

▶ FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Linda C. Fox, President



Resonating in my thoughts recently is the famous saying of Rabbi Hillel. "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?" Given the state of the world in which we exist today, so much healing of all kinds is needed. I have been thinking about courage, and the lack thereof. What courage it takes to stand up, step up and speak out when we see injustice, then and now! A verse in Ella's Song, composed by Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, one of the founders of Sweet Honey in the Rock, the vibrant, ever-relevant African- American musical ensemble, keeps repeating in my brain: "We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes." (<https://youtu.be/S2T216XgiO0>). This call to ethical action, composed to honor Ella Baker, an African-American civil rights and human rights activist, is similar to Rabbi Hillel's profound declaration. Both can be applied to circumstances in historical times as well as our own.

Contemplating Purim and Passover, upcoming Jewish holidays in March and April, I cannot but be moved by the courage of a Queen Esther who, unsummoned by King Ahasuerus, appears before him. She speaks for the salvation of her fellow Jews in Shushan, despite knowing that she might incur the wrath of the King, with unknown personal dire consequences. To those of us who celebrate the story of Purim, remember Queen Vashti? And in Queen Esther's case, there is significant danger in revealing to the King that she is a Jew.

Courage is found also in the story of Passover. Moses, a reluctant leader, at first balked at being divinely chosen to confront the Egyptian Pharaoh, yet ultimately found the courage to bring the Israelites out of Egypt, out of bondage towards freedom. We may not have to take the lead like Queen Esther and Moses, but we can and must find the courage to join in the pursuit of justice. We are commanded *tzedek, tzedek, tirdof*. Justice, justice, shall you pursue. One verse of Ella's Song says, "I need to be one in the number as we stand against tyranny."

National Council of Jewish Women members persist in seeking social justice together: supporting early childhood education and foster youth; advocating for those experiencing homelessness; advocating for refugees, immigrants, and human trafficking victims; protecting reproductive rights and justice; and providing voter education and registration.

Speaking of the right to vote, help us and the Suffrage 100 volunteers celebrate the centennial year anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote (see the article on the presentation of the Suffrage Salon on March 15). NCJW is deeply aware that some still experience disenfranchisement and face obstacles in exercising the right to vote. But do join us on March 15 at 7:00 pm as we celebrate this watershed moment in 1920 for American women. And most importantly, exercise YOUR right to vote on March 3 and next November.

Freedom is certainly not attained in a day, or in forty years in the desert, a reality that circles back in my head to the refrain "We who believe in freedom cannot rest..." I find synergy between NCJW's mission and the following creed by Sweet Honey in the Rock (<https://youtu.be/S2T216XgiO0>):

**In prayer we trust
By hope we live
On truth we stand
From our hearts we give
LOVE.**

► BE IT RESOLVED! VOTES FOR WOMEN!

By Lisa Raufman and Sharon Brannon, Co-VPs Programs

You are invited to attend a rollicking evening of historical protest songs and impassioned pleas and readings for women's right to vote! Come hear Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, Harry Burn and many more celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution. Long Beach NCJW is participating in the city-wide year-long commemoration of the passage of voting rights for women. Come to the **SUFFRAGE SALON, Sunday, March 15, 2020 7-9 p.m.** at the AJCC. The first 100 people registering at the event will receive a Susan B. Anthony \$1 coin! This event is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend. A donation of \$10-20 is recommended, but not required.

The program will begin *promptly at 7:00 PM* with a brief meeting in the multipurpose room *for members of NCJW Long Beach Section* to vote on the slate of officers for 2020/21. Registration and refreshments will be available. The performance will take place in the Lipeles Auditorium from 7:30p.m. to 9:00p.m.

Lisa Raufman, Co-VP Programs, is the NCJW liason with the Centennial Circle of Women, the planning committee for the series of events in Long Beach to commemorate the passage of women's right to vote. The group, which includes teachers, researchers, performers and artists, is creating extraordinary activities to educate everyone on the struggles for the right to vote, especially the role of Long Beach.

