

NCJW<sup>SM</sup>  
National Council of Jewish Women  
GREATER KANSAS CITY SECTION

# bulletin

SUMMER 2004



*Service to Section  
Barbara Cosner*



*Community Service  
Ronnie & Dierdre Baker*



*Hannah G. Solomon  
Sarah Small*



*Emerging Leader  
Berenice Haberman*



*Jennie Levitt Leadership  
Meg Adler*

**National Council of Jewish Women Celebrates 110 years**

# Thank you for being a member of the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Kansas City Section!

As a member of NCJW, you are part of an organization that is at the forefront of social change – championing the needs of women, children and families – while courageously taking a progressive stance on such issues as child welfare, women's rights and reproductive freedom. Some women come to NCJW to take on the large issues confronting society, advocating for change at the national or global level. Some leverage their knowledge and pursue grassroots agendas at the local level. All who join NCJW share a belief that progressive ideas put into action can make the world a better place, that our passion, our intelligence and our efforts will make this belief a reality, and that the National Council of Jewish Women is the most potent, most effective and most satisfying place to put their beliefs into meaningful action.

Won't you share NCJW with a friend? Take a look through this *Bulletin*. Make a call or e-mail a friend to come with you to the next program or meeting that you attend. Bring someone with you when you volunteer at your favorite community service project. You'll be glad you did!

Reach out to someone and share the gift of membership in NCJW.

Whether you take an active part as an NCJW member or view yourself as a supporter of NCJW's mission, please know that your membership is valued. Your support of NCJW's efforts enables many volunteers to make a difference in our community.

Mail this form to:

2 National Council of  
Jewish Women – Greater  
Kansas City Section  
5750 W. 95<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 118  
Shawnee Msn, KS 66207

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION \* PLEASE HELP US KEEP THE NCJW  
RECORDS UP TO DATE.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## RUTH KAROL Will Be Sadly Missed By All

With the sudden death of Ruth Karol, an era of the consummate volunteer has passed into history. Ruth's life was dedicated to making the world, especially the Jewish world, a better place.

Ruth's involvement in NCJW was long and varied. She was a Life Member and held the office of Vice President of Fundraising. Ruth was also chairman of the Thrift Shop for many years. She was honored by NCJW with the Hannah G. Solomon Award at which occasion Rabbi Michael Zedek said, "Ruth has never sought any kind of spotlight for what she has done. Rather, she is absolutely a tireless worker in a range of good causes. I suspect that she does so only because people need to care and need to put their caring into action. A few more like her could change the world."

She was a member of Congregation B'nai Jehudah and served two terms as Sisterhood President. She

was the current gift shop chairman and was the first recipient of the Sisterhood Shoshana Award. Ruth was the first convener of the Temple Mix and Mingle program. In her volunteer activities, she was also a Past President of the Kansas City Chapter of Hadassah and President of the Hadassah Herzl L'Chaim Group.

Ruth Karol will be sadly missed by all.

NCJW <sup>SM</sup> A FAITH IN THE FUTURE.  
<sup>SM</sup> A BELIEF IN ACTION.

### Mission Statement

The National Council of Jewish Women 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.

# LIGHT UP A LIFE CAMPAIGN BREAKS RECORD

Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard on the 2003 "Light Up a Life" Campaign. Thanks to the diligent efforts of NCJW board members, campaign chairs, Janet Mark and Melanie Allmayer and special consultants, Jean Brown, Joyce Halper, and Ann Stern, to date nearly \$24,000 has been raised to support NCJW. Through letter writing, phone calling, and personal visits, more than 125 NCJW members, scholarships recipients, and community members participated in the campaign.

Although all donations are appreciated and deeply valued, we would like to acknowledge our Donors of Distinction, who contributed \$1,500 to the campaign. We appreciate your generosity and commitment to NCJW:

Dierdre & Ronnie Baker  
In memory of Ruth Baker and Florian Lins  
Bonnie & Herb Buchbinder  
Jill A. Jacob  
In memory of Jane L. Weinberg  
Molly G. & Thomas W. Levitt  
Alayne & J. D. Mooney  
Eileen & Neal Sherman  
Ann & Dan Stern Fund of Jewish Community Foundation  
Adeline Trempy  
VML

We would also like to acknowledge the creative skills of VML, the advertising company that once again designed our Hanukkah-themed direct mail piece. We are grateful for their expertise in creating an elegant, compelling mailer that tells the story of NCJW.

## \$500 to \$1,499

Meg Adler  
Roni Beshears  
Karin Golden  
Ronald & Susan Goldsmith Philanthropic  
Fund of Jewish Comm. Fnd.  
Ileene Simon  
Lois Winston/Louis & Dorothy Cumonow  
Foundation

Louise Garfinkle  
In honor of recovery of Harry Daniels  
In honor of recovery of Marcia Eveloff  
Albert Goller  
In memory of Shirley Goller  
Berenice Haberman  
Marsha Herman  
Rosalyn Jacobson  
Lonna & Marvin Kahn  
Joy Kaplan  
Ellen Laner  
Joanne Lyon  
In memory of Beth Lyon  
Betty Jo Marder  
Symie Menitove  
Rowena Milens  
Lynn Murray  
Rosanne Rosen  
Gerean Rudnick  
Merna Siegler  
Susan Sloman  
Sarah Small  
Beth Smith  
Kathy A. Stone

Lisa Bernard  
In memory of Norman Sloman  
Jenifer & Michael Blum  
In memory of Dr. Marvin Bordy  
Betty Brand  
In memory of Millie Krasne  
Frances O. Brown  
In memory of Norman Jacobs  
Madeline & Paul Chapman  
In memory of Norman Sloman  
Linda Cohen  
Eva Cummings  
Mary L. Czarlinsky  
DeeDee Dale  
Sue Dimbert  
Doris Edelman  
In honor of Blanche & Neil Sosland  
Ruth Fedotin  
In honor of Eileen Sherman  
Susan Feinberg  
Deborah Feingold  
Janelle Flacks  
Jackie Fleschman  
In memory of Sara Lena & Paul Shapiro  
SuEllen Fried  
In memory of Dr. Marvin Bordy  
Bernice Fromm  
Judy Geisel  
Evelyn Gibian  
Charlotte Gilbert  
Roz Ginsburg  
In memory of Sidney Ginsburg  
Elaine Goldstein  
In honor of my daughters  
Gloria Joffe Goodfriend  
In memory of Robert Goodfriend

## \$250 to \$499

Jean & Bud Brown  
To NCJW for all projects and efforts - to  
continue their good works  
Chai Foundation  
Chaykin Family Charitable Fund of the  
Jewish Comm. Fnd.  
Naomi Kauffman  
Frank Lipsman & Janet Mark Donor  
Advised Fund of Jewish Comm. Fnd.  
Milton Litvak Memorial Fund/Anna Lee  
Litvak  
Ellen & Jay Portnoy  
Donna Thalblum

