

# update

The Newsletter of National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles Section

FALL 2012

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### SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE BACK THROUGH NCJW/LA

## Volunteer Open House on August 7 Opened Doors for New Volunteers

**N**ational Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles upholds the ideal that ordinary people can make a real and lasting difference in other people's lives simply by taking action.

On Tuesday evening, August 7, prospective volunteers visited Council House to learn more about the variety of volunteer opportunities at NCJW/LA from our Department Vice Presidents and longtime program volunteers.

NCJW/LA offers a wide range of opportunities that fit any schedule and any interest. Whether you have

evenings, weekends or weekdays free, a few days a year to offer, or you'd like to help on a weekly basis, there are a variety of ways for you to connect and contribute. From working hands-on with our clients to helping with our many community events to serving on one of our committees, you'll find just what you're looking for at NCJW/LA!

If you would like information regarding volunteering, please contact NCJW/LA's Director of Membership and Outreach at 323-852-8512 or [volunteer@ncjwla.org](mailto:volunteer@ncjwla.org).



Cookbook Committee members (left to right) Renee Tener-Hertzberg, Betty Jane Bruck, and Chair Anita Aratow

## Hot Off the Press!

**N**CJW/LA is offering *Let's Cook – Quick and Easy*, a special cookbook with recipes from our members, friends, and donors. It includes a variety of tempting dishes including entrees, salads, desserts, breads, and soup—something for everyone's palate!



The cost is \$20 per book (\$18 if you order more than one) and we will ship it to you for \$3 more per book. Or stop by Council House and pick them up. They make great gifts!

Proceeds from book sales benefit NCJW/LA Women Helping Women Community Counseling & Support Services and Women Helping Children Art & Literacy Programs for Youth.

For more information, call 323-852-8512, or email [membership@ncjwla.org](mailto:membership@ncjwla.org).



Vice President of Development and Outreach Deborah Berger addressing Volunteer Open House visitors about how to make a difference through volunteering with NCJW/LA.



National Council of Jewish Women  
Los Angeles Section

The UPDATE Newsletter is published four times a year by the National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles.

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877-655-3807

**Council Thrift Shops:**  
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323-852-8512, wmd@ncjwla.org

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I recently had the very sad task of cleaning out my mother-in-law's house after she passed away last spring. As the only daughter-in-law (or daughter, for that matter), it fell to me to reach deep into the back of closets, cabinets and drawers. And do you know what I found over and over again? I found scented candles. I found fancy soaps. And I found fragrant body lotions. Mostly still in their original packaging. Some still had wrapping paper on them or were in their gift bags, surrounded by colorful tissue paper.

I know who gave my mother-in-law these gifts. They were given by nieces and nephews as well as friends who wanted to be good dinner guests or remember her on special occasions. Even if my mother-in-law had lived to be 250 years old, there is no way she could have used all of these thoughtful gifts. And so they collected dust and sat in the back of closets, cabinets and drawers until I unearthed them.

What I wonder is, what if the thoughtful people who gave my

mother-in-law these gifts had instead given her a tribute? How thoughtful it would have been to celebrate someone dear to them by remembering those who are very often forgotten.



**Amy Straus**  
President

And so, I offer this challenge: The next time you are reaching for your favorite scented gift because you can't show up empty-handed, consider making a tribute to NCJW/LA in honor of your hostess instead. It's easy enough to order through our website, and we can mail it out for you or we can mail it to you. Then you can tuck the tribute into a pretty gift bag and surround it with colorful tissue paper, if you like. I think it's an idea that can catch on. Something tells me that there's a daughter-in-law out there somewhere who will thank you.

*Amy*

## NCJW/LA in the News

**A** new blog called "Woman Writes" by Maya Paley, Program Director for NCJW/LA's Jewish Women's Conference, recently premiered on JewishJournal.com. It is a weekly conversation on women's issues, women's rights, gender, activism, world affairs, and more. Check it out at www.jewishjournal.com/womanwrites.