This year of remembrance will conclude on **National Women's Equality Day, August 26, 2020** with a finale celebration at the Long Beach Historical Society. Then one hundred Long Beach women will be recognized for their pioneering roles in the advancement of Long Beach. Recognition nominations and applications will be available at this event and can also be found on Facebook at #LBSuffrage100 and <https://lbsuffrage100.com/seeking-100-women/>

We recognize that the signing of the 19th Amendment did not make the vote available to all women. Today voting still remains out of reach to many. In the midst of voter suppression we are not just celebrating the vote but also drawing attention to the importance of guaranteed access. With support from the City, the Centennial Circle of Women seeks to increase civic engagement and raise awareness about the history of Women's Right to Vote. Two other Centennial Celebrations during March include:

- Tuesday, March 10, the L.B. City Council meeting will recognize outstanding women from each District
- Saturday, March 14 at the Art Theatre 11am: Suffrage Film Fest presents, Toni Morrison, The Pieces I Am

For more Centennial Celebrations, go to Facebook: #LBSuffrage100



► READY, SET, GO - OFF TO CONVENTION 2020

by Linda C. Fox, President

NCJW Long Beach Section now has its five official voting delegates who will be representing us and attending this year's educational and exciting event! Convention 2020: Jewish Feminisms: Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future, in Chicago, IL. at the Westin Chicago River North—Marriott from April 23-25, is open for registration. Your NCJW Long Beach Section delegates are Sharon Brannon, Linda C. Fox, Cynthia Gordon, Barbara Shipnuck, and Sherri Sobel.

There are always very inspiring speakers. So far we know that one of them will be Tina Tchen, the CEO of Time's Up. Ms. Tchen is a former assistant to President Obama, executive director of the White House Council on Women and Girls, and chief of staff to First Lady Michelle Obama. Tina has worked for decades to advance gender equality, particularly for working women. At the White House, Tina spearheaded the first-ever White House Summit on Working Families and helped form the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. Prior to taking the helm at TIME'S UP, Tina was a lawyer specializing in workplace culture, advising companies on gender inequity, sexual harassment, and diversity. She has served on numerous strategic advisory boards for organizations, businesses, and nonprofits, including the United State of Women, which she continues to co-chair.

There will be over 20 workshops where we will learn new ideas, explore issues, and discuss strategies. There will be sessions devoted to shaping NCJW's path forward as we vote to revise our national bylaws and resolutions for 2020-2023, and we will hear from our new CEO, Sheila Katz. There will be a pre-convention presidents' training by invitation only on April 22 as well.

If you are interested in attending, check out www.ncjw.org and click on the top bar that says convention. Registration is open until April 5, but the discounted hotel rate ends March 30. Registration is \$600 for the full conference (April 23-25), and \$450 for the Shabbat experience only (April 24-25). Hotel and airfare are at additional cost. At the website you will find all the information you need to register, but should you decide to accompany the Long Beach delegation, please let us know at info@ncjwlongbeach.org or call 657-235-2511.



National Council of Jewish Women
Long Beach Section

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN® LONG BEACH SECTION

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Long Beach and
West Orange County

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NCJW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Linda C. Fox

EXECUTIVE VP
Joanne Levy
Sherri Sobel

VP LEGISLATION & ADVOCACY
Barbara Shipnuck
Cynthia Gordon

VP RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
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VP MEMBERSHIP
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VP PROGRAMS
Sharon Brannon
Lisa Raufman

TREASURER
Dawn Haldane

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Barbara Millman

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Judith Leff

RECORDING SECRETARY
Deborah Lechuk

▶ SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2020/21

By Deb Lechuk, Chair of the Nominations Committee

Deb Lechuk, Chair of the Nominations Committee, has announced the proposed slate of Officers for the 2020/21 NCJW year. The slate will be voted upon by the membership at the Suffrage Salon at the AJCC at 7 p.m. on March 15. Much appreciation to the members of the Nominations Committee: Sharon Brannon, Deborah Chankin, Chana Ham-Roderick and Barbara Shoag.

