

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Linda C. Fox, President



This is the month of November, a month that marks the secular holiday of Thanksgiving. We endeavor to express gratitude for the blessings we have in our lives, even the things that, as Rabbi Geoffrey A. Mitelman says, “may drive us nuts at the time.” From an email that circulated long ago the Rabbi quotes these examples:

I am thankful for the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means I have enough to eat.

I am thankful for the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means I am capable of walking.

I am thankful for the piles of laundry and ironing, because it means I have clothes to wear.

And I am thankful for the alarm that goes off in the early morning hour, because it means that I have another day in front of me.

We all are very much aware that not every moment we have in life is positive or easy. Yet, the Talmud commands Jews to say one hundred blessings daily, to be thankful for one hundred things, every day. Although this seems like a great challenge to us, the lens through which we look at the events of the day matters. As Rabbi Mitelman points out in his 2014 article “To Be a Jew Is To Give Thanks -By Definition,” there is scientific evidence that “how we view the world affects how we act in the world.” The Rabbi emphasizes: “Judaism is very much about *seeing* the holiness in this world in order to bring more holiness *into* this world.”

In this season of extra special focus on giving thanks -for our families, for health, for our friends and colleagues both in and outside of NCJW, for economic well-being, for access to things that bless us in our lives, and for the miracles associated with the month of December -, our hope is that you count NCJW Long Beach among the 100 daily blessings you enjoy. We are deeply grateful for each and every one of our members and cherish your support! If you are able to do so, consider a year-end financial contribution. Help us continue the good work NCJW does week in, week out, in our community and beyond. Find your passion, come join us and volunteer to spend a few hours in our community service and advocacy efforts. Above all, may you transform your own blessings into even more blessings for yourselves and for our world, and with open eyes and open hearts, may you possess **A Faith in the Future. A Belief in Action.**

HELP GIVE A FOSTER CHILD A HUG IN NOVEMBER!

by Lydia Pinto and Sara Millman Silva, Co-Chairs of Hug Packs



NCJW needs your help giving a hug! Imagine you are a child who has just been removed from your home and placed into foster care with nothing but the clothes on your back. Imagine how confused and scared you must be. Now imagine you are given a Hug Pack full of items to make your first few days in Foster Care more comfortable - books, toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and a stuffed animal. Imagine how this simple act of kindness could turn the worst day of your young life into one that is a little bit more bearable.

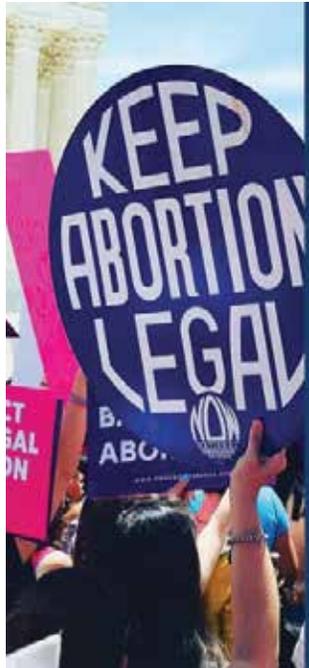
Will you please do a mitzvah for these vulnerable children? Join NCJW for our next Hug Pack packing event, November 19, 2019, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. at the Alpert JCC.

NCJW has been providing Hug Packs for seventeen years and we need your support to continue this tradition. With your help, in a mere two hours, we can prepare 150 Hug Packs! You will also get something in return: you will meet new friends, spend time with old friends, and have snacks you will love. We also need

your financial support through donations or tributes. Only \$50 will allow not one, not two, but SEVEN more children to receive a backpack full of essentials, a backpack that will remind them, when they need it the most, that people care about them and are thinking of them. RSVP to Lydia Pinto at 657-235-2511 or info@ncjwlongbeach.org

▶ PUT THIS DATE FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ON YOUR CALENDAR

by Cynthia Gordon, Co-VP Legislation and Advocacy



**PASTRY & POLITICS
LOSING ROE: WHAT
WOULD THIS MEAN FOR
CALIFORNIA?**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4,
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
ALPERT JCC
3801 E WILLOW ST, LONG BEACH**

Email info@ncjwlongbeach.org
or call (657) 235-2511
for more information

On Monday, November 4, National Council of Jewish Women Long Beach is presenting a panel of experts to talk about the issues surrounding any possible Court rulings affecting reproductive rights. We will present and discuss what the law is as it exists right now, what we may lose, what we will have left, and how access to services could be impacted. There are some rainbows among the storms, so come and share a dynamic evening with us.