**N**CJW/LA was named a **2012 Top-Rated Children and Families Nonprofit** by Great Nonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews for nonprofit

organizations. Nonprofits on the list have received at least 10 positive reviews from stakeholders such as volunteers, donors, and clients. NCJW/LA has received 30 reviews to date. Thank you to all our supporters who took the time to write a review.

**R**eports on two Advocacy events at Council House—the July 25 "Your Voice: Learning to Lobby for Social Change" workshop and August 22 "Affordable Health Care Act" panel discussion—appeared on the **LA Progressive.com** website. Both articles were written by Diane Lefer.

## A FEW WORDS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This time of year provides many ways to reflect on who we are and what we do. It is a time in which we celebrate the holidays and wish for each other health and happiness. We spend these fall months celebrating our faith, our families, and our friends. It is also a time in which we think of others who are not as fortunate as ourselves. It is a time that we think about giving to organizations that we know do good things in our community. The list of organizations seems to get longer each

**“Our challenge...is to help as many people in our community as we can.”**

year. Our challenge, as we think about giving, is to help as many people in our community as we can—to make those donations go as far as possible.

As you make your choice on where to give, please consider giving to the National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles. You can give through our website ([www.ncjwla.org](http://www.ncjwla.org)), our

direct appeals, or donations of goods to our Council Thrift Shops. NCJW/LA serves over 15,000 individuals each year with direct services and programs. You can be sure that your donations will help those in need and at risk in our community.



**Hillary Selvin**  
Executive Director

Very few people like to ask for donations, but if we do not ask we will not receive the donations needed to support the many programs and services NCJW/LA provides. It takes just a little bit from everyone to help a lot of people. If each of you reading this gives a few dollars or donates some goods, you know that you are helping your neighbor, a friend, or someone in your community. What better way to celebrate the holidays this fall!

**W**omen Helping Women’s new Clinical Coordinator, **Judi Miller Levy, LCSW, SEP**, was part of the West Hollywood Womens Advisory Board’s “Understanding Our Power” roundtable discussion about women and equality on August 24. The event commemorated the 92nd anniversary of the 19th amendment, which granted women the right to vote in the U.S.

**N**CJW/LA Director of Development and Communication **Dana Bigman**, Director of Women Helping Children **Melissa Tillman**, and Council Thrift Shops’ **Erol Sarabi** were interviewed by Sunny Chayes for her “Singin’ in the Rain” show

on KCLA 99.3 radio. The two-part series aired on August 30 and September 6.

**T**o put a local angle on its September 24 story about National Voter Registration Day, Spanish-language station Univision (KMEX) interviewed NCJW/LA’s **Brenda Morales** about our Advocacy Committee’s voter registration drive for students at Fairfax High School.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Amy Straus

**Vice Presidents:**

Deborah Berger, *Development & Outreach*

Pamela Brown, *Women Making a Difference*

Shelli Dodell, *Women Helping Women*

Susan Isaacs, *Women Helping Children*

Cipra Nemeth, *Council Thrift Shops*  
Rebecca Wayne, *Advocacy*

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**Parliamentarian:** Peggy Schwartz

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**Executive Director:**

Hillary Selvin

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Executive Director:**

Hillary Selvin

**Chief Financial Officer:**

Sofiya Dubinsky

**Director of Development and Communication:** Dana Bigman

**Director of Retail Operations:** Robert Klausner

**Director of Women Helping Women:** Ava Rose, LCSW

**Director of Membership and Outreach:** Susan Sysler

**Director of Women Helping Children:** Melissa Tillman

**Director of Advocacy:** Ruth Williams

**Program Director of Jewish Women’s Conference:** Maya Paley

**Office & Facilities Manager:** Carole Pearson

## Susan Gesundheit “Elvis Tallis” Art Exhibit on Display at Council House Through December 21

**N**CJW/LA is now offering the community an opportunity to view a variety of art exhibits in our auditorium at Council House. The current exhibit, titled “Elvis Tallis,” showcases the work of Susan Gesundheit—paintings, prints, and collages that explore the surface of a two-dimensional graphic world with an extensive range of color and texture. Approximately 35 pieces, including monotypes, watercolors, and acrylics, are on exhibit. Gesundheit’s work displays a sense of interpretation and experimentation. Her subject matter takes from urban landscape and built environments and follows a layered grid.

