



Mikva crest



JEWISH CENTER BULLETIN

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17 Tishrei 5784

November 1, 2023

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I am writing, Israel is 2 days post surprise invasion. Losses are in the hundreds and may be in the thousands when this bulletin is printed. Vigils are being planned, and we are trying to explain this to our children. My teenager learned that 2 people she knows in Israel are missing. We pray to Hashem to give strength and fortitude to our Israeli allies, that this bloodshed will end, and our kidnapped brethren will be returned home safely. Am Yisrael Chai!

So, how do you pray to Hashem? The many paths amaze me. (Spoiler alert: They're all correct!) I know members who rarely miss a minyan and congregants who only attend Shabbat - members who connect through the Sisterhood, adult education or only for the High Holidays. Some pay dues, don't attend, but wish to maintain a strong Conservative Jewish presence in Queens.

I spoke with a prospective member who is uncomfortable in a traditional service. Her spouse though, would like to join a Conservative shul. I explained that Judaism is more than just prayer and kashrut. It is Tikkun Olam, Tzedukah, and Chesed. Rabbi Ravid Tilles taught me that when you can connect to G-d outside of the synagogue, it makes it easier to connect within. The woman was surprised when I told her that planting a tree is observing Judaism. She came to understand that while her husband connects in the sanctuary, it is acceptable for her to feel closer while delivering meals to the elderly. In this sense, she could "justify" joining a synagogue, while observing Judaism from outside its walls.

Having worked and volunteered in synagogues for 25 years, it's difficult for me to feel spiritual in the sanctuary. I stare at chipped paint or a burnt-out bulb. Fellow work or member volunteers want to discuss the latest project. I am a distance runner, sometimes entering races

that last for 30 hours or longer. I feel closest to G-d when I have been running through the night and dawn finally breaks. I'm exhausted, in pain, and have been in the darkness for 10 hours. The sunrise brings rejuvenation. Unembarrassedly I belt out every prayer that I know from the Modeh Ani to the Shema - even just bits and pieces. Like the ignorant shepherd boy who could only recite letters from the Aleph Bet, I feel these remnants will be accepted.

Whether you are the person who frequently attends services or classes, or the person who feels closest to Hashem when they are in their element, connect in the manner which suits you. Don't feel shy to pray when you go for a walk or play with your grandchildren. These are all wonderful ways to connect with G-d and observe your Judaism.

B'Shalom,

Jamey Kohn, Vice President

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY SERVICES

Friday, November 3

Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv 5:30 P.M.
Candle Lighting 5:33 P.M.

Saturday, November 4 – Vayera 9:00 A.M.

Torah Reading: Genesis 18:1-22:24 Haftarah: II Kings 4:1-37

Mincha 4:45 P.M.
Shiur/Seudah Shlishit 5:15 P.M.
Maariv 6:15 P.M.
Shabbat ends 6:31 P.M.

Sunday, November 5 – Daylight Saving Time ends – Turn clocks back one hour

Thursday, November 9 – Kristallnacht Remembrance Day

Friday, November 10

Candle Lighting 4:24 P.M.
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, November 11 – Chaya Sarah – Birkat HaChodesh 9:00 A.M.

Veterans Day

Torah Reading: Genesis 23:1-25:18 Haftarah: I Kings 1:1-31

We welcome the new month Kislev - Rosh Chodesh is Tuesday, Nov. 14

Mincha 4:15 P.M.
Shiur and Snacks 4:45 P.M.
Maariv 5:15 P.M.
Shabbat ends 5:24 P.M.

Friday, November 17

Candle Lighting 4:18 P.M.
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, November 18 – Toledot 9:00 A.M.

Torah Reading: Genesis 25:19-28:9 Haftarah: Malachi 1:1-27

Mincha 4:00 P.M.
Shiur and Snacks 4:30 P.M.
Maariv 5:00 P.M.
Shabbat ends 5:19 P.M.

