

Your Invitation

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

Greater Kansas City Section

and

Liz Claiborne, Inc.

are pleased to bring you

ROSALIND WISEMAN

author of

*Queen Bees and Wannabes: Helping Your Daughter
Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boyfriends,
and Other Realities of Adolescence*

JOIN US FOR A FASHION SHOW AND BOX LUNCH

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2002

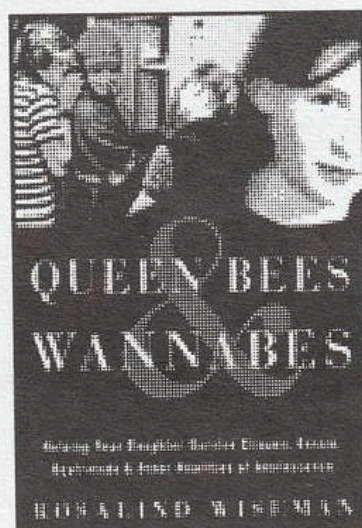
12:00 NOON

THE JONES STORE

METCALF SOUTH (*Upper Level Mall*)

MEET ROSALIND WISEMAN AS SHE GIVES US INSIGHT
INTO

"RELATIONAL AGGRESSION"



To make your reservation send a \$10.⁰⁰ check to:

NCJW

**5750 WEST 95th STREET, SUITE 118,
SHAWNEE MISSION, KS 66207**

by FRIDAY, MAY 3

**Volunteers are
Special
People**

Please call the office if you have the current address for the members listed below:

*Jan Ashberg
*Jean Baum
*Frieda Caplan
*Vicki Fuchs
*Betsy Green
*Myra Jagoda
*Ida Adele Pesmen
Kay Slabotsky.

**National Council
of Jewish Women**

NCJW

GREATER KANSAS CITY SECTION

NEW MEMBERS

Gail Lozoff

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS TO
THE SECTION**

*Marilyn Breman
*Maria Brockman
*Tamara Stein

DEATHS

Irving Achtenberg
Katherine Rieger – Past
President 1945-47

**National Council
of Jewish Women**

NCJW

KC Bulletin

GREATER KANSAS CITY SECTION • SPRING 2002

As you can see from the programs and community service projects featured in this issue as well as the past two Bulletins, NCJW has been very busy helping women, children and families.

In December, NCJW was the recipient of over 6,000 children's books which were given to our adopted school M. E. Pearson, as well as Central Middle School, K.C., KS, Paul Robeson Middle School and University Academy, K.C., MO. What a thrill it was to be a part of this incredible giveaway!

Please mark your calendar for June 9, 2002, 7:00 PM and plan to attend a very important Section program at Congregation Beth Torah. At this event we will be presenting the Hannah G. Solomon Award to Betty Barnett; Gloria Goodfriend will receive the Service to Section Award; Paulette Giarratana and Barbara Warady will receive the Emerging Leader Award; and Rosanne Rosen will receive the Jennie Levitt Leadership Award. Marsha Atkind, the new National NCJW President, will be the keynote speaker.

Begin to save your nearly new items, on hangers, as Thriftique will take place again in October. Also, consider volunteering to be a part of Thriftique.

I'd like to take just a moment to express my tremendous appreciation and thanks to our wonderful Board—Dierdre Baker, Cathy Boyer-Shesol, Paulette Giarratana, Berenice Haberman, Julie Hakan, Barbara Holzmark, Naomi Kauffman, Symie Menitove, Eileen Sherman, Merna Siegler, Sonny Singer, and Barbara Warady. None of the events or community service projects that take place throughout the year would be possible without their efforts and support. Thanks for all your hard work!

In the very near future, you will be receiving your invitation to this year's "Lite Up a Life" Campaign (this replaces our annual Stay at Home Ball). We must raise the funds needed to continue NCJW's presence in our community. Our projects give hope to women, children and families. Please send your contribution now! Your generosity will make a difference.

Please consider volunteering on one of our many worthwhile projects.

Ellen Dalen

**Add your name to the list of those who have kicked off the
LITE UP A LIFE CAMPAIGN**

\$1,000-\$1,499

Dierdre Baker
Chaykin Family Charitable Fund
Karin Golden
Louis and Dorothy Cumonow Foundation/Lois Winston

\$500-\$999

Cathy Boyer-Shesol
Eileen Sherman
Symie Menitove

\$100-\$249

Ellen Dalen
Naomi Kauffman
Berenice Haberman
Merna Siegler

to \$99

Barbara Holzmark
Sonny Singer

Local Section Community Service Projects

Parties for the Blind Update

Seventy guests and 20 volunteers attended December's Party, sponsored by Shirley and Barnett Helzberg. Guest Norman Yale, an accomplished musician, presented a holiday program involving three other guests. In May, his talent show will include many more.

