

EXCITING NEW PROJECTS BEING PLANNED

Our Public Affairs and Community Service co-chairs **Eve Rosenfeld** and **Louise Marsh**, and your Board of Directors would like to announce that they have chosen 2 new projects for our Section. One project will be a collaborative effort with the NW Portland Ministries, and the other project we are originating ourselves. As both projects are now in the planning stages, we welcome any interest from our membership, and hope you will come to our next membership meeting to learn more about them.

THE FOOD BOX PROGRAM - NCJW will be joining Northwest Portland Ministries in re-starting the Emergency Food Box Program. This program has historically served a unique population of working poor and older adults living in the NW area, providing food boxes for 190 households representing 256 people per month.

For the last 10 years this program been under the auspices of Friendly House Community Center, but it will not be continuing under their operations in 2008. Northwest Portland Ministries is an organization of religious institutions which includes Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Havurah Shalom, and 10 other NW religious institutions. They collaborate to provide assistance to neighborhood residents through coordinated volunteer efforts. An NCJW representative will sit on their Food Box Advisory Committee and there will be several volunteer opportunities for Section members.

This will provide us the opportunity to partner with other local agencies and businesses who support this program, and we will tie this in with our Section's advocacy programs.

The Food Box Program is subsidized by the Oregon Food Bank in the form of very inexpensive food. Private businesses as well as Congregations also contribute to the Program with food and monetary contributions. NCJW will provide \$10,050 in start up funding for their first year of operation, with the hope that future funding will be sought after from an expanding pool of donors.

Please call the Section Office for information about getting involved. 503-222-5006

SHOWERS FOR SHELTERS - Our former Care Kit Program is being changed to meet the current needs of the Shelters we have assisted in the past. Our Directors **Joyce Singer** and **Sue Overbeck** came up with a new plan for these agencies. As the name suggests, this new project is going to be very productive, tailored to the specific needs of the recipients, and a lot of fun. Planning for the first event is underway, call the office if you are interested. This is a project where everyone can get involved.

President's Column

Meryl Haber, President

Let me start by thanking those who have written me personal notes of encouragement these past few weeks. As 2007 comes to an end I (and probably most of you) find it necessary to make daily to-do lists, trying to squeeze more activities into an already overscheduled day. So when I receive these letters I am awed and humbled that you have taken the time to write, please know that your thoughtfulness is most appreciated.



We have accomplished much of what we set out to do in the first 6 months, and the time has now come to re-direct the focus of our Section away from internal affairs (drum roll, please). The Board and I are excited about the plans we are making to re-establish the Advocacy, Public Affairs, and Community Service segment of our Section with the launching of 2 new community service projects!

Both of these projects fulfill all the criteria required in our National Policies and Procedures, and address great needs in our community. Initially there are high costs for the start-up, but it is our hope that as we raise interest and incorporate ourselves as volunteers we will be able to transition into successful fundraising and increased donor support. We hope these projects will capture your interest and will beckon your participation.

And now we have an answer to the question, "Why should I renew my membership?" At the close of the last club year we had 273 Life members, 32 regular members, and 73 lapsed members. We have sent out 3 renewal notices and more than half of our lapsed members have renewed their membership. Thank you VERY much for your affirmation of confidence in the revitalization of our Section. With the creation of these 2 new projects we are back in business, fulfilling the ideal of our Mission Statement, and the traditional goal of the Portland Section to reach out beyond our Jewish Community and serve the greater Portland Community.

If you have chosen not to renew your membership, this will be your last Bulletin. We have to cut the ties at some point and we thank you for your past support, you will be missed. To our new members, whom there are many, I want to welcome you to what I feel is the best community service and advocacy organization in our region. Historically we have collaborated with truly wonderful partners to provide worthwhile hands-on service and advocacy projects, and it is our intention to live up to that legacy as best we can.

May 2008 bring us renewed vigor, commitment, and world peace.