Gesundheit teaches watercolor and figure drawing with Artist Co-op 7 classes at the Whizin Center at American Jewish University, chairs the art gallery committee for USC Hillel, and is a member of the Jewish Artists



“Skywriting” is one of the pieces on exhibit.

Initiative. To learn more about the artist, visit [www.susangesundheit.com](http://www.susangesundheit.com).

The exhibit is open to the public most weekdays through December 21, 2012. For hours, please call 323-651-2930.

### Save the Date

Future art exhibits in the series are scheduled as follows:

- January 7-March 31 – **Women Helping Children Art Exhibit.** The Opening Reception will be held February 7 from 6-8 p.m.
- April 8-30 – **Women Helping Women/City of West Hollywood Clothesline Exhibit for Child Abuse Prevention Month.** The Opening Reception will be held April 15 from 6-8 p.m.
- May 6-June 30 - **Rae Antonoff Art Exhibit.** The Opening Reception will be held May 9 from 6-8 p.m.

For more information, contact Carole Pearson at 323-852-8520 or [carole@ncjwla.org](mailto:carole@ncjwla.org).

## A Few Quick and Easy Ways to Support NCJW/LA

**S**end a tribute. Express your regard for a loved one with a gift to NCJW/LA. Commemorate a celebration, landmark, or memorial with a tax-deductible gift. We acknowledge your contribution by sending a beautiful card. Order a tribute online at [www.ncjwla.org/support-us/tributes](http://www.ncjwla.org/support-us/tributes) or call 323-852-8518. Tributes are a minimum of \$18 each.

**M**ake a contribution. Your generosity helps ensure that all of our programs make a difference in the lives of women, children, and families in Los Angeles. With your support, NCJW/LA can continue to be a positive force for change. Make a contribution online at [www.ncjwla.org/contribution](http://www.ncjwla.org/contribution) or call 323-852-8507.

**D**onate to Council Thrift Shops. Donations of fashions and furniture can be dropped off at any of Council Thrift Shops’ nine convenient locations. Free pickup and estate packing services also are available. For information or to request a pickup, call 800-400-6259 or visit [www.councilthrift.com](http://www.councilthrift.com).

We also accept vehicle donations. We will pick up your unwanted, running car or truck, complete all DMV paperwork, and issue a tax-deductible receipt in compliance with current tax laws. To donate a vehicle, call 323-655-3111.

**S**hop at Council Thrift Shops and our eBay store. Proceeds from purchases at our nine stores and new eBay site provide more than 70% of the revenue for NCJW/LA’s programs and services. Visit [www.councilthrift.com](http://www.councilthrift.com) for locations and an eBay link.

**D**rop off your old cell phone. NCJW/LA benefits from the donation of old cell phones. We receive funds for each of the phones we collect and send to an environmentally safe recycling program. Please drop off your old cell phones at NCJW/LA Council House, 543 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036.

**B**uy eScrip. Participating merchants will make contributions to NCJW/LA, based on purchases by using the cards you have registered. Visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) to sign up and find participating merchants.

Thank you for your continuing support of National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles.

## EDUCATE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.

### Come to the 2012 Jewish Women's Conference for Amazing Speakers and Engaging Conversations

We're only weeks away from NCJW/LA's most inspiring and empowering event of the year—the Jewish Women's Conference of Southern California!



Christine Pelosi

We have two amazing keynote speakers lined up: **Christine Pelosi**, author of *Campaign Boot Camp 2.0*, who will talk about

“Our Call to Service,” and **Nina Tassler**, president of CBS Entertainment, whose talk is titled “Crafting Our Jewish Feminist Narrative.”



Nina Tassler

Our panels are shaping up to be educational and engaging. In 11 workshops, each featuring a panel of experts, participants will learn about current issues in women's rights, health, and equality and create meaningful relationships with others who want to take action on these critical matters.

