

NCJW BULLETIN

National Council of Jewish Women

Spring 1998

Greater Kansas City Section

Annual Meeting & Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

The 1998-99 Slate of Officers and elected Board Members of NCJW, Greater Kansas City Section, will be installed on Monday, May 11, 1998, at 11:30 a.m. Once again we are having this event at the Designer's Showhouse. This year's home is at 1035 Westover Rd., the second house east of Ward Parkway. For those of you who have been regular attendees of the Showhouse offerings, you might remember touring this house. It was the 1973 selection and the Hodes family still owns this home. From all indications, improvements and decor should

be spectacular! Tours of the house are from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and again from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

*Win a rejuvenating day at
SERENITY Spa!*

NCJW's own Barbara Holzmark is the current President of JWSA (Junior Women's Symphony Alliance), the sponsor of the Showhouse. The Awards Committee has chosen to honor Barbara with our "Service to Section" Award at the luncheon.

Help us honor Barbara, install our

new Officers and Board Members and hear about the new and exciting "vision" the Greater Kansas City Section of NCJW is taking as we approach the new millennium.

As an extra incentive to those attending, we are going to have a drawing for a day at SERENITY—The Rejuvenating Day Spa. Your reservation is your entry in the SERENITY drawing.

Watch your mail for the invitation to this exciting event....see you there!

Silent Witness Exhibit Silhouette Added In Kansas

NCJW, Greater Kansas City Section, SAFEHOME (the Johnson County domestic violence shelter) and KCSDV (the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence) are collaborating to bring the Silent Witness Exhibit to the State of Kansas. The Silent Witnesses now include twelve figures representing Kansas women who were murdered in acts of domestic violence. Each woman's personal story is displayed on the shield on her silhouette. During a legislative day in Topeka, the witnesses were displayed at the state Capitol. Kansas Attorney General, Carla Stovall, spoke and dedicated the twelfth silhouette in memory of her friend, Regina, born in Kansas, who was murdered on April 9, 1991, in Colorado. Here is her story:

Regina was leaving the United Methodist Church, where she was an Associate Pastor and had just finished teaching a Monday night Bible study class, when her estranged husband, a former Catholic priest, confronted her in the church parking lot. When she

refused to enter the car with him, he shot her five times and then turned the gun on himself committing suicide. Among the police charges were battery, assault and first-degree murder.

Along with the exhibit, information is provided and resources recommended. Please call SAFEHOME at (913)432-9300 (ask for Jan) to schedule the exhibit. Donations to maintain and support the exhibit are tax deductible. Make checks payable to NCJW with the notation "Silent Witness."

The exhibit is a powerful memorial intended to raise community awareness and help end the violence. Besides Topeka, the exhibit has been, or is scheduled to go to Avila College for Women's History Month, to the Crime Victim's Conference in Wichita, to Topeka in October for the Governor's Conference on Child Abuse, to the Kansas City Bar Association meeting in October, to Village Presbyterian Church and many other sites.

DONATIONS TO THE SILENT WITNESS PROJECT

We wish to thank the following donors for sponsoring the witnesses at contributions of:

\$500 and above:

Marcia Berkley
Ann & Daniel Stern

\$100 - \$250

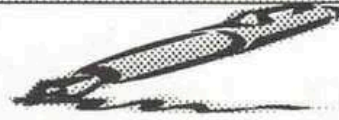
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The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Assn.



President's Message...



By Roni Beshears

A couple of board members told me that the NCJW Washington Institute is the best national meeting to attend. I said, "I'll let you know." Well, they were right! The Washington Institute: Advocacy in Action '98, held at The Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, February 22-25, was truly an event not to be missed. The Kansas delegation to the Institute included Merle and Arnold Cole, Barbara Cosner, Berenice Haberman, Naomi Kauffman, Dorothy Rosenwald and myself. Our delegation, along with hundreds of other committed NCJW activists, came together to make NCJW's collective voice heard loudly and clearly in the nation's Capitol. We learned about pressing policy issues, met with leaders and policy makers, shared ideas and experiences. We participated in workshops on critical local, state and federal policy issues that impact women, children and families. We developed a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Israel at 50 and the plight of Israeli women to gain equality. We were briefed by top level administration officials, members of Congress and coalition partners on key issues of concern to NCJW.

