



We're Doing it Again!!!

Last year's games were a big hit, we gathered a bit more than \$900 from the earnings you sent in from your Bridge, Mah Jongg, Poker and Bunco games. Proceeds were given to Clackamas Women's Shelter and Domestic Violence Shelter (DVRC).



This year's co-chairs **Wendy Gutmann** and **Shirley Rackner** have found that Clackamas Women's Shelter, Raphael House and Bradley Angle House all have urgent needs for bus tickets to take their clients to medical appointments, jobs, school, etc. Adult bus tickets are \$23 for a packet of 10, and children's tickets are \$15. We are hoping that you will consider once again donating \$5 per player plus the winnings from one day's game in March to make this fund raising event successful for the second year in a row!

**COMMUNITY WAREHOUSE DONATION DROP-OFF
AND LUNCH EVENT IS RESCHEDULED**

Due to inclement weather (and ultimately 16" of snow), we were forced to postpone our lunch event in December. We have a new date, and we are hoping that you will again be able to attend. Please bring your donations of household goods, kitchen wares and linen's to the Community Warehouse on Sunday, January 25, between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 pm.

We are invited to tour their facility and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to the office so we can let them know how many of us to expect.



NEW

**Bereavement Support
Group being formed**

See page 5 for details.

President's Column

Meryl Haber, President

Dear Members,



There is no rest for the weary members of your Board of Directors. Just when we thought our Section could smoothly sail into 2009's rosy fingered dawn, the furious winds of our country's economic woes have blown us off course, revealing to us that our fair fortune is not to be depended on. While striving to be firm and fast, our account balance has yet failed, and we have realized that we are going to need to re-examine and set a new course to bring our section back. (Homer said it much better than I, but this experience is kind of an *odyssey* for us.)

Up until this point we have been sitting comfortable as a section, our investments have allowed us to operate generously and prudently as we have worked to rebuild our organization. This past year and a half one hundred percent of our fundraising donations have gone directly to the projects we are promoting because we had the luxury to so. Keeping to the mission of NCJW and focusing on the welfare of women, children and families, we have assisted Bradley Angle House, Children's Community Clinic, Clackamas Women's Services, Community Transitional School, Domestic Violence Resource Center, Jewish Family and Child Services, North by Northeast Community Health Center, NW Portland Ministries, Vision NW and YWCA, both with funds and with volunteer support. And we have done this while staying within our budget and by fundraising with your birthday tributes and game earnings. I think we've done OK, and we can all be proud of our accomplishments.

Beginning January 1, our Section is in uncharted water. With significant losses in our Neighborhood House Fund we again need to make administrative adjustments and now even deeper financial cutbacks. For the first time in as many years as I have been involved with our section (about 27 years at that), we will be needing to operate without supportive staff in our office. These past 4 years our Section and our Board have been well cared for by **Linda Fintzy**. She will be missed, and we all wish her the best of luck and our sincere apologies for needing to let her go during this financial downturn.

Rising to the occasion, many of us on the board have volunteered to take on administrative duties so that we can continue as an all-volunteer section. We hope you will bear with us if it takes a day to return your phone calls and emails, but if you leave a message it will be routed to the right party to assist you, and we will keep the office operational. **Chris Coughlin** has volunteered to cover that segment of administrative work, we can rest assured in her capable hands. **Louise Marsh** will be processing our mail, **Jody Klevit** will handle our 'thank-you' and 'acknowledgement' letters for donations, and Chris's daughter **Melissa Balgley** will volunteer in the office to organize the filing and prepare materials needed for mailings.

The other modification we will need to make in this down economy is active fundraising for the section. We haven't needed to do this for many years, and this will not be an easy time to start. We do have modest section expenses to run our office (telephone, paper goods, stamps, insurance etc.), and we are a section of a larger organization that we need to pay dues to (remember Personal Giving?). As for our section, we are about as lean as we can be and I am confident that with the caliber of excellent volunteers we have we can run this organization well. Whether or not we can stay in business will now depend on the success of our fundraising, as is the situation with almost every non-profit organization. I just wanted to give you a heads up for February and our Valentines Day Surprise; we look forward to hearing back from you!

With love and best wishes for the New Year,

Meryl

RESEARCH



EDUCATION



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ADVOCACY

Section Activities

Thank You Received from Transitional School

This year Portland Section received a very generous bequest of \$8,000 from the estate of Dr. Lillian Wexler. A committee formed to research a befitting recipient and settled on giving the money to the Community Transitional School, to be used toward transportation costs (see Nov/Dec Bulletin for earlier story). Former board member **Sharon Tarlow** went to visit the School to deliver the check and learned that each day a new route needs to be mapped out to pick up shelter and homeless children, providing them with door-to-door transportation to this school. The following letter was received from them.



