

About and Between

National Council of Jewish Women

Spring 2008

President's Message

A new spring brings a new president for NCJW. After two years, I know it is time to step down and let someone else bring her vision to the Kansas City Section. On Thursday, June 5, a new president will be elected. Berenice Haberman is the presidential nominee. I hope everyone can join us at Hallbrook Country Club as we honor this year's awardees and elect new officers for our Section.

The awardees include: Ellen Dalen, Hannah G. Solomon. What can be said about Ellen? She has devoted so much time and effort to help our Section. Her unending work for the children in our community through KATS and We Care for Eye Care is amazing. She is a deserving recipient of this award.

Jane Duggan, Service to Section. Jane has dedicated many hours to the Scholarship Committee. She keeps the schools informed and sets up appointments with the students. Jane has been a part of the Scholarship Committee for over 25 years. Jane also takes care of the Flarsheim Scholarship.

Ida Levine, Emerging Leader. New to the NCJW Board, Ida has helped whenever needed. Ida is chairing the Annual Awards Evening.

Merna and Sylvan Siegler, Community Service. This wonderful couple has been contributing to the Kansas City community for many years in a variety of ways. They deserve all the recognition bestowed on them. Merna has been a valuable and dedicated NCJW board member for many years. Thank you!

I also want to remind you of our weekend "tried and true merchandise" fundraiser. May 3 to 5, 2008, we will be holding a sale at A-Lotta-Stuff at Stan's. Please donate items and volunteer to help. More information is in this newsletter.

Finally I want to thank all the board members, committee chairs, volunteers and, especially, Linda Kelley, for all their efforts, work and contributions that made my presidency a success. Thank you for a wonderful two years. I know that our Section will continue to thrive as the new president and board are installed.

Ellen Portnoy

Nominating Committee Selects Officers

The Nominating Committee met in April and selected the following slate of officers: President, Berenice Haberman; VP Fund Development, Meg Adler; VP Membership, Ida Levine; VP Community Service, Ellen Dalen; Treasurer, Janelle Flacks; Immediate Past President, Ellen Portnoy.

The new officers and board will be elected at the June 5, 2008, Annual Award and Installation Event at Hallbrook County Club.

25 Years of Service to Children: CASA Honors The National Council of Jewish Women

It has been 25 years since volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates began speaking up for abused and neglected children in Jackson County. Twenty-five years of service to thousands of children began with a devoted, determined group of pioneers – the **National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Kansas City Section**. The NCJW will be honored at the 8th Annual Light of Hope breakfast on April 17th. To understand the enormity of their impact on children for the past quarter century, the best place to start is the very beginning . . .

In 1979, representatives of the **National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)** and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation agreed to co-sponsor a volunteer CASA project. Three demonstration projects founded by NCJW sections in Texas, Florida and St. Louis County, Missouri were highly successful, inspiring further expansion. Several years later, the **Greater Kansas City Section** of NCJW decided to undertake such a project in Jackson County. It was a natural extension of its involvement in the areas of juvenile justice, child abuse and neglect, and child care. With the overwhelming support of the Juvenile Division of the 16th Judicial Circuit and the Kansas City community at-large, NCJW got **The CASA Project of Jackson County** off to a strong start. The local section generously funded the infant CASA Project and its members worked countless hours to prepare the program to **graduate its first class of volunteers and begin accepting children's cases on January 18, 1983: Bill Berg, Betty Barnett, Donna Brosseit, Roz Ginzburg, Linda Leibowitz, Janice Lowenstein, Diane Scali and Bobbie Mathes.**