We culminated this learning extravaganza by visiting with members of Congress from Kansas and Missouri to advocate on behalf of four NCJW Capitol Hill issues — Child Care; School Vouchers; International Family Planning; and "Partial Birth Abortion." But, I must admit to you the quintessential hallmark for me was shaking hands with President Clinton and listening to the country's Commander-in-Chief praise the work of NCJW and ask us to continue our activism and community service. It certainly was NCJW's time to shine as the premier Jewish women's organization committed to improving the lives of women and children and protecting individual and civil rights for all. I thank Marilyn Flanzbaum and Deedee Ostfeld, Co-chairwomen of the Washington Institute '98, other national leaders and the NCJW staff for planning a very successful program that motivated us to continue our commitment to NCJW. If you would like a copy of the delegation's report or to view a videotape of President Clinton's speech, please contact Linda at 648-0747.

Don't forget to make your reservation for the May 11 Annual Election Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at the Designer's Showhouse. Merle Cole, VP Programming, Berenice Haberman, Jill Jacob and Idelle Williams have

been working diligently to help us make our leap into the next millennium with our Vision 2000 program. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Jody Kaplan, has come up with an exciting group of women to assume Section leadership positions. Special thanks to Jody and the Nominating Committee—Carol Barnett, Shirley Goller, Rosanne Rosen, Amy Shapiro, Aletha Simon, Susie Sloman and Robbie Small. Come and meet the 1998/1999 leadership team elected to represent your interests. Also, we will be presenting the "Service to Section" Award to Barbara Holzmark (Congratulations, Barbara!) and celebrating our accomplishments over the past year thanks to YOUR active volunteerism and support of NCJW.



THANKS A LATTE!

You have received your personal giving plea and we thank those of you who have responded. PLEASE remember to send your donation which supports our national programs. NCJW's mission is accomplished with the help of our national research program, Center for the Child and our Washington advocacy office. NCJW has a strong presence in Washington with a very capable staff watching the

legislation closely.

We want to express our deep appreciation to LATTeLAND for their willingness to donate a Tall Latte or a freshly brewed cup of coffee when you make your donation and take the coupon into either of their two locations during March or April.

Special thanks to Shelly Dewoskin for helping with the Personal Giving Campaign and to Marjorie Montague for the tal-

ented typesetting she did for this project. Remember, turn in your donation now—there is still time to get that steaming cup of "Java" AND help support NCJW's needed National Programs.

Thank you!



EMILIE LEVIN BEQUEST PROJECTS CHOSEN

The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Kansas City Section, received a bequest from the estate of Emilie Levin. Ms. Levin, who passed away several years ago, was a life member of NCJW and former Director of Jewish Family and Children's Services. A committee has been conducting a nine-month study to determine what projects would best honor her memory. Following established guidelines, the Board of Directors of NCJW has chosen four projects for funding. NCJW volunteers will be needed. Please call the contact person or the office if you are interested.

1. NCJW will collaborate with the Kansas Children's Service League to establish Healthy Families America (HFA) in Johnson County. The goal of HFA is to prevent child abuse and neglect in children from birth to age five by targeting at-risk parents and providing services to strengthen families, enhance child well-being and equip parents to use community resources in meeting their needs. In addition to preventing child abuse and neglect, HFA offers families a host of other benefits, such as working to ensure that a family gets medical care, that their children receive well-child care and immunizations, that mothers receive prenatal care and that respite care is provided if needed. Home visitors also help parents develop realistic expectations regarding child development and model positive discipline techniques. Home visitation programs serve as an early warning system for those families in need of more assistance. NCJW contacts are Betty Barnett and Cathy

Boyer-Shesol.