## \$100 to \$249

Melanie Allmayer  
In honor of Sherry Klein - for her work  
on Thriftique  
Betty Barnett  
Phyllis Bernstein  
Rae A. Block  
Cathy Boyer-Shesol  
Barbara Cosner  
Ellen Dalen  
Anne B. Feld

## To \$99

Cathy Alpert  
Barbara Atlas  
Liz Bamberger  
Harriet H. Barrish  
In memory of Ruth & Leo Shultz  
Fayna Belzer  
Phyllis Belzer  
Anita Berkowitz  
In memory of Millie Krasne

# Parties For The Blind, Almost 70 Years Young!

As NCJW's longest-running program, Parties for the Blind continues to attract a large number of visually impaired guests. Our generous long-time sponsors the Beth Shalom Sisterhood, Rae Block, Shirley and Barnett Helzberg, Alphapointe Association for the Blind, Dierdre and Ronnie Baker and Bertha Silberg are providing funding for six outstanding events.

According to chairpersons Joan Cody and Symie Menitove, "The party really belongs to our guests." The guest entertainment committee selected the entertainment. The Mitzvah Girls from Beth Shalom serenaded us in October; in November, the Veterans provided a program of music and personal stories appropriate to the holiday; in December, several attendees sang seasonal songs; in March, Rabbi Paul Silbersher, accompanied on the piano by Tom Atkins, delighted us with song and stories; and at the April party, Sylvia Stone held a rapt audience for tales of the heyday of the movie distribution industry in Kansas City. May had a talent show.

4 Again, Alphapointe Association for the Blind, is coordinating our transportation. This year, the Central United Methodist Church has provided a 15-passenger van and a driver. According to Janet Kilpatrick, church secretary, the Church regards Parties as one of their missions. This amazing cooperative effort of three such different organizations really works!

We thank our in-kind donors including Brookside Price Chopper, Brookside SunFresh, Einstein Bagels of Brookside, Sony, Heart-To-Heart, Land's End, Russell Stover, American City Jazz Museum/Gem Theater, Missouri Repertory Theater, American Heartland Theater, Friends of Chamber Music, Schwan Foods and several party-goers for door-prize and holiday gifts. They add that little bit extra that helps make Parties for the Blind so special.

Next year is our 70<sup>th</sup> season! There are so many ways you can help - financial sponsorship, donation for a party, donation of a door prize (fruit basket or gift certificate from the grocery store, scented candles in jars, toiletry assortment, box of candy, jars of jelly, etc.), or your time to drive guests to Parties, set tables or write letters. For more information, call 913.648.0747.

## A Special Note of Thanks April 20, 2004

Dear Symie,

First of all this is a beautiful name and I have never heard this name before; and I am almost half a century old, in fact, on the last day of the "Merry Merry" month of May! I want to thank you for a wonderful happening with the lunch that you provide for visually impaired people. Everyone was so very gracious, fun and seeming to not be bothered at all with the little extras for those of us who are visually impaired.

The entire event was upbeat and fun and to enhance the entire happening you all had a special provision for many people to win in the draft per se! In fact, I actually had the winning number and I was so caught up in the whole fun of it, that I did not realize my number had been called. I was the lucky recipient of the Panasonic tape, CD, radio with a little remote control which I will have some definite fun in learning how to operate! Thank you so much and to all who are involved in the luncheons, and give aways. It was/is a wonderful experience and I am so fortunate to be treated so very, very kindly. Remembering the twentieth actually brings my heart a smile. Thank everyone for their thoughtfulness!

Sincerely,

Loretta O'Connor

Jill Jacob at October  
Parties for the Blind.



Below: Sylvia Stone tells  
stories.



# KATS IS ROUNDING OUT FOURTH SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Thanks to the generosity of NCJW members, Shawnee Mission East SHARE and Shawnee Mission Northwest CCC students, three elementary schools (more than 1500 students) are more successful. With the SHARE students from Shawnee Mission East High School, we are able to now provide birthday book parties to M.E. Pearson, Douglas and Caruthers elementary schools in Kansas City, KS. These schools are located in the inner city and are among the neediest population of families. Along with our student partners at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, we were M. E. Pearson's largest sponsor for the Angel Project, providing winter holiday gifts to their students for the 4th year. We are in our third year partnering with the Colgate dental van to provide dental screenings for the children at Pearson.

Our very generous NCJW member donations have provided school supplies for the neediest students. The last two years, NCJW has participated in providing dictionaries to 3rd graders at M.E. Pearson and have been sure to see the other two partner schools also are in the dictionary program.

The Kansas City, Kansas schools have been a good fit for the members of NCJW to be able to participate and be an "angel" in whatever ways a member feels comfortable. The children appear to be thriving through what we've been able to do for them. The teachers and administrators can't thank us enough. Thank you to all who have made this project possible with donations and volunteer hours. To volunteer for this project or to donate to KATS to help us purchase books and school supplies, please call the office (913.648.0747).

## ANGEL PROJECT BRINGS THANKS

The "KATS" Angel Project was a great success and we want to share a few of the thank you's received from M. E. Pearson students expressing their appreciation.

*Throughout the holiday season, we often hear the old adage, "It is better to give than to receive." As children, we find this rather hard to believe. But as we get a little older, we start to appreciate the joy we bring to others and become excited when we find the perfect gift for someone.*

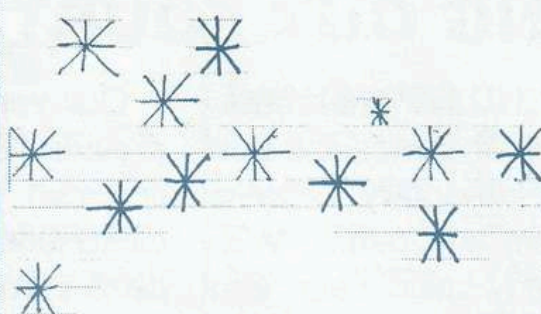
*Your enthusiasm, commitment and support were truly amazing. As a result of your overwhelming generosity, NCJW, in collaboration with Shawnee Mission Northwest CCC, was able to adopt over 400 students.*

Meg Adler  
Janet Agron  
Melanie Allmayer  
Adrienne Applebaum  
Dierdre Baker  
Heather Berger  
Cathy Boyer-Shesol  
Jean Brown  
Fran Brozman  
Bonnie Buchbinder  
Helen Bushman  
Barbara Cosner  
Ellen Dalen  
Suzanne Eastwood  
Deborah Feingold  
Janelle Flacks  
Jackie Fleschman  
Louise Garfinkle  
Judy Geisel  
Cynthia Gensheimer  
Elaine Goldstein  
Eve Goldstein  
Rosemary Gorin  
Berenice Haberman  
Barbara Holzmark

