

We thank our Interfaith Luncheon Table Hosts

Meg Adler
Cathy Boyer-Shesol
Marilyn Cohen
Ellen Dalen
Susie Forker
Kathy Geller
Patty Gilgus
Barbara Holzmark
Trudy Jacobson
Sheryl Kaplan
Stephanie Kavanaugh
Vicky Kulikov
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Beti Moskowitz
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Sue Stonefield
Donna Thalblum
Christian Church of
Greater Kansas City
Community Christian Church
Crescent Peace Society
Festival of Faiths
Jewish Community Relations Bu-
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Lenexa United Methodist Church
MAINstream Coalition
Notre Dame de Sion
Panel of American Women
Seigfried, Bingham Law Firm
Village Presbyterian Church
Women's Division of
Jewish Federation

335 Attend 6th Annual Interfaith Luncheon



Interfaith Luncheon Committee and Speakers

Back row (from left): Co-Chair Patty Gilgus, Rabbi Jonathan Rudnick, Dianne Cleaver, Reverend Dr. Heather Entrekin, Elizabeth Alex;
Front row (from left): Co-Chair Ellen Portnoy, Rabbi Vered Harris, Shaheen Ahmed, M.D. Not pictured, Co-Chair Beti Moskowitz.

Three hundred thirty five people attended the sixth annual NCJW Interfaith Luncheon, *Healing in a Fractured World through Spirituality*. The luncheon was held at the Overland Park Marriott on February 26. The panelists included **Shaheen Ahmed M.D.**, pathologist and treasurer of the Crescent Peace Society; **Reverend Dr. Heather Entrekin**, Senior Pastor, Prairie Baptist Church and **Rabbi Jonathan Rudnick**, Jewish Community Chaplain and Vice President of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City. NBC Action News Anchor **Elizabeth Alex** moderated the program.

The discussion covered such topics as peace in the Middle East, the importance of forgiveness and how individuals can make the world a better place. The dialogue pointed to more similarities than differences among the three religions. (cont. on p. 4)

**Hannah G. Solomon
Award
Nominations
are due
April 15.**

**Return form to
NCJW Office**

Communication at the Speed of ???

In this world of instant communication, we know that you will want to keep up-to-date with NCJW e-mails. The e-mails will remind you, although not too often, of important NCJW programs, issues and opportunities to influence governmental policies.

Email is fast and economical. Please join our automated mailing list; send your email address to our office at ncjwkc@swbell.net.

OMISSION

Please forgive us. **Barbara Cosner's** name was omitted as a former National Commissioner from the fall *Bulletin*. Barbara we appreciate all you have done and all you do. Thanks.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

GREETINGS!



Dear Members,

What a year! A vigorously contested election has come to an end, culminating in an forgettable Presidential inauguration. I can't remember a time when voting has been more important.

NCJW also has been busy working on issues of importance to women, children and families. We celebrated the 36th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade on January 22 with a trip to the Kansas State Capitol of Kansas in Topeka. The theme of the event was "Protecting the Right to Abortion While Promoting Prevention." We encountered a right-to-life picket line as we entered the Capitol without incident. This was a very informative trip and I hope to see more members at this event next year. There is strength in numbers.

Thanks so much for your support at the Interfaith Luncheon February 26th. Our chairs **Patty Gilgus, Beti Moskowitz, and Ellen Portnoy** planned a great event and I thank them very much.

Recently we heard from President Obama about "change" and we, at the Greater Kansas City Section, are facing changes too. I would like to use the "C" in change to mean: challenge, commitment and communication! I challenge you to join our volunteer forces and become involved. Experts agree it is good for your health and mental well-being. Make a commitment whether large or small. You have the talent and the skills; stay sharp by helping the Section. Communicate your ideas and suggestions to me at 913-894-6657 or rbhaberman@everestkc.net. We have a proud history. Remember without your help, through financial support and/or volunteer efforts, we cannot continue the good work that NCJW does.

Together we can do so much. Please find time to share with those less fortunate than us. Let's do it together.

Berenice

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NCJW TAKES CHANUKAH TO M.E. PIERSON



Gloria Kagan explains Chanukah to M.E. Pierson students

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thursday evening, February 19th, we gathered at Caleb's Lighthouse, Fountain's Shopping Plaza, for an evening of fun with plenty of kibitzing and noshing. After an introduction to basic beading by the owner, **Randi Berger**, everyone scurried to select beads for their individual projects. We created the most amazing bracelets, necklaces and earrings!

