The Ezra-Habonim, Niles Township Jewish Congregation

SISTERHOOD CORNER—Nov.-Dec., 2014

Evelyn Lowenthal, Sisterhood President Judy Arkin, Editor (kjarkin99@comcast.net)

From the President’s Desk...

We are now past the holidays, the leaves are falling and the Jewish month of Cheshvan is upon us -- a month boasting no holidays. We are inviting the entire congregation, in addition to our Sisterhood membership, to our Thursday evening program on November 6th with author and humorist Ken Krimstein.

Then in Kislev, please join us at our Sisterhood Latke Luncheon with Chuck Field and his puppets on Wednesday, December 3rd. After the luncheon and program, you'll be able to shop at our Holiday Boutique from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. PLEASE MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR AND FIND SOME GREAT GIFTS FOR ALL! Flyers for both programs are attached.

Looking ahead to 2015, we're bringing back our popular “Games Day” on Wednesday, January 7th and also considering a February Bingo fundraiser.

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 Mogul this month is Harriet Reifer. If you have news to share, contact Judy Arkin at kjarkin99@comcast.net.

➢ Sisterhood donation cards are 10/$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.

➢ Being thoughtful now costs less! Inclusion on all Leagram birthday and anniversary greetings is only $54 for a year. Contact Debbie Reich at (847)272-4057.

BOOK CLUB TO DISCUSS

“The Museum of Extraordinary Things”

The next meeting of the Sisterhood Book Club will be on Wednesday, November 12th at 10:30 a.m. at the synagogue. We’ll discuss “The Museum of Extraordinary Things” by author Alice Hoffman.

With a Jewish mystic and a distinguished Wolfman, ravishing evocations of the rapidly transforming city and the tawdry yet profoundly human magnetism of Coney Island, dramatic perspectives on criminal greed and coalescence of the labor movement, and keen appreciation for the new clarity photography fostered, Hoffman unveils both horror and magic in this transfixing tale of liberation and love in a metropolis of lies, yearning and metamorphosis.

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

The next Book Club selection is “The Golem and the Jinni” by Helene Wecker. See you on January 14th!

SAD NEWS

Our Sisterhood is deeply saddened by the recent loss of Erica Brief.
We extend our sympathy to Rabbi Neil Brief and family.
May her memory be for a blessing.
KRISTALLNACHT: SOME THOUGHTS LOOKING BACK
by Judith Rae Ross

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt described the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, as the “day that would live in infamy.” But December 7th was preceded by another infamous date, November 9, 1938, Kristallnacht (the night of broken glass). During that night most, if not all synagogues in Germany, were burned; the shop windows of most Jewish merchants, broken. In addition, many Jews were beaten; many more imprisoned, some murdered. If there was any doubt about Nazi intentions, Kristallnacht made them crystal-clear: Hitler wasn’t the only anti-Semite in Germany.

But Kristallnacht’s significance has changed since 1938. Originally it was a wake-up call for Jews in Germany that now would be a great time to leave, and some Jewish Germans did just that. Unfortunately, those who fled to other European countries got caught in the Nazi net by 1940. Furthermore, most countries weren’t willing to take in Jews fleeing the Nazis. They made that abundantly clear during the Evian Conference, July 6-15, 1938. Even the American Congress refused to admit 20,000 Jewish refugee children, and let’s not forget the St. Louis debacle. That’s why Kristallnacht initially symbolized the first step in the process that led to the Holocaust.

After the war, Kristallnacht became the symbol of German barbarism. In the wake of the Nuremberg Trials “I was only following orders” became a mockery when pictures of the havoc wreaked on November 9th were shown. Many Jews boycotted German goods and refused to attend Wagnerian operas well into the 1980s because Kristallnacht symbolized the Holocaust.

Today, especially in our congregation, we commemorate Kristallnacht for what it was: An unending night of horror for all of us, but especially the Jews who lived to tell of it firsthand. It’s vital to remember not only for them, but for the children who are curious about what occurred. They need to know how horrific hate’s legacy can be.

There’s another reason. While preparing to write this, I came across an article by Ingrid Weckert (‘Crystal Night’ 1938: The great Anti-German spectacle), which stated that Hitler and his thugs had nothing to do with Kristallnacht, that there was no anti-Semitic activity in Germany from 1938 to 1939, and that the Jews may have concocted Kristallnacht to get more sympathy. She relies on Edwin Black’s Transfer Agreement, now seen as a worthless piece of propaganda masquerading as scholarship.

Frau Weckert is old, and perhaps suffers from dementia. But argument by insinuation and longing for the good old days of the 1930s does not equal scholarship. It’s hate mongering propaganda, also junk.

We need to mark Kristallnacht to counteract the hate with a more powerful truth. Hate kills, Frau. Truth frees. Say Kaddish on Kristallnacht for what we and the world lost.

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. If you would like more information, feel free to call Idelle Peaceman at (847)254-7745. There is no time limit on how long it takes. It is a spare-time project. Have fun doing this!

Good and Welfare...

- Mazel Tov to Diane Rosenfeld on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson—Joshua Winick.
- Our deepest sympathy to Rose-Lynn Jaffe on the loss of her mother-in-law—Idelle Jaffe.
- Wishing a speedy recovery to Rhoda Neubauer and Marcy Feinberg.
- A big THANK YOU from Dorothy Lipstadt for all her get well wishes!

Holiday Boutique Vendors Wanted!

Contact Gloriann Levy at (847)983-8242 or GloriannLev@gmail.com