

► NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Barbara Shipnuck, President



As you read this we will all be awaiting the final outcome of our election. This exercise in democracy, that we enjoy and cherish, brings with it a responsibility for participation that NCJW has accepted for over 125 years. NCJW Greater Long Beach and West Orange County has more than risen to the challenge by providing information, programs and opportunities to volunteer for our members. We joined with other Sections in California and across the country, to work with Vote Forward. Over 40 members wrote over 1,000 letters to low propensity voters to encourage them to vote. Another group of volunteers called every Section member to remind them to "make a plan" and vote in whatever manner felt best and safest for them. Deb Chankin and Janet Rosenblatt deserve kudos for their leadership in these efforts.

We dedicated much of our activity to the memory of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and held a memorial gathering. We were led by Rabbi Heidi Cohen and seven members read from Justice Ginsburg's writings and opinions. We closed with a song and with each of the participants making a commitment in the "Chat". As impersonal as zoom sometimes feels, it really brought us all together on that day. If you missed the gathering you can watch the recording and renew your spirit.

Our section also continues to engage members in a variety of new ways. We held a discussion group devoted to the issue of "Voter Suppression", and shared our insights and experiences. We watched movies, on our own time, but joined together to review them, and held our first ever Bingo game, put together by Janis Simon and Deb Lewis. We look forward to these events continuing and in the coming months celebrating Thanksgiving and Chanukah. I would welcome any of your thoughts on other ways in which we might engage you.

Many of us miss the opportunity to get together for a hands-on experience on a community service project. I want to assure you that our commitment to the community remains strong, even with that void. We continue to work with our partner agencies and have made donations to Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition, Jewish Family and Children's Services and Orange County Coalition for Refugees. And one HugPacks packing for K-2nd graders was concluded.

As we move toward Thanksgiving, I hope you, your family and friends enjoy good health, peace of mind and spirit. With the stresses and strains around us we must all come together in the spirit of Tikkun Olam-to repair the world.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Norma Chinchilla
Valerie Condon
Andrea Ealey
Joanne Kaabar
Nancy Levy
Helene Miller
Janet Neuenschwander
Michele Samit
Louisa Shipnuck

► MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

by Natalie Swit and Michelle Sztraicher, Co-VPs Membership

In the last issue of Pillars, Section members were reminded about the importance of renewal of annual dues. We are pleased to report that our section has an almost 100% renewal rate. By renewing annual dues, members continue to show their support for NCJW's mission – working on behalf of women, children, and families. Other opportunities for encouraging membership are gift memberships and sustaining memberships, i.e., you choose the monthly amount you want to pay to support your NCJW Section. And you, our fabulous members, are taking advantage of those opportunities and we thank you. As you may know, we have moved to more and more online communications. You should be receiving a thank you letter which also includes our new "Involvement Opportunities" form. The purpose of this form is to learn more about you, and for you to tell us where your interests may lie, whether it be advocacy, resource development, community service or programming. Please complete the form and return it to NCJW – Attn: Membership, 6216 E. Pacific Coast Highway, #239, Long Beach, CA 90803. We will make sure you are connected to the Vice Presidents for these committees and you, too, can become more involved with your NCJW section. **If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: info@ncjwlongbeach.org.** Best wishes for a safe and healthy Thanksgiving and Happy Hanukkah.

▶ **RBG MEMORIAL**

by Deb Lelchuk, Co-VP Legislation and Advocacy

We all know that on the morning of Erev Rosh Hashanah, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away. Many of us struggled with how to mourn and grieve amongst the partisan rhetoric that began bouncing around our newsfeeds.

NCJW, Inc. created a new website, www.courtsmatter.org, and #RuthsRevolution to be a clearinghouse for our progressive activism to “continue Justice Ginsburg’s legacy by advocating for a fair, independent, and qualified judiciary.” One item in Ruth’s Revolution was a plan to Circle the Courthouse on Friday October 20 as a symbolic end to Shiva, as well as a shout-out regarding the judiciary.

On Wednesday, September 30, members of the Advocacy Committee met with President Barbara Shipnuck to discuss what the response of NCJW Greater Long Beach and West Orange County would be to National’s campaign.

And on the morning of Friday, October 2, 2020, more than 60 members of the community came together for a Memorial Gathering via Zoom to remember and pay tribute to the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, z”l. The Gathering was planned and organized by Deborah Chankin, Natalie Swit, Cynthia Gordon, and Deb Lelchuk.

We shared a montage with photos from RBG’s youth, her family, her friendship with the late Justice Antonin Scalia and much more, together with various readings that described her larger than life impact on the lives of women. It was all tied together by inspiring words and singing from our guest, Rabbi Heidi Cohen of HaNefesh.

Deborah Chankin read a poem translated from the Hebrew, Every Person Has a Name, by Zelda [last name unknown] {1914-1984}, followed by the Kaddish. Rabbi Cohen, singing I Have a Voice, by Elana Arian, brought tears to our eyes and commitment to our hearts. Attendees were asked to finish the sentence “I will....”---many pledged to vote, to fight injustice and to share their passion.

A recording of the Memorial can be found at <https://youtu.be/5QGcvedlqNs>



▶ **VOTING AND ELECTIONS NOVEMBER, 2020**

by Deborah Chankin, Co-Chair Voting and Elections

As you read this the election is upon us, but it has engaged your Advocacy committee for the past many months.

Most of you have voted by now, but if you or anyone you know has not yet voted, you can still turn in your mail-in ballot, vote and even register at any Vote Center. We do not recommend using the USPS in these last few days.

Up until now:

- Over 40 volunteers from our Section participated in mailing more than 1000 Get Out the Vote (GOTV) letters to Florida voters. Together with other California sections, we sent more than 12,000 letters!
- Other volunteers worked through CLUE, a local progressive faith based coalition, to send GOTV postcards to North Long Beach.
- Still other volunteers placed GOTV phone calls to our members.
- And about 60 of you spent an evening with us on Zoom, learning about California ballot propositions from our partners at the League of Women Voters.

It’s been quite the year and quite the season. Now we watch and wait. Still need help getting a ballot delivered? **Contact us at advocacy@ncjwlongbeach.org**





National Council of Jewish Women

GREATER LONG BEACH &
WEST ORANGE COUNTY

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LETTERS, PETITIONS, AND COMMENTS

by Deb Lechuk, Co-VP Legislation and Advocacy

The Advocacy Committee has been busy in the last several months signing letters and petitions on behalf of the Greater Long Beach and West Orange County Section on issues that correspond to our progressive agenda.

JULY

- Submitted a comment written by Deborah Chankin opposing DHS proposed asylum regulations limiting scope of admissions, redefining persecution and social group and excluding gender as a basis for persecution.

AUGUST

- Signed a letter supporting the Anti-Defamation League in its response to an anti-ADL campaign that published a laundry list of "tired, false and misleading statements about its 107+year history promoted by many of the same groups who have been pushing an anti-ADL agenda for years."
- Submitted a comment on Refugee Arrivals written by Sherri Sobel opposing a proposed federal regulation that would prohibit anyone who came from or passed through a country with Covid-19 from applying for asylum, in effect completely gutting the asylum process.
- Submitted a letter written by Sherri Sobel to Governor Newsom, supporting a California Budget Request of \$30 Million to protect Californians who are at risk for human trafficking abuse and mistreatment due to COVID-19. This increased funding is needed to ensure existing frameworks are expanded in response to the increased risks resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEPTEMBER

- Emailed Governor Newsom in support of the C.R.I.S.E.S. ACT (AB 2054) which would create funding for community-based organizations to provide emergency response for people experiencing mental health crises, homelessness, intimate partner violence, and other emergencies. Ultimately, Governor Newsom did not sign this legislation.
- Submitted a comment to the Adelanto City Council in opposition to the expansion of the Adelanto Detention Center.

OCTOBER

- Submitted a comment on another proposed rule related to asylum involving multiple proposals, some building upon previous immigration restrictions, others representing new attacks on asylum rights. The proposed rule includes imposition of a new deadline, a fee and an arbitrary 180-day deadline and restrictions on evidence.

