

NCJW SMbulletin

National Council of Jewish Women
GREATER KANSAS CITY SECTION

WINTER 2003

"LIGHT UP A LIFE" CAMPAIGN BY NCJW RETURNS

After a very successful launch last year, National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Kansas City Section is asking its members and the community at large to **Light Up A Life** for the less fortunate in Kansas City and Israel.

By contributing to the **Light Up A Life** Campaign donors will help NCJW implement and enhance its current programs that benefit women, children, and families. Contributions to the annual campaign will help to fund the following:

Hello Israel - NCJW volunteers present curriculum enrichment activities about Israel to public school sixth graders by taking them on an imaginary trip to Israel.

Kids and Teachers=School (KATS) - NCJW works with M. E. Pearson, Caruthers, and Douglas Elementary Schools in Kansas City, Kansas. NCJW members organize monthly birthday parties for the students during lunchtime, donate school supplies, tutor, provide gifts over the holidays, and miscellaneous needs.

Parties for the Blind - NCJW volunteers provide lunch, entertainment, and transportation in association with AlphaPoint for visually impaired adults.

Scholarships - NCJW awards new and ongoing scholarships to area high school and college students.

Domestic Violence Focus - NCJW sponsors the Silent Witness Exhibit, the Women Helping Women Luncheon and other activities to educate the community about domestic violence.

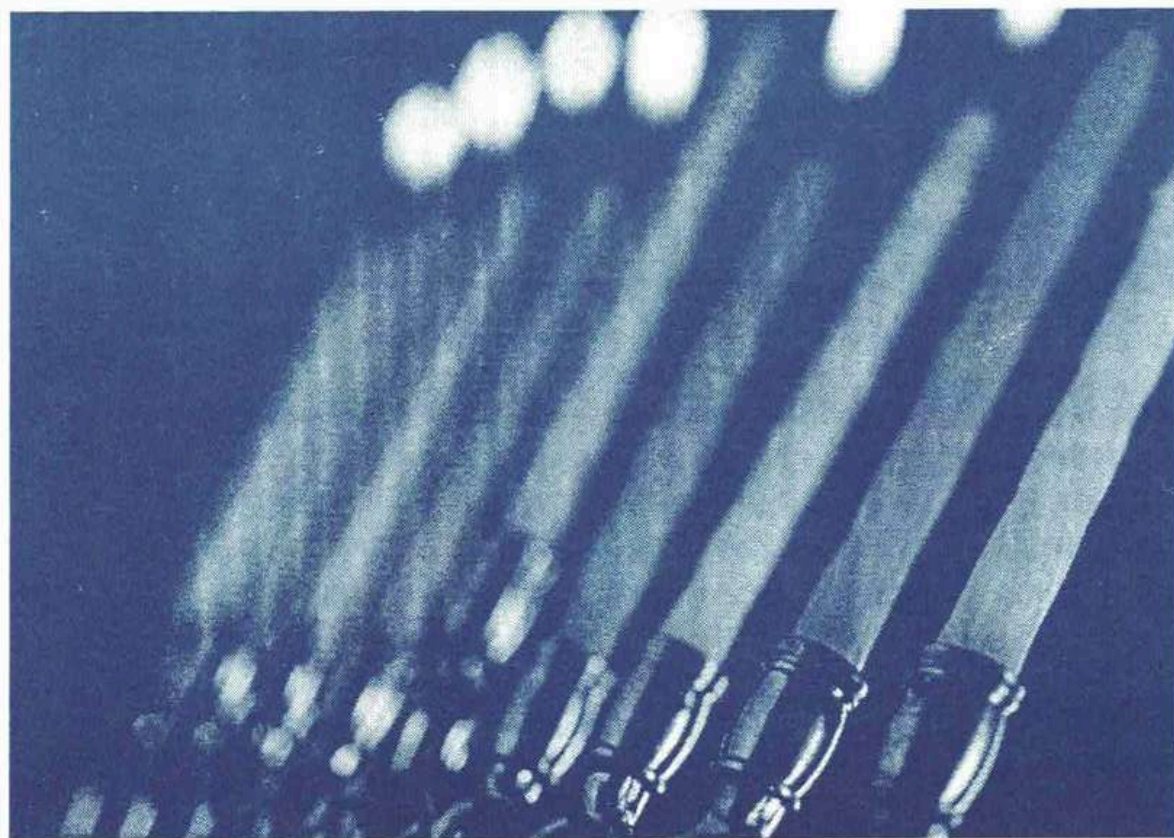
Advocacy - Members advocate for women, children and families on legislative issues considered at the local, state, and federal levels; upcoming participation includes the Benchmark Luncheon, which involves judiciary nominations and the Roe v. Wade Day in Topeka.

Community Education - NCJW is planning an Interfaith Luncheon on March 3 to explore the role of contemporary women in Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

Israel - Donations to the campaign also support programs in Israel, such as the NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University. Through Yad B'Yad- Hand in Hand with Israel, NCJW provides grants for literacy, childhood development and enrichment programs.

