

# update

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

**A CELEBRATION OF REMARKABLE WOMEN**

## March 24th Awards Gala Honored Cipra Nemeth, Robin Sax, and Others



Award recipients Molly Moen of Downtown Women's Center, Robin Sax, Cipra Nemeth, and Karla Lee of Bank of America. For more Gala photos, see pages 4-5.

NCJW/LA's 2012 Hannah G. Solomon Awards Gala was held Saturday night, March 24, at the Luxe Sunset Boulevard Hotel in Los Angeles. Emceed by ABC7 Eyewitness News Reporter **Leslie Miller**, the program honored four individuals and organizations that share NCJW/LA's commitment to turning progressive ideals into action.

NCJW/LA Board Member and Past President **Cipra Nemeth** received the Hannah G. Solomon Award, given to a woman who exemplifies NCJW Founder Hannah Solomon's vision of helping women, children, and families who cannot help themselves. The award was presented by Cipra's daughters, **Ilana Shulman** and **Rachel Vergilio**.

The other three awards acknowl-

edged individuals and organizations whose work signifies the mission of NCJW/LA in the community.

Legal analyst and former prosecutor **Robin Sax** received the Remarkable Woman Award, recognizing her work as a victim's advocate. It was presented by **Judge Patricia J. Titus**.

The Community Partnership Award, presented by **Carolyn Williams** of Southern California Gas Co., was given to **Downtown Women's Center** and accepted by COO Molly Moen. NCJW/LA Co-President **Amy Straus** presented the Corporate Empowerment Award to **Bank of America**. It was accepted by **Karla Lee**, Sales and Service Executive for its West Region.

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WINTER/SPRING 2012

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## NCJW/LA NEWS BRIEFS

Council House is getting a facelift! The lobby, auditorium, kitchen, hallways, and other downstairs areas are undergoing a much-needed renovation. Pardon our mess! The new look will be unveiled at our Annual Meeting and Board Installation on June 3.

A huge thanks to architect **Ric Abramson, AIA**, of WORKPLAYS studio\*architecture for all his help. Thank you also to the **Ahmanson Foundation** for their grant and to **Rose Norton** for her generous donation to our auditorium renovation.



*The Council House auditorium before the renovation*

**Maya Paley** has joined NCJW/LA as Program Director for the Jewish Women's Conference of Southern California.

Maya is a Los Angeles native and UC Berkeley graduate.

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National Council of Jewish Women  
Los Angeles Section

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Well, here we are. It's early spring 2012 and the cool weather is not yet behind us. We still have time to hunker down, watch movie marathons, and cook warming comfort foods, right? Wrong! We have an election coming up, people!

There's a lot at stake for women, children and families. Reproductive rights are really coming under fire. And we need to watch what's going on with the judicial nomination process. Fortunately, NCJW/LA will be exploring the important issues and dissecting the rhetoric from both sides. Our monthly Advocacy events will continue to be packed with information and insight.

If you're not getting Action Alerts by email, now is the time to go to our website (www.ncjwla.org) and sign up. Look under the "Advocacy" tab and sign up for Action Alerts that will let you know when your help is needed either locally or on the national level. It's so easy to make a big difference because with one click of the mouse, the appropriate elected official is given a piece of your mind.

So, set the DVR and order in some pizza, because we've got work to do!



**Amy Straus**  
Co-President

Across our city, state, and nation today, we hear a resounding call to take action and help make a difference for those who are struggling to achieve a better life in these difficult times. This is the mission of NCJW/LA. Our assistance is desperately needed and, in the process of helping others, we enrich our own lives as well.



**Ruth Zeitzew**  
Co-President

At our Annual Clothing Giveaway in December, hundreds of volunteers of all ages assisted us in giving away more than 85,000 clothing items and toys to a record number of families. The spirit of giving rewarded both the recipients and the volunteers.

The Jewish commandment *Tikkun Olam*, repair the world, has come to connote social activism, community service, and the pursuit of social justice. This commandment defines the mission that we at NCJW/LA have been implementing for over 100 years. We have accomplished much during those years—and yet there is so much more that needs to be done, especially now. Your support and participation are of vital assistance to us in achieving our objectives.

We look forward to having you join us in repairing our world. The rewards are infinite.