#### Panels and Presenters

Attendees will have the opportunity to attend two morning and two afternoon workshops.

The theme of the morning workshops is “Educating Ourselves and Our Community,” with panels on “Jewish Women's Voices in Activism,” “Confronting the Effects of the Recession on Women in Southern California,” “Feminism in Today's Society,” and “Israel's Women: Challenges and Opportunities.”

The afternoon “Empowering Ourselves and Our Community” workshops will focus on “The Rabbinical Perspective: Women's Equality Within Judaism,” “Mom Activism: Can I Really Be a Mom and an Activist?,” “The Emma Fellowship: Lessons Learned in the Workplace,” “Intergenerational Conversations: How We Learn from Each Other,” “Life Transitions and Wellness: Approaches



to Self-Care,” “Diversity Within Our Jewish Community: Understanding and Strengthening Each Other,” and “Your Finances: What You Think You Know and What You Should Know.”

Among the presenters are NCJW CEO **Nancy Kaufman**, author **Maggie Anton**, Ms. Magazine Senior Editor **Michele Kort**, activist and on-air legal analyst **Robin Sax**, **Rabbis Sharon Brous**, **Rachel Adler**, and **Lisa Edwards**, and many other accomplished and inspiring women.

#### Information and Registration

Details about all conference sessions, bios of the speakers and moderators, and online registration are available on the Jewish Women's Conference (JWC) website at [www.jwcsc.org](http://www.jwcsc.org). Tickets are \$54, including breakfast, lunch, and a networking reception. A limited number of student tickets are available for \$36. Questions? Call 855-JWCSC-18 (855-592-7218).

#### Recent JWC Events

On top of all these exciting plans for the November conference, NCJW/LA recently kicked off JWC's year-round series of workshops and events.

On June 20 we co-sponsored a fantastic workshop with the **Emma Fellowship** on advancing our career and community goals.

Our second event, the **Jewish Women's Theatre's** performance of

“Eden According to Eve” on September 9 at Council House was a big hit! This salon theatre show re-examined Bible stories from a feminine perspective, setting them in today's world.

Last but not least, JWC presented an Empowerment Workshop on “Building Bridges Between American and Israeli Jewish Women in Our Community,” presented with the **Israeli Leadership Council** (ILC) on October 15.

All of these events and opportunities would not be possible without the incredibly talented, passionate, and hard-working members of the JWC Steering Committee, interns **Lindsay Gooze** and **Miri Gold**, our summer volunteer **Olivia Morris**, and graphic designer **Rebecca Ludlam** of PixelPOP Los Angeles, who graciously donated her time to create the graphics and advertisements for this year's conference.

We also thank our many sponsors, underwriters, and participating organizations for their generous support.

These programs are all about us as Jewish women giving back by supporting and mentoring each other, having meaningful conversations about issues important to us, and caring for ourselves and others. Together we are building community one woman at a time. Please join us on November 11.



Jewish Women's Theatre actors (left to right) Sarah Hershberg, Robert Trebor, Judith Scarpone, Lisa Robins, Monica Piper, and Shelly Goldstein at the special JWC performance of “Eden According to Eve.”

## WOMEN HELPING WOMEN Community Counseling & Support Services

*"We get to make a living; we give to make a life." – Winston Churchill*



The Talkline Paraprofessional Counselors Training Class of Summer 2012 had a graduation ceremony on August 16. Congratulations to (left to right) Marilyn Szatmary, Helen Davidov, Marcia Weinberger, Carol Loper, and Sandy Nahan. Not pictured: Andrea Arnold and Daniella Kamara.

As fall approaches, our thoughts at Women Helping Women (WHW) turn toward the myriad ways that we can give of ourselves in the New Year, in order to enrich our own lives and the lives of those in our community. This fall, our newly graduated Talkline counselors joined our seasoned volunteers in providing compassion and hope to callers from every walk of life. Our Court Watch volunteers renew their commitment to collecting data on domestic violence cases in family courts. Our Fundraising Committee works tirelessly to obtain gifts and personal items for the Holiday Gift bags for community members in need. And we all look forward to the upcoming fundraiser in January with Dr. Gary Smalls, where we will raise the money needed to provide these holiday gifts and other emergency services throughout the year.

