

About and Between

National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Kansas City Section Spring 2007

I am so proud to be part of NCJW and the many wonderful events we have held. The Interfaith Luncheon was the "best ever," and I think it is true. Each year, it seems to improve, even though I think it's impossible. Over 400 people attended. The Interfaith Series which we sponsor in conjunction with Women's Federation and JCRB has over 70 participants. This program is an outgrowth of the Interfaith luncheon. I believe our Section of NCJW has a positive impact in providing interfaith events and knowledge in our community. Thank you to the chairs and members who help to make these events happen.

Those who attended the advocacy event on April 11 were treated to a wonderful program. The panel was intelligent and articulate: Sammie Moshenberg from the NCJW Washington DC office; Sue Gamble, Kansas State Board of Education; Brett Shirk, former executive director of the local ACLU; and Rev. Bob Meneilly, Pastor Emeritus of the Village Presbyterian Church. Barbara Holzmark did an excellent job as moderator! And the desserts catered by the New York Bakery were delicious! I only wish more people had participated.

The Awards Committee and Nominated Committee have met. You will read about the awardees and nominated slate in other articles. But I wanted to thank those committee members for their work.

Ellen Dalen and her dedicated KATS volunteers have divided the books and the office is actually a little empty. But I am told not to worry more books will be coming soon! It makes me happy to see that so many children are getting books! Fundraising is moving along. We got our first check for a donated car and one from the thrift store. If you have a car or thrift items to donate call the office to make arrangements. 913-648-0747. Donations are still coming in for Light Up a Life. If you have not yet made your donation, we would love to write you a thank you note!


Many thanks to the Arvin Gottlieb Foundation which provided NCJW with a \$2,500 grant for the KATS Program!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting, on May 30 at the Jewish Community Campus.

Take care,

Ellen Portnoy

Our 2007 award recipients are gifted individuals who all possess one key attribute: a deep commitment to improving our community through service to others.. They have not only touched the lives of Section members, but of women, children and families throughout Kansas City. We are grateful for their leadership and are proud to honor them with the following awards:




Service to Section-**Ellen Dalen**

Ellen has been a member of NCJW for more than 32 years. She has worked on almost every committee possible and served as Section president from 2001-2005. During her tenure Ellen was instrumental in beginning the Interfaith and Women Helping Women Luncheons. Closest to her heart, however, may be the Kids and Teachers=School (KATS) program, which she created and chaired for the past six years. Since its inception, Ellen has worked diligently to make sure that elementary school students in many Kansas City, Kansas and Missouri schools have birthday parties in their school cafeterias, complete with birthday books for each child to take home. Throughout the years Ellen has grown this program to include school supply and holiday gift drives, Colgate Dental Van visits, dictionary distribution and other special programs. The program touches more than 2,000 students annually.

When her two children were younger, Ellen was an active volunteer for PTA and Girl Scouts. In fact, she has been a registered Girl Scout for more than 50 years. Ellen is currently co-president of the Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah Sisterhood and will continue as president in 2008. She is also a board member of JCRB/AJC.

Ellen works as a substitute teacher and has recently taken on a new role:grandmother to her granddaughter. Ellen is married to Michael Dalen and has two children, Jason and Nicole.



Emerging Leader:**Cynthia Gensheimer and Beti Weber Moskowitz**

The East Coast's loss is Kansas City's gain. Both Cynthia and Beti are Kansas City transplants whose presence has benefited us all. They are the incredible team who chaired this year's Interfaith Luncheon. Thanks to their thoughtfulness and sensitivity, NCJW reached out to the Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim and American Indian communities and hosted more than 400 people wanting to learn more about these faiths and their traditions.

Additionally, Cynthia was instrumental in beginning the NCJW Eyeglass Project. This program was developed while her daughter Juliana was preparing for her Bat Mitzvah. She wanted to find a community service project that would benefit visually impaired children. Thanks to a generous donation from Juliana (and subsequent donors to the fund), NCJW now provides eyeglasses and eye exams to children participating in the KATS program.