OUR SPEAKERS:

Keynote speaker: Professor Michele Goodwin, a Chancellor's Professor at the University of California, Irvine, and founding director of the Center for Biotechnology and Global Health Policy

Betha Schnelle, COO of Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties

The Honorable Judge Lynne Riddle, a retired federal judge who has remained active in the pursuit of reproductive justice and who co-teaches the Reproductive Justice Clinic at the UCI School of Law

If possible, please bring feminine hygiene products for donation.

This event is being co-sponsored by: Temple Israel, Temple Beth David Sisterhood, Planned Parenthood Orange and San Bernardino Counties, and Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project Los Angeles County.

Please RSVP at info@ncjwlongbeach.org or (657) 235-2511.

▶ FOR THE CHILD TEA

by Deborah Lewis and Barbara Cohen,
Co-VPs Community Service

On Sunday, November 17th NCJW will hold its annual "For the Child Thanksgiving Tea" at the AJCC from 3 - 5 pm. Please be our guests for tea and bring food to donate to families in need of help, so that they will also be able to celebrate this holiday.

Your generous food donations are given to the agency "For the Child". Executive Director Michelle Winterstein will share with us the amazing work her agency does to help abused and neglected children and their families.

Please bring your food donations for Thanksgiving Dinner for families in need, based on your last name below:

A-H: Please bring: canned fruit, fruit juices, and/or boxed dessert (brownies/pumpkin bread)

I-R: Please bring: boxed mashed potatoes, turkey stuffing, and/or canned gravy

S-Z: Please bring: canned cranberry sauce, vegetables, and/or yams

There is no cost, but RSVPs are a must so that we can provide adequate refreshments. Please note that the event is being held on a Sunday afternoon so everyone can support and attend.

Please RSVP by November 6 to Barbara Cohen at (657) 235-2511 or by emailing info@ncjwlongbeach.org



REMINDER

Postcard deadline is the 10th of the previous month. Please send postcard information to Sharon Brannon.

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



National Council of Jewish Women
Long Beach Section

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
JEWISH WOMEN®**

LONG BEACH SECTION

Serving Greater
Long Beach and
West Orange County

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LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP 2019

by Linda C. Fox, President

It was a very busy legislative session with concrete wins on issues of concern. Despite some disappointments, overall the Governor signed many bills which advance our priorities, and the Governor's budget supported many bills as well. This could not have been possible without YOUR advocacy and that of our partners, including Stronger California Network, CA Interfaith Coalition, CAST, and California Women Lawyers, among others.

Please see below a summary of the 7 bills we lobbied for, and a note about an additional bill we supported that made history here in California by being signed into law by the Governor.

CHILDCARE:

AB 194 (Gomez Reyes) seeks to improve access to subsidized childcare by providing \$1 billion dollars to childcare services.

Status: The bill did not make it out of Assembly Appropriations Committee. However, the Governor's budget allows for 12,000 plus new vouchers (the ask was for 30,000).

SB 321 (Sen. Mitchell) A Strong Start to CalWorks would allow families first entering CalWORKS to have continuity of childcare.

Status: The bill passed both houses and is in Governor Newsom's 2019-2020 budget.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

SB 630 (Stern) gave local governments clear ability to enforce Human Trafficking Hotline poster law.

Status: The bill, which was co-sponsored by NCJW CA, was passed by both houses and was signed into law by the Governor.

AB 629 (Smith, Gonzalez) secures lost income for human trafficking survivors from the California Victim's Compensation Fund.

Status: After 7 years of advocacy on this issue, and a veto last year by Governor Brown, the bill, which was co-sponsored by NCJW CA, was passed by both houses and was signed into law by the Governor Newsom. A great win for survivors!

HEALTHCARE ACCESS:

SB 29 ((Lara and Durazo)/AB 4(Bonita, Chiu, Santiago) would provide MediCal coverage to undocumented adults who are otherwise eligible from ages 19-25, and seniors over 65 years.

Status: The bill passed and was amended to expand coverage only to undocumented young adults ages 19-25. The Governor's budget includes funds to do so.

PAID FAMILY LEAVE:

SB 135 (Jackson) extends job protection to workers who take such leave at businesses with 5 or more employees.

Status: The bill did not make it to the Governor's desk.