WHW is pleased to announce that our Clothing Assistance Programs (CAPs) are giving to more people than ever. Our Annual Clothing Giveaway & Resource Fair in December, and our year-round Clothing Voucher Program, offering up to \$50 worth of Thrift store items, give more than clothing. They give a sense of dignity and self-worth to unemployed workers lacking



Last year, WHW gave away clothing to over 5,000 people in need at NCJWILA's Annual Clothing Giveaway. In addition, we gave more than 400 clothing vouchers for Council Thrift Shops as well as partnered with 11 social service agencies that distributed approximately 800 vouchers to their own clients in need of assistance.

appropriate attire for job interviews; children in need of new school clothes; homeless individuals who have little to call their own; families fleeing from violent homes who had to leave most of their belongings behind; or individuals who need help simply making ends meet.

Thanks to the generosity of our Scholarship Program donors, Women Helping Women awarded \$15,000 to 10 outstanding applicants in June.

The scholarship recipients included struggling single mothers, women leaving traumatic relationships, and nurses, teachers, and other professionals who share WHW's commitment to give back to our community. WHW hosted a Scholarship Program reception in October to honor and thank our Scholarship Program founders, current donors, and committee members for all they give to this vital program.

WHW is pleased to welcome our new Clinical Program Coordinator, **Judi Miller Levy**. Judi brings to our team tremendous expertise in working with children and families as well as specialized training in somatic experiencing. We are also pleased to welcome former WHW summer intern **Nikki Hemans** and Grant Coordinator, and former MSW intern **Jenny Blair** as our new Clinical Social Workers.

Our Women Helping Women social workers provide state-of-the-art clinical services to our therapy clients. This fall, we are offering **Women's Empowerment support groups** at Council House, at the Prototypes domestic violence shelter, and in Spanish at Home Safe. Along with our **Parent & Family Strengthening Workshop** at the Jewish Community Center, these vital programs give much more than a safe place for clients to explore their experiences, they give hope to women and families and empower them to heal from hardship and "bounce forward" in their lives.



Welcome to new WHW staff members (left to right) Jenny Blair, MSW, Judi Miller Levy, LCSW, SEP, and Nikki Hemans, MSW.

## WOMEN HELPING CHILDREN Art & Literacy Programs for Youth

**A**s we embark on the beginning of the 2012-2013 academic school year and the holiday season, Women Helping Children (WHC) volunteers are needed now more than ever. The schools we serve have limited funds to pay for library staff, new books, and art supplies so they turn to NCJW/LA and our Art and Literacy Programs for Youth for support. The shelters we serve also have limited resources and rely on WHC volunteers as well to bring academic support and enriching opportunities to the children and teens living on site and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

WHC seeks dedicated volunteers for two programs: those who want to donate their time to help run school libraries and others to help bring art



NCJW/LA Board Member and WHC volunteer Lotte Sohn assists kids in the After School Homework Club at Rosewood Elementary.



Light Up a Library volunteer Elaine Adler reads aloud to students visiting the Reseda Elementary School library.

education to the classroom so the children and teens we serve can explore creative outlets and have access to the world of knowledge offered in their school's library. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Perhaps you have an interesting career that you'd like to share with Teens exploring collegiate and career opportunities, or you excelled in high school algebra—we need your help! We welcome new ideas and opportunities to bring to our programs such as cooking, self-defense, yoga, photography, improv, and acting classes. Please contact [whc@ncjwla.org](mailto:whc@ncjwla.org) or 323-852-8505 with your interesting idea and we'll find a good fit for you.



Participants in the McAlister Teen Mom Program receive new books from WHC volunteers.

## LETTER CORNER

### Warm Scarves, Warm Hearts

Earlier this year, Women Making a Difference volunteers in the West Valley/Agoura Hills made fleece scarves for residents of the Los Angeles Jewish Home. The following thank-you note was received along with this colorful artwork.



