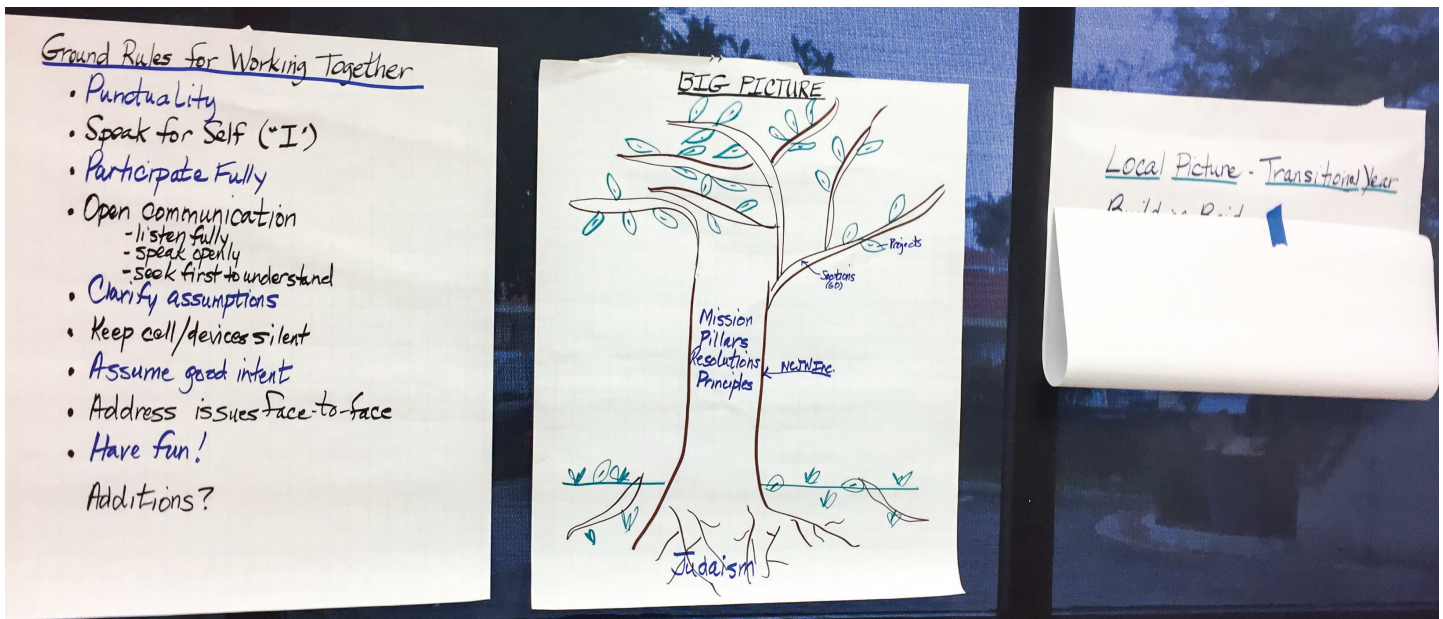


Pillars

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

► Report on NCJW Long Beach Retreat

By Linda Calderón, President



The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. 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. (Mission)

The Jewish values that help inform us in our daily endeavors are:

- Respect and Dignity for all Human Beings
- Education and Awareness
- The Pursuit of Justice

In life, Jews believe in the interconnectedness of all beings and things. That means that all of us have a role to play in accomplishing the mission of NCJW. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said, "What we need is the involvement of every one of us as individuals."

"What we need is a restlessness, a constant awareness of the monstrosity of justice."

What we need is a moral grandeur and spiritual audacity."

Our local Retreat this year focused on what we need to do as members of the community and NCJW to support our mission. What resulted from this day-long training and exploration is a blue print of our active involvement going forward.

We want to build bridges in this transitional year with a focus on Civic Engagement, Connections, Coalition Building or Collaboration, and Communications:

Civic Engagement: consists of individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern (homelessness, human trafficking, court appointments, immigration, voting rights, reproductive justice, for example).

Connections: maintaining and reaching out to others to develop our interconnectedness within the community and beyond. (Kindergarten Festivals, our Hugpack project, the Nutrition project with LBCC students).

