

# **About And Between**

National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Kansas City Section      May 2006

## **President's Message**

Dear Friends,

As outgoing president, I would like to thank my board and the membership at large for supporting NCJW in 2005-06.

The year began in a big way, with Governor Kathleen Sebelius addressing us at Women Helping Women in September. We expanded upon the Interfaith Luncheon by offering two new initiatives: an interfaith book club and interfaith Passover program. In community service, we added two more schools to the KATS program and introduced a project that will provide eye exams and glasses to children in need. Thanks to your participation, we enhanced and launched several new fundraisers that exceeded our expectations. Parties for the Blind, Hello Israel, the NCJW Scholarship Program, advocacy and Ladies and Couples Bridge continued to thrive and attract new volunteers and participants.

I know that everyone joins me in congratulating Linda Kelley, our office manager, on the recent 10-year anniversary of her employment with NCW. It is hardly an understatement to say that we could not accomplish all that we do without her institutional knowledge, superior organizational skills and optimistic, positive attitude. *Thank you, Linda, for the supportive role you played in the last decade of NCJW's history.*

I look forward to seeing everyone at *Songs of Celebration* on Wednesday, May 31. As the invitation states, let's bring in summer together!

Janet

## **NCJW Hosts Evening of Songs of Celebration**

Cara Fish, a Kansas City native and entertainer, will sing Broadway and popular Jewish melodies at NCJW's annual Award Ceremony, aptly titled, *Songs of Celebration*, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 31 at Temple B'nai Jehudah. Merna Siegler is the chair of this event.

During the evening, NCJW will honor Ann and Dan Stern who are receiving the Community Service Award; Joan Jacobson, this year's Service to Section awardee; and Meg Adler who will be presented the Emerging Leader Award.

Janet Mark will be recognized for her year of service as Council President. Incoming officers include: Ellen Portnoy, president; Berenice Haberman, vice president fund raising; Meg Adler, vice president membership; J.D. Mooney, treasurer; and Sue Stonefield and Janey Goodman, Financial Secretary.

The event includes a dessert reception prepared by Margaret Singer and arranged by Barbara Cosner. The program is open to the public, without cost. But reservations are requested. Please call the NCJW office at 913- 648-0747.

## **Joan Jacobson – Service to Section**

Children are important to Joan Jacobson. Her life and her career have been dedicated to helping them succeed in all aspects of their lives. For her support of children and her dedication to NCJW, Joan Jacobson is this year's Service to Section recipient.

A member of NCJW since she moved to the Kansas City area in 1977, Joan was involved in the formation of Jackson County's CASA Program, which was co-sponsored by NCJW. She served as the

Chairman of the CASA Advisory Board in 1983 and was a member of the first class of Johnson County-trained CASAs in 1985.

A past-president of NCJW, 1985 to 1986, Joan received the Jennie Levitt Leadership Award from NCJW in 1979. She has been active in other NCJW programs such as Mensch to Mensch, Hello Israel, Silent Witness project and Women Helping Women. Currently, Joan is spearheading the effort of NCJW to co-sponsor Full of Ourselves, a leadership and wellness program targeting preteen and teenage girls.

### **Meg Adler – Emerging Leader**

A second generation NCJW member, Meg Adler, is following in the footsteps of her mother, an active St. Louis Section member. Meg's mother passed on the NCJW legacy by making her a life member.

Upon moving to Kansas City, Meg became involved in Women Helping Women, the Kids and Teachers=School (KATS) project and she also serves on the Interfaith Luncheon committee. Meg was instrumental in redoing the directory. She has graciously agreed to serve a second term as Vice President of Membership.

The Section is proud to present the Emerging Leader award to Meg!

### **Ann and Dan Stern – Community Service**

Ann and Dan are a team whose focus is on community service! Both have been active in many organizations in their efforts to make life better for the entire Kansas City community. Ann and Dan each served as a Jackson County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for over 20 years. They are members of the Steering Committee of the Capital Campaign for SafeHome. Also they co-chair the Performing Arts Committee of the Jewish Community Center. They have both been United Way volunteers.

Besides their joint community service activities, they have many individual community service volunteer roles. Ann has served on the Board of Jewish Family and Children's Services, the Jewish Heritage Foundation, the Jewish Community Foundation and Women's Division of The Jewish Federation. Dan has served on the Board of the Jewish Community Center, and is now a member of it's Board of Governors. He serves on the boards of the Friends of the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead and the Foundation on Aging.

Their community service activities make them the obvious Community Service Awardees, which is presented enthusiastically by NCJW.