ENDING CHILDHOOD POVERTY:

AB 24 (Gonzalez and Burke) provides for targeted child tax credit to help low income families.

Status: The bill did not make it to the Governor's desk.

ABORTION ACCESS (not among our priority bills in May but supported)

Status: Signed by Governor

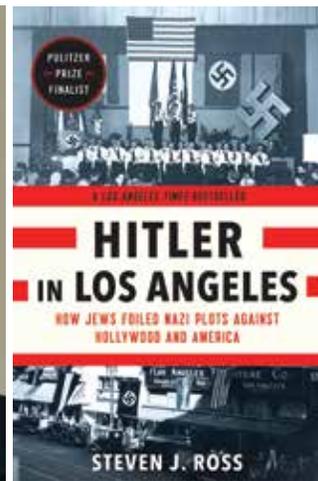
SB 24 (Leyva) College Student Right to Access Act provides access to abortion by medication techniques to students at all UC and CSU campuses and requires the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls to administer the new College Student Health Center Sexual and Reproductive Health Preparation Fund. This means that after Jan. 1, 2023 students will not be forced to seek this care off campus or to navigate unnecessary barriers or delays.

▶ YOU'LL WANT TO READ THIS ONE!

By Sharon Brannon, Co-VP Programs

We are thrilled to announce the Shirley Stein Book Review for January 2020. Dr. Steven J. Ross, Professor of History at USC, will present a discussion of his book, *Hitler in Los Angeles: How Jews Foiled Nazi Plots Against Hollywood and America*. Dr. Ross, a finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in History, tells the little known story of the rise of Nazism in Los Angeles, and the Jewish leaders and spies they recruited who stopped it.

This extremely interesting event, a joint meeting with Sharon-Carmel Hadassah, will take place on January 14, 2020 at the The Grand. It will begin at 10:30a.m. with coffee and a short business meeting. The presentation, lunch and a book signing will follow. Please RSVP by sending your check for \$40.00 to NCJW at 3801 E. Willow St. Long Beach 90815. Hope to see you there! For more information call 657-235-2511 or email info@ncjwlongbeach.org.



▶ VOTER REGISTRATION

by Deborah Chankin & Janet Rosenblatt,
Co-Chairs Voting and Elections

As you read this, the 2020 General Election is one year away. Our California Primary is 4 months away, less if we include 10 days of early voting.

We organized our first voter registration push when school opened at the end of August. Thirteen volunteers attended orientation sessions. Twelve volunteers registered 45 voters at 4 community college campuses during the early weeks of the semester: Long Beach CC Liberal Arts Campus, Long Beach CC Pacific Coast Campus, Golden West in Huntington Beach and Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. Two volunteers joined with our friends from Gray Panthers and League of Women Voters to assist at CSULB on Sept. 24, National Voter Registration Day. A BIG THANK YOU to all of our wonderful volunteers.

As always, the conversations we had were as important and interesting as the actual registration process. We discussed why voting matters but it was not such a hard sell as it was 3 years ago. We explained how the Presidential primary works, when the election will be, why you would or wouldn't want to choose a political party and so on. We helped a first time voter register to vote San Bernardino County. We explained the registration options to a student from northern California. And for the first time this year we fielded questions from convicted felons about their voting rights. (No, we don't have all the answers but we learned where to refer them.)

At least 3 of our members and 4 of our friends were among the 5,800 participants in the LA County Mock Election. If you participated, we'd love to hear from you too. Please contact Deborah Chankin or Janet Rosenblatt with your feedback so we can share your experiences.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

▶ WE SAY THANK YOU TO DONORS FOR THE CHAI CAMPAIGN

By Bobbi Horowitz, VP Resource Development

Thanks to the donors for the generous contributions to our Annual Life Member Chai Campaign. Your donations help to turn our progressive ideals into action.

Susie Amster
Rosalind Bassin
Binnie Berro
Miriam Carr
Tila Carrol
Marilyn Day
Harriette Ellis
Linda Fox
Michelle Gordon
Dawn Haldane
Geraldine Landes
Joan Leb

Judith Leff
Deborah Lelchuk
Joanne Levy
Judy Lorber
Shirley Ross
Barbara Shoag
Arlene Spatz
Dale Strok
Elaine Warren
Cheryl Waterman
Barbara Wolfe
Ilsebill Wolfe

It is not too late to make a donation to this campaign. Our work at the Long Beach section is more important than ever as we continue to help women, children and families through community service projects and advocacy. This year, we will be registering voters, providing nutrition to college students suffering from food insecurity, supplying essential items to children entering the foster care system, and advocating for immigrant justice, human trafficking victims, and access to reproductive health care.

