospitals was cancelled when some of the wounded men's parents raised objections.

The result was that during her year as Miss America, she made many speeches for the Anti-Defamation League; she wanted to do her part to speak out against bigotry and prejudice.

Bess Meyerson had a distinguished career in television, journalism and public service. She was a commentator for the Tournament of Roses Parade and for the Miss America Pageant for many years.

In 1969 she became New York City's Commissioner of Consumer Affairs, and through her efforts, NYC adopted some of the most stringent consumer protection laws in the United States.

She became a syndicated columnist, a newspaper and magazine writer, and a reporter for CBS News. Three U.S. presidents – Johnson, Ford and Carter – appointed her to commissions on important world issues.

Bess Meyerson was married and divorced twice and had one daughter. In 1988 she was put on trial on charges involving her companion's divorce case but was acquitted on all counts.

She died at the age of 90 in December, 2014, having been honored by many Jewish organizations throughout her life.

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### *Sisterhood April Program*

by Idelle Peaceman

Our April program should be so interesting about "Golda". She was the first and only female Prime Minister of Israel. Come to support Sisterhood and invite your friends and family, too.

Watch for your invitation to our Culminating Luncheon on June 10<sup>th</sup> with entertainment by Charles Troy!

## PASSOVER/SHAVUOT: HOW DO THEY FIT?

by Judith-Rae Ross

Passover begins Friday evening, April 3<sup>rd</sup>; Shavuot starts 50 days later on the 5<sup>th</sup> of Sivan, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Both holidays celebrate two major aspects of Judaism: the Exodus from Egypt and the giving of Torah. But both are part of a very important whole—the creation of our Jewish identity. Looking at these holidays as a whole, rather than separate *chagim*, sheds light on our history and ourselves.

Both are pilgrimage holidays. In ancient Israel, Jews went to Jerusalem bringing part of their harvest with them. The priests divided the harvest and kept some stored in case of need. This also occurred on the third pilgrimage holiday--Sukkot. There's practicality here. The pilgrimage holidays provide the opportunity for Jews to get together to act as a nation with a common purpose. They also make possible a fair distribution of food in time of need.

Food figures heavily in both Passover and Shavuot. The Jews left Egypt so quickly that there wasn't time to let their bread rise. For that reason, Jews don't eat leavened wheat products. Ashkenazim, European Jews, also don't eat legumes or any food that might have been in contact with wheat or legumes. Sephardic Jews, however, eat legumes.

That's just the beginning. The Passover Seder symbolically deals with all aspects of slavery by eating maror, charoset and parsley. We eat dairy on Shavuot because once the Torah was given, the Kashrut was enforced. Manna was either Parve or Dairy.

At some Seders, there's continuing discussion on the meaning of freedom, slavery and fear. The Jews, and a significant part of the Egyptians, knew there was something inherently wrong with slavery; something wrong with killing newborn baby boys. Discussion helps hone the terms into something real and meaningful.

It also sets the stage for the coming of Shavuot. From the second day of Passover we count the omer, a sheaf of wheat a day until day 50, Shavuot. Passover celebrates our attaining freedom, making freedom one of the seminal parts of Judaism. But freedom doesn't mean doing anything we wish or to quote Janis Joplin, "nothin' left to do." Freedom means the right to live a religious and ethical Jewish life. God gave us the Torah when we became mature enough to follow the mitzvot. Happy Passover and Shavuot. It's time to celebrate!

### ***ROSH CHODESH WITH A TWIST!***

Join us on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. as we mark the beginning of Rosh Chodesh *Iyar* with a free-wheeling discussion--

**'Beyond the wedding rings and the pearls:  
What legacy do we leave our children  
and grandchildren?'**

"Coffee and".....will be served courtesy of Marcy Feinberg. See enclosed flyer for more information.