## NEWS BRIEFS/

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She has run college and career preparation programs for teenage girls in the inner-city of Los Angeles, worked on empowerment programs for sex workers in Guatemala City, and researched the effects of anti-human trafficking legislation in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Maya completed her master's degree in International Affairs with a focus on migration, gender, international development, and human rights from Columbia University. She produced a conference at Columbia titled "Gender, Peace, and Security" with more than 200 attendees and 25 panelists.

In 2010, Maya was a New Israel Fund/Shatil Social Justice Fellow in Tel Aviv.

## A FEW WORDS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Women make the world better, not because we are the same as men but because we are different”—Dee Dee Myers

In Judaism women have held positions of respect since biblical times. Miriam is considered one of the liberators of the Children of Israel, along with her brothers Moses and Aaron. One of the Judges (Deborah) was a woman. Seven of the 55 prophets of the Bible were women...and of course Golda Meir was the Prime Minister of Israel.

According to traditional Judaism, women are endowed with a greater degree of “binah” (intuition, understanding, intelligence) than men.

Esther Wein writes, “The Talmud comments [on Genesis 2:22] that women possess a certain power that, when properly cultivated, exceeds its counterpart in men. This intellectual power is called *binah*. ...Binah is the ability to analyze and then distinguish between situations or entities that on the surface seem similar, but are really quite different.

The definition of binah is found in one of the blessings said every morning: “You have given the rooster binah to distinguish between night and day.” When the rooster crows, it still looks like night outside, but in fact it is the beginning of morning. The rooster’s ability to know a situation, not for how it looks on the surface but for what it truly is, exemplifies binah.

The matriarchs Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah built the Jewish nation from within. Each woman possessed the ability to see what was not obvious to the patriarchs, and that is why there is a Jewish nation today. Ultimately, female binah is meant to function as a searchlight of truth and clarity.

Every Jewish woman today is able to cultivate and excel in this skill. Binah is an inheritance of Jewish women and a gift to themselves, their families, their communities, and society as a whole. It is also our responsibility as Jewish women. The National Council of Jewish Women believes in this inheritance and responsibility.

Diane Granito stated, “Sometimes in order to create waves of change you need to rock the boat.” Join us as we rock the boat and make a difference in our communities and around the world.




Maya Paley

NCJW/LA is delighted to have Maya on board planning the 2012 Jewish Women’s Conference of Southern California, scheduled for Sunday, November 11. For more information visit [www.jwcsc.org](http://www.jwcsc.org) or call 855-592-7218.

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.



Hillary Selvin  
Executive Director

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Co-Presidents:

Amy Straus and Ruth Zeitzew

### 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*

Lee Saltz, *Advocacy*

**Secretary:** Rebecca Wayne

**Treasurer:** C. Jean Pearlstein

**Parliamentarian:** Peggy Schwartz

**Directors:** Anita Aratow, Jennifer Baronoff, Suzanne Buckholtz, Gail Cohen, Phyllis Cohen, Irene Perer, Merle Siegel, Marla Smith, Lotte Sohn

**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

**MARCH 24TH AWARDS GALA/  
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“We’re so pleased to be honoring these individuals and organizations and celebrating their achievements,” said Amy. “All our honorees inspire change in their own unique way, and together they are a beautiful tapestry of social justice in our community.”

The Gala kicked off with a Cocktail Reception and Silent Auction, followed by the dinner and program. The Silent

Auction featured “Best of the Best” merchandise from Council Thrift Shops, including art, crystal, jewelry, and Judaic items.

Proceeds from the Gala benefited NCJW/LA’s Women Helping Women Community Counseling & Support Services and Women Helping Children Art & Literacy Programs for Youth.

Thank you to Gala Committee Chair **Deborah Berger** and the Gala Committee—**Renee Tener-Hertzberg, Pam Brown, Shelli**

**Dodell, Amy Straus, Ruth Zeitzew,** and staff members **Dana Bigman** and **Susan Sysler**—for all their hard work.

Special thanks to Cipra’s husband, Scott Shulman of ABC News, for creating and producing the NCJW/LA and honoree videos shown at the Gala, and to Moe’s Flowers for the beautiful tulip centerpieces.

Last but not least, many thanks to the sponsors, underwriters, donors, and attendees, each of whom contributed to the Gala’s success.