Thank you very much for your donation on behalf of the residents.

—Anne Becker, Dorothy Marques, Adela Schloss, Norma Linn, Sally Schechter, Juanita Eastman, Ruth Kramer, Syd Cantor, Jean Davis, Elza Arhangelova, Anne Moses, and Gina Ponce, Los Angeles Jewish Home

### Vouching for Clothing Vouchers

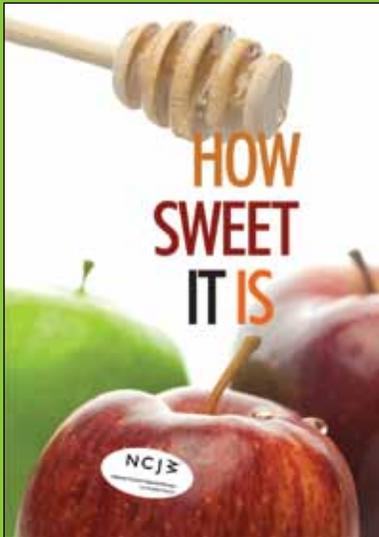
Thank you for helping SOVA help our clients through your wonderful Clothing Voucher program!

This is indeed a great program, enabling many people to go to work, interviews, and out in the world, feeling they are “dressed up” and “looking great” (quoting some of our clients!).

—Eilat Gutman, Resource Centers Coordinator, SOVA Community Food & Resource Program, Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, Van Nuys

The NCJW/LA UPDATE welcomes letters from readers. Mail to Dana Bigman, Director of Development and Communication, NCJW/LA, 543 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036, or email to [dana@ncjwla.org](mailto:dana@ncjwla.org). Questions? Call Dana at 323-852-8507.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR from NCJW/LA



**L**'*Shanah Tovah Tikatevu.*  
"May you be inscribed (in the Book of Life) for a good year." National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles wishes you and your loved ones a sweet, happy, and healthy 5773.

At this special time of reflection, we thank you for helping us to make a difference in the lives of thousands of in-need and at-risk individuals in Los Angeles each year.

Your ongoing support enables NCJW/LA to provide individual and family counseling, literacy and art programs for youth, a free Counseling Talkline, scholarships, an emergency survival fund, and other essential programs for women, children, and families.

There are so many ways to share and give within your family and community, and NCJW/LA is proud to be part of that rich tradition.

We invite you to get more involved by becoming a member, volunteering, and supporting our fundraising efforts. For more information, visit [www.ncjwla.org](http://www.ncjwla.org) or call 323-651-2930. We welcome your participation!

## MEMBER NEWS AND EVENTS

### WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE – MITZVOT & MERLOT

**W**e are married and single, mothers and daughters. Join us to make an impact, make new friends, and aid our community through NCJW/LA community service projects.

#### Programs in the City

- Thursday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.—At the home of Lysa Stone in the Fairfax area. Project: Homemade bath salts for homebound clients of The Beauty Bus.
- Sunday, December 2, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.— At Council House, 543 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles. Project: Volunteer at NCJW/LA's Annual Clothing Giveaway. Sign up by emailing [whw@ncjwla.org](mailto:whw@ncjwla.org) or calling 323-852-8515.

**Programs in Agoura Hills:** All programs are held at the home of Cheryl Abrams.

- Tuesday, November 27, 7:30 p.m.—Children's holiday gift packages for a recipient to be determined.
- Tuesday, December 18, 7:30 p.m.—Project and recipient to be determined.

**Programs with Vista Val Division:** All programs are held at Temple Judea in Tarzana at 1 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month.

- Monday, October 29, 1:00 p.m.—Create bookmarks and bring new or nearly new K-6 books for NCJW/LA Women Helping Children programs. Contact Arlene Klein at 818-344-1220.

For more information and to be added to our email list for any Women Making a Difference group, contact NCJW/LA's Director of Membership & Outreach at 323-852-8512 or [wmd@ncjwla.org](mailto:wmd@ncjwla.org).

