

# Pillars

NOV / DEC 2016

A PUBLICATION OF THE LONG BEACH AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN<sup>®</sup>

## ▶ A Past President Shouts Out A Plea for the New Year

By Linda C. Fox

**Greetings!** Although you are reading this in early November in the season of the secular holiday Thanksgiving, I write this at the cusp of Rosh Hashanah, our New Year.

Marking a connection between the Jewish season of re-examination of one's self coupled with a resolve to better "hit the mark" in the coming year and Rosh Hashanah, we turn inward. Throughout the Days of Awe we are urged to reflect on what we could have done better to contribute to a world where, as Stosh Cotler of Bend the Arc states, "People of every community and identity are safer, celebrated and able to thrive." We strive for individual renewal and recommitment in the New Year, and in November we express our gratefulness for what we have been given and the opportunities to do good that we have had.

Our mission statement proclaims: "Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms."

NCJW Long Beach has been blessed with many such opportunities in this last year, both in our community service activities and in our advocacy, for legislation that have helped us "turn progressive ideals into action." As an organization, we have so much for which to be grateful.

As we move into our 71st year in Long Beach, we need your support. Financial donations are appreciated, especially in this month of November via our "gratitude campaign." We are also grateful for the support you show by attending NCJW events and programs and volunteering your time, whether it be at Kindergarten Festival registration, at a packing session for Hug Packs for foster youth, staffing a table for voter registration, participating in the Youth Exploitation Safety Symposium combating human trafficking or in the NCJW CA Lobby Day in the Spring, or attending our Thanksgiving Tea For the Child on November 3, just to name a few.

You are essential to our efforts to heal the world, the work of *tikkun olam*. But above all, we need your leadership, so that NCJW Long Beach is able to celebrate another 70 plus years in our community. The NCJW Long Beach Nominating

Committee has begun its search to fill Board positions for the 2017-2018 year. Consider how you might contribute to ensure that NCJW Long Beach continues to thrive. We would welcome and be very grateful for your candidacy. Please contact a current Board member to express your willingness to be considered for a position on the Board.

May NCJW Long Beach go from strength to strength in this Jewish year of 5777, and may, in our gratitude for so many blessings this Thanksgiving, we also resolve to renew our commitment to the work of social justice that our NCJW Long Beach exemplifies.

## ▶ We Have New Members!

**H**ave you noticed some new faces at our Membership Brunch? We are so pleased to introduce our new members, and we hope that you will introduce yourselves to them and make them feel welcome. We love getting to know each other at our meetings, so consider yourself to be an ambassador of one and reach out.

Please jot these names and address into your NCJW Directory:

**Marsha Jeffer,**

**Carol A. Stern Levine,**

**Lisa Raufman,**

**Robin Brandes-Gibbs,**

**Eileen Braeman,**

Robin and Eileen are both Life Members and Robin has just transferred from another Affiliate. Please recognize all these new members and give them a warm welcome.

For further information check latest issue of hard copy of Pillars or email Stephany at [info@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:info@ncjwlongbeach.org).

## ► Legislative Wrap Up for NCJW CA 2016 and A Few Updates

By Linda C. Fox, NCJW State Policy Advocate California

**A**s you may remember from the last issue of Pillars, NCJW CA scored two big victories related to our Lobby Day in spring 2016: included in the passed budget were funds to cover repeal of the Maximum Family Grant and funds in the amount of \$527 million over several years to help restore monies for early childhood education and child care that were lost due to the Great Recession in 2008-2009. Since the Governor has finished his work on the bills that had been passed and put on his desk for his consideration, your SPAs have some additional information to share:

Our co-sponsored trio of anti-human trafficking bills AB 1760, AB 1761, and AB 1762 (with CAST - Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking) had varying results, although we lobbied hard and long. Thank you to those who made phone calls and sent emails - your support was awesome!. AB 1760 (Safe Harbor for Minors, trafficking victims) died on the Assembly floor.