New member **Linda Appell** attended the event and three guests decided to join. We welcome **Janet Kaelter**, **Jenise Kranzberg** and **Susan Pittell**.

I would also like to recognize and welcome our other new members: **Debby Agron**, **Jill Goldstein**, **Shirley Gottstein**, **Sheryl Kaplan**, **Sandra Lerner**, **Carla Oppenheimer**, **Phyllis Rose**, **Charlotte Ruben**, **Inge Silverman**, and **Marcy Simon**.

Stay tuned for news of other events. If you have an idea for an event, please contact **Ida Levine** at (913) 851-5109 or idal@kc.rr.com.

Third, fourth and fifth graders at M.E. Pierson Elementary School in Kansas City, Kansas were mesmerized as NCJW's **Gloria Kagan** explained the story of Chanukah.

After the children passed around the menorah and dreidls, **Gloria**, assisted by **Ellen Dalen**, **Berenice Haberman**, **Linda Kelley**, **Maureen Salz**, and **Merna Siegler** distributed holiday presents to the children. In all, more than 3,000 gifts including **Eileen Sherman's Odd Potato** CDs and books were given to the entire M.E. Pierson student body.

The project was sponsored by a generous, anonymous donor, but the look of heartfelt appreciation on the faces of these students was no secret!

Appealing to Young Teens

Our Section participated in the third annual B'nai Tzedek Shuk at the Jewish Community Center on Thursday, February 26. The B'nai Zedek program introduces B'nai Mitzvot students to an active and thoughtful approach to tzedakah. The program enables students to set up their own philanthropic funds at the Jewish Community Foundation. In 2008, over \$16,000 in B'nai Zedek funds were granted to charitable organizations.

NCJW joined more than 20 other local Jewish charities offering information about their organizations to post Bar and Bat Mitzvah students. **Sandy Suffian** highlighted our endeavors in high poverty elementary schools, our work on domestic violence awareness, and distributed NCJW brochures.

TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES REQUIRE CREATIVITY IN CHARITABLE GIVING

In these uncertain economic times, when talk of “bail-outs,” “economic stimulus plans” and “transparency” are the buzz words of the day, most of us have had to take a long, hard look at our finances and, in many cases, reevaluate our plans and goals. Even our patterns of charitable giving have been subject to reevaluation due to the concern over covering day-to-day expenses in light of job lay-offs or the difficulties faced by retirees living on a fixed income. Yet the needs that are addressed by charitable organizations such as NCJW are greater now than ever.

Part of the reevaluation process is taking a good look at your estate plan--are your affairs in order and up to date? Have you planned for the future for yourself and your family in the most efficient way possible? If you've had to cut back on charitable giving today, have you considered contributing to the continuity of your favorite charities through a charitable bequest in your will or trust?

It is said that we teach our children the meaning of “tzedakah,” charitable giving, by example. What better way to set an example for generations to come, and to insure the continuity of charitable organizations such as NCJW than by leaving a legacy in your estate plan.

If you need additional information about charitable bequests or would like assistance in evaluating or updating your estate plan, please contact the NCJW office.

**2009 NCJW Awards
and
Officer Installation

Dessert Reception
Congregation Beth Shalom-
Lamar Campus
Thursday, June 4
7:00 p.m.
Musical Entertainment
by Shir Balev**

INTERFAITH ... (cont. from p.1)

Rabbi Vered Harris, Education Rabbi at Beth Torah, gave the opening prayer and **Dianne Cleaver**, community volunteer, captured the importance of our spiritual being in healing the world in her closing prayer.

Special thanks go to the Jewish Community Relations Bureau /American Jewish Committee and its Associate Director **Judy Hellman** for their assistance in planning the program.

We also thank Co-Chairs **Patty Gilgus**, **Ellen Portnoy** and **Beti Moskowitz** and their committee members **Meg Adler**, **Ellen Dalen**, **Berenice Haberman**, **Judy McEachen**, **Merna Siegler**, **Sheila Sonnenschein**, **Sylvia Stone** and **Sandy Suffian**.

