



Please Join Us for a Tea Party at the Museum

TEA WILL BE SERVED AT THE OREGON JEWISH MUSEUM ON APRIL 13TH FOR NCJW MEMBERS WHO ARE CURIOUS TO KNOW WHAT REALLY GOES ON THERE.

JUDY MARGLES, THE MUSEUM'S DIRECTOR (AND NEW NCJW MEMBER) HAS INVITED US TO COME LOOK AROUND, VIEW THE CURRENT EXHIBIT, TOUR THE ARCHIVE ROOM, AND HEAR ABOUT THE MUSEUM'S FUTURE PLANS.

WE WILL ALSO HAVE THE PLEASURE OF MEETING AND TALKING TO LISA BERNDT FROM ELLIPSE STUDIO, WHO HAS BEEN ENGAGED AS A CONSULTANT TO WORK WITH A PLANNING TEAM TO DEVELOP THE MASTER PLAN FOR THE MUSEUM'S CORE EXHIBIT.

LAST APRIL AT OUR SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, WE VOTED TO PROVIDE OJM WITH THE FUNDS TO DEVELOP THIS EXHIBIT FOR THEIR FUTURE PERMANENT HOME.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THINGS TO COME AND A PERSONAL BEHIND THE SCENE TOUR OF THE ONLY JEWISH MUSEUM IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

President's Column

Meryl Haber, President



Presidents Report:

I love the winter, and this one has been an especially good one. We may have had record snowfall here, but nothing beats those Midwest subzero temperatures. I am told that given the opportunity most people would elect to go south in the winter, I'd rather go north. I just returned from a business trip to Minneapolis, where the highlight of the trip was the evening we built a huge bonfire in the middle of a frozen lake and held bicycle relay races on the ice. I should also mention that it was dark, zero degrees, and an awful lot of fun.

What a shock on returning home to find my crocuses in bloom.

Next week I'm off to Chicago where weather forecasters project the 'RealFeel' temps to be in the single digits, certainly it will be windy, and maybe even some snow. I am very excited. Thank you NCJW for holding your 44th National Convention in one of my favorite places during my favorite time of year.

NCJW's conventions are held once every three years. At the convention members from all around the country are invited to participate in discussing and setting the agenda National will follow as the organization endeavors to improve the quality of life for women and children, and work to bring about social change. I've seen the agenda in my "at home orientation" email, it looks to be an action-packed conference. My first scheduled event will be "Incoming Leaders Training", bright and early at 8 am. Once trained, I will be invited to cast my vote on new resolutions, changes to the bylaws, a budget, new officers, and new board members. We also have a line up of interesting speakers throughout the weekend, such as Linda Wertheimer from NPR, and Susan Weidman Schneider, founder of Lilith Magazine. And then there are workshops and more training, award presentations, and an idea exchange. They also mentioned that I should bring a Pashmina, (I had to look it up on Wikopedia). I'm sensing that one could get totally wrapped up in all of this. When I return I will certainly have stories to tell, and my daffodils will be in full bloom.

I was overwhelmed with the large turnout we had for our Sunday Brunch Membership Meeting. Thank you for voting to pass the new bylaws, and for the warm reception you gave to our guest speakers. What an opportunity to be able to hear directly how our contributions make an impact. And a big thank you to everyone who worked to make the event such a success: Linda Fintzy, Mary Tarlow, Sarah Wetherson, Eve Rosenfeld, Louise Marsh, Carol Chestler, Leah Nepom, Rosemarie Rosenfeld, and Fay Blank.

Shalom,

Meryl

RESEARCH

EDUCATION

SERVICE

ADVOCACY

Section Activities

New Programs Announced at Annual Meeting

....Sharon Tarlow, Recording Secretary

Sunday, Feb 3, 2008 Was a Big Day for the Portland Section

A new set of by-laws was unanimously ratified by the 60+ NCJW Portland Section members who attended the February membership meeting and lunch at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.



Sarah Wetherson,
Sate Public Affairs Chair

Sarah Wetherson, committee chair, presented the new by-laws and fielded questions before the vote. Sarah and her committee have been working on the by-laws revisions for the past several months.

Meryl Haber, Section President, presided over the two hour meeting that included time for members to socialize, reconnect and meet new members. **Carol Chestler** presented the Treasurer's report, and **Rosemarie Rosenfeld**, Financial Secretary, delivered the membership update and introduced the names of 14 new members.

Two local organizations, North by Northeast Clinic and the Children's Community Clinic, were both recipients of this year's Tribute Funds. Representatives from each attended the meeting, thanked the section and provided an overview of how the funds will be used.

