

Pillars

A PUBLICATION OF THE LONG BEACH SECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN[®]

▶ From the President's Desk

By Linda Calderón, President, NCJW Long Beach



“Passover affirms the great truth that liberty is the inalienable right of every human being.”

—Morris Joseph

Passover commemorates the delivery of the Jewish people from slavery and the journey away from the tyranny of slavery and toward the hope of a better life.

Was it an easy Journey? Were there challenges along the way? Did people squabble about conditions, food and circumstances? Was their leader, Moses, challenged by different factions of the tribes? Once they reached the Land of Milk and Honey, did they enter without fear?

Of course we know that it was not an easy journey and, yes, there were challenges along the way. Some people wanted to return to what they were used to in Egypt for they were fearful of the unknown. Some people were fearful that they would not find the promised land and tired of the difficult conditions of the journey. And many were hopeful.

We remember this journey every year by retelling the story of its trials and tribulations. This story is a reminder that “freedom is within our grasp and we need to reach for that freedom.”

We can learn from these experiences and use these learnings as we step up our efforts to ensure that our rights are safeguarded for ALL people in the here and now.. In some ways, the changes that have come about as a result of the past election have taught us that we can't take anything for granted. And when our rights are threatened as is our way of life, we need to dig a little deeper to find the resolve to identify what's important to us, find others who believe as we do and join together to begin the difficult journey of fighting for the inalienable rights of every human being. Become knowledgeable about the issues, identify those issues that are most important, strategize and put into action those strategies. We cannot do this alone. We need likeminded people who will support these efforts.

NCJW Long Beach is here exactly for that purpose.

Wishing everyone Chag Sameach.

▶ Nominating Committee Reports on New Slate

The NCJW Long Beach Nominating committee is pleased to announce its recommended slate for 2018-19. The recommendations will be reported and voted upon at the April 22 General meeting. Officers are elected for two-year terms, so only some offices turn over each year. That way NCJW always has some experienced Board members as well as newer ones---combining organizational memory with new ideas, to our benefit! The Nominating committee is made up of Ann Millman, Audrey Zahler, Rosalind Bassin, Michelle Gordon, and Deborah Chankin.

New officer nominations are:

- Treasurer ----- Dawn Haldane;
- Corresponding Secretary -----Rosalind Bassin;
- Financial Secretary ----- Judy Leff;
- VP Resource Development--- Bobbie Horowitz;
- Co-VP Community Service-----Deborah Lewis;
- Co-VP Advocacy ----- Barbara Shipnuck;
- Co-VP Communications ----- Ann Millman;
- Recording Secretary -----Joanne Levy.

Continuing officers are:

- President-----Linda Calderón;
- Executive VP -----Linda Fox;
- Co-VP Community Service-----Barbara Cohen;
- Co-VPs Membership----- Michelle Sztraicher,
Michelle Gordon;
- VP Programs -----Barbara Millman;
- Co-VP Communications ----- Dale Strok;
- Co-VP Advocacy ----- Lisa Raufman.

Project chairs, for such programs as Hug Packs, K-Fests, Tributes, Senior Shabbats, etc. are not elected, but attend Board meetings as non-voting members to report on their activities, which are important parts of our local programing.

Please plan to come to the April meeting to vote on and support our in-coming officers.

► Maccabi Artsfest-Volunteers Needed!

By Barbara Cohen, Co-VP Community Service

The Alpert JCC will be hosting the **JCC Maccabi Artsfest 2018** for one week this summer - **August 5th to August 10th**. This is a very exciting opportunity for our community.

Around a hundred 12 to 17 years olds from all over the world will be performing in drama, dance, music and art. Most activities will take place at Westerley School which is very close to the JCC. NCJW is looking for volunteers to greet participants as they arrive and also for food preparation and serving.

If you are interested please call Barbara Cohen at (201) 349-2784 or email me at bcohenmsw@yahoo.com.

Additional information can be found at the website AlpertJCC.org/artsfest.

