

Council Thrift Shop Closes

...Leah Nepom



Well, we did it. The Council Thrift Shop with so much history is now history. Since its founding over 40 years ago, the Thrift Shop in most of its years supplied funds for the Section's activities. When the time came for its closure, once again members of the Section came forward to volunteer.

We began our closing sale the last weekend of August and by the second week of October almost all of the inventory had been sold. We were able to share some of the items with other organizations in the city, the library took some books, the Community Warehouse some

household items, other thrift shops and ARC took clothing and equipment. Most of all, our long time loyal customers found real bargains. We took in over \$9,000 and were able to clean out the space for the next occupant.

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped: **Edythe Steinbock, Eve Rosenfeld, Shirley and Alvin Rackner, Thelma Solomon, Alice Meyer, Fay Blank, Karen Labinger, Jean Pierce, Rosemarie Rosenfeld, Harriet Maizels, Chris Coughlin, Eva Rickles, Toinette Menashe, Shirley Nudelman, Sue Wapnick, Ilene Cohen, Naomi Strauss and Meryl Haber.**

Extra special thanks go to **Barrie Menashe**, our landlord, whose generous adjustment of our lease made the whole process possible. To **Phil Blank** whose expertise got us started and to **Larry Tarlow, Carol Chestler and Jody Klevit** for the extra special assistance.

Thanks also to our manager, **Heather English**, who guided us through the last hectic days.

BOOK CLUB CELEBRATES

Ten years and 120 books later members of the NCJW Portland Section Book Club celebrated that milestone during their September meeting held at the home of **Bobbi London**.

Several of these ladies have been members since the inception of this very active and fun filled group.

Meetings are regularly held the second Thursday of every month at 9:30 in the morning. Newcomers are always welcome.



From left: Cissy Levine, Irene Winters, Leatrice Kaplan, Gillian Casson, Miriam Osborne, Leslye Epstein, Bobbi London, Dodie Harrison and Polly Herman

President's Column

Meryl Haber, President



Every time I start to write my column (which is three times now), I remind myself that what you really want to know is: **What's going on, what's happening with the Neighborhood House Fund, and when are we going to start doing things?** I can answer the first two questions, but the third will depend on you, and if you are willing.

For 3 months I have been working to strengthen the core of our section. As our section has not had elected officers to fill our board positions for the past several years, there wasn't a lot for us to start with. In recognition and with appreciation, **Linda Fintzy**, our office manager, has needed to extend herself and her job to keep our section running. What I plan to accomplish now with a full board of officers (and Linda!), is to put the business of the section back into the hands of our member volunteers.

I actually did start off with a timeline of objectives that I wanted to accomplish in 3 months. None of these goals were terribly sexy, but doing them first was essential to put us on a solid footing for when we take the next step.

The first goal I set was to create an accurate financial picture of the section. Remember, our section had been operating without a treasurer for the previous 5 months. We have a strong financial team, thank-you **Tamara DiVergillio, Carol Chestler, Leah Nepom and Jody Klevit**. They met, and emailed (how did we manage before email?) and met more often than you can imagine, and it is now our goal to bring our treasurer's job back in-house starting in January.

The second goal we accomplished was to resolve our Thrift Shop issue. Arrangements were made with several agencies to help us clear the last of our stuff from the building; it was a monumental task. Thank you **Leah Nepom and friends** listed on page 1. Many of you put in long hours to see this process through.

The third goal we accomplished was to have our Financial Secretary determine our membership numbers and start our dues cycle again. Our lapsed member list was longer than our regular member list- but it's not that way anymore. Thank you **Rosemarie Rosenfeld**. It has been a long time since our roster has been thoroughly up-dated, copies may be available after the first of the year.