Cynthia and Beti's commitment to volunteering does not stop with NCJW. Both women have served on the board of the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation. For the past two years Beti co-chaired the Yad b Yad Educational Programming Committee and Cynthia was vice president, community relations.

(continued on page 3)

Cynthia also serves as vice president, Jewish Community Foundation and is a member of the Jewish Book Fair Committee. Beti has chaired many PTA committees throughout the years and is currently vice-president of the Shawnee Mission South Center for International Studies PTSA, where her son is learning Chinese. Both women are members of Congregation Beth Torah where they have held leadership positions. Prior to becoming adopted "Midwesterners," Cynthia taught economics at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. She earned her PhD. in Economics from UCLA. Cynthia is married to Joe and is a devoted mother to Michael, Lydia and Juliana. Beti worked for Hallmark Cards in Kansas City and Cunard Line LTD in New York City. She received her MBA from Columbia University, New York. Beti is married to Jules Moskowitz and has two children, David and Alex.



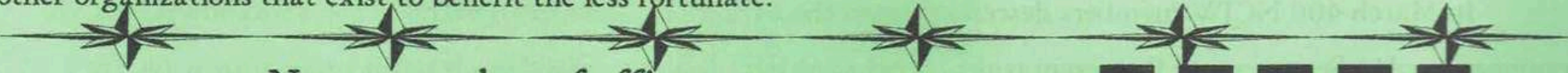
Hannah G. Solomon-Cathy Boyer Shesol

Cathy's imprint can be felt throughout NCJW. After she and husband Ron Howard moved to Kansas City in 1986, Cathy was hired to be Section's first executive director. Following the birth of her daughter, Cathy turned her attention to volunteering for NCJW so that she could spend more time with Jill. Throughout more than two decades, Cathy chaired numerous committees and held a variety of board positions. Most notably she chaired Community Service Projects Planning and Evaluation Committee (1989-91), National Family Day Care Project (1990), Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee (1991-93), Membership (1991-93), and National Day of the Working Parent. Cathy's experience culminated in her presidency from 1999-2001. Following her presidency she served as Newsletter Editor and Grants Volunteer (2001-2005) and most recently chaired the 2005-06 *Light up a Life* fundraising campaign.

Cathy has dedicated her life to helping others, be it as current Senior Program Officer at the Jewish Heritage Foundation, former executive director of the Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center or service on the boards of YWCA (Peoria, IL), United Way, CASA, Non Profit Communications Network (NCN), Beth Torah, PTA and many others.

Presently Cathy is working diligently as co-chair of the fall 2007 Midwest Philanthropy Conference, sponsored by the greater Kansas City Council on Philanthropy. With an anticipated attendance of 500+ not-for-profit professionals from throughout the Midwest, Cathy will put to use the experience she gained through years of service to NCJW and other organizations in Kansas City.


The Greater Kansas City Section of NCJW is delighted to award Cathy Boyer Shesol the highest award offered by NCJW, Inc., the Hannah G. Solomon Award, in recognition of her commitment and service to NCJW and other organizations that exist to benefit the less fortunate.



Next years slate of officers

- Ellen Portnoy-President
- Dierdre Baker and Meg Adler-Co-Vice-Presidents for Fund Development
- Janelle Flacks-Vice President of Membership
- Berenice Haberman-Treasurer
- Janey Goodman and Sue Stonefield-Financial Secretaries
- Janet Mark-Immediate Past President
- Dorothy Rosenwald-Honorary National Vice-President

- | Board Members |
|----------------|
| Ida Levine |
| Joan Jacobson |
| Gina Malashock |
| Lynn Murray |
| Merna Siegler |
| Bev Newman |



Community Service Sylvia Stone

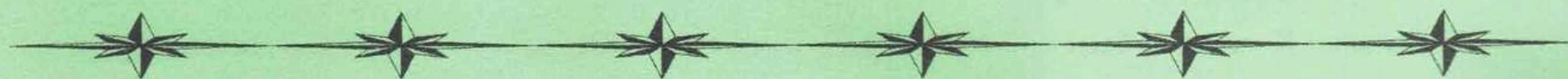
For those of us who met Sylvia through NCJW, we know that she is an eloquent, gifted writer and one of the kindest people we know. "Call Sylvia" is a frequent refrain we hear in committee meetings when looking for someone to do our publicity. Sylvia never disappoints. For years she has been instrumental in creating the program for *Women Helping Women*, our annual advocacy luncheon focusing on domestic violence. She has written sensitive plays and poetry highlighting the struggles women face when living in abusive relationships. Sylvia has also lent her expertise to the Interfaith Luncheon, for which she writes and coordinates publicity.