Campaign co-chairs and board members, Janet Mark and Melanie Allmayer, are continuing the Donor of Distinction level of giving for donors who contribute a minimum of \$1500 to the campaign. Donors of Distinction will be recognized throughout the year and will be honored at the June 13th awards evening. Please help to ensure the 110 year old tradition of community service and advocacy for which NCJW is known by making a donation to the **Light Up A Life** campaign.

To become a member of NCJW or to make a contribution to the **Light Up A Life** campaign," please call the NCJW office, 913.648.0747.





A Message from the President . . . Ellen Dalen

Tzedakah is the act of giving. Our Jewish values teach us to be charitable and to give of one's self to help others.

As you receive this *Bulletin*, each of you will receive our **Light Up A Life** invitation. This campaign is the main drive to fund the Greater Kansas City Section of NCJW.

Through **Light Up A Life**, we are able to fund all that we do in the community as well as in Israel, such as Kids and Teachers = School, Parties for the Blind, Hello Israel, Silent Witness Exhibit, Women Helping Women event, Interfaith Luncheon, Women in Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University. These services desperately need our support and need us to increase our support. We can only do this through your contribution.

We would like to achieve 100% participation this year. Any size gift will help. Just imagine what we could do if all 862 members would donate \$50. We would be able to raise in excess of \$43,000 to help our community. Please find it in your heart this year to send in a donation no matter what the amount.

Thank you for being a part of the Greater Kansas City Section and for participating in **Light Up A Life**.

Ellen

LOOK AT NCJW NOW!!!

2 Did you notice our new look? The National Office has its eye on the future. After extensive research and thought, the National Board has approved a new branding strategy for the organization which creates a unique voice for a unique organization. The first component is the new logo. Turning thought into action has always been essential to NCJW. Now it is essential to our new logo. Highlighting the W reflects our emphasis on women - our members, our audience, and often the recipients of our support. Turning the W on its side spotlights the changing role of women. It also creates a double arrow, pointing forward to graphically convey our belief in looking ahead and moving toward a better future.

The logo colors - a strong blue and vibrant green - build on this visual language. The blue provides impact and suggest strength. The green represents "go" and symbolizes power, growth and energy. The tag lines, "A faith in the future. A belief in action," reflects NCJW's essence. These words reveal our confidence in the promise of tomorrow and the action that will bring us to it. And they speak of values of the Jewish Faith - values that will flourish in the future and continue to be expressed through activity. They are a verbal snapshot, the simplest way to talk about ourselves and the important work that we do.

You will see the new logo and color scheme on all NCJW materials so that our activities, publications and communications will be instantly recognizable.

In addition to the new brand and tag lines, the National Board has developed a positioning statement which summarizes our organization:

For over a century, the National Council of Jewish Women has been at the forefront of social change - campaigning 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. And that pioneering spirit continues to this day. Informed by Jewish values - and our understanding that these values have universal appeal - The National Council of Jewish Women is nothing less than the voice of the place where women from across society come together to make the world at large, and their communities in particular, a better place. NCJW embraces women of diverse backgrounds and temperaments. Ours is a place of both thinkers and doers. Some women come to wrestle with the larger issues confronting society, advocating for change at the legislative, national and even global level. Others leverage our institutional knowledge and know-how to pursue grassroots agendas at the local level. Yet, all who come to NCJW share this belief, that progressive ideals put into action can make the world a better place; that our passion, intelligence and efforts will make this belief a reality; and that the National Council of Jewish Women is the most potent, most effective, most satisfying place for them to turn their beliefs into meaningful action.

This is an exciting time for NCJW. We are moving forward. We are adapting to the current times so that our organization on both a local and national level will continue for another century to be a vital part of the community.

NCJW, Greater Kansas City Section Mourns the Loss of 3 Past Hannah G. Solomon Recipients

JEANNETTE COHEN

For almost 40 years, Jeannette Cohen devoted her time and energy to the Council's Thrift Store. She served as chair during the store's prosperous years when it brought in over \$100,000 each year. "It was her life," said Jeannette's daughter, Ro Jacobson.

Jeannette was an NCJW life member for 60 years and was an Honorary Board Member. Jeannette's devotion to the Section led her to be its first Hannah G. Solomon Award recipient. Later she received the Service to Section Award.

With her late husband, Jerry Cohen, Jeannette endowed a college scholarship fund through NCJW. This fund provides scholarships to high school seniors with special needs and is renewable for all four years.

Besides her years of service to NCJW, Jeannette was extremely active in the Jewish Community. She received Temple B'nai Jehudah Sisterhood's Shoshana Award. Jeannette and Jerry Cohen loved the Kansas City community. Their support can still be seen in the new Jeannette and Jerry Cohen Stage at the Starlight Theater and the Jerry and Jeannette Cohen Retreat Center (Temple B'nai Jehudah).

By Ellen Portnoy

MILLIE KRASNE

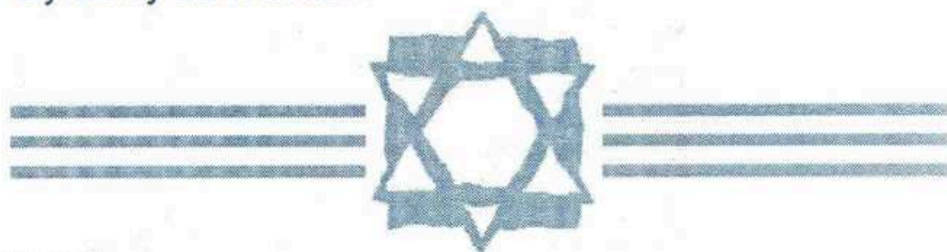
Millie Krasne was a woman of valor. Despite many years of ill health, she forged ahead with her goals of advocacy for senior citizens and youth. She was recognized by appointments to local, state and national causes.