Dr Jill Ginsberg, North by Northeast Clinic, described how the funds they received will help this free clinic provide medical services and medicine for adults in our community that would otherwise be unserved. **Mardica Hicks**, Children's Community Clinic, shared examples of how her organization fills a need for children in the community – also providing medical services and medicine. These two clinics are neighbors in Northeast Portland, and both of facilities provide very valuable assistance. It's a privilege for NCJW to be able to assist them with funding. **Jody Klevit** and **Leah Nepom** are the Financial Vice Presidents. For more information on these organizations please visit their websites.



Dr. Jill Ginsberg, guest

Two new Community Service Projects for the section were also introduced. The first one, *Showers for Shelters*, chaired by **Joyce Singer** and **Sue Overbeck**, is an innovative project developed to provide funds and needed items for organizations we previously aided with our vouchers from the Thrift Shop. The first Shower recipient is the Brad-



From left: Robbin Isaacson DeWeese,
Chris Coughlin, Eve Rosenfeld,
Marilyn Forse, Shirley Rackner.

ley-Angle House. **Bradley-Angle House** representatives **Isaac Myhrum** and **Gabrilla Santos** attended the meeting and thanked the group for the funds that they are using to purchase a data projector to be used to educate our community about domestic violence.

The second project is the *Food Box Project* of the Northwest Portland Ministries. **Delanie Delimont**, Executive Director of Northwest Portland Ministries explained the goal of the program, which is to provide food boxes for the working poor. **Eve Rosenfeld** and **Louise Marsh** are the Community Service Vice Presidents. Both of the projects will provide volunteer opportunities for our members to get involved. More information will be published soon.

The next membership meeting will be held in April at the Oregon Jewish Museum and our Annual Meeting will be held in June. Details to come. The NCJW Portland Section Board would like to thank all members for their continuing support and looks forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

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Advocacy

Sarah Wetherson, State Public Affairs

The National Council of Jewish Women advocates on a variety of issues on the federal, state and local levels through our State Public Affairs (SPA) network and Section advocacy programs. One of the chief goals of our advocacy program is to support NCJW service projects in our community, across the country and in Israel. So, for example, at the same time that we are supporting the food box program of Northwest Portland Ministries, we are working with coalition partners in Salem to press for expanding the state Earned Income Tax Credit and other anti-poverty programs.

I urge you to amplify your voice on the issues you care about -- advancing reproductive rights, civil rights, the well-being of women, children and families and religion-state separation. You can sign up for national action alerts at www.ncjw.org -- just click on "get action alerts" at the bottom of the page. And I'll keep you posted on state issues -- just send and e-mail to me at: advocacy@ncjwportland.org.

I want to share some detail with you about how we make decisions about advocacy -- and what the SPA network is all about. So, I've included some information about how SPAs work with sections in other states, as well as the key issues we cover and the questions we (and our committees) apply to making program decisions.

If you would like to help craft our advocacy agenda, I hope you will contact me and join the Advocacy Team. You can reach me at 503/282-2421.

The National Council of Jewish Women State Public Affairs Network

NCJW President, Select National Board Members, and Washington, D.C. Staff work with SPA Chairs, who the President appoints to three-year terms.

Multi-Section State

SPA Chair works with Section Vice Presidents whose bailiwick includes advocacy about National issues. Sometimes these VPs plus others comprise an SPA committee.

- Section Advocacy VP takes primary responsibility for state-level legislative work and is first contact for Congressperson(s) serving the Section's district(s). Probably heads a committee to assist with this work.

- SPAs take primary responsibility for federal-level work, contacting Senators and Congressperson(s) outside of district in which Sections in the state reside.
- May have a separate account for moneys received from National as well as Sections or may have an account that resides within one of her sections' budgets.
- May organize volunteer advocates from around the state, using separate newsletter, phone tree, e-mail list, etc.
- Also communicates with Section Presidents, VPs of community service, NCJW, Inc. Board members in state, commissioners for Sections in the state, and bulletin editors.

Single-Section State

- SPA Chair works closely with Section Advocacy Vice President to develop and carry out advocacy program. Some ways to structure this relationship include:
 - Have SPA handle federal and state advocacy while VP does local advocacy.
 - Have SPA attend state coalition meetings, while VP coordinates grassroots activity generated by the coalition.
 - Have SPA develop advocacy presence with legislators outside the Section's district(s), while VP concentrates on in-district relationships.
 - SPA budget resides within Section budget.