Coalition Building or Collaboration: seeking out other community organizations that we can work with to accomplish our goals. (It truly takes a village).

Communications: educating individuals and the com-

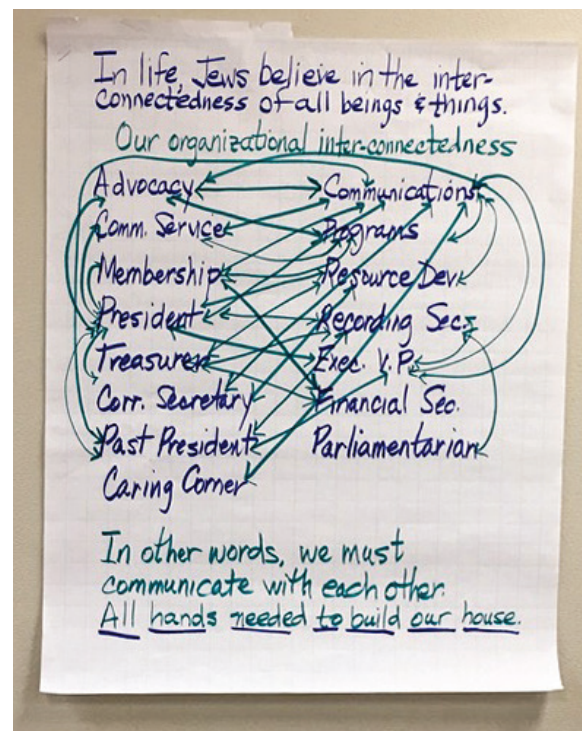
►continued on page 2

This will be a **marathon**, not a sprint!

Many of the comments that participants of the Retreat made were reflective of how they saw their role going forward: "Expand opportunities for engagement"; "Dialogue doesn't necessarily mean agreement"; "Find common ground"; "Keep value-based, explore in texts"; "Education is advocacy."

May the blessings of SHALOM be in the inheritance of all
God's children.

born of love, rooted in justice and therefore, everlasting.



► Report from the NCJW Long Beach Retreat in June:

The Jewish Values That Inform Our Work and the Call to Social Justice by Guest Speaker Rabbi Joel Simonds

By Linda C. Fox, Executive Vice President



At the NCJW Long Beach Annual Retreat in June, the foundational Jewish values for NCJW's work were presented. We'd like to share these with all our members, for they are our inspiration and guiding motivation for all we do. (Note: These values are directly summarized but abridged from the complete text that can be found at www.ncjw.org, along with additional food-for-thought questions).

***Kavod Ha'Briot: Respect and Dignity for All Human Beings**

Each and every one of us is made in the image of God –B'tselem Elohim (Genesis 1:26), which means each one of us contains a Divine spark and that we must endeavor to always treat every person with compassion and dignity.

***Talmud Torah: Education and Awareness**

NCJW has a longstanding history of educating our own constituency and speaking up about issues that help us fulfill our obligation to "love our fellow as ourselves" (Leviticus 19:18). Education is a critical component in raising awareness in order to create meaningful social change.

***Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof: The Pursuit of Justice**

The Torah teaches that we are obligated to pursue justice for all (Deuteronomy 16:20), that we must always take action when we see an injustice (Leviticus 19:16), and that we must "do what is right and what is good" (Deuteronomy 6:18).

Through tzedakah (philanthropy), advocacy and community service, NCJW works to realize its vision of a just society – a society in which everyone will have full and equal access to the quality of life to which all are entitled.

As NCJW pursues justice for all, we are guided by our respect for all human beings and our ongoing efforts to build awareness on the issues.



And some words about our guest speaker at the Retreat:

Rabbi Joel Simonds, associated with the Religious Action Center of the Union for Reform Judaism and now founding member of a new organization, the Jewish Center for Justice, has long been involved in social justice advocacy as a central tenet of Judaism, and he stated that "as Jews, we must be for all people." He is guided by a belief in the interconnectedness of all beings and things; therefore, for him, social justice as a Jewish obligation is as important as prayer, kashrut, and Jewish peoplehood. Furthermore, Rabbi Simonds explained that "pursuing justice means more than just talking about an issue. It means taking action and making a difference."