*Gala guests bidding on Silent Auction items from Council Thrift Shops during the Cocktail Reception*



*Cipra Nemeth with daughters Ilana Shulman (left) and Rachel Vergilio, who presented her with the Hannah G. Solomon Award*



*Remarkable Woman Award presenter Judge Patricia J. Titus with recipient Robin Sax*



*Collection of awards*



*Molly Moen of Downtown Women’s Center (DWC) accepting the Community Partnership Award from Southern California Gas Company’s Carolyn Williams, a DWC board member*



*Bank of America’s Claudia Bodan and Karla Lee, who accepted the Corporate Empowerment Award, with NCJW/LA Executive Director Hillary Selvin*



*Emcee Leslie Miller of ABC7 Eyewitness News reading a letter from NCJW’s Board of Directors commending Cipra Nemeth*



*Left to right: Hillary Selvin, Dr. Allen and Gail Cohen, Bonnie Anderson, and NCJW/LA Co-President Ruth Zeitzew*



Jeffrey Straus and NCJW/LA Co-President Amy Straus with Harold Foonberg



Sandy Nahan, Gala Committee member Renee Tener-Hertzberg, and Linda Abrams



The NCJW/LA Board of Directors



Comedy/cabaret artist Ray Jessel entertaining guests with a selection of original songs

# NCJW/LA Announces Official Slate for 2012-2013 Board of Directors and Officers

The Nominating Committee for National Council of Jewish Women/ Los Angeles announces the following slate for the Board of Directors for the 2012-2013 term. Board members serve for a two-year term. Officers are elected for a one-year term, which runs July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.

## PRESIDENT

Amy Straus

## VICE PRESIDENTS

Rebecca Wayne, Advocacy  
Cipra Nemeth, Council Thrift  
Deborah Berger, Development and Outreach  
Susan Isaacs, Women Helping Children  
Shelli Dodell, Women Helping Women  
Pam Brown, Women Making a Difference

## SECRETARY

Phyllis Cohen

## TREASURER

Marla Smith

## PARLIAMENTARIAN

Peggy Schwarz

## DIRECTORS - 2011-2013

Suzanne Buckholtz  
Gail Cohen  
Merle Siegel  
Lotte Sohn

## DIRECTORS - 2012-2014

Anita Aratow  
Lorraine Joffe  
C. Jean Pearlstein  
Lee Saltz  
Nancy Scher  
Renee Tener-Hertzberg  
Ruth Zeitzev

Additional nominations to be included on the official ballot may be submitted by a petition signed by 25 members in good standing. Such a petition must be delivered to Suzanne Buckholtz, chair of the Nominating Committee, within 10 days of the mailing of the Nominating Committee's timely report to membership.

An official ballot is to be mailed to the membership no later than 20 days prior to the Annual Meeting ONLY IF AND WHEN additional nominee(s) for any one of the offices are submitted in accordance with the procedure defined above. In all other instances, membership approval of the recommended slate will be considered to be a vote in favor of the slate and the Secretary shall, at the Annual Meeting, cast a single ballot on behalf of the membership.

The Annual Meeting and Board Installation Brunch will be held Sunday, June 3, at 11 a.m. at NCJW/LA Council House. Please RSVP by May 25 to Susan Sysler at 323-852-8512 or [susan@ncjwla.org](mailto:susan@ncjwla.org).

## WOMEN HELPING WOMEN Community Counseling & Support Services

*"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."*—Edward Everett Hale

**Did you know...** that California cut more than \$587 million in state spending on mental health care in the last two years—the most of any state?

**WHW takes action:** Despite these cuts, Women Helping Women (WHW) ~ Community Counseling & Support Services managed to increase the number of clients we serve by 30% in those two years and provided 42% more therapy sessions. How did we do it? Thanks to funding from our Council Thrift Shops, we were able to nearly double our social work staff and our MSW Intern Training Program. This growth allowed us to extend our high-quality mental health services to more clients, while providing students with state-of-the-art training and experience in community-based clinical social work.

**What can you do?** Help us spread the word about WHW's unique services. Make a donation to our programs. And most of all, keep donating to Council Thrift Shops! For every bag of clothing you give, think about all the clients our staff and interns will be serving.