Guests were thrilled with their holiday gift bags which included Land's End scarves, Bear Creek Soup Mixes, a cash gift from the Helzbergs and Sherri Seligson's delicious homemade pumpkin bread. Local and national corporations contributed door prizes including Einstein's bagels, Price Chopper fruit baskets and a Sharper Image Sound Soother. NCJW members Mark and Roni Beshears donated fruit baskets and Arnold and Merle Cole donated popcorn tins. Shirley Brocaw of Alphapointe donated a set of mugs and hot chocolate. We appreciate everyone's generosity.

"Providing a day out, establishing networking opportunities, and encouraging self-reliance are the goals for Parties for the Blind," remarked Symie Menitove, chair of our longest running Section project. "We want to put



(l-r) Elaine Johnson, Debbie Plumlee, Norman Yale and David Plumlee entertain guests with songs of the season at the December Party

the guests in charge. We are looking for ways for them to assume responsibility for food, entertainment and door prizes." This year, "table captains" are responsible for reporting news of tablemates, welcoming new guests and introducing the entertainers.

The March party was sponsored by the Alphapointe Association for the Blind; the April party will be sponsored by Ron and Dierdre Baker and Bertha Silberg; and the May party will be sponsored by the Beth Shalom Sisterhood. All 2001-2002 parties received additional support from the

Beth Lyon's bequest to Parties for the Blind.

We are grateful to Alphapointe Association for the Blind for coordinating transportation. Both Alphapointe and NCJW are looking for volunteer drivers. There is a list of potential guests waiting for drivers.



Gloria Goodfriend helps a guest

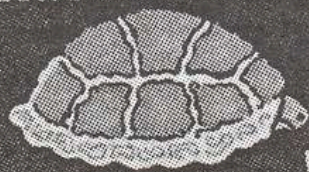
Any NCJW member is welcome to attend a Party. Sponsorships and co-sponsorships are needed for 2002-2003. For more information about Parties for the Blind, call Symie Menitove at (816) 523 2933.



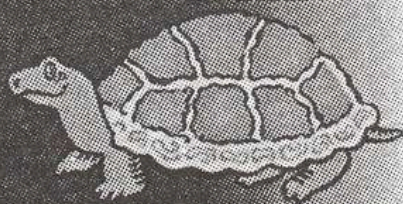
NCJW BOOK

Temple B'nai Jehudah and National Council of Jewish Women will co-sponsor a monthly Book Talk on Monday, April 15th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Temple's Learning Center. This month's book is *Isaac Stern: My first 79 Years* by Chiam Potok. Bring a sack lunch and Temple will provide coffee and tea. Miriam Pittel is the chairperson. For reservations call 816.363.1050, ext. 204.

Have no fear...



volunteer!



*Come out and meet life head on.
You have a lot to offer; your time
and talent, skills and experience,
energy and enthusiasm!
Pick a project and get involved.
You'll be glad you did,
and so will we.*

MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN M. E. PEARSON

Through the generosity of our members and Shawnee Mission Northwest CCC (Concerned Cougars in the Community), NCJW was able to adopt 183 students for the holidays. The Angel Project was a part of Kids and Teachers=Schools (KATS). Our members are already asking about being included in next year's Angels Project. As you can see from the thank yous from the Principal and the students, they are very grateful. For many, this is the only gift they get for the holidays.

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ANGEL PROJECT



December 21, 2001

To: All Sponsors of the M. E. Pearson Elementary School Angel Project

From: Mrs. Jean E. Henderson, Principal

The joy that you brought to the students at our school cannot be described in words. We are so appreciative of your kindness and thoughtfulness. Because of your generosity, all 743 students will receive a gift from Santa Clause. We are grateful that you were involved in contributing to the happiness of many children who possibly would not have anything for Christmas. May progress, success, and blessings come to your staff for your heartfelt contributions? Again, I say THANK YOU!!!!

The children are going to get their presents on Friday December 21, 2001. They will write thank you notes, when they come back from their winter break, which will be Wednesday January 2, 2002.

YOU ARE APPRECIATED!!!

Sincerely yours,

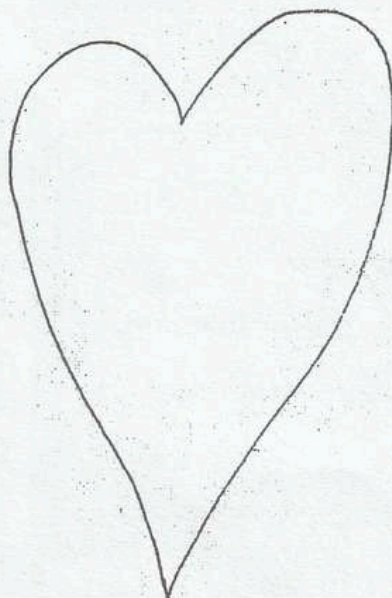
Jean E. Henderson
Jean E. Henderson, Principal

Dear Jewish Women,

Thanks for the present, the roller blade was to big though but who cares. Cause I've got wanted.

I'm definitely gonna enjoy riding it in the summer time, only if I don't have time because I might get bible school or summer school but I hope I don't get any. But thanks anyway. SEE YA!!