This is what we strive to accomplish as members of NCJW Long Beach.

<http://www.ncjw.org>



The attendance at NCJW's 2017 Retreat was better than ever, filling the hall with eager members and guests ready to get to work.

► ROAR! It's Jewish Leadership Training!

By Linda Calderón, President

"Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are."

—Augustine of Hippo

"When you have power, you have the ability to take a risk for the sake of your values. You have the ability to ask yourself, 'what type of life do I want to live,' not just whether I'm going to live, but who do I want to be?" "Power gives us the opportunity to say, 'we can be better than who we are.'"

—Rabbi Donnie Hartman

On June 10, following our NCJW Long Beach Retreat, four members – Lisa Raufman, Nancy Levy, Natalie Swit, and Linda Calderón – attended the ROAR (Resistance, Organizing, Action, Resilience) training to try to understand our unique historical moment where across the country many Jews felt that their core values were under attack or felt directly at risk, and they wanted to take action. We knew that pursuing justice meant more than just talking about an issue. It meant taking action and making a difference.

Please read this short summary of the training to see if you are interested in having a local group training.

The ROAR training, sponsored by the Religious Action Committee, JOIN for Justice: Jewish Organizing Institute and Network, and NCJW, Inc. held a training in Aliso Viejo.

The goals for this training were:

1. Introduction to Power and how Power Analysis leads to more effective campaigns. (Power is the ability to act; Campaigns consist of a series of actions that are designed to achieve a goal.)
2. To understand why relationships are key to successful change.
3. To increase the connection between congregational/organizational social change work and statewide reform movement (Reform CA)

Power Analysis

Essentially the training gave us a look into what it takes to do community organizing by way of performing a Power Analysis: **1)** Who needs to be involved in the efforts to deliver the solutions? **2)** Who has the decision-making power? **3)** Who has a relationship with the power person? **4)** Who do they listen to? **5)** What are the interests of the decision maker? **6)** What leverage do you have with him/her? **7)** Who are your allies? **8)** Who are your detractors? **9)** Whose support do you need to realize your goals? **10)** Who do you need to work around? **11)** Whose opposition do you need to neutralize?

Building Relationships

When you meet with people you might want to work with, the key is what story can you tell to portray who you are, what's important to you, and why what you're doing now is important to you.

Ask what and how open-ended questions—they generate understanding and relationships.

Speak to what they care about, not just what you care about.

Identifying Other Groups and Networks

Identify other like-minded groups, formal or informal, or networks or organizations that might bring any particular resources or advantages in working with us on a particular vision.

In this short review of the training, if you are interested in receiving training beyond this summary, please send Linda Calderón an email and we will explore bringing the training to Long Beach.

National Council of Jewish Women - Long Beach Section Board Meeting Schedule 2017-2018

NCJW board meetings are open to any member who wishes to attend. We recommend that you give a heads-up if you plan to attend. All meetings take place in the Alpert JCC second floor Board Room (unless otherwise notified)

Thursday	August 3	9:45 am - noon
Wednesday	September 6	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
*Tuesday	October 3	9:45 am - noon
Wednesday	November 1	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Thursday	December 7	9:45 am - noon
Wednesday	January 3, 2018	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Thursday	February 1, 2018	9:45 am - noon
Wednesday	March 7, 2018	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Tuesday	April 10, 2018	9:45 am - noon
Wednesday	May 2, 2018	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

***NOTE: NEW DATE**

► **HELP WANTED:**

Volunteers are needed to work with the following committees:

PROGRAMS:

Please call Barbara Millman. You will be helping to determine the programs that will be presented to the membership and community at large. We welcome your ideas and willingness to pitch in to make a difference.

HUG PACKS:

Please call Nancy Press. You will be assisting in shopping for and packing hug packs filled with personal and educational materials to be given to children who leave their homes to join a foster family with little time to gather/take any personal items with them. A popular and worthy cause that provides hug packs for K-12 children.