But there is much more to Sylvia than many of us know. Sylvia met her late husband at Resident Theater, where they both indulged their acting skills. Following their marriage she and Martin worked on Film Row (area around 18th and Wyandotte), developing drive-in and indoor movie theaters in Kansas City and later, Colorado and Ohio. Throughout the years she chaired many industry conventions and committees and was an active member in WOMPI (Women in the Motion Picture Industry). Along the way the family expanded to include Laura and Doug (and today boasts five grandchildren).

Since 1974 Sylvia has been a dedicated volunteer for Variety, the Children's Charity. Variety raises funds for local agencies that assist children with special needs. Presently Sylvia serves on the board and is also chairman of Variety Trust, an adjunct organization that responds to individual requests from families of children needing special assistance. Using skills she developed on Film Row, Sylvia coordinated 18 telethons on KMBC TV9, the proceeds from which benefited Variety.

There are few organizations for whom Sylvia has not volunteered. Brandeis, Hadassah, Women's Division of Jewish Federation, the Jewish Arts Festival/JCC, Beth Shalom (where she chaired the first Purim carnival), Kansas City Philharmonic, Sunshine Center School and Shepherd Center (where today she teaches a creative writing course for seniors), are all stronger organizations, thanks to Sylvia's touch.

Sylvia's record of community involvement makes her the obvious recipient of this year's Community Service Award. Just like in the movies, we applaud her record of service to NCJW and the Kansas City community.



Washington Institute

In March 400 NCJW members descended upon the nation's capital armed with passion and knowledge to be communicated to Senators and Representatives on issues of vital concern to us. We learned about Plan A: NCJW's Campaign for Contraceptive Access, and heard from several experts on three lobby issues: hate crimes, the REAL Act and SCHIP reauthorization.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which was introduced in the House of Representatives (HRH 1592) would add real or perceived gender disability, gender identity and sexual orientation as protected categories under federal hate crimes laws and would make it easier for the federal government to prosecute in hate crimes cases.

Continued on page 5

Thank You to our 2006-2007 volunteers who helped us fulfill our mission of providing programs and services that benefit women, children and families.

**ABOUT AND
BETWEEN**

Gina Malashock
Sheila Sonnenschein

**ADVOCACY/E-MAIL
TREE**

Barbara Holzmark

**ADVOCACY
PROGRAM**

Barbara Holzmark, Chair
Berenice Haberman
Roni Beshears
Ellen Portnoy

ART AUCTION

Ellen Dalen, Co-Chair
Berenice Haberman, Co-
Chair

AWARDS EVENING

Gina Malashock, Chair
Janet Mark
Ellen Portnoy

**AWARDS
COMMITTEE**

Janet Mark Chair

BRIDGE

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

EYE PROGRAM

Ellen Dalen, Co-Chair

**FRIDAY STUDY
GROUP**

Betty Barnett
Virginia Brown
Saurine Brown
Dee Dee Dale

Thelma Dreyer
Julie Gerson
Midge Grossman
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

GRANTS

Dierdre Baker
Janet Mark
Ellen Portnoy

HELLO ISRAEL

Judy Fudemberg – Co-
Chair
Marlene Katz – Co-Chair
Presenters
Melanie Allmayer
Estelle Berman
Linda Cohen
Barbara Cosner
Hilary Fried
Sharon Friedman
Phyllis Green
Jill Jacob
Gloria Kagan
Linda Katz
Mildred Kolmas
Sylvia LaVine
Evie Lowenthal
Sharon Lund
Beverly Mallin
Gerre Minkin