Wednesday, November 22 – Thanksgiving Eve (see Daily Digest)

schedule continues on page 3

Manes Kogan..... *Rabbi*
 Rachel Black *Student Cantor*

 Simeon Saturn *President*
 Karen Rothman *Sisterhood President*
 Martin Guttman *Men's Club President*
 Raina Kohn & Esther Tokarz
 *Youth/Family Co-Presidents*
 Nadine Kochavi *Executive Director*
 Joan Hausmann *Managing Editor*
 Robert Zuckerman *Bulletin Advertising*

 Dr. Israel Mowshowitz 7"1 *Rabbi Emeritus*
 Moti Fuchs 7"1 *Cantor Emeritus*

Hillcrest Jewish Center
 183-02 Union Turnpike
 Flushing, NY 11366-1623
 Affiliated with

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Hillcrest on the Web
www.HillcrestJC.org
 Phone (718) 380-4145 Fax (718) 380-4665
 E-mail: info@hillcrestjc.org

CENTER FAMILY

Congratulations to:

Mark Solkoff on receiving the New York State Theatre Education Association's Rod Marriott Award for lifetime achievement in educational theater.

Rina & Scott Kagel on the marriage of their daughter Stephanie to Jacob Hollander.

Hillcrest Jewish Center
General Membership Meeting
Sunday, November 12
10:00 AM

Agenda

Welcome
 Treasurer's Report
 President's Address
 Spotlight on Small Groups Initiative
 Synagogue Volunteerism
 Update on the Sale of the Building
 Question and Answer Session

*It is requested that you register
 for the meeting by emailing*

*info@hillcrestjc.org
 or calling the office
 718-380-4145*

Daily Minyan
in the Sanctuary
7 AM and 7 PM
Sundays & Holidays
8:30 AM

From Rabbi Kogan

Dear Friends of Hillcrest Jewish Center,

As I write these lines on October 12th, I am still shocked by the events that took place in Israel on the morning of Shemini Atzeret. The viciousness, cruelty, and senseless bloodshed our brothers and sisters experienced is beyond words.

By the time you read these lines, I am sure new developments in the war against Hamas should have taken place. Hopefully we will be heading in the right direction, although it looks as if we will have a long and difficult way ahead.

I don't wish to repeat what by now you have listened to countless times, including the sheer ruthlessness of the attackers, the bravery of the defenders, and the tragedy of the bereft families and those waiting to hear news from their loved ones.

I am not going to offer a novel political analysis, or ponder why we didn't see this coming, or simple recipes about what the IDF should do.

I like to say, what I shared in shul, and that is that we got to experience for 10 hours what it feels like to be powerless, not to have a sovereign State, not to be in charge.

Our Torah commands us to remember what Amalek did to us.

"Remember what Amalek did to you along the way when you came out from Egypt, how he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God. When the Lord your God gives you rest from the enemies around you in the land that He is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you are to blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." (Deuteronomy 25:17-19).

I like to share an insight from Rabanit Sally Mayer, Rosh Midrasha at Midreshet Lindenbaum's Overseas Program in Jerusalem (Abby studied there for one year).

Rabanit Sally Mayer reminds us that the first plain meaning of the above verses is to destroy Amalek, to make sure that the barbaric attackers who killed 1300 people in Israel, and those who sent them, are eliminated to the extent that "never again" will be, this time, "never again."

However, there is a second, deeper meaning, in obliterating Amalek, and that is to obliterate what Amalek stands for: cruelty, mercilessness, disregard for the weak and defenseless.

We should pray for the IDF soldiers to do their job, and to do it well. At the same time, we must strive to live lives of kindness and compassion, caring for the weak and the defenseless, so we not only can defeat Amalek physically, but also what Amalek represents.

May we hear good news soon. May brighter days lie ahead for all of us. May Hashem give strength to His people and protect His people with peace.

Rabbi Manes Kogan

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

October 2023

I am writing this report on October 9th, just two days after Hamas's horrific attack on Israel. I hope that by the time you read this the violence will have subsided and Israel will once again be safe, with no additional loss of innocent life. Although congregants of Hillcrest Jewish Center have a broad spectrum of beliefs concerning the composition of the current Israeli government and the wisdom of its actions, we are all united in supporting Israel's right to exist and its concomitant right to defend itself against terrorism.