2020/21 POSITION

PRESIDENT	Barbara Shipnuck
EXEC VP	Joanne Levy
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Linda C. Fox
VP COMMUNICATIONS	Ann Millman, Dale Strok
VP RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	Deborah Lewis, Jan Simon
VP LEGISLATION AND ADVOCACY	Cynthia Gordon, Deb Lechuk
VP PROGRAMS	Sharon Brannon, Lisa Raufman
VP MEMBERSHIP	Michelle Sztraicher, Natalie Swit
VP COMMUNITY SERVICE	Deborah Kaplan-Wyckoff
TREASURER	Dawn Haldane
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Judy Leff
RECORDING SECRETARY	Maria Osorio
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Barbara Millman

▶ VISITING OUR REPRESENTATIVES AT HOME

by Sara Millman Silva

In December, CA Senate District 34 residents Barbara Shipnuck, Barbara Millman and Sara Millman Silva, had the opportunity to visit with Ca Senator Bradford's Chief of Staff to share the advocacy agenda of NCJW and hear about Senator Bradford's initiatives and areas of interest. This was the first meeting between Senator Bradford and NCJW and our advocacy efforts align nicely. Bradford's legislative agenda for 2019-20 include: Financially Empowering Californians, Fair Housing and Employment, Workman's Compensation, and Improving Access for Diverse Students to the UC system. Our hope is that Senator Bradford will continue to advocate for issues/causes of priority of NCJW.

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

Helene Halperin

Nicolle Lubman

Yvonne Levy

Lucy Frances Stone

Cynthia Levy

Roberta Bell

Flo Pickett

Jared Goldin

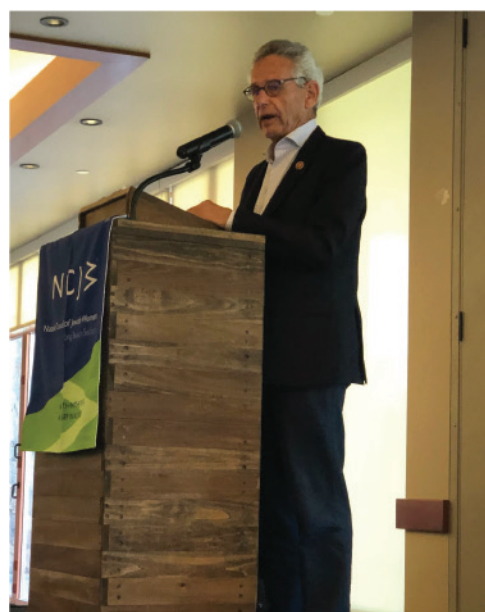
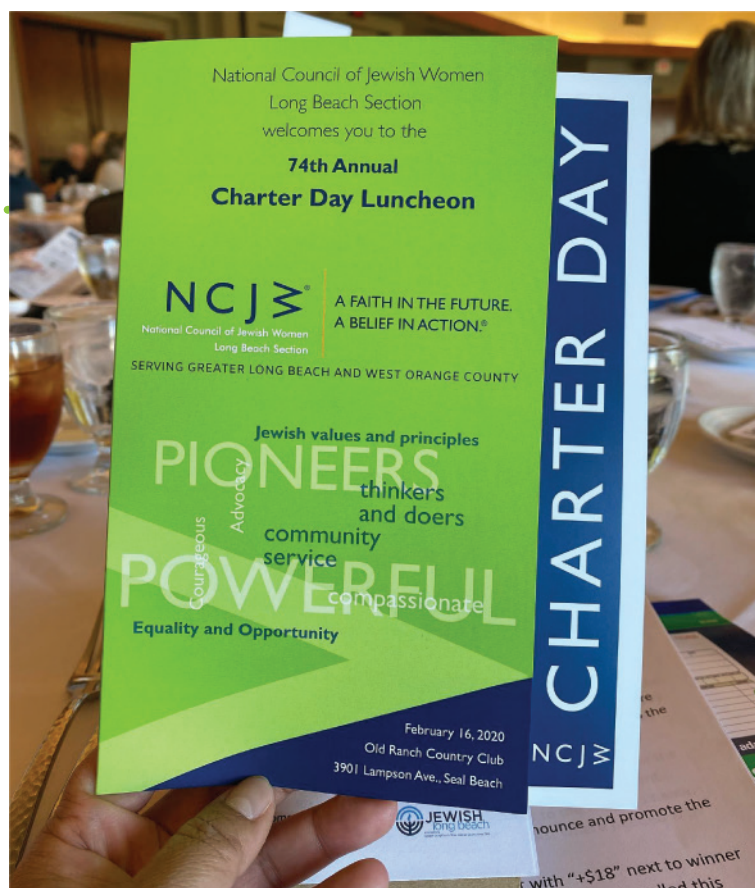
▶ 74TH ANNUAL CHARTER DAY

On Sunday, February 16, 2020 we celebrated our 74th Charter Day which commemorated the founding of the Long Beach Section of the National Council of Jewish Women.

The program opened with a presentation by the Jewish Women's Theatre of Los Angeles. The group, now in its 12th season, seeks, develops, and adapts stories celebrating a diverse Jewish population, regardless of generation, observance, ethnicity or gender identification. They performed "The Way Home", a unique theatrical experience exploring the power of home through a compelling and funny story.

And we honored Congressman Alan Lowenthal with the Hannah G. Solomon Award for his many contributions to the community, the state, and the nation.

Great appreciation goes to the Co-Chairs/Co-VPs of Programs Sharon Brannon and Lisa Raufman and their hard-working committee for making this event such an enjoyable and successful one!



JUDGES AND VOTERS TURN OUT TO TALK

by Deborah Chankin, Co-Chair Voting and Elections

Our January 29 Pastry and Politics brought together a diverse panel of Superior Court Judges and an audience of about 80. Cantor Hass from event co-sponsor and host Temple Israel of Long Beach opened with a few words of Jewish learning reminding us of the important role of judges going back to the time of Moses as our people moved from slavery in Egypt to self-governance as recounted in our Jewish Bible.

Our judges described their election or appointment to the bench and helped us understand how it all works.

Some key points: HOW IT WORKS

California trial courts are called Superior Court and organized by County (no more Municipal Court.) Los Angeles County is the largest with over 500 judges.

Within their County, judges may be assigned to any courthouse and any area of the law. There is mandatory training held for all California new judges and for judges beginning a specialized assignment.

California judges serve an unlimited number of 6 year terms. When a judicial office is vacated mid-term or when newly created it is filled by the Governor.

When a judicial office is vacated at the end of a term, it is called an "open seat" and filled by election. Only lawyers with 10 years' experience may run for judicial office. Even if there is only one candidate, each open seat appears on our ballot.

If a judge files for re-election, others may file to run against them. If no one files to run against them, they do not appear on our ballot.

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Even our judges do not have an easy time deciding who to vote for.

They do rely on:

- * Recommendations from persons who personally know or have worked with the candidate.
- * Ratings by the local bar association.
- * Newspaper articles and editorials.

They do read information provided by the candidate, but they keep in mind it is information provided by the candidate. This may include information in the ballot book, candidate websites, and direct mail. It may also include websites such as Voter's Edge which publishes candidates' answers to questions posed by the League of Women Voters.

They do read the fine print to understand who paid for the mail that arrives in their mail box.

And then, like the rest of us they have to decide. Because it really matters.



L to R: Hon. D. Zeke Zeidler, Hon. Maria Puente-Porras, Hon. Patrick Madden, NCJW Exec. VP Sherri Sobel, and Deborah NCJW co-chair for Voting and Elections. Sherri and Deborah chaired and moderated the event.