► **Mimosas, Membership and Meditation Are Waiting for You**

Please join NCJW, Long Beach Section, in celebration of all our members – longtimers, new members, and prospective members – at “Mimosas, Membership & Meditation,” a casual brunch to be held at a private home on **Sunday, September 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

We will nosh, mingle and learn how to maintain our balance and serenity while tackling the tough issues of our times. Our speaker and guided meditation leader for the morning is Wendy N. Block.

Wendy is a licensed therapist who has treated individuals and families for the past 30 years. In addition to being a progressive Jewish woman, Wendy began practicing meditation at age 18, studying many different traditions. She has been practicing Vipassana meditation for the past 15 years.



Wendy Block

She has taught beginner's meditation classes, Buddhist psychology and Mindfulness at Insight Los Angeles and Long Beach meditation centers.

There will be no fee for existing members.

Cost for guests is \$10, which can be credited to membership upon joining that day. A reservation is required. Please contact Michelle Gordon. You will receive the address for this event once you have registered.

We hope you can join NCJW Long Beach as we learn to become Zen Activists!

► **HugPacks Are Our Outreach To Community Children**

Once again we are gearing up for our happy time when we gather together to fill those much-loved HugPacks that answer the needs of so many foster children in the community. Children who have little to call their own. And how wonderful to watch their eyes light up when they open these great gifts

that you, our NCJW volunteers have provided for them.

So please place **Monday, September 18** on your calendar and arrive at **6:30 p.m. at the Alpert JCC**, and we will provide wine, cheese, crackers and chocolate for your pleasure as we chat, make new friends, and best of all, fill those HugPacks with great items for high school kids. Such a terrific way to spend a weekday evening! We're expecting to see you on the 18th.

► **Save the Date! October 8**

A Pastry and Politics event has already been planned for our members heralding the Fall Season. Titled “Reproductive Rights in 2017,” the event will ask, “What is new, what is coming, and what can we do to ensure the right to choose for all women?” Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 8, at the Alpert Jewish Community Center from 11 a.m. to noon**. This program is sponsored by our NCJW Advocacy and Program Committees.



Caring
CORNER

NCJW sends deepest condolences:

To the Family of Dorothy Samuel, a long time devoted member of NCJW. She and her husband Charles were wonderful supporters of our Thrift Shop for many years and helped make it so successful. Dorothy was a recipient of our Hannah G. Solomon Award.

NCJW sends concerned get well wishes:

To Dr. Jeff Carr, who recently fell and is in the hospital slowly recovering.

If you know of any of our members who are ill, please contact us at: ncjwlb@gmail.com. NCJW wants to know!