The Board of Trustees met on September 19th. There was a report on our efforts to sell the building and lease back the parts we use. Multiple parties are interested in buying the building, and Simeon Saturn is leading the effort to evaluate who the best partner would be and how to obtain the highest possible price while protecting our Synagogue's interests.

There was also a happy report regarding the Summit School. They have agreed to pay the full amount of back rent that they owe, and have already paid more than half of the amount that had been outstanding, with the remainder promised soon.

The Kol Nidre campaign is progressing ahead of last year. The Sisterhood made an especially generous donation. It is not too late to contribute; we are aiming for 100% participation. Even if you can afford only \$18, please contribute.

A memorial for Cantor Fuchs in the sanctuary was discussed, as was a celebration next spring of Rabbi Kogan's 18th anniversary as our rabbi.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 17th.

Richard Kass, Board Chair

Adult Education presents a talk by
DR. ARTHUR FLUG
 Sunday, December 3
 at 9:45 AM in the Moreida



On Sunday December 3, 2023, the Adult Education committee is presenting a talk about Arthur Szyk, New York City, Comic books and the Holocaust.

Arthur Szyk was a caricaturist whose work in the 1930s and 1940s helped inform the public about the dangers posed by Hitler. He helped mold public opinion against Naziism and all it stood for. Eleanor Roosevelt wrote in 1943 that Arthur Szyk's political cartoons "fight the war against Hitlerism as truly as any of us who cannot actually be on the fighting fronts today."

The talk will be given by Dr. Arthur Flug. He was the Executive Director of the Kupferberg Holocaust Center Queensborough Community College from 2005-2017. Before that Dr. Flug was Executive Director of the Manhattan Division of the American Jewish Congress (2001-2003). He was president of the Conservative Synagogue of Jamaica Estates, and was Chairman of the Board here at Hillcrest Jewish Center.

Starting as a teacher, Arthur Flug rose through the ranks to become an Assistant Principal and the Curriculum Director for the New York City Board of Education. He has also been a District Administrator for Congressman Gary L. Ackerman and Chief of Staff for New York City Councilman David Weprin.

A light breakfast will be served at 9:45 before Dr. Flug's talk.

This program is free and open to the public.

Kathy Lewis

**SMALL GROUPS
 ARE BACK AT HJC
 See page 5
 For more information**

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY SERVICES

Thursday, November 23 – Thanksgiving	
<i>Building closed except for services</i>	8:30 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.
Friday, November 24 – Thanksgiving Friday	
<i>Building closed except for services</i>	8:30 AM.
Candle Lighting.....	4:14 P.M.
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv.....	4:30 P.M.
Saturday, November 25 - Vayetze 9:00 A.M.	
Torah Reading: Genesis 28:10-32:3 Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10	
Mincha.....	4:00 P.M.
Shiur and Snacks.....	4:30 P.M.
Maariv.....	5:00 P.M.
Shabbat ends.....	5:14 P.M.

SISTERHOOD

We are very pleased to present our **Monday, November 13th** program on a topic of utmost importance. Israel is a strong focus of interest and commitment to our Sisterhood and all Hillcrest members.

Sisterhood and the Israel Action Committee present **Aaron Herman, AIPAC Director of Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island**. His topic "Guardians of the Future and Building Bridges".

Aaron's unwavering commitment to fostering a strong US-Israel relationship and ensuring a safe and secure Israel has made him an invaluable asset to our community over the past many years. Aaron holds a Master's in Public Administration from NYU and a Bachelor of Arts from SUNY Binghamton.

This program is open to all Hillcrest members on Monday, November 13th at 12:30 in the Moreida Auditorium. Please join us for a lively and urgent discussion.

Our next **Moonlights session with Professor Abi Doukhan**, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Queens College will be held, in person, on Tuesday, November 14th at 7:30 (after minyan). The topic for Kislev is The Banquet of Lady Wisdom. This session is next in the program series "In the Mother's House: From Doing to Receiving". All are welcome.

Sisterhood is proud to have made our Kol Nidre Pledge to our Synagogue in the amount of \$12,500. The check was presented at our board meeting on October 9th.