SAVE THE DATE

March 3	Primary election DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!
March 5	Arlene Solomon Visions Dinner , AJCC 5:30 p.m. <i>Support our NCJW Woman of Vision Sherri Sobel.</i>
March 11	Purim Senior Lunch, AJCC Volunteers still needed.
March 15	Suffrage Salon and NCJW Long Beach 2020-2021 Election, 7:00 PM
April 8	First Seder for Passover
April 23-25	NCJW National Convention Chicago
May 3	JFCS Race With A View Registration Volunteers wanted.
May 5	Hug Packing for K-2nd grades, AJCC 6:00 p.m. All welcome to help!
May 7	NCJW Installation of Officers for 2020/21 Time and place to be announced.
May 19-20	California NCJW Lobby Day, Sacramento. Think about visiting your legislators.
June 1	Shavuot Brunch and White Elephant Auction. Home of Judy Leff Start saving items now for which someone would pay at least \$20.

▶ **CALLING NCJW VOLUNTEERS AND HAMANTASCHEN NOSHERS FOR THE COMMUNITY PURIM CARNIVAL!**

by Linda C. Fox, President and Michelle Sztraicher, Co-VP Membership

NCJW Long Beach's Membership will have an organizational table at the Community Purim Carnival at the Alpert JCC on Sunday, March 8 from 11:30 am – 3 pm and needs several volunteers to help Co-VP of Membership Michelle Sztraicher highlight our community service work such as Kindergarten Festivals and HugPacks and our informative advocacy-related programs and activities at this outreach activity. NCJW Board members Linda Fox and Barbara Millman will also help at the ticket booth selling tickets for games. Four energetic members are needed who would like to enjoy the delicious lunch food and hamantaschen for sale at the Carnival and who would help Michelle, Linda and Barbara. There will be two shifts: 11:30 am -1:15pm and 1:15pm -3pm., so come and nosh before or after your shift of choice! Let us know by calling 657-235-2511 or email info@ncjwlongbeach.org.



▶ **CARING CORNER**

by Harriette Ellis, Chair Caring Corner

NCJW sends deepest sympathy to:

The family of **Frieda Rapaport Caplan**, who passed away in December. Frieda became known as the "Kiwi Queen," since she was known famously around the food world for bringing the delicious fruit along with many other exotic fruits to the U.S. market.

The family of **Thelma Teitel**, who passed away this month and was a longtime member of NCJW. In earlier days she was a very active member holding several offices.

The family of **Gene Lentzner**, who passed away on February 2 after a long and debilitating illness. Gene has been a member of NCJW for many years and one of our few male members. We, along with our community, were the grateful recipients of his experience and generosity. He leaves his wife, Ann, also an NCJW longtime member, two sons and a daughter-in-law, Nancy, and several grandchildren.

Condolences to the family of **June Rubin**, a well-loved life member who passed away in late December: husband Herman and sons Larry, Rick, and Steven, and her 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. She will be missed.

Condolences to sons Howard and Rob of life member **Sid Schulman**, who passed away in February, and to his grandchildren. We remember his beloved wife, Phyllis Schulman (z'l"), his brother Arnold Schulman (z'l"), and his sister, Dorothy Samuel (z'l").

If you know of any of our members who are ill, or have passed away, or of awards, honors, or special celebrations, to Harriette Ellis at info@ncjwlongbeach.org. NCJW wants to know!

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.

▶ **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 Sherri Sobel

In honor of being NCJW Long Beach Woman of Vision. Well deserved!

From Deborah Lelchuk (DV)

To the Lentzner Family

In memory of Gene

From Barbara Millman (SF)

To the Kreindel Family

In memory of Ada

From the book club (DVF)

To Trish and Jared Goldin

On the birth of their first precious granddaughter

From Dale Strok (GF)

In generous support of the HugPacks Project

From: Binnie and Jack Berro (HPF)

In generous support of the College Student Nutrition Fund and the General Fund

From: Barbara Cohen (CSNF and GF)

PLEASE SEND YOUR TRIBUTES TO BARBARA MILLMAN OR MAKE A TRIBUTE ONLINE.

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