As a recipient of the Hannah G. Solomon Award, she was honored by NCJW for her twenty-year chairmanship of the Scholarship Committee. The long time members of the committee were as devoted to her as she was to them. During her tenure, hundreds of young students were given the opportunity for a college education.

Her greatest joy was her family – her husband "Bud," daughter Barbara, son Bob and his wife Hale and their children Will and Meg.

Anyone who knew Millie was privileged to be in the company of a selfless, kind and giving person. She will be missed.

By Betty Jo Marder



SEVI KRIGEL

NCJW lost three of its most valued members this year – Sevi Krigel was one of them. As a close friend, neighbor and fellow NCJW member, I take pleasure in looking back over the more than fifty years that Sevi served NCJW.

Her participation and support was at all levels: member, committee member, and board member. Sevi was one of the original members of the Friday Study Group, begun in the 1950's. Due to member dedication, such as Sevi's, the group continues to function today – a salute to NCJW's mission to provide education for Jewish women in the community.

Sevi also was a torchbearer for NCJW's philanthropy as a founder of the scholarship program. The Study Group has always combined these two interests of Sevi's and annually created a group scholarship. This year's scholarship will honor both Sevi and Trish Rich.

By Ellen Laner

Upcoming Events

January 21, 2004	Benchmark Luncheon
January 22, 2004	Roe v. Wade - Topeka
March 3, 2004	Interfaith Luncheon
June 4, 2004	Ladies Bridge Luncheon
June 6, 2004	Couples Bridge Dinner
June 13, 2004	Awards Evening & 110 th Birthday

Are you a 50 year NCJW member?

We are looking for all members who have belonged to NCJW, Greater Kansas City Section 50 years or more. Please call the NCJW office and let Linda know how many years you have been a member- 913-648-0747.

HELLO ISRAEL

We're off to a GREAT START for this year! In October and November, we have given presentations to 400 sixth grade students, which involved 32 volunteer presenters. Many of our volunteers did several presentations in these two months. Thanks to our four new presenters: Ilana Dickman, Roselle Poisner, Maureen Salz and Hedy Shron. We are in need of additional new presenters. Join with us in this fun and rewarding experience. Call Phyllis at 913.345.9939 or Barbara at 913.381.5365 and we'll be glad to answer any of your questions.



Judy Wasserman

Melaine Allmayer



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Parties for the Blind Resumes Fall Schedule

Chairperson **Symie Menitove** of NCJW's *Parties for the Blind* sums up all the good reasons for the program that now enters its 68th year. She explains, "The joy on the faces of our visually impaired friends when they come together for an afternoon of entertainment, good food and camaraderie tells a wonderful story."

The 2003-2004 schedule of luncheons resumed on October 21 at the Central United Methodist Church. A special feature of the kick-off luncheon, sponsored by the Sisterhood of Beth Shalom, spotlighted the group's Mitzvah Singers in a diversified program of musical selections.

As the longest-running project of the NCJW, Greater Kansas City Section, *Parties for the Blind* is funded in part from a bequest established by Section member **Beth Lyon**. In addition to special funding by individual donors, support is received through community participation.

For the third season, AlphaPointe Association for the Blind coordinates volunteer drivers who transport guests to the church from all over the Greater Kansas City Area. These drivers include **Norman Arbow, Herb Baker, Blossom Block, Alan Bryant, Bernard Callahan, Pam Dale, Charles Gay, Jill Jacobs, John Kean, Florence Kirshbaum, Eddie Kramer, Charlotte McGahan, Debra Mendoza, Jerold Pelosky, Maureen and Sandy Salz, Herman Schiffman, Richard Silberg and John Kean**. This year, the Central United Methodist Church is donating the use of their 15-passenger van and a volunteer driver.

Rae Block sponsored the November *Party*. For the second year, **Chris Merrick** coordinated a Veterans Day program and the children from Hartman Learning Magnet School made "apple-turkeys" for each guest to take home.

Menitove suggests, "The welcome mat is out for anyone who would like to become a guest or a part of the *Parties'* support group. Along with financial contributions in any amount, volunteer opportunities are available."

With the reminder that "A little bit of kindness goes a long way," **Menitove** and her co-chair **Joan Cody**, request that those interested in helping call the NCJW Office at (913) 648-0747.

Party Dates - Sponsors 2003 - 2004

October 21 – Beth Shalom Sisterhood
November 18 – Rae Block
December 16 – Shirley and Barnett Helzberg
March 16 – Alphapointe Association for the Blind
April 20 – Dierdre and Ronnie Baker
May 18 – Bertha Silberg

A BIG THANK-YOU

Without the help of Meg and Randy Adler, K. C. Audio Visual, we would not be able to pickup our deliveries at Heart To Heart. The Adler's have made possible the more than \$30,000 of donated product that we use for KATS, Parties for the Blind, domestic violence shelter's, CASA, Healthy Families and other projects. A big thank you to the Adler's for their continued support.