We have also made substantial donations to AmerCares Maui Emergency Relief Fund, the Joint Distribution Committee Morocco Earthquake Fund, and most recently, Magen David Adom and Israel Defense Forces.

A donation was made to Sisterhood by Eleonora, Dimitriy and Elizabeth Kogan thanking Iris Schachter for teaching Hebrew to Elizabeth.

Additional New Year Greetings were from Eva Weiss and Nitza Schraeter.

Karen Rothman, Sisterhood President



Karen Rothman holds the \$12,500 Sisterhood Kol Nidre check that was presented to HJC at their board meeting on October 9th. Attending the meeting, left to right were: (seated) Bertha Strauss, Deborah Arluck, Barbara Resnick, Susan Straus, Susan Duze. (standing) Iris Schachter, Joan Hausmann, Karen Rothman, Adele Rothstein, Edna Harris, Nora Kozuch, Carol Greenberg.

Photo by Rabbi Kogan

FROM CANTOR RACHEL

At the time of this writing, I am heavy with the grief that we are all experiencing at the atrocities being committed in Israel. Even the mundane tasks of daily life seem extra hard this week: the morning commute, what to have for dinner, the homework. Perhaps for you as well, there is a dark cloud that is sitting with me. In times of distress, I find solace in our liturgy: "Or Zarua la tsaddik, ul'yishrei lev simcha – Light is sown for the righteous, joy for the upright of heart (Psalm 97:11)." And so, let us savor in the joy wherever we can. A particular source of joy for me was celebrating Sukkot with our youngest members in the Hillcrest Sukkah for our Sundaes on a Monday event. I think the photo below captured the vibrancy in the air. Eric, Cora, and I were delighted to meet so many families and share such wonderful conversation, giggles, sprinkles, song, and lulav shakes. We can't wait to share many Shabbatot together!

From our communal Selichot service through Simchat Torah, thank you for sharing your ruach, spirited singing, and...yes, joy. May you carry light with you through these dark times.

B'shalom,

Cantor Rachel



MEN'S CLUB

"To boldly go where our Men's Club hasn't gone before" - **The Cradle of Aviation Museum**, located in Garden City. More info to follow on this upcoming educational, entertaining and informative family-oriented outing.

Also, we eagerly await the return, after a 3-year absence, (date to be determined) of **Karaoke Night** in the Moreida Auditorium. Please check emails, flyers, and public events announcements for date and time.

Maybe it's the N.Y. Islanders that piques your interest? Basketball? Baseball? Make your interests known by contacting Men's Club President, Marty Guttman at mpguttman@gmail.com.

On Wednesday, October 4th, pizza and snacks were in the Sukkah, followed by the showing of the movie "Gett" in the Moreida Auditorium. It brought out over 40 synagogue members and their guests. Many more movie events are in the offing. Any suggestions? Please contact the Men's Club with your ideas.

*Joel Berkowitz,
Men's Club Co-VP*

OHR CHADASH UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

For the first time in the history of Ohr Chadash our Sunday classes began and then went on hiatus for a month. Such was the nature of the Tishrei holidays this Hebrew calendar year. Our initial session was held on September 10th, our fall semester beginning at Israel Center of Conservative Judaism. The rabbis from all three of our sponsoring synagogues graced our school that morning, whether it was at the Opening Assembly, during the course of the classes, or at our special Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur program. As always, Rabbi Hillel, Rabbi Kogan, and Rabbi Wise were able to present their unique and inspirational teachings to our children, which provoked insightful questions from our students and held them rapt in the aura of learning.

Moreh Marc, Ohr Chadash's new music teacher, was enthusiastically welcomed by both our children and our instructors. With keyboard at the ready, he immediately engaged the students by playing familiar holiday songs and introducing them to several new melodies.

As Morah Judy, Morah Marina, Morah Zehavah, and Morah Shari went from class to class, they warmly greeted returning and new students, each teaching their respective subjects of holidays, prayer, Hebrew, and history/Torah.

For the last period of the day all the students and teachers met in the ballroom to celebrate Rosh Hashanah and commemorate Yom Kippur. To invite in the New Year each child was able to dip apples in honey in hopes of added sweetness in the days ahead.

