

Pillars

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

► From the President's Desk

By Linda Calderón, President



Serving others is one of the pillars upon which Judaism rests, and the future of all humanity depends on it. Ensuring that we provide a safe and secure home and environment for our children and our grandchildren motivates us to make the world a little bit better for generations to follow. This Talmud parable addresses this

concept,

One day, a man walking on the road saw Honi the Circle Maker planting a carob tree. Puzzled, the man asked, "How long will it be before this tree will bear fruit?"

Replied Honi, "Seventy years."

The man then asked, "And do you believe you will be alive in another seventy years?"

Honi answered, "When I came into this world, there were carob trees with fruit ripe for picking. Just as my parents planted for me, so I will plant for my children."

—BABYLONIAN TALMUD, Ta'anit 23a

What can we do to ensure that we are working toward this goal?

- **Stay informed.**
- **Get involved** by writing/calling elected officials about matters that concern you.
- **Join** an organization that represents your point of view.
- **Step up** to the plate by volunteering for events that you think will make a difference.
- **Connect** with information sources that will inform you about your issues. (Have you joined the Action Center at ncjw.org? Our organization's new interactive website makes it so easy to participate.)
- **Go to a vigil**, march for a cause, attend a town hall meeting.

When I went to a vigil in downtown Long Beach in response to the racism and bigotry displayed in Charlottesville, Virginia, there were young people, seniors, families, people of different ethnicities and ages, men and women, speaking to their beliefs. It was peaceful and yet fraught with concern for those who faced the hate speech and violence in Virginia and what it meant for America and its future.

What I learned as I listened to each person is that we each have a perspective based on our life's experiences. The young people saw the inequity of decisions being made; some older people spoke of their history and the Holocaust and how lack of support translated into death and destruction; women talked about their anger. All were concerned with the values expressed in Charlottesville, and yet, if we didn't have each other to learn from, we would not have understood fully what the loss of democracy and our values meant in its totality. The more opinions that were expressed, the deeper was our understanding of the historical significance of this hateful display.

For someone who had lost family in the Holocaust, seen the racism of the 50's, the struggle for civil rights and affirmative action, the fight against war, the rise of the women's movement, the HIV outbreak, and so much more, the piecing together of a quilt that represents the hope and dreams of so many diverse people was touching and taught me, again, that "alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." (Helen Keller).

Participating in marches and vigils; letting our legislators know how we feel about issues; helping others who need our help are some of the many ways we can believe that the world can be made better for our children and their children.

UNITED WE STAND. DIVIDED WE FALL. MAKE A DIFFERENCE NOW.



► A Report on Human Trafficking Task Force Meeting Last Month

By Zhita Rea, Member, Legislation and Advocacy Committee

I attended, for the first time, a meeting of the Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force on September 7. Asked by Linda Fox to write an article for NCJW's Pillars, I was moved to share my experience as a novice.

While the number of organizations present was impressive, NCJW's role as an advocate, rather than a provider of services, was somewhat unique. And I soon discovered that Linda Fox was a star! She presented a draft of an action letter that would be sent to the governor hoping to elicit the group's support and action on the following pending legislation:

Need for Support of SB 225: to amend Civil Code 526 to add the text number of the National Trafficking Hotline to the required information on the Human Trafficking Notices posted in various strategic locations.

The following bills were additional Human Trafficking bills that those NCJW members who attended *Lobby Day* in Sacramento in May of this year lobbied for.

AB 260: to expand the types of businesses required to post the Human Trafficking Notices in order to include hotels

and other transient lodging locations.

SB 270: to require employees of hotels and motels to receive training to identify and report human trafficking.

Opportunity for Involvement

A Youth Empowerment Safety Symposium (YESS) is scheduled for **Saturday, January 27, 2018**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is an event to educate, empower, and engage the local community in human trafficking awareness through the arts, workshops, dialogue, and community resources. NCJW has been invited to send volunteers.