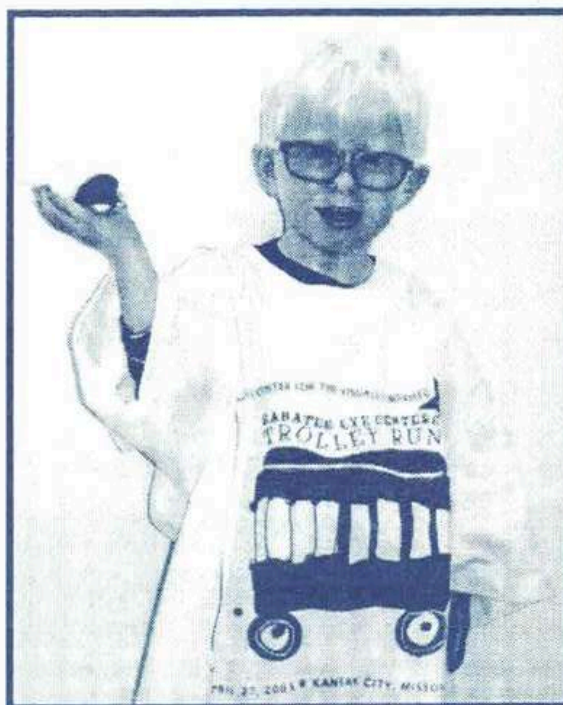
*NCJW is a volunteer organization inspired by Jewish values,
that works through a program of research, education,
advocacy and community service to improve
the quality of life for women, children and families
and strives to ensure individual rights and freedoms for all.*

NCJW SM A FAITH IN THE FUTURE.
A BELIEF IN ACTION.SM



August 22, 2003

Ms. Ellen Dalen
President
National Council of Jewish Women
5750 W. 95th St., Suite 118
Shawnee Mission, KS 66207



Dear Ellen:

Thank you so much for the \$1,000 contribution to the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired (CCVI) from the National Council of Jewish Women. I understand that this is the 2003-04 Oma Beth Lyon Scholarship for Austin Parsons. Please know that this gift will make a wonderful difference in the lives of Austin and his family.

Austin has made wonderful progress in the past year. He is able to identify himself and others in pictures and refers to himself as "Austin P" (there were two Austins in his class). Austin understands the classroom routine and can follow directions. He enjoys using Playdoh and paints and has recently started completing puzzles with irregular shapes, such as animals and cars. Austin is helpful toward his peers and teachers and frequently assists with setting the table for lunch.

I thought you also might like to know that we served a record 177 children last year. It's hard to believe that next week marks the beginning of our 51st year. We could not have reached this wonderful milestone without the support of wonderful people like you.

Again, my heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynne

Mary Lynne Dolembro
Executive Director

DICTIONARY DAY

NCJW gave 115 dictionaries to third grade students at M. E. Pearson Elementary School in Kansas City, KS on October 16th - Webster's Birthday. This is the second year NCJW has participated in the city-wide Dictionary Day.

Dear Jewish Women
Thank you for
the dictionary's.
I'm in the third grade
We will learn
many special
words. This year we
will like them.
Your friend
Alicia Urkenzuehl

NEW MEMBERS

Rita Baellow
Shirley Baker
Emma Becker
Rose Belove
Janet Bloom
Becki Brenner
Ilana Dickmann
Judy Geisel
Sara Goldstein
Barbara Hodes
Donna Kaelter
Betsy Hill Khalili
Marie Koffman
Freda Miller
Shanny Morgenstern
Beti Moskowitz
Lynn Murray
Teresa Nelkin
Eileen Palder
Deanna Rudd
Rhea Salasche-Kaseff
Tamara Lawson Schuster
Jill Shanker
Wendy Sitzmann
Ancely Swade

LIFE MEMBERS

*Julie Hellman
*Pamela Kanter
*Sharon Pase

DEATHS

Minnie Abrams
Elisabeth Archenhold
*Jeannette Cohen
Aileen Forman
Shirley Kohlman
*Millie Krasne
*Sevi Krigel
*Joyce Pack
*Corky Pfeiffer
*Patricia Rich
*Rose Rosenbaum
*Bobbi Saper
Cecille Stern
Greta Zobel

TRANSFER MEMBERS

*Leslie Nemitoff - from
Columbus, Ohio
*Eleanor Waltuch

LIBERTY FRUIT HELPS WITH WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

NCJW wants to thank Liberty Fruit, Arnold and Carol Caviar and family, for the donation of fruit for the centerpieces for Women Helping Women. After the luncheon, all fruit was given to the shelters that were present - Hope House, Newhouse, Rose Brooks and SafeHome.

A big thank you to the Caviars for their continued generosity.