-Meryl

Save the Date

February 3, 2008 for the Bylaws/Membership Brunch Meeting

Details on this meeting will follow....so watch your mail and plan to attend!!

RESEARCH



EDUCATION



SERVICE



ADVOCACY

National NCJW News

Report from National Board Member Sarah Wetherson

The board of the national organization met recently to discuss the workings of the organization, lay the groundwork for new programs and a new organizing model, and to speak out on important issues.

As with any board, much of our time was spent discussing financial issues. I am excited to report that our latest budget continues National's trend of moving away from its heavy reliance on Section program support, allowing Sections to keep more of their money in the community. Program support was nearly half of National's budget in 2005; for the proposed 2009 budget, it's down to just over one-third of the budget. Sections are still the backbone of the organization, but National recognizes that looking to other sources for financial support will help Sections thrive in their communities.

We also discussed proposed changes to National bylaws and the Resolutions, which will be put forward to the membership at the Convention in March. Significant proposals include changing the way budgets are approved, adding a resolution to address environmental issues, and revisiting active opposition to the death penalty. All members are invited to attend the Annual convention, and I encourage the Section to send as large a delegation as we can muster.

I am very pleased to announce that the work of a committee I served on is coming to fruition. In an effort to expand our base of support, NCJW is looking at different grassroots organizing models and has implemented a pilot project in Massachusetts. NCJW has had a presence in the state in the past, but currently lacks any Sections in the state. Our goal is to come away from this project with a model for organizing in other states.

Finally, the board approved three topical statements for release following the board meeting. One stated for the first time NCJW's official opposition to the war in Iraq, making us only the second mainstream Jewish organization to do so. Another called for a restoration of constitutional rights and civil liberties. The last urges development and passage of a national health care plan. All are available on at www.ncjw.org. (*ed note: also below and on page 4 of this Bulletin*)

Citing Cost in Lives and Resources, NCJW Urges End to War in Iraq

December 2, 2007, New York, NY -- Citing the enormous cost in lives and resources of the war in Iraq, as well as its impact on domestic programs for years to come, the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) has called on the Bush Administration to act quickly to draw down the troops and end the country's military involvement there. At its meeting held December 2, the NCJW board of directors adopted the following statement:

"The National Council of Jewish Women believes that all individuals have the right to live in a world at peace and free from the threat of terrorism. We believe that continuing or expanding our country's military presence in Iraq does not promote peace nor does it provide freedom from terrorism.

"Over the past four years, the enormous cost in lives and resources to the people of the United States and Iraq lead us to question the wisdom of continuing US involvement in the war.

More than 3800 American lives have been lost, and many more individuals and their families have had their lives irreparably altered by war injuries, both physical and psychological. In addition, the estimates of Iraqi dead, the majority of whom are noncombatants, run into the hundreds of thousands.

"The financial cost of the war -- estimated to be as high as \$470 billion -- has resulted in a mounting debt that takes its toll on critical human needs programs at home. The impact will continue to be felt by succeeding generations of American taxpayers and will saddle the federal budget with burdensome interest payments for years to come. The war in Iraq has also diverted our government's attention from urgent domestic concerns such as the recovery from Hurricane Katrina, the unmet needs of our public schools, and the growing number of individuals who have no access to health care.

"For these reasons, we oppose any further expansion of US troops in Iraq and urge the creation of a timetable for withdrawal. NCJW believes that peace in Iraq depends on political solutions. We urge the President to refocus on those political solutions and to act quickly to draw down the troops and end our military involvement in Iraq."

NCJW Renews Call for National Health Care Plan

December 2, 2007, New York, NY -- The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) has renewed its call for quality, comprehensive nondiscriminatory health-care coverage and services that are affordable and accessible for all. At its meeting held December 2, the NCJW board of directors adopted the following statement:

"The National Council of Jewish Women supports quality, comprehensive nondiscriminatory health care coverage and services that are affordable and accessible for all. We recognize that the health of our nation -- its economy, security, and overall well-being -- depends on the health of its people. Currently, there are about 47 million people without health insurance.