2. **Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Project of Jackson County Special Assistance Program.** This project provides cash assistance for hard-to-get incidentals and focuses on special needs of abused and neglected children who are under the jurisdiction of Jackson County Family Court. NCJW may assist foster families or the children's own families, by, for example, purchasing toys, clothing or birthday gifts; items for adoption celebrations; tutors on a regular basis at home or in the classroom; funds for class field trips; eyeglasses; or rental of musical instruments to enable the students to participate in school classes. NCJW, Greater Kansas City Section initiated the CASA project in Jackson County in 1983. NCJW contact is Ann Stern.

3. **Johnson County CASA/Kids' Voice.** Kids' Voice is a child-oriented educational program for families who are in the process of separation or divorce. (In 1995 there were 958 divorces in Johnson County with 513 involving children.) The program consists of six weekly workshops that use an educational approach to help children cope with changes in their family that accompany divorce. Children's groups are divided into three age ranges (4-6 years, 7-9 years and 10-14 years) that use age-appropriate games and activities that build on skills learned the previous week. Concurrent workshops provide parents with information and support to help their children through the divorce process. Sessions are held at the Nall Hills Element-

tary School. NCJW will fund this project through a matching funds program and use volunteers to assist CASA-trained group facilitators. NCJW contact is Ann Stern.

4. **Emilie Levin Community Event.** NCJW will provide as a public service, free of charge to the community, a distinguished knowledgeable speaker who will bring a pleasurable learning experience to those in attendance. In the past, NCJW has provided this type of programming through Ruth Stern Memorial Lectures. Previous speakers have included Joycelyn Elders, M.D., former Surgeon General of the United States; Judith Viorst, author; Calvin Trillin, author; Rabbi Harold Kushner, author; Ellen Goodman, editorial writer and Marva Collins, educator. NCJW contacts are Chickie Dollinger, Shirley Malashock and Merna Siegler. Please call the NCJW office at 648-0747 if you are interested in any of these projects.



Seated L to R: Ann Stern, Chair; Jackie Fleschman, Treasurer. Standing L to R: Shirley Goller; Cathy Boyer-Shesol; Roni Beshears, President; and Betty Barnett

NOW PLANNING CHILDREN'S CONCERT FOR 1998

You may recall our very successful Children's Concert of 1991, featuring Fred Penner and 1994's starring Linda Arnold. These concerts were well received and through donations by hundreds of generous individuals and businesses, we were able to invite between 700-800 disadvantaged children from over 30 agencies and

institutions to be our guests at the concert. The donors were invited to a special light luncheon preceding the concert. Watch for the specific details/date of our 1998 concert soon in our upcoming mailings and Bulletins.

The Children's Concert committee is being formed at this time and we would love to hear

from you. Let us know if you would like to be involved in the agency contact committee, or any other type of participation you would enjoy. Volunteers have many opportunities to help with this wonderful community service/fund raising event!



Kansas is PROGRESSIVE in the sense of a bill passed last year, an "Act Concerning Nonprobate Transfers" relating to MOTOR VEHICLES (HB 2056). You can now title your vehicles with a Designation of Beneficiary(ies) by using a "Transfer-On-Death" (TOD) form. To get further information, call the Kansas Department of Motor Vehicles at 764-8484; for Mission ask for extension 5630; and for Olathe ask for extension 5475.

Abortion is as usual! HB 2531 changes viability and eliminates abortions after 22 weeks with NO exception for fetal abnormalities. NCJW is "Pro-Choice" and takes a stand that WOMEN should always be the one to make that very difficult decision. Please call Governor Graves at 1-800-748-7408 and ask him to veto HB 2531 and to vote NO to any abortion bills. Advise your legislators of the same by calling 782-5000 Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Other actions in Kansas:

- CHARTER SCHOOLS - State TAX-SUPPORTED schools that do not exist under local school board authority, may operate in-

dependently from local school districts with the potential for "school vouchers." WE OPPOSE.