Joan Napshin
Esther Rudnick
Arlene Shalinsky
Merna Siegler
Sue Stonefield
Evy Tilzer
Shirley White
Lois Winston
Carol Yarmo
Substitutes
Judy Esrig
Roselle Poisner
Beryl Silberg
Rosemary Yarmo
Silverman

HONEY

Barbara Cosner, Co-Chair
Berenice Haberman, Co-
Chair
Lynn Murray, Co-Chair
Bev Newman, Co-Chair
Meg Adler
Rosalyn Burnstein
Harryette Cooperman
Ellen Dalen
Adelle Goldstein
Miki Herman
Sandra Jabenis
Joan Jacobson
Shirley Nelkin
Esther Pearlmutter
Ellie Penner
Ellen Portnoy
Lara Portnoy
Laurel Rogovein
Maureen Salz
Merna Siegler
Dolores Sosnow
Evy Tilzer

INTERFAITH SERIES

Melanie Allmayer
Cynthia Gensheimer
Ellen Portnoy

**INTERFAITH
LUNCHEON**

Cynthia Gensheimer, Co-
Chair
Beti Moskowitz, Co-
Chair
Patty Gilgus
Alayne Mooney
Maureen Salz
Merna Siegler
Sheila Sonnenschein
Sylvia Stone
Sue Stonefield

KATS

Ellen Dalen, Chair
Bonnie Buchbinder
Berenice Haberman
Maureen Salz
Sonny Singer
Special Thanks to Meg &
Randy Adler

LIGHT UP A LIFE

Diedre Baker
Ellen Dalen
Berenice Haberman
Joan Jacobson
Janet Mark
Ellen Portnoy

SCHOLARSHIP

Ro Jacobson, Chairman
Bonnie Buchbinder
Ellen Dalen
Jane Duggan
Deb Feingold
Bud Krasne
Betty Jo Marder
Edith Penzner
Ellen Portnoy
Sally Reicher
Sonny Singer

SUNSHINE

Heather Aronoff

**WOMEN HELPING
WOMEN**

Merna Siegler, Chair
Dierdre Baker
Ellen Dalen
Paulette Giarratana
Evie Grant
Berenice Haberman
Joan Jacobson
Janet Mark
Ellen Portnoy
Eileen Sherman
Sylvia Stone

\$1,500+ Guardian Level

Meg Adler
Dierdre & Ronnie Baker
Harry Baker
Joan Berkley
Herb & Bonnie Buchbinder Donor Advisory Fund, Jewish Community Foundation
Ronald & Susan Goldsmith Philanthropic Fund, Jewish Community Foundation
Seigfreid, Bingham, Levy, Selzer & Gee, Attorneys at Law
Anonymous

\$1,000 Friend

Roni Beshears
Frances Wang Gershon, Jewish Community Foundation
Alayne & J. D. Mooney
Ellen & Jay Portnoy

\$500 to \$999

Jean Brown
Elaine Ryder
Shirley White

\$250 to \$499

Fran & Jack Brozman
Dreiseszun Family Foundation – In memory of Richard Dreiseszun and Barbara Dreiseszun
Sandi Fried
Berenice Haberman
Molly Levitt
Milton Litvak Memorial Fund
Sharon Lund
Janet Mark
Lynn Murray
Elaine & Norman Polsky Donor Advised Fund of Greater K.C. Comm. Foundation

\$100 to \$249

Melanie Allmayer – in honor of the Hello Israel Program
Betty Barnett
Jenifer Blum
Madeline Chapman
Barbara Cosner
DST Systems (matching donation)
Janelle Flacks
Louise Garfinkle
Cynthia F. & Josephe M. Gensheimer Fund , Jewish Community Foundation
Albert Goller – in memory of Shirley Goller
Jill Jacob – in memory of Jane L. Weinberg
Joan Jacobson
Lonna Kahn
Naomi Kauffman – in honor of Michael Gunderson passing the Illinois Bar Exam
Betty Jo Marder
Rowena Milens
Beti Moskowitz
Barb & Richard Novorr – in memory of Harold B. Brown
Rosanne Rosen – in memory of Shirley Kohlman
Gerean Rudnick Donor Advised Fund of JCF
Merna Siegler
Sheila Sonnenschein
Kathy Stone – in honor of Sylvia Stone's Birthday
Janet Stulz
Jeanette Wishna