"We are encouraged by the prominence of this issue in political campaigns in both parties, spurred by polls which show that health care is one of the electorate's highest concerns. NCJW seeks a national health care plan that provides universal access to comprehensive care for all that covers, among other health concerns, the full range of reproductive health care services and mental health, and emphasizes prevention.

"It is time for this country to demonstrate its commitment to the well-being of its people by developing a national health care plan that provides quality coverage for all."

NCJW Calls for Restoration of Constitutional Rights and Civil Liberties

December 2, 2007, New York, NY -- The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) has called for an end to governmental abuses of power perpetrated in the name of national security and the restoration of constitutional rights and checks and balances. At its meeting held December 2, the NCJW board of directors adopted the following statement:

"NCJW believes that individual liberties and rights guaranteed by the Constitution are keystones of a free and pluralistic society and must be protected and preserved. In addition, we value the system of checks and balances that has long protected our constitutional rights and civil liberties and held our leaders accountable.

"In recent years, there have been alarming violations of civil liberties, often justified by security concerns. While we support our government's efforts to fight terrorism and protect our nation, we believe that there must be a balance between that goal and an individual's right to privacy and judicial due process.

The list of violations is long. The Administration's successful bypass of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) in order to conduct secret domestic wiretapping without warrants should be checked by congressional action. We abhor the use of torture and the degrading treatment of prisoners and urge the restoration of the right of habeas corpus which has existed for centuries to protect individuals from wrongful detention. Our policies and practices should respect human rights and be brought into line with international law.

"As citizens, we expect and deserve proper congressional and judicial oversight to hold the executive branch accountable. However, the refusal of executive branch officials, including those no longer in government, to provide important documents or to obey duly authorized subpoenas subverts our system of checks and balances and impedes effective oversight.

"NCJW calls upon the executive branch to cooperate with Congress to restore real accountability. We call upon all three branches of government to work to restore and bolster our constitutional rights and civil liberties, ending unjust and inhumane policies and practices perpetrated in the name of national security."



Programs

Gifts for HIPPY Donated

Tuesday morning and the rain drizzled down. Oh let it let up for the toy exchange!

I met with Ariana from Washington County and Catherine from Portland at the Old Wives Tales. They have a large parking lot where the exchange could take place.

After a cup of hot soup we proceeded out to my car. The rain had subsided. The trunk of my car was packed full (**Meryl** is an excellent packer!) I brought along some large plastic bags and the sorting began: one for you and



one for you. Three bags EACH later the trunk was empty and the coordinators were on their way with many thanks.

The many books, puzzles, toys and dolls will be distributed at a monthly meeting. Since there is not an item for each enrolled child, the gifts will serve as incentives for the parents and their children to work hard!

We hope to have pictures of the children with their gifts for a future bulletin.

Thank you to each of you who shared with the program this holiday season.

Davene Cohen, HIPPY Chair

Annual Havdalah Service To Be Held

On January 26, 2008, the Jewish Women's Round Table will again hold a Havdalah Service in the Zidell Hall at the Rose Schnitzer at Cedar Sinai Park. The service will begin at 6:30 pm and will be officiated by Rabbi Annette Koch of Beit Haverim/South Metro and Cantor Judy Schiff of Congregation Beth Israel.

As a member of the Jewish Women's Round Table, NCJW is co-sponsoring this event with 16 other Jewish women's organizations. **Leslye Epstein** is Portland Section's liaison to the JWRT.

We encourage you to attend this very lovely service.

Wanted

Any NCJW material you may have stored away.
The Archives committee would love to have it.
Please bring to the NCJW office and they will do the rest.
Call first: 503-222-5006

RESEARCH



EDUCATION

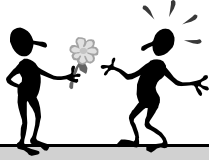


SERVICE



ADVOCACY

Bulletin Board



**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**
**Bev Eastern and
Julie Gottlieb**



**BEST WISHES FOR A
PEACEFUL AND
HEALTHY 2008**

Thrift Shop Donations

Now that our Thrift Shop is closed, many of you have asked where to take your donations of clothing and household items. We suggest you drop them off at The Assistance League - 4000 SW 117th Ave., Beaverton (the old Nature's Store just off Canyon Road). tel: 503-526-9300.