- CONCEALED WEAPONS - Prohibits persons from carrying a concealed weapon (SB 607 passed 40-0 in the Senate and now is in the House.) WE SUPPORT.
- CONCEALED WEAPONS - Provides license to carry certain concealed weapons (HB 2892). WE OPPOSE.
- SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR REMODELING SERVICES (SB 44) - Sounds okay, but has been amended with HB 2755 to include TAX credits for dependents' education expenses and teaching aid contributions, thus providing "school vouchers" for parents of private and parochial schools. This bill passed 40-0 by the Senate BEFORE the amendment! NCJW OPPOSES the amendment and House members must be contacted.
- AFFIRMATIVE ACTION - (HB 2958) cleverly defines NO

discrimination against PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT in PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT. NCJW OPPOSES this because it could eliminate Affirmative Action Programs.

- CONGRESS - Watch what is happening with Congress and the ISTOOK AMENDMENT, to amend the Constitution on behalf of Separation of Church and State (or its inclusion). Let your congressional leaders from KANSAS AND MISSOURI hear of your OPPOSITION.

Call 782-3441 in Kansas to get REGISTERED and vote IN ADVANCE! The primaries in August will be for Republican and Democrat Precinct Committeemen and women as well as State Representatives and U.S. Congress. Call Barbara Holzmark, 381-8222 or Mainstream Coalition at 649-3326 for information..

New Scholarship Tribute Fund

A new scholarship tribute fund is being established in honor of the 90th birthday of Sylvia C. Eveloff.

The NCJW Scholarship Committee is gearing up for the interviews of applicants in late April and early May.



All scholarships will be awarded August 1, 1998.

The Scholarship Committee is made up of the following people: Roni Beshears, Jane Duggan, Shirley Goller, Jean Hiersteiner, April Kates, Mitzi Lang, Betty Jo Marder, Edith Penzner, Ellen Portnoy, Sally Reicher, Sandy Suffian and Sunni Singer.

1998 Missouri Conference On Child Abuse

Remember to mark your calendars that this year's Conference on Child Abuse is scheduled for October 7, 8 and 9, 1998.

The conference will be held at the Columbia Holiday Inn Executive Center. Further details to follow.

NEW BULLETIN EDITOR!

Effective with the June, 1998 edition, Rosanne Rosen will take over my duties as Bulletin Editor, so that I may assume Executive duties. I have *really* enjoyed these past years as Editor and am thankful for the opportunity. Let's give Rosanne a BIG welcome to her new position!

Dierdre Baker

THE 1998 - 1999 SLATE
 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
 Greater Kansas City Section
 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HAV YU HERD OF ZIS?

Having chosen English as the preferred language in the European Economic Community, the European Parliament has commissioned a feasibility study on ways of improving efficiency in communications between Government departments.

European officials have often pointed out that English spelling is very difficult. For example, cough, plough, rough, through, and thorough. What is clearly needed is a phased program of changes to iron out these anomalies. The program would, of course, be administered by a committee staff at top level by participating nations.

In the first year, for example, the committee would suggest using 's' instead of the soft 'c'. Certainly, sivil servants in all sities would resieve this news with joy. Then the hard 'c' could be replaced by 'k' sinse both letters are pronounsed alike. Not only would this klear up konfusun in the minds of klerikal workers, but typewriters could be made with one less letter.

There would be growing enthusiasm when in the sekond year, it kould be announsed that the troublesome 'ph' would henseforth be written 'f'. This would make words like 'fotograf' twenty persent shorter in print.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reash the stage where more komplikated shanges are possible. Governments would enkourage the removal of double letters which have always been a deterrent to akurate speling.

We would al agre that the horrible mes of silent 'e's in the languag is disgrasful. Therefor we would drop tese and kontinu to read and writ as though nothing has hapend. By this tim it would be four years sins the skem began and people would be reseptiv to steps sutsh as replasing 'th' by 'z'. Perhaps zen ze fuktion of 'w' kould be taken on by 'v', vitsh is, after al, half a 'w'. Shortly after zis, ze unesesary 'o' kould be dropd from words kontaining 'ou'. Similar arguments vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters.

