



National Council of Jewish Women
Long Beach Section

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE.

A BELIEF IN ACTION.®

PREFACE:

In 2017-2018 the National Council of Jewish Women Long Beach “shifted the focus,” emphasizing advocacy and civic engagement as equal partners with community service, along with the 3 other pillars of community organizing, leadership training, and education. The organization went “green” and increased our presence on social media through our website, dedicated phone number and posts on our Facebook page, Instagram, and Twitter. There was greater alignment with our National organization’s principles and resolutions as well.

As the Board prepared for the upcoming year 2018-2019 at our annual June 2018 retreat (we calendar from July 1 to June 30), the words, “LEARN, CONNECT, DO” were lifted up as the driving motivation for what was truly to become a year of continued accomplishments. Kudos to each and every one of the 2018-2019 officers, vice presidents, and project chairs, and to the members who joined in to support our many activities. **YOU made a difference!**

2018-2019 Report: LEARN, CONNECT, DO

What have we done to **LEARN** this past year?

NCJW Long Beach:

- Sponsored a full-day ROAR training (Resistance, Organizing, Action, and Resilience) in July – learning to be a better advocate/organizer led by national visiting experts Jeanne Appleman of JOIN and Lindsay Morris, NCJW Inc. Associate Director of Government Relations & Advocacy
- A culinary demonstration of healthy recipes from Chef Terri Appleton at our Chat, Chop, and Chardonnay membership event in October
- Pastry and Propositions - understanding upcoming ballot measures with the League of Women Voters in October
- Pastry and Politics – learning about voting changes in our state from the offices of the LA Registrar and of Supervisor Janice Hahn in March
- Our annual joint Book Review in January with Sharon-Carmel Hadassah where we learned about a personal recovery from alcohol addiction and incarceration and renewal through literature from author Leslie Schwartz
- A visit in October to the City of Long Beach Multi - Service Center in Long Beach to learn about initiatives and services to help those experiencing homelessness
- A Charter Day talk in February by Professor Jeffrey Blutinger about the early history of Jewish women in Long Beach
- Washington Institute in Washington DC and NCJW CA Lobby Day in Sacramento, both in April – learning AND doing through training and visits to our Congress members and Senators and our state legislators to present priority bills
- Co-sponsorship in March with Temple Beth David, Jewish Federation and Services of Orange County, Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council, and Interfaith Council of Garden Grove, Stanton, and Westminster, of a panel on Homelessness: How Does It Impact You?
- Laurie Levenson Luncheon joint event in May with Sharon-Carmel Hadassah, always informative about current legal and social justice challenges

How has NCJW Long Beach connected with coalitions and partners?

CONNECT:

We continued to connect with our coalition and community partners: Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS), Sharon-Carmel Hadassah, Early Childhood Education Committee of Long Beach, LBCC Homelessness Coalition, Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force (LBHTTF), League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), For the Child, and Beach Hillel.

We forged new coalition partnerships with the Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition (LBIRC), Long Beach Homelessness Coalition, and Orange County Jewish Coalition for Refugees. In many of these partnerships we have members officially serving as NCJW representatives or liaisons on their Boards.

Two of our members have been appointed to City or LA County Boards: Natalie Swit (City of Long Beach Continuum of Care) and Sherri Sobel (liaison to the LA Office of Child Protection's Children at Risk Task Force).

What did NCJW **DO** in 2018-2019?

Administrative actions:

- Important revisions of our Section Bylaws and Policies and Procedures documents completed ahead of deadline
- Two successful Development requests: Frieda's Foods' significant donation to the LBCC College Nutrition Tribute Fund (food insecure students) and a Rotary Long Beach grant of 400 books covering 3-8 graders for the upcoming year's HugPacks activities, in addition to a donation of K-2nd grade books from the organization Bring Me a Book.
- Establishment of a new Tributes Fund: Immigrant Services
- Awarding of scholarships in June to 4 area Jewish students: Maayan Cohen (Israel program); Sophia Perry (Dickinson College); Rebeka Pulido (University of Wisconsin-Madison); and Taryn Williams (California State University Long Beach)

Community Service and Advocacy actions:

- January -March 4 Kindergarten Festivals held annually in local elementary schools: the Denise Berro Kindergarten Festival Tribute Fund purchase of backpacks for the Festivals; pallet packing prior to the events; sign-in staffing on site; and hospitality service for worker volunteers
- 4 annual Hug Pack packing events held August, November, February, and May with 600 backpacks purchased, filled, and provided to the Department of Family and Children's Services Lakewood office for children entering the foster care system
- Voter-registration drives through July - October at Long Beach Community College campuses, Orange Coast College, and Los Alamitos High School and an October phone bank to remind over 250 members about the midterm election information and offer assistance (Get Out the Vote)
- Testimony in September at City Council for Ballot Measure WW (women hotel workers protection and safety) and collection of petition signatures to get the measure on the Long Beach ballot, which voters passed in November
- Collection of toiletries for those experiencing homelessness as well as a Mitzvah and Merlot event in February, making blankets for those experiencing homelessness (with Beach Hillel and Temple Israel Sisterhood)
- Thanksgiving Tea to collect holiday foodstuffs for For the Child clients and toys for the holidays at NCJW's December Chanukah brunch
- Multiple collections throughout the year of over-the-counter nutrition to stock pantry for LBCC students experiencing food insecurity
- Provision, preparation and serving of Purim Senior Lunch at the Alpert JCC in March
- Provision of May Sign-in/registration for Race with a View (JFCS) and support for JFCS's Emergency Needs Fund

- Provision of sign-in for the January Youth Empowerment Safety Symposium (YESS) sponsored by the LB Human Trafficking Task Force
- Help with planning the Mega Challah Bake at the Alpert JCC
- Preparation and leading of monthly Project Shabbat services to residents of Bixby Towers
- Adoption in December of two JFCS families for holiday gifts
- Preparation and delivery of Shalach Manot baskets at Purim for several of our members recovering from illness/surgery
- Co-sponsorship with coalition partner Orange County Jewish Coalition for Refugees of World Refugee Day event in June (panel, organization tables, vendors)

It is clear that we have heeded the saying:

“Strong people stand up for themselves. Stronger people stand up for everybody else.”

Thank you to our entire membership and community partners for your devotion and commitment to NCJW Long Beach and the Jewish value of Kavod Ha Briot, the belief in the dignity of every human being.