NCJW RECOGNIZED

by Natalie Swit, Co-VP Membership

NCJW Long Beach and West Orange County received a call from Diana Lohay, the Basic Needs Manager at Long Beach City College to say thank you to our organization for publicizing the LBCC Food Drive in September. LBCC collected 300 pounds of food from folks who identified themselves with NCJW. She was appreciative of how fast NCJW jumped in and got the message out to our community. Our participation was announced at the meeting of the Long Beach Homeless Coalition attended by our representative, Natalie Swit. NCJW also has a Tribute Fund, the College Student Nutrition Fund which welcomes donations.

BINGO WINNERS

by Janis Simon, Co-VP Resource Development

NCJW needs to be able to raise funds in order to do all the things in the community that we want to do! Due to the pandemic, we decided to have a virtual event that was interactive so we tried our hand at Bingo. We had 40 players for our virtual bingo game, raised some money, and had a good time doing it. Thank you to all who participated. Here are our winners: **Amy Hodis, David Rosen, Rachel Plotkin Olumese and Santos Olumese, Max Simon, Katie Stern for Maxine Simon, and Amy Bronstein.**

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE FOR ORIGINAL NCJW JEWELRY

by Deborah Lewis, Co-VP Resource Development

Hanukkah begins December 10th!



Buy this one-of-a-kind beautiful piece of jewelry for your daughter, sister, mother, aunt, friend, or yourself and shine a light on breaking the glass ceiling.

The sky's the limit!

Purchase online at www.ncjwlongbeach.org/jewelry

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR OUR DECEMBER PROGRAM CALENDAR

by Lisa Raufman, Co-VP Programs

The Thursday night discussion group has changed its programming for November to the third **Thursday in December, Dec.17, at 7pm**. The program is titled **The Election Results: What do we do NOW?** There will still be plenty to say, regardless of the election results. Please contact Lisa for information on how to participate.

CARING CORNER

by Harriette Ellis, Chair Caring Corner

NCJW sends heartfelt condolences to the family of Ruth (Paddy) Kaller, who passed away on September 13. She is survived by her son, Richard Kaller, and four grandchildren. Her daughter, Janet K. Stelling, died several years ago. Paddy, 97 years old, was a longtime devoted member of NCJW.

NCJW wishes Dawn Haldane, Deb Lewis, and Deb Kaplan-Wyckoff a speedy and uneventful recovery.

Mazel Tov to Maria Osorio on the recent Bar Mitzvah of her son, Jonás.

If you know of any of our members who are ill, or have passed away, or know of awards, honors, or special celebrations, please contact info@ncjwlongbeach.org.

Due to the Corona 19 virus we have lost contact with some of our members, and we hope you will keep us in the loop, letting us know when your friends are ill. We haven't heard from many of you in a long time. Please do keep in touch! 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.

To Dawn Haldane

Wishing you a speedy recovery

From Dale Strok - GF

To Deb Wyckoff

Wishing you a speedy recovery

From Dale Strok - GF

To Deb Lewis

Wishing you a speedy recovery

From Dale Strok - GF

To Maria Osorio

In honor of her son's Bar Mitzvah

From Sherri Sobel - GF

To Linda C. Fox

In memory of her sister Thea Brodtkin

From Sherri Sobel - GF

To Deborah Kaplan-Wyckoff

Wishing you a speedy recovery

From Linda C Fox - HPF

To Dawn Haldane

Wishing you a speedy recovery

From Linda C Fox - LCSF

To make a tribute you can call or email Barbara Millman or go online at www.ncjwlongbeach.org/tribute

You can remember or congratulate friends with a Tribute card and support NCJW projects!

GF: General Fund.

HPF: Hug Pack Fund.

DVF: Domestic Violence Fund.

SOF: Senior Outreach Fund.

LCSF: Linda Calderón Memorial Scholarship Fund.

KFF: Denise Berro Kindergarten Festival Fund.

CSNF: College Student Nutrition Fund.

ISTF: Immigration Services Tribute Fund

REMINDER

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

Pillars deadline is the 1st of the month before the next issue. Send copy to Editor Ann Millman.