

Bulletin Winter 2010, Vol. 102 No. 3

DON'T MISS THIS FABULOUS EVENT!



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Special Donations

The National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Kansas City Section

Invites you to

Learn about NCJW's Grassroots Initiatives
Meet our National President
Nancy Ratzen

Thursday, April 15, 2010
Doubletree Hotel, Corporate Woods,
Overland Park, KS

For Dinner

5:30 p.m., minimum donation \$18

For Coffee and Dessert

7:30 p.m., minimum donation \$5

Join Us!

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings!



Debbie Chase

Mirra Klausner

Shirley Matson



Dear Members,

Recently, the New York Times ran a special section entitled "Giving." In it, they praised the Everyday Donor. That, I thought, is the best way to describe NCJW members: *Everyday Donors*. Every day, NCJW women around the city are giving to our community. They are giving their time, their talent and their financial support.

To those of you who have given to our *Light Up A Life* fundraising campaign this year, thank you. The time and talent you give to NCJW is equally important and appreciated, but we have to keep the doors open and the lights on in order to be able to make a real difference in the lives of the people we serve. Therefore, if you have not yet made your annual financial gift to NCJW, this is the time to do so.

Keep in mind; on April 15th you will have a rare experience to attend a dinner and/or dessert and presentation where the featured speaker will be Nancy Ratzan, the NCJW National President. She is a dynamic leader who ably represents NCJW. Come join us for an engaging evening with Nancy, and learn first-hand how NCJW is making a difference in the lives of women, children and families.

Thank you for all you do for NCJW.

Bea nice

CORRECTION....

The pictures of the two 2009 Flarsheim Fellowships were reversed.



Leslie Brooke Picker



Laura Michelle Goodman

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 21 -23

Washington Institute

An opportunity to hobnob with your national legislators and advocate for social change

Sundown, March 29 -

Sundown April 6

Passover

March 30

NCJW Office Closed

April 5

NCJW Office Closed

April 15

**An Evening with
The NCJW National President**

Meet Nancy Ratzan
learn what's happening
on the National Scene and in Israel

June 1

Awards and Installation
7:00 p.m.

The Bulletin

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NCJW NATIONAL PRESIDENT TO SPEAK IN APRIL

Nancy Ratzan, President, National Council of Jewish Women, will be visiting Greater Kansas City, April 15 -16, 2010. A special dinner is planned at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas, on April 15 at 5:30 PM. A group presentation, offering a delicious dessert bar, follows at 7:30 PM. This event is open to all NCJW members and the community.

Ratzan became NCJW president in March 2008, after serving for six years as an NCJW vice president. She has been a leader in NCJW's national public policy efforts since 1996, and chaired NCJW's judicial nominations campaign, BenchMark: NCJW's Campaign to Save Roe.

In March 2009, President Obama appointed Ratzan to the White House Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. In February 2009, she represented NCJW in Rome and Israel as a delegate of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which included an historic meeting with the Pope Benedict XVI. In 2003, she represented NCJW on an interfaith mission to China to investigate family planning practices.

An attorney, Ratzan is a former partner of the Miami law firm Steel Hector & Davis, where she specialized in appellate, First Amendment, and higher education law. She was the second woman to serve as president of Temple Beth Sholom, a 1,100-family Reform congregation in Miami Beach, and was founding chair of the Open Tent, an innovative program to expand and strengthen the Jewish community in non-traditional ways.

Ratzan is a courageous, effective advocate of social change. Her commitment to justice is grounded in Jewish and feminist values along with a vision, passion, and devotion to mobilizing the voice of progressive Jewish women.

Her talk with NCJW members and the community, on the evening of April 15, will include comments and recommendations from her tenure on the White House Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and NCJW's current grassroots initiatives - focusing on economic justice, reproductive health and rights, religion-state separation, civil rights and liberties, women's empowerment in Israel, and the well-being of women, children, and families.

One of the sponsors of the April 15th event is the Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park, Kansas. Committee members are **Roni Beshears** and **Teri Sackin** co-chairs; **Meg Adler**, **Berenice Haberman**, **Gina Malashock**, **Symie Menitove**, **Ellen Portnoy**, and **Merna Seigler**.

Thursday Evening • April 15 • Overland Park Doubletree

Did you know.... NCJW has more than 90,000 members and supporters worldwide?

CHECK OUT NCJW ON FACEBOOK

Stay connected and join a community of hundreds as NCJW provides updates and opportunities to take action and make your voice heard!

As an organization that strives to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families and to safeguard individual rights and freedoms, 2010 will be an important year for NCJW.



The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)
is a grassroots organization
of volunteers and advocates
who turn progressive ideals into action.
Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice
by improving the quality of life for women,
children, and families
and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

IN THE COMMUNITY

DENTAL VAN DATES SET... VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



The Colgate Dental Van arrives in Kansas City May 16. Local volunteer dentists will perform basic screenings for children with limited access to dental care. The dentists will generate forms with recommendations for further dental care. The children receive a free toothbrush and toothpaste.

Mark your calendar to help us prepare dental forms, monitor wait lines, and distribute gift bags. Two volunteers are needed for each shift.