My fourth goal was to update job descriptions and personnel policies, both of which are out of date. Thank you **Rose Rustin** and **Chris Coughlin** for reviewing and revising these documents as we go forward. I strongly believe that the administration of our section is our backbone, and we have been working very hard to make it strong. Did I mention what a great job our recording secretary is doing? Thank you **Sharon Tarlow**.

Concurrent with all this administrative work, our State Public Affairs chair has arranged for us to co-host two very informative events. I don't have children in the Portland Public Schools, but it was an eye-opener to learn about the lunacy **Stand For Children** has to deal with. I wish everyone could know what is happening to our children in our schools. Thank you **Sarah Wetherson**. By the way, Sarah sent me to a press conference where I had to stand in front of a camera holding a cardboard NCJW logo and speak about what I could do for Hippy if I had the \$10 million the Tobacco Lobby is dumping into Measure 50. Who knew that advocacy could be so.... frightening?

Our Public Affairs & Community Service co-chairs have been meeting and discussing continuing and future community service projects with many organizations and people around our city. They are looking for ideas that you will support. Thank you **Eve Rosenfeld** and **Louise Marsh**. Our Voucher program is undergoing modification, and our Care Kit program will continue on, requesting your donations of shampoo and soap from your hotel stays. Can you believe that my husband is even squirreling away items from his travels? (Thank you Gordon?)

As we move into 2008 I hope that all of you who came and showed your support at the membership meeting last April will take a few minutes to see what we have done and are doing, and let us know where you see yourself as part of this organization. We value your ideas and welcome your support.

Have a cheerful, festive, and safe holiday season!

....*Meryl*

RESEARCH



EDUCATION



SERVICE



ADVOCACY

National NCJW News

NCJW DENOUNCES SENATE VOTE ON SOUTHWICK NOMINATION

(ed. Note: Periodically, the NCJW office in Washington DC will issue their statements regarding issues that concern the NCJW mission. We will keep you informed as we receive them.)

October 24, 2007, Washington, DC -- The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) today denounced the vote by the US Senate to end debate on the nomination of Leslie H. Southwick -- a vote that led to his confirmation to the US Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit. NCJW President Phyllis Snyder released the following statement:

"The confirmation of Leslie Southwick to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, which has the highest minority population of any circuit, is deplorable. This nominee has a record of hostility to the civil rights concerns of African Americans and to the equality of gays and lesbians before the law. If, as reported in the press, his confirmation to a lifetime seat on the court was part of a backroom deal, NCJW considers that a travesty of the constitutional process of advice and consent.

"This is the judge who joined a majority of the Mississippi appeals court in ruling that a state employee's dismissal for referring to a co-worker as 'a good ole n*****' was unwarranted. The ruling was unanimously reversed by the Mississippi Supreme Court. In another case Judge Southwick asserted that a 'homosexual lifestyle' could be used to deprive a parent of custody of her biological child. These are but two examples of Southwick's consistently troubling record.

"The Senate's failure to defeat this nomination is an abdication of its role in the nomination process. Southwick's views are not simply a matter of judicial philosophy. Rather, his past actions as a judge demonstrate an intolerance that ought not to be permitted on the bench at any level."

NCJW is a volunteer organization, inspired by Jewish values, that works to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families and to ensure individual rights and freedoms for all through its network of 90,000 members, supporters, and volunteers nationwide. It has launched BenchMark: NCJW's Campaign to Save Roe, a national effort to educate and mobilize NCJW members, the Jewish community, and friends and allies everywhere to promote a federal bench with judges that support fundamental freedoms, including a woman's right to choose.

Section Bylaws Are Under Review

Our Section bylaws were last updated in 1994. Our Bylaws Committee has made several revisions that would; simplify the language, reflect our changing organization, bring us into compliance with Oregon law, and focus on governance, not process. The National Bylaws Committee has approved these changes to our proposed bylaws and have returned them to us. The Board of Directors is now reviewing them and then according to our policies they may be amended or revised at a membership meeting of the Section by a 2/3 vote of those present and eligible. Copies of the bylaws will be mailed out to our membership and a meeting will be scheduled.

