

Save the Date !

*National Council of Jewish Women,
Portland Section*

*2007 Annual Meeting
of the Membership*

Installation of Officers and New Board Members

*Sunday, June 24, 2007
11:00 a.m. ~ ~ 1:00 p.m.*

Watch your mail for location and further details.



President's Column

Leslye Epstein, President

NCJW members:

Wow! If you were one of the many members at the meeting on Sunday, April 22nd, you know a momentous thing happened. The membership voted to donate the proceeds of the Neighborhood House sale to the Oregon Jewish Museum and Cedar Sinai Park/Jewish Family and Child Services. If you are interested in reading about the proposals, please check out the blog <http://www.nhfac.blogspot.com/> put together by the committee who worked on selecting these proposals. I thank the following members of that committee for all the hard work they did to put together the proposals and the meeting for the vote: **Faye Blank, Carol Chestler, Tamara DiVergilio, Meryl Haber, Louise Marsh, Eve Rosenfeld, Rosemarie Rosenfeld, Rose Rustin and Sharon Tarlow.**



During the same weekend of this meeting, national visitors came to Portland from NCJW, Penny Pensak, National Vice President, and Stacy Kass, Executive Director of NCJW. They met extensively with the board and came up with ideas and suggestions for putting in place a plan for running a better section board. We will be starting to implement these ideas immediately.

The national visitors told us what was happening nationally that is important to all members of all sections to be aware of. The newest endeavor coming out of Washington Institute, is: **PLAN A: NCJW's Campaign for Contraceptive Access educates and empowers individuals to advocate for women's universal access to contraceptive information and health services. Through a combination of education and advocacy initiatives at the community and national levels, Plan A aims to secure and protect access to contraceptive information and health services for all, putting individuals back in control of their personal health decisions.**

If you would like to be involved in this effort, please check out www.ncjw.org and sign up to get updates about what you can do to help.

Another big step is looking at our Thrift Shop. A committee is working hard to determine how we can make the shop a profitable business again. If you have ideas or want to get involved in helping this committee, please call the Portland section office to be put in touch with someone who will most certainly put you to work. A postcard is currently being sent out to all members that will ask for your input about the thrift shop. Please respond as soon as you can with your comments.

In this issue of the newsletter is the invitation to the Song of Miriam award ceremony this year. Please come help us honor **Davene Cohen**. She has been instrumental in helping the HIPPY program and has been a wonderful volunteer in NCJW, Portland Section.

I hope you all have a great spring and we are looking forward to our annual meeting. It is scheduled for June 24th. Hope to see you all there.

I hope this newsletter gives you lots of incentive to become more involved if you are not already and to continue to be active if you enjoy and support our section.

As always,

...*Leslye*

**You are cordially invited to attend the
15th Annual "Song of Miriam Award" Brunch for recognition of
outstanding volunteers sponsored by the
Jewish Women's Round Table
Please join the National Council of Jewish Women
to honor Davene Cohen**

*"And Miriam the prophetess,
the sister of Aaron, took a
timbrel in her hand; and all the
women went out after her with
timbrels and with dances."
Exodus 15:20*

**Sunday, June 3, 2007
10:00 am - 12:15 pm**

**Featuring a performance by Cantor Ida Rae Cahana
Mittleman Jewish Community Center
6651 SW Capitol Hwy. Portland, Oregon**

**\$20.00 (\$10.00 children 12 and under) cover paid by May 25, \$28 at the door; Patrons \$36.00
(includes 3% donation to Mazon)**

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Yes, I (we) plan to attend the *Song of Miriam Award* brunch on June 3, 2007. Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for _____ attendees, made payable to the Jewish Women's Round Table (JWRT).

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____

Names and Phone Numbers of Guests (Guest or Patron) (Please Print)

Name	Guest/Patron	Amt.	Phone Number
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Note: There will be one table reserved for each honoree for her friends and relatives.

**RSVP by May 25 by sending your check and this form to:
Jerrie Roth, Jewish Women's Round Table, 1231 SW Texas St. , Portland, OR 97219**

For further information call Jerrie Roth, 503-246-4367.

The Jewish Women's Round Table is a representation of Jewish Women in Oregon and Southwest Washington through their organizations and congregations, convening in the spirit of cooperation to recognize achievements in volunteering, and collectively contributing to the continuity of Jewish life in the community.

The National Council of Jewish Women Launches Plan A, a campaign for Contraceptive Access

Plan A: NCJW's Campaign for Contraceptive Access educates and empowers individuals to advocate for women's universal access to contraceptive information and health services.

Through a combination of education and advocacy initiatives at the community and national levels, Plan A aims to secure and protect access to contraceptive information and health services for all, putting individuals back in control of their personal health decisions.

How can you make your voice heard? Sign up on line at www.ncjw.org. NCJW respects your privacy. So, when NCJW launches a new campaign like this, they don't assume you want to be involved. Even if you have signed up before to receive other action alerts from NCJW, please go to the website and make sure you're signed up.

Thanks for all that you do to make a full range of reproductive health options available to all women.

Hundreds Speak Out at NCJW's Premier Public Policy Event

Washington Institute Highlights Include Congressional Visits and Expert Briefings

Washington Institute 2007, the premier public policy event of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), culminated on March 20 with some 200 congressional visits by more than 400 NCJW activists representing 31 states.

State Public Affairs Chair Sarah Wetherson represented Oregon and visited the offices of Congressmen Earl Blumenauer and David Wu and Senators Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden. Both of Oregon's senators serve on the Senate Finance committee, and play an especially important role in funding for the State Child Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), one of the issues about which NCJW women advocated.

