

Fall 2009/Winter 2010

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Minneapolis Section
www.ncjwmpls.org

NCJW Fall Event 2009

Laugh and Learn: **Celebrating Generations of Leadership**

Tuesday, October 27

6:30 p.m. Registration

6:45 p.m. Dessert reception

7:00 p.m. Program:

- **Laughing:** Warm-up with Mary Anderson
- **Learning:** Presentations on two Minnesota women leaders
- **Leading:** Board Installation

Sabes Jewish Community Center
4330 S. Cedar Lake Road
St. Louis Park

Members – \$18
Non-Members – \$20



Join us for Fall Event 2009 - Laugh and Learn: Celebrating Generations of Leadership, where we will honor emerging leadership and activism.

We'll begin by stretching our smile muscles with Mary Anderson, who recognizes laughter as the universal language connecting generations.

Next, we'll hear from four dynamic teens who will share their National History Day presentations, focused on two remarkable Minnesota women leaders:

- Sophie Burton and Hutton Phillips will present their award winning presentation on Dr. Jane Hodgson who led the battle against unjust abortion laws in Duluth in 1970.
- Stephanie Sikkila and Erin Anderson will educate us on Fanny Brin, a former NCJW president in the 1930s and delegate to the first United Nations Peace Conference in 1945.

We'll also recognize NCJW's own transition of leadership with the installation of our new 2009-10 Board of Directors, including incoming president Sarah Badower (see page 2 for the full slate of officers).

The evening will also include recognition of new young women on our board who are helping us launch the next generation of leadership.

For more information or to register, contact the NCJW office at 952-922-7900.

President's Message

Kim Greene



Several years ago during the High Holidays, Rabbi Sim Glaser of Temple Israel talked about the importance of having an "attitude of gratitude." It was about awareness of one's blessings, enjoying giving, and generally focusing on the positive in life. In this final message as President, I find that an attitude of gratitude is exactly what I feel.

I'm grateful for highly effective teamwork: At our best, I think women are collaborative, share leadership and not only create a vision, but also, do the nitty-gritty work of implementing that vision. This is how I see NCJW functioning. We have many committees of volunteers, a larger board and professional staff who are working together as high performing teams. They get a vision (e.g. helping homeless kids), do the research to make sure that NCJW is the right organization to get involved (white sheet process), form a committee of women who are passionate about the issue and then go to work to get it done, creating friendships along the way. It's like a dance where the choreographer role keeps shifting. The result is a rewarding and impactful performance. And, it's fun to dance.

I'm grateful for successful new programs: In 2008 and 2009 many new programs were created and implemented - Heart of the Home, Stuff for Kids, the Community Service Volunteer Toolkit, Lunch & Learn (now "Get Smart") and our section's primary role in the Ford Foundation Grant awarded to NCJW Inc.

I'm grateful for enduring programs: In early September, nearly 13,500 students received school supplies through Stuff For School. The Rose Rees Peace Awards given to high school students who promote peace will be celebrating its 75th year this coming spring. Jewish Women's Morning at the Capitol carries the power that comes from consistent, strong advocacy year in and year out. Our Hello Israel program is completely revised to be even richer and more appropriate to current curriculum structure.

I'm grateful for strong new leadership: I feel a deep sense of confidence moving to the Past President role because I know that Sarah Badower is committed, smart, caring and has the resolve to take this organization forward at this time. She is joined by a very strong leadership team, and a dedicated, resourceful, professional staff.

I'm grateful for your continued involvement as members, volunteers, donors and leaders as we move forward together.

I hope you all have a meaningful New Year filled with an awareness of life's blessings.

Shalom Aleichem, Kim

NCJW BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2009-2010 SLATE

The Nominating committee would like to put forth the following slate for installation to the Board of Directors for the NCJW Greater Minneapolis Section for a two-year term beginning October 27, 2009. Additional nominations may be called from the floor.

PRESIDENT

Sarah Badower

PAST PRESIDENT

Kim Greene

VICE PRESIDENTS

Sherri Feuer

Francine Gersh

HONORARY BOARD PRESIDENTS

Soni Cohen

Amy Lieberman

DIRECTORS

Carrie Abramson

Sally Bressler

Soni Cohen

Joanne Gruen

Cher Harris

Reida Lazer-Chein

Amy Lieberman

Melissa Reed

Rochelle Rubin

Rachel Saturn

Robin Stein

Sherry Stern

Continuing on the Board for the second year of their two year term will be: Vice Presidents: Susan Byers, Marilyn Colby Rivkin; Directors: Cindy Amberger, Christine Hausman, Toni Hults, Judith Kahn, Amy Paster, Rhonda Stein, Lisa Swartz, Freddie Weisberg, Alaine Wilensky; Honorary Board President: Hillary Feder.