► Thank You, Our Terrific K-Fest Volunteers

The four Kindergarten Festivals for spring 2018 have now concluded, and **we couldn't have done it without YOU**--our devoted NCJW volunteers included Louise Sperr, Laurie Garabedian, Patti Blasnick, Diane Merrick, Marlene Sanchez, Dale Strok, Judith Dubowy, Roberta Friedman, Bobbie Spiegel, Gloria Schwartz, Laurel Perry, Sophia Perry, Sue Shapiro, Dale Lieberfarb, Sharon Coleman, Gail Levy, Sherri Selmanson, Stephany Rosenthal, Barbara Cohen, Deb Lewis, Karen Fried, Barbara Millman, Trish Goldin, and the planning committee members representing NCJW: Linda Waltzman, Barbara Wolfe, Jeanne Halliday, Judy Leff, and Linda Fox. **This year NCJW registered 444 families, a total of 1281 adults and children, and gave away 684 books and 401 backpacks!** This is such a stellar community service we do to "improve the lives of women, children, and families." We will be calling when the next round rolls around in January 2019 with the hope that many of you will volunteer to play a role in this uplifting project. It truly does take a village.

► NCJW Pastry and Politics Event January 23, 2018: What We Learned

– summarized by Dr. Lisa Raufman, Co-VP Advocacy and Legislation

Over 55 people showed up at the AJCC on a Tuesday night to hear panelists from the Long Beach Immigrants' Rights Coalition (LBIRC) discuss issues related to DACA, Long Beach Sanctuary City Campaign and Deportation Prevention/Defense. Most touching was the story of how DACA legislation has affected Maribel Cruz and her family and the issues discussed by Sabrina Rivera, a staff attorney for the Immigration Clinic at Western State College of Law In Orange County.

- Did you know that it costs around \$500 to renew a DACA application? Many DACA "students" can not afford this cost.
- Did you know that one in eight children in California has a parent who is undocumented?
- Did you know that SB54 (California Values Act) makes California a "Sanctuary State"?
- The State has allocated some funds for legal services for immigrants; and in L.A. County, "the Justice Fund" was created to provide deportation defense for L.A. County residents.
- There is a statewide network to lobby the state to help undocumented immigrants (for example, that is how we got the Driver's License Bill (AB60) passed).
- LBIRC has a "Rapid Response Team Network" and provides immigrants legal training, record documentation, spiritual support and babysitting as well as "know your rights workshops." The Rapid Response Team is sent to immigrants' homes to teach them that they have rights if ICE comes to their door. (For example, they are taught to videotape the ICE interaction at the door!). This group is working with LB Unified to educate their families about

responding to ICE.

We learned that Detention centers are full and people are being sent to centers that are far away from where they have family. And that those who are detained (sometimes for a 20 year old pot conviction) can be jailed, chained during a hearing, and sent back to their country of origin.

We learned that undocumented Central Americans are being sent back in record numbers. The detainees process must be completed in 60 days but it often is much longer. Detention is a "Civil" offense but they are housed in Orange County centers with criminals. The lawyer informed us that newly detained undocumented immigrant women who are asking for political asylum from brutal conditions in their countries are housed with criminals and they are chained too!!!

What the Speakers suggested we do:

- Sign up to be involved with the Rapid Response Team, contact mcruz@lbirc.org
- Attend deportation hearings in L.A. (600 N. L.A. Street)- an audience makes a difference
- Visit Detainees: Peggy Thompson started "Friends of Orange County Detainees" - you can help individuals while visiting just by helping them with phone calls using your cell phone.
- Become a member of LBIRC to advocate for a more humane and just immigration policy; for more information: write to Maribel at mcruz@lbirc.org.

Your NCJW Advocacy committee is working with the coalition to plan activities for our members to assist in an organized way, and we will be calling for volunteers when those are developed.

► Advocacy Mini-Conference Summary

by Dr. Lisa Rauffman

On Sunday, March 4, approximately **70 people attended our Adie Holzman NCJW Long Beach Mini Conference** on Anti-Semitism and Racism. This event was purposefully planned with our membership and several Jewish co-sponsors in mind. Our co-sponsors included ADL (Anti-Defamation League) represented by Rabbi Peter Levi, Alpert Jewish Community Center represented by Jeff Rips, Beach Hillel represented by Ally Levine, CSU Jewish Studies represented by Jeffrey Blutinger, Jewish Children and Family Services represented by Kathryn Miles, Jewish Federation & Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Long Beach and North Orange County represented by Deborah Goldfarb, and Temple Beth Shalom represented by Rabbi David Cantor.

Our day was facilitated by Ilana Kaufman, Public Affairs and Civic Engagement Director, East Bay, San Francisco-Based Jewish Community Relations Council. She started the day presenting themes related to Jewish Values (virtues from the Middot) such as a listening ear, a perceptive heart and understanding with the heart (binat HaLev) as well as civic values such as diversity awareness, connecting knowledge with facts, civic commitment, and civic communication. She solicited a wide range of comments from the audience and led into the afternoon sessions with the issues of ideological oppression, institutional oppression, internalized oppression and interpersonal oppression.