Community Transitional School bus driver Tom Lechner, posing with Marcia Harris, Director of Development on the far left, and Jlui Osa, School Secretary in the middle.

December 5, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Haber,

Thank you and the board of the local chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women for your generous gift to our school. Please extend special thanks to Sharon Tarlow for taking an interest in our school and for working with us to receive this gift.

As you learned, we are in our 19th year teaching at-risk children who come from homeless and unstable families throughout Portland. Now that we are in our permanent school, we are more determined than ever to make a difference in the lives of some of Portland's most forgotten children.

Despite the current difficult financial times, we are grateful to see that others, such as you, continue to understand how important it is that we provide these children with a chance to succeed. Thank you for understanding how essential our transportation program is to our mission. Your donation will make a big difference in our ability to continue to provide a safe, caring environment to educate children from homeless families throughout the Portland metropolitan area.

Thanks again for being a good friend to our school.

Sincerely,

Cheryl M. Bickle
Principal/Lead Teacher

Advocacy

Sarah Wetherson, SPA

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Programs

SECTION TO OFFER BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

A bereavement support group will begin in February sponsored by NCJW. **Arleen Slive** will lead the group. Arleen is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with fifteen years of experience providing support and counseling to individuals and families in Portland. She has worked in hospitals and nursing facilities with emphasis on geriatric practice. Arleen has facilitated support groups to those who are struggling with grief issues.

Group members will have an opportunity to share their individual stories and make sense of the grieving process. They will also address transitions in families and setting goals for future activities.

The grief support group welcomes widows and widowers, siblings and adult children. It will meet weekly for six weeks on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. starting Feb. 12, 2009 at 8885 SW Canyon Road. The cost for the six sessions is \$25. The group is limited to six participants.

For more information and enrollment, please call the NCJW office: 503-222-5006 or email Lee at office@ncjwportland.org

EMERGENCY FOOD BOX PROJECT NEEDS YOU!

Big changes have been made in the way food is now distributed at the NW Portland Ministry's food box pantry. Rather than filling up bags for the recipients in advance, the pantry is now set up 'cafeteria style' allowing recipients to browse the shelves and select food of their choosing, much like in a grocery store. Everyone is much happier with this arrangement, **Nikki Director** reported recently to the NCJW Board of Directors, "people can now get what they want, and there is more dignity in allowing them to choose".

Nikki also asked the Board if there was a 'bank of volunteers' in NCJW, who could be called on to work with this project. This project's needs are growing as fast as the food needs we read about in our local papers are growing. The pantry needs more volunteers and we have 300+ members in NCJW. Please volunteer, often or even occasionally- whatever you can work into your schedule.

Volunteers are needed Tuesday and Friday in the pantry from 10:45 a.m. to 1:00 pm, and on Wednesdays from 9:00 -11:30 a.m. The shifts are short, the pantry is 100% volunteer run. Call Kelly Caldwell, the volunteer coordinator, at 503-221-1224 about available timeslots for volunteering. More information about the program can be accessed at nwpmcommunity.blogspot.com or call the NCJW office and we will get back to you.

Annual Havdalah Service Planned

Please save the date and join us as we gather for the 9th Annual Havdalah service and social:

Where: Rose Schnitzer Manor, Zidell Hall, 6140 SW Boundary, Portland

Date: January 31, 2009

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Clergy: Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker, Congregation Kol Ami, Vancouver
Cantor Judith Schiff, Congregation Beth Israel, Portland

This event is sponsored by many synagogues, National Council of Jewish Women, and other Jewish organizations within our community. Please encourage your members to attend this free event and let the residents of the Rose Schnitzer Manor and the Robison Home know that we all care.

For more information, please contact Ellen Bick, 503-297-3920 or ellenbick@comcast.net

RESEARCH



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Bulletin Board

OFFICE CHANGES

The office phone and email accounts continue to be the best way to communicate with the Section. Please leave messages and we will respond to them as quickly as possible.



BOOK CLUB

January

8 "Loving Frank" by Nancy Horan

February

12 "The Nine" by Jeffrey Tobin

March

12 "Thirteenth Tale"

by Diane Setterfield

All meetings are held in the members' homes and begin at 9:30 a.m.
Call Dodie Harrison,

DUES REMINDER

Those of you who are not Life Members have received your dues billing recently. This is a "gentle reminder" that we do need to receive these dues at your earliest convenience so that they can be put to work in support of your Portland Section. If you want to stop receiving this annual reminder, you may want to consider becoming a Life Member for only \$350. Please be aware that if you do not send in your dues, this will be the last Bulletin you will receive..