**Did you know...** that more than 13% of California residents—and 18.5% of children—are living in poverty? In Los

Angeles, the numbers are worse: 15% of residents (and 22 percent of children) live in poverty. Sadly, 16% of Californians don't even have enough food to eat.

**WHW takes action:** Thanks to the incredible efforts of Fundraising Committee Chair **Gail Cohen**, as well as all our generous individual donors and charitable vendors, we provided \$7,000 worth of holiday gift cards so that families in need would be able to exchange gifts and share a holiday meal with their loved ones.

**What can you do?** Attend an Emergency Survival Fund fundraiser. Join the WHW Fundraising Committee and help us solicit donations from local vendors. Save your unwanted toiletries and stuffed animals for the 2012 Holiday Gift Program.

**Did you know...** that the median income in California is \$70,400, and yet the public school teachers who educate our children often have a starting salary as low as \$44,071?

**WHW takes action:** Thanks to the family and friends of **Sherman and Fran Teller**, we are now offering scholarships to assist public school teachers in obtaining their Clear Credential.



Congratulations to WHW's Leah Ziskin Kaufman (Clinical Program Coordinator) and Dawn Zienert (Talkline Program Coordinator) on becoming Licensed Clinical Social Workers! We are so proud of them both for all the hard work and clinical expertise that this achievement represents.

**What can you do?** Ask about becoming a scholarship reader. Or make a donation to one of our scholarship funds. By contributing to the Sherman and Frances L. Teller Teachers Scholarship, you can help us assist a teacher who has committed to a lifetime career in the public education system.

**Did you know...** that unemployed workers aged 25-54 spend an average of 30.3 weeks searching for a job, compared to 23.3 weeks for younger workers?

**WHW takes action:** This winter, our Scholarship Committee offered the new Dodell Women's Empowerment Scholarship to our first recipient, a woman over 35 who is returning to school in order to gain financial independence. In 2011, our Talkline volunteers answered almost 90 calls every month from community members struggling with employment and/or financial issues. We may not be able to solve the economic crisis, but we do know how to connect people with resources, and encourage folks who are struggling to make a better life.

**What can you do?** Consider establishing a scholarship of your own. Or give us your time and your compassion as a Talkline counselor. Whatever you have to give, there are many ways to make a difference.



Our six amazing MSW interns were carefully chosen from a highly competitive pool of 27 applicants from UCLA and USC. Pictured (left to right) are: Hazel Larimer, Jenny Blair, Rachel Norris, Tatyana Plaksina, and Tannaz Alagheband. Intern recruitment for the coming year takes place February through April.

## WOMEN HELPING CHILDREN Art & Literacy Programs for Youth

For over 20 years, Women Helping Children (WHC) volunteers have strived to empower our youth with a love of literacy and an appreciation of the arts. We remain relentless in our efforts and invite the community to **TAKE ACTION**, and volunteer your time in our school and shelter-based Art & Literacy Programs for Youth.

Many of the students we serve receive limited academic support outside of the classroom. Donating a few hours of your time each week truly changes lives; volunteers lead by example, and your presence lets the students know that the community cares about their future and supports their success. Volunteer opportunities are available Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at various sites throughout Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.

**BE AN INSPIRATION!** In addition to ongoing volunteer opportunities, we encourage working professionals who cannot commit to volunteering regularly to arrange an evening or one-day workshop sharing your career, talents, and experiences with our youth. Past examples include photography sessions with a high-end fashion photographer and cooking lessons by a professional chef.

Can't afford to donate your time? Then **DONATE YOUR STUFF!** Donations of new art and school supplies, gift cards for prizes and incentives, new and gently used children and young adult books, and modern camera and film equipment go a long way for us as well! To make a donation, call Melissa Tillman, Director of WHC, at 323-852-8505.

Don't have any time or goods to give? **ATTEND UPCOMING EVENTS** benefiting our youth programs, such as the Alexandria House "Festival of the Arts" Teen Art Show scheduled for June 10.

You can help build the library collection at our participating "Light Up



Alexandria House teens, volunteers, and Echo Park Film Center, Alexandria House, and NCJW/LA staff pose outside the EHFC Filmmobile.

A Library" schools by making a donation to the WHC Mackin Funds4Books Fundraiser at [www.funds4books.com/fundraiser.aspx?pincode=973d](http://www.funds4books.com/fundraiser.aspx?pincode=973d) from April 16 through May 16, 2012.

