

Hannah G. Solomon Award to be Presented to Rose Rustin

The Hannah G. Solomon award is the highest award that National Council of Jewish Women bestows to honor members of the community. It is presented to an individual or an organization who has helped to change and expand the role of others in vital areas of community life and whose leadership in areas of NCJW concern has motivated others to fight for change and has resulted in progress and enlightenment in the community.

This year, Portland Section has chosen **Rose Rustin** to receive the prestigious award. Rose's first job on the NCJW Board was Chair of the WICS Project, which led to her election to the National Board of WICS (Women in Community Service) . She later was elected as President of the Portland Section, following which she served four years on the National Board of NCJW, two of those years on the Executive Committee where her portfolio included Section Board Training and Leadership Development for what was then the Western District of NCJW.



Rose has done considerable board training, leadership development, and future planning workshops for various volunteer organizations in Portland. She served on the Board of Congregation Beth Israel for eight years, finishing with a two year term as President. After a hiatus of a few years, Rose is back on the Portland Section Board, drawn first by her interest in preserving the history of the Portland Section, and ultimately in the preservation of the Section Itself.

Please join us as we honor Rose Rustin at the Annual Meeting on June 8 .

~ SAVE THE DATE ~
**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
 PORTLAND SECTION**
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
ROSE SCHNITZER MANOR ~ 6140 SW BOUNDARY ~ PORTLAND, OR
SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2008 ~ 10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON
BRUNCH
INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD AND OFFICERS
PRESENTATION OF HANNAH G. SOLOMON AWARD TO
ROSE RUSTIN

President's Column

Meryl Haber, President

Thank you for sending me to the National Convention, which was held in Chicago in March. It was a valuable experience. In my observations and conversations with outgoing president Phyllis Snyder and incoming president Nancy Ratzan, it was evident that these leaders are strongly in favor of Sections developing advocacy programs for the issues outlined in National's agenda. We discussed the notion that Oregon is a very "blue" state, and that our pressing issues are somewhat different than many of the issues critical to east coast states. I proposed to them that the Portland Section would like to develop our new community service projects, but that we would tie these projects to advocacy issues when we could. For example, we would combine our Showers for Shelter Project with advocating for the rights of women who are victims of domestic abuse. This was found to be agreeable.



I returned home with this challenge; for our section to be manageable, exciting and relevant, we need to develop a plan of activity for our next club year, taking into consideration the womanpower and resources that we have.

To tackle this challenge I invited the Board to a mini-retreat, we went to **Carol Chestler's** home, to huddle. Seated around her expanded kitchen table we had a long discussion about developing project ideas and maintaining our ties with the National organization. The discussion went all over the place, but ultimately we found ourselves focusing on the projects that were launched this year, as well as with the organizations to whom we gave our tribute funds. Over the course of the evening we identified numerous ideas and possibilities within these new projects.

With the challenges and energy needed to develop new projects, it is unfortunate that some of our older projects will need to be set aside. The WICS project has lost state funding and has folded, and the Voucher project ceased with the closing of the Thriftshop. With declining interest in HIPPPY, we are considering ending financial support of that project as well. Before those ties are cut, I welcome your comments on this action. (Please send your emails or letters to the office. We've had a long history with HIPPPY here in Portland and this is a decision we do not want to make without asking for your input.)

Please take a close look at the articles about the Food Box Project and Showers for Shelters on the Section Activities page (page 3). This, of course, is just the start, and depending on interest we can expand our involvement over the year. The Children's Community Clinic and the North by Northeast Clinic are both looking into ways we could develop hands-on volunteer opportunities with them, we'll keep you posted. Meanwhile, **Sarah Wetherson**, our SPA, is researching advocacy tie-ins and potential coalition partners to bring additional support and awareness to the issues relevant to these organizations. The training program she is planning in September in conjunction with Sammy Moshenberg's visit will be beneficial to us all.

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Please consider this Bulletin to be the official legal notice, beautiful invitations will be mailed out soon.

Shalom,

Meryl

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.