### VISTA VAL DIVISION

**M**eetings of NCJW/LA's Vista Val Division in the Valley are held on Mondays at Temple Judea, 5429 Lindley Ave., Tarzana.

Each Monday offers a variety of opportunities to socialize, learn, and be part of the NCJW/LA membership through the following **Special Interest Groups:** Woman to Woman, Movie Group, Book Group, World Affairs, and Jewish Studies. More information are available in Vista Val's monthly bulletin.

The **General Meeting** is held the third Monday of each month (unless it is a holiday) at 9:30 a.m. and includes a speaker. The next General Meetings will be on November 12 (see luncheon information below) and December 17.

For more information on Vista Val's meetings and activities, contact President Gloria Burney at 818-346-4025.

**J**oin Vista Val for its **Annual Fall Luncheon** on Monday, November 12, at 11:30 a.m. It will be held at The Sportsmen's Lodge, 12833 Ventura Blvd., Studio City. Entertainment will be provided by Klezmer Juice, described as "a new generation of Jewish soul musicians." The cost is \$50 per person, with proceeds supporting NCJW/LA's Women Helping Children Art & Literacy Programs for Youth.

For more information, contact Gerry Moscovitz at [gmoscovitz@aol.com](mailto:gmoscovitz@aol.com) or 818-654-9265.

## Why Give to Council Thrift Shops?

**Y**our donations create the majority of funding for NCJW/LA's social services.

Proceeds from Council Thrift Shops sales provide more than 70 percent of the funds needed for our programs and services benefiting in-need and at-risk women, children, and families, which include Women Helping Women Community Counseling & Support Services and Women Helping Children Art & Literacy Programs for Youth.

**D**onating offers the opportunity to teach the next generation *tzedakah*.

It is never too early to teach children the importance of helping

people in need. Learning to give at a young age helps ensure they continue the tradition of giving as adults.

**C**ouncil Thrift Shops provide essentials to those in need.

Our Women Helping Women Community Counseling & Support Services collaborate with over 20 community agencies such as SOVA, PATH, Jewish Family Services, The Saban Free Clinic, and the City of West Hollywood Human Services Department to provide clients with Clothing Vouchers to Council Thrift Shops. And each year at our Annual Clothing Giveaway, more than 85,000 pieces of clothing, stuffed animals, and children's books that have

been donated to Council Thrift Shops are distributed to over 5,000 in-need and at-risk individuals.

**O**ur Thrift Shops provide jobs. Working for Council Thrift Shops in an entry-level position provides training and experience for retail and customer relations work.

Please donate to one of our nine Council Thrift Shop locations, or call 323-655-3111 or 800-400-6259 for a free pickup. Tax-deductible itemized receipts are provided for all donations.

**Thank you for your continuing support of Council Thrift Shops.**



## GRAND OPENING on NOV. 3! Visit our new store at 360 N. Fairfax Ave.

**O**n November 3 in Los Angeles, our newest Council Thrift Shop will open at 360 N. Fairfax Ave. (previous home of Out of the Closet)! This new store will be bigger and better than our former North Fairfax location, which has been closed permanently.

### TWO-DAY "BEST OF THE BEST" EVENT!

The opening weekend will kick off with a very special "Best of the Best" sales event—a feast of treasures and great buys.

Come early on Saturday and Sunday, November 3 and 4, and have a wonderful buying experience!

Event hours are Saturday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

"Best of the Best" sales events at the 360 N. Fairfax store will be held on the following dates in 2013:

- January 12-13
- March 9-10
- May 18-19
- August 3-4
- October 12-13

Throughout the summer and early fall, NCJW/LA's Advocacy Committee continued its efforts to educate the public on how to stand up for social justice and take action.

An exciting workshop at Council House on July 25 titled "Your Voice: Learning to Lobby for Social Change" empowered students and professionals by equipping them with the tools to effectively influence public policy. A resounding success, the workshop garnered over 100 enthusiastic attendees from diverse backgrounds, including policy, law, social work, and public health. Attendees left Council House armed with action items on which to hone their newly acquired skills.