Sandra Jabenis  
Jill Jacob  
Joan Jacobson  
Ro Jacobson  
Judy Kahn  
Naomi Kauffman  
Linda Kelley  
Betsy Khalili  
Bud Krasne  
Maura Linus  
Betty Jo Marder  
Janet Mark  
Saundra Meroney  
Lisa Montague  
Marjorie Montague  
Alayne Mooney  
Lynn Murray  
Sharon Pase  
Marcia Paul  
Ellen Portnoy  
Carol Price  
Janet Price  
Alyson Ravitch  
Ellen Rosenfeld  
Ester Rudnick

Elaine Ryder  
Maureen Salz  
Gloria Schlossenberg  
Eileen Sherman  
Stevie Shuchart  
Ethel Sickel  
Merna Siegler  
Edward Silverhardt  
Sarah Small  
Ann Stern  
Sylvia Stone  
Janet Stulz  
Ester Udell  
Julie Ullman  
Jan Willets  
Shawnee Mission Northwest High  
School CCC

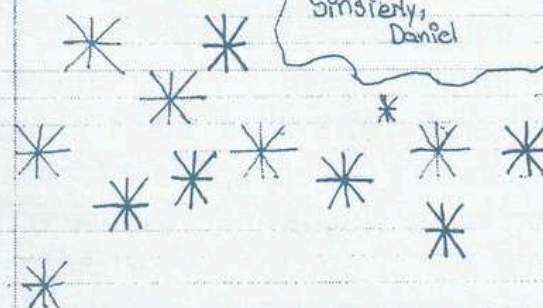
Dear Angel Jan. 2004  
Thank you for the gift certificate.  
I have not spent any money  
that is on it. I am going  
to buy some clothes, shoes,  
and socks.  
Love  
Brittany



Dear Angel Project,

Thank you for the gift you gave me and for the other presents you gave to the kids. You are so nice to give the present because you wasted your money. Thank for the Yu-gi-oh cards they were great and very cool. Thank you for the cards I got 4 blue eyes white dragons they are one of the most powerful card in the whole game. Thank you for caring for the students of M.E. Pearson. I hope you had a merry merry Christmas.

Sincerely,  
Daniel

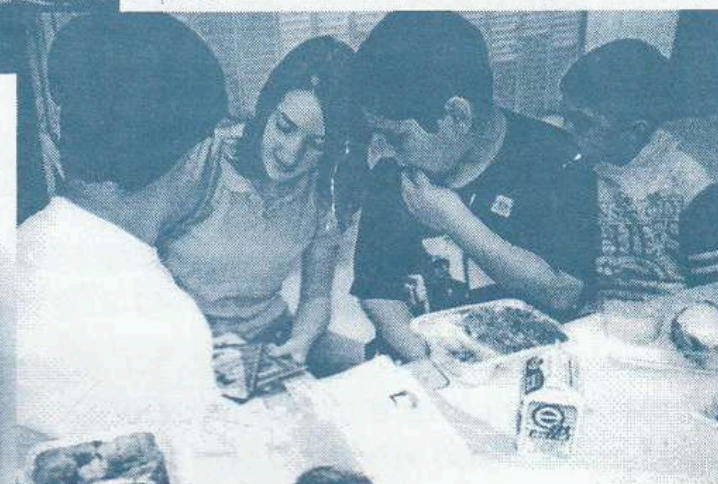


Dear Angel project

thank you for the gifts I got. those gifts made me feel special. Big thanks. I was excited when I opened them especially the Spongebob books I'm reading the 2nd book I got. I wish I could give you people something too.

Thank You

Volunteers are  
*Special*  
People



## Dental Van

NCJW is instrumental in bringing the Colgate Dental Van to M. E. Pearson Elementary School.



### NEW MEMBER

Janet Baker  
Elise Bruce-Bush  
Jeanne Cassatt  
Cindy Garfinkle  
Kelly Kaplan  
Rhonda Merrill  
Adeline Trempy

### TRANSFER

\*Shalene Sosland  
— from Dallas  
**DEATHS**  
\*Ruth Karol  
Eloise Minkoff  
Ruthann Oelsner  
\*Rheta Sosland  
Muriel White

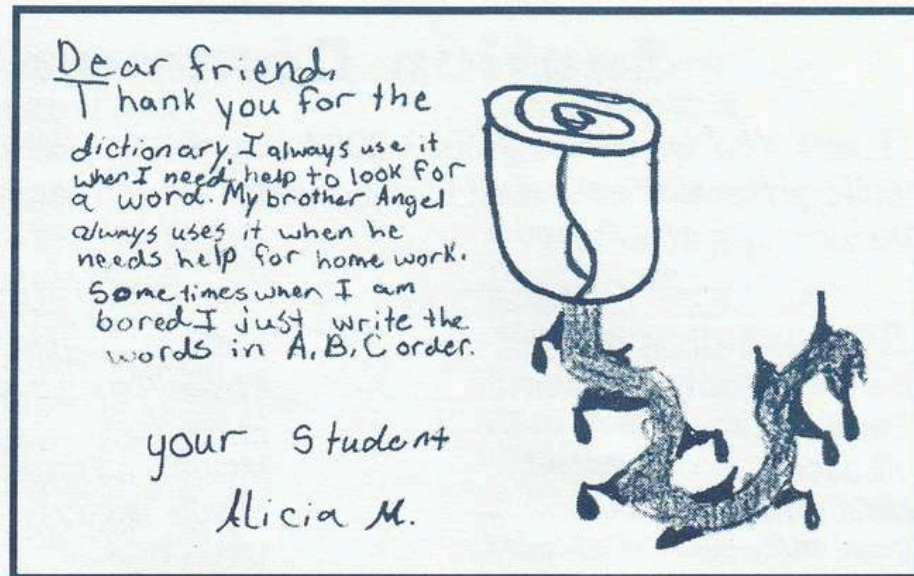
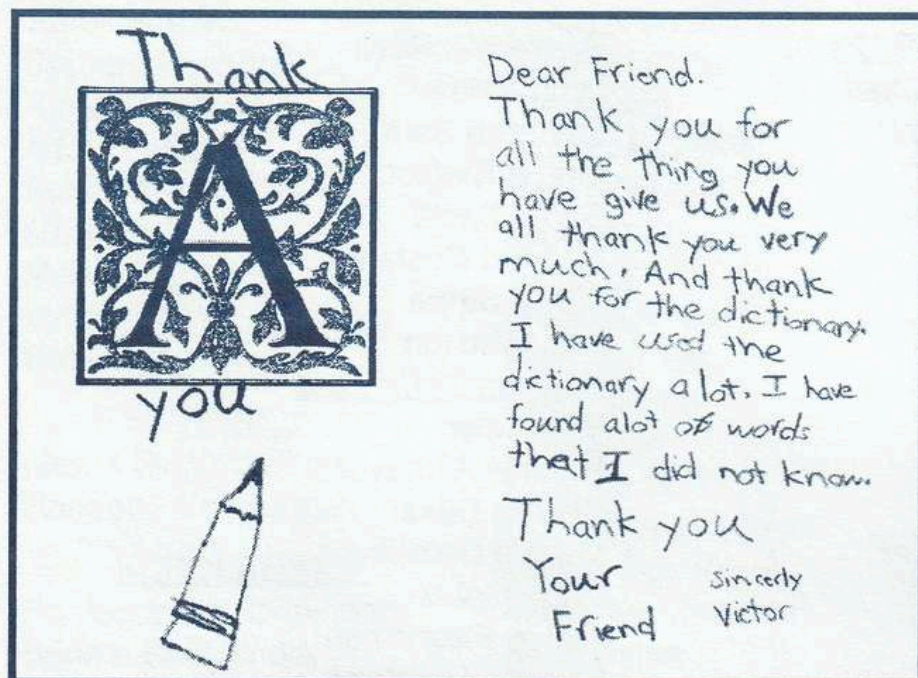
## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**WOMEN HELPING WOMEN**