Community Service - KATS



The Kids and Teachers=School, (KATS) project has added to its birthday parties Caruthers Elementary School in Kansas City, KS. This brings the number of students having monthly parties to more than 1,500. We appreciate the collaboration with Shawnee Mission East SHARE (Students Helping in Areas Related to Education) to put on the birthday parties at M. E. Pearson, Douglas and Caruthers. For many of the students at these schools, this is the only birthday party that they have and present that they receive. If you care to donate new books or money to help buy books, please contact the NCJW office - 913.648.0747.

*Volunteers are
Special
People*

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Claire McCaskill, Ruth Moore, Larry Moore, Eileen Sherman and Ellen Dalen



Ronnie Baker, Claire McCaskill, Dierdre Baker

“WOMEN HELPING WOMEN” A ROUSING SUCCESS

High expectations preceded the third annual “Women Helping Women” luncheon held in cooperation with Liz Claiborne Inc. and The Jones Store Metcalf on October 22nd. With KMBC-TV’s Larry Moore and his wife, Ruth, hosting the event, guests numbering a 40-person increase over the previous year were not disappointed.

Claire McCaskill, Missouri State Auditor, was an inspired speaker as she related her experiences as a Jackson County prosecutor. A “no nonsense” advocate for the rights of victims of domestic abuse, McCaskill emboldened listeners to continue the fight.

Other highlights of the program included an original reading by Sylvia Stone titled “The Child Who Lives Within” delivered by Valeria Mackey of the Theatre for Young America, and a style show featuring Liz Claiborne seasonal entries. Eileen Sherman and Berenice Haberman chaired the following committee: Meg Adler, Dierdre Baker, Ellen Dalen, Nadina Indyk, Joan Jacobson, Symie Menitove, Ellen Portnoy, Maureen Salz, Merna Siegler and Sylvia Stone.

Community Service

The NCJW Scholarship Committee needs you!!!

Each year the Section provides scholarships to about 30 college students and provides new scholarships to about 10 high school seniors entering their first year of college. Scholarships are awarded for four years, on a yearly basis, as long as the students keep their grades up and take at least 12 credits each semester.

Currently there are only four members serving on the Scholarship Committee. We need help! The job includes reading scholarship applications, interviewing students, keeping in touch with three or four students over the summer and making decisions on who receives scholarships. Most of the work is done in April/May. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Linda in the NCJW office (913.648.0740). Thank you!

NCJW High School Scholarships

The following 2002 — 2003 high school seniors were awarded scholarships from the funds listed below. Congratulations to these students and thank you to the donors.

Stella Abramova - Johnson County Community College - Robert E. & Robert L. Rosenwald
Sara Bassin - Lafayette College - Eliot Berkley
Elizabeth Buner - Smith College - Sylvia Eveloff
Elizabeth Cambers - College of the Ozarks - Bertha & Josephine Lieberman
Sabrina Coons - Kansas State - Alfred & Dorothy Benjamin
Lasheka Davis - Southwest Missouri State - Jeannette & Jerome Cohen
Megan Duffy - Kansas State - Phillip & Lillian Small
Brandi Eisen - Kansas State - Serina Lorsch
Rachel Eisen - Kansas University - Phillip & Lillian Small
Raashida El-Scari - Jackson State University - Bertha & Josephine Lieberman
Kenneth Ham - Southwest Missouri State - Selma & Stanford Block
Mary Harkness - Drake University - Chuck Levy, Dr. Robert Krigel & B. & D. Newburger
Adalicia Hill - Missouri University - NCJW
Alicia Hill - Northwest Missouri State - Bert Berkley
Jacob Hirsekorn - Kansas University - Chuck Levy
Igor Khayet - Georgetown University - Margery Rosenstock Vogel
Leonid Khayet - Kansas University - Polsky Family Fund
Yiwen Lu - Kansas University - Serina Lorsch
Sara McIntyre - Carleton College - Bertha & Josephine Lieberman
Francesca Menes - Jacksonville University - Robert E. & Robert L. Rosenwald
Marina Mogilevskaya - New York University - Margery Rosenstock Vogel
Ella Mullokanaova - University of Missouri at Kansas City - Robert E. & Robert L. Rosenwald
YeKaterina Noykhovich - Drake University - Harold B. Brown
Mona Patel - Bentley College - Eleanor & Joseph Wolff
Jacqueline M. Ralls - Central Missouri State - Eleanor & Joseph Wolff
Dina Shkolnik - Kansas University - Millie Krasne/Anna Maizlish & Selma & Stanford Block
Starr Slavin - Baker University - Eliot Berkley
Megan Stewart - Pittsburg State University - Sylvia Eveloff and Selma & Stanford Block
Elisha Talbert - Xavier Univ. of Louisiana - Bert Berkley
Katrina Vandeputte - Kansas University - Jules M. Mayer
Alfred White - University of Missouri at Kansas City - Friday Study Group & Joffee/Goodfriend
Reut Zilbiger - University of Maryland - Frances Gershon, & J. & H. Terte
Flarshelm Fellowship - Elizabeth Birger - Florida State University

Mrs. Rosalyn Jacobson
National Council of Jewish Women
5750 West 95th Street Suite 118
Shawnee Mission, KS 66207

Dear Mrs. Jacobson,

Thank you for selecting me to receive the National Council of Jewish Women Scholarship, for the 2002-2003 academic year. Please also extend my thanks to everyone on the scholarship committee and all those connected with the scholarship selection process. I am proud to be a recipient of your organization's scholarship, and am grateful to your organization for providing me with an opportunity to achieve my educational aspirations. If you look to my college transcript, you will see that I have challenged myself every semester both in course load and difficulty. I am committed to growing in my personal and intellectual scholarship and the course directions that I have chosen in college have proved difficult, but extremely rewarding. The success in my matriculation would not have been possible without the assistance from your organization, and I value your continued commitment to my intellectual and professional growth.