The afternoon sessions allowed all participants to discuss 2 of the following 3 topics:

- **Building the Bridges—Keeping the Dialogue Open Across Differences: Sharing Tools and Strategies.**
- **Building Allies Across Religiously and Racially Diverse Lines**
- **Responding to Anti-Semitism and Racism with Strength and Confidence**

The discussions were lively and followed by Ilana receiving index cards with summaries of insights from the discussions. She compiled the index responses into several areas, the most important piece being Advocacy and Action: Approaches and Strategies highlighting “Relational on-going conversations, empathy building, multiple interactions working together for something of shared importance.”

We now have begun the on-going conversations and as an organization will continue working with our co-sponsors.

I wish to acknowledge the outstanding planning of the Advocacy and Legislation Committee and the important “set-up, greeting, registration help, and clean up” done by Sherri Sobel (and Craig Myers), Linda C. Fox, Deborah Chankin, Pattie Davidson, Jeanne Halliday, Cynthia Gordon, Michelle Gordon, Cindy Gotz, Deb Kaplan-Wyckoff, Judy Leff, Janet Rosenblatt, Barbara Shipnuck, and Natalie Swit. Special thanks for Linda Calderón, Ann Millman, Sherri Sobel and Danielle Natelson for serving as facilitators of the afternoon discussion groups along with our co-sponsors. And last but not least, a deep appreciation for all the extra work Linda Fox did in working with the co-sponsors and Ilana Kaufman and the committee to make everything work seemingly seamlessly.

► Our Members Are Urged to Attend Lobby Day in Sacramento

By Sherri Sobel, Co-VP Legislation and Advocacy

Come one, come all to **NCJW California Lobby Day**, where you will spend two wonderful days with the issues, and our legislators!

We meet, strategize, and go to the Capitol as a combined NCJW California voice. The date should already be on your calendar: **April 25 and 26**. We leave on April 25 in the morning and return on April 26 in the evening. Costs will be underwritten by reimbursement for the following:

Registration - \$60 check made out to NCJW. Please send your request with contact information (name, address, phone number, email, and legislators' names if known) and check to Sherri Sobel at P.O. Box 554, Los Alamitos, CA 90720 along with your choice of chicken, salmon, or vegetarian dinner for April 25.

Hotel - Sutter House Best Western at (916) 441-1314. We reimburse the one night (April 25) at shared room rate; if you need a roommate, contact Sherri. **Make your own reservation by April 1**, but identify as NCJW CA. The training and meetings take place across the lot at the Blue Pryn Restaurant.

Air fare - Southwest has a flight out of Long Beach to Sacramento at 8:00 a.m. JetBlue also flies out of Long Beach at a similar hour. Return on April 26 leaves at approximately 7 or 7:30 pm.

This is an exciting opportunity, so please sign up quickly. We need you!

► Come Spend an Afternoon with King David

By Barbara Millman, VP Programs

On **Sunday, April 22** we will have the opportunity to hear **Paul Boorstin review his new book, “David and the Philistine Woman”** at the **Alpert JCC at 1:30 p.m.**

Boorstin is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and screenwriter whose works have appeared on many television channels. He has traveled all over the world making documentaries for National Geographic. According to Boorstin, King David is revered by more than half of the population of the planet, yet he had never been more genuine and knowable than he is in “David and the Philistine Woman.” Mr. Boorstin will bring books available for purchase, and he will be pleased to autograph them.

This will be our election meeting for the 2018-2019 year, as well as a fundraiser for our Jewish student scholarship fund. A donation of \$18 (Chai) or more is suggested. There is no charge for the meeting and refreshments will be served. Please make your reservation by contacting Barbara Millman (310) 548-1919 or bpmillman@aol.com so that we will know how many refreshments to prepare.



Tribute Funds



We thank all these donors who have acknowledged other members, family and friends on special circumstances in their lives with contributions to our organization.

Please send your tributes to Audrey Zahler.

