



## National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans Section

Bulletin

[www.NCJWneworleans.org](http://www.NCJWneworleans.org)

Summer 2008

# Highlights from National Convention in Chicago

The 44th National Council of Jewish Women's triennial convention took place in Chicago, March 9-12. More than 400 women from all over the country participated in workshops, forums, program fairs and NCJW official business. Representing NCJW-GNO's section were President Ina Davis, Michal Fishman, Barbara Herman, Sue Jernigan, Joel Myers and Dana Shephard.

Two major items on the convention agenda included

1) Plan A - NCJW's national campaign to promote and advocate for comprehensive sex education in schools and access to contraception, and

2) Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote - NCJW's national get-out-the-vote campaign for the 2008 presidential election.

The conference featured nationally-renowned speakers, Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood and daughter of the late Ann Richards, former governor of Texas, who spoke

about access to contraception; and Linda Wertheimer, National Public Radio's congressional correspondent, who enlightened the crowd with her insider's

portion of the convention was dedicated to reviewing NCJW's by-laws, mission and principles. There was robust discussion around motions made to change or add language that better

reflects NCJW's mission and beliefs concerning women's civil rights: reproductive choice, religious freedom, violence against women, safety nets for children, and contraceptive access.

NCJW-GNO's Barbara Herman and Dana Shephard each played a leadership role in national committees that reviewed the principles and by-laws, respectively. A highlight of the convention was the awarding of the 2008 Outstanding Pioneer Award to Joel Myers, NCJW-GNO's Vice President for Public Affairs. The convention ended with the inauguration and celebration of NCJW's new president Nancy Ratzan who spoke passionately about her plans for the future of NCJW.

### NEW MISSION:

*NCJW's faith in the future and belief in action are reflected in its mission statement, updated and approved by the delegate body of the 44th National Convention in March 2008:*

*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.*

knowledge of the political landscape. To learn more about these campaigns, go to [www.ncjw.org](http://www.ncjw.org). During the convