

▶ **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

by Linda C. Fox, President

WE'RE INTO THE 7th INNING STRETCH!



Although we're not accustomed to using sports analogies or metaphors, we acknowledge it's that "Time to Play (Base) Ball," and NCJW Long Beach IS in the 7th inning stretch as the Section is in the final quarter of our year ending on June 30. However, there are still plenty of upcoming activities in the month of May to attend:

- ***May 5** NCJW supports Jewish Family and Children's Service with sign-in at Race with a View.
- ***May 13** The ever-popular Professor Laurie Levenson returns to the Sharon-Carmel Hadassah-NCJW Long Beach joint luncheon at The Grand at 11:30 am.
- ***May 14** At the Alpert JCC our fourth Hug Packing of the year is from 6 pm to 8 pm, packing this time for the vulnerable children in grades K-2 taken into foster care.
- ***May 20-21** NCJW CA Lobby Days in Sacramento as we meet with our state assembly members and senators
- ***May 30** Installation and White Elephant Auction at the Peris Restaurant, 11:00 am
(Please note deadlines for RSVPs for May 13 and May 30 in articles elsewhere in this Pillars).

We round third base for home on June 13 from 9 am – 3 pm with our Annual Retreat, when we will look back on the year just completed and look ahead to 2019-2020. *All are welcome to attend* to give your Board feedback and ideas, but an RSVP is mandatory (no charge). This year, thanks to our member and host Sara Millman Silva, the Retreat will be held at Compton YouthBuild. (see article for details).

NCJW has continued its exciting year filled with accomplishments in advocacy (through informative Pastry and Politics series, continued coalition building, and lobbying in Sacramento and in Washington); in community service (through making fleece blankets for those experiencing homelessness, serving at the Kindergarten Festivals, and donating our Hug Packs); in education (through the Shirley Stein Book Review), and in celebration (at our annual Charter Day and upcoming installation and auction). NCJW is grateful for all our volunteers and for dedicated Board members who have made this a year to remember.

NCJW Long Beach Section wishes you a summer of joy, and for those of us who celebrate Shavuot, lots of blintzes and cheesecake to commemorate the sweetness of milk and honey of the words of the Torah!

▶ **INSTALLATION PLUS FUN AFTERNOON IN MAY!**

by Barbara Millman, VP Programs



Would you like to find new homes for some of your treasures? NCJW Long Beach will help you by including them in a White Elephant Sale held during our Installation Meeting. We are accepting donations with a \$20 minimum value. Think jewelry, serving pieces, china, tzatzkis, whatever you used to collect! Bill Millman will be our talented auctioneer so members and guests can bid for bargains! The money we earn will support our many worthwhile activities. Come to the Peris restaurant 12155 Carson St., Hawaiian Gardens 90716 on Thursday, May 30th starting at 11 am for a fun experience! Audrey Zahler will install our newly elected board members. A check for \$32 will reserve your place at the delicious buffet. It should be made out the the NCJW and mailed to NCJW at the Alpert JCC, 3801 E. Willow St. Long Beach, CA 90815 by May 23rd. For more information please contact us at info@ncjwlongbeach.org or call (657) 235-2511.

▶ NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN NAMES SHEILA KATZ AS NEW CEO KATZ BRINGS COMMUNITY ORGANIZING, DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT, AND COALITION-BUILDING EXPERIENCE TO 125-YEAR-OLD WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATION



WASHINGTON— The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) announced today that it has hired Sheila Katz as its new CEO to lead the organization into the future and build on its 125-year legacy of turning progressive ideals into action. Katz will join NCJW this summer after 12 years with Hillel International, where she was named the youngest-ever vice president in the organization's history.

"Now more than ever, in today's polarized political climate, we need a feminist movement rooted in Jewish values that will improve the quality of life for women, children, and families," said Beatrice Kahn, NCJW board president. "Through her deep experience giving a voice to young activists and developing innovative approaches to critical problems in the Jewish community, Sheila has her finger on the pulse of today's women's movement and will enable us to move our advocacy work forward in Washington, D.C. and across the country."

During her tenure at Hillel International, Katz launched MitzVote, a non-partisan voter engagement campaign, co-founded "Ask Big Questions," a national initiative focused on building civil dialogue, and served as a steering committee member for the White House Campus Interfaith Challenge during the Obama Administration.

"I am honored and proud to take the helm of NCJW and help write the next chapter in its history," said Katz. "There is no other organization in the country like NCJW – one that harnesses the power and voices of Jewish feminists, isn't afraid to challenge the status quo, and creates positive social change that makes a real difference in the lives of millions of people every day."

▶ INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW!

by Deborah Chankin, Advocacy committee

TOP 5 TAKE-AWAYS FROM PASTRY AND POLITICS ELECTION PROGRAM ELECTION 2020. SO MUCH TO LEARN. SO MUCH AT STAKE.



Jeff Klein from the Registrar-Recorder's Office explains the new voting procedures

- 1. Voting in the California Primary Election will begin in February 2020.** Say, what? Yes, you heard that right. Our Primary has been moved (again) to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March so it will be March 3, 2020. BUT there are now 10 days of Early Voting so voting begins on February 22, 2020.
- 2. If you usually vote in person – and about half of our audience said they do - and you live in Los Angeles or Orange County - your sample ballot will no longer tell you where you have to vote.** Instead, you may vote at any Voting Center in your County. And of course any voter from the rest of your County may vote in your part of the world. BUT there will be only a small fraction of the number of total locations we were used to in the past.
- 3. In Los Angeles County we will have new voting machines or "devices."** They will have a touch screen and the font size can be made bigger if you need it. It can also display the ballot in any of the County's 13 voting languages. After putting in your card, the device should display the correct ballot for your home address. A paper ballot will print out and you can review it and correct any errors before submitting it.
- 4. Sound like a lot to learn the first time you use it?** You can have a trial run at the County's mock election September 28 and 29, 2019. Your participation is really important because all this new software and equipment needs a trial run too and it has to work for real voters like us.
- 5. For concerns about elections and the many other County functions, we are fortunate that our County Supervisor Janice Hahn has an office just a stone's throw from the JCC.** Her dynamic Long Beach Area Field Deputy Herlinda Chico addressed our meeting. Herlinda explained Supervisor Hahn's deep understanding of and commitment to women's roles and needs, her focus on the interrelated issues of housing, homelessness and mental health and other issues we care about. We look forward to building a relationship with Supervisor Hahn's staff.

A big thank you to Jeff Klein, Manager of Civic Engagement for the Registrar-Recorder's Office, and Herlinda Chico, Long Beach Area Field Deputy for Supervisor Hahn for an engaging and eye-opening presentation. Almost 50 NCJW members and friends attended this important briefing and we'll be hearing more in the future.



National Council of Jewish Women
Long Beach Section

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
JEWISH WOMEN®
LONG BEACH SECTION**

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**▶ IN RAIN OR SNOW, THE 2019 KINDERGARTEN
FESTIVALS WERE A GO!**

by Linda C. Fox, President

Well, not quite snow, but... we had rain at three out of four Kindergarten Festivals in the 2019 cycle! However, Kindergarten Festivals are held rain or shine, and despite the attendance drop compared to last year due to the inclement weather, NCJW is proud to have provided backpacks for 270 children getting ready to enter Kindergarten in the fall, thanks to the generosity of the Berro family in establishing the Denise Berro Kindergarten Festivals Tribute Fund. LBUSD donates the backpack “stuffings” (crayons, markers, pencils, notepads, scissors, etc.), while Long Beach Rotary provides a book for each and every child in attendance. This year, 468 books were given out. NCJW once again provided sign-in staffing at all four events, and our own Jeanne Halliday continued to work her magic as the Festival hospitality maven (buying and setting up drinks and snacks for all the “worker bees” at the four Festival elementary school sites). 957 adults and children came to learn about community resources and take workshops for parents and children with the goal of experiencing a smooth transition to Kindergarten, and Long Beach Fire Chief Espino and Long Beach Chief of Police Luna helped distribute backpacks to the excited and eager soon-to-be-kindergarteners. Thank you to all of the wonderful NCJW volunteers who staffed the sign in and information tables. An especially heartfelt thank you goes to our NCJW “team” on the Kindergarten Festivals Planning Work Group: Linda Fox, Trish Goldin, Jeanne Halliday, Judy Leff, Linda Waltzman, and Barbara Wolfe. The members of the Work Group pack pallets the Thursday before each Festival, arrive on site at 7:00 or 7:30 am the day of the event to set up, and meet the week after to evaluate – truly a labor of love!

