

הי L I G H T S

PUBLISHED MONTHLY NO. 1

JANUARY 2012

Jewish Cinema Mississippi 2012

*10th Anniversary Celebration of
Jewish and Israeli-themed Independent Films*

*Sponsored by Beth Israel Congregation &
the Jewish Culture Organization at Millsaps College*

January 25-29, 2012

The Matchmaker
Brothers
A Matter of Size
Jews & Baseball

Wednesday, January 25 at 7:15 PM
Thursday, January 26 at 7:15 PM
Saturday, January 28 at 7:15 PM
Sunday, January 29 at 3:00 PM



Festival Art by Cleta Ellington
Signed limited edition prints for \$150
For more information, call
Michael Steiner at 601.572.6122

Become a Sponsor!

Sponsorships are available
at five levels.

\$5000

Producer

\$2500

Director

\$1000

Movie Star

\$500

Actor

\$200

Film Critic

Regular Ticket Pricing

\$10: Individual Tickets \$35: Festival Pass
\$5: Students

*JCM 2012 is proud to bring the film festival to the
Malco Grandview Theatre*

www.jewishcinemams.com



Beth Israel / McLeod Elementary School Literacy Day

December 15, 2011

Beth Israel / McLeod Elementary School was a huge success again on Thursday, December 15th. Volunteers from Beth Israel Tikkun Olam Literacy Day Committee and the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life had a great time reading to the students in each classroom. Thanks to our readers: Rabbi Debra Kassoff, Michele Schipper, Malkie Schwartz, Betsy Samuels, Debra Jacobs, Bette Shornick, Judy & Josh Wiener, Mary Gail Kolodney, Maryann Jacobson, Erin Kahal, Susan Hart, Beth Orlansky, Ira Rubin, Marcia Walsh, James Bowley, Dana & Jonathan Larkin, Carol Kossman and Gail Dellar.

The Tikkun Olam Committee adopts McLeod Elementary School, our neighborhood public school, and hosts two literacy days a year in addition to other activities. If you would like to join in our work, please contact Dana Larkin. Our next Literacy Day will be during the month of May.



Participants in BIC / McLeod Elementary Literacy Day. Standing farthest right in the 2nd row from the back is Courtney Sheriff, the McLeod Elementary School Principal.

Dana Larkin
Tikkun Olam Chair

Interested in joining a Beth Israel walking/ fitness group?

Put on your walking shoes and join us!

Walking Group is cancelled over the holidays
but will resume on:

Sunday, January 8

**Parham Bridges
Walking Path**

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.



Contact:

Charna Schlakman at 601-607-7725
Charna515@aol.com

PURIM

IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

We are looking for actors, singers and just
random crazy people for our
Annual Purim Spiel!

Date of spiel:

Wednesday, March 7, 7:00 PM

No talent required - just energy
and enthusiasm!

Limited rehearsals and lots of fun!

Contact Ben Russell:

ben.russell@catholiccharitiesjackson.org

Divrei HaRav: Words from Rabbi Cohen

A few weeks ago Sunday morning, our parking lot was overflowing. No, it wasn't time for parents to pick up their kids from Religious School. No, Bazaar Cooking hadn't begun (that starts this month). The Sisterhood Book Club wasn't even meeting that day.

It was the monthly meeting of the Caring Committee and the library was filled with congregants who care. The volunteerism in our congregation is inspiring. Taking care of those in need, fixing the world (tikun olam), running the many programs at temple through Sisterhood, Religious School teaching, the Shirim Choir, Jewish Cinema Mississippi, Jackson Jewish Federation... just to name a few. And we have leaders of our congregation through the Board of Trustees and beyond who determine the vision and direction of our congregation.

What is my purpose in pointing this out? Volunteerism in a synagogue is multi-faceted. We have the opportunity to fulfill a mitzvah – one of God's commandments. We build on the strengths of our community and enrich the lives of our fellow congregants. We are invited to share our own



talents and explore new ones. We learn and grow as we take on new challenges. We immerse ourselves in the Beth Israel community and are blessed to meet other interesting, vibrant and dedicated people.

At Beth Israel there is a perfect niche for you, your in-

“DO NOT SEPARATE
YOURSELF FROM
THE COMMUNITY.”

PIRKEI AVOT, 2:4

terests and your unique gifts. You might find yourself excited about getting involved in an established committee or you may have an innovative idea for a new program. One of the

great advantages of being in a small congregation is the ability for one person to make a big difference. If you want to start something new, my general approach is: think it through and then make it happen. That is how the Sisterhood Book Club got started. Our new Walking Group. Our long-established Shalom Group. Some programs are wildly successful; some fizzle out after a couple of years. We never know until we try. Along with the hard work comes a lot of fun.

So if you are looking for your special place at Beth Israel and you're not sure where to start, please feel free to contact me, someone on the Board or any of our committee chairs. Or just ask around.

Beth Israel can be your home and your family. What would you like to bring to the table? ■

MRLC ANNUAL BANQUET

Date & Time: Thursday, 19 January 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Place: Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church
305 North Congress St., Jackson, MS 39201

Banquet Speakers:

Hon. William Winter & Bishop Ronnie Crudup
“As a Matter of Fact, Faith, Race”

Moderated by Clarion-Ledger's Jerry Mitchell

Cost: \$25/person

To buy tickets, please contact Sue Cherney at scssue@aol.com or 601-354-0983. RSVP Deadline: Friday, 6 January 2012

Henry S Jacobs Camp is proud to present our
8th Annual Winter Family Camp!

Friday - Sunday, January 13 - 15, 2012

Winter Family Camp is a great way for the whole family to kick-off the New Year!

Whether you have ties to the Jacobs community or want your child to experience Camp for the first time, Family Camp is for you! Winter Camp is the ultimate Jewish Family Getaway and a great opportunity for parents & children of all ages to experience Jacobs Camp, especially a Camp Shabbat.

Highlights of the weekend include:

- Programs for the whole family, plus some just for kids and some just for adults.
- Great Counselors working with the kids.
- The special opportunity to celebrate a Shabbat at Camp.
- Great camp activities like the Indoor Climbing Wall, Arts & Crafts, Sports, Campfire, Song Sessions and much more!
- Great camp food - including our famous Fried Chicken.
- Wonderful fellowship with families from across the region.

The cost of Family Camp is just \$99 per person.

The registration form is available at:

<http://jacobs.urjcamp.org/yearround/>



TOT SHABBAT
Friday, January 6, 2012

Save the Date!

Friday, January 6

5 - 6 p.m.
in the library

1st graders and
younger are
welcome



RSVP to Traci by
Thursday, January 5th



**CAMP
K'TANIM**

**A Day Camp Program
for Children Ages 4 - 6**

Co-sponsored by Beth Israel Preschool
and the URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp

2012 Dates:

Monday, June 18 - Friday, June 22

Fee:

Just \$200

For more information, visit:

www.jacobs.urjcamp.org/about/daycamp

BITY Update

Hello!

Hope everyone had an enjoyable Chanukah. BITY had a fantastic end of the semester Chanukah party and celebration. We played dreidel, listened to Chanukah music, participated in a gift exchange and made holiday cards for kids at Blair E. Batson hospital. Although we're all off enjoying winter break right now, BITY is busy planning events for the upcoming semester. On January 20th, we're heading to Jacobs Camp for NFTY Southern's Winter Kallah. We're also taking orders for our third annual homemade chili and salsa sale. Be sure to order these delicious Superbowl treats and support BITY!! Orders are due February 3rd. Also on our radar... the PURIM CARNIVAL! Save the date: Sunday, March 4th! More information in next month's ChaiLights.

Happy 2012 – we hope it's a good one!

BITY



Mississippi State University Hillel Hanukkah

From Daniel Snyder, President of Hillel at MSU

On December 3 at 6pm, Mississippi State University Hillel gathered at the Marcus home to celebrate Hanukkah before Final Exams.

Included in the picture above are two members of Beth Israel Congregation: Daniel Snyder, front row far left and Brad Krock, back row center.



BITY Annual Superbowl Sunday Chili and Salsa Sale February 5, 2012

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BITY is once again selling homemade chili and salsa ready for pick up on Superbowl Sunday, February 5th, 2012.

Order forms will be available in the office and on the Temple website.

All proceeds support BITY and the American Cancer Society.



**Chili (beef or veggie)
\$25.00 (serves 4)**

**Salsa (spicy or mild)
\$10.00**

Sisterhood Bazaar Bits

Bazaar date: Wednesday March 21, 2012 10 am til 6 pm

Planning mode for the 2012 Bazaar is in full swing, and it's closer than you think!

We're currently working on cooking dates and looking for people to take the lead on specific foods. For example, unless we can talk Sarit into flying in from Israel we are going to need someone to chair making the hummus and possibly baba ganoush, so let us know if you are available. Betsy Samuels is thankfully again in charge of making kugel which will happen on February 26th—stay tuned for more details later on!

We have solved our storage problem for the White Elephant so gather your items. We will have a pod in the back parking lot so that you can deliver your items to the temple.

January is a fine time for you to begin baking casseroles, cakes, pies, and other goodies for the

Take Home Booth. Expect a call in early 2012, but get started now on whatever you usually make - and make as much as you can! The Take Home Booth, the Silent Auction, the Raffle, and the Dessert Booth are pure profit areas; so, the more contributions and sales in these areas, the more profitable our event will be - not to mention how good it feels to contribute to such a wonderful event!

Mark your calendar to take Wednesday, March 21st off from work because the Bazaar requires a LOT of hands. If you can't give the whole day, just give a couple of hours—every little bit helps. In particular, plan to volunteer during the five days before the Bazaar, which are very labor-intensive (the corned beef can't be sliced very far ahead and the salads can't be made early).

We are thankful for the participation of everyone and especially for those who take responsibility of heading up a booth or cooking item. Also, we are grateful for those of you who step up to the plate when we call for help in slicing or any other area that needs to be handled. We even had people open up their kitchens last year when half of our ovens decided to quit the morning of the Bazaar (the trusty old double oven). This year we have a nice new appliance, so hopefully it won't happen again.

We hope everyone had a very Happy Chanukah and a very Happy secular New Year! Be thinking of what you're going to cook and the positive answers you are going to give us when we ask you for participation!

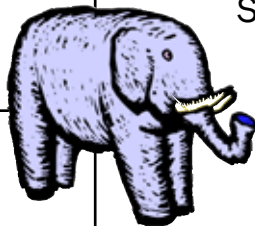
*Jo Ann Gordon &
Carol Kossman*

It's never too early to start thinking about the...



SILENT AUCTION:

Sisterhood will take your Silent Auction items for the 2012 Bazaar now! Drop off any new, beautiful, eclectic, original items at the Temple office.



Good News! Storage Pod coming to Beth Israel for the White Elephant Sale

White Elephant Sale and other Bazaar contributions now have a place to call home while they await the Wednesday, March 21st sale date.

Sisterhood will keep a Storage Pod in the BIC parking lot to safely store items under lock and key. More details to follow concerning when the Pod will arrive and how to coordinate deliveries.

We urge you to step up and help us prepare for this fun part of the Bazaar that has become a great profit center. So please begin saving items from your home and your office, and ask friends to help as well.

Celebrating Sisterhood! Words from the Sisterhood President

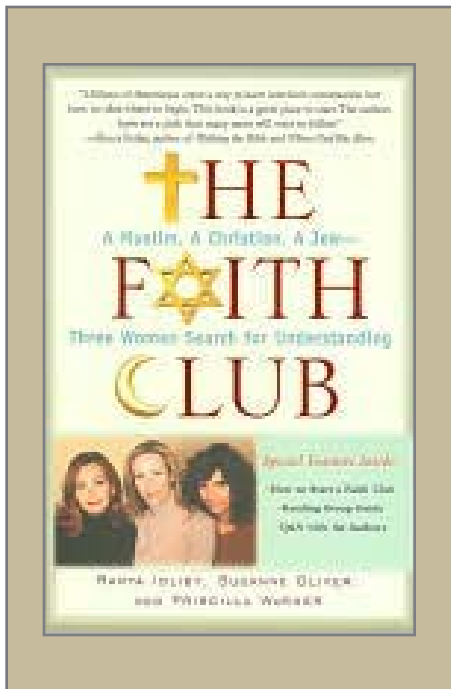
Please join us **Friday night, January 20**, as together we celebrate the women of Beth Israel Sisterhood at our annual **Sisterhood Shabbat**. We welcome as our guest speaker, **Nicole Vilalpando**, who is the First Vice President of Women of Reform Judaism's Southwest District — a nine-state region stretching from Colorado to Mississippi (see page 9 for Nicole's bio). The **Shirim Choir** will lend their beautiful voices to the special service and readings. We will also enjoy a delicious dinner after services. Hope to see you there...



It's that time again as our dedicated team under the leadership of JoAnn Gordon and Carol Kossman are hard at work on the Annual Bazaar. Please support the largest fundraiser of Sisterhood (proceeds of this event support Beth Israel Congregation, URJ Jacobs Camp, and several local community organizations). There are many ways to help. **Save the Date, March 21!** See page 6 for more information about the Bazaar.

Michele Schipper, Sisterhood President

January Sisterhood Book Club



The January Sisterhood Book Club meeting will be held at the Temple on **Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.** Please join us, even if you have not attended previously. Everyone is welcome.

The Faith Club weaves the story of three women, their three religions, and their urgent quest to understand one another. After September 11, Ranya Idliby, an American Muslim of Palestinian descent, faced constant questions about Islam, God, and death from her children, the only Muslims in their classrooms. Inspired by a story about Muhammad, Ranya reached out to two other mothers to write an interfaith children's book that would highlight the connections between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. After just a few meetings, however, the women realized that they themselves needed an honest and open environment where they could admit and discuss their concerns, stereotypes, and misunderstandings. After hours of soul-searching about the issues that divided them, Ranya, Suzanne, and Priscilla grew close enough to discover and explore what united them. (Barnes & Noble)

Future selections: February - **German Bride** (Hershon) | March - **Great House** (Krauss)

BIC Ladies Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

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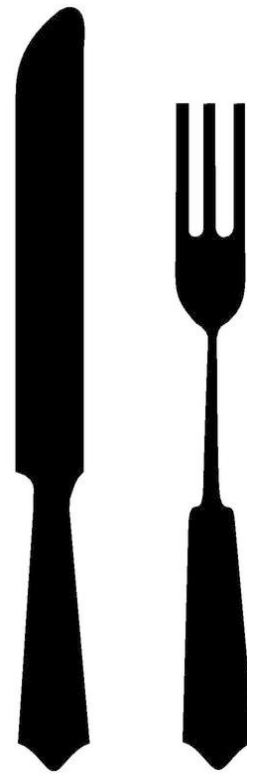
No agenda - no meeting - just lunch!

RSVP by Monday, January 8, 2012

to Susan Fijman at 601.260.4130

or sfijman@gmail.com

Location TBA - suggestions welcome!



BIC SISTERHOOD GIRLS' NIGHT OUT IN PARIS: VIKING COOKING CLASS

February 7, 2012, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Tentative Menu:

Caramelized Sweet Onion and Goat Cheese Tartlets with
Fresh Herb Salad

Pan-Roasted Baby Lamb Chops with Apricot Jus
Pommes Allumettes (Matchstick Potatoes)

Individual Chocolate Souffles with Strawberry Sauce
Fresh Berry Champagne Cocktails

Only 16 spots available in this hands-on cooking class
Cost: \$99.00

Reservations and deposit of \$20 due by 1/2/12

RSVPs and/or contact Susan Fijman at
sfijman@gmail.com or 601.260.4130



Sisterhood Shabbat | Friday, January 20, 2012

Nicole Villalpando



Nicole Villalpando is the first vice president of Women of Reform Judaism's Southwest District — a nine-state region stretching from Colorado to Mississippi. A past president of her Sisterhood at Congregation Beth Israel in Austin, Texas, Nicole currently serves as the Judaica shop manager and Vice President for Membership. She has served on the WRJ board since 2009 and on the district board since 2007. She was part of the consolidation team that formed the Southwest District. Nicole currently is writing the history of Women of Reform Judaism for the 2013 WRJ centennial journal and serves on the centennial committee.

Nicole grew up in Orange County, California; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Franklin, Tennessee. She's a graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. Today, she works for the Austin *American-Statesman* newspaper as a specialty editor for faith, gardening, family, fashion and homes as well as the paper's annual charity campaign.

Nicole and her husband Rob have two children, 8-year-old Ava and 11-year-old Ben. The family has a spaniel/Gordon setter mutt, Penny, and bengal cats, Jack and Jill. When she's not working, volunteering for WRJ or leading her daughter's girl scout troop, Nicole does yoga, knits, plays mah jongg, and is a fan of really bad TV and naps.

Nicole's topic will be "Women of Reform Judaism: Answering God's Call, Working to End the World's Modern Plagues."

Please join us Friday night, January 20 as together we celebrate the women of Beth Israel Sisterhood at our annual Sisterhood Shabbat. We welcome as our guest speaker, Nicole Villalpando (see bio above) and the Shirim choir will lend their beautiful voices to the special service and readings. We'll also enjoy a delicious dinner after services.

Please RSVP by January 13, 2012

Cost: \$17 per adult
\$10 per child
Free for children 2 and under

Name: _____

Number of adults attending: _____ @ \$17 each

Number of children attending: _____ @ \$10 each

Total amount enclosed: _____

From The Office

- **Contributions** processed after January 15th will be included in the February issue of ChaiLights.
- **The BIC Board Meetings** have changed to the third (3rd) Thursday of every month beginning in January 2012. All BIC Board meetings begin at 6:00 PM.
- To protect your privacy and to ensure all checks are handled in a timely manner, **please put all checks in the black lock box by the BIC Office door.** The box is conveniently located on the wall to the left of the BIC door. Please do not leave checks anywhere else. Thank you!
- **Reports and articles for the February issue of ChaiLights are due Tuesday, January 10th.** Submissions can be e-mailed to amy@bethisraelms.org.^{*} Submissions received after the 10th will be included on a space-available basis.

**Please note in the subject line: February 2012 ChaiLights submission*

Closings and reminders

Jan 1	Religious school not meeting
Jan 15	Religious school not meeting
Jan 16	Office will be CLOSED for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb 26	Annual Meeting at 4:30 PM, BIC Social Hall

Happy Anniversary to...

1/3	Macy and Susan Hart
1/4	Tamar and Peter Sharp
1/17	Gary and Shirley Eriksen
1/17	Arty and Amy Finkelberg
1/18	Kenneth and Michele Schipper
1/19	Erez and Natalie Allouche
1/19	Aaron and Piper Jaffee
1/19	Peter and Jarmila Zapletal
1/26	Robbie and Marcia Barron

Happy Birthday to...

1/1	Gerald Crystal	1/10	Carol Kossman	1/25	Ellen Alexander
1/3	Drew Harris	1/11	Bernard Blumenthal	1/25	Jennifer Rosenberg
1/3	Greg Pollack	1/12	Jackalyn Schwartz	1/26	Sheryl Davidson
1/4	Joy Roffwarg	1/13	Adriel Allouche	1/26	Daniel Kolodney
1/5	Peter Sharp	1/13	Shelley Crunk	1/27	Gabriel Freedman
1/6	Arty Finkelberg	1/14	Katy Barham	1/28	Marla Harbor
1/6	Rabbi Marshal Klaven	1/16	Michael Balfour	1/28	Asher Katz
1/7	Eric Schipper	1/16	Kimberly Schneider	1/28	Dov Liverman
1/7	Sophie Sharp	1/17	Caroline Metz	1/28	Marcy Nessel
1/8	Lanny Greenberg	1/18	Sara Silverman	1/29	Nina Humphrey
1/8	Jackson Haber	1/19	Mikaela Phillips	1/29	Helene Johnson
1/8	David Taub	1/20	Barbara Sandler	1/31	Izabella Ivshin
1/9	Luise Draft	1/22	Andrew Johnson	1/31	Stuart Rockoff
1/9	Francis Springer	1/22	Bob Lazarus		

We appreciate those who have remembered and honored their friends and family through their generous contributions:

In Memory of Meredith Spencer

Melanie Dobel to the BITY Fund
Rebecca Laskin to the Caring Committee

In Memory of Stewart Docter

David and Jan Docter to the General Fund

In Memory of Chester Kossman

Carol E. Kossman to the Capitol Fund

For Capitol Improvement Fund

Ted and Donna Orkin
Jonathan and Dana Larkin

For the General Fund

Jay Hesdorffer
Jan and David Docter

For the Shirim Choir Fund

Gerald P. Crystal

For the BITY FUND

Eric and Lynda Balfour

For the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Buddy and Andrea Fish
Robert and Carey Emmich