RESEARCH



EDUCATION



SERVICE



ADVOCACY

Section Activities

Food Box Program Receives Donation from NCJW ~ Volunteers Needed

With an infusion of more than \$10,000, the NCJW Portland Section helped restart the Food Box Program previously run by Friendly House and now a project of Northwest Portland Ministries (NWPM). The program provides emergency food to the working poor and elderly residents of Northwest Portland, from NW 14th to the Washington County line. The recipients must be at poverty level and show verification of a local address; no one, however, is denied food.

The program operates out of a tiny space in First Immanuel Lutheran Church and serves 190 households (256 people), bi-monthly. It is staffed by one NWPM employee and one full-time volunteer who, 2 days a week, pick-up, shelve, package, greet and record. The program operates Tuesday and Friday, 11am – 1pm. Each client is entitled to two food boxes (filled grocery bags) every other month. Foods include: pasta, grains, canned goods, eggs, milk, fresh fruits and vegetables and frozen meats.

Most of the food is purchased through the Oregon Food Bank and some is contributed by several neighborhood businesses such as Trader Joes (every Friday) and Starbucks. Also, many of the neighborhood congregations including Beth Israel, Havurah Shalom, Trinity Episcopal and First Immanuel, provide either funding or food from drives throughout the year.

On the second Wednesday of each month, 10am – 11am, the Food Box Program holds a “farmers market” in addition to the bi-monthly program, distributing free produce, provided by the Oregon Food Bank.

Beginning May 1, NCJW will have opportunities from picking up orders, organizing the distribution and providing direct service to the clients.

Also, in May, some members of the Nob Hill Business Association will join NWPM to increase the food share for the Food Box Program. Donation barrels and cash collection boxes will be in various businesses in the area. Delivery and pick up of barrels and helping with calls to the contributing businesses as well as distribution of fliers will provide additional volunteer opportunities for NCJW members.

If you are interested in helping, or have any questions, please call **Nikki Director**.
Home: 503 292-3061 or Cell: 503 703-5913

TO OUR FRIENDS- From Joyce Singer and Sue Overbeck

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We have learned that in 2006, 10,000 women in Oregon were denied shelter for themselves and their children while fleeing from domestic violence. We have identified 2 shelters we would like to assist with our new **Showers for Shelters Project**, they are the Clackamas Women’s Center, and DVRC in Washington County. Items we would like to provide for them are; bus tickets, toilet paper, gift cards to stores such as Target and Fred Meyer, and your no-longer needed but functional old cell phones with chargers, for accessing 911.

Many of you are participants in regular card playing groups such as Bridge, Mah Jongg, Pan, Bunko, etc. Would you please consider donating all the proceeds from one day’s winnings in May plus a \$5 contribution per player for this fundraising project?

We are asking everyone we know to help us with this, the need is so great, and we greatly would appreciate your support. Please mail your donations to NCJW SHELTERS, PO Box 69333, Portland, OR 97239. With your donations please list the people in your group who participated.

Thank you, Thank you!
Sue & Joyce

RESEARCH

● EDUCATION

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● ADVOCACY

Section to Welcome Leading Women's Lobbyist to Portland in September

Plans are underfoot to bring the head of the National Council of Jewish Women's Washington, D.C. office to Portland to share her expertise and war stories with our members in September.

Sammie Moshenberg, who has served as NCJW's lead lobbyist for almost 25 years, has won many honors over the years for her efforts to promote social justice through grassroots action. Most recently, she was named Women's eNews as one of this year's "21 Leaders for the 21st Century."

In addition to this award, Moshenberg is also a recipient of NCJW's Hannah G. Solomon Award (1998), the YWCA of the National Capital Area's Racial Justice Award (1997), and the Ruth Osborn Award from the Women's Studies Program at George Washington University (2000). She appeared on the "Forward Fifty" list of most influential Jewish individuals three times, most recently in 2005.

Moshenberg will train activists at the Social Justice Institute, an event sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Portland and open to all members of the community. NCJW is also sponsoring a special event where Moshenberg will share war stories from her years on the Hill. The section will also sponsor a briefing for our members and coalition partners on issues of special interest to Oregon. More details will follow as planning progresses, but all events will take place September 14 – 15, 2008.