I must also apologize for my poor communication with your group over the previous academic year. As I recall, one of the scholarship conditions was to regularly communicate with your committee about any changes in my academic or professional goals. I have been so busy over the last year in a wide range of academic and extra-curricular activities that I neglected to communicate as often as I should have. The past summer I was selected to participate in Hillel's Israel Advocacy Program, and I also studied at the Jaffe Center at Tel Aviv University. In returning in July of 2002, advocacy for Israel's current security challenges became my primary passion both in time and energy. I co-founded KU Israel Alliance, a campus organization committed to engaging the KU and Lawrence communities in constructive tutelage about Israel's rich history and current challenges. Theodore Roosevelt remarked that, "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing," and my own confirmation of that lesson has been a wonderful journey.

I would like to meet with your scholarship committee. I know that the scholarship renewal process does not formally require subsequent meeting, but it would be a privilege to meet with your committee. I know that I have erred in my communication with your office, and I would like to correct this.

If there is anything I can do for your organization in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 785-812-2161, or by writing me at the address above. I would be more than happy to oblige.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Leonid Khayet

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HELP SAVE WOMEN'S LIVES

Two Special Events to Support Benchmark: NCJW's Campaign to Save Roe

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Join NCJW and Co-Sponsors for Lunch
Carrabbas on Metcalf

11:30 a.m. . . . \$18.00 per person

Honored Guest Speaker:

Anne Oppenheimer

National Vice President,

National Council of Jewish Women

Thursday, January 22, 2004

Join NCJW and the Kansas Choice Alliance (KCA)

Kansas State House in Topeka

Bus Leaves at 8:00 a.m. Returns by 4:00 p.m.

Lunch \$15.00 Bus \$10.00

Contact NCJW Office 913.648.0747 or
ncjwkc@swbell.net

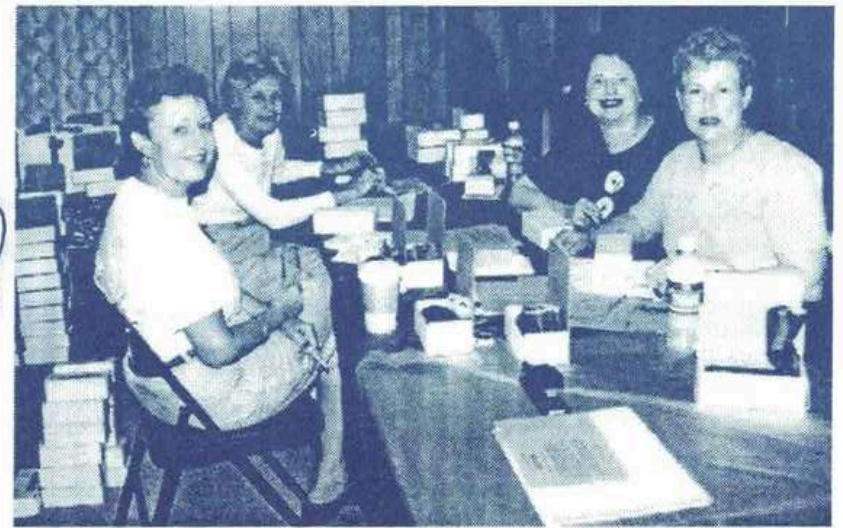
NCJW  **A FAITH IN THE FUTURE.
A BELIEF IN ACTION.SM**

NCJW'S HONEY OF A DEAL

Barbara Cosner and Berenice Haberman, Co-Chairs

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who helped and participated in NCJW's first "Honey for Rosh Hashanah." "Honey for Rosh Hashanah" offered the opportunity of remembering loved ones, friends and neighbors with a gift of sweetness. Those that received the festively wrapped jar of honey could not express what a wonderful way to say L' Shana Tova Tikatevu. The proceeds from this project, further endows NCJW's outreach projects that touch the lives of so many here and abroad. We sold 486 jars of honey. This project will be an annual event, so start making your list for next year, Rosh Hashanah comes early!

A big thank you goes to the volunteers who helped on this project: Jackie Fleshman, Secretary; Ellen Dalen, Advisor and Planner; Sylvia Stone, Publicity; Committee: Jody Cosner, Roger Haberman, Jerry Cosner, Miki Herman, Sandy Jabenis, Beverly Newman, Jean Brown, Jill Jacob, Dolores Sosnow, Esther Pearlmutter, Merna Siegler, Lynn Murray, Janet Mark, and Joan Jacobson.



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THRIFTIQUE HAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SALE

Thriftique's success this year was made possible because of the hard work of Barbara Holzmark and Sherry Klein, co-chairs, and YOU our NCJW volunteers. Thank you to all of our members and friends who donated merchandise and worked the sale. This year's sale made in excess of \$30,000, which will be divided equally between NCJW and SWA. We will run a complete list of NCJW volunteers in the next "Bulletin."