**OCTOBER 20, 2004**

# Dictionary Day

On Webster's birthday last October as part of the city-wide Dictionary Day, NCJW presented dictionaries to all third graders at M. E. Pearson.



## First Interfaith Luncheon a Hit!

On March 3rd, NCJW's first Interfaith Luncheon took place at the Overland Park Marriott Hotel. With a near capacity crowd of over 370 women and men, the excitement and camaraderie was evident. The panel of Rev. Frances B. Manson, Dr. Shaheen Ahmed and Rabbi Amy Wallk Katz, moderated by Blanche Sosland, Ph.D., provided the audience with a stimulating and thought provoking afternoon.

Many thanks are due to the hard working committee and a special thank you goes to Marvin Szneler and Judy Hellman of JCRB/AJC.

Please mark your calendars for **March 2, 2005** for the next Interfaith Luncheon.



### VOLUNTEERS

*We do not stop volunteering because we grow old - we grow old because we stop volunteering! Please consider becoming a NCJW volunteer.*

### Do You Play Bridge?

**NCJW Bridge Needs YOU!**

For more information on how to become a part of this group, call Sue Vile (913.649.1749) or Tootie Brown (913.649.9452).

# Section Community Service Projects

"Thank You" to all of our 2003-2004 volunteers. Without you, we would not be able to carry out our very worthwhile projects that benefit women, children and families. If you do not see your name below, please consider becoming a volunteer.

## ADVOCACY EDUCATION

### BENCHMARK

Barbara Holzmark, Chair  
Becki Brenner  
Jill Jacob  
Miriam Pittell  
Ellen Portnoy  
Maureen Salz

### AWARDS EVENING

Berenice Haberman, Chair  
Dierdre Baker  
Ellen Dalen  
Miki Herman  
Joan Jacobson  
Janet Mark  
Merna Siegler

### AWARDS SELECTION

Naomi Kauffman, Chair

### BRIDGE

8 Heather Aronoff, Co-Chair  
Tootie Brown, Co-Chair  
Sue Vile, Co-Chair

### BULLETIN/ABOUT AND BETWEEN

Ellen Dalen

### GRANTS

Cathy Boyer-Shesol

### FRIDAY STUDY GROUP

Betty Barnett  
Virginia Brown  
Saurine Brown  
Thelma Dreyer  
Carole Frelich  
Julie Gerson  
Edith Hellerstein  
Jean Hiersteiner  
Ann Kander  
Pinky Kase  
Joe Levine Kratchman  
Peggy Krigel  
Ellen Laner  
Grace Lenk  
Marilyn Melcher  
Marjorie Montague  
Dorothy Rosenwald  
Elaine Ryder  
Myra Siegel  
Betty Slegman  
Estelle Sosland

## HELLO ISRAEL

Barbara Cosner, Co-Chair  
Phyllis Green, Co-Chair

### Presenters

Melanie Allmayer  
Estelle Berman  
Linda Braude  
Alana Dickman  
Susan Dimbert  
Andrea Elyachar  
Judy Fudenberg  
Linda Katz  
Gerre Minkin  
Joan Napshin  
Esther Pearlmutter  
Roselle Poisner  
Esther Rudnick  
Marilyn Schoenfeld  
Patsy Shanberg  
Merna Siegler  
Sarah Small  
Judy Wasserman  
Shirley White  
Lois Winston  
Carol Yarmo  
Substitutes  
Donna Burkhead  
Sunie Levin  
Ileene Simon  
Beryl Silberg

### HONEY

Barbara Cosner, Co-Chair  
Berenice Haberman, Co-Chair  
Jackie Fleschman, Secretary  
Jean Brown  
Jody Cosner  
Ellen Dalen  
Miki Herman  
Sandra Jabenis  
Jill Jacob  
Joan Jacobson  
Janet Mark  
Lynn Murray  
Beverly Newman  
Esther Pearlmutter  
Merna Siegler  
Dolores Sosnow  
Sylvia Stone

### INTERFAITH LUNCHEON

Alayne Mooney, Chair  
Ellen Dalen  
Naomi Kauffman

Symie Menitove

Lynn Murray  
Maureen Salz  
Merna Siegler  
Sarah Small  
Blanche Sosland  
Sylvia Stone  
Lois Winston  
Hostess Committee  
Meg Adler  
Melanie Allmayer  
Dierdre Baker  
Marilyn Berenbom  
Linda Cohen  
Jackie Fleschman  
Barbara Holzmark  
Sandi Jabenis  
Janet Mark  
Debra Rubin  
Eileen Sherman  
Donna Thalblum  
Sue Vile  
Judy Wasserman

### KATS

Lisa Montague, Chair  
Adrienne Applebaum  
Dierdre Baker  
Bonnie Buchbinder  
Ellen Dalen  
Berenice Haberman  
Janet Mark  
Marjorie Montague  
Alayne Mooney  
Maureen Salz  
Stevie Shuchart  
Merna Siegler  
Sonny Singer  
Janice Wasserman

### LIGHT UP A LIFE

Janet Mark, Co-Chair  
Melanie Allmayer, Co-Chair  
Dierdre Baker  
Jean Brown  
Joyce Halper  
Ann Stern

### PARTIES FOR THE BLIND

Symie Menitove, Chair  
Joan Cody  
Diane Arnell  
Heather Aronoff  
Dierdre Baker