Help us keep you posted on these and other advocacy events. Send your e-mail address to **Sarah Wetherson**, State Public Affairs Chair, at advocacy@ncjwportland.org.

PORTLAND SECTION NAMES LESLYE EPSTEIN FOR SONG OF MIRIAM AWARD



Ever since **Leslye Epstein** worked full-time as Director of Hospital Admitting at Oregon Health Sciences University, she has felt the volunteer bug calling her. She served as president of the Professional Women's Auxiliary of the Oregon Symphony and was on the board of the Oregon Donor Program while at OHSU.

Once she retired, her volunteer schedule blossomed to include time at the Portland Visitor's Bureau, the Portland Airport, the Art Museum, and the ZooMobile, as well as reading to preschoolers at the Multnomah County Library.

About 10 years ago she was introduced to the National Council of Jewish Women. She was intrigued by its work with women in prison through the WICS program. She joined up, and helped prepare hundreds of women to enter the outside world and be successful in the job market.

Later she served as an NCJW board member and vice president for advocacy, and was appointed as Council's representative to our community's Coalition Against Hate Crimes and Pro-Choice Coalition.

Leslye was NCJW co-president and president between 2004 and 2007, and throughout those years her infectious smile and good spirits helped the organization through many challenges. Leading the organization as it provided money to keep the therapy pool open at MJCC, and helping save the HIPPY program for pre-school youngsters were some of her achievements.

For many years, Leslye has been part of the Jewish Women's Round Table, and has helped plan these wonderful brunches to honor deserving women. NCJW is proud that Leslye now will, herself, receive this much-deserved recognition. Join us on June 1 at Mittleman Jewish Community Center, at 10 AM for Brunch and to honor Leslye and the other women being named by the Jewish Women's Round Table.



Programs

Section Tea Party Held at Oregon Jewish Museum

The Sunday Tea Party at OJM was another opportunity for our members to get together and socialize, as well as to learn about how important NCJW is in the story of Jews in Oregon. In the small space of the museum gallery we sat and listened to Judy Margles' explanation of the process they are undertaking to put together a historical, cultural, and inspirational narrative of what has largely been a success story in our local history. But underlying this success, Judy added, has been the hard work and dedication of NCJW volunteers, whose extensive involvement in this community over the past 100+ years has been instrumental in bringing about numerous social changes. The question now is, how does this story get told, what themes and messages should the permanent core exhibit contain? And that's where Lisa Berndt comes into the picture. Hired as a consultant with a tremendous amount of experience doing this, Lisa is working with a committee to develop an interpretive plan.



From left, **Judy Margles, Rosemarie Rosenfeld and Lisa Berndt**

She spoke with us about identifying key themes, concepts, and value statements to create the museum's identity. And she spoke about the challenges the museum will have to be engaging, informative, and distinct from all other museums.



From left: **Bernice Feibleman and friend, Paul Herman, Rose Rustin, Sarah Wetherston, Polly Herman, Eve Rosenfeld, Bobby London, Sharon Tarlow, Leah Nepom, Carol Chestler and Lynn Bartenstein**

Later we all crowded into the tiny room where the archives are stored. **Sharon Tarlow, Rose Rustin, and Carol Chestler** pulled several of our boxes off the shelves and showed us the fruits of their labors. Labeled boxes with labeled files, containing labeled photos... and much more. It wasn't so long ago that our rented storage space sat full of vaguely labeled boxes. Today our archives are available for research, posterity, and the NCJW Gallery in the future Oregon Jewish Museum.

Neighborhood House Funds Updated

The proceeds from the sale of our Neighborhood House continue to be invested with the OJCF. A small amount has been withdrawn from OJM's portion to fund their consultant's work toward creating the concept for the permanent exhibit. OJM is continuing their search for a permanent home for their museum.

We are currently drafting a donation agreement with Cedar Sinai Park for the other half of our gift, to define the terms under which NCJW will make their grant for the new housing facility for special needs adults. When we have information on the progress of both of these projects we will pass it on to you.