▶ THE HUGPACKS PROJECT NEEDS TWO HUGS!

by Linda C. Fox, President

In collaboration with the Lakewood office of the LA County Department of Children and Family Services, the NCJW LongBeach HugPacks project provides children when they are first taken (often with nothing to their name) into the foster care system with a backpack filled with appropriate age-level items -- a material "Hug" from an organization that cares!

Each of the quarterly packings (grades K-2, 3-5, middle school, and high school) takes planning and organization skills, about which the current co-chairs, Nancy Press and Karen Fried, are happy to share with you. We need two co-chairs for 2019-2020. If you are able to help us with this important and very worthwhile project, please contact our president Linda Fox at president@ncjwlongbeach.org or call her at (657) 235-2511. We are the only agency that makes this type of donation on a regular basis according to DCFS, and they are so very appreciative of our support. Please help us continue this long-running contribution to our efforts of tikkun olam, of healing the world, one child at a time, by saying you'll volunteer to be one of the co-chairs next year! The reward will be knowing that you are helping us touch young lives that desperately need to know someone cares.

SAVE THE DATE

- MAY 1:** DEADLINE FOR NCJW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
- MAY 5:** RACE WITH A VIEW, 8:00am
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE, AJCC, 2:00pm
- MAY 13:** HADASSAH-NCJW luncheon with Laurie Levenson, 11:30am
- MAY 14:** HUG PACK PARTY, AJCC, 6:00 P.M.
- MAY 20-21:** NCJW LOBBY DAY--SACRAMENTO
- MAY 30:** INSTALLATION, Peris Restaurant, 11:00a.m.
- JUNE 13:** PLANNING RETREAT, Compton YouthBuild, 9:00 a.m.



Meeting with Rep. Alan Lowenthal

OUR DELEGATES REPRESENT LONG BEACH AT WASHINGTON INSTITUTE



Pausing on walk from House offices to Senate offices



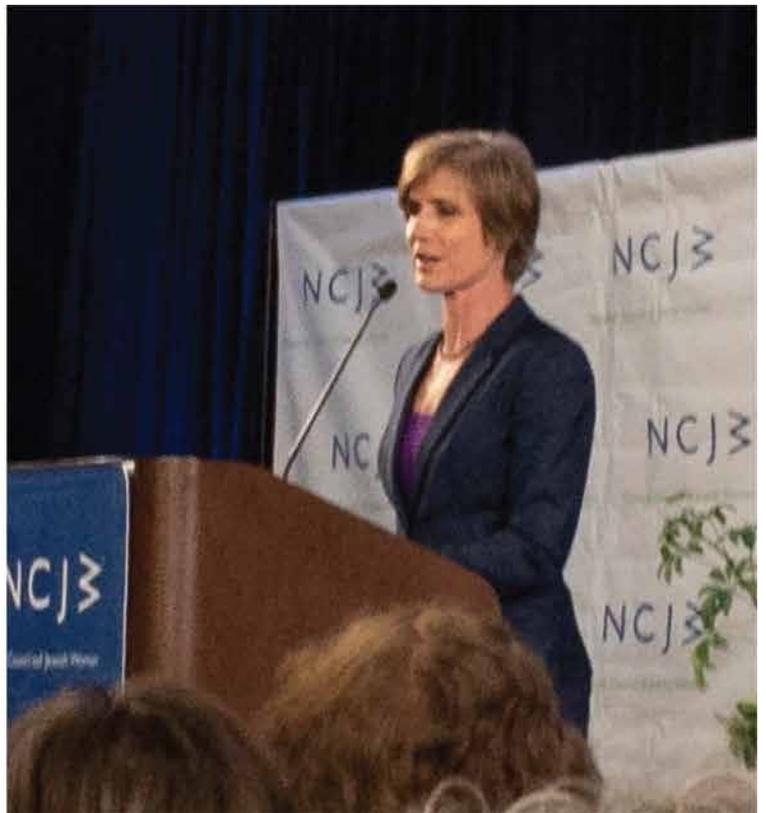
Our group with Cecile Richards who received the Social Action award



Bobbi at the table in Sen. Harris's office



Nancy Kaufman saying goodbye



Sally Yates accepting her Women Who Dared award for refusing to enforce a discriminating Executive Order against immigrants and refugees



Natalie supporting our partner



Cynthia, with outspoken Senator Maisie Hirono of Hawaii



Natalie and Sharon at the gala dinner honoring Nancy Kaufman



**▶ ALL ARE WELCOME AT NCJW
LONG BEACH SECTION'S
ANNUAL RETREAT ON JUNE 13, 2019**

Join us for our NCJW Retreat as we review the past year's activities and plan for the upcoming 2019-2020 year. WOW! 2020 already--- because our fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30.