Another way to support WHC is to eat healthy at the Veggie Grill in The Original Farmer's Market (110 S. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles) on April 25. Visit the restaurant between 5-10 p.m., mention NCJW/LA when placing your order, and 50% of your food and beverage purchase will be donated to WHC programs.

### Lights! Camera! Action!

Last fall, the teens at Alexandria House had the opportunity to work with volunteers, mentors, and staff of the **Echo Park Film Center** (ECFC) to create their own film. For over five weeks, the teens explored the process of filmmaking, from mapping out their ideas to filming and editing their own footage using professional programs and equipment. At the end of the workshop, ECFC hosted an outdoor screening of the film for the teens, residents, and neighborhood friends of Alexandria House. It was a magical evening and an amazing experience for all who participated!

### Mitzvah Project Book Giveaway

**Tracey Thompson** of Pacific Palisades was called to the Torah in front of the congregation of Kahillat Ma'arav on October 29, 2011. Tracey, an avid reader and *Harry Potter* fan, collected over 150 books from guests at her Bat Mitzvah so she could donate them to NCJW/LA's Book Giveaway Program as her Mitzvah Project. NCJW/LA congratulates Tracey on becoming a Bat Mitzvah and thanks her for supporting and promoting a love of literacy!

For more information on Women Helping Children's Book Giveaway program, please call 323-852-8505 or email [whc@ncjwla.org](mailto:whc@ncjwla.org).



Bat Mitzvah Tracey Thompson and Women Helping Children Director Melissa Tillman

## VISTA VAL DIVISION

Meetings 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.

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. For details, contact Vista Val President Gloria Burney at 818-346-4025.

Vista Val has established a **Women Making a Difference Group**. The next meeting is April 23 at 1 p.m. The project is Mother's Day cards and felt bags for a shelter to be announced. To RSVP, contact Susan Sysler at 323-852-8512 or [susan@ncjwla.org](mailto:susan@ncjwla.org).

Vista Val's Annual Spring Luncheon will be held May 21 at The Sportsmen's Lodge (12833 Ventura Blvd., Studio City) at 11:30 a.m. This is the group's semi-annual opportunity to help NCJW/LA raise funds for WHW and WHC programs and services. For more information, contact Gerry Moscovitz at 818-654-9265 or [gmoscovitz@aol.com](mailto:gmoscovitz@aol.com).



Vista Val members and guests enjoying the Fall 2011 Luncheon

## MEMBER NEWS AND EVENTS

### ANNUAL MEETING

NCJW/LA's Annual Meeting and Board Installation Brunch will be held Sunday, June 3, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Council House (543 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles). Volunteer awards will be presented at this event.

For ticket and sponsorship information, contact Susan Sysler, Director of Membership & Outreach, at 323-852-8512 or [susan@ncjwla.org](mailto:susan@ncjwla.org).

### WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE – MITZVOT & MERLOT

We are married, single, mothers, 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, May 10, 7:30 p.m.—Plant project: Seeds to be planted and then transplanted to pots at the home of Pam Brown. Recipients TBD.
- Thursday, June 14, 7:30 p.m.—Summertime Fun for Kids project: Beachballs, silly putty, bubbles, etc. Host home and recipients TBD.



Left to right: Pam Brown, Suzanne Buckholtz, and Marlene Stein at a Mitzvot & Merlot "Back to School" project in Santa Monica



Women Making a Difference in Agoura Hills assembled no-sew blankets and goodnight bags.

**Programs in the West Valley/Agoura Hills:** All programs held at the home of Cheryl Abrams in Agoura Hills

- Tuesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.—Kitchen kits for women transitioning into their own apartments after being homeless for Haven Hills.
- Tuesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.—Hospitality kits for parents with children in NICU units.
- Tuesday, June 19, 7:30 p.m.—Family art kits for Free Arts for Abused Children.

For more info, contact Susan Sysler at 323-852-8512 or [susan@ncjwla.org](mailto:susan@ncjwla.org).

### WANTED: MEMBERS FOR OUR ISRAEL COMMITTEE

Be on the ground floor of a new and exciting National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles committee that will:

- Promote a connection between NCJW/LA and NCJW Israel programs
- Determine commonalities between local and Israel programs
- Create a path of information about Israel programs
- Create fundraising opportunities for Israel programs
- Create an opportunity for NCJW/LA members to visit Israel

For more information about the Israel Committee, contact Susan Sysler at 323-852-8512 or [susan@ncjwla.org](mailto:susan@ncjwla.org).