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	To	Reason / From	Fund
Jean Feldman	In memory of dear son, Greg		Debra Chankin	In memory of your mother	
	Esther Albert & Jay Leff	SOF		Barbara Wolfe	SOF
	Sy and Reva Alban	CSNF		Louise Sperr	GF
	Joan Davis	GF	Jay Leff	Get Well wishes	
	Louise Sperr	GF		Helen Barrad	CSNF
	Ilsebill Wolfe	GF	Barbara Wolfe	Happy you are better	
	Anne and Gene Lentzner	SOF		Helen Barrad	CSNF
	Tila Carrol	SF	Karen Feldman	In memory of your mother, Joan	
	Helen Barrad	CSNF		Elaine Warren	SOF
	Binnie and Jack Berro	SF	Kenneth Feldman	In memory of your mother, Joan	
	Joan Leb	GF		Elaine Warren	SOF
	Ann and Bill Millman	SF	Dorothy Levin	Happy you are better	
	Linda C. Fox	GF		Elaine Warren	SOF
Susan Stuhlberg	In memory of your husband		Ron Guest	Thinking of you	
	Esther Albert and Jay Leff	SOF		Elaine Warren	SOF
	Gerda and Harold Seifer	GF	Bob & Jeannie Alban	Mazel tov on the birth of twin granddaughters	
	Helen Barrad	CSNF		Elaine Warren	SOF
Dorothy Hartstein	In memory of your husband, Paul		Ann Martin	Hope you are doing well	
	Esther Albert and Jay Leff	SOF		Elaine Warren	SOF
	Sy and Reva Alban	GF	Diane Fike	Just thinking of you	
	Gerda and Harold Seifer	GF		Elaine Warren	SOF
Romie Temkin	In memory of your husband, Gene			Ann and Bill Millman	CSNF
	Esther Albert and Jay Leff	SOF	Samuel Family	In memory of your dear mother, Dorothy	
	Sy and Reva Alban	CSNF		Herm and June Rubin	SF
	Gerda and Harold Seifer	GF		Barbara Wolfe	SF
	Geraldine Landes	SOF		Joe Sullivan	SOF
	Barbara and Art Miller	GF	Sheila Pokras	In memory of your husband, Norman	
	Ann and Gene Lentzner	SOF		Esther Albert and Jay Leff	SOF
	Binnie, Jack Berro and family	KFF	Sandra Horwitz	In memory of your husband, Jerry	
	Ann and Bill Millman	SF		Esther Albert and Jay Leff	SOF
	Linda C. Fox	GF		Sy and Reva Alban	GF
	Jean Feldman	SF		Gerda and Harold Seifer	GF
Vickie, Tracy & Leslye Orloff	In memory of your mother, Laura		Audrey Zahler	Mazel tov on the birth of Sofia Aries	
	Ann and Gene Lentzner	SOF		Helen Barrad	CSNF
	Esther Albert and Jay Leff	SOF	Ilsebill Wolfe	Best wishes for a speedy recovery	
	Joan Leb	GF		Ann and Bill Millman	CSNF
	Linda C. Fox	GF	Sylvia Manheim	In recognition of your well deserved honor from the City of Long Beach	
	Ann and Bill Millman	SF		Ann and Bill Millman	DVF
Matt & Sharon Sloan	In memory of your son, Mark		Ann Millman	In honor of the Woman of Vision award	
	Esther Albert and Jay Leff	SOF		Linda C. Fox	GF
	Elaine Warren	SOF			
Debi Felsenthal	In memory of your mother, Arlene				
	Gerda and Harold Seifer	GF			
	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

We are so delighted to welcome these new members to our affiliate.
Please greet them when you see them at our meetings and events.

Judy Blumenthal

Deborah Lewis

Sharon Coleman (previous member)

Catherine Mullins

Eileen C. Davis

Roni Shevick

Renee Florsheim

For further information check latest
issue of hard copy of Pillars or email
info@ncjwlongbeach.org.

Patricia "Trish" Goldin

Cindy M. Gotz

Amber Kemple

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

► Lobby Day, May 1-2, 2017

We traveled to Sacramento to lobby our representatives about NCJW California priority bills.



(l-r) Michelle Sztraicher, Sherri Sobel, Sharon Brannon, Senator Ricardo Lara, Marilyn Day, Sadie Sacks



Janet Rosenblatt, Sherri Sobel, Assembly
member Patrick O'Donnell, Deborah Chankin, Linda Fox



Linda Fox, Michelle Sztraicher, Senator Janet Nguyen,
Deborah Chankin, Janet Rosenblatt



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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
Corresponding Secretary	Barbara Kaplan
Financial Secretary	Ted Van Boemel
Recording Secretary	Joanne Levy
Immediate Past President	Ann Millman

Pillars is a publication of the Long Beach, California Section of the National Council of Jewish Women and is published five times a year.

▶ NCJW Long Beach Works to Help the Homeless

*By Barbara Cohen, MSW
Co-V.P. Community Service*

This past week I was able to buy enough over the counter nutrition for homeless students at both campuses of Long Beach City College to last them for quite some time. I also delivered sheets and towels to the Multi-Service Center in Long Beach, which assists homeless people. Requests from both these programs are for toiletries for homeless people taking showers. I will be collecting toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo and other toiletries. Many of us have these from hotels. Please call me when you have some and we can arrange a plan to get them. Towels are welcome as well.

For further information check latest issue of hard copy of Pillars or email info@ncjwlongbeach.org.

Please remember that we have a rather new Tribute Fund to which you can donate: the College Student Nutrition Fund. This fund helps provide over-the-counter nutrition for homeless students in need.

Postcard Deadline is the 10th of the previous month:
Newsletter Deadline is the 1st of the previous month. Send copy to Editor Harriette Ellis