The YESS symposium will be held at the **Salvation Army Citadel, 3000 Long Beach Blvd. in Long Beach.**

Between sharing by representatives of the various other community organizations and a training presentation on Street Outreach and Shelter Care, there was an overwhelming amount of information (and, unfortunately, poor acoustics). However, my experience convinced me of the importance of this Task Force—and of the relevance of NCJW on issues of tremendous importance to our community

► New Members

We are delighted to welcome these new members to our section of NCJW.
We hope you will greet them at our meetings and introduce yourself.

Suzette Abend

Cynthia Gordon

Dale Lieberfarb

Debra Benveniste

Chana Ham-Rosebrock

Lilla Russell

Vicky Cahn

Dorothy "Dotti" Herdman

Gloria Schwartz

Patricia "Trish" Goldin

Nancy Levy

Judith Seitelman

We suggest you cut out these additions and changes to our membership
and paste them into your 2016-2018 NCJW directory.

► Advocacy and Community Service: There is a Difference!

By Linda Calderón and Linda C. Fox

DID YOU KNOW?

- **There's a difference between Advocacy and Community Service.**
- **Advocacy** is active promotion of a cause or principle.
- **Advocacy** involves actions that lead to a selected goal.
- **Advocacy** is one of many possible strategies, or ways to approach a problem.
- **Advocacy** can be used as part of a community initiative, nested in with other components.
- **Advocacy** is NOT direct service.



Advocacy does NOT necessarily: involve confrontation or conflict.

Some examples that may help you clarify just what advocacy is:

- You join a group that helps build houses for the poor. It's a service not advocacy.
- You organize and agitate to get a proportion of apartments in a new development designated as low to moderate income housing. That's advocacy.
- You spend your Saturdays helping sort out goods at the recycling center. That's not advocacy, but it is a service.

(Source: The Community Tool Box, a service of the Work Group for Community Health and Development at the University of Kansas)

► Here's How NCJW is Unique

By Linda Calderón

"Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue." (Deuteronomy 16:18). This clarion call to action has resonated with the Jewish People for centuries, and is the guiding imperative of National Council of Jewish Women.

What makes NCJW unique and extraordinarily effective in the universe of social justice organizations? We are about advancing social change through a faith-based Jewish lens, bringing together activists across generations and across the country. We create alliances and provide leadership both within the Jewish community and across all faiths and racial and ethnic groups to give voice to our common causes.

Our "elevator talk" to those who want a snapshot of who we are is "We are a uniquely qualified Jewish organization that advocates for everything important in your life."

In every decade since Hannah G. Solomon founded the National Council of Jewish Women, we have prioritized the most pressing issues of the moment - from providing for the needs of immigrant women and children in the early 1900s, to more recent struggles combatting sex trafficking and promoting equal pay for women, voting rights, advocating for a fair and independent judiciary, immigrant rights and protecting reproductive health, rights and justice.

NCJW Long Beach is moving forward to meet the challenges that we face today in Long Beach, the state and this country. In doing so, we are shifting our focus in order to ensure that we are actively involved and connected to other organizations in our community; we are seeking out

civic engagement opportunities with like-minded groups; we are moving toward a more inter-generational membership, and we are providing educational opportunities so that our community members can make informed decisions.

From an organizational standpoint, we are implementing some changes to better serve our current and prospective members.. We are hiring a part-time staff member to assist us in our communications, marketing, membership outreach and social media. We are planning to digitize our communications (see our current post-card). We are rotating board meetings to meet days and evenings. We will be launching a dedicated NCJW telephone number and NCJW emails for our board members to facilitate communication. Our Board has embraced these changes.

You are invited to become more active here in NCJW Long Beach by:

- Volunteering to be part of NCJW Advocacy and Community Service efforts in the Long Beach area. Some examples include providing backpacks with school and personal supplies for foster children and helping to identify like-minded organizations in the community that we might collaborate with.
- Representing NCJW on local coalition and partner organizations.
- Volunteering to help in planning Section programs and activities that you'd like to see offered.
- Supporting NCJW Long Beach philanthropically.