In its 25th year of operation, Jackson County CASA is proud to honor its founders. From the **NCJW, Greater Kansas City Section, The CASA Project Steering Committee: Neva Milgrim**, Project Chairperson; **Debbie Graham**, Project Vice Chairperson, Training Committee Chairperson and Public Relations Committee Co-Chairperson; **Kathy Stone**, Project Vice Chairperson, Hiring Committee Co-Chairperson; **Gail Achtenberg**, Hiring Committee member; **Sharon Greenwood**, Public Relations Committee member, **Bette Grossman**, Public Relations Committee Co-Chairperson; **Sharon Hellman**, Section Vice Chairperson, Community Service; **Joan Jacobson**, Advisory Board Chairperson; **Lori Klarfeld**, Training Committee Member; **Judy Mayer**, Evaluation Committee Co-Chairperson; **Kay Shrago**, Evaluation Committee Co-Chairperson; **Dorothy Rosenwald**, Finance Committee Chairperson; **Susie Sloman**, Hiring Committee Co-Chairperson; **Lois Turner**, Section President; **Other committee members: Phyllis Hall** (Finance), **Ellyn Sisser** (Finance), **Nancy Friedman-Cohen** (Training), **Adele Levi** (Training), **Elinor Borenstine** (Training) and **Ellen Polsky** (Public Relations).

From the national offices of **NCJW: Michael Blady**, National Project Director of CASA. From the **Jackson County Juvenile Court: Judge Jack E. Gant**, Commissioner **David W. Kierst, Jr.** and Director of Court Services **D. Dean Askeland**.

From **NCJW, the courts and the community, the CASA Project Advisory Board: Neva Milgrim** (Chairperson); The Honorable **Jack E. Gant**; The Honorable **David W. Kierst, Jr.**; The Honorable **Edward L. Pendleton**; **D. Dean Askeland**; The Honorable **Richard L. Berkley**; **Sama Abend**; **Marjorie Barker**; **Richard M. Biery, M.D.**; **Ed Bivins**; **Marvin Bordy, M.D.**; **Detective Luther Buford**; **Alinda Dennis**; **Shirley Fearon**; **Suellen Fried**; **Shirley Garfield**; **Deborah Graham**; **Jane Heide**; **Sharon Hellman**; **Mamie Hughes**; **Al Hupp**; **Joan Jacobson**; **Grace H. Ketterman, M.D.**; **Marion Kreamer**; **Lawrence P. Lehman**; **Nellie Lozano**; **Judy Mayer**; **Corky Pfeiffer**; **John "Al" Rodriguez**; **Dorothy Rosenwald**; **Cynthia Smith**; **R. Scott Smith**; **Kathy Stone**; **Lois Turner**; **Paul Welsh**, **Mike Wineinger**; **Candace Zierdt**.

Flarsheim Scholarship Applications

The Greater Kansas City Section, National Council of Jewish Women is offering the Flarsheim Fellowship to be awarded to a Jewish woman entering her first year of graduate school as a full-time student. She must have been a resident of the Greater Kansas City area for the past 10 years, or a graduate of a Greater Kansas City area high school, or have immigrated from another country. She must be younger than 35 years. The Fellowship, which may be used at the university of the recipient's choice, is an honorarium and is not based on financial need, but on academic achievement, character and purpose.

Applications for the Flarsheim Fellowship are available by calling the NCJW office at 913.648.0747, or by writing the office at 5750 W. 95th St, Suite 118, Shawnee Msn, KS 66207. In order to be considered, there must be a personal interview. Deadline for application is July 1, 2008

Flarsheim Scholarship Recipient Thanks Section

Dear NCJW of Greater Kansas City Scholarship Committee Members,

I wanted to let you know that I have been granted a summer internship in Jerusalem at Yad Vashem. This internship will allow me to gain invaluable experience as a researcher. I will be working in the Holocaust Art Archive and Art Collection Database Museums Division doing research on Jewish artists before, during, and after the war. I will also be working doing research on the art that was looted during in the war.

I will graduate KU this December with a Master of Art in Museum Studies and a concentration in History.

Thank you again for providing me with a scholarship to pursue this degree.

Warmly and with appreciation,
Debra Entine

Awardees Announced

We are delighted to announce that the following individuals will be honored on June 5 at the 2008 Awards Evening event. We are grateful for their leadership and commitment to helping improve the lives of children, women and families.