### **Parties for the Blind**

Parties for the Blind have had a wonderful year due to the many indispensable people who made this event such a success! First of all, a sincere and heartfelt thanks to our party sponsors Jill Jacob, Shirley and Barnett Helzberg, Rae Block, Dierdre and Ronnie Baker, Bertha Silberg, AlphaPointe and Women of Beth Torah! We would be lost without their help!

Our caterers, Meissen's Catering, were, as always, terrific and we appreciated their cooperation in assisting us in keeping costs down and patience when "mother nature" dictated that we go to "Plan B"! Donations received as door prizes were certainly appreciated and many thanks go to American Heartland Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Symphony, Quality Hill Play House, Unicorn Theatre, and UMKC Conservatory of Music.

Ellen Dalen was supportive in her role as VP of Community Service, especially in helping secure donations from Heart to Heart that were used as party favors for the guests. Every party required the hard work of many volunteers including the following individuals: Heather Aronoff, Cheryl Anthony, Herb Baker, Blossom Block, Shirley Brokaw, Bernard Callaghan, Joan Cody, Jerry Dixon, Jim Fowler,

*Thank You* to our 2005-2006 volunteers who helped us fulfill our mission of providing programs and services that benefit women, children and families.

**ADVOCACY/E-MAIL**

**TREE**

Maureen Salz

**ART AUCTION**

Ellen Dalen, Co-Chair

Berenice Haberman, Co-Chair

Meg Adler

J. D. Mooney

**AWARDS EVENING**

Merna Siegler, Chair

Barbara Cosner

Ellen Dalen

Janet Mark

Ellen Portnoy

Rosanne Rosen

**AWARDS COMMITTEE**

Ellen Dalen, Chair

**BRIDGE**

Heather Aronoff, Co-Chair

Tootie Brown, Co-Chair

Flossie Pack, Co-Chair

Sue Vile, Co-Chair

**ABOUT AND BETWEEN**

Ellen Portnoy

**EYE PROGRAM**

Ellen Dalen, Co-Chair

Cynthia Gensheimer, Co-Chair

Betty Barnett

Stephanie Kavanaugh

Maureen Salz

**FRIDAY STUDY GROUP**

Betty Barnett

Virginia Brown

Saurine Brown

Dee Dee Dale

Thelma Dreyer

Carole Frelich

Julie Gerson

Edith Hellerstein

Jean Hiersteiner

Ann Kander

Pinky Kase

Joe Levine Kratchman

Peggy Krigel

Ellen Laner

Grace Lenk

Marilyn Melcher

Marjorie Montague

Dorothy Rosenwald

Elaine Ryder

Myra Siegel

Betty Slegman

Estelle Sosland

**GRANTS**

Janet Mark

**HELLO ISRAEL**

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Phyllis Green, Co-Chair

Marlene Krakow

Presenters

Melanie Allmayer

Estelle Berman

Judy Fudenberg

Jill Jacob

Gloria Kagan

Linda Katz

Marlene Katz

Evie Lowenthal

Gerre Minkin

Joan Napshin

Roselle Poisner

Esther Rudnick

Arlene Shalinsky

Patsy Shanberg

Merna Siegler

Shirley White

Lois Winston

Carol Yarmo

Substitutes

Linda Braude

Esther Pearlmuter

Marilyn Schoenfeld

Beryl Silberg

**HONEY**

Barbara Cosner, Co-Chair

Berenice Haberman, Co-Chair

Jackie Fleschman, Secretary

Meg Adler

Rosalyn Burnstein

Harryette Cooperman

Jerry Cosner

Ellen Dalen

Jane Goodman

Evie Grant

Joyce Halper

Miki Herman

Sandra Jabenis

Jill Jacob

Joan Jacobson

Judy Kass

Shirley Nelkin

Beverly Newman

Esther Pearlmuter

Ellie Penner

Ellen Portnoy

Laurel Rogovein

Maureen Salz

Merna Siegler

Dolores Sosnow

Evy Tilzer

**INTERFAITH BOOK CLUB**

Melanie Allmayer

Ellen Dalen

Cynthia Gensheimer

Janet Mark

**INTERFAITH LUNCHEON**

Marlene Katz, Co-Chair

Evy Tilzer, Co-Chair

Meg Adler

Ellen Dalen

Janey Goodman

Berenice Haberman

Alayne Mooney

Maureen Salz

Merna Siegler

Sheila Sonnenschein

Sylvia Stone

Sue Stonefield

**INTERFAITH  
PASSOVER INITIATIVE**  
Sheila Sonnenschein

**KATS**  
Ellen Dalen, Chair  
Bonnie Buchbinder  
Berenice Haberman  
Maureen Salz  
Sonny Singer

**LIGHT UP A LIFE**  
Cathy Boyer-Shesol,  
Co-Chair  
Janet Mark

**MAJOR GIVERS**  
Dierdre Baker, Co-Chair  
Janet Mark, Co-Chair

**MEMBERSHIP EVENTS**  
Meg Adler, Co-Chair  
Evie Grant, Co-Chair  
Melanie Allmayer  
Ida Levine  
Beti Moskowitz