NCJW is very grateful to Symphony Women's Association, Shirley Erickson and Ruth Gray, co-chairs, and all of their volunteers for another successful Thriftique.

A special thank you to the following area businesses and individuals for helping with Thriftique: Ronnie Baker of B-G Maintenance Management, Block & Company, the Tutura Group, Jim Sloss of Sign Pro, Whitney Graves of "Metal Works

Company", New York Bakery & Delicatessen, Designer Shoe Warehouse, Natalie Nearenberg of Fashions-At-Large, Judy Leichter of E.J.'s in Corinth, Gerson Jewelry, L.L. Wright, Tom Howell, Mark Schonwetter, Sheldon Fleschman, Shawnee Mission Northwest CCC under the direction of Ron Poplau, Shawnee Mission East SHARE under the direction of Bev Timmons, Steve Israelite, Explore Kansas City Magazine, Rob Roberts of the Sun Newspaper, Kate Hunter of the Star Magazine "Getting Started", the Kansas City Symphony, The Owens Group, Inc., the Community Blood Center, American Stroke Foundation, League of Women Voters of Johnson County and Kansas City, Missouri, the Foundation on Aging in combination with the Johnson County Area Agency on Aging, the Midwest Transplant Network, the Overland Park Police Department, El Centro, Healthy Solutions, Inc., the Health Partnership Clinic of Johnson County and the Kansas Department of Health.

New Program In Israel

KIDS FOR KIDS

It's been three years since the start of the suicide bombings in Israel, and the number of young victims continues to multiply. To be sure, too many of these children have become part of the fatality statistics or have been permanently maimed. There is, however, another class of young victims referred to as those who have "fallen between the stretchers". These are children who have not suffered physical injuries, but severe psychological trauma as a result of the suicide bombings. Kids for Kids (K4K), a project funded by NCJW's Yad B'Yad, was established to help these children.

Although the psychological effect on these children runs the gamut, many of them have been overwhelmed by feelings of powerlessness and helplessness as a result of the terror attacks. Unfortunately, with the current economy in Israel, few government services have been allocated to address the needs of these children. K4K was created to fill this gap.

Staffed by numerous volunteer psychologists, K4K conducts workshops to engage these children in numerous innovative, therapeutic activities. The primary tool being utilized in the K4K workshops is called Digital Storytelling. Each participating child is given the opportunity to write his or her own personal story, which is then produced in a CD-video format with voice-over, photography, artwork and video capability (see the following story). The premise is that stories, rather than logical arguments, are the best means for these children to find their inner voices and to enable them to overcome their feelings of helplessness.

This year, NCJW will restore the "voices" of more than 100 Israeli kids through the K4K Workshops. The grant money for this pioneering program was provided by NCJW through Yad b'Yad. This is the first Yad b'Yad sponsored-program that specifically services victims of terror. Yad b'Yad has already allocated \$77,400 for eighteen other projects in Israel, including children's literacy and empowerment programs for at-risk populations.

SAFEHOME

In March, 2003, the Kansas City Rabbinical Association gave its blessing to COMVAC's (Johnson County's Community Violence Action Council) Faith Committee project: Making a CASE for Safety, Congregational Advocacy thru Support and Education. This project will train lay volunteers in congregations to be a resource for victims of domestic abuse if the person feels uncomfortable talking to the clergy.

In 2001, COMVAC's Faith Committee and SAFEHOME conducted a study that found 84% of female Johnson County domestic violence victims had a close relationship to their religious communities. Less than 50% of those women sought assistance from their clergy. The reasons revolved around fear of not being believed, shame, and embarrassment.

To help reach those victims, the Faith Committee initiated the CASE project, a congregation-based support and education program for members facing family

abuse. Volunteers will listen to victims, validate their stories and, and explain the resources available to them. Volunteers will handle each call with sensitivity and confidentiality. The first training took place September 30th. One out of the three persons who applied to volunteer for this program from the Jewish Community was able to attend. Our faith community's volunteers will serve the entire Jewish Community, not just their congregation. COMVAC's Faith Committee hopes to hold the next training on March 2nd. Anyone interested in volunteering for this program should contact Susan Lebovitz, 913-432-9300, ext. 18.

If you know of someone who's dealing with domestic abuse issues and feels uncomfortable talking with their rabbi or cantor, you can refer them to Marcie Pell, 913-634-0432, or her email:

myjewishfriend@yahoo.com.

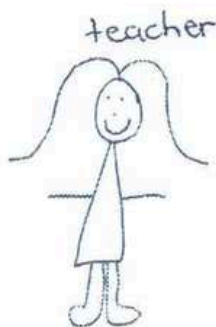
Susan Lebovitz

Volunteer & Special Events Coordinator

Dear Jewish woman's Society, Thank you
For all the supplies you gave to us.
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School those days.