Roni Beshears  
Bonnie Buchbinder  
Merle Cole  
Rhetta Goldstein  
Gloria Goodfriend  
Joyce Halper  
Barbara Holzmark  
Rena Jonathan  
Adele Levi  
Susie Milgram  
Maureen Salz  
Merna Siegler  
Sylvia Stone  
Bobbie White

#### **ROSES**

Merna Siegler, Chair  
Harryette Cooperman

#### **SCHOLARSHIP**

Ro Jacobson, Chairman  
Bonnie Buchbinder  
Jane Duggan  
Bud Krasne  
Edith Penzner  
Ellen Portnoy  
Sally Reicher  
Maureen Salz  
Sonny Singer

#### **THRIFTIQUE**

Barbara Holzmark, Co-Chair  
Sherry Klein, Co-Chair

**Committee**  
Meg Adler  
Dierdre Baker  
Roni Beshears  
Jean Brown  
Joyce Halper  
Nadine Indyke  
Ruth Karol  
Symie Menitove  
Merna Siegler  
Janet Stulz

#### **Workers**

Melanie Allmayer  
Betty Barnett  
Betty Bikson  
Jan Block  
Rowene Bossart  
Cathy Boyer-Shesol  
Bonnie Buchbinder  
Madeline Chapman  
Ellen Dalen  
Anita Daniels  
Janie Duggan  
Jackie Fleschman  
Berenice Haberman  
Julie Hakan  
Natalie Hammer  
Jean Hiersteiner  
Brita Horowitz  
Joan Jacobson  
Naomi Kauffman

JoeAnn Kratchman  
Ellen Laner  
Grace Lenk  
Sherry Lieberman  
Janet Mark  
Judy Mayer  
Joan Mindlin  
Susie Milgram  
Marjorie Montague  
Lynn Murray  
Susie Osman  
Joanne Rose  
Lois Rosenbloom  
Deanna Rudd  
Maureen Salz  
Marilyn Schoenfeld  
Mark Schoenwetter  
Sonny Singer  
Robbie Small  
Eilene Smith  
Barbara Warady  
Suzie Weiner

#### **WOMEN HELPING WOMEN**

Eileen Sherman, Co-Chair  
Berenice Haberman, Co-Chair  
Meg Adler  
Dierdre Baker  
Ellen Dalen  
Nadina Indyke

Joan Jacobson  
Symie Menitove  
Ellen Portnoy  
Maureen Salz  
Merna Siegler  
Sylvia Stone

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ellen Dalen, President  
Ellen Portnoy, Financial Secretary  
J. D. Mooney, Treasurer  
Meg Adler, Assistant Treasurer  
Janet Mark, Fundraising Team Leader  
Naomi Kauffman, Immediate Past President

#### **Board Members**

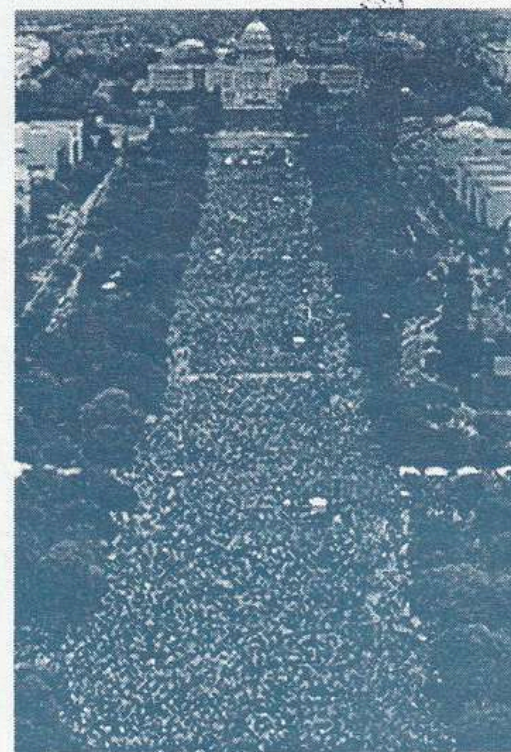
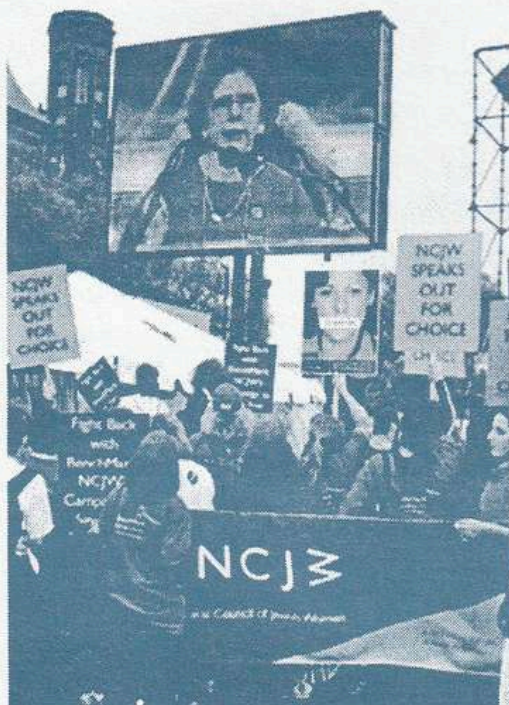
Melanie Allmayer  
Dierdre Baker  
Berenice Haberman  
Julie Hakan  
Miki Herman  
Barbara Holzmark  
Jill Jacob  
Joan Jacobson  
Symie Menitove  
Lynn Murray  
Eileen Sherman  
Merna Siegler

## **MAUREEN SALZ ATTENDS WOMEN'S MARCH**

On April 23, my friend Carolyn and I boarded a bus with 40+ others and settled in for a 20 hour ride to D.C. to participate in "The March for Women's Lives." It was inspiring to see the collective excitement as we headed for the March. Little did any of us realize that we would be joined by one million marchers of enormous diversity - people of all backgrounds and ages - all who were there to protect the reproductive health and rights of women.

We walked past the White House and down Pennsylvania Avenue and back to the Mall where we heard a full day of inspiring speakers, such as Marsha Atkind, President of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW); Senator Hillary Clinton; Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright; Gloria Steinem; and many, many others.

It was an amazing, energizing and powerful experience. The collective enthusiasm and individual commitment to reproductive freedom for women was truly inspiring and overwhelming! We all came away more committed than ever to help find ways to sustain the momentum and keep the energy alive as we continue moving forward in support of reproductive rights for all women!



# RONI BESHEARS SERVES AS NATIONAL NCJW COMMISSIONER

Appointed by the National NCJW president, commissioners bring their knowledge and experience as section leaders to this next level within the NCJW, Inc. Their work with sections and interaction with NCJW volunteers and staff provides many opportunities for leadership development, skill-building and personal growth.