RESEARCH



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STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM... NCJW President Phyllis Snyder

After months of debate, negotiation and compromise, Democrats and Republicans in the U.S. Congress sent to President Bush a bipartisan bill that would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program. That SCHIP measure would have provided much-needed health insurance to 10 million children who otherwise would be uninsured. Regrettably, however, the president chose to compromise the health and well-being of the youngest and most vulnerable Americans by vetoing this vital legislation.

We know that SCHIP works. SCHIP programs in every state allow millions of children nationwide to see doctors when they are ill, have access to medications, get regular checkups and be hospitalized if necessary.

We also know that children without health insurance are less likely to receive care for childhood illnesses such as sore throats, earaches and asthma. Not surprisingly, children without health insurance coverage are at greater risk of experiencing significant health and developmental problems. As a result they are less prepared to learn in school and succeed in life.

What we don't know is why the administration and some members of Congress oppose this fully funded, fiscally responsible, bipartisan bill. They claim the compromise SCHIP bill expands coverage to higher income families. This claim is unfounded.

In reality, this bill represents a bipartisan compromise to reach out to the growing number of low-income, uninsured children in this country. More than 75 percent of the children expected to gain coverage under the compromise bill have family incomes below twice the poverty level, or \$41,300 for a family of four.

What's more, acting in a fiscally responsible manner, members of both parties found a way to offset the cost of offering SCHIP to great numbers to eligible children. Every dollar spent in this bill is paid for. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the various provisions to maintain and expand children's health coverage in the compromise bill would cost \$34.9 billion over five years. These costs are fully offset by an increase in federal tobacco taxes.

Over the past month, Jews have been wishing each other a happy and healthy new year. That traditional greeting takes on an added meaning this year. On Oct. 18, Congress has the opportunity to ensure a healthy new year for millions of America's children by overriding the ideologically driven presidential veto of SCHIP.

Legislators from both sides of the aisle, ranging from US Sens. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) to the US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) have embraced the compromise bill to expand SCHIP coverage. So, too, have most Jewish organizations across the spectrum, understanding the moral imperative to ensure that all of our children have the opportunity to grow and thrive.

On Oct. 18, the choice for House members is clear: Either you stand with the 10 million children who without this bill will go without health insurance, or you stand with the administration and its misguided priorities.

Congress must exercise its prerogative and overturn President Bush's veto.

Portland Section Advocates Go Beyond Sound Bites

This year, after several years of cheerfully responding to requests from the Section to present information about ballot measures to our members, the League of Women Voters of Portland asked our Section to join them in sponsoring a community-wide forum on Measures 49 and 50.

The forum, which was also sent live to cable viewers around the region and rebroadcast several times, featured speakers from both sides of each measure. In addition, an expert from the City of Portland presented information on the local Police and Firefighters Disability Fund measure, which attracted no organized campaign support or opposition.

The Section helped bring about an important community service, helping voters get more information than the deluge of 30-second ads delivered. As a bonus, we got great exposure to the community and enriched our partnership with the League of Women Voters.

Make Sure You Don't Miss Another Vote

Whether you are concerned about increasing access to children's health care or defending women's reproductive rights, protecting immigrant rights or ensuring the rights of transgendered people to employment, NCJW can help you make your voice heard. Get the latest on federal and Israel issues by signing up at www.ncjw.org. And send a note to me, **Sarah Wetherson**, at advocacy@ncjwportland.org and I'll keep you posted on our state work for women, children and families.



Programs

Update on HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters)Davene Cohen

What is HIPPY?

HIPPY is a program developed at the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Research Institute for Innovation in Education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel in 1969. The purpose was to enable immigrant populations in Israel to rapidly become part of the country. It was found to be extremely effective and was soon adopted by other countries.