Kontinung zis proses yer after yer, ve vud eventuli have a reli sensibl riten styl. After tventi yers zer vud be no mor trubls, difikultis and evrivun vud fin it ezi to understand each other.

Ze drem of ze Guvernmnt vud finali hav kum tru.



From an anonymous e-mailer (NCJW National Hdqtrs)

**1998
CALENDAR
APRIL**

8 - Wednesday
Executive
Committee
Meeting

11:30 am - NCJW
Office

16 - Thursday
Finance
Committee
Meeting

7:00 p.m. - NCJW
Office

19 - Sunday
Advocacy
Program
"Welfare
Reform"

10:00 a.m.
JCC Campus

Strategic Planning
11:45 a.m.

21 - Tuesday
Parties for the
Blind

27 - Monday
Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. - NCJW
Office

MAY

11 - Monday
Annual Meeting
& Volunteer
Luncheon at
Designer's
Showhouse

19 - Tuesday
Parties for the
Blind

29 - Friday
Ladies Bridge
Luncheon
10:00

Meadowbrook
Country Club

JUNE

7 - Sunday
Couples Bridge
Dinner

5:00 p.m.
Meadowbrook
Country Club

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Contributions to the NCJW Greater Kansas Section are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.
To commemorate all occasions remember NCJW's philanthropies. \$5 minimum.
Contributions through 3/31/98:

**SECTION FUNDS -
NCJW**

In memory of:
MOTHER - RENEE FUCHS
GRANDMOTHER - DR. TERRY LEVINE
Chickie & Norm Dollinger

WESLEY GOLDBERG
BETH LYON

Corinne & Herb Rope
FELICE BIRNBERG
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In honor of:
ROSALIE & ALLAN LANER'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY
FLOSSIE PACK'S BIRTHDAY
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Corinne & Herb Rope
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SHIRLEY & ALBERT GOLLER - GRAND-
DAUGHTER'S BAT MITZVAH

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Margaret Finkel

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SHELDON BAUM - 70TH BIRTHDAY
DeeDee & Paul Dale

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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No 698

Published by the greater Kansas City Section
National Council of Jewish Women
5750 W. 95th St., Suite 119
Shawnee Mission, KS 66207
(913) 648-0747

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Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday—9:00-2:30
Fridays—Closed

In This Issue... IMPORTANT ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION (Cover) & WASHINGTON INSTITUTE (Page 2)

We all hope that you had a wonderful Passover!

EARTH DAY IS HERE!



Is there a reason to celebrate Earth Day? I know that I feel glad to plant my feet on good old terra firma, to drink clean water and to breathe fresh air. EARTH DAY may be considered the occasion on which we can show that we don't take the earth for granted.

Is it only natural events, such as asteroids, tornadoes, etc., which could wipe out those who inhabit the earth? Have you thought about how some of us (humans) are "big helpers" in the destruction process? **TRASH** - Will our children and their children survive in a garbage dump?

BIOCHEMICALS - Used in in-

dustry and warfare. **INDISCRIMINATE USE** of animals and vegetables for our human purposes (fuel, food, ornaments, clothing, etc.)

Some of us celebrate EARTH DAY everyday. It is something like having your own birthday party every day. However, officially, EARTH DAY is on April 22nd. The unofficial dates vary from place-to-place, but most are at the end of April.

This year in the Kansas City area, you may want to take part in the last scheduled event. You may call Marty Kraft for more up-to-date information at the Heartland All

Species Project, 361-1230 or at home 333-5663.

4/28 Spring Plant at Heart Forest, call Rae Peterson at 756-0099

Possibly, you feel adventurous and would like to do "your own thing" before the end of the month. You can have an Earth Day Party; you might contact your neighborhood homes association for their sponsorship. Whatever, it is up to you!

Edith Hellerstein