Sincerely
mkiei

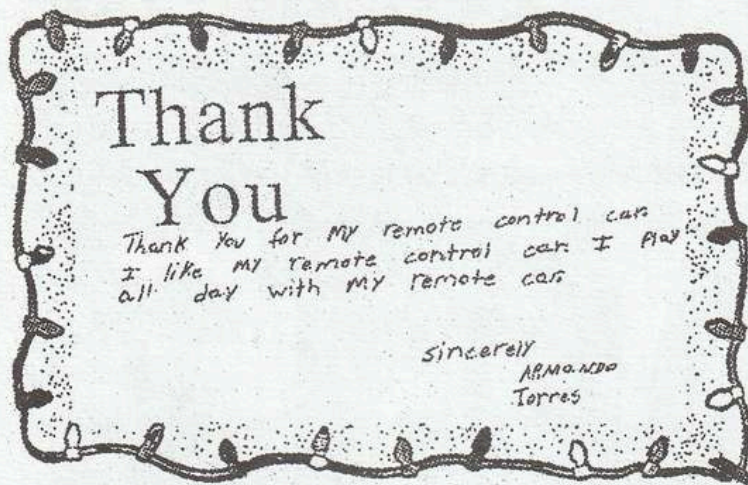


Dear christmas Angle,
I want to thank you
for my CD Player I
play it all the time
I listen to song on it
these are some of the songs
I listen to on it,
monica mya pink 31w that
IS all That I listen
to Thank you.

Talisha cooper

Grade 5th

class Miss Nourven

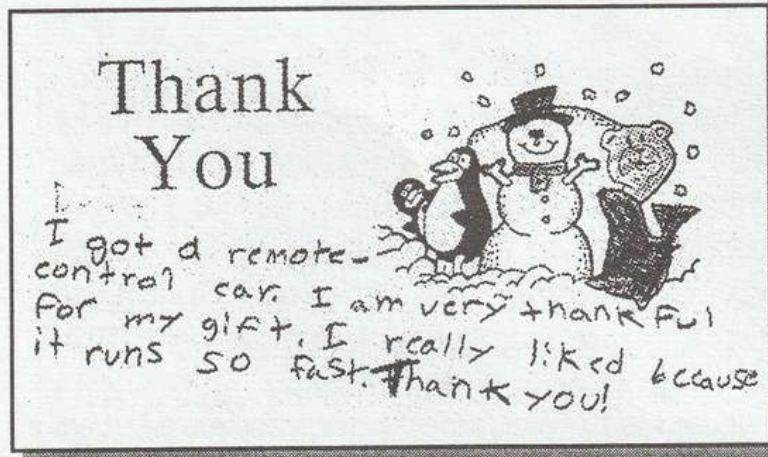


National Council of Jewish Women is THE BOMB!!!

Dear National Council of Jewish Women,

Thank you very much for the present you gave me. I enjoy the cd player. I always listen to it. Thank you very very very much for the presents. Have fun. Thank you very much!!!

always,
 Jhar Zing
 Luis Angel
 Young



Alfredo Rivas Jan 12/2002
 ME Pearson Grade 2

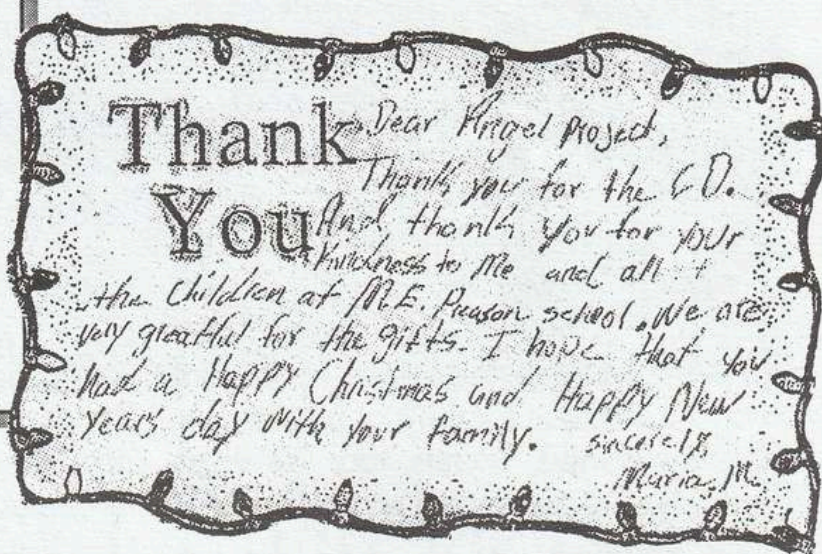


Thank You for the C.D. Player. I really like it. I got alot of C.D.s. I always listen to my C.D. on my C.D. player. I listen to it while I do my homework. I really like it alot. Thank You.

Love,
 Melinda

Dear Secret Angel Thank you for the legs that you gave me. I really enjoy it. I made the airplane and played with the airplane a lot and then I dropped it and then I build it again and some peases were missing so I found it and I had a very good Christmas your friend: Alfredo

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Dear Sir or Madam: January 7 2002
 Thank you for the Barbie for Christmas. I play with the Barbie on Christmas. I like the Barbie a lot.