The first HIPPY programs were established in the United States in 1984. All local programs are part of the national HIPPY network and must maintain adherence to its standards. Local programs in our region are about 10 years old and exist in two counties: Portland Public Schools and west Washington County.

What HIPPY does.

HIPPY provides parents the tools and support they need in their role as their child's first and most significant teacher. The curriculum is a carefully constructed and researched program for 3 to 5 year olds. Parents provide the day-to-day instruction which is modeled to them on a weekly basis, as well as the personalized attention their child requires. This not only insures that the child enters school able to benefit fully from the experience, but also equips parents with the necessary information to advocate productively for their child.

The curriculum meets national learning mandates (such as No Child Left Behind) and is based on the premise that success begins at home. HIPPY supports parents who may not feel sufficiently confident to prepare their children for "school ready knowledge". The curriculum is scripted for a novice teacher and is intrinsically interesting and developmentally appropriate for the child. Other HIPPY premises include the belief that all parents want what is best for their child and want them to succeed; but not all parents know how to foster their child's development. School readiness skills can be taught. HIPPY provides parents, regardless of their own skills or expertise, with the tools and support to teach their children these skills. And, lastly, that people learn by doing. Practicing new skills in a psychologically safe learning environment gives people the confidence to try

new skills. HIPPY participants at all levels, from program staff to parents to children, are provided with active learning experiences through role-play – the instructional method of service delivery.

The model is based on a 30-week cycle with activity packets and storybooks available to the participants at no cost to them. In addition to these basic materials, supplies such as scissors and crayons are provided. The home visitors go into the home and role-play the activities with the parents. The activities are developmentally appropriate, sequential, and progress within each year. The key learning domains covered include early reading literacy, language and communication, thinking and reasoning, mathematics, science, physical and motor development, social and emotional. The early literacy component includes exposure to phonological and phonemic awareness, letter recognition, book knowledge and early writing experiences. In addition to the Home Visits, all of the parents and home visitors meet at a designated site to role-play the activities as a large group and to gain additional information about child development

Current populations

HIPPY is most effective in reaching new immigrants. Current populations served in the metropolitan area include migrant families, Russian immigrants and, most recently, Somali families.

What is Portland Section's role?

Portland section can serve as an advocate and spokesman for HIPPY. We can focus attention at the state and national level on the benefits of the program. We can assist in raising funds and we can volunteer our time.

The major share of HIPPY funding comes through participating in federal grants allocated to the school districts. Unfortunately the current fiscal picture has so reduced the funds available to the schools (especially Washington County) that they have been forced to eliminate outside programs in order to maintain their own programs. There is no funding stream targeted to home-based programs so there is nowhere to apply for ongoing grants. Programs, therefore, have to rely on the largesse of agencies, school districts, or other institutions that receive grants that can be extended to outside agencies.

One of NCJW's roles can be to advocate with the State Department of Education as well as lobby Congress to enact a bill providing a funding stream for home-based programs.

Bulletin Board



WELCOME

New Members

Mary Tarlow, Nicole Gullish,
Roberta Weinstein, Nancy
Chestler, Beverly Zell, and
New Life Member,
Jeanne Newmark

Neighborhood House Fund Update

Letters of Commitment have been sent to Cedar Sinai and the Oregon Jewish Museum so those organizations could use our commitment as leverage for soliciting additional funding. An advance of \$2000 was given to OJM this month for initiating the planning process of our permanent exhibit gallery. The funds are being used for a designer they have hired who will work on conceptualizing the exhibit. **Roberta Weinstein**, our liaison on the OJM board is keeping us posted on the progress of the Museum. The Neighborhood House Funds will remain at OJCF until the projects are ready to start.

Support Hippy with your donation Support your Section by being involved

Traditionally we have sponsored a program to demonstrate our support for Hippy during the holiday season. This year we have been asked for donations of books and puzzles for children between the ages of 3 and 5. There are approximately 125 children who receive Hippy services; our goal is to provide each one with a gift. We need volunteers to make this happen. Please call the Section office for details on volunteering and donating to this project.