- ◆ Sunday, May 16, Wal-Mart, Independence
10:00 am – 12 pm or 2:00-4:00 pm
- ◆ Thursday, May 20 at M. E. Pearson Elementary School, Kansas City, KS., time TBA
- ◆ Wednesday, May 19, Derrick Thomas Academy, Kansas City, MO, time TBA
- ◆ Friday, May 21, school and time TBA

Carpooling available! Just contact the NCJW Office at ncjwkc@swbell.net or (913) 648-0747 to help with this important project.

S.O.S. FOR ABUSED WOMEN

Help us place SAFEHOME contact cards in public restroom stalls in Kansas restaurants, beauty salons and other public establishments. The cards and dispensers are available in the NCJW office. Please get permission of the owner or manager. **Ann Stern** is the NCJW liaison to SAFEHOME.



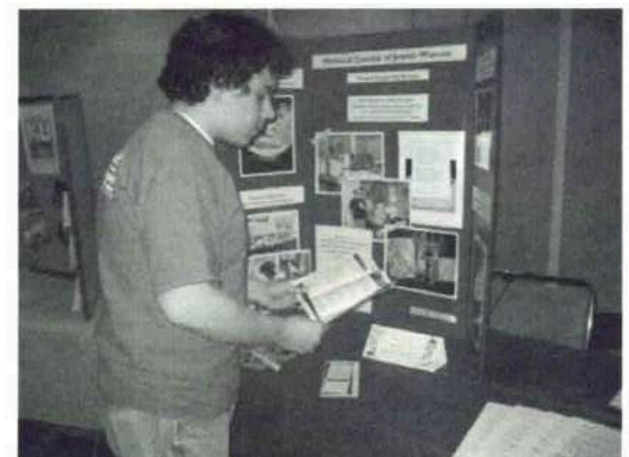
BASKETS 4 BABIES



Thanks to the generous donations from our members as well as donations from the community, *Baskets 4 Babies* provided 35 baskets to mothers who otherwise could not afford to purchase necessities for their newborn babies. Five baskets were delivered to Hope House in Lee's Summit, Missouri; ten baskets to Rose Brooks in Kansas City, Missouri; and 20 baskets to Kansas Children's Service League serving residents in both Wyandotte County, Kansas and Jackson County, Missouri. To donate items, please contact the NCJW Office.

NCJW PARTICIPATES IN SHUK

Sandy Suffian represented NCJW at the fourth annual B'nai Tzedek Shuk at the Jewish Community Campus February 18, 2010. More than 30 non-profit organizations participated in the Shuk. They offered information about their organizations to the teens. Approximately 80 teens and their parents attended the Shuk this year. B'nai Tzedek funds are established by parents for their children to learn about giving tzadakah in the community. Last year teens who participated in the B'nai Tzedek Shuk donated over \$3500 to the organizations represented.



Federico Zepeda stops at the NCJW's Shuk display.

JUDIASM ON ABORTION

By Rabbi Debbie Stiel

In Deuteronomy we read “*tsedek, tzedek tirdof* – justice, justice you must pursue.” The rabbis teach that the Bible does not use extra words. If a word is repeated there must be a reason. Why the extra word justice here? The rabbinic answer: to teach us that we must be especially vigilant about justice. Justice is not something we can assume will fall upon us. We have to pursue it. We have to make it happen. We all know that when we stay silent, rights can disappear. We have to speak out. We have to be heard and seen and make our views known.



There are those who want to say that morality speaks with one voice on the abortion issue and that only the rights of the fetus are to be considered. I want to tell you that I come from an ancient tradition that does not take the view of those who want to outlaw abortion. Judaism has always held that it is the mother's life that must take precedence over that of the unborn child. As Rabbi Moses Sofer, a 19th century scholar, wrote, “no woman is required to build up the world by destroying herself.” The mother is already alive and it is her needs and concerns that should be considered first. This does not mean that the fetus is unimportant, but the fetus does not hold the same status in Judaism as is held by the one who is already an independently living being.

Almost two thousand years before Rabbi Sofer, the first and most important rabbinic text the Mishnah said (in Oholot 7.6): “If a woman has (life-threatening) difficulty in childbirth, one dismembers the embryo within her, limb by limb, because her life takes precedence over its life. However, once its head has emerged, it may not be touched, for we do not set aside one life for another.”

Where does Judaism get this view? From the Bible itself. In Exodus it says “if two men are fighting and in the process they accidentally strike a pregnant woman so she gives birth prematurely. If no further injury results, the man who struck the woman must pay the amount of compensation the woman's husband demands and the judges approve.” In other words the loss of the fetus is considered a material loss but it is not at all considered murder. This is the religious view held in Judaism! And I know it is held by many Christians and others as well. It is the mother who is already alive whose rights need to be considered first.

As one of my rabbinic colleagues noted, the religious voices we have been hearing so loudly, so harshly, so sanctimoniously in our country in recent years, are proclaiming moral values vastly different than those embodied in the Bible. Religion tells us to look out for the poor, the widow, the disenfranchised. It is the mother - often poor, sometimes unmarried, - already a standalone human being - she is the one whose rights need to take precedence and who needs our protection and care. This is the justice we need to pursue.

