

ANNUAL REPORT INSTALLATION JUNE 1, 2020

NCJW began the planning process at our Retreat held in June 2019 at Compton Youth Build with a theme of Learn. Connect. Imagine. Do. Those of us who participated will not soon forget the scintillating icebreaker discussion on how we place the roll. Who would have thought that in March 2020 we would be scavengers who searched for a supply (no matter how we put it on the roll!)? We certainly have learned, connected, done, and the current situation has caused us to imagine new ways to reach our goals. We Will Hear and We Will Do, our Shavuot theme today, characterizes what leadership in NCJW Long Beach has been all about.

Activities began our 2019-2020 year with NCJW Long Beach cosponsoring an event organized by the Orange County Jewish Coalition for Refugees in celebration of World Refugee Day on June 30. Fueled by our desire to expand our activities into West Orange County, our organization subsequently became a coalition member. (Note: we currently have representatives on no less than 10 coalition boards in greater Long Beach and West Orange County, and we work with many other partners as well -connect we have indeed!) July rallies protesting the separation of families at detention centers at our southern border and advocating for their closing, and participating in a Planned Parenthood rally in support of reproductive choice and justice -both in Orange County locations - were followed by an August Hug Packing led by co-chairs Lydia Pinto and Sara Millman Silva at the Alpert JCC, the first in our annual community service series of 4 Hug Packings for students taken into the foster care system. At the end of August, co-chairs for voting and elections Deborah Chankin and Janet Rosenblatt got our registration efforts rolling and throughout September registered 45 new voters at 4 community college campuses and participated in National Voter Registration day, Sept. 24, at CSU Long Beach.

September also featured two events: on Sept. 5, the first of the series Pastry and Politics of advocacy-sponsored programs which inform about issues and point to ways to become involved, had the topic Sex Trafficking in Long Beach organized by Co-VP of Legislation and

Advocacy Barbara Shipnuck and Trafficking chair Diana Marder with support by member Chana Rose-Hambrock. This panel included a juvenile court judge, a police detective from the Trafficking Division, a provider of resources to victims, and a former victim and now victim advocate, who educated us from their particular perspectives.

And...A different sort of Membership event in September planned by our Co-VPs of Membership Natalie Swit and Michelle Sztraicher delighted the attendees of Sing Shalom, with its sing-along led by Cantor Nancy Linder of Beth David who entertained us with Jewish classics and Broadway tunes. We heard from one of our 4 scholarship recipients, Taryn Williams, whose story had us all amazed, as well as Member Laurel Perry, whose daughter Sophia was also among the recipients.

At the beginning of October Jeanne Halliday offered Project Shabbat at Bixby Towers with a high holiday theme, and at the end of the month thanks to the leadership of Judy Lorber and Judy Leff, a relaxing and fun Game Day was held at Sea Cliff Country Club. In the middle of the month many members of NCJW Long Beach saluted the work of our coalition partner, the Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition at their annual Fundraiser Dinner.

The second Pastry and Politics meeting of our year, led by Co-VPS Cynthia Gordon and Barbara Shipnuck and Executive VP Sherri Sobel, kicked off the month of Nov. with a stellar panel of speakers hailing from UCI and Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties on Reproductive Rights, Health, and Justice. On Nov. 17 Community Service's Co-VPs Barbara Cohen and Deb Lewis presented the For the Child Tea, collecting foodstuffs to make Thanksgiving a bit brighter for that agency's families in need of help (serving abused and neglected children). Our second Hug Packing, this time for middle school foster children, was held on Nov. 19.

On December 15 our Chanukah potluck celebration, organized by our Program CoVPs Sharon Brannon and Lisa Raufman at our member Diane Merrick's beautiful home, was as always a festive event with good food, great company, and a toy collection for the children served by For the Child. And Bobbi Horowitz, Resource Development VP, supported by Executive VP Joanne Levy, brought for sale the beautiful and unique "Break the Ceiling" pins and pendants designed for NCJW Long Beach by artist Vivian Shimoyama, which we continue to make available for purchase. NCJW also adopted two families through Jewish Family and Children's Service and prepared holiday baskets for them, thanks to the efforts of our shopping maven, Jeanne Halliday.