BOOK CLUB

Nov. 8 "Snowflower and the Secret Fan" by See

Dec. 13 "The Namesake" by Lahiri and also "The Overcoat" by Gogol

All meetings are at 9:30 am. Call Dodie Harrison for location if you wish to join us.
(503) 684-6129



EDITOR'S CORNER

With the elections taking such precedence in the news and in our lives at this time, I thought the following quote to be quite pertinent. When we realize it was written about 2300 years ago, it just seems to prove that the problem of apathetic voters is not a new one.

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.Plato

And so it is up to us, my friends, to vote responsibly and make a change.

RESEARCH

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Tributes

MINNIE F. EHRMAN FUND *For Medical-Dental care*

BIRTHDAYS: Sandra Shapiro, Joy Russell, Naomi Strauss, Sharon Tarlow, Dale Oller, Carol Chestler, Inge Hamburger, Maureen Rosen, Dina Linn, Frieda Tobin

JEAN RUSTIN FUND *For Children and Youth*

BIRTHDAYS: Zelda Zeidman, Char Woodworth, Arnold Rustin, Marjorie Saltzman, Linda Nelson, Jackie Barthold, Gillian Casson, Rosemarie Rosenfeld, Sue Honigstock

N HONOR OF: Bev Contorer's birthday by Susan and David Honigstock

IN MEMORY OF: Lillian Wexler from Vivienne Bonnin

DOROTHY ASHER MEMORIAL FUND *For Senior Cultural Programs*

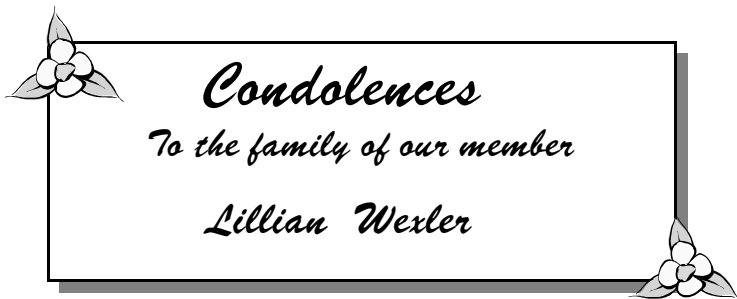
BIRTHDAYS: Gloria Bacharach, Joyce Singer

IN MEMORY OF: Lillian Wexler from Rachella Kryszek

GENERAL FUND

BIRTHDAYS: Karen Stern, Sue Overbeck, Mildred Zell, Rhoda Weiss, Bev Contorer, Edythe Steinbock

IN HONOR OF: Bev Contorer's birthday by Sue and Darrell Overbeck



Your gift to one of our special Tribute Funds ensures the continuation of Portland Section's vital programs. Please mail your contribution to:

NCJW, Portland Section
P.O. Box 69333
Portland, OR 97239

Here is my contribution for the:

- Dorothy Asher Memorial Fund
- Minnie F. Ehrman Fund
- Jean Rustin Fund

For:

Birthday _____

In Memory of _____

General Contribution

Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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Portland Section
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

8 Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

20 Board of Directors Meeting

December

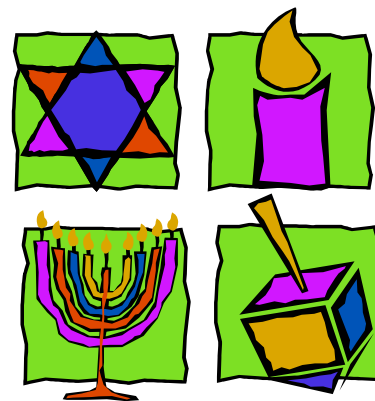
5 Chanukah begins

13 Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

18 Board of Directors Meeting

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Have a Happy



Chanukah