To	Reason / From	Fund
Barbara Cohen	Happy 80th	
	Michelle Sztraicher	CSNF
	Barry Borkin	CSNF
	Janet Rosenthal	CSNF
Joan Leb	In Loving Memory of your dear sister	
	Bea Aron	SF
	Audrey Zahler	SF
	Herman and June Rubin	SF
Barbara Wolfe	Mazel Tov on being NCJW Visions Honoree	
	Dale Strok	CSNF
	Helen Barrad	SOF
	Ann Millman	Mazel Tov on Receiving the Hannah G. Solomon Award
Dale Strok		CSNF
Binnie Berro		CSNF
Roz Bassin		SF
Audrey Zahler		SF
Elaine Warren		SF
Sherri Sobel	In Memory of your dear friends and relatives	
	Roz Bassin	GF
Miriam Carr	In Memory of your dear husband Irving	
	Mark and Nancy Speizer	SOF
	Barbara Wolfe	CSNF
Ilsebill Wolfe	In Memory of your dear daughter-in-law	
	Dale Strok	CSNF
Berro Family	In Memory of your dear brother Dan	
	Helen Barrad	CSNF
Nancy and Mark Speizer	Just Thinking of You	
	Elaine Warren	SOF

- GF-General Fund • HPF-Hug Pack Fund
- DVF-Domestic Violence Fund • SOF-Senior Outreach Fund
- SF-Scholarship Fund • KFF-Kindergarten Festival Fund
- CSNF-College Student Nutrition Fund

► New Members Signing Up, Now's Time to Volunteer!

By Michelle Gordon, Co-VP Membership

The Membership Committee is delighted to announce we have welcomed **30 new members** to NCJW, Long Beach during the 2017-2018 membership year. Our membership year coincides with our fiscal year, running from July 1 to June 30. Members who sign up before April 1 are included in the current year and will be up for renewal in July. Members who sign up after April 1 will have their membership rolled over into the following year.

We appreciate your continued membership in NCJW, and your involvement at any level you are comfortable with – be it your time (volunteering to staff an event), talents (planning events, writing for the newsletter, creating a flyer) or treasure (membership dues, donations, sponsorship).

Membership renewal requests will be sent out in a couple of months. We hope you will continue to support NCJW, Long Beach and the important work we are doing at the local, state, and national levels.



Caring CORNER

NCJW sends deepest condolences to:

Our Past-President and long-time activist member, **Nancy Speizer**, on the recent passing of her husband, **Mark Speizer**, also an NCJW member as well as a generous donor to Long Beach Section.

Binnie Berro on the recent death of her brother, Dan Spellens.

Diane Guest on the recent death of her husband, Ron Guest.

Ilsebill Wolfe on the recent death of her daughter-in-law, Byoung.

Our long-time Editor and Co-VP of Communications, **Harriette Ellis**, on the recent passing of her significant other, **Frank Weinberger**

NCJW sends our most heartfelt get well wishes to:

Sharon Brannon from a fall which resulted in a broken shoulder.

Linda Calderón, NCJWLB President

If you know of any of our members who are ill, or who have passed away, please contact Jean Feldman at info@ncjwlongbeach.org. NCJW wants to know!

► **NCJW Puts On A Special Charter Day And Honors Outstanding Honorees**



Charter Day honorees Ann Millman and Dr. Jane Conoley

Colorful and festive, with tables laden with vases of jelly beans and M&Ms, topped with a delicious cupcake, NCJW's **72nd Charter Day** on Sunday, February 18, proved once again that we can put on a terrific event that attracts not only our members, but other people in the community. Our exceptional honorees -- our own Ann Millman and Dr. Jane Close Conoley, the first woman president of Cal State University Long Beach -- gave responses of meaning and character. The room was very quiet as everyone listened intently to their responses after receiving their Hannah G. Solomon Awards.

The opportunity drawings delighted the winners, and the sensitive L'dor V'dor presentation added just the right touch to the whole afternoon at The Grand. Even the food was delicious, all agreed, (a welcome change from last year!) and no complaints were received, said Tila Carrol who chaired the event with flair and creativity. She sends a big "Thank You" to all our "Jewels," the companies who donated to our opportunity drawings and to her hard-working committee.

Special thanks go to Barbara Millman and Joanne Levy who were inadvertently left off the donor list. "Now we can sit back for a bit, then start to prepare for our next Charter Day!" Tila said, with a smile.