Your Friend,
 QUECALLY NAVA

Dear angel pal
 Thank you for the N*SYNC C.D.
 I listen to it alot, I listen to it so much that the batteries on my c.d. player ran out but I'm going to buy some new batteries so I can listen to it again because I really want to listen to it.
 love margie

BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT M. E. PEARSON

NCJW, through a collaboration with Shawnee Mission East *SHARE* (Students Helping in Areas Related to Education) have sponsored 5 parties and given out over 400 birthday books. Two of the East students, Birthday Party Chairman, Kathleen Carey, and committee member, Jake Hiersteiner, have written their senior essays on experiences at Pearson. As you can see from their essays, NCJW and Pearson have had an impact on their lives. There are 3 more parties scheduled for this school year.

Personal Statement

- By Kathleen Carey

Community Service has always been a vital aspect of my life. I was raised with the belief that I should always help those less fortunate than me. After volunteering in many different activities, I realized that I like helping children the most. Not only are they innocent, but I feel like my helping them will actually have an impact on their lives. There are many children in the world today who don't have positive role models and when I work with them, I feel like I am helping them want to grow up and do something with themselves. Volunteering has taught me some of the most valuable lessons in life.

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I am a chairperson of a community service project called the Birthday Party, where my fellow classmates and I visit a school in the low-income suburbs of downtown Kansas City, Kansas. At this school, more than ninety-seven percent of the kids receive food stamps, where often the meal they are served at lunch is the only thing they will eat all day long. Once a month, I organize a group of students from my school to visit the school and eat lunch with the kids that have their birthdays in that particular month. We decorate the lunch table and eat with the kids. When they are through with their meal, each child receives a new book, along with a cupcake and a bag of goodies, including bookmarks, stickers, and small toys, all of



which have been donated. I feel a tremendous amount of gratitude when the children's eyes light up at the sight of their new presents, for too often this is the only birthday present they will receive. We give them books to promote literacy and the sad fact is that it may be the only book they will ever own. It makes me feel so good about myself when the children give me big hugs, because I know that they really appreciate what we are doing for them.

Volunteering has taught me many valuable lessons, maybe even more than I have learned from books. It has taught me about myself and made me very aware about how fortunate I am. Many times when I am feeling bad or stressed out, I know that I am in a better situation than a lot of other people. When I realize this, it makes me want to go out and help people and give them a chance that they normally wouldn't have.

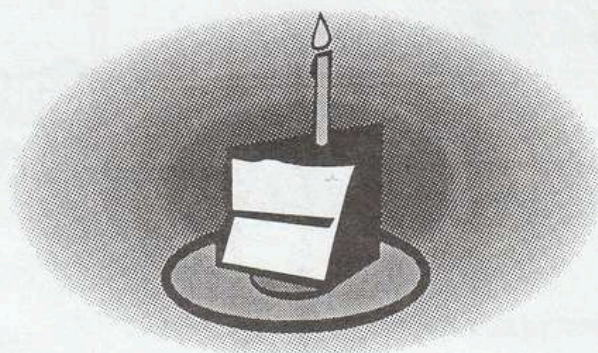
GERARDO

- By Jake Hiersteiner

I've always known that I was a fortunate kid. I've always known that I had been blessed with unlimited resources and opportunities that were all but laid in front of me for me to choose. Sure, my parents required me to have a part-time job to help pay for extras. This was the situation for most of my Johnson County, Kansas, friends, too. We pretty much had all we wanted and needed, and then some.

The strange thing is that I had never realized that there were those so needy so close to home. Now I do.

M. E. Pearson is an elementary school in the Kansas City, Kansas, School District, located in the low-income suburbs of my hometown. I was invited to participate in a community service program that organizes a monthly retreat to this school to throw a birthday



party for all students that had their birthdays that month. I went into this indifferently, and come out of it with a different mindset.

When the seven of us arrived at the school, we were greeted by the principal and escorted to the lunchroom to help with the festivities. I glanced around, rarely finding a white face among the group of 25 kindergartners bustling excitedly, eagerly awaiting their meals. Most of the children were African American or Hispanic. Many of them looked disheveled, some with dirty clothes, uncombed hair, and untied shoes.

The lack of white children was something that I wasn't expecting. This was Kansas! Everyone was white, well-fed, and prosperous, or so the image goes. There were not supposed to be impoverished minorities - especially children - in our metropolitan area. I had expected to walk into my own elementary school lunchroom experience-happy, healthy, relaxed, orderly. Instead, here was a group of children feverishly attacking their meals as if it was the only one they were to have that day. Unfortunately, for many of them, it was.

