

The Ezra-Habonim, Niles Township Jewish Congregation

SISTERHOOD CORNER—May, 2015

Evelyn Lowenthal, Sisterhood President

Judy Arkin, Editor (kjarkin99@comcast.net)

From the President's Desk...

I began writing this message from the Central Great Lakes Region Spring Conference of Women for Conservative Judaism, which our Sisterhood is affiliated with, held in Cincinnati, Ohio earlier this week. Idelle Peaceman and I had the opportunity to visit with other attendees and gather great ideas that I hope to use for our 2015-2016 Sisterhood year which begins on July 1st.

It was a pleasure to see such a great turnout for our *Celebrate Israel!* Luncheon held on April 22nd. ***Thank you*** to all those who attended and helped with our set-up, serving and clean-up, and a special ***thank you*** to Joanne Stein for her wonderful and informative program on Golda Meir.

Please join us on Saturday morning, May 9th at 9:30 a.m. for Sisterhood Shabbat as our women will once again be leading the services and sponsoring the Kiddush Luncheon. We invite you and your friends to attend!

Sisterhood will finish our 2014-2015 year with our Culminating Luncheon and Installation of our Officers and Board on Wednesday, June 10th, with a catered/plated luncheon. Charles Troy will present a musical program to top-off our event. Invitations are in the mail—the cost is once again \$36 for Sisterhood members and \$40 for guests.

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
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 seder plates, hostess gifts, mezuzahs and kosher parchments! Call Evie Lowenthal at (847)673-2505 for more information.
- Order your 2015-2016 Women's League **CALENDAR DATEBOOKS**. They are just \$10 and are a great way to carry your plans everywhere with Jewish holidays and dates at your fingertips. Contact Evie Lowenthal to place your order!

WELCOME

to our new and returning
Sisterhood Members:

Susan Boldrey
Davida Grossman
Marilyn Mittman

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 8th.

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.

KNITTING PROJECT

Sisterhood is making shawls for breast cancer patients. The office has copies of the instructions. If you would like more information, feel free to call Idelle Peaceman at (847)254-7745. No time limit—have fun doing this!



Torah Fund

This year's Torah Fund pin depicts *Mishpachah--Family*. Receive the 5775 pin as our gift to you in recognition of donations of \$180 or more (Benefactor \$180, Guardian \$300, Associate Patron \$600, Patron \$1200). In choosing *mishpachah* as the theme for the 5775 Torah Fund pin, we are acknowledging both the sanctity that comes with being one big family and the complexity of our families and relationships.

There is no one kind of Jewish family in the world today. Our families are diverse and this pin is something to be worn proudly by women in all stages and kinds of family life: married, partnered, single, widowed, LGBT, straight, mothers, aunts, sisters and daughters. And as we support the programs of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Zeigler School of Rabbinic Studies, and the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, we proclaim that we as women in all walks of life are proudly shaping the future of the big, 3000 year-old Jewish family.

Your Torah Fund contribution strengthens and perpetuates Conservative/Masorati Judaism throughout the world. It's not too late to participate in this year's Torah Fund drive! Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Please make your check payable to EHNTJC Sisterhood Torah Fund and send it to the synagogue office—ATTN: Sisterhood Torah Fund. For more information, please contact our Torah Fund Chair, Julie Weill at (847)914-0564, or Sisterhood President, Evie Lowenthal at (847)673-2505.

Good and Welfare...

- Thank you to Ruth Saffro for her generous donation in appreciation of her many *Leagram* wishes on her 93rd birthday!
- Thank you to Sylvia Footlik for her generous donation in appreciation of her many *Leagram* wishes on her 97th birthday!
- *Mazel Tov* to Debbie Reich on the birth of her granddaughter—Hayden Sloane Reich.
- *Mazel Tov* to Carla Price on the recent marriage of her son, Bradley to Valeria Picerno.
- *Mazel Tov* to Carol Straus on the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Noam Straus.