## COUNCIL THRIFT SHOPS



Check out the new signs and newly painted white exterior walls that set off the bold blue Art Deco murals.

## Visit Our Newly Remodeled Veteran Store!

Our already fabulous flagship “Veteran” Council Thrift Shop, located at 10960 Santa Monica Blvd. at Veteran Ave. in Los Angeles, recently underwent a cosmetic facelift and emerged even more beautiful than before.

Come inside and behold the newly remodeled interior, now with new paint, a lighting upgrade, a new cash desk with new showcases, and now sporting even more racks of clothing.

Customer reactions thus far are extremely positive. Our staff welcomes your patronage.



The new counter features new showcases for jewelry.



Abundant treasures abound at this location and are just waiting to be discovered and taken home with you. Whether you are seeking jewelry, purses, designer fashions, footwear, or an object d’art, this store is now ready for your shopping pleasure.

## LETTER CORNER

### Annual Clothing Giveaway Volunteers Give Thanks

I just wanted to congratulate you on what appeared to be a very successful event. My wife and I were both so impressed and moved by the experience. We honestly felt privileged to be included and came away with such an immense appreciation for all you do. We look forward to helping again.

— Jason Shaffer,  
Senior Account Manager,  
Time Warner Cable,  
Woodland Hills

What a phenomenal event you all put together! It was absolutely amazing to see you all in action helping provide for all of those families. I had non-stop smiles thinking about all those children and how excited they were to get new clothing and books. My table in the Community Resource Fair was right at the exit so I got to see each person’s excitement as they walked away. The things we can do for this world when we all put our heads together! I had an incredible experience and can’t thank you enough for having me there!

— Emmy Forsyth, Community  
Education and Outreach  
Coordinator, Soujourn Services  
for Battered Women and Their  
Children, Santa Monica



A Clothing Giveaway visitor shows off her new stuffed animal.

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## LETTER CORNER/

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Thank you for letting me volunteer. It was amazing how wonderful the experience was. The people coming in for the clothing kept thanking us for doing this. Some of the clothing we gave away was name brand and most were beautiful and current—not old throwaways. I loved to see the kids faces light up when their mom or dad put something in the bag for them. Can't wait for next year.

— Susan Pinkus via email

What a wonderful event! I always enjoy volunteering for this very important day. NCJW/LA does just amazing, great work.

— David Kruskall,

Program Manager, JVS WHEST -  
Career Development Center,  
West Hollywood

### Dr. Seuss Day Fun for All

Thank you so much for pulling together the group of volunteers who came to read to our students on Dr. Seuss Day (March 2). The kids had a great time! The students are still requesting Dr. Seuss books when they come to the library.

— Bonnie Patterson, Library Aide,  
Laurel Span School, Los Angeles



Women Helping Children VP and volunteer Susan Isaacs reading to kids at Laurel Span School on Dr. Seuss Day

## ADVOCACY NEWS



At the February 8 community program on domestic violence, a panel of experts discussed how to strengthen the safety net for victims. Left to right: NCJW/LA Vice President of Advocacy Lee Saltz, moderator Colleen Williams of NBC4 News, Terra Slavin of LA Gay & Lesbian Center, marriage and family therapist Debi Biederman-Ash, Women Helping Women Director Ava Rose, LCSW, Patti Giggans of Peace Over Violence, victim's rights advocate and former prosecutor Robin Sax, and NCJW/LA Director of Advocacy Ruth Williams.

Our monthly Advocacy events continue to educate the community about NCJW/LA's core issues and what individuals can do to stand up for social justice and take action

A program on November 16 addressed the increase in **homeless women and children**. The speakers discussed the growing number of women returning from service in the Armed Forces who are winding up on the streets due to lack of employment or a home. Also of deep concern are women with children who are victims of domestic violence and are forced to take to the streets due to lack of shelters and economic resources. More than 125 attendees, many of whom brought bags of clothes and reading glasses for the Downtown Women's Center; walked away with the goal of making a difference.