► NCJW Honored at For the Child Recognition Dinner and Now a New Invitation!

By Co-VPs Community Service: Barbara Cohen, Louise Sperr, Bobbie Spiegel



Last year at NCJW's Thanksgiving Tea For the Child, those members who attended brought in enough food, along with the turkeys donated by the Ladies of Philoptochos Society Assumption of the Blessed Mary Greek Church, to provide Thanksgiving meals for over 74 needy families. Louise Sperr and Bobbie Spiegel were so proud to represent NCJW when they were invited to attend its 2017 honoring dinner.

This year, we want to invite you and your family and friends to NCJW's annual **Thanksgiving Dessert Tea "For the Child"** to be held on **Thursday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m.** at the Alpert JCC, 3801 E. Willow St. in Long Beach. The speaker will be Michele Winterstein, executive director of For the Child. There is no charge for this event.

You can make a difference in the lives of families by bringing any or all of the follow items:

If your last name starts with:

"A" through "H", please bring canned fruit and fruit juices

"I" through "R", please bring boxed potatoes, dry stuffing and canned gravy

"S" through "Z", please bring canned cranberry sauce, vegetables and yams.

We always have a fun time and learn more about this organization and the wonderful work it does for the less fortunate.

► NCJW to Help Students at LBCC with Housing, Food Insecurity

By Lisa Raufman, Co-VP Advocacy and Legislation



As representatives of NCJW's Advocacy Committee, we - Linda C. Fox, Natalie Swit, and Lisa Raufman - attended an AAUW program on September 9, which informed us of the needs of indigent college students. We were looking for Advocacy initiatives, and this was a good follow-up from last year's NCJW-LB mini-conference on Homelessness.

Rashida Crutchfield, assistant professor in the School of Social Work at California State University, Long Beach, pointed out at our mini-conference last year that 1 in 5 Cal State University students statewide are facing food insecurity and 1 out of 10 CSU students statewide are facing housing insecurity. Professor Crutchfield noted that she will have a second study out in January referencing the issues for students at all 23 CSU campuses.

Carol Menard, who runs the CSULB "Basic Needs" program, explained that CSULB was one of the first campuses to start a program addressing these at-risk student needs by providing emergency housing (up to three weeks) and daily meals with "gift cards." (Go to <http://www.csulb.edu/basicneedswww.csulb.edu/basicsneeds>.)

At this AAUW presentation, we also learned that 66% of Community College students face food insecurity and 20% face housing insecurity. Ginny Baxter, Long Beach City College trustee Area 5 and former LBCC Foundation Director and faculty member, discussed how a group of faculty, students and staff, along with government agencies representatives have created a "Helping the Homeless Student" committee and have raised private funds for their program. Money can be donated via the LBCC Foundation. They now have a part time employee who coordinates the program that has helped many homeless students get Section 8 vouchers, emergency funds, gift cards for books and materials, and financial literacy and career counseling to help these students get their lives back so that they can be good students. There will be a fundraiser on Sunday, November 5 sponsored by the LBCC Foundation. For further information about this upcoming event contact Ginny Baxter or email info@ncjwlongbeach.org.

NCJW's Barbara Cohen, co-vice president of Community Service, has been our contact with this program, and, as a project of our Community Service, NCJW has provided "over-the-counter" nutrition for LBCC students.

Recently, NCJW established a Tribute Fund for college student nutrition to which donations may be contributed to help us continue to help alleviate this urgent need.

► Fourth Annual NCJW's Games Day

By Judy Lorber

Are you a Mah Jongg Maven, a Bridge Bubbe, a savvy Scrabble player, or a Rummy Tile devotee? If so, please join us for a day of lively activities on **Wednesday, October 25** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Due to the enthusiastic responses from last year's event, women stated, in part: "... elegant venue," "...artful and delicious lunch," "...beautiful and spacious rooms." So we are again, by popular demand, holding the festivities at **Sea Cliff Country Club**. It is located at 6501 Palm Avenue in Huntington Beach, just a short drive from Long Beach, AND, there is ample parking.