Linda Calderón, Sherri Sobel, Dale Strok, Janet Pottebaum



Andrea Kaiser, Shirley Ross, Shelley Carl, Ida Bobrow

*Photo credits:
Harriette Ellis*



Joanne Levy, Debra Felsenthal, Rachel Gordon



Jeff Rips, Nicole Malina, Pattie Davidson



Michelle Gordon, Janey Roede, Natalie Swit



Linda Fox, Barbara Millman, Jeanne Halliday



Renee Simon, Frieda Kaplan, Deborah Kaplan Wyckoff

► Looking For Leadership

By Ann Millman, Nominating Committee Chair

Current events have increased the importance of organizations like NCJW with a progressive agenda and a mission to improve the quality of life for women, children and families! Are you concerned that the advances of recent years are in jeopardy from the differing priorities of our present government? NCJW has scheduled a **national Leadership Retreat** to help Sections all over the country to be more effective advocates in our communities for our social, communal, and organizational goals. The Long Beach Section has budgeted funds to send our leaders, potential leaders, and other interested members to **St. Louis** to meet national leaders and learn positive ways to implement our mission. To be held from **June 1-3**, the Retreat presents a terrific opportunity for our members to learn more about NCJW and hear about techniques to be effective in the current political environment. We invite and encourage members to apply to attend the Leadership Retreat. It is NOT necessary to be a current officer or Board member. Interested individuals can go to ncjw.org to find out more information and/or call Ann Millman to discuss possibilities at (562) 439-8010 or annmillman@verizon.net. If you'd like to be considered to be a delegate, we ask that you submit a short written request to the Nominating committee detailing why you're interested and what your participation could bring to the Section. A commitment to two years in some form of leadership position is requested to qualify for Section funding. In addition to the learning experience at the Retreat, members who have attended national events will tell you, it's fun!

► Your Advocacy Committee Has Been Busy Getting Out and About!

By Sherri Sobel and Lisa Raufman, Co-VPs Legislation and Advocacy

We are pleased to be working with our Jewish community organizations regarding issues of importance to us all, and to reach out to other communities we have not been aligned with before. After our very successful Pastry and Politics event on Immigration issues, we have met with the organization that presented that evening, and we will be letting our members know of mutually beneficial action agendas coming up.

We are also working to make sure we are represented at **Lobby Day, April 25 and 26**, with all of you who want a fun and exciting two day, subsidized trip to talk to your legislators. Training will be provided.

Deborah Chankin and her team will be out registering voters this month. A lot is happening and much more is coming to exercise your body, mind, and soul by joining us as we announce each event.

► Visit Peris in the Spring

By Barbara Millman, VP Programs

Our **installation meeting** will be held at the **Peris Restaurant** on **Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.** The restaurant is located at 12155 Carson St. in Hawaiian Gardens. Romie Temkin has graciously agreed to present one of her readings. This will be a treat for old and new members alike! Officers will be installed for the coming year, and those retiring from the Board will be recognized as well. We will enjoy a delicious Persian buffet. The cost of the lunch is \$25. A check made out to NCJW should be sent to Judy Leff at 301 I Hillrose Dr., Rossmoor, CA 90720 by May 14.

► Project Shabbat

By Jeanne Halliday

On Friday, March 2, NCJW had a Shabbat service and a celebration of Purim at Bixby Towers Senior Residence. A play based on the Megillah was read by the guests, twirling the groggers at the mention of Haman. Of course the song, Haman Was a Wicked, Wicked Man, was sung. After a short Shabbat service, we lit the Shabbat candles, drank the grape juice, and ate the challah. For the Oneg we had hamantachen. The service was conducted by Jeanne Halliday and Marilyn Day. They represent NCJW each month by bringing Project Shabbat to the Jewish residents and are always eager for new volunteers to join them.

NCJW  [®] A FAITH IN THE FUTURE.
A BELIEF IN ACTION.[®]

Long Beach Section

3801 E. Willow Street
Long Beach, CA 90815

NCJW Executive Committee

President	Linda Calderón
Executive VP	Linda C. Fox
VP Legislation & Advocacy	Lisa Raufman Sherri Sobel
VP Resource Development	Bobbie Spiegel, Barbara Cohen, Louise Sperr
VP Community Service	Harriette Ellis, Dale Strok
VP Communications	Stephany Rosenthal, Michelle Sztraicher, Michelle Gordon
VP Membership	Barbara Millman
VP Programs	Judith Leff, Ilsebill Wolfe
Co-Treasurers	Barbara Kaplan
Corresponding Secretary	Ted Van Boemel
Financial Secretary	Joanne Levy
Recording Secretary	Ann Millman
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Newsletter Deadline is the 1st of the previous month. Send copy to Editor Harriette Ellis: harriettellis29@gmail.com.**