Our annual program focusing on the **39th anniversary of Roe v Wade** was a double-header. On January 18, our esteemed panel informed us how to take action in trying to protect Roe, as Congress and the individual states pass bills with extreme measures that prevent women from accessing safe, legal abortion services. Outreach continues to the schools, where we are

educating the younger generation on the critical issue of Choice. The next night, January 19, NARAL presented a screening of the film "12th and Delaware" at Council House.

In February our focus was on our campaign against **domestic violence** in an educational program cosponsored with Women Helping Women. Victims of domestic violence face serious challenges in society. As advocates, we can help them meet these challenges by becoming aware and acknowledging domestic violence and sexual assaults as crimes. We also can help support the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and actively advocate to keep our elected officials from cutting funding for desperately needed shelters.

In a special program on March 6, we presented Shari Eshet, director of NCJW's Israel Office, addressing **women's rights in Israel** and issues related to the get.

The next Advocacy program, on May 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., will cover the "**War on Women.**" For more information, contact Ruth Williams, Director of Advocacy, at 323-852-8503 or [ruth@ncjwla.org](mailto:ruth@ncjwla.org).

## NEW MEMBERS

### Life Members

Gail Cohen  
Rabbi Denise Eger

Rosalie Lurie  
Marcia Jones

### Annual Members

Juanita Roberson-Acker  
Donna Benjamin  
Linda Berger  
Jeanne Berger  
Mayim Bialik  
Sylvia Brown  
Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik  
Paula Charlap-Hyman  
Rabbi Lindy Davidson  
Lisa Feldman  
Ronnie Fishman  
Rabbi Karen Fox  
Cantor Lonee Frailich  
Rabbi Dara Frimmer  
Fern Gold  
Mollie Harrison  
Rabbi Carla Howard  
Ellen Katzman  
Rosina Korda  
Annette Kulik  
Rabbi Susan Leider  
Elaine Lubkin

Esther Macner  
Josi Mariposa  
Rabbi Michelle Missaghieh  
Bernadette Okonkwo  
Cantor Jen Roher  
Ninette Root-Golub  
Rabbi Dalia Samansky  
Judy Shaibi  
Rabbi M. Beaumont Shapiro  
Rabbi Arinna Shelby  
Dana Solomon  
Joan Spiegel  
Gloria Shulman  
Cindy Singer  
Marlene Stein  
Julie Stern  
Karen Stigler  
Rachel Tobal  
Melanie Tucker-Rovin  
Emily Tugendhaft  
Rabbi Carrie Vogel

## CONDOLENCES

Our sincerest sympathy to the families of the following NCJW/LA members who recently passed away:

### MURIEL GOLDSMITH

A Beverly West Division member since 1996

### MIMI KAPLAN

A Life Member since 1980 and former NCJW/LA Board Member

### RAE MITCHELL

A Beverly West Division member who always attended Advocacy programs and was active in the City of West Hollywood

*May their memory be a blessing*

## 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 Susan Sysler at 323-852-8512.

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

Tax ID# 95-1641433

# TRIBUTES

National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles is grateful to all those who support our vital community services through Tributes. This is a wonderful way to honor and recognize the people in your life.

## IN MEMORY OF:

Millie Allinson's husband, Sandy

Ella Barnes  
Betty Blum  
Suzanne Buckholtz's Aunt Ruth  
Carole Carrasco-Zanini  
Howard Cayton  
Harold Cohen  
Harold Cohen  
Harold Cohen  
Harold Cohen  
Harold Cohen  
Harold Cohen  
Harold Cohen  
Harold Cohen  
Charles Curland