We are grateful to Kim Greene for her creative and inspiring leadership during her term as President. Thanks to Elyn Marell, who has also completed her term, for her passion and commitment to NCJW

Respectfully submitted August 14, 2009 by National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Minneapolis Section
Nominating Committee: Soni Cohen, Amy Lieberman, Marilyn Colby Rivkin, Betsy Sitkoff, Wendy Lovell-Smith.

Congratulations to Mindy Wexler, who has been appointed to the NCJW National Board. Mindy has a long history as an active volunteer and strong supporter of NCJW here in Minneapolis, including her years as a board member, thrift shop treasurer, Jenny Lind tutor and more.

Unleashing the Leader Within

Often, we think of leaders as bigger-than-life people who steer the course for armies, countries and large corporations. In reality, many of the world's most influential leaders are individuals with the passion, persistence and courage to step up and take responsibility for making things happen.

*Excerpted from The Power of One
Lead America, Youth Leadership Conferences*

Congratulations to Karin Phillips, who was named NCJW Volunteer of the Year 2009 at Spring Event last April. In addition to helping students at Jenny Lind School, Karin generously opened her home for last year's Heart of the Home fundraiser. We are grateful to Karin for her ongoing dedication to NCJW. We also thank the Phillips Family Foundation for being a major contributor to the Stuff for Kids program.

NCJW At-A-Glance

Here are some of the many ways you can take meaningful action as an NCJW member:

- **Volunteer:** Participate in volunteer opportunities on a one-time or ongoing basis, such as working with kids in the schools, packing school supplies, planning programs or helping out in the office.
- **Join in:** Stay on top of our many member programs, volunteer activities and other events via our biannual Bulletin and monthly eNews, as well as regular updates on Facebook and on our website, www.ncjwmpls.org.
- **Learn:** Attend our periodic social programs and Get Smart educational series, as well as our annual advocacy event, Jewish Women's Morning at the Capitol.
- **Lead:** Take advantage of opportunities to learn new skills, lend your expertise and unleash your inner leader.
- **Donate:** Help make a difference by donating used clothes, used cell phones and other items that help us address unmet needs in the community.
- **Give:** Support the organization by participating in our annual donor program and attending our annual fundraiser, Heart of the Home.

Contact the NCJW office at 952-922-7900 to get involved today!

Reflections from the Executive Director

Debbie Stillman



Although I am writing this as the summer winds still blow (lukewarm as they may be this year), it is with the anticipation of new beginnings brought on by crisp fall breezes that inspires me...

In just a few short weeks rhythm will once again return to our daily lives. Those of us with children in school will once more fill our days with carpools and homework, PTO meetings and school conferences. As the haphazardness of summer makes way for the rhythm of fall, a morsel of space is carved out for us to begin thinking about refreshing ourselves.

For those of you without those tiny reminders of fall built in short stature, don't worry, your chance at recharging and renewal approaches as well. With the High Holy Days upon us, you too will be given the opportunity to commit anew to those endeavors you strive to accomplish. For all of us as individuals this awesome opening to reset our internal GPS is a welcome opportunity.

As an organization, this autumn, like many, brings us the chance to reset our course as well. This year we will, once again, install a new board and a new president. Sarah Badower's sense of process and strategic planning are perhaps unparalleled. She is both thoughtful and insightful and will, no doubt, lead our organization through the next two years with strength and grace.

Our new board is filled with talent, capacity and capabilities. But perhaps just as exciting as its gifts, are its diversity. True, they are all bright, all energetic, all passionate women, but perhaps equally important is the fact that they are from a variety of generations and from various backgrounds in our community. What a blessing!

Lastly, there is one more significant organizational change on the horizon for NCJW in Minneapolis. In mid-November, our offices will be moving. Details are still unfolding, but we are confident that the move will not only allow us to be more accessible to our many members and volunteers, but will, we hope, provide additional opportunities to grow and strengthen collaborative efforts. More information will follow in the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition, but we hope you are as excited as we are!

L'Shanah Tovah!

Thank You, Volunteers

Many thanks to our amazing volunteers for your tremendous support during the period May – August 2009. Your time and talents have enabled us to educate our members, meet needs in our community, and advocate for women, children and families.

We welcome your continued participation in our success. For a list of volunteer opportunities, see page 9 or contact the NCJW office.

Fannie Brin Member Event

Reida Lazer-Chein
Jodi Wolk

Furniture Hotline

Francine Gersh Gottlieb

Get Smart (formerly Lunch & Learn)

Judith Kahn
Rochelle Rubin*
Jodi Wolk

Hello Israel

Sally Bressler*
Sabina Cohen
Merrie Forstein
Phyllis Garon
Eilat Harel
Andrea Kaufman
Patricia Lisberg
Debbie Mann
Jill Steiger Orbuch
Louise Ribnick
Joye Sigelman
Judy Snitzer
Sherry Stern
Lori Tenenbaum
Penny Ziessman

Heart of the Home

Nance Alexander
Susan Byers
Mary Dworsky
Sherri Feuer
Nancy Grobovsky
Joanne Gruen
Cher Harris*
Toni Hulst
Debbie Simon
Rhonda Stein
Carol Weitz