During the opening session on March 18, NCJW President Phyllis Snyder previewed a new initiative to safeguard reproductive freedom, Plan A: NCJW's Campaign for Contraceptive Access. Said Snyder: "Access to contraception can no longer be taken for granted. NCJW's involvement in the fight to secure women's reproductive health and rights is critical. NCJW is certainly not new to this... Our 1930 national convention approved a resolution in support of confidential family planning, making us the first organization in the United States to publicly demand the legalization of birth control." During her speech, Snyder stressed the links between religious liberty and access to contraception.

Held from March 18 to March 20, Washington Institute drew NCJW members from 75 sections -- and eight countries -- for leadership and advocacy training as well as issue briefings from coalition partners, political experts, awardees, and members of Congress, including Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL), and Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA).

On Tuesday's Hill visits, activists advocated for congressional support on three pieces of pending legislation: strengthening hate crimes law, enacting the Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act to provide federal funding for comprehensive sexuality education, and reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) with \$60 billion.

Also speaking on the importance of contraceptive access was NCJW Woman Who Dared awardee Dr. Susan



Board Activities

National NCJW Vice President and Executive Director Visit Portland Section



Leslye Epstein, Portland Section President in rear with, from left: Section board members **Joanne Van Ness Menashe**, **Marki Maizels** and NCJW National Executive Director, **Stacy Kass**.

The Board of Directors of Portland Section were pleased to have a visit from the National office of NCJW recently. **Penny Pensak**, National Vice President and **Stacy Kass**, Executive Director of the NCJW National Office met with the Section Board and had many good suggestions to help the board with improvement and growth.



Portland Section Board member, **Meryl Haber**, attended meeting with National visitors.



Michelle Stein and **Jill Neuwelt**, Portland Section Board members enjoying the meeting.



Bulletin Board



Book Club

May 10 "History of Love"

June 14 "Everything is Illuminated"

July 12 "It Can't Happen Here"

Aug . 9 "The Good Earth"

All meetings begin at 9:30 am.
Call Dodie Harrison, 506-684-6129
for location of meeting if you would
like to attend.

How can you make your contribution to NCJW go twice as far? By magic? No, by "matching gifts."

If you or your spouse work for a large corporation, check with your Human Resources department to see if they have a matching gift program. If they do, ask for a matching form and send it in to the section office along with your contribution. We do the rest. Your \$50 contribution becomes \$100, a \$100 donation turns into \$200. It's a quick and easy way for you to help NCJW do twice the good in the community.

CARE KITS

Traveling this winter? Save those little soaps, shampoos, etc. from your hotel and motel stays for our Emergency Care Kits. **Fanny Horowitz** is happy to receive them for our kits distribution to shelters around the Portland area. You can drop them off at our office at Historic Neighborhood House., Mon-Fri, 10 am to 2 pm.
Call first, 503-222-5006.



EDITOR'S CORNER

I recently had a birthday...I won't say which one...but suffice to say I was surprised to realize that I am getting old!...Now I do NOT feel that awesome age I have achieved...not at all...until I attempt to dance as I could do so many years ago. So I think it is high time I "took up a timbrel and danced" again. Join me at the Song of Miriam award brunch and we can dance together in celebration of Davene Cohen receiving this honor.

OOPS!!!

Hillary Rodham Clinton
was first lady in the state
of Arkansas, not Georgia
as mentioned in the last
Bulletin!!



Tributes

MINNIE F. EHRMAN FUND

For Medical-Dental care

BIRTHDAYS: Rochelle Silver, Joanne Senders, Michelle Stein, Lesley Glasgow, Dove Pincus Weiner, Lore Labby, Nikki Director, Merritt Yoelin, Eve Rosenfeld, Lillian Wexler, Marjorie Saltzman

IN MEMORY OF: Harriet Mesher and Ruth Israel by Naomi Strauss

JEAN RUSTIN FUND

For Children and Youth

BIRTHDAYS: Linda Hormel, Ellen Todras, Thelma Schnitzer

IN MEMORY OF: Harriet Mesher by Rose Rustin

DOROTHY ASHER MEMORIAL FUND

For Senior Cultural Programs

BIRTHDAYS: Evelyn Freedman, Susan Gerson, Barbara Cohn, Ellen Cohn, Shirley Nudelman, Elynor Zusman

GENERAL FUND

BIRTHDAYS: Karen Labinger, Dodie Harrison

Condolences
To the family of
honorary life member
Harriet Mesher

NCJW Tribute Cards

National Tribute Cards may be purchased through our Section office if you wish to send a card in tribute to a friend. They are available in a variety of colors, representing the different donor levels. All National Tribute Card purchases will be credited by National to the Portland Section's Program Support. Check with the Section office to make your purchase.

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 _____

National Council of Jewish Women
Portland Section
P.O. Box 69333
Portland, OR 97239

PRESIDENT
Leslye Epstein

STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Sara Wetherson

COUNCIL THRIFT SHOP
1127 SW Morrison
Portland, OR 97205
503-227-6322

NCJW SECTION OFFICE
3030 SW Second
Portland, OR 97201
503-222-5006

E-mail: NCJW@teleport.com
Web site: www.ncjwportland.org

Dodie Harrison, BULLETIN EDITOR
503-684-6129

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NCJW

National Council of Jewish Women

CALENDAR

MAY, 2007

- 10 Book Club, "History of Love"
- 15 Board of Directors' Meeting

JUNE, 2007

- 3 "Song of Miriam Awards"
10:00 a.m. to 12:15 a.m. M.J.C.C.
- 14 Book Club, "Everything is Illuminated"
- 24 **Annual Meeting of the Membership,**
11:00 am, location t.b.a.

MISSION STATEMENT

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 THROUGH RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS INITIATED BY ITS NETWORK OF 90,000 VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS AND MEMBERS NATIONWIDE.

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