Mark Dick

Ethel Ellenbogen  
Ethel Ellenbogen  
Ethel Ellenbogen  
Ethel Ellenbogen  
Ethel Ellenbogen  
Ethel Ellenbogen  
Yvette Ginsberg  
Carol Goldstein's husband  
Berry Gordy's sister Esther  
Sophie Greenstadt  
Harold Grossman  
George T. Hahn  
Susan Isaac's father  
Susan Isaac's father  
Susan Isaac's father  
Susan Isaac's father  
Susan Isaac's father  
Susan Isaac's father  
Susan Isaac's father  
Susan Isaac's father  
Susan Isaac's father  
Susan Isaac's father  
Susan Isaac's father  
Susan Isaac's father  
Mimi Kaplan  
Esther Kessler  
Scott Kramer's mother  
Harvey Land  
Harvey Land  
Ruth Linden  
Ruth Linden  
Ruth Linden  
Sarah Marks  
Rae Mitchell  
Rae Mitchell  
Rae Mitchell  
Rae Mitchell  
Edward Montague  
Elana Myers  
Guy Pano  
Janice Piercy  
Janice Piercy  
Roberta Sewal Peters  
Sylvia Rosenberg  
Marcia Rothman  
Shirley Schalman  
Shirley Schalman  
Muriel Stone  
Trinidad Angeles De Suarez  
Trinidad Angeles De Suarez  
Fran Teller  
Fran Teller  
Fran Teller

## FROM:

Sylvia Schulman, Samuel Schulman  
Scholarship Fund  
Stephen Teller  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff  
Joan Lissauer and Carole Sackley  
Eleanor Crane  
Arlene Aronson and Family  
Sandra Cantrell  
Jean Ernstein  
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Tina Orkin  
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Sofiya Dubinsky  
Cipra Nemeth  
Merle Siegel  
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Susan Isaacs  
Catherine and Paul Bull  
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Alice Schoenwald  
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Selma Baraz  
Jeanette Litt  
Crystal McCall  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff  
Hillary Selvin  
Rachel Andres  
Sally Assin  
Carol and Lawrence Reich

## IN MEMORY OF:

Fran Teller  
Fran Teller  
Faye Wallace  
Faye Wallace  
Esther Waxman  
Jane Wayne  
Anna Webb

## IN HONOR OF:

Dr. Clarence Agress

Janet Agron  
Millie Allinson

Mrs. Adrienne Berman

Marilyn Bigman  
Philip Bowers

Shirley Cohen  
Dr. Francis Dann

Rabbi Denise Eger  
David Feldman

Dr. Edward Feldman

Diane and Guil Glazer  
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Lenore Machanic  
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Cipra Nemeth  
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C. Jean Pearlstein  
C. Jean Pearlstein  
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Molly Weintraub  
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Sharon and Alan Weiss  
Sally Wilk  
Donna Woolever

## GET WELL:

Bonnie Anderson  
Shirley Cohen  
Arline Colton  
Ellie Goldstein  
Ellie Goldstein  
Elaine Jacobs  
Josette Parks  
Robert Uhl

Toby Weston  
Rachel Wolff

## FROM:

Linda and Robert Lawrence  
Sandra Singer  
Leonard Hyman  
Susan Nodar  
Henry and Janet Waxman  
Arthur and Anita Aratow  
Sam and Charlotte Sinay

## FROM:

Sylvia Schulman, Samuel Schulman  
Scholarship Fund  
Brenda Brams  
Sylvia Schulman, Samuel Schulman  
Scholarship Fund  
Sylvia Schulman, Susan Schulman Begley  
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Dana Bigman  
Sylvia Schulman, Samuel Schulman  
Scholarship Fund  
Vista Val Board  
Sylvia Schulman, Samuel Schulman  
Scholarship Fund  
Joanne Singer  
Sylvia Schulman, Samuel Schulman  
Scholarship Fund  
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Eve Marsh  
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Larry and Jeanne Greene  
Adrienne and Bob Ross  
Renne Bainvoll  
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Beverly Mushinsky  
Dianne Shershow  
Ruth Williams  
Carol Flynn  
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Adele Pearlstein, Bill Gordon  
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Adrienne and Jack Kirschenbaum  
Amy Straus  
Marilyn Rafkin  
NCJW/LA Board, Staff, and Volunteers  
Anita and Arthur Aratow  
Susan Sysler  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff  
NCJW/LA Women Making A Difference  
Peggy Schwartz  
Patricia Pappler

## FROM:

Amy Straus  
Vista Val Board  
Vista Val Board  
Arthur and Anita Aratow  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff  
NCJW/LA & Council Thrift Staff  
Sylvia Schulman, Samuel Schulman  
Scholarship Fund  
Vista Val Board  
Vista Val Board

Commemorate a celebration, landmark, or memorial with a tax-deductible gift.

To send a Tribute, please call 323-852-8518 or visit [www.ncjwla.org/support-us/tributes](http://www.ncjwla.org/support-us/tributes).