Heart of the Home Homeowners

Tina and Ivan Rafowitz
Jory and Roger Rubinger
Patti and Robbie Soskin
Missy and Bobby Swiller

Jenny Lind School

Myrna Abrams
Melissa Grossman
Christine Hausman*
Merle Kane
Wendy Lovell Smith
Karin Phillips
Millie Segal
Lisa Swartz

Rose Rees

Cindy Amberger
Cheryle Atkin
Sarah Badower
Jane Borochoff
Joan Carples
Marilyn Chiat
Sherri Feuer
Wendy Morris
Francine Gersh
Kim Greene
Cher Harris
Christine Hausman
Toni Hulst
Judith Kahn
Reida Lazer-Chein
Amy Lieberman
Rita Lusky
Ellyn Marell*
Hindy Tankenoff
Debra Orbach
Grayson
Leslie Orenstein
Layne Rosen*
Lauren Segelbaum
Jackie Sinykin
Sue Smuckler
Rhonda Stein
Sherry Stern
Janice Waller
Freddie Weisberg

Spring Event

Sarah Badower
Marilyn Colby Rivkin
Stuff for Kids
Committee
(see below)

Stuff for Kids

Betsy Abrahamson
Carrie Abrahamson*
Soni Cohen
Marilyn Colby Rivkin
Christine Hausman
Dana Shapiro

Stuff for School

Cindy Amberger
Carly Bass
Jack Bass
Hannah Borovsky
Amy Byers
Susan Byers
Joan Carples
Soni Cohen*
Sherri Feuer
Merrie Forstein
Rachael Freed
Ilyssa Gainsley
Julie Gainsley
Justin Gainsley
Francine Gersh
Gottlieb*
Marlene Goldberg
Danny Gollin
Josh Goodman
Lori Goodman
Sara Gottlieb
Lisa Gottstein
Kim Greene
Cher Harris
David Harris
Halley Harris
Phyllis Harris
Michael Hughes
Mollie Hughes
Jack Hymanson
Libby Jacobson
Andrea Kaufman
Kay Kieval
Natasha Kieval
Kyla Kristal
Sammi Lehman
Jane Lifson
Jeff Lifson
Toni McNaron
Colin Meirovitz

Ethan Meirovitz
Jake Meyers
Pam Meyers
Alex Ockenden
Therese Ockenden
Elaine Robashkin
Virgina Ekola Reeves
Layne Rosen
Melia Rosen
Harry Rubin
Rachel Saturn
Jacob Savitz
Zachary Savitz
Claire Shipllett
Ana Siegel
Gail Siegel
Michael Siegel
Vickie Siegel
Artice Silverman
Shelley Silverman
Rhonda Stein
Heather Stesin
Sam Stillman
Hindy Tankenoff
Samantha Tankenoff
Stefanie Weiner
Freddie Weisberg
Jodi Wolk
Raleigh Wolpert
Nechama Yardley
Shira Yardley
Karen Yashar
Lisa Zelickson
Nicole Zelickson
Zach Zelickson
Matthew Zeman
Rachel Zeman

* Chairs

Get Smart: NCJW's Education and Advocacy Series

NCJW is excited to re-launch our successful educational and advocacy series under the name, Get Smart. We welcome both members and non-members to attend these programs on timely topics. Our goal is to inform you about the issues, ignite your interest, and inspire you to take meaningful action.

Last year, we held programs at various times of day and in several centralized locations. The feedback was great and each program was well attended, so we will continue to offer programs at various times and locations to encourage broad participation.

A list of topics is featured on the Event Calendar (below). We are working on specifics, as well as exploring collaborative opportunities. Stay tuned to eNews for details!

Member Education and Advocacy Event Calendar

- Oct. (evening TBD): Get Smart - Healthcare Reform Panel*
- Oct. 27: Fall Event (see cover)
- Nov.: (evening TBD): Get Smart – Advocacy Speed Dating*
- Dec.: (lunch TBD): Get Smart – Join the Green Revolution*
- Jan.: Get Smart – Advocacy Training*
- Feb.: Jewish Women's Morning at the Capitol*
- Mar 21-23: Washington Institute

*Stay tuned to eNews for dates and details!

STUFF FOR SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

As the saying goes, it takes a village. For NCJW's Stuff for School program, it takes 80 committed volunteers of all ages to pack school supplies for nearly 13,500 students in need at 30 Minneapolis Schools. They beat the clock (and the heat) to get the job done so that low-income students could start the school year with the tools they need to learn.

What's more, volunteers were committed to going green! Discarded paper and plastic were separated for recycling, and deliveries were coordinated by school location to reduce gas usage and emissions.

Stuff for School, which is in its 12th year, has served 130,000 students to date. The program is made possible through the generosity of the 3M Foundation, General Mills Foundation, Thomson Reuters Community Relations, and individual donors.