NCJW BRIDGE GROUP IS GOING STRONG



From left: Tootie Brown, Patsy Shanberg, and Merna Siegler enjoy a hand of bridge.

ANOTHER WAY TO DONATE

**CALL LORI SIEGEL
FOR PICK-UP OF
YOUR UNWANTED FURNITURE
AND GET A TAX WRITEOFF
THEN NOTIFY
THE NCJW OFFICE
913 648 0740**

IT'S JUST THAT EASY!

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INTERFAITH LUNCHEON

A LITTLE ACT OF CARING GOES A LONG WAY

A little act of caring
Makes the world a better place
A kind word of comfort to one
Abandoned by the human race

A big hurrah for the child
Who has given his very best
Happy days are here again
He has passed that fearsome test

A few quiet moments of just listening
To a troubled friend over the phone
Provides the support he needed
To prove he is no longer alone

Sharing your coat with a stranger
You know not who
In your heart that certain knowledge
He will be warm the cold winter through

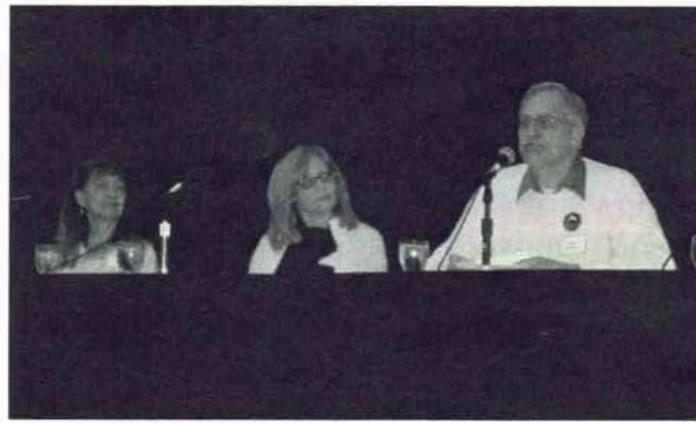
Stopping by the blood bank
The urgency has been made clear
Discovering a special pleasure
Your gift will help someone dear

Seeing to your neighbor
A kindly woman who dwells all alone
A cherry cobbler for her supper
And for her dog, a bone

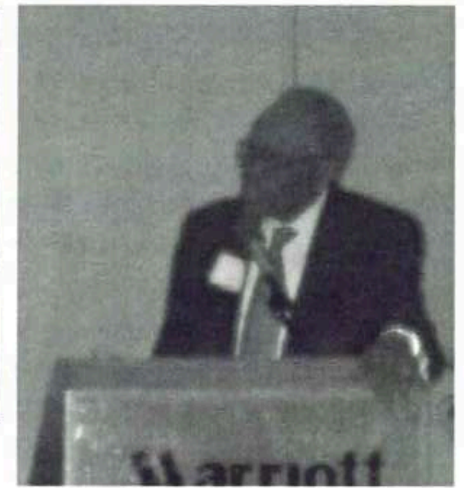
Speaking in defense of the little guy
Who seems to be the friend of none
Suggesting a nice hot meal
Before the day is done

Offering your hand to the blind man
Whose cane taps his uncertain way
Crossing the street together
Caring makes it a very fine day.

By Sylvia Stone



From right: Panelists Rev. Dr. Kara Hawkins, American Indian; Rabbi Alexandria Shuval-Weiner, Jewish; and Rex Block, Baha'i.



Alvin Brooks gives the opening remarks.

— It's Never Too Late to Light Up A Life —

___ \$25-\$99 ___ \$100-\$249 ___ \$250-\$499 ___ \$500-\$999

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Please make checks payable to NCJW, Greater Kansas City Section
and send checks to 5750 W 95th St., Suite 118, Overland Park, KS 66207

___ I wish to remain anonymous.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Donation in honor/memory of _____

Please send notification of honorarium/memorial to:

Name _____

Address _____

Please list additional memorials/honorarium on separate sheet and
return with the above.

Please contact me to help with:

Community Service ___ Educational Programing ___

Discuss including NCJW in my estate plans ___

Light Up a Life _____

NCJW®

National Council of Jewish Women

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A TRIBUTE MAKES.
Contributions to the NCJW, Greater Kansas City Section are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.
\$10.00 minimum. Contributions through November 27, 2010.

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In honor of:
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MARC SICKEL – RECOVERY
Eve & Bob Goldstein
JARED BLUMENTHAL'S
BAR MITZVAH
Symie & Jay Menitove

BASKETS 4 BABIES

In honor of:
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Contribution made by:
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Gina Malashock

WE CARE FOR EYE CARE

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NCJW®

SAVE THE DATE

NCJW National President's Visit

APRIL 15, 2010

Overland Park Doubletree

**Find out what NCJW is
doing in Israel and in Washington!**

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Sandy Suffian

Ann Stern

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Symie Menitove

NCJW® A FAITH IN THE FUTURE.
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