The community service program in which I participated was a project sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, and there just happened to be a member on hand to work with us at the school. As we laid out the treats and presents for the birthday celebration, amidst the noise and frenzy, I managed to engage her in conversation and

continued on page 9

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In December, you should have received a letter asking you to place the enclosed sticker on the back of a bathroom door. We hope that you did just that and that this number is available for those in need. If you would like additional stickers, please call the NCJW office at 913.648.0747. Help NCJW make a difference.



Dear NCJW Members,

Congratulations to our Greater Kansas City Section for their continued support of the Kansas Silent Witness Project, and their commitment to bring awareness of domestic violence to the Jewish Community through their programming.

In February just before I convened a meeting of SAFEHOME's Jewish Community Outreach Program's Advisory Board and concerned volunteers to inform them that the program did not receive funding for 2002, I received a remarkable guide in the mail from another Jewish women's international organization. It lists two pages of Jewish National resources for domestic and sexual abuse; three pages for secular National Resources for domestic and sexual abuse. Over the next several pages it lists the Jewish Resources by state. 88 agencies exist in 24 states that provide resources on domestic abuse to Jewish communities. Some of these are shelters; others are counseling offices. Naturally the cities with larger Jewish populations have more, i.e. New York City "boasts" 27! This guide also includes agencies in several providences in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Israel (24!), and then the next few pages list national and international resources for agunot organizations. In all honesty, there could be additional,

operating programs, but because one simply didn't know the other wanted the information, it's not included in the guide.

Why am I giving you these statistics? In the major, Jewish, populated cities, programs exist to help women and children affected by domestic abuse. In the 30 years I've lived in the Kansas City metropolitan area, I've seen remarkable programs start in our Jewish Community, receive awards, and touch the rest of the nation. Visionaries feel the pulse of the community and try to pre-empt problems, or address challenges as soon as they arise. SAFEHOME succeeded in the education of our community over the past three years about the prevalence of domestic abuse through Chronicle articles, and organizational presentations. My request now goes out to those people who heard the presentations and know about SAFEHOME's resources. Be our ambassadors and pass along the resource information to any one you think may need it. This will be an important method of keeping SAFEHOME's name out in the community.

Susan Lebovitz

Jewish Community Outreach Program Coordinator, SAFEHOME

Luggage For Freedom

Luggage for Freedom was begun as a new Section project in the last *Bulletin*. Women and children leave domestic shelters with their personal belongings in trash bags. Please donate your nearly new luggage and backpacks so that these women and children can leave with dignity. Luggage may be dropped off at the NCJW office, 5750 W. 95th Street, Suite 118, M-TH between 9:00 to 2:30 p.m. For more information call 913.648.0747.



NCJW

is a volunteer organization inspired by Jewish values, that works through a program of research, education, advocacy and community service to improve the quality of life for women, children and families and strives to ensure individual rights and freedoms for all.

Save the Date:
June 9, 2002

7:00 P.M.
CONGREGATION
BETH TORAH
NCJW AWARDS PROGRAM

NCJW Collaborates with Verizon Wireless on HopeLine

NCJW will begin collecting used cell phones to be refurbished by Verizon Wireless and returned to domestic violence shelters.

Verizon Wireless embraces a philosophy of commitment to the community and to the workplace. Through its HopeLine program, the company focuses primarily on putting wireless products and services to work to combat domestic violence. The company understands that domestic violence is an epidemic that devastates neighbors, friends and co-workers. As such, it

dedicates its resources to both the prevention of domestic violence and the life rebuilding process. Year to date, Verizon Wireless has donated more than 3,000 wireless phones in addition to airtime, and more than \$350,000 in monetary and other contributions to domestic violence shelters and prevention programs across the country.

NCJW as part of HopeLine will collect phones that are no longer being used. The used phones are either refurbished and recycled, or sold. With the funds raised from the sale of the refurbished phones, Verizon Wireless purchases wireless phones and donates airtime to domestic violence victims through human services and law enforcement

agencies.

For more information, go to. If you have a phone to donate, please drop it off at the NCJW office, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 2:30. For more information call the office at 913.648.0747.



Are you tired of making excuses for him?



Let each one feel the weight before it was not intended. Today you can turn a life
Why should there be a new time?
In, not alone, but for you?
Talk to your health care provider. We can help.

Volunteer At Thriftique and Be Eligible to Win A Fabulous Prize

8 Each time you volunteer at Thriftique, your name will be entered in a special drawing for a prize to be awarded at the end of the sale. The more you volunteer, the more chances you have of winning.

THRIFTIQUE 2002!! OCTOBER 2002!!

Please begin saving your nearly new, gently worn clothing "on hangers" and household goods for Thriftique 2002. Get your 2002 tax deductions just in time for the end of the year. National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) and Symphony Women's Association (SWA) will join forces once again to raise funds for NCJW Community Service Projects and SWA's contribution to the Kansas City Symphony.

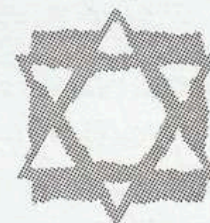
Thriftique replaces the "Council Thrift Shop" and the "Second Fiddle" Thrift Shop. October is the target date for Thriftique; therefore, we **WILL NOT** be collecting items until late August, early September. So, please keep them "on hangers" until we are ready with a drop off location.