Two of our bills were passed by the State Legislature and made it to Governor Brown's desk. Our victorious bill AB 1761 Affirmative Defense for Trafficking Victims was a wonderful "win." It means that trafficking victims who can prove their status as trafficking victims are able to use that as a legal argument ("affirmative defense") to avoid conviction for the non-violent crimes they were forced to commit while trafficked. California now joins 34 other states that have enacted such laws.

Unfortunately, our AB 1762-Vacating Convictions for Human Trafficking Victims-was vetoed by the Governor. However, we are pleased that the Governor signed SB 823 (another vacating convictions bill) and SB 1322 (Commercial sex acts: minors), two bills that will take steps forward in decriminalizing human trafficking victims and survivors in California. We also provided letters of support for SB 1322.

Your NCJW SPAs also sent letters of support for many other bills we hoped to see pass and become law. Here are just some of the bills we supported that were signed into law:

- AB 1761 (Affirmative Defense -our cosponsored bill), AB 1954 (Direct Access to Reproductive Health Act, prohibiting insurance companies to require enrollees to secure a referral prior to accessing time sensitive essential health services)
- SB 999 (annual supply of contraceptives)
- AB 1671 (protection of the privacy and safety of health providers)

- AB 2125 (healthy nail salon recognition program,)
- SB 1276 (testifying by minors victims of human trafficking by means of closed circuit TV)
- AB 1848 (tracking of handling of sexual assault evidence kits)
- SB 23 (Repeal of Maximum Family Grant)
- SB813 (Eliminate Statute of Limitations on Rape)
- SB 1322 (Decriminalization of Trafficked Minors)
- SB 823 (vacating human trafficking convictions - Marty Block, author)

### **Vetoed were:**

- AB 1561 (No Tax on Tampons)
- SB 654 (Parental leave of 6 weeks for companies with 20 or more employees)
- AB 1762 (our bill on vacating convictions).

For those who lobbied in Washington on the EACH Woman Act, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and Voting Rights Advancement Act, there unfortunately has been little movement to date of these introduced bills. We also demonstrated for the Senate to "Do Its Job" and hold a hearing to fill the vacant Supreme Court position.

### **Locally, keep tuned for developments in our Human Trafficking Outreach Project Phase Two!**

Representatives of NCJW and the Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force met with the Deputy City Attorney Art Sanchez and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Elana Miller. We hope to get a motion before the Long Beach City Council to promote enforcement of SB 1193, the law about which our Poster Project educates. Phase II letters from government to the businesses next in order are hopefully underway.

## ► Join your Sister Members of NCJW for a Chance to Give Thanks and Have a Fun Afternoon!

By Barbara Cohen, Bobbie Spiegel, Michelle Sztraicher, and Lynn Zdonek, V-Ps Community Service

Be sure to put **Thursday, November 3 at 1 p.m.** on your calendar now so that you will remember to attend our annual **Thanksgiving "Tea for the Child,"** which we hold at the Alpert JCC. This is Community Service in action, and you are the action provided by NCJW.

The For the Child organization's goal is to eliminate domestic violence through compassionate intervention, education and personal empowerment. NCJW helps its clients by providing the items needed to celebrate Thanksgiving.

You can make a difference for families!

If your last name starts with:

**"A" through "H"**, please bring boxed mashed potatoes, bags of dry turkey stuffing and canned gravy

**"I" through "R"** canned fruit and fruit juices

**"S" through "Z"** canned cranberry sauce, vegetables, and yams

Send your reservation and \$5 to Michelle Sztraicher by October 25 (or \$7.00 at the door). For further information check latest issue of hard copy of Pillars or email Michelle at [info@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:info@ncjwlongbeach.org).

## ► Hug Packs Coming Up! We're Waiting for You; So Come On Over to Help and Have Fun

By Nancy Press

Time for you to get dinner prepared early **Tuesday evening, November 15** so you can be on time — **6:30 p.m.**-- to help our volunteers put together those much-awaited-for Hug Packs the kids all love. You cannot believe how excited these foster students get when our volunteers present them with our bountiful Hug Packs filled so lovingly with many things they need and hope for. Most of the foster children have heard about this school-age back pack provided by NCJW, so you can just imagine the high anticipation.

With each Hug Pack evening, we focus on a different age group of youngsters. This time we will address the needs of Middle School boys and girls, grades 6 through 8 at a Hug Packing party at the Alpert JCC beginning at 6:30 p.m. Dress comfortably because we really work hard.

On that evening we will also have a special guest... her name is Gayle Arlich, who is the author of a book called "Searching for the Missing Piece." This is a fantasy adventure with a message of forgiveness and targets the 7 to 15 year old. The author, who lives in Temecula, will be coming to our session to donate books and help us pack, as well. Her book is also available on Amazon.

Come join your NCJW sisters for a very special evening and go away happy that you have helped some very deserving kids.

## ► NOTES FROM A BOARD MEMBER---

By Stephany Rosenthal, V-P Membership

We have now reached the party season. This is the time of year where we connect with family and friends and enjoy an abundance of wonderful food.

We look forward to Hallowe'en so we can sneak a few candy bars, Thanksgiving with turkey and pies, Hanukkah with eight nights of latkes topped with sour cream and the ever present chocolate Hanukkah gelt, plus celebrating the New Year with champagne toasts.

But, as NCJW women we also think of those children and families less fortunate than us, and what we can do to help. We have several upcoming activities that support our community service mission.

At our **Tea For the Child on November 3 at 1:00 p.m.**, we provide Thanksgiving food items for families in need to be distributed through the For The Child organization. Their mission is: "To build healthier lives for children and families, free of abuse, neglect and violence." They provide the turkeys and we contribute all the other canned and packaged items so families can enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner. A representative of the organization will be there to talk about its programs and to collect our donations. If you cannot attend the tea but would like to donate, please contact a member who can bring your donation.

Our next famous **Hug Pack** assembly line is in **November**. This is where we talk and laugh while we fill backpacks for foster children through the Los Angeles County Children and Family Services. Many of these children are removed from their homes with nothing to bring with them. These children are often victims of physical and emotional abuse. We fill these backpacks with books, school and dental supplies and other essential items. If you have never been to a packing, you are missing out. Come join us.

Our annual **Hanukkah Pot Luck Brunch** is on **December 13 at 10:00 a.m.** This is a wonderful sharing time with food, friends and Hanukkah memories. Bring you favorite brunch food to share. We have a 50/50 raffle and the proceeds will go to purchase gift cards for food, which we give to the Jewish Family and Children's Services that distributes them to needy families.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming community service activities and hope your holidays are filled with friendship and love.

## ► Election Season Wrap Up

By Sherri Sobel and Deborah Chankin,  
V-Ps Legislation & Advocacy

By the time you read this the 2016 Elections are in the rearview mirror – and what a year it was. Some say the most memorable and critical in our lifetime. Many have used the words “unique” and “unprecedented” to describe this election.

Knowing that as a non-profit organization, we cannot and did not, make any candidate endorsements, we can observe that having a woman at the top of a major party ticket was indeed “unique” and “unprecedented.” And we heard major party presidential candidates discuss in their different ways the needs of working women for child care and family leave.

During this season we in NCJW Long Beach brought Jan Gallup and Phyllis O'Connor from the League of Women Voters to discuss ballot propositions impacting education, health care and the death penalty. They gave us the effects, the pros, the cons, the supporters, the opponents and the funding. What a treasure trove of information they were! We – Deborah and Sherri – were especially pleased to meet so many of you there at the Membership Brunch.

We spent a hot but fun day registering voters at Long Beach City College. We assisted some 30 young people understand or complete the process. Some had just turned 18. Others were new to the area or just hadn't gotten around to it. Thanks to volunteers Tila Carrol, Diane Fike, Linda Fox, Diane Merrick, Ann Millman, Marlene Sanchez, and the two of us: Deborah Chankin and organizer Sherri Sobel.

Elections are only one facet of Advocacy. Looking ahead, we are planning for the March 19 Mini-Conference on Homelessness and a few Pastry and Politics gatherings. Thanks to all who volunteered to help. If you would like to join us in planning and putting on these events, please let Deborah know. Many hands make easy work.

In January, we will have a new Legislature, new Congress and new Board of Supervisors to contact about our NCJW key issues. (See State Legislation article p. 2) At the September Brunch one member told us, “I'd like to volunteer but I don't know anything about politics.” Please, don't let that stop you. Come and learn. You are the most important part of our political system. You are a voter. (You did vote, didn't you?)



◀ Our intrepid Co-VP of Advocacy Sherri registers a just-turned 18 year old student at Long Beach City College who will vote in her very first election come November! She is one of about 30 Long Beach City College students who registered or took registration forms at the NCJW table!



▲ Phyllis and Jan from League of Women Voters enlightened us about the ballot propositions.



## Caring CORNER

### NCJW sends deepest sympathy to:

**Renee Simon**, whose dear husband, Jack Blecher, died last month.

**Lorraine Schultz Donahue**, whose dear husband died recently.

**Rhoda Orenstein**, whose dear brother, Frank Decker, died recently.

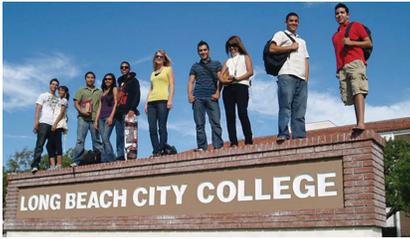
**Nancy Speizer** whose dear sister, Jean Semless, died last week.

### So good to see:

**Barbara Millman** back. She had a great challenge while in the hospital, but her will and optimism (and good doctors) brought her through.

*If you know of any of our members who are ill, please notify Caring Co-Chairs, Nancy Speizer or Jean Feldman. For further information check latest issue of hard copy of Pillars or email Ted at [info@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:info@ncjwlongbeach.org). **NCJW wants to know!***

**► We Are Helping LB City College Homeless Students Who Need Food to Survive Their Classes!**



The board of NCJW is pleased to announce the establishment of a new Tribute Fund that will help support the students at LBCC. Recent research has

discovered that 1 in 10 students are homeless across the state at State universities and colleges. At LBCC the rate is 1 in 6.

As a result, students often go hungry, making focusing on their studies extremely difficult. We purchased over \$400 of protein bars recently but more is needed. **Please help us support our Long Beach students with donations to the College Student Nutrition Fund.** Send your donations to Audrey Zahler noting this fund in your message.

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 Lily Ann Rothstein	In loving memory Judy Lorber	HP
Barbara Millman	Wishing you a speedy recovery Barbara Wolfe Ilsebill Wolfe	KFF GF
Renee Simon	Wishing you a speedy recovery Helen Barrad	SF
Renee Simon & Family	In loving memory of Jack Sylvia Manheim Helen Barrad Wendy Puzarne	SF HP DVF
Arlene Solomon	Wishing you a speedy recovery Roz Bassin	SF
Phyllis Spear	Mazel tov on your son's wedding Barbara Wolfe	HP
Mark Speizer	Wishing you a speedy recovery Ilsebill Wolfe	GF
Edna Statmen	Remembering our fun bridge games Helen Barrad	SF

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

**► OOPS! Did you forget to pay your 2016-2017 Dues? There's still time!**

In going through our financial matters last month, our Financial Secretary Ted Van Boemel was astounded to note that some of our devoted members have forgotten to pay their 2016-2017 dues! Imagine that!