NCJW®

ON THE ROAD FOR CHOICE: ROE v. WADE



Back row from left: Janice McMillen, Lee Rowe, Dr. Robert Meneilly, Royceann Mather, Ann Arnott and Jane Webb
Front Row from left: Maureen Salz, Barbara Holzmark, Wendy Moore, Betty Harrison, Berenice Haberman, Diane Kune and Eleanor Lowe.

On January 22, NCJW co-sponsored a bus trip to Topeka, Kansas for the annual Roe v. Wade celebration. At the opening rally, the group presented legislators with a 1,800 signature pro-choice petition. **Barbara Holzmark**, doing double duty as NCJW's Kansas Public Affairs Chair and President of the Kansas Choice Alliance emceed a luncheon program with speakers Representative **Jill Quigley**, 17th District of Lenexa, KS; **Peter Brownlie**, President and CEO, Planned Parenthood of Kansas City - Mid-Missouri and **Jane Webb**, K.U. graduate student majoring in Women's Studies.


The trip included a visit to the opening session of the Kansas Senate and meetings with various state legislators.

Pictured above are NCJW members **Barbara Holzmark**, **Berenice Haberman** and **Maureen Salz** as they prepare to join others on the bus ride back to Overland Park.

Other Greater Kansas City area event co-sponsors included AAUW, KU for Choice, League of Women Voters, National Organization for Women, New Wave Wichita Feminists, True Blue Women, Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence and Women's Political Caucus.

FOX FUND NEWS

NCJW, with funding from the *Thelma & Meyer Fox Children's Fund*, answered the call for emergency help from Harvesters. NCJW sponsored a child for a year in the backpack program, in which a child takes a backpack of food home every Friday providing food for the week-end. On Monday, the student brings the backpack back to be refilled for the next week. NCJW was also able to fund 1000 meals through Harvesters.

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A BELIEF IN ACTION.[®]

A PROJECT IN SEARCH OF COMMITTEE

Our board has just approved a new and exciting project: baskets of baby essentials (diapers, pacifiers, baby lotion, etc.) for needy new moms! These baskets would include items like diapers, pacifiers, onesies and baby lotion and would be distributed at local shelters.

We would rely on donations to fill the baskets. If you are interested in being a chair, co-chair or working on the project please contact **Ellen Dalen** at edalen1017@aol.com or (913) 888-8852.

**WHAT A DIFFERENCE A TRIBUTE MAKES. Contributions to the NCJW, Greater Kansas City Section are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.
\$10.00 minimum. Contributions through March 5, 2009.**

NCJW SECTION

In memory of:

HARRY BAKER

MEYER FOX

Berenice Haberman

ALICE KOFFMAN

Judy & Allen Cinnamon

DORA MORRIS

Ethel Sickel

Eve & Bob Goldstein

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Judy & Allen Cinnamon

MR. & MRS. MYRON GOLDSTEIN – SISTER

Stevie & John Shuchart

In honor of:

JANELLE FLACKS – MARRIAGE OF SON

Berenice Haberman

BARBARA & JERRY COSNER – HOLIDAY CONTRIBUTION

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Ellen & Michael Dalen

INTERFAITH LUNCHEON

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In honor of:

ELLEN DALEN – FOR ALL HER GOOD WORK

Merna & Sylvan Siegler

LYNN MURRAY – BIRTHDAY

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LIFE LETTER

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Doreen Leifer

Shirley White

WE CARE FOR EYE CARE

In memory of:

JEAN MATASSARIN MINDELL

Ellen & Jay Portnoy

Contributions made by:

Alexandra E. Hoopes B'nai Tzedek Fund of the JCF, Greater Kansas City

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RUTH B. STERN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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JULIA & HARRY TERTE FUND

Contribution made by:

Robert Terte

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NCJW RECYCLES ...

Please bring your old cell phones and used toner cartridges to the NCJW office. We turn these in for cash. Help NCJW as well as the environment.

OOPS!

Did you notice that the last issue of our Bulletin had two blank pages? Would you believe our printer said it would be more economical to print the issue with the two extra pages?

But, alas, our editor was in China and could not be reached to supply additional copy to fill the pages. So know that we are careful with your donation dollars!



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SAVE THE DATE!!!

Thursday June 4, 2009, 7 pm

2009 NCJW Awards

and

Officer Installation