Bulletin Board



Book Club

May

8 "A Tale of Love and Darkness" by Oz

June

12 "The Highest Tide" by Lynch

New Rosters Ready

New Section Rosters are available. Please e-mail **Linda** at the office and she will e-mail one to you. office@ncjwportland.org

If you prefer a hard copy, please send \$7 for the cost of printing and mailing to NCJW, P.O. Box 69333, Portland, OR 97239.

Invitation to Tour Children's Clinic

Mardica Hicks, Executive Director of the Children's Community Clinic has invited us to come and visit the clinic. Please call our office, 503-222-5006, if you are interested in a tour.

CARE KITS

Remember to save toiletries from Hotels in your travels for use in our Care Kits that are distributed to Women's Shelters. Call the office for times to drop them off.

Tribute Funds Updates and More

Portland Section NCJW is proud of the many years of Tribute Funds collected and distributed in the honor some of our most distinguished members. We gratefully remember **Minnie Ehrman, Jean Rustin, Dorothy Asher** and **Mary Quint Rose**. Contributions in their names will continue to go to agencies that serve those in need.

We are considering ongoing support for specific projects at North by Northeast Community Health Clinic and the Children's Community Clinic. We are also looking at volunteer possibilities for these agencies and someone who would be willing to assume responsibility to coordinate with them. If you are interested, please contact **Leah Nepom** or **Jody Klevit** or leave your name at the NCJW office.

Additionally, a new fund entitled Advocacy is under discussion. The funds from this would enable us to continue using the voice of NCJW to help lobby and promote issues that effect us all.

In the meantime we hope you will continue to contribute to the established funds in honor of happy occasions, in memory of a dear one or "just because".

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Tributes

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

BIRTHDAYS: Sally Rosenfeld, Eve Rosenfeld, Merritt Yoelin, Lesley Glasgow, Jody Klevit

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

JEAN RUSTIN FUND *For Children and Youth*

BIRTHDAYS: Sally Rosenfeld, Meryl Haber

IN MEMORY OF: Arnold Rustin by Sue Overbeck, Rachella Kryszek, and Meryl Haber

IN MEMORY OF: Joan Liebreich by Rachella Kryszek

IN HONOR OF: Marvin and Leah Nepom by Rose Rustin

DOROTHY ASHER MEMORIAL FUND *For Senior Cultural Programs*

BIRTHDAYS: Ellen Cohen, Barbara Cohn, Barbara Caplan

GENERAL FUND

BIRTHDAYS: Karen Labinger, Tamara Divergilio, Evelyn Freedman

IN MEMORY OF: Arnold Rustin by Jody Klevit

IN HONOR OF: Leah Nepom's birthday by Jody Klevit:

IN HONOR OF: The Board of Directors for their dedication, Linda Fintzy for her office work, Roberta Taskar for her financial assistance, Dodie Harrison for her Bulletin work, Marilyn Kerman for her Sunshine work, Bev Contorer for her Tributes work, and Janice Shainsky for her design work, by Meryl Haber



**CONDOLENCES
TO THE FAMILY OF LIFE MEMBER
AND PAST SECTION PRESIDENT
CELIA HEIMS**

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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Sara Wetherson

NCJW SECTION OFFICE

503-222-5006

E-mail: office@ncjwportland.org

Web site: www.ncjwportland.org

BULLETIN EDITOR

Dodie Harrison
503-684-6129

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NCJW

National Council of Jewish Women

CALENDAR

 **MAY**

- 8 Book Club, 9:30 am
- 12 Executive Committee Meeting, 7 pm
- 20 Board Meeting, 7 pm

JUNE 

- 1 Song of Miriam Brunch
MJCC, 10 am ~ 12:15
- 8 NCJW Annual Meeting
Rose Schnitzer Manor, 10 am ~ 12 noon
- 12 Book Club, 9:30 am

**Many Thanks to the
Annual Meeting Planning
Committee**

**Sharon Tarlow, Chair
Carol Chestler
Evelyn Maizels
Shirley Rackner
Jeanne Newmark
Polly Herman
Linda Fintzy, Staff**

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