In January our Program Co-VPs Sharon Brannon and Lisa Raufman arranged a most interesting and well attended Shirley Stein Book Review, our joint program with Sharon-Carmel Hadassah, that featured History Professor Steven J. Ross of USC and his Pulitzer-nominated book, Hitler in Los Angeles. How Jews Foiled Nazi Plots Against Hollywood and America. NCJW Long Beach provided sign in and information table support as well as backpacks for the first of our three Kindergarten Festivals on January 11, followed by two more in February. January is Trafficking Awareness month, and NCJW members joined in the long-standing outreach poster project and also staffed the sign in and information table for our coalition partner, the Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force's 5th Annual Youth Empowerment Safety Symposium on Jan. 25. On January 29, NCJW Long Beach's Sherri Sobel and Deborah Chankin, along with cosponsor Temple Israel, presented a very well attended Pastry and Politics event featuring a diverse panel of Superior Court judges, who explained how the system works with respect to appointment and elections of California judges.

February began with our third HugPacks session at which we prepared packs for foster children in 3rd to 5th grades. And the month of February marks the month of our Charter as a Section of NCJW; this year we celebrated 74 years on February 16! An enjoyable and successful Charter Day luncheon took a small village to plan and execute: thanks go to the CO-VPS of Program Sharon Brannon and Lisa Raufman, the VP of Resource Development Bobbi Horowitz, our Treasurer Dawn Haldane, our Membership Co-VPs Natalie Swit and Michelle Sztraicher, and ALL of the incredible volunteers who made the event one of our very best. Congressman Alan Lowenthal was honored with the Hannah G. Solomon Award and we were movingly entertained by members of the Jewish Women's Theatre of Los Angeles. To cap off the month, Membership, Legislation and Advocacy and Community Service joined forces on February 27 to present "A Housewarming for the Homeless," where we learned about the situation in the Long Beach area, made blankets to donate, and collected what you see on the screen for the Multi Service Center, which some members visited the day after.

Before the COVID 19 Safer at Home mandate was declared, we celebrated Sherri Sobel on March 5 as our Woman of Vision 2020 for her efforts that energized a now vibrant Advocacy Committee. We volunteered at the Alpert JCC Purim carnival by selling tickets and by staffing an organization table, and Jeanne Halliday once again created and delivered Shalach Manot baskets to under the weather members. Through the efforts of Community Service we again provided the Purim Senior Lunch at the AJCC. Lisa Raufman and I staffed a table for the Long Beach Women's History Month celebration on March 10. And then...

COVID 19 waylaid our in-person programs for March through June. However, with ingenuity and IMAGINATION – along with Co VP of Electronic Communication Dale Strok’s willingness to enhance her electronic skills and become our zoom guru – we have begun to plan how we can proceed to make a difference in these uncertain times. We KNOW it can be done:

COVID -19 didn’t stop NCJW CA from its annual Lobby Day on May 19, which was held virtually with speakers who trained the 90 attendees on the bills they would lobby for.

Long Beach had a significant contingent of advocates attending, many of whom had roles in afternoon zoom visits or conference calls with four of our area legislators or their staff members.

Installation – virtual or not – celebrates what we have accomplished in the past year and looks forward to the incoming board under the leadership of our incoming president, Barbara Shipnuck. This past year, we were fortunate to have attracted 26 new members, thanks to our Membership Co-VPs, making the loss of key supporters of our Section, among them Barbara Alpert, Frieda Caplan, and Gene Lenzner, just slightly easier to bear. A hearty mazal tov to our Section, with three new Board members for the upcoming year. And none of what we were able to accomplish this year could have been done without the steadfast and excellent work of our Treasurer, Dawn Haldane, our Co-VPs of Communication, Ann Millman and Dale Strok, as well as the work of our accomplished and reliable independent contractors Sue Reveche, Michelle Techau, and Carolyn Yamaoka. And a big thank you to ALL our volunteers and advocates because we could not do anything-without YOU!

As I become immediate past president (for the second time!), I am so very proud to be a member of this organization that with so much heart helps to heal the world and is, as National has called us, “an example of what NCJW strives to be” when they approved our request to give significant financial help to 5 of our community partners with “boots on the ground” during the COVID 19 pandemic. Our National motto has never been more meaningful: A Faith in the Future. A Belief in Action.

Linda C. Fox, President 2018-2020