

continued from page 27



Gail Hines of West Bloomfield, Mandy Garver of Bloomfield Hills and Sharona Shapiro of West Bloomfield listen to host Dr. Sabrina Black of Detroit address the attendees.

her to Shapiro and Luger, and she's been a member ever since.

One memorable meeting of the local chapter provided funds to help women in Rwanda make biodegradable feminine hygiene products, a huge boon to girls who were missing up to a week of school every month during their menstrual periods.

Other dinners have supported midwifery in Haiti, efforts to combat sex trafficking in Nepal, and support for girls and women in India who lived and worked on garbage dumps, eking out a living from materials they found there.

"We choose small, manageable projects," Shapiro said. "The dollars we raise are put together with all the other chapters' donations, and together it covers the cost of the project. On a grass-roots level, we can make a real difference."

Wendy Strip of Farmington Hills, a retired fund development professional who has been part of the group since its start, said, "We're just a small part of what others are doing all over the country. I also like the food!"

The group occasionally funds local causes as well, including

Enough Said, a Michigan Women's Foundation effort to clear the backlog of rape test kits in Detroit. The upcoming December meeting will benefit Detroit's Alternatives for Girls.

Jan Wanetick of Southfield, a retired teacher, said she attends the dinners because she enjoys learning about people in different countries and is pleased that her modest donation is pooled with others to have a significant effect.

Mandy Garver of Bloomfield Township, a retired human resources manager, said she likes the focus on helping women to develop businesses. "We can teach someone to fish and she'll eat for a lifetime," she said. "We're helping people to raise themselves from poverty and better their lives, and I like that the focus is on women."

Membership in Dining for Women is open to any woman willing to participate in the potluck and contribute \$40 per dinner. Shapiro has a mailing list of close to 100 women. Most meetings attract 15 to 20.

For more information, contact Shapiro at shapirolearner@gmail.com. \*

## Dining For Women Affirmation

(read by each dinner hostess)

As we share food, we share something of ourselves and we honor each other. We recognize the powerful associations of women to food, life and nurture in all cultures. We honor the importance of those. We also recognize the burdens they can bring. We remember the women about whom we've learned, the ones they strive to nurture and the organizations that are trying to nurture them. By eating together as women, we remember and honor those women, who also have favorite foods and family recipes. And we express the hope that through our efforts, they may find more sustenance for their lives. May we all be able to feast together some day.

» around town



Attendees check the reflection of the flame of the Havdalah candle during the prayers.



Ilana Unger of West Bloomfield and Rabbi Rachel Barenblat of Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams watch as Rabbi David Evan Markus, co-chair of ALEPH (Alliance for Jewish Renewal) with Barenblat, extinguishes the Havdalah candle.

## Song And Spirit(s)

Havdalah brings groups together.

The Well, in partnership with Hazon Detroit and with the support of the Covenant Foundation, hosted A Night of Song and Spirit(s) on Nov. 19. Held in the dance studio space at Ponyride, a shared working and arts space in the Corktown neighborhood of Detroit, the evening featured singing, storytelling, poetry, Havdalah and dancing.

The capacity crowd welcomed the co-chairs of ALEPH: The Alliance for Jewish Renewal, Rabbi David Evan Markus and Rabbi Rachel Barenblat; studied Kabbalistic texts with Rabbi

Dr. Elliot Ginsburg, associate professor of Jewish thought and mysticism at the University of Michigan; and were led in song by Cantor Michael Smolash of Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, Rabbi Aura Ahuvia of Congregation Shir Tikvah in Troy, Rabbi Alana Alpert of Congregation T'chayah in Detroit and The Well's Rabbi Dan Horwitz. \*

For more information about The Well, Metro Detroit's inclusive Jewish community-building, education and spirituality outreach initiative, visit [meetyouatthewell.org](http://meetyouatthewell.org).



Ken and Gail Posner of West Bloomfield, Miriam Horwitz of Huntington Woods and Sara Lebovic of West Bloomfield



Rabbi Dan Horwitz of The Well and Hazon Detroit's Julie Rosenbaum, associate director, and Sue Salinger, director



The crowd enjoys the music at the Havdalah event at the Ponyride in Detroit.

Photos by Eliezer Reuben Photography