Commissioners serve as an essential link between the NCJW, Inc. and their assigned sections. Their primary role is to mentor, encourage and support the section leaders with whom they work. Through their frequent contacts with sections, they learn vital information about the leadership, financial development, structure, concerns, accomplishments, programs and interests of the section. This information is shared, in turn, with NCJW, Inc. Commissioners also promote the NCJW

programs and activities to sections and assist NCJW, Inc. in providing more effective service to sections.

Commissioners are a vital part of the section team assigned to each section. Other members of the team may include a state public affairs person and an advisor with particular expertise in areas such as membership, fundraising or advocacy.

Roni Beshears represents the Greater Kansas City Section as a commissioner to San Diego Section, Colorado Section and Wilmington Section. Along with her National duties Roni serves the local section as a Past President. She has co-chaired the Light Up A Life Campaign, co-chaired Operation Clothe Me for three years, and presently is working on the Awards Evening. She was instrumental in setting up a fund development plan for the Section.



10

"Have I done any good in the world today?

Have I helped anyone in need?

Have I cheered up the sad and made  
someone feel glad?

If not, I have failed indeed.

"Have anyone's burden been lighter today,  
because I was willing to share?

Have the sick and weary been helped on the way?

When they needed my help was I there?

"Then wake up and do something more  
than dream of your mansions above.

"Doing good is a pleasure,  
a job beyond measure,

a blessing of duty and love."

*Will L. Thompson, Author*



## DO YOU READ?

### DO YOU LIKE BOOK DISCUSSIONS?

Join the NCJW/Temple B'nai Jehudah Book Club. The monthly group meets the third Monday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Temple. Bring a sandwich; drink and dessert will be furnished. For more information, call Miriam Pittell at 913.362.2497.

\* \* \* \* \*

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Greater Kansas City Section  
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2004/2005

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# Hannah G. Solomon, Sarah Small

On the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the National Council of Jewish Women, the Greater Kansas City Section awarded its prestigious Hannah G. Solomon Award to Sarah Small, a native Kansas Citian. Sarah Small has devoted both her personal and professional endeavors to promote the ideals and mission of the organization.

Sarah Small received her B.A. degree from Kansas City University (now UMKC) and also attended the joint program of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. She received her Master's Degree in Education from UMKC and in 1983 received her Ph.D. in Educational Administration, and was honored with the Dean's Achievement Award for Exceptional Academic Achievement in the School of Education.

Sarah served as a teacher in the Shawnee Mission School District, teaching unified studies. For over fifteen years, she taught at the Congregation Beth Shalom Religious School and served as its Educational Director from 1980-1982.

Sarah is the mother of two, David, a rabbi in West Hartford, Connecticut, and Michael, a practicing attorney in Chicago. She is the proud grandmother of six. After a long illness, her husband, Mendel, a retired partner of Spencer, Fane, Britt & Browne Law Firm, recently passed away.

Sarah joined NCJW as a young bride. Many years later the need arose for leadership in a new program called Impact Israel. They asked Sarah and Debbie Graham to co-chair a committee that would develop a similar program for use in local schools. The program that evolved became one of NCJW's most successful and enduring community service projects, Hello Israel, now in its twentieth year. Sarah served as a

trainer for the program for Sections in other cities.

As a member of the National Israel Affairs Committee, Sarah had the privilege, while visiting Israel, to see first hand the programs supported by NCJW. She was particularly impressed by the Research Institute for Education in Israel, established by NCJW.

Sarah has participated and chaired numerous committees of NCJW, including by-laws, strategic planning, the Hello Israel committee and most recently Interfaith Luncheon Committee. Sarah was the first member of the Kansas City Section to receive the national Emerging Leader Award. She also served as President of the section.

Sarah's community activities are a testament to her leadership abilities. From the days when she served as President of the Red Bridge School PTA to President of the Beth Shalom Sisterhood, Sarah was ready, willing and able to accept the responsibilities and challenges these positions presented. Sarah's commitment to leadership roles in the Jewish community were further symbolized by her leadership as an advocate for equal rights for women in the synagogue, her appointment as the first woman chairman of the congregation's Ritual Committee, as well as a number of other firsts for women in congregational life. She served with distinction as President of Congregation Beth Shalom from 2000-2002. She has also served on the speaker's bureau for the AJC/JCR and as a docent for visiting groups at Beth Shalom sharing Judaism with groups of other faiths. Sarah believes that this interfaith outreach is now more important than ever.

She has had articles and book reviews published in Women's League for Conservative Judaism's *Outlook Magazine* and has been

published in *Jewish Education*.

In Sarah's professional life she was the owner and director of the Center for Academic Achievement, a learning center for students and adults ages twelve and older, which provided instruction in study skills and tutoring in individual subjects to help them achieve success in their academic lives.

For five years, Sarah served as Director of the International Marketplace at the Shawnee Mission School District Center for International Studies. She was instrumental in the development and implementation of the multi-cultural learning experience for sixth graders. As director, she trained hundreds of volunteers annually for each of the nine-featured cultures. A smaller scale mini-marketplace for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders was also developed. Each year over 8,000 children visited the Marketplace. Sarah retired from her position at the International Marketplace in 1997.

Sarah's commitment to education, to children, to Jewish values, and to community service is being recognized by the Hannah G. Solomon Award. Sarah, in her modest way, views her contributions to NCJW and the community at large as a natural outgrowth of our duty to Tikkun Olam, to make the world a better place. She views NCJW as a planter of seeds, an organization that sees a need, develops programs to fill that need and then passes on the programs to others throughout the country. This has been particularly true of the CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) program, the first comprehensive daycare report (Windows on Daycare) and the HIPPY program, among others. Today, NCJW has endowed the first Women and Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University.

# Service to Section, Barbara Cosner

This award is bestowed upon an individual who has been an active member of the section for over twenty-five years and has demonstrated continuous service and support in furthering the goals of the organization. The honoree must also be currently involved in one or more Section activities. That's a tall order, but not for Barbara Cosner, whose talents and capabilities are well known not only in the NCJW organization but also in the Kansas City community at large.

Barbara was born and raised in Kansas City and attended the University of Texas. In 1971, Barbara returned to Kansas City from the Chicago area with her husband, Jerry. Barbara recalls that she was asked by Sevi Krigel to attend a CASA meeting and thereafter joined NCJW. Barbara soon became a member of the Board of the Jackson County, Missouri CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates), a project initiated by NCJW to train volunteers to assist in representing children in court proceedings.

In 1993, Barbara received the NCJW Emerging Leader Award and from 1995-1997, she served as Co-President of the Section with Shirley Malashock.