While playing, you can enjoy the view of the verdant golf course. These will be stress-free games without the intensity of a tournament. You may be a beginner or a seasoned player -- it doesn't matter. You have the option of playing with your own group, or we can place you with new friends. Perhaps you will be the lucky recipient of a prize! The entire community is invited.

This NCJW fund-raiser will benefit many of our programs, such as the Hug Packs for foster children, the Kindergarten Festival, Domestic Violence fund, Project Shabbat for seniors, and our Scholarship fund.

Please send your \$46 check made out to NCJW, and include your email and phone number before October 18 to: Judy Leff.

Reservations received after October 18 will be \$55. Please note that the country club needs an exact count of attendees, so your early response will be appreciated. Please bring your own set for your group.

For more information contact Judy Lorber or info@ncjwlongbeach.org

► Save the Date!

We are proud to announce that NCJW's **Charter Day** will be held on **Sunday, February 18** at the Grand. This is NCJW's largest fund raiser and we hope to see you and your friends at this event celebrating the excellence of one or more of our community members. Mark your calendars now.

► Calling All Volunteers!

We are looking for some talented volunteers to work with our **Community Service** and **Program Committees**. Community Service has many projects to choose from such as, Kinderfest; For the Child tea; scholarships. Call Bobbie Spiegel for more information. Programs also needs more volunteers to work on educational and advocacy programs such as Shirley Stein Book Review and other educational events. **Call Barbara Millman or info@ncjwlongbeach.org**



Help Us Go **Green**,

We Are Awaiting Your Response!

NCJW's board of directors would like to provide information to you, including our Pillars Newsletter, via e-mail.

THE CONCERN: The costs to produce, print and mail the Pillars Newsletter and alternate-month postcards annually are an estimated \$2,500-3,000 a year.

THE BENEFIT: The money we save from not doing large mailings can be re-directed to helping others in the community and we will be more environmentally conscientious.

HOW CAN WE DO THIS? Send an **e-mail** to dstrok99@gmail.com **OR** send a **note** to NCJW Long Beach, 3801 E. Willow Street, Long Beach, CA 90815 and **include in that e-mail or note** the following statement:

"Send me NCJW info by e-mail" AND

Your name

Your current address

Your current phone number

Your current e-mail address

If you decide to get Pillars by regular mail, write the word **"Update"** on the outside of your envelope.

Thank you for your immediate response to this request!

► Thank You to Our Chai Life Members

Those members who have become Life Members over the many years of NCJW existence were exempt from making dues payments each year. We have asked Life members to help us defray rising costs by contributing annually at the same time that our annual members are paying their dues. We so appreciate the support that we receive from them and want to acknowledge their support and ongoing generosity.

Reva Alban
Rosalind Bassin
Binnie Berro
Linda Calderón
Domitila G.Carrol,
Lorraine Donohue
Harriette R. Ellis,
Debbie Feldman
Jean Feldman
Linda C. Fox
Geraldine Landes
Dorothy Lasensky
Judith Leff
Ann Lentzner
Flora Loeb
Roni Love

Susanne Milkes
Barbara Millman
Rhoda Orenstein
Linda Palitz
Sheila Pokras
Tania Rash
Shirley Ross
Sherri Selmanson
Barbara Shoag
Renee Simon
Elaine Socol
Arlene Spatz
Cheryl Waterman
Ilsebill Wolfe
Audrey Zahler



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
Family of Dorothy Samuel	In loving memory	
	Ann and Gene Lentzner	SF
	Flora and Jerry Loeb	GF
	Manuel Rivera Family	GF
Ilsebill Wolfe	Get well wishes	
	Phyllis Postman	GF

- 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



NCJW sends deepest condolences to:

The family of Al Strum, whose wife, Sylvia Strum, was a long time Life member of NCJW and our local president many years ago.