At the Warehouse: Pictured from left: Volunteers Artice Silverman, Nechama Yardley, Shelly Silverman, and Heather Stesin.

NCJW Bulletin Moves to Two Issues per Year Stay tuned to eNews each month

NCJW will now produce two issues of the NCJW Bulletin each year, instead of three. The Fall/Winter Bulletin will be delivered in September/October, and the Spring/Summer Bulletin in March/April.

There are several reasons for this decision:

- **Cost savings:** We save money by reducing our production/distribution expenses.
- **Member convenience:** Our monthly eNews provides a more timely vehicle for promoting information about member events and volunteer opportunities.
- **Environmental responsibility:** Consistent with our desire to go green and in the spirit of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), we have reduced the use of paper in a variety of ways.

Please stay tuned to eNews each month for up-to-the-minute information about NCJW news, events and volunteer opportunities. If you haven't done so already, please send us your current email address to ensure you receive eNews!

NCJW Attends Portrayal of Fanny Brin at History Center – Brin was former NCJW president

On August 6, more than 20 NCJW members attended a portrayal of Fanny Brin at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. Brin was a former NCJW president in the 1930s who devoted her life to four main causes: democracy, world peace, Jewish heritage and women's rights. She also was part of the U.S. delegation to the first United Nations Peace Conference, held in San Francisco in 1945. Brin was portrayed by Marin Hinderlie, a friend of Brin's granddaughter (Judith Brin Ingber) and daughter-in-law (Ruth Brin) who attended the performance.

For more information about Fanny Brin, go to <http://www.mnhs.org/school/historyplayers/core/fanny.htm>.



Front row: Etta Fay Orkin, Shirley Zimmerman, Ruth Brin, Judith Brin Ingber, Roz Baker, Marin Hinderlie (holding photo of Fanny Brin), Nessa Lee Laiderman. Back row: Nancy Malmon, Sherry Stern, Reida Lazer-Chein, Kim Greene and Cindy Amberger.

Welcome New Members

Carol Weitz
Lori Weisman

Gilad Shalit Event

As part of our Israel advocacy efforts, NCJW co-sponsored an event at the JCC on August 26, featuring the Minnesota premiere of the documentary "Gilad Shalit: Two years in Captivity." Shalit is an Israeli soldier who was captured by terrorists in 2006 while on duty near the Gaza Strip.

The event, which was held on Shalit's 23rd birthday, was put on by the Israel Program Center of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, in conjunction with several other community organizations. For more information about Shalit and efforts to ensure his safe return, contact Noga Shavit, Minneapolis Community Schlich, at nshavit@mplsfed.org.

NCJW-Minneapolis Participates in Ford Foundation Grant

In early summer 2009, National NCJW was awarded a two-year grant from the Ford Foundation to assist sections in three cities with building strong coalitions to address barriers to contraception access and comprehensive sex education. Unlike existing reproductive rights coalitions, NCJW proposes to develop a collaboration between local progressive faith-based organizations and religious leaders, and advocates and leaders in the reproductive rights community. Based on the strength of our relationships with reproductive rights advocacy organizations and the broader community, our Minneapolis Section has been selected as one of the sites. The other Sections selected for this project are Dallas and New York City.

NCJW Minneapolis will build upon our section's growing area of interest and work on behalf of homeless youth, and complement it with a policy effort to ensure that sex education and reproductive health services reach these young people in a way that addresses their particular needs. This is not a typical NCJW service or advocacy project. In fact, while there may be community service projects that our section may want to do as a result of the coalition activities, this project is not about section members doing the work. Our role is to serve as a catalyst to launch a broad coalition of concerned and affected parties in the faith and reproductive rights communities. The coalition's task is to develop messages, hold briefings for public officials and service providers, utilize media outreach and other strategies that make the case for policies that provide accessible, affordable contraception and sex education to low-income homeless youth.

In July, NCJW Minneapolis member Melissa Reed agreed to serve as project coordinator in partnership with Board members Judith Kahn and Marilyn Colby Rivkin. Melissa's academic, work and volunteer experiences in public policy and reproductive rights are a great fit for the project! Both Melissa and Judith attended an orientation and training facilitated by Sammie Moshenberg in NCJW's Washington DC office. NCJW Minneapolis will be working intently through the fall to put together a powerful coalition that will take on this important work. We hope to convene the coalition for the first time next spring.

Coalition to advocate for contraception access and sex education for low-income homeless youth

Get Informed on the Issues

Health Care Reform

NCJW supports access to high quality affordable health care for all, and believes that a public health insurance plan option is central to that goal. Through competition with private insurers, a public plan would help lower costs and improve quality, as well as provide women and their families with a range of options to select the best plan for their needs.

Judge Sonia Sotomayor

NCJW worked actively to secure Judge Sotomayor's confirmation to the US Supreme Court by educating, mobilizing and activating our members on her behalf, and is proud to have played a role in such a significant and historic confirmation. NCJW staff provided updates of the confirmation hearings via Twitter. To become a follower of NCJW on Twitter, use the link at www.ncjw.org.