12 Barbara recalls that she naturally gravitated toward fundraising, an indispensable skill that is much needed for the leadership of a not-for-profit organization. Barbara is modest about her accomplishments in that area and insists that she learned these skills from other women such as Jane Weinberg and Barbara Friedman. Nevertheless, it is Barbara's keen eye and intuitive sense about the needs of the community and the interests of members that have earned her the admiration and respect for which she is so deserving in receiving this award.

Barbara recalls her work with the NCJW Thrift Shop which, for years, provided the major source of funding for the organization. Recognizing the changing times and the declining profitability, Barbara, along with others, undertook the dismantling of the Thrift Shop, and its evolution into the annual Thriftique sale, which she co-chaired for three years.

Barbara also was instrumental in developing one of NCJW's most successful fund-raisers, the Children's Concerts held at the Johnson County Community College. Originally, the concerts evolved from the idea of having a concert that members could bring their children and grandchildren to see. It occurred at the time Barbara's granddaughter, Hilary, was born. Never one to let the grass grow under her feet, as they say, Barbara, her co-chairs and a very active committee took the idea

and ran with it - expanding the availability of the concert to children who would not otherwise have an opportunity to experience such a fun concert. Underwriters and sponsors donated the funds that allowed us to invite hundreds of children from inner-city agencies, hearing and visually impaired students, young children and their families within the CASA system, and so many others. Johnson County Community College was very generous with their facilities. Members brought their children and grandchildren and school buses delivered children to the concert from throughout the city for a wonderful afternoon of songs and entertainment by well-known children's artists such as Fred Penner.

Added to the list of Barbara's accomplishments in NCJW are her service as treasurer of the Emelie Levin Committee, overseeing the auction of items received by NCJW through a bequest from Emelie Levin. Emelie Levin's bequest still funds worthwhile community service projects in the Kansas City community. Barbara marched in Washington, D.C., carrying a silhouette of a Silent Witness. She has attended many national NCJW conventions and served as a Commissioner for the NCJW national organization under former President Nan Rich. She was appointed to the National Program Support Committee in New York. Barbara's current involvement in section activities includes co-chairing the Hello Israel project with Phyllis Green, one of NCJW's most enduring and valuable community service projects. She is also co-chairing the Honey for Rosh Hashanah fundraiser with Berenice Haberman.

Barbara has served on the Board of Jewish Family and Children's Services and Beth Shalom Congregation. She and her husband, Jerry, chaired the Russian Resettlement Project for Beth Shalom with the assistance of JC&CS. She was also involved with GAP, Group Adoption Partners and she and Jerry chaired the first major musical fundraiser, the Israel Ballet.

In Barbara's professional life, she is an interior designer. She has three children, Jody, Brenda and Brian, and five grandchildren. She is enjoying husband Jerry's recent retirement which allows them time to travel.



## ***Emerging Leader Berenice Haberman***

There is an old saying, "If you want something done, ask a busy person." Berenice Haberman received the 2004 Emerging Leader Award. She will also celebrate her 25<sup>th</sup> year as an employee of AT&T, having worked up the ranks from a secretarial position to management, supervising technicians who repair computers and network equipment in a region stretching from Oklahoma to Montana. For most people, that would be enough. But the spirit of helping others and the mission of NCJW to advocate on behalf of women, children and families, resonates for Berenice.

Berenice is a native of Oklahoma City and graduated from the University of Oklahoma. She is the wife of Roger, the mother of Marcy, Melissa, and Richard and the grandmother of nine. She is being recognized with this national award because she has demonstrated her commitment to the purpose and programs of the organization in a variety of ways. Berenice was recruited into the organization by Merle Cole, past Co-President, in 1997 to work on the awards committee and plan the installation event. She handled those duties successfully for three years. She went on to Co-Chair the Honey Project for the High Holidays and Co-Chairs the Women Helping Women Committee, planning the annual event that highlights community awareness of domestic violence.

In 1998, Berenice was a delegate from the Greater Kansas City Section to the National NCJW Washington Institute, the premier advocacy event that highlights visits to senators and representatives on Capitol Hill to lobby on behalf of NCJW's crucial issues for women, children and families, such as, reproductive choice, affordable daycare, adequate health care and equality in civil rights and liberties for all. Berenice was able to witness firsthand the mission of NCJW, both here and in Israel, to enhance the lives of the most vulnerable in our society.

Berenice commented that she is proud to receive this award from an organization devoted to community service projects that touches so many lives across the width and breadth of the community. She has also enjoyed working with a group of women who share a high degree of camaraderie both among the board members and the volunteers.

The Emerging Leader Award is given to an individual who has demonstrated potential for assuming future section leadership. The commitment of Berenice Haberman to the future of the Greater Kansas City Section is apparent to all of those who work with her, no task being too small or too large for her to refuse. The wholehearted enthusiasm she brings to assigned tasks and her dedication to the goals and mission of the organization make her well qualified to receive the 2004 Emerging Leader Award.

## ***Jennie Levitt Leadership, Meg Adler***

The Jennie Levitt Leadership Award was given to Meg Adler. This award was established by the Levitt family in loving memory of Jennie Davidson Levitt, who served as President of the Greater Kansas City Section of NCJW from 1930 to 1935. She was a dynamic woman, well ahead of her time, who worked tirelessly to advance the cause of disadvantaged children and families. It is fitting that this award be given to a young woman who is dynamic in her own right, as she capably assumes a leadership role both in NCJW and in the larger Jewish community, in acts of tzedakah, to help those less fortunate.

A native of St. Louis, Meg attended the University of Vermont and received a dual degree in Child Psychology and Linguistic Anthropology. As the wife of Randy, and the mother of Emi (10), Becca (7) and Miri (4), Meg has plenty of activity to keep up with on a daily basis. What is most amazing about this tireless young woman is that she finds the time to engage in a wide variety of community service projects that benefit the sick, the disabled and the underprivileged.

Meg is a second-generation NCJW member following in the footsteps of her mother, an active member of the St. Louis Section. Upon moving to Kansas City, Meg became involved with a wide range of NCJW projects including Women Helping Women, the KATS and Angel Projects and Thriftique. Meg has served as Assistant Treasurer and has been on the Board for the past two years.

Meg is also an active member of her synagogue, Congregation Beth Shalom. For over six years, she chaired the December outreach cookie delivery to members of police and fire departments and other public servants at holiday time to express the appreciation of the community for their tireless service. In 2003, Meg led the entire outreach program, which will soon include the evaluation of places where children are housed in temporary shelters and their wish lists will be fulfilled twice each year. Meg also worked on the Mitzvah Day project at Beth Shalom.

The legacy of Jennie Levitt is reflected in Meg's devotion to NCJW and her own desire to pass on the legacy to her daughters. "My kids need to learn too," said Meg, and learn they do, by example. They bring in newspapers for recycling, help bake hamantaschen for Purim, and have even attended one of NCJW's Parties for the Blind. Congratulations to Meg Adler for all she is doing and especially for the example she is setting for the next generation. Jennie Levitt would certainly be proud.