4 Focus Issues

- Reproductive Rights
- Individual and Civil Rights
- Well-being of Women, Children and Families
- Religion-State Separation

The 5 Questions

- Does it fit within NCJW's mission and resolutions?
- Does NCJW have a special niche to fill in the coalition?
- Can we take a leadership role?
- Will it give us visibility and advance NCJW's organizational goals?
- Will the issue be relevant for a long enough time (i.e., at least six months?)

Programs

Date Set for *Song of Miriam* Award Presentations

The Jewish Women's Round Table (JWRT), has invited National Council of Jewish Women to participate in the 16th annual volunteer recognition day for Jewish Women, at Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Highway, Portland Planned for Sunday, June 1, 2008, 10:00am to 12:15pm, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, this exciting program promises to be another historic event as the *Song of Miriam* Awards are presented.

Let us come together in unity to honor women who have "made a difference" in the Jewish community by contributing time and energy through their various volunteer efforts. Each organization is invited to honor a deserving woman. The person named by our Section will soon be determined by the committee assigned to this project and led by Karen Labinger.

You will receive more information on this event later in the mail. We look forward to seeing you there to cheer for our honoree as well the other women nominated by their organizations.

On **Monday, April 14, 7 – 9 pm at the MJCC**, the **Community Relations Committee** will be holding a forum for the candidates in four different races of interest:

U.S. Senate,
Oregon Secretary of State,
Oregon Attorney General
Oregon Treasurer.

Most of the candidates are already confirmed. The event is being co-sponsored by CRC, the MJCC, American Jewish Committee and **National Council of Jewish Women**. More info to follow.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US!



Tributes

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

BIRTHDAYS: Carol Baker, Bernadine Brenner, Joanne Senders, Fay Blank, Minnie Zidell, Linda Ostomel, Gerel Blauer, Leatrice Kaplan

IN MEMORY OF: Marvin Kane by Rosemarie Rosenfeld and Gary and Sylvia Pearlman

IN HONOR OF: Marvin and Leah Nepom by Sharon and Larry Tarlow

JEAN RUSTIN FUND *For Children and Youth*

BIRTHDAYS: Rose Rustin, Roz Menashe, Leatrice Kaplan, Sandra Shulmire

IN MEMORY OF: Arnold Rustin by Bev Contorer, Gerry and Morrie Jackson, Sylvia Pearlman, Gayle Marger, Dodie Harrison

IN MEMORY OF: Jesse Overbeck and Marvin Kane by Rose Rustin

IN HONOR OF: Leah Nepom's Birthday by Naomi Strauss

DOROTHY ASHER MEMORIAL FUND *For Senior Cultural Programs*

BIRTHDAYS: Louise Marsh, Marsha Gilbert, Leatrice Kaplan, Thelma Geffen, Miriam Osborne

IN MEMORY OF: Joan Liebreich by Gayle and Jerry Marger

IN HONOR OF: Pearl Levine's 95th Birthday by Harriet Levi

MARION QUINT ROSE FUND *For Widow/Widower Support Services*

IN HONOR OF: Marilyn Forse by Gloria Bacharach

GENERAL FUND

BIRTHDAYS: Lois Urman, Robin Weinstein

IN HONOR OF: Karen Labinger's birthday by Robert Lustberg



CONDOLENCES

TO THE FAMILIES OF LIFE MEMBER
AND PAST SECTION PRESIDENT
JOAN LIEBREICH
AND
LIFE MEMBER
ARNOLD RUSTIN
AND PAST THRIFT SHOP CHAIR
JESSE 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
(Minimum \$18.00, please)

Here is my contribution for the:

- Dorothy Asher Memorial Fund
- Minnie F. Ehrman Fund
- Jean Rustin Fund
- Marion Quint Rose Fund

For:

Birthday: Name _____

Address _____

Memory of _____

Address _____

General Contribution

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Name _____

Address _____

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National Council of Jewish Women
Portland Section
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Portland, OR 97239

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NCJW

National Council of Jewish Women

CALENDAR



- 9-11 NCJW National Convention
Chicago
- 13 Book Club, 9:30 am
- 13 Executive Committee Meeting, 7 pm
- 18 Board Meeting, 7 pm



- 10 Book Club, 9:30 am
- 13 Membership Tea, 2pm-4 m
Oregon Jewish Museum
- 14 CRC meeting, 7-9 pm, MJCC
- 15 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 19 PESACH

SAVE THE DATES

- June 1, Song of Miriam Awards
- June 8, NCJW Annual Meeting

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