If you would like a suggestion as to the market value of your donations last year for your tax records check the Julie Tripp column of the Nov. 18, 2007 Oregonian on their web site:
http://www.oregonlive.com/business/oregonian/julie_trip/

E-MAIL LIST

Linda Fintzy is putting together an e-mail address list for those of you who want to be contacted that way. Please call the office at 503-222-5006 or e-mail your information to office@ncjwportland.org. This is a fast and easy way to received information and also save postage costs for the Section.

Book Club

January 10 "Sometimes a Great Notion" by Ken Kesey

February 14 tba

All meetings start at 9:30 am
For information as to location, call
Dodie Harrison, 503-684-6129

**A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO BOARD MEMBER,
SUE OVERBECK
FROM YOUR NCJW BOARD MEMBERS**

Leah Nepom

Portland Section, NCJW

Dear Ms. Nepom,

On behalf of the North by Northeast Community Health Center, thank you for the gift of \$792.00 from the NCJW Portland Section.

This generous donation will be put right to work helping us realize the goal of expanding our clinic's hours and providing services to more uninsured adults. We plan to be open every Monday evening by the end of the year, in addition to Thursday evenings. Your support helps make this possible. Thank you for your generosity and your confidence in our work.

With best regards,
Jill Ginsberg, J.M., M.P.H., Medical Director

Tributes

MINNIE F. EHRMAN FUND
For Medical-Dental care

BIRTHDAYS: Harriet Schatz, Dorothy Packouz,
 Barbara D. Cohen

JEAN RUSTIN FUND
For Children and Youth

BIRTHDAYS: Ellen Todras, Rita Klein, Gaby Barde,
 Bunny Sadis, Barbara Longaker,
 Joann Marks

IN HONOR: of Margaret Weil's birthday
 from Robert Weil


DOROTHY ASHER MEMORIAL FUND
For Senior Cultural Programs

BIRTHDAYS: Joy Alkalay, Bernice Feibleman

GENERAL FUND

BIRTHDAYS: Eileen Hines, Margaret Gotesman

Condolences
 To the Family of Life Member
 Evelyn Zurow



TRIBUTE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

This year the Board of the NCJW Portland Section donated \$792.00 from the **Minnie Ehrman Fund** and the **Marion Quint Rose Fund** to the North by Northeast Clinic, co-founded by Dr. Jill Ginsberg and Pastor Mary Overstreet. This is a walk-in clinic providing free basic medical services for adults.

\$1,319.00 from the **Jean Rustin Fund** and the **Minnie Ehrman Fund** was contributed to the ongoing work of the Children's Community Clinic which provides medical and dental care for children from birth to 21 years of age, regardless of ethnicity or ability to pay.

The **Dorothy Asher Fund** money has not as yet been distributed for this year.

We wish to thank all of our members who have so generously contributed to these funds to mark special occasions, to honor or remember someone dear, or just in a spirit of generosity. We can all help those in need.

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

(\$10 minimum, please)

Here is my contribution for the:

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

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NCJW

National Council of Jewish Women

CALENDAR

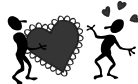
JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 10 Book Club, 9:30 am
- 15 Board of Directors' Meeting
- 26 Havdalah Service, 6:30 pm
Rose Schnitzer Manor



FEBRUARY

- 3 By Laws/Membership Brunch meeting
- 14 Book Club, 9:30 am
- 19 Board of Directors' Meeting



MARCH

- 9-11 NCJW National Convention
- 13 Book Club, 9:30 am
- 18 Board of Directors' Meeting

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 for all through its network of 90,000 members, supporters, and volunteers nationwide.

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