# Community Service, Ronnie & Dierdre Baker

The Greater Kansas City Section of the National Council of Jewish Women is proud to present its second annual Community Service Award to Dierdre and Ronnie Baker. Ronnie is a native Kansas Citian; Dierdre grew up in Cedar Falls, Iowa. They are the parents of Kevin, Corey and Kendra.

Dierdre and Ronnie are a couple that every volunteer organization would like to have on its team. The word "no" is simply not in their vocabulary. They have a zeal for making a difference through charitable endeavors and the creativity and perseverance to inspire others to do the same.

Ronnie has been affiliated with many of the major Jewish organizations in Kansas City. Whether serving as president of the Jewish Vocational Service, the Jewish Community Center or the Board of the Jewish Community Campus, Ronnie has always been interested in making a difference. He has been active in the Jewish Federation and now serves as Chairman of the Board of Village Shalom. In his professional life, he has served as President of the Building Services Contractors' Association International.

Dierdre came to Kansas City in 1988 from a management position with GMAC Mortgage. Her innate business sense and outstanding people skills led to work at a Kansas City advertising agency. She has helped out as a Loaned Executive for United Way. For seven years, she operated her own employment services firm, Rest Assured.

Dierdre shares Ronnie's commitment to help those in need. She joined NCJW in 1995 attracted by its commitment to helping women, children and families. This was not new to Dierdre either, having worked with handicapped children and having organized fundraisers for children with muscular dystrophy. Dierdre served as editor of the NCJW *Bulletin* for four years. She received the National Emerging Leader Award and attended both the Leadership Institute and the Washington Institute. She joined the Million Mom March in Washington to support gun regulation and has served as a member of the NCJW Board since 1996. She is a major supporter of Women Helping Women, the NCJW event spotlighting the effort to raise awareness of the problem of domestic violence and has staffed a domestic violence HOTLINE. She is in her second term as a Board member of the Beth Shalom Sisterhood. Together, Dierdre and Ronnie have worked tirelessly on Thriftique, one of NCJW's major fundraisers, and are sponsors for Parties for the Blind.

14 Dierdre recently accepted the nomination of President-Elect of the Greater Kansas City Section where she will continue to use her savvy business skills and her compassion for those in need toward helping NCJW with all of its various community service projects and fundraising efforts.

Dierdre and Ronnie Baker well deserve the recognition that NCJW has bestowed upon them for their tireless efforts in serving NCJW and the community at large.

---

"Light Up A Life" continued from pg 3

Elaine Goldstein  
In honor of my daughters  
Gloria Joffe Goodfriend  
In memory of Robert Goodfriend  
Rosemary Gorin  
In memory of Thomas Ross Wheatley  
Evie Grant  
Phyllis Green  
Mary Gruber  
In honor of the Hello Israel Program  
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the fundraising effort  
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Gloria Kagan

Ruth Karol  
In memory of Joseph Karol  
Linda Katz  
Lynn Kaufman  
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Tamara Lawson Schuster  
Jill Shapiro  
In memory of Sherry Kaplan

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In honor of Andrew Flekier  
Cindy Singer  
In memory of Naomi Indin  
Sonny & Max Singer  
In honor of Rabbi Mark Levin - recipient  
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Robbie Small  
In memory of Stan Rose  
Janet Stulz  
In memory of Norman Sloman and in  
memory of Ruth Raskin  
Margaret Titens  
Helen Trillin  
Susan Warshawsky  
Susan Weiner  
Judy Weinstein  
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29th Anniversary  
Shirley White  
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In memory of Norman Sloman

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Please consider marking your important life cycle events with a tribute. It's a mitzvah that benefits everyone - the donor, the honoree, and the many grateful people whose lives will be touched by your generosity.

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*Thank you* to all of you who have registered your Hen House and Price Chopper cards with NCJW. This year we have received over \$2,000. If you would like to become a part of this project call Linda at the NCJW office, 913-648-0747 and she will get you registered. This is on-going so once you are registered with us you do not need to again register. Remember to show your card everytime you shop!

# FLARSHEIM FELLOWSHIP

The Greater Kansas City Section, National Council of Jewish Women is offering the Flarsheim Fellowship to be awarded to a Jewish woman entering her first year of graduate school as a full-time student. She must have been a resident of the Greater Kansas City area for the past 10 years, or a graduate of a

Greater Kansas City area high school or have emigrated from another country. She must be younger than 35. The \$2,000 fellowship, which may be used at the university of the winner's choice, is an honorarium and is not based on financial need, but on academic achievement, character and purpose.

Applications for the Flarsheim Fellowship are available by calling the NCJW office, 913.648.0747, or by writing the office at 5750 W. 95<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 118, Shawnee Mission, KS 66207.

In order to be considered, there must be a personal interview. Deadline for applications is July 1, 2004.

## Hello Israel

Hello Israel has just completed another successful year of presentations to almost 800 students in the Shawnee Mission Schools. An appreciation brunch was held in April to thank the volunteers who are so dedicated to this worthwhile program. We discussed ways to make it even better and received many good suggestions. We are planning to expand the program in the coming year and will need at least six more volunteers. This would involve two or three presentations per semester, to be done at your convenience. It is really fun interacting with the kids, and they and their teachers love it. If you are interested, call Barbara Cosner 913-381-5305 or Phyllis Green 913-345-9939.

### A very big thank you to the following who have helped NCJW during the year:

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# NCJ bulletin

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5750 W. 95th Street, Suite 118  
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913.648.0747  
E-mail: [ncjwkc@swbell.net](mailto:ncjwkc@swbell.net)  
President  
**Ellen Dalen**  
Administrative Assistant  
**Linda Kelley**  
Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 am - 2:30 pm



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NCJW's Strategies to Prevent  
Domestic Violence



**Yad B'Yad<sup>SM</sup>**

NCJW's Initiative to Nurture Knowledge

*NCJW has designed a new BenchMark brochure and logo, as well as new logos for our StoP and Yad B'Yad programs. Each program now has an updated name including "NCJW" in it to better identify both the program and our organization. Nationwide we will look the same and speak the same language, improving our collective impact.*

## EMAIL TREE

If you are not on the email tree please call  
the NCJW office **913-648-0747**  
and give Linda your email.  
Along with advocacy alerts we will begin to  
send Section information via email.  
Don't be left out.  
Act now!

## Directory Changes

If your information in the present directory is  
not correct please call the NCJW office  
913.648.0747 or e-mail ([ncjwkc@swbell.net](mailto:ncjwkc@swbell.net))  
with your correct information.  
E-mail addresses are needed also.