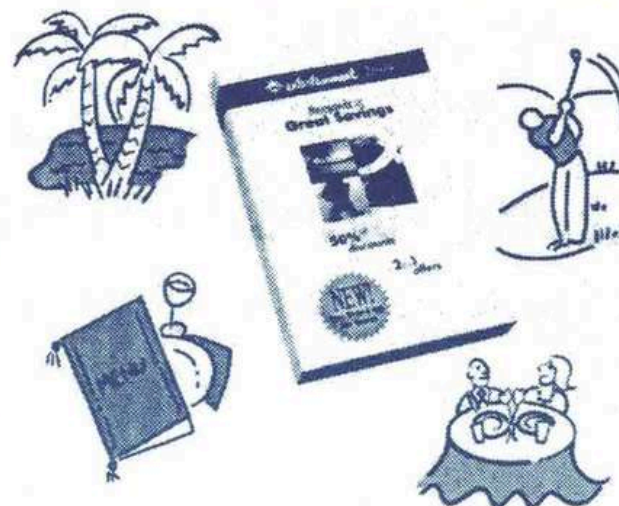
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NATIONAL NEWS

NCJW URGES OVERTURN OF GLOBAL GAG RULE AND RESTORATION OF UNFPA FUNDING

"The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) strongly opposes the Bush administration's continuing efforts to eliminate funding for international family planning services. These draconian changes in US overseas funding policies for family planning place the lives of countless thousands of the world's poorest women, men and young people at risk.

"In 2001, President Bush re-imposed the global gag rule by issuing an executive order barring the US Agency for International Development (USAID) from giving aid to international organizations that use their own funds to provide abortions or abortion counseling, or to lobby their own governments on abortion policy. Recently, the White House expanded this global gag rule to cover family planning funds administered by the US Department of State and officially withdrew funding from the reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium, which provides reproductive

health and HIV prevention services for refugee women.

"Compounding the issue is the administration's withdrawal of funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In January 2002, the White House froze the \$34 million UNFPA allocation approved by Congress over concerns regarding UNFPA's program in China. In May 2002, however, a State Department investigation team returned from China having found no evidence that UNFPA had knowingly supported or participated in programs coercing abortion or sterilization. The team recommended the release of the UNFPA funds. Despite these findings, the administration still refuses to restore funding. An NCJW leader, who recently visited UNFPA sites in China as part of an interfaith mission, corroborated the State Department team's findings.

"NCJW urges Congress to overturn the global gag rule and restore UNFPA funding immediately."

NCJW OPPOSES A CONSTITUTIONAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

"The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) supports the right of gay and lesbian couples to legally affirm and protect their relationships through marriage and opposes efforts to amend the constitution to create a federal definition of marriage as only between a man and a woman.

10 Those who oppose the right of gay and lesbian couples to marry generally cite religious beliefs as the basis for their opposition. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist recently stated that he supports the proposed constitutional amendment because "marriage is a sacrament." The constitutional guarantee of religious liberty and separation between religion and state requires that the US government refrain from defining who may marry.

Gay and lesbian couples in this country are forming partnerships, having children and creating families and will continue to do so. To deny couples in these committed relationships the same legal benefits accorded spouses in heterosexual marriages is prejudicial, counterproductive and morally offensive.

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation must be eliminated. NCJW endorses and resolves to work for the enactment and enforcement of laws and regulations that protect civil rights and individual liberties for all."

NCJW OPPOSES EXPANSION OF THE PATRIOT ACT

"The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) opposes attempts to enact new legislation that would expand the powers of the Justice Department and other law enforcement agencies beyond those already granted in the Patriot Act, enacted in October 2001. While we support our government's efforts to fight terrorism and apprehend terrorist, we believe there must be a balance between the intelligence community's need to know and an individual's constitutionally guaranteed right to privacy and judicial due process.

The Patriot Act of 2001, as enacted, contains provisions that dangerously infringe on civil liberties including:

Section 215, which allows law enforcement to access a wide array of personal information including medical, business, library, education and genetic records without cause;

Section 213, which permits "sneak and peek" searches of homes prior to obtaining a search warrant;

Section 415, which allows for the indefinite detention of non-citizens certified by the Attorney General as terrorists, whether or not they are criminally charged, and bypasses judicial review.

The scale is already out of balance and our constitutionally guaranteed rights are at risk.

Three new bills have been introduced in Congress that would grant excessive authority to law enforcement agencies and further infringe on civil liberties and constitutional rights. The "Pretrial Detention and Lifetime Supervision of Terrorist Act of 2003," the "Antiterrorism Tools Enhancement Act of 2003," and the "Terrorists Penalties Enhancement Act of 2003" would erode due process by granting the Justice Department even broader latitude to subpoena people and records, question individuals in closed proceedings, and deny suspects bail and access to an attorney all without judicial review or grand jury protections.

NCJW strongly opposes legislation that would further erode civil liberties. We urge Congress to defeat these bills. Further, we call on Congress to restore the checks and balances required in a democratic society by enacting pending legislation to correct the most egregious provisions of the Patriot Act and safeguard our constitutional rights."

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NCJW National Council of Jewish Women bulletin

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WINTER 2003

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Published by the
National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Kansas City Section
5750 W. 95th Street, Suite 118
Shawnee Mission, KS 66207
913.648.0747

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*The Bulletin is funded
through a grant by the
Jewish Heritage Foundation*

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