This June 13th from 9 am to 3 pm we have the privilege of meeting at Compton YouthBuild, 1108 N. Oleander Ave., Compton, CA 90222, thanks to Co-Director and Founder Sara Millman Silva (our NCJW member). Compton YouthBuild - with its motto Respect, Care, Compassion- provides educational and occupational opportunities to youth from economically distressed areas. Students from the Culinary Arts program at Compton YouthBuild will prepare and serve us a continental breakfast and lunch as we meet in their facility to conduct our retreat agenda. **This meeting is open to all members! Bring your input about 2018-2019 and your ideas for 2019-2020. An RSVP to Linda C. Fox is required by June 6th** (email info@ncjwlongbeach.org or call (657) 235-2511) so that she will know how much food to order and how many folders of materials are needed.

**▶ JOINT SHARON-CARMEL HADASSAH
AND NCJW LUNCHEON**

by Linda C. Fox, President



The ever popular Professor Laurie Levenson, the David M. Burcham Chair in Ethical Advocacy and Director of the Center for Legal Advocacy at Loyola Law School will again enlighten us about topics of the day at the Sharon-Carmel Hadassah Luncheon presented together with NCJW Long Beach, on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 11:30 am at The Grand, 4101 E.

Willow St., Long Beach, CA 90815. This is a favorite program featuring the prominent legal commentator, so get your reservations in by sending a check made out to Hadassah for \$36.00, the deadline for rsvp for the Joint Hadassah-NCJW is May 1, after May 1, price goes up to \$41.00. Please mail payment to Shirley Ross, CPA, P.O.Box 15889, Long Beach, CA 90815/562-498-7965.

**▶ WE NEED YOUR HELP!
LAST HUG PACK PACKING
OF 2018/19! TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019**

by Linda C. Fox, President

This is a mitzvah in an hour or two (6-8 pm) at the Alpert JCC to support the youngest of our school age children taken into foster care. Our Hug Packs fly off the shelf within 24 hours of our quarterly donation. Make a difference in the lives of these abused and neglected children by helping us put a smile on their faces as they receive a "Hug Pack" of their own.

▶ 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.

**To: NCJW
Just Because**
From: Deb Lelchuk, HPF
Patrice Wong, HPF
Carolyn Yamaoka, SF

**To: Kathryn Miles
Congratulations on receiving the Hannah G. Solomon Award**
From: Gerda Seifer, GF

**To: Dale Strok
In Honor of being NCJW Woman of Vision**
From: Roz Bassin, HPF
Lori and Bruce Gilbert, HPF

**To: Barbara and Lee Shoag
To Good Friends**
From: Judy Lorber, HPF

Don't forget to call or email Audrey to remember or congratulate friends with a Tribute card and support NCJW projects!

PLEASE SEND YOUR TRIBUTES TO AUDREY ZAHLER.

- GF: General Fund
- HPF: Hug Pack Fund
- DVF: Domestic Violence Fund
- SOF: Senior Outreach Fund
- SF: Linda Calderón Memorial Scholarship Fund
- KFF: Denise Berro Kindergarten Festival Fund
- CSNF: College Student Nutrition Fund
- ISTF: Immigration Services Tribute Fund



▶ CARING CORNER

by Harriette Ellis

NCJW sends deepest sympathy to:

The family of **Shelley Carl**, whose father-in-law passed away recently.

To **Nina Rattner** whose mother, Nancy Feinstein, passed away recently.

NCJW sends loving get well wishes to:

- Barbara Wolfe**
- Nancy Speizer**
- Ida Bobrow**

If you know of any of our members who are ill, or have passed away, or of awards, honors, or special celebrations, at info@ncjwlongbeach.org or call (657) 235-2511. NCJW wants to know!

REMINDER
Postcard deadline is the 10th of the previous month. Please send postcard information to Barbara Millman.

Pillars deadline is the 1st of the previous month. Send copy to Editor Ann Millman.