Hannah G. Solomon Award

Ellen Dalen has been a force for NCJW for over 30 years. She knows the organization inside out and has worked on almost every committee possible. Ellen served as Section president from 2001-2005 and during her tenure was instrumental in beginning the Interfaith and Women Helping Women luncheons. Ellen may be most known for her commitment to the Kids and Teachers = School (KATS) program, which she created and chaired for the past seven years. Ellen has seen to it that elementary school students in many Kansas City, Kansas and Missouri schools get to celebrate their birthdays in school and even take home a book in recognition of their big day. Throughout the years Ellen has grown this program to include school supply and holiday gift drives, Colgate Dental Van visits, dictionary distribution, and more than 2,000 students participate in this program annually.

Ellen is married to Michael Dalen and has two children, Jason and Nicole, and one granddaughter. When Jason and Nicole were in school, Ellen was an active volunteer for PTA and Girl Scouts. She is currently president of The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah Sisterhood and served as a co-president last year. Ellen is also a board member of JCRB/AJC.

Congratulations, Ellen, on receiving NCJW's most prestigious award.

Community Service Award

Together and individually, Merna and Sylvan Siegler, have devoted themselves to organizations and causes that improve the lives of children, women and families.

Merna's commitment to NCJW dates back to 1956, when she first volunteered for the Minneapolis Evening Section. She became active in 1985 when she helped the Kansas City Section host the National Convention. Since that time, Merna has worked on virtually every local NCJW project and program possible. Her experience as a Hello Israel presenter, campaign and special event fund raiser, Thriftique volunteer and service as Vice President of Programs, prepared her well for her term as Section President from 1989-1991. Most recently, Merna has chaired the Interfaith Luncheon, Women Helping Women and Awards Evening. NCJW honored Merna in 1997 with the Hannah G. Solomon Award and in 2003 with the Service to Section Award.

Somehow, Merna also finds time to be an active member at Beth Shalom and the JCC; and a committed volunteer for Jewish Women International, Brandeis, Hadassah and Youth Friends.

Sylvan has held numerous leadership positions in the Jewish community, including past-president of the Beth Shalom Board of Directors, Men's Club and Couples Club (with Merna); Vice-President/Trustee of Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy in its early days; past Vice-President of the JCC; and past member of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Community Foundation. He has also served the Kansas City community through his career as a tax attorney. A partner at the Shook Hardy & Bacon Law Firm, Sylvan uses his expertise to represent individuals, corporations and tax-exempt organizations in a variety of tax-related matters. In 2001 he received the Donald Chisholm Award given by the Kansas City Community Foundation "for giving back to the community, being charitable and advising clients in charitable giving." For more than 20 years, Sylvan has been included in the *Best Lawyers of America* listing and has volunteered for various legal organizations.

Merna and Sylvan are the proud parents of Mitchell, Jerry and Susan and enjoy spending time with their children and eight grandchildren. We congratulate them on their recent 49th wedding anniversary.

The Siegler's are role models for us all and we are grateful to have them in our community.

Emerging Leader Award

Lucky for us, Ida Levine moved here from Houston seven years ago. Along with her husband Sanford and children David, Ethan and Beth, she brought with her a tremendous commitment to volunteerism. Ida is completing her first year on the NCJW Board of Directors and is chair of the June 5 Awards Evening. Never one to say "no," Ida has already helped in many ways, including service on the Interfaith Luncheon, Light Up a Life Campaign and Membership committees. Ida became a life member of NCJW this year.

Ida is involved with other Jewish organizations including Hadassah and Beth Shalom. Following her completion in the Hadassah Leadership Academy, she served on the Hadassah executive board, the first year as co-coordinator of B'not Or/Aviva and the following year as co-coordinator of Aviva. At Beth Shalom, Ida has chaired dinners, a confirmation celebration and class fundraiser. Ida's volunteerism extends into the secular community as well, where she has worked tirelessly in her children's preschools, elementary schools, for Boy Scouts, Blue Valley West Band Boosters and PTO/PTA.

Ida, we appreciate your energy and are glad that you can spare some for NCJW!