With your help we can become an ever more powerful voice.

Please make your check payable to NCJW Long Beach, 3801 E. Willow Street, Long Beach, CA 90815.

Thank you for your continued commitment to NCJW Long Beach.

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

Leanne Clark
 Harriet Einhorn
 Janice Nishiyama
 Laurie Pearlman
 Robin Schafer

Mary Schewatz
 Joy Sigmond Rubin
 Nita N. Scott
 Naomi Steinfeld
 Rita Vanlierop



Scholarships announced at Membership Brunch



▶ CELEBRATE CHANUKAH!

By Lisa Raufman and Sharon Brannon,
 Co-VPs Programs

Diane Merrick has again offered her lovely home to socialize and celebrate Chanukah with a popular potluck brunch on December 15. Please plan on arriving at 10:30am Diane has requested that you RSVP at info@ncjwlongbeach.org or (657) 235-2511 to let her know what delicious contribution you are going to bring. We are also asking for unwrapped new children's toys to give to "For the Child" organization.

For the first time, we will be showing and selling specially designed for NCJW "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" Pendants and Pins. Local Long Beach designer, Vivian Shimoyama, has previously created original jewelry for such luminaries as Madeleine Albright and Lucy Ledbetter. We are very fortunate to have had her design some lovely pieces which we will be offering for sale for the first time at the Chanukah Brunch.

We always have so much fun getting together and visiting. We welcome prospective members; feel free to bring a friend!



SAVE THE DATE!

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2: AJCC Gala Honoring Barbara Alpert and the Alpert Family

Nov. 4: Pastry & Politics: Reproductive Rights
 7:00pm, AJCC

Nov. 6 - 10: Long Beach Jewish Film Festival, AJCC

Nov. 17: Thanksgiving Tea For the Child
 3:00 - 5:00pm, AJCC

Nov. 19: Hug Packing (middle school foster children)
 6:00 - 8:00pm, AJCC

DECEMBER

Dec. 15: Chanukah Pot Luck
 10:30am, Home of Diane Merrick

Dec. 23-30: CHANUKAH

JANUARY 2020

Jan 14: Shirley Stein Book Review
 10:30am, The Grand

CARING CORNER by Harriette Ellis

NCJW Long Beach sends get well wishes:

Bobbi Horowitz who had foot surgery which kept her off her feet for several weeks.

Barbara Millman who is recovering from surgery.

Louise Sperr recently hospitalized but now recovering from a bout of Pneumonia.

Ted Van Boemel: Speedy recovery

Harriette Ellis: Feel better soon

Jean Feldman: Thinking of you

Congratulations to **Shelley Carl** for receiving the annual Ha'Yay Olam service award from Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood

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 (657) 235-2511. NCJW wants to know!

NCJW MEMBERS SUPPORT FUNDRAISER FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS



NCJW members attend fundraising dinner for our partner Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition with Honoree State Senator Lena Gonzalez.



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 the Speizer Family,
In memory of Nancy
From Roz Bassin, HP**

**To the Speizer Family,
In memory of Nancy
From Ilsebill Wolfe, GF**

**To Ted Van Boemel,
In memory of your son
From Ilsebill Wolfe, GF**

**To the Sobel/Meyers Family
In honor of your grandson's Bar Mitzvah
from Roz and Ned Bassin, HP**

Don't forget to call or email Barbara to remember or congratulate friends with a Tribute card and support NCJW projects or make a Tribute online at www.ncjwlongbeach.org!

PLEASE SEND YOUR TRIBUTES TO BARBARA MILLMAN.

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



REMEMBER NCJW WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS AND CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

by Dawn Haldane, Treasurer

If you are over 70-1/2, you may now have to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from your investment accounts. These distributions, from deferred income and investment earnings over the years, were never taxed. However, when the funds are withdrawn to meet the required minimum distribution, these distributions now represent taxable income to you.

One way to minimize your potential tax impact is to make a donation to NCJW Long Beach, as we are a 501 (c3) organization. The money you donate reduces your taxable income.

Kindly consider us as you plan your year-end giving. Our mission is based on social justice, as we strive to improve the quality of life for women, children and families, and work to safeguard individual rights and freedoms. Your contribution will help us continue our efforts to advance NCJW's progressive agenda.