Because our next Sunday class would not be until October 15th, two Wednesday events were added to the Ohr Chadash 2023-2024/5784 schedule. On September 20th, our students joined with the congregations of Etz Hayim at Hollis Hills Bayside, Hillcrest Jewish Center, and Israel Center of Conservative Judaism for a communal Tashlich celebration at Kissena Park. Rabbis Wise, Kogan, and Hillel jointly conducted the program about casting aside our misdeeds upon the waters and beginning anew. Symbolically we discarded our sins by tossing birdseed to the awaiting geese and swans in the park's pond. Concluding the afternoon's events, our children were treated to ice cream sandwiches.

Two weeks later, on Wednesday, October 4th, our students met at ICCJ to celebrate the holiday of Sukkot. Again, all three of our rabbis were in attendance to teach about the waving of the lulav and etrog as part of this Yom Tov commemoration. The children learned about the traveling of our people in the wilderness for forty years and how the sukkah, a temporary dwelling, served as their shelter against the elements. After leaving the Main Sanctuary, the students, the teachers, and the rabbis made their way to the sukkah, where everyone performed the task of saying the brachot before shaking the four species (the lulav, the aravot [willows], the hadassim [myrtles], and the etrog). Afterwards they fulfilled the mitzvah of eating in the sukkah by partaking of pizza and refreshments, accompanied by Rabbi Hillel's melodic strains of holiday songs strummed on the guitar.

Our children will be returning to regular Sunday morning classes on October 15th. Our teachers look forward to resuming our regular classroom instruction and to seeing all our students again. In anticipation of our upcoming Chanukah celebration in December we hope to form a school choir, which will perform on Sunday morning, December 10th, for our parents and family members.

Morah Shari

LETTER FROM HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Dear Rabbi Kogan,

On behalf of the clergy and laity of Holy Family parish, please accept our most sincere sympathies and condolences for the extraordinarily horrific and despicably evil Hamas terrorist attack on the good, innocent people of Israel.

Rabbi Kogan, please know that all of our prayers are certainly with you, your Hillcrest Jewish Center congregants, and indeed all the Jewish people worldwide. May God in His loving mercy be with you all during this heartbreaking time and may He bring support and comfort to the countless victims, their families, and all the Israeli citizenry.

May peace be with you.

*David Dolan and all of
Holy Family parish*

RABBI'S WEEKLY SHIURIM (classes)

I'm pleased to share with you the return of my weekly shiurim (classes) that I will be teaching in the coming weeks. I encourage everyone to join. You are warmly welcome, regardless of your background or prior knowledge.

- **Stories with a Twist** (*Now in its 18th year!*)

In-Person: Mondays at 3:30 PM, October 30, November 6 and 20, and December 11 (more dates to follow)

- **Mussar - The Palm Tree of Deborah: A Masterful Synthesis of Kabbalah and Ethics** - In-Person and Online: Mondays at 6:15 PM, starting October 16

- **Learning Tractate Berakhot** - In-Person and Online: Ongoing: Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

- **Rite and Reason: Why We Do What We Do**

Online: *New Day and Time*: Wednesdays at 4:00 PM, starting October 18

Feel free to participate in as many classes as you wish. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a community, learn, and nurture our spiritual and intellectual growth.

Please feel free to reach out to me at rabbikogan@hillcrestjc.org with any questions. I look forward to our shared journey of learning together!

Rabbi Manes Kogan

SMALL GROUPS

Some Old Ones – Some New Ones

Small Groups are back for Fall 2023. Join in the fun with our familiar groups, now open to new participants, and explore the excitement of our new groups led by Rabbi Manes Kogan, Beth Ritter, and Norton Spiel.

Additionally, we are actively seeking members who are interested in leading a small group now or in the future. These groups can be based on any topic or activity. If you're interested in leading a group, please email melissa@hillcrestjc.org or call the office.

Small groups are gatherings of 6-10 participants who meet regularly to delve into focused discussions or partake in specific activities. The small size, committed attendance, and set number of meetings contribute to the group's success.