To donate an estate, to become involved, or for questions, please call the NCJW office, 913.648.0747, or the Symphony office, 816.471.1100.

What is no longer "Becoming to You" should "Be Coming to Thriftique."



NCJW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The scholarship fund was established over 60 years ago and the Greater Kansas City Section contributed annually to the program. At the present time, the scholarship program continues on and helps many young men and women realize their scholarship ambitions.

The Section is no longer able to contribute financially to the scholarships, but helps with the administration of the program. All of the financial support comes from the generous contributions of the members and their families. Special Name Scholarships and Memorials have been established in memory

of former NCJW members by their families.

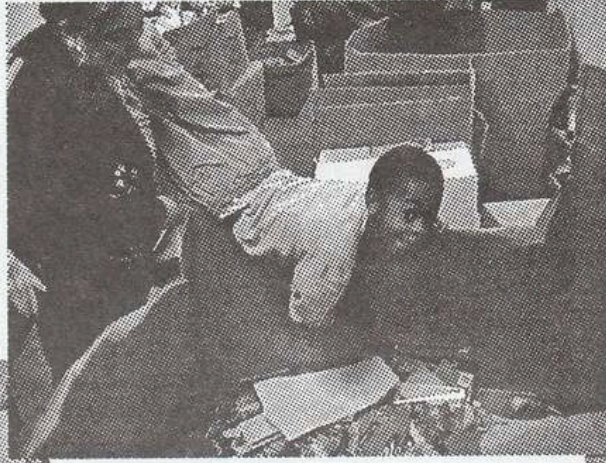
Just recently bequests were made in memory of Irving Achtenberg to the Gail Achtenberg Scholarship Fund and Jane Weinberg to the Charles Levy, Jr. Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Committee would like to thank these families and all the other members, families and friends who help us continue our worthwhile scholarship program.

We encourage all members to be a part of the scholarship committee.

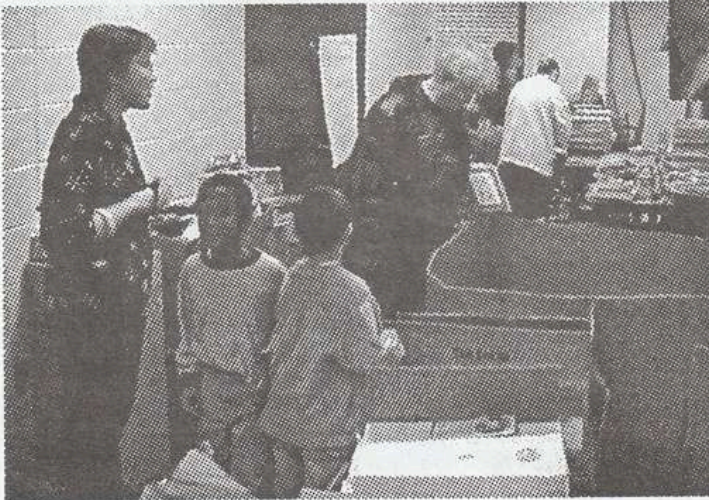
Rosalyn Jacobson, Scholarship Chair

NCJW RECEIVES CHILDREN'S BOOKS

NCJW, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, was able to give over 6,000 books to the following schools: M.E. Pearson and Central Middle School, Kansas City, KS, and Paul Robeson Middle School and University Academy, Kansas City, MO. The look of appreciation on the teachers' faces as they gathered books for their classrooms and then from the students as they were able to pick their books of choice was one of sincere gratitude. Getting this many wonderful books at one time was incredible.



Heather McKinley, kindergarten teacher at Pearson, tells us that the books students are getting as a result of NCJW's efforts have had a direct impact on the students. All of her kindergartners are reading.



"NEVER DOUBT THAT
A SMALL GROUP OF
THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED
CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE
WORLD; INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY
THING THAT EVER HAS."
- MARGARET MEAD



KIDS AND TEACHERS=SCHOOL

NEEDS NEW

BOYS' AND GIRLS' UNDERWEAR

SIZES 6-12

DROP OFF AT THE NCJW OFFICE

5750 W. 95TH STREET, SUITE 118

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 913.648.0747

GERARDO *continued from page 6*

consequently found out some startling information. Ninety to ninety-five percent of these kids were on reduced price, or free meal plans. For seventy percent of them, English was the second language. This meant that many of their parents did not speak English. I was astonished. This school was within a fifteen-minute drive from my neighborhood. Way too close to be true. I found out that the books that we were giving these children for their birthdays were many times the only presents that they would receive, not to mention the only personal books they may ever own. I sat down with one of them to find out more.

"What's your name?"

"Gerardo."

"What's up Gerardo? I'm Jake. When's your birthday?"

"I have three birthdays."

"You have three birthdays? I'm amazed!"

"It's true, Mama says that me and my brothers' birthdays are all the same, so I

have three birthdays cuz I have two brothers and me, that's three."