For the Endowment Fund

Arty and Amy Finkelberg

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD NOMINATIONS

BIC's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **February 26, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.** Pursuant to the notice requirements of Article XI of the Constitution of Beth Israel Congregation, the following Board nominations will be voted upon by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting:

Slate of Nominees for Board of Trustees (2012-2013) To be voted upon

President	Rebecca Laskin
First Vice President	Howard Katz
Second Vice President	Lawrence Haber
Treasurer	Mindy Humphrey
Secretary	Betsy Samuels
Comptroller	Carol Kossman
Trustee (term expiring March 1, 2015)	Judy Wahba
Trustee (term expiring March 1, 2015)	Shawn Alexander

Non-Nominated Board of Trustee Positions (not voted upon)

Sisterhood President	Michele Schipper
Past President (term expiring March 1, 2014)	Bert Rubinsky

Current Board of Trustee Members with Unexpired Terms (not voted upon)

Trustee (term expiring March 1, 2013)	Michael Steiner
Trustee (term expiring March 1, 2013)	Peter Sharp
Trustee (term expiring March 1, 2014)	Arty Finkelberg
Trustee (term expiring March 1, 2014)	Richard Snyder

Baby News!

Joey and Betsy Samuels are proud to announce the birth of their granddaughter, *Katherine Anne (Kate)*, born Tuesday December 20, 2011 to proud parents Aaron and Morgan Samuels. Congratulations!



We Remember

Yahrzeits for January 2012

Jan 6-7

Jacobo Jose Fijman
 Samuel Friedman
 Rose Kirby
 Phillip Needle
 Leo Phillip Gradinger *
 Julius E. Hatry *
 Anna Kuerschner
 Simon Rubinsky
 Samuel Steeg
 Greer Beth Pollack *
 Pauline Samuels
 Milton Spiro
 Toby Grossman
 Adolph Joseph Orkin, Sr. *
 Rose Bennett
 Bertha Helen Geiger *
 Margaret Guenther
 Betty Shapero
 Rosa Wolff Schwartz *
 Max Turteltaub
 Edward Byous
 Moody Grishman *
 Maurice Joseph

Morton Phillips
 Morris Priebatsch *
 Joseph Sawyer

Jan 13-14

Frances Berman *
 Beatrice Binder
 Julian Wiener *
 Shalom Kaminsky
 Ruth Segal
 Samuel Fermon
 Lena Schwartz *
 Pearl Hesdorffer *
 Sadie Jacobs
 Shirley Klateman *
 Florence Sandler
 Michael V. Giranda
 Lester Lasky
 Ada Berman Daniel
 Anne Garshman Goldberg *
 Ann Plotkin *
 Maurice Luxenberg
 Dora S. Orlansky
 Joseph Rosen

Jan 20-21

Shirley Balkin
 Ephram Cohen
 Heyena Gorelik
 Anna Lewine *
 Sol A. Lind
 Marshall Nirenberg
 Cecille Shornick *
 Bernard Stein
 Tom Underwood
 Odessa Goldstein *
 Toby Greenberg
 Fayga Millstein
 Estelle Pollack
 Rose Seligman
 Lottie Botnick Eisman
 Sally Spiegel
 Fannie Wallick
 Hassiba Ifrah Elfassy
 Norman Muskin *
 Rhea C. Shindell *
 Jerry Paukin
 Myrtle Byous
 Abe Ronas
 Charles Shapero, Sr.

Jan 27-28

Florine Abrams
 Lottie Brady
 Erna Ascher *
 Natalie Gordon
 Harold McRae Loeb *
 Shirley Miller
 Vera Miller
 Ethel Neveleff *
 Hattie Mitchell Dorman
 Mae Freedman *
 Ralph Davis
 Thelma Mitchell *
 Nathan Ostrov
 Alfred Sternberg *
 Shirley Goodman
 Abby Hesdorffer *
 Miriam Moran *
 Adolph H. Schwartz *