On August 22, a panel of experts on health care reform and the Affordable Care Act was moderated by **Michael Hiltzik**, author of *The New Deal: A Modern History* and business columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*. Speakers included **Paul Song, MD**, of Physicians for a National Health Program, California, **Susan Berke Fogel, JD**, director of reproductive health for National Health Law Program, **Jim Lott**, executive vice president of Hospital Association of Southern California, and **Mark Peterson**, professor of Public Policy, Political Science, and Law for the Department of Public Policy at UCLA.

We began the fall season of programs on September 12 with "Woman to Woman," a forum on



*Serena Josel, director of public affairs for Planned Parenthood, led a well-attended workshop on "Grassroots and Grassstops Lobbying."*

issues facing lesbians and bisexual women when seeking health care. Moderated by **Anne-Marie Williams** of the California Lesbian Project, the panel included **Lorri L. Jean** of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, **Dr. Allison L. Diamant** of the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, **J. Denise Fuller, MSW, LCSW**, LAPD Lieutenant II **Yana L. Horvatic**, and Operations Lieutenant **Cheryl Newman-Tarwater** of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

On September 24 and 25, we continued the voter-registration drive at Fairfax High School that was so successful in May. After the June primary election, several of the first-time voters contacted us to say thank you and let us know they felt so proud when they went into the voting booth. The number

of students we registered this year totaled 175. Thank you to the Advocacy volunteers who gave of their time to help make the voter drive a success.

This year we again partnered with the City of West Hollywood and Cedars-Sinai to host our Breast Cancer Awareness event. It was held at Council House on October 24.

Upcoming Advocacy events include a Post-Election program on December 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact Director of Advocacy Ruth Williams at 323-852-8503 or [ruth@ncjwla.org](mailto:ruth@ncjwla.org).

## NEW MEMBERS

### Annual Members

Deborah Abram  
Bettina Ahrendt  
Andrea Arnold  
Roberta Brown  
Helen Davidov  
Valerie Farkas  
Laurie Hoberman  
Jessica Jimenez  
Daniella Kamara  
Carol Loper  
Jacqueline Marquez  
Henriette Roth  
Sandra Savett  
Nancy Shiffrin  
Heidi Shink  
Jenny Skoble  
Sharyn Steiner  
Marcia Weinberger

### Life Member Anonymous

Show your support for NCJW/LA by becoming a member! Besides helping us provide community services for women, children, and families in need and at risk, members receive a 20% discount at all nine Council Thrift Shops (excluding Best of the Best events) when they show their membership card. To join, fill out the Membership Form on the back page.



*Pictured at the August 22 program on the Affordable Health Care Health Act are (left to right) Dr. Paul Song, Susan Berke Fogel, JD, moderator Michael Hiltzik, Jim Lott, event chair Donna Benjamin, Professor Mark Peterson, and NCJW/LA Director of Advocacy Ruth Williams.*





National Council of Jewish Women  
Los Angeles Section

www.ncjwla.org

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. NCJW's Los Angeles Section has been at the forefront of social change for more than a century by providing the community with programs and services. Today, NCJW/LA serves more than 15,000 individuals each year by providing over 220,000 hours of programs and services with the support of 400 volunteers.

# MEMBERSHIP FORM *Invite the next generation to join us!*

NCJW/LA's mission is to create social change through our advocacy and social and community services. We cannot do this alone. We appreciate your support as a member. Please take the time to invite a family member or friend to join.

## RATES & LEVELS

- Life Member: \$350     Annual Member: \$60     Senior Member (65+): \$35
- Full-Time College Student Member: \$18     Couple: \$100

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check (make payable to NCJW/LA)

City \_\_\_\_\_

Bill my credit card:     Visa     Mastercard

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Security code (3 or 4 digits): \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions?** Call the Membership Dept. at 323-852-8512.

**Please mail this form and your payment to: NCJW/LA, 543 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036**

Tax ID# 95-1641433

www.ncjwla.org

Los Angeles, CA 90036

543 N. Fairfax Ave.

Los Angeles Section

National Council of Jewish Women

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