"Really? That's cool! I wish I had three birthdays. But I think you're putting me on. When's your own birthday? I mean the day you were born."

"You really wanna know?"

"Yeah."

"It's today, I think! When I came to class today, Ms. Johnson told the class it was my birthday and gave me this hat. See?"

"That's awesome!" Well, I gotta help out with the party. Catch you later!"

I was perplexed. In my home, my father always had a giant breakfast waiting for me when I emerged from my bedroom on December fourth, but Gerardo didn't have a clue until he reached school. This was his reality, a birthday that was seemingly forgotten by his own parents. Then I got to thinking.

What would it be like to have a child and never be able to give him a present on his birthday? What would it be like to

have to struggle to even put food on the table? I came to the conclusion that many of these unthinkable burdens would be impossible to bear, and, yet, the parents of these children were pulling it off. The kids were happy with what they had, one aspect of their lives that I was extremely envious of. I want to want nothing more. Material things are so important to me and my middle-class peers, and I'm sure that these kids would give anything to be me.

At that moment, I realized I had been living in a fantasy world, and that I had better appreciate and take advantage of everything I could because, I can.

Community service, to some kids, is an item for a resume, an opportunity to miss third hour History class. To me, working with people with problems may just be my calling. The helping profession may just be my niche. That day at M. E. Pearson was a day of gift-giving. But the process went both ways.



Greater Kansas City Section Delegates Attend NCJW National Convention

Every three years, NCJW members from all over the country gather together to review, alter and reaffirm the principles that have helped guide NCJW Sections for over a century. Convention delegates determine the future of NCJW's programs through their decisions and votes on Resolutions, Bylaws, Budget and the election of National officers and Board members. These decisions determine the future of our organization.

Through a generous contribution from Dorothy Rosenwald, long time Section member and Honorary National Vice President, four Section members attended the 2002 National Convention in Los Angeles, March 13-16. Our Section's delegation was comprised of Cathy Boyer-Shesol, Ellen Dalen, Berenice Haberman and Barbara Holzmark.

Marsha Atkind Installed as National President

10 Marsha Atkind was installed as National President of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) for the 2002-2005 triennium at the NCJW National Convention which was held in Los Angeles, March 13-16. Marsha's involvement in NCJW began 23 years ago when, like so many young women, she joined NCJW to become involved in her community and to meet other women with like interests.

Marsha's dynamic leadership skills and winning ways with people became clear as she rose through the ranks of the West Essex Division to become its President. Then, it was on to the Essex County Section Executive Committee where she served as Vice President for two years and President for an unprecedented term of three years. After her term as president, Marsha's involvement remained constant. She became *Bulletin* editor for four years and became involved in the Teen Dating Violence Program where she currently serves as a trainer and supervisor.

In 1993, Marsha was elected to the NCJW National Board and was the National Treasurer/Finance Committee Chairwoman from 1996-99. She has served a three-year term as Vice President and as Chairwoman of both the NCJW Journal Editorial Board and the investment sub-committee. Marsha also served as Chairwoman of The Washington Institute 2001, NCJW's premier triennial public policy conference. She previously served as Vice Chair of Membership and as a Section Commissioner for Large/Large Sections. In addition, she was Chair of the 1998 sub-committee on Membership By-Laws Revisions and Chair of the 1997-98 National Priorities Committee and was active on the Parents as School Partners Task Force and the

National Program Support Committee. Marsha's skill as a trainer has become widely known as she has traveled extensively throughout the country, assisting NCJW sections wherever she could.

In addition to Marsha's significant involvement with NCJW, she is President of the Board of the *New Jersey*

Jewish News and serves on the Advisory Board of the Essex County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) project. She has also been a Vice President and chair of the Religious School Committee of Temple Sholom of West Essex. In 1995, she served on the planning committee of the New Jersey Governor's Conference on Volunteerism, where she trained non-profit administrators on improving volunteer involvement and retention.

Ms. Atkind received her B.A. in English from the University of Pennsylvania and worked for several years as a paralegal. Her son, Russ, teaches high school computer science at Packer Collegiate Institute in New York.



"The first step toward liberation for any group is to use the power in hand . . .

And the power in hand is vote."

Politician/actress/singer

*Helen Gahagan Douglas in
The Girls' book of Wisdom*

BenchMark: NCJW's Campaign to Save Roe



In its historic 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling, the Supreme court affirmed the constitutional right to abortion, and in the 29 years since, the Supreme Court has chipped away at that right. Likely vacancies on the Court make the right to choose very vulnerable. Over the next few years more than 30 percent of federal appeals court seats and, very likely, some supreme court seats will become available to life-time appointees. NCJW is committed to ensuring that the judges who fill these positions hold firm to the constitutional principles so essential to maintaining our democratic way of life. BenchMark: NCJW's Campaign to Save Roe is a campaign to educate and mobilize NCJW members and the larger Jewish community to advocate for a federal judiciary that will protect fundamental freedoms such as a woman's right to choose.