To \$99

Lisa Auer
Barbara Baer – in honor of Shirley Kahn
Fayna Belzer – in honor of Berenice Haberman
Linda Cohen
Jody Cosner
Eva Cummings
DeeDee Dale – in memory of Barton Cohen and Mickey Snower
Ellen Dalen
Jane Pollock Duggan – in memory of Barton Cohen
Susan Feinberg
Milisa Flekier
Jackie Fleschman
Carol Goldstein
Elaine Goldstein
Janey Goodman – in honor of Stu & Shelley Farbman
Evie Grant
Phyllis Green
Sharon Hellman-Freiberg – in memory of Chickie Dollinger
Stephanie Kavanaugh
Lori Klarfeld – in memory of Mary Esther Mermelstein
Ellen Laner – in honor of Rae Block-birthday; Eugene Brown-recovery; Thelma Dreyer-birthday;
And Mr. & Mrs. Leon Manne-anniversary
Doreen Leifer – in honor of Esther Loeb's birthday
Cynthia Liebenthal
Gina Malashock – in memory of Irving Malashock
Bev Mallin
Carol Marks
Judith Mayer
Symie Menitove
Sharon Milens
Lauren & Jerry Miller – in honor of Susie Goldsmith's 60th Birthday
Susan Osman
Lesly Ozar
Denise Pakula
Elinore Penner
Stephanie Pessin
Janet Price – in memory of Ruth Planzer
Marjorie Sackin
Gloria Schlossenberg
Frances Schlozman – in honor of Wendy Malyn's recovery
Ruth Shechter
Judy Sherry
Stevie Shuchart
Betty Slegman – in memory of Beverly Wolfe
Sylvia Stone
Sandra Suffian & Ernesto Zepeda – in honor of Emi Adler's Bat Mitzvah
Evy Tilzer
Barbara Warady
Judy Wasserman – in memory of Chickie Dollinger
Gail Weinberg
Judy & David Weinstein – in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary – June 6

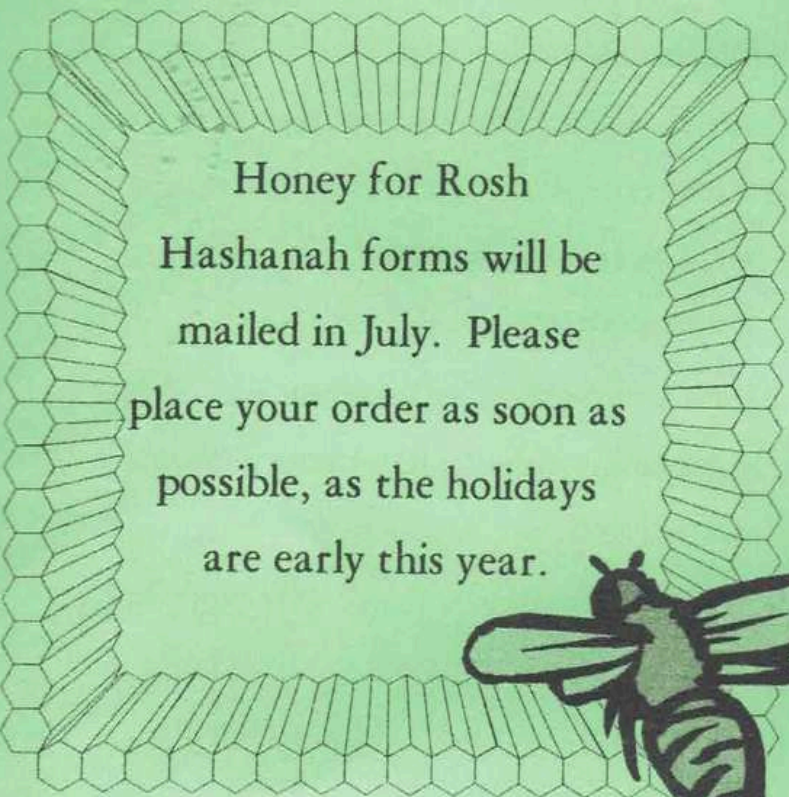
Washington institute continued.....