So here we are at Pillars beseeching you to hurry and get out your checkbook and pen and quickly write your payment to NCJW because you won't want to miss any of the wonderful things your organization is doing to help our community, and of course, to enjoy some of the fun things we have planned for you! Make your check to NCJW for \$40 or more, and mail to Ted Van Boemel. For further information check latest issue of hard copy of Pillars or email Ted at [info@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:info@ncjwlongbeach.org).

**► The New Year Will Bring Us Some Low Down on Those Ancient Rabbis!**

NCJW's joint luncheon meeting with Hadassah featuring its annual **Shirley Stein Book Review** on **Tuesday, January 17 at 10 a.m.** will be held at The Grand just across from the Alpert JCC.



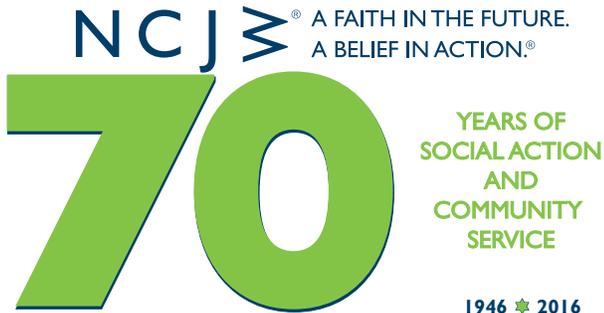
Don't, however, let the title of the book make you shy away: "Fifty Shades of Talmud: What the First Rabbis Had to Say About You-Know What." Think, instead, these words: Amusing. Seductive. Stimulating. We're talking here about the Talmud. That's right. Take fifty actual Talmudic discussions, mix in pithy sayings (appropriate and inappropriate!) by luminaries from Mae West and Amy Schumer to George Washington and Gandhi, add a few cartoons, and *voila*—you'll come away with a new perspective on what the ancient Jewish sages say about our most intimate relationships.

Maggie Anton has written this lighthearted, in-depth tour of sexuality within the Talmud that will delight and enthrall you, so come eavesdrop at the first rabbis' locker-room door as they discuss every aspect of sexual relations—how, when, where, with whom—often in startlingly explicit fashion. Author Anton reveals how Jewish tradition is more progressive in many respects, and more bawdy than one might think.

If you would like to read the book before the review is given, it may be pre-ordered from Amazon or purchased at Barnes & Noble.

Watch for the next *Pillars* for further information. In the meantime, please place the date on your calendar.

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U.S. POSTAGE



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3801 E. Willow Street  
Long Beach, CA 90815

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Remember to purchase your tickets to the **Long Beach Jewish Film Festival** on Nov. 9 – 13 at the Alpert JCC. See some of the best Jewish-themed films from around the world. You'll be delighted, surprised, informed and entertained. Call (562) 426-7601 for tickets.

► **NCJW Prepares for the Future at National Convention in Atlanta, Ya'll Welcome to Attend**

By Ann Millman

**D**ear NCJW members: Check your calendar now and plan to attend the NCJW National Convention from March 23-25, 2017 to be held in Atlanta, Ga.

Every three years, National Council of Jewish Women convenes members from across the country to help shape the future of NCJW. You'll hear from issue experts and national leaders who will discuss what's trending in the community of women's social justice, organizing, and leadership. Celebrate as you learn to lead social change in the U.S. and Israel as well as in our own community.

This year's convention will discuss strategic visions for the future, and vote on the Resolutions that will guide our organization for the next three years. Our Long Beach affiliate is entitled to five official delegates, and we are prepared to subsidize your attendance. Your commitment will be to use your experience as part of the leadership team of NCJW.

Originally planned to be in Miami, Fla., the location was evaluated in view of recent health and weather challenges, therefore it was decided to move the site to Atlanta. Information on how to apply to be a delegate will be available in the near future.

**For further information check latest issue of hard copy of Pillars or email Ted at [info@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:info@ncjwlongbeach.org).**



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Newsletter Deadline is the 1st of the previous month. Send copy to Editor Harriette Ellis: [harriettellis29@gmail.com](mailto:harriettellis29@gmail.com)**