Officially launched with the Roe Anniversary Call-in Day on January 22, 2002, the campaign mixes grassroots and national efforts to share information and opinions with US Senators as they "advise and consent" in all federal judicial nominations.

NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program and Forum at Tel Aviv University



When it officially opened on October 21, 2001, the NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University became the first bachelor's degree-granting program of its kind in the Middle East. This event not only marked the start of a new program, but also a significant change in the status of women in western society in general, and in the State of Israel in particular.

Using an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research, the program stresses critical analysis of the role of women and other minorities in institutions of all kinds, public and private. The program includes over 100 courses from the faculties of Law, Humanities, Art, and the Social Sciences. Fifty students, including ten men, have enrolled in the degree program for this term, and the first degrees will be granted Summer 2004.

The National Council of Jewish Women endowment provides for the degree-granting program and its complement, the Women Studies Forum, a voluntary group of faculty, who, since 1986, have advanced research and analysis in feminist studies while offering courses, public conferences, and community services.

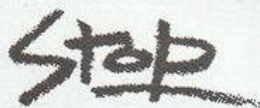
State Public Affairs Network



Specially trained volunteer advocates in 25 states form the NCJW State Public Affairs (SPA) network. The advocates represent NCJW on public policy issues in their state capitals and serve as key contacts on federal legislative issues. Using a variety of communication networks, including e-mail, fax, and telephone trees, SPAs organize State Legislative Days in their state capitals to bring NCJW members and state lawmakers and officials together to share information and opinions about issues. Whether fighting an anti-affirmative action ballot initiative in Washington state, or successfully protecting reproductive health services threatened by a hospital merger in Florida, these activists take the lead on the issues of concern to NCJW.

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Strategies to Prevent Domestic Violence (StoP)



NCJW's leadership in domestic violence prevention is recognized locally and nationally through StoP, a national program that incorporates education, community action, advocacy, and training. Through this program NCJW Sections plan and run Court Watch programs; educate parents, teens and school systems about teen dating violence; and participate in the Silent Witness and Clothesline projects. In the StoP Watch newsletter, NCJW Sections share information about their domestic violence prevention programs and learn about national advocacy efforts. On the national level, NCJW issues e-mail Action Alerts, and press releases, work with and builds coalitions, publishes StoP watch newsletters, and monitors federal legislation.

Yad B'Yad



To meet the changing needs of at-risk Israeli women, children and families, the National Council of Jewish Women launched Yad B'Yad - Hand in Hand with Israel. Through this program, NCJW provides grants to Israeli organizations serving the Jewish, Arab, Bedouin, and new immigrant sectors of the population. The grants, which range from \$2,500. to \$10,000, fund literacy, childhood development, and enrichment programs for women, children, and families in need. Programs funded by NCJW provide books, computers, and other educational materials to children and youth at risk.

NCJW Child Care Initiative



NCJW's National Child Care Initiative highlights the problems surrounding child care and helps work towards a resolution of these issues. A cornerstone of this effort is NCJW's report, *Opening a New Window on Child Care*, a comprehensive look at the current state of child care. Compiled from information provided by the leading experts in the child care field, the report updates NCJW's acclaimed 1972 study, *Windows on Day Care*, which first brought the child care crisis to light and spurred landmark child care legislation. Since its debut in February 2000, over 15,000 reports have reached opinion makers, grassroots leaders, and parents. More than 100 prominent signatories have endorsed the NCJW Child Care Statement of Principals, the campaign's call to action.

Through national advocacy and grassroots mobilization, NCJW has reinvigorated both the national discussion and local initiatives. NCJW communities across the country have been working with local child care organizations and elected officials to ensure quality, affordable child care for all. Most recently, NCJW has developed a Grassroots Action Kit, available to the public, to encourage widespread community action on local, state, and federal levels.

NCJW effects positive social change through these innovative programs in the United States and abroad. These initiatives support NCJW's mission of improving the quality of life for women, children, and families, and ensuring individual rights and freedoms for all.



Contributions:

Contributions to the NCJW, Greater Kansas City Section are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. To commemorate all occasions, remember NCJW's Philanthropies. \$5 minimum. Contributions through March 18, 2002.

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Linda at: ncjwkc@swbell.net with any prospective names, and we will send them pertinent information on NCJW. Each one of us can be an ambassador.

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If you'd like to be reminded of advocacy and upcoming NJCW events via e-mail, send a message with your e-mail address to

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Shawnee Msn, KS 66214-3009

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U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
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Published by the
Greater Kansas City Section
National Council of Jewish Women
5750 W. 95th Street, Suite 118
Shawnee Mission, KS 66207
913.648.0747
E-mail: ncjwkc@swbell.net
President
Ellen Dalen
Administrative Assistant
Linda Kelley
The Bulletin is funded through a grant
by the Jewish Heritage Foundation
Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 2:30 pm

KC Bulletin

GREATER KANSAS CITY SECTION

SPRING 2002

National Council
of Jewish Women
NCJW