DOROTHY ASHER FUND DISTRIBUTIONS

Tributes donated to our Section's Dorothy Asher Fund will be gifted to Vision Northwest. In addition, an anonymous donor has generously offered to match our gift of \$839 to this organization.

VNW's work begins when an adult person hears from their doctor "nothing can be done to save your eyesight", and they will be there for as long as needed to provide support for the emotional and physical adjustments that comes after hearing these devastating words. Loss of independence is the one thing that all people who have been diagnosed with a life altering eye condition fear the most; therefore, personal support for independent living has been the watchword of VNW since 1983. They accomplish their mission by connecting people to people, people to resources and people to solutions, by providing quality programming, promoting independence and rehabilitation to a most vulnerable adult and aging population.

The loss of vision to almost any degree in a fully sighted adult compromises function more globally than any other single physical impairment. It is not the loss of vision but the loss of independence, control and privacy that people fear the most. Even the simplest tasks like reading the mail, selecting items from grocery store shelves, or deciphering instructions on medicine bottle are everyday problems. Forced to rely on others, they begin to lose their independence, whittling away their self-esteem. This is when VNW's programs and services become imperative. All of their programs and services promote independence. There is life after vision loss and VNW is there to help people cross the frightening threshold from sight to blindness.

*Best Wishes for a Speedy
Recovery to Sharon Cordova*

Needed Donations for the Community Warehouse:

Towels, shower curtains, bathmats, pillows, blankets, sheets, alarm clock, pots and pans, baking sheets, cooking utensils, toasters, coffee makers, blenders, mixing bowls, knives, dishes, glasses, silverware, mops, brooms, trash cans, furniture, etc.

Tributes

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

BIRTHDAYS: Barbara Longaker, Dale Oller, Jill Ginsberg, Louise Clark, Margaret Gotesman, Lana Miller, Harriet Schatz, Carol Baker, Carole Glauber

JEAN RUSTIN FUND *For Children and Youth*

BIRTHDAYS: Ellen Todras, Rosalyn Menashe, Rose Rustin, Margaret Weil

IN HONOR OF: Rose Rustin from Vivienne Bonnin

DOROTHY ASHER MEMORIAL FUND *For Senior Cultural Programs*

BIRTHDAYS: Louise Marsh, Robin Weinstein, Vivienne Bonnin

IN MEMORY OF: Joan Leibreich by Sylvia Pearlman

GENERAL FUND

BIRTHDAYS: Lesley Isenstein, Linda Campf, Rosalind Roseman, Margaret Weil, Sue Gerson, Bernice Feibleman

IN MEMORY: To Sharon and Lee Cordova in memory of her sister, Zalie, from Fay and Leonard Oppenheimer.

GET WELL WISHES: To Walter Kotkins and to Sherie Cordova from Fay and Leonard Oppenheimer

IN HONOR OF: Lew and Sarah Plotkin's 70th Anniversary from Fay and Leonard Oppenheimer and in honor of Howard Michael's 90th birthday from Fay and Leonard Oppenheimer

SHOWERS FOR SHELTERS PROGRAM

HAPPY HANNUKAH to Carol and Sy Chestler from Bob and Patty Chestler

IN MEMORY OF: Lillian Wexler from Vivienne Bonnin

CARE KITS PROGRAM

IN MEMORY OF: Bunny Sadis' mother and JoAnn Marks father from Gayle Marger.



Condolences

*To the family of Life Member
Bea Hochfeld*

*And to the family of member
Mildred Zell*

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

(\$18.00 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: Name _____
Address _____

In Memory of: _____
Address _____

General Contribution

Other _____

Donor's Information

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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

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NCJWSM

National Council of Jewish Women



Calendar

January, 2009

1. New Year's Day
8. Book Club, "Loving Frank"
25. Community Warehouse Event
28. Executive Committee Meeting
31. Community Havdala Service 6:30 pm
Rose Schnitzer Manor

February, 2009

3. Board Meeting
12. Book Club, "The Nine" 9:30 a.m.
12. Bereavement Support Grp. 4:00 p.m.
23. Executive Committee Meeting

March, 2009

Game month for Showers for Shelters

3. Board Meeting
 12. Book Club, "Thirteenth Tale"
 30. Executive Committee 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.



The Bulletin a free publication,
is published 6 times a year by
The Portland Section of
The National Council of Jewish Women