

SISTERHOOD CORNER—March, 2015

Evelyn Lowenthal, Sisterhood President

Judy Arkin, Editor (kjarkin99@comcast.net)

From the President's Desk...

It seems like only yesterday that we were looking forward to 2015 and Sisterhood's upcoming programs. I am looking at my calendar tonight -- *Tu B'Shevat* was February 4th, Purim begins March 4th and Passover just four weeks later. Thank you to all who worked on, or supported, our Rosh Chodesh program, January Games Day and the cancelled *Tu B'Shevat* Bingo.

Spring will be coming (at least I hope!) soon and on Wednesday evening--March 18th, please join us for Sisterhood's third annual Women's Seder with Rebitzen Julie Weill. Flyers are out, so mark your calendars and please plan to attend. April 22nd is the date for our luncheon program celebrating *Yom HaAtzma'ut*--Israel Independence Day--featuring "The True Story of Golda Meir" presented by Joanne Stein. We have also started to compile a list of those of you who would like to participate in our May 9th Sisterhood Shabbat. Your suggestions and participation are always welcome as part of our Sisterhood and Congregational *Mispachah*.

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 Ada Rabinowitz and Ricki Herling.** If you have news to share, contact Judy Arkin at 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 new honey dishes, hostess gifts, mezuzahs and kosher parchments! Call Evie Lowenthal at (847)673-2505 for more information.

Good and Welfare...

- Our best wishes to Judith-Rae Ross for a speedy recovery!
- *Mazel Tov* to Nora Saposnik on the birth of her two new great-grandchildren, Leah Saposnik and Ariel Gilat.
- *Mazel Tov* to Bobbie and Barry Berkowitz on their 50th wedding anniversary, and to Shirley and Marty Lubowich on their 68th wedding anniversary!
- Our deepest sympathy to the family of past Sisterhood President,
Arlene Raskin Mann.
May her memory be for a blessing.

BOOK CLUB TO DISCUSS

"THE INNOCENTS"

by Francesca Segal

The next meeting of the Sisterhood Book Club will be on Wednesday, March 11th at 10:30 a.m. at the synagogue.

Newly engaged and unthinkingly self-satisfied, 28-year-old Adam Newman is the prize catch of Temple Fortune, a small, tight-knit Jewish suburb of London. He has been dating Rachel Gilbert since they were both 16 and now, to the relief and happiness of the entire Gilbert family, they are finally to marry. To Adam, Rachel embodies the highest values of Temple Fortune; she is innocent, conventional, and entirely secure in her community. Marrying Rachel will cement Adam's role in a warm, inclusive family he loves.

But as the vast machinery of the wedding gathers momentum, Adam feels the first faint touches of claustrophobia, and when Rachel's younger cousin Ellie Schneider moves home from New York, she unsettles Adam more than he'd care to admit. Ellie offers a liberation that he hadn't known existed. Adam finds himself questioning everything, suddenly torn between security and exhilaration, tradition and independence. What might he be missing by staying close to home?

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

OUR DISTINGUISHED JEWISH WOMEN— PAST AND PRESENT:

Sophie Tucker by Joanne Stein

She was known as “The Last of the Red Hot Mammás”, and was born Sonya Kalish to a Jewish family from Ukraine. At a young age, she began singing for tips at her parent’s kosher restaurant in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1903, at 16, she eloped with a beer cart driver named Louis Tuck. (That’s where the name Tucker originated.) They had a son but the couple soon separated. Sophie left the baby with her family and moved to New York. She found work singing in cafes, and by age 22, she was appearing in the Ziegfeld Follies. Two of her most famous songs were *My Yiddish Mama* and *Some of These Days*.

She toured England and even gave a command performance for King George V and Queen Mary in 1926. In London she had a sign put on the stage which read: “Welcome, Sophie Tucker, America’s Most Jewish Singer” – she never let her audiences forget she was Jewish. In the 1930s, she had her own radio show and later made appearances on many TV shows and on Broadway.

Sophie Tucker was known for *tzedakah*. She gave a great deal of money to Jewish causes. She endowed a chair at Brandeis University, dedicated and sponsored youth centers in Israel and established forests there as well.

She never retired but kept working until a few weeks before she died in 1966 at 82. Three thousand people attended her funeral at a Connecticut synagogue. At that time, the union hearse drivers were on strike but when they learned it was Sophie Tucker’s funeral, they called off the picketing in her honor.

This is what one critic said about her: “Sophie Tucker’s legacy exists in her generous contributions to charity, her influence on Jewish culture and women’s sexuality, and her role as a great entertainer.”

PESACH - PASSOVER 2015

The holiday of *Pesach* (Passover) is celebrated from the 15th to the 22nd of Nisan, which corresponds this year to Friday night, April 3rd for the first Seder and ending on Saturday night, April 11th.

Passover is the most widely celebrated Jewish holiday. It commemorates God’s freeing the Israelite slaves from bondage in Egypt and the beginning of Jewish nationhood in the land of Israel.

It is also one of the three Pilgrimage holidays (together with Sukkot and Shavuot), when Jews brought their first fruits to sacrifice in the Temple in Jerusalem.

The Hagaddah combines the historical past (the telling of the story of the liberation from slavery in Egypt), the present (everyone should feel as if he personally was liberated from slavery in Egypt) and the hope for the future (the ushering in of Elijah the Prophet, who will herald the Messianic Age and “Next Year in Jerusalem!”).

At the Seder, participants are supposed to lean on pillows and recline on chairs, in the style of free men of leisure. The food that most typifies the Seder is the *matzah*, a form of flat unleavened bread. Other Seder rituals are eating parsley which heralds the spring, and the eating of the bitter herbs and *charoset* to remind us of the slavery in Egypt. Four cups of wine are drunk at various points of the Seder and a fifth cup is put out for Elijah the Prophet.

The Seder plate is put out as a teaching tool for children and adults and to encourage the asking of questions about Passover and the Seder. On the Seder plate are six items: The “zeroah” – a roasted shank bone or chicken neck to represent the Paschal lamb, “beitzah” – egg to represent the sacrifice in the Temple, “maror”- bitter herbs – romaine lettuce or horseradish to remind us of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt, “charoset”- a mixture of apples, nuts and wine resembling the mortar used by the Hebrew slaves to build the structures in Egypt, “karpas” a non-bitter vegetable--usually parsley--to remind us of spring and “hazeret”- additional bitter herbs, usually romaine lettuce.

Happy Passover –
Happy Spring –
Chag Sameach!

KNITTING PROJECT

Sisterhood is making shawls for breast cancer patients.

The yarn is available at Michael’s or any hobby store.

The office has copies of the instructions.

There is no time limit on how long it takes. It is a spare-time project. Have fun doing this!

I want to thank all of the people who have contributed to this knitting project—it has been appreciated by the cancer patients who receive them and by the group of people who distribute them!

Idelle Peaceman