**PARTIES FOR THE  
BLIND**

Maureen Salz, Chair  
Heather Aronoff  
Blossom Block  
Ellen Dalen  
Rhetta Goldstein  
Jill Jacob  
Janet Mark

Party Sponsors

Dierdre & Ronnie Baker  
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Helzberg

**SCHOLARSHIP**

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Ellen Dalen  
Jane Duggan  
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Betty Jo Marder  
Edith Penzner  
Ellen Portnoy  
Sally Reicher  
Maureen Salz  
Sonny Singer

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Heather Aronoff

**WOMEN HELPING  
WOMEN**

Eileen Sherman, Co-Chair  
Berenice Haberman, Co-  
Chair  
Dierdre Baker  
Ellen Dalen  
Joan Jacobson  
Ellen Portnoy  
Maureen Salz  
Merna Siegler  
Sylvia Stone

**2005-2006 OFFICER & BOARD LIST**

Janet Mark, President  
Ellen Portnoy, V.P. of Administration  
Ellen Dalen, V.P. of Community Service  
Berenice Haberman, V.P. of Fund Dev.  
Meg Adler - V.P. of Membership  
J. D. Mooney, Treasurer  
Sharon Lund - Financial Secretary

***Board Members***

Dierdre Baker  
Evie Grant  
Joan Jacobson  
Marlene Katz  
Maureen Salz  
Eileen Sherman  
Merna Siegler  
Sheila Sonnenschein  
Evy Tilzer

Thank You to Our Major Giver Campaign Donors:

PATRON LEVEL

Dierdre & Ronnie Baker

ADVOCATE LEVEL

Frances Gershon

GUARDIAN LEVEL

Anonymous

Meg & Randy Adler

Harry Baker

Roni Roth Beshears

Herb & Bonnie Buchbinder Donor Advisory Fund of JCF

Ronald & Susan Goldsmith Philanthropic Fund of JCF

Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation

Alayne & J. D. Mooney

Daniel & Ann Stern Fund of JCF

FRIEND LEVEL

Joan and Bert Berkely

Frank Lipsman & Janet Mark Donor Advised Fund of JCF

Ellen & Jay Portnoy

Seigfreid, Bingham, Levy, Selzer & Gee

Adeline Trempy

Lois Winston, Louis & Dorothy Cumonow Foundation

## **Menopause The Musical**

Menopause the Musical is again coming to Kansas City to the American Heartland Theatre. NCJW is offering a group rate price of \$32.00 on Sunday, June 25, 2006, at 2:00 pm. If you are interested, please send a check to NCJW, 5750 W. 95th St., Suite 118, Shawnee Mission, KS. 66207, by Wednesday, May 31. Reservations will not be accepted after that date. For further information contact the NCJW office at 913-648-0747.

## **Full Of Ourselves (FOO)**

The NCJW Board has agreed to cosponsor a wellness program to advance girl power, health and leadership for preteen and teenaged girls and adults who work with them. The programs will be held October 17 – 20, 2006 featuring Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair, a Harvard University psychologist.

The Conference will introduce the **Full of Ourselves** curriculum developed by Dr. Adair. The curriculum focuses on promoting positive changes in girls' body image and sustaining their body satisfaction through self-acceptance and heightened self-esteem. The primary objective of the Conference is to introduce prevention strategies that participants can implement in their schools and organizations and for parents to continue to reinforce their daughters' self-esteem and avoid negative role modeling in the home.

Dr. Adair will work with girls participating in Girl Scouts, Rosh Hodesh (a Learning for Life, CAJE program) and their parents. She will also conduct training the trainer sessions and roundtable discussions with UMKC faculty, graduate students, clergy, educations and youth professionals.

**Full of Ourselves** is sponsored by NCJW in collaboration with UMKC Women's Center.

### **In Memorial**

The National Council of Jewish Women, Kansas City Section, notes in sadness the passing of Sylvia Aaron, a past president of the Greater Kansas City Section.

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National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Kansas City Section  
5750 W. 95<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 118  
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