The REAL Act, Responsible Education About Life (Senate Bill 972/House Bill 1653) would provide the first federal funding stream for comprehensive sexuality education. Over the past 25 years, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs have received more than \$1 billion from the federal government even though evaluations indicate that these programs are ineffective at best, and at worst, provide inaccurate medical and scientific information to young people. The purpose of REAL is to provide young people with scientifically accurate and broad based education on issues related to sex education, prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases and contraceptive choices in an attempt to educate students to make wise decisions and choices.

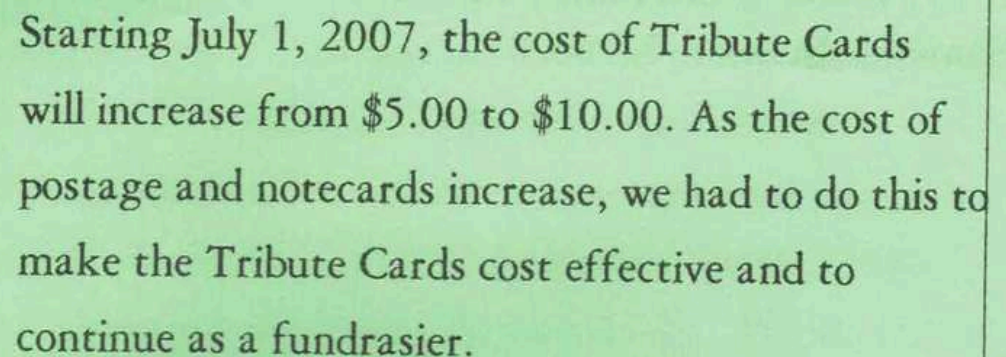
SCHIP: Both the House and Senate pass budget resolutions to increase the funding to \$50 billion for reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. It is an investment in the health of America's children and NCJW supports an even greater allocation. The challenge is to see to it that states that receive the funding spend it in a responsible manner and not divert the monies.

The Greater Kansas City Section was represented by National Board Member and Past President of Section, Roni Beshears, and Naomi Kauffman, past Co-President of Section. NCJW's support for these three urgent issues were communicated through visits with Senator Pat Roberts; staff aides to Kansas Senator Sam Brownback and Representative Nancy Boyda, Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill and Representative Emanuel Cleaver.

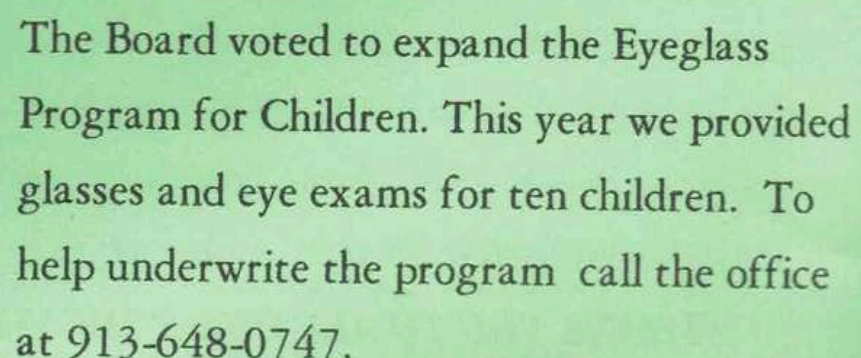
Please contact your senators and representatives and urge them to either cosponsor or support the pending legislation that NCJW has designated as vital.



Honey for Rosh
Hashanah forms will be
mailed in July. Please
place your order as soon as
possible, as the holidays
are early this year.



Starting July 1, 2007, the cost of Tribute Cards will increase from \$5.00 to \$10.00. As the cost of postage and notecards increase, we had to do this to make the Tribute Cards cost effective and to continue as a fundraiser.



The Board voted to expand the Eyeglass Program for Children. This year we provided glasses and eye exams for ten children. To help underwrite the program call the office at 913-648-0747.