Hate-Crimes Legislation

Federal hate crimes laws do not currently include protections for individuals victimized because of their real or perceived gender, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. NCJW has been an ardent advocate for stronger national laws for more than a decade; finally, this year, advocates helped achieve passage of bills in both the House and Senate. NCJW will be mobilizing supporters to express support for the House and Senate conferees to reach a compromise bill. We look forward to seeing President Obama sign this important legislation into law.

Abstinence-Only Funding

NCJW firmly believes that young people need medically accurate, age-appropriate information about sex and sexuality. To date, the US government has spent over 1.3 billion dollars on abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. As a result of pressure from NCJW and other advocates, President Obama proposed eliminating this funding in his fiscal year 2010 budget. The final step remains for the Senate to pass its health appropriations bill with no funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

Immigration Reform

NCJW is currently working in coalition to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. Family reunification, expanding a pathway to citizenship for more individuals, ensuring safe working conditions, and addressing the educational and social needs of immigrant children are among the issues we hope to see addressed by legislation to be introduced this fall.

For more information about the issues, log on to www.ncjw.org. Note: the national NCJW website has a new look and feel! Take a moment to explore its new interactive features and updated resources.

ADVOCACY EVENT CALENDAR

Get Smart Series (*Watch for dates and details*)

- Oct.: Healthcare Reform Panel
- Nov.: Advocacy Speed Dating
- Dec.: Join the Green Revolution
- Jan.: Advocacy Training

February 2010: Jewish Women's Morning at the Capitol (*Stay tuned!*)

March 21-23: Washington Institute (*see below*)

Washington Institute

In the seven months since the new administration has been in office, NCJW has been instrumental in achieving a number of policy changes – from the enactment of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, to expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and more.

Now you have an incredible opportunity to influence NCJW's progressive policies by attending Washington Institute on March 21-23, 2010 and participating in the political process. Advocacy training will be provided to ensure you have the skills and tools you need to stand up, speak out, and make your voice heard to members of Congress. Small stipends will be available to offset the costs. For more information, contact Jodi Wolk at jodi_wolk@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 21-23, 2010 JOIN US IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL!

This spring, make history at NCJW's premier public policy event, Washington Institute. At the event you will:

- Learn about NCJW's key issues from outside experts and elected officials.
- Develop persuasive advocacy skills to advance social change
- Put your advocacy skills to use in meetings with your members of Congress
- Network with NCJW leaders from across the country

NCJW Washington Institute
March 21-23, 2010
Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, DC

For more information, contact action@ncjw.org or call 202-296-2588

NCJW Partnering with the White House for Social Change

NCJW National President Nancy Ratzen has been appointed to serve on President Obama's Advisory Council for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. This 25-person council will provide recommendations ensuring that faith-based and community organizations can partner effectively with the government in advancing social change. Nancy will represent NCJW on two specific task forces in the council: one that is charged with "addressing teen pregnancy and reducing the need for abortion," and one focused on issues relating to "fatherhood and healthy families."

CALLING ALL ADVOCATES!!

Want to plan and participate in advocacy events locally?
Join our work on behalf of women, children and families.

Contact Jodi Wolk at jodi_wolk@comcast.net

Minnesota Choice Coalition Vigil Held

The Minnesota Choice Coalition, of which NCJW is a member, co-sponsored a vigil in memory of Dr. George Tiller who was murdered in Wichita, Kansas. Dr. Tiller devoted his life to ensuring that women have access to reproductive services. The candlelight vigil at Loring Park was held in silence allowing for reflection on Dr. Tiller's life and his contributions to women and the pro-choice movement.



Jane Kay, Leslie Orenstein, Alan Sadowsky, Sue Sadowsky, and Jodi Wolk.



Domestic
Violence
Prevention
Initiatives



Stuff for
SCHOOL



Furniture
Hotline



Stuff for Kids Toolkit to Help Teens Help Others

About Stuff for Kids

Our newest NCJW community service project, Stuff for Kids, provides homeless and highly mobile students in the Minneapolis school district with much-needed supplies. Because children in this situation experience a loss of property and possessions, our goal is to provide each child in the program with a backpack of his/her own, containing school supplies, reading books, mittens, personal hygiene products and other personal belongings.

How You Can Help:

NCJW has come up with a way to engage teens who need community service hours for school, synagogue or other organizations, making it easier for them to support the Stuff for Kids program. A new Volunteer Toolkit provides a comprehensive “how to” packet with creative community service project ideas, pre-written letters that can be personalized, templates for posters, scripts for reaching out to potential donors over the phone, and other tips to help teen volunteers help homeless and highly mobile youth. Volunteers can also receive a copy of a moving 12-minute video that offers a glimpse into the lives of homeless and highly mobile students that can be shared with family and friends.