The family of Esther Albert and to Jerome Leff, her dear partner. Esther was a long time Life member of NCJW.

To the family of Natalie Rozner who was a Life member of NCJW and who died recently.

NCJW sends concerned get well wishes to:

Joan Leb who is recovering from surgery

Barbara Wolfe

Gene Lentzner

If you know of any of our members who are ill, please contact us at:

info@ncjwlongbeach.org. NCJW wants to know!

► Your Love of Children is Needed To Help at Our Kindergarten Festivals

Our next group of volunteers headed to the LBUSD Kindergarten Festivals will be on **Saturday, January 13** at **Dooley School** at **8:30 a.m.** Plan to remain there doing good deeds until noon, all the while helping parents register their children for preschool and giving them helpful information about what to expect for their children and from the teachers.

This is one of our most popular programs covering community service, and we are so proud of it. We hope that you, our new members, will avail yourselves of this opportunity to help the little ones in their first step to a fine education in our school system. For information and to volunteer, please call Bobbie Spiegel or email to info@ncjwlongbeach.org.

► Dozens and Dozens of Hugpacks Filled by Our Volunteers and More



By Nancy Press, Co-Chair of Hugpack Committee

It was an amazing evening on Monday, September 18 when 28 volunteers from NCJW and AJCC's early childhood education showed up at 6:30 p.m. to help fill our 150 Hugpacks (75 for boys and 75 for girls) chock full with goodies for foster kids in high school. We even had some members from the community who had downloaded the site, "Volunteers.com," and came to help!

And what a surprise when Robert Wiltse from the Department of Children and Family Services showed up to help. This is the department that receives and distributes our Hugpacks to the foster children. At the end of the evening, Wiltse took all the 150 Hugpacks back to his office at 9 p.m., leaving us only having to do a bit of cleanup!

The refreshments we served—wine, cheese and crackers and chocolates -- were a hit, and we have no doubt many will return with friends when our next Hugpack evening for middle school students rolls around in December.

You are invited to come help and enjoy the time knowing how much your efforts will be loved and appreciated by these foster children who don't often get such gifts. We'll announce the next Hugpack evening date soon.

Nancy Slusher and Stephanie Rosenthal joined Nancy Press in preparing for this event.

What a Fun Day for NCJW Members!

We celebrated our Section and new members at Michelle Gordon's home on September 10 and learned how to meditate.





Long Beach

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► **Waiting for Another Pastry and Politics? This One Will Tackle Reproductive Rights**

By Sherri Sobel, Co-VP Legislation and Advocacy

Pastry and Politics will focus on reproductive rights at its next meeting on **Sunday, October 8** from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Alpert JCC.

Abby Sokoloff and Dr. Tabitha will update us on the new methods of contraception, the possibilities, and where we stand today with reproductive rights for women in our country. With so much controversy on today's political scene, it is important that we be highly and truthfully informed, not only for ourselves but for our children and grandchildren.

The morning will be chaired by Sherri Sobel and Lisa Raufman, co-VPs of Legislation and Advocacy.

There is no cost for the event but your reservation to info@ncjwlongbeach.org would be appreciated. Light refreshments will be served.

NCJW Executive Committee

President	Linda Calderón
Executive VP	Linda C. Fox
VP Legislation & Advocacy	Lisa Raufman Sherri Sobel
VP Resource Development	
VP Community Service	Bobbie Spiegel Barbara Cohen Louise Sperr
VP Communications	Harriette Ellis Dale Strok
VP Membership	Stephany Rosenthal Michelle Sztraicher Michelle Gordon
VP Programs	Barbara Millman
Co-Treasurers	Judith Leff Ilsebill Wolfe
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**Postcard Deadline is the 10th of the previous month: Please send postcard information to bpmillman@aol.com.
Newsletter Deadline is the 1st of the previous month. Send copy to Editor Harriette Ellis: harriettellis29@gmail.com.**