Service to Section Award

Jane Pollack Duggan, a life long resident of Kansas City, has been a member of NCJW for 30 years. Her talents are many, from singing and dancing in the Entertainmobile (a group of NCJW members who entertained in geriatric homes), to playing bridge with fellow NCJW members, to serving as a co-chair of Thriftique and volunteering for Parties for the Blind and Hello Israel. Jane is a past NCJW board member, having served as vice president of both membership and fund raising. For two years she chaired the landscape and Pool fundraiser events. Jane was awarded the Jennie Levitt Leadership Award in 1986. She has served on the scholarship committee for many years and is currently chair of the Flarsheim Committee (which provides an honorarium for a Jewish woman entering her first year of graduate school).

Jane has two children: Jerry, a captain in the JAG Corps (location "unknown" for security reasons) and Margaret, a cardiology nurse in Chicago. When her children were young, Jane volunteered actively with PTA, Boy Scouts, the American Royal, Temple Women's Auxiliary, Friends of Art (at the Nelson-Atkins), and the Symphony Auxiliary. Jane is an insurance examiner for self-funded plans.

Mazel tov, Jane, for a well-deserved award.

Directory Advertisements

NCJW is currently working on a new membership directory. Janelle Flacks is working to provide our membership the best directory possible. Anyone interested in advertising in the director should contact Janelle at Janelle723@gmail.com. Business card ads are \$35. Ask Janelle for full page, half page and quarter page prices!

Sale at A-Lotta-Stuff At Stans

NCJW and A-Lotta-Stuff at Stan's are pleased to announce their first weekend sale, May 2, 3, and 4 - from 10 am to 5 pm, Friday and Saturday and 11 am to 4 pm on Sunday. We are looking for: beds, mattresses, dressers, tables, lamps, couches, chairs, handicap shower items, outdoor furniture, rugs, baby furniture, working appliances (washing machines to TVs to toasters), pots and pans, kitchen items, useable towels, sheets, bedding, blankets, sets of glasses and plates (minimum of 2), baby stuff, books, records, CDs and tapes. Clothing is restricted to good jeans, coats, maternity wear, purses and lightly used men's blue collar work clothes, couture wear and shoes as well. Please contact Meg Adler 913.339.9593 for pick up/drop off and volunteer sign ups! A-Lotta-Stuff at Stan's is located at 6700 Kaw Dr., Kansas City, KS 66111.

Yom Haatzmaut Celebration

Join the community in celebrating Israel's 60th anniversary on Thursday, May 8, at the Jewish Community Campus. The celebration begins at 5:30 pm. NCJW is a co-sponsor of this event. We hope everyone can come and enjoy the event.

Metropolitan Coalition For Responsible Sex Education

NCJW has joined a new organization, The Metropolitan Coalition for Responsible Sex Education. This group supports the right of every young person to access the information and develop the skills necessary to make safe and responsible choices about his or her sexual health. It advocates for comprehensive, medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education for youth in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. Barbara Holzmark is representing NCJW for this organization.

Light Up A Life

Almost \$24,000 was raised in this year's Light Up A Life, stay at home fundraiser. Of course, NCJW would be glad to continue receiving donations for this fundraiser. Thank you to those who have already contributed, the list of donors is included in this issue of *About and Between*. **Also, thank you to those who plan to contribute now.** These funds are vital in continuing our community service work.

NCJW National Convention

Ellen Dalen and Berenice Haberman attended the 44th National Convention held in Chicago March 9-11. More than 300 members gathered to set policy for the next three years, elect officers, and recognize national leaders in the issue areas of concern to NCJW. A special focus of the convention was the launch of NCJW's initiative: Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote, a non partisan effort to promote participation in the 2008 election that builds on similar NCJW efforts in prior election years with a special emphasis on ensuring that every vote is counted.

Nancy Ratzan of Miami Florida was elected president for a three-year term. She stated, "NCJW has a distinct, essential role in the pursuit of social justice today." She also said, "We deliver the voice and action of progressive Jewish women. We address the issues that change lives and empower women; reproductive choice, religious freedom, violence against women, safety nets for children and contraceptive access."

Showcased at the opening of the convention was Plan A: NCJW's Campaign for Contraceptive Access. Steve Tromblye, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area, addressing that session, explained that, "family planning has been embraced by the majority of Americans but it's become kryptonite in Washington!"

8/08

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Greater Kansas City Section
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NCJW

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