In the spirit of Tikkun Olam (healing and repairing the world), the Toolkit involves four key activity areas that are critical to helping homeless and highly mobile students in our community:

- **Education and Communication:** learning about homelessness and how to share this information with others.
- **Fund Development:** raising funds to provide essential items to homeless and highly mobile students.
- **Advocacy:** reaching out to our legislators and politicians to advocate for change.
- **Giving:** providing items that are needed to support students who are homeless and highly mobile.

For more information or to receive the Toolkit, contact Debbie Stillman, NCJW Executive Director, at 952-922-7900.

New and Improved Israel Curriculum In the Works

Volunteer Sherry Stern has been revamping our Hello Israel script, updating content and improving flexibility for teachers. The rework is in response to feedback from middle-school social studies teachers and University of Minnesota experts, who generously devoted their time and ideas toward helping us create a professionally credentialed curriculum.



The new Israel curriculum is now organized into four subject modules within the framework of a new working title: Understanding Ancient/Modern Israel and Elements of Judaism and its History. Teachers will be able to select modules for their students that are designed for presentation during a single class period and that go along with subject material covered at specific points in the school year, thus maximizing the flexibility of our program at varying grade levels. Volunteer presenters will have access to new scripts, as well as PowerPoint visuals and interactive props for the classroom.

In October we will introduce the new curriculum to teachers at Geofest, an annual event organized by the Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education at Macalester College to showcase enrichment resources available to Minnesota social studies teachers. As we move forward on curriculum improvements and marketing, we will also schedule training sessions for volunteer presenters. For more information or if you are interested in being a presenter, contact Sally Bressler at sbressler@subrad.com.



Leaders at the Stuff for School Warehouse

Pictured from left: Minneapolis Board of Education chair Lydia Lee; NCJW Executive Director Debbie Stillman; Minneapolis Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Bill Green.

Service Projects

Rose Rees Peace Awards



Last Spring, former U.S. Ski Champion and Olympian Kaylin

Richardson served as keynote speaker at the annual Rose Rees Peace Awards Luncheon. Following is an excerpt from Kaylin's blog about her experience.

“On April 29th at the Rose Rees Peace Awards Luncheon, I had the privilege to speak to 20 of the most inspiring young people I have ever encountered. After I finished my (keynote), each recipient came to the podium and briefly explained what peace meant to them and what their plans were for the future. Each student was astonishing and, I am certain, going to make this world a better place. It was one of the most humbling and wonderful experiences of my life. It truly was an honor to be part of such an amazing program.”

Next April, we will mark the 75th anniversary of the Rose Rees Peace Awards, which was originally established as a living memorial to Rees, a former President of NCJW and founder of the World Affairs Council of Minneapolis. If you are interested in assisting with this special anniversary event, please contact the NCJW office.

NCJW  **A FAITH IN THE FUTURE.
A BELIEF IN ACTION.SM**

Back to School at Jenny Lind

As students head back to the Jenny Lind Community School, so do many dedicated NCJW volunteers. NCJW volunteers provide math and reading support to more than 100 students, as well as help out in the school's media center and art programs.

For example, we continue a successful weekly book club for gifted first graders, led by enthusiastic volunteer Lisa Swartz. And, thanks to the generous art supply donation by longtime volunteer Merle Kane, last year's students created an Underground Railroad quilt in honor of Black History Month and learned how to weave.

We are always eager to welcome more volunteers into the programs. To learn about more volunteer opportunities at Jenny Lind School, contact Christine Hausman at christinehausman@msn.com.

NCJW Wants You! Variety of Volunteer Opportunities Available!

SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

➤ **Wanted – Rose Rees Luncheon Planners:** Help plan the 75th Anniversary event. To volunteer, contact Reida Lazer-Chein at rlazer@aol.com

➤ **Wanted – Lind/Olson School Helpers:** Become a tutor, lunch buddy, media assistant or literacy helper for young students at Lind/Olson School. Contact Christine Hausman at christinehausman@msn.com

➤ **Wanted – Hello Israel Presenters:** Present the new Israel curriculum to middle school students. Training provided. Contact Sally Bressler at sbressler@subrad.com

SUPPORT OUR MEMBER ACTIVITIES

➤ **Wanted – Member Event Planners:** Help brainstorm, plan and organize member events and fun outings throughout the year. For more information, contact the NCJW office.

➤ **Wanted – Webmaster:** Help update our website once a month. Web content and training provided. For more information, contact the NCJW office or Susan Byers at susan@byersmarket.biz.

SUPPORT OUR ORGANIZATION

➤ **Wanted – General Office Helpers:** Come learn what NCJW is all about by pitching in with administrative tasks and special projects, such as stuffing, mailing, sorting, filing, etc. A great opportunity for those who want to help once, now and then, or regularly. Contact Susan Hughes at 952-922-7900 or shughes@ncjwmppls.org

➤ **Wanted – Clothes Closet Volunteers:** Help sort clothes, make appointments at the resale shop or bring clothes to the shops. Your efforts help raise funds to support our community service programs. Contact Cindy Amberger at cindy.amberger@gmail.com.