- **Arts Engagement: New Exhibitions** *led by Helene Jacob*

Dates and times for museum visits will be determined based on admission hours, available days. Docent-led tours, when available (possible fee) will be arranged. Most visits will occur on Mondays and Tuesdays and occasional Wednesdays. (Transportation: be willing to take the Express Bus to Manhattan; be a driver; pay for van service to Manhattan, carpool to local museums.) For more information, contact Helene at crew184@aol.com.

- **Beyond Oy Vey: Yiddish Conversation** *led by Eva Zimmerman*

Every first and third Thursday, noon for up to two hours. If you can speak Yiddish a little or a lot, please join us as we continue the Yiddish group get-togethers. No studying, no memorizing, no pressure. Our goal is to come together, have fun and meet other Yiddish speakers as we reconnect with the culture and language many of us grew up with. For more information, contact Eva at elzimm76@gmail.com.

- **Israeli Dance for Beginners** *led by Iris Schachter*

Tuesdays until December, 5:45-6:45 PM. If you always wanted to do Israeli dances, but never tried, this is your chance. Dancing helps to ward off Alzheimer's by jogging your memory, and you get physical activity at the same time. For more information, contact Iris at jschachter1@gmail.com.

- **Let's walk. Let's talk. Let's connect** *led by Anna Rottersman*

Every Monday starting on October 23 – 9:00 AM for one or two hours. Meet at the Alley Pond Playground parking lot, located on 76th Avenue, just off Springfield Boulevard. It's a new year, a new season, and a new opportunity to enjoy the physical and mental benefits of time spent outdoors involved in movement and good conversation. Please wear appropriate, comfortable clothing and sturdy footwear. In the event of inclement weather, the walk will be canceled for that week. For more information, contact Anna at rot111@aol.com.

Small Groups continues on page 8

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS

The children of HJC members who are attending college either away or living at home, are eligible to receive mailings, gifts and invitations supported by the Edith and Aaron Goldberg College Outreach Fund.

The list of eligible recipients will be generated by the parents of the college student. The parents register their child by submitting the college student's mailing address each semester to Hillcrest JC. Email to Kantro2@gmail.com or call Carol Kantro at 347-235-4105.

THANK YOU, HAROLD!

Wow! Thank you and kudos to Harold Moskowitz for his passionate and sincere speech at Kol Nidre. His plea for pledges for the upkeep of our Hillcrest Jewish Center really knocked it out of the ballpark! He told it exactly as it is and moved many of our hearts.

Keep it up Harold because Hillcrest surely needs it!

Sela Zellman

***If you haven't as yet
made your
Kol Nidre pledge,
there's still time
to do it now.
Please call the office.***

TASHLICH AT KISSENA PARK



A few of Hillcrest Jewish Center's members at Kissena Park reading Tashlich prayers and throwing their sins (seeds) in the water.

SMALL GROUPS *continued from page 5*

- **Welcoming Widows** *led by Beth Ritter*

Once a month on Tuesdays starting October 24 at 12:30 PM. It's a club none of us wanted to be a member of, but since we're here, why not join other widows for camaraderie, conversation, shared experiences, and even some make-the-best-of-it laughs? A Tuesday, monthly pizza luncheon meeting at HJC will give us this opportunity. Participants will contribute to the cost of lunch. For more information, contact Beth at PozyAquaGTR@aol.com.

- **Whiskey, Cigars, Torah, and Schmooze** *led by Rabbi Manes Kogan and Norton Spiel*

Wednesdays, October 18, November 1, 15 and 29, December 20, January 3 and 17 from 8:00 to 10:00 PM in the "smoking room" at Norton Spiel's home, located in Jamaica, close to HJC (address will be provided to group participants). Participants need to commit to attending all or most meetings. Open to men and women, smokers and non-smokers (*but if the smoke bothers you, this small group is not for you!*) Cost: \$15 per meeting, which includes 1 premium cigar per meeting and a selection of Bourbons and Single Malt Scotches.

This group has limited space, so only six participants can join. Non-members are welcome but priority will be given to HJC members.

For more information, contact Rabbi Kogan at rabbikogan@hillcrestjc.org.

**First night of Hanukkah is
Thursday, December 7
The Sisterhood Gift Shop has some great gifts!**