DONATE YOUR USED GOODS TO DO GOOD

➤ **Wanted – Clothing Donations:** Donate your gently used couture clothing to NCJW for resale at consignment stores to support our programs.

➤ **Wanted – Cell Phones:** Donate your used cell phone and battery to NCJW, which will be used to support Domestic Violence Prevention Programs.

➤ **Wanted – Used Furniture:** Remodeling? Moving? Donate your used furniture to help new immigrants and other families in need. Furniture must be clean and in good condition.

For more information, contact Susan Hughes at the NCJW office at 952-922-7900.

Heart of the Home Event Raises Funds for NCJW Programs



On Sunday September 13, NCJW members, friends and family attended our 2nd annual Heart of the Home event, a progressive tour of four stunning homes in the west metro area. Many thanks to these gracious homeowners for opening their homes in support of NCJW community service programs:

At the home of Patti and Robbie Soskin, we sampled delicious treats prepared by Patti, owner of yum! We savored wine and cheese from Pairings Food and Wine Market at Missy and Bobby Swiller's. At the home of Tina and Ivan Rafowitz, we enjoyed drinks and appetizers served lakeside and set to music by Ivan. And at Jory and Roger Rubinger's house we experienced High Holiday favorites from Jory's recipe collection.



Pictured clockwise from top left: Patti Soskin, Missy Swiller, Tina Rafowitz, Jory Rubinger in their kitchens.

THE CLOSET

When you think of your own closet, what do you see? Is it neat and organized? Or is it filled beyond capacity? When you look inside, do you feel good ... or not? If the very thought of your closets is painful, we have the cure!

NCJW accepts clean, gently used clothing, which we bring to local resale shops and exchange for cash to support our section. Men's, women's, children's clothing are welcome, as well as shoes, handbags, belts, and other accessories. Designer labels – even better! Due to space limitations, we are currently accepting fall/winter clothing only – not more than two years old.

To arrange for clothing drop-off, OR to volunteer your time, contact the NCJW office, or Cindy Amberger at cindy.amberger@gmail.com or 952-200-1699.

Furniture Hotline Meets Needs of New Minnesotans

Furniture Hotline matches people who have used furniture with people in need. Last spring, we facilitated donations of several items to a family from Israel. See below for an excerpt from a letter to NCJW from the grateful recipient!

My name is losif. We came to the Country 15 years ago. Our son with his family live in Israel. We were dreaming about reunion. Now this happy day is very close. But they will come with no furniture.

We began to look for some organization which can help with the furniture, and found out there is NCJW which helped a lot of people Jewish and not Jewish.

Our grandchildren play piano, and in some days we got a call from family that wants to donate a piano in great condition. What a joy!

Thank you so much!

Meanwhile, we continue to seek furniture in GOOD condition. If you have furniture to donate, please contact Francine Gersh at france807@aol.com.

Donor Campaign 2009



Each year, as we prepare for the Circle of Giving Donor Campaign, we wrestle with where to set the fundraising goal for this ambitious endeavor.

This year has been especially difficult due to these tough economic times. Fortunately, many individuals have stepped forward nonetheless to help those in need. And on the flip side, NCJW is implementing some cost-saving measures to allow us to continue our efforts toward improving the lives of women, children and families.

In this past year, NCJW has:

- Launched a new program to meet needs of homeless and highly mobile youth.
 - Provided school supplies for nearly 13,000 students.
 - Provided hundreds of hours of tutoring and mentoring to at-risk students.
 - Began a series of educational and advocacy events.
 - Provided furniture to people in need.
 - Advocated on-site at the Minnesota Capitol.
- (See articles about these efforts throughout this Bulletin.)*

As many are adjusting to a new normal, the need for these programs and services grows even stronger – in the form of more school supplies, more tutoring, more advocacy, more hands helping and more voices speaking out.

Please remember this when asked to donate to the 2009 Donor Campaign. We greatly appreciate your kindness and generosity.

2009 Donor Campaign Co-Chairs
Fran Bayer and Alaine Wilensky

Tribute Funds

21st Century Discretionary

In memory of Nate Feld

Betsy Abramson

In appreciation of Rhonda Stein's work on the NCJW Budget

In appreciation of Debbie Stillman's work on the NCJW budget

Sherri Feuer

In honor of Charlotte & Irving Nudell's 60th Wedding Anniversary

Nancy Jane Gordon

In memory of Tom Silver

In honor of the birth of Cindy and Don Brown's first grandchild, Yael

Nancy Grobovsky

To Michelle Waller in honor of Mother's Day

To Jill Blustin in honor of Mother's Day

Janice Waller

In honor of Sybil Lipschultz' big birthday

Karen Yashar

Elaine Simon Family Issues

In memory of Etta Gurstel

Nancy Grabovsky

Thank you to Judith Kahn, Sam Boderman,

Sophie Stillman, Rabbi David Locketz, and

Harry Adler for participating in the Film Festival

Freddie Weisberg

Hello Israel

In honor of Sheldon and Helen Resig's

50th Wedding Anniversary

In honor of the birth of Barry Genn's grandson

Ardis Wexler

Rose Rees

In appreciation for Ellyn Marell's and

Layne Rosen's hard work on Rose Rees

Sherri Feuer

In memory of Sig Harris

Jane Sternberg

Ellyn Marell in honor of Mother's Day

Janice Waller

In memory of Rachel Saturn's father

Freddie Weisberg

Sewell Gordon Fund

In memory of Lillian Albert

Nancy Jane Gordon

Stuff for School Cards

In honor of Elana Snyder's high school graduation

In honor of Elori Kramers high school graduation

In honor of Jeremy Ginsburg's high school graduation

In honor of Oliver Lerner's high school graduation

In honor of Jack Morris' high school graduation

In honor of Zach Robinow's high school graduation

Jodi Upin

Stuff for Kids

In memory of Meryl Page's father

In honor of Jeff Sholl's 60th Birthday

Betsy Abramson

In appreciation of Freddie Weisberg and Sarah

Badower for their work on Spring Event

In appreciation for Betsy Abramson, Christine

Hausman and Carrie Abramson for their work on

Spring Event and Stuff for Kids

Sherri Feuer

In honor of Noa Parker's Bat Mitzvah

Christine Hausman

In memory of Mayda Raffes' mother

Susan Hughes

In honor of Jaime Meyers' 50th birthday

Jodi Walk

Rita and Dwight Wood

Stuff for School

Speedy recovery to Rachel Saturn

Sherri Feuer

In memory of Rachel Saturn's beloved father

Sherri Feuer

Cher Harris

Judith Liszt

Wendy Lovell-Smith

Sherry Stern

In memory of Rachel Saturn's father

In memory of Tom Klingen's parents

In memory of John White's mother Virginia White

In honor of Elana Snyder's high school graduation

In honor of Elori Kramer's graduation from Breck

Susan Hughes

In memory of Debbie Ross' brother

Leslie Orenstein

In honor of Mendy Gruesner's 85th birthday

In memory of Jeanette Spencer

In honor of Trudy and Jeff Burstein becoming

grandparents

In honor of our Great and Great-Great Aunt

Flossie Sennett's 90th birthday

Layne Rosen

In memory of Candy Price's mother

Susan Kuller

Theresa Berman Leadership Training

In memory of Etta Gurstel

Jane Sternberg

Yad b'Yad

In honor of Barbara Cohen's 80th birthday

Marilyn Sussman

Gold Party - November 10

On November 10, turn your old, broken or unused gold jewelry into cash for you, while making money for NCJW at the same time.

Stay tuned to eNews for details.

Make a Difference a Month

You can support NCJW programs throughout the year with NCJW Tribute Cards to recognize any mitzvah, memorial or milestone in your life. Regardless of the amount you contribute (minimum \$5), your gift will be priceless.

Here are some ideas:

- In October: Join us for Fall Event where we will install our new 2009-10 Board, and consider a tribute in honor of our outgoing president Kim Greene or incoming president Sarah Badower.

- In November: Express your gratitude to family and friends with a donation to NCJW in their honor.

- In December: Consider NCJW membership as a Hanukkah gift for a special young woman in your life.

Thank you for supporting NCJW's efforts on behalf of women, children and families.

Note: The tributes on this page reflect donations made directly to the NCJW-Greater Minneapolis Section office during the time period March 3, 2009 - Aug. 20, 2009. This list does not include donations to National, nor Tribute cards sent directly from one member to another. If you would like us to make mention of other memorials, milestones or mitzvahs in the next Bulletin, please contact the NCJW office at 952-922-7900.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2009

13 Heart of the Home Kitchen Tour Fundraiser

OCTOBER 2009

13 Board meeting

TBD (evening): Get Smart - Healthcare Reform Panel

27 Fall Event - (see cover)

NOVEMBER 2009

10 Gold Party

12 Board meeting

DECEMBER 2009

6 Board retreat

16 Board meeting

JANUARY 2010

12 Board meeting

FEBRUARY 2010

18 Board meeting

TBD: Jewish Women's Morning at the Capitol

MARCH 2010

16 Board meeting

21-23 Washington Institute (see p. 7)

To make your reservation for Fall Event please cut and return the form below with your check or call the NCJW office to register by phone using a credit card.

- YES! I would like to attend NCJW's FALL EVENT 2009
 NO, I am unable to attend but please accept my donation.

Member \$18 _____ Non-Member \$20 _____

Number attending _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to NCJW Fall Event, and mail to:

NCJW
3000 South Highway 100, Suite 500
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Thank you!



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Minneapolis Section

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St. Louis Park, MN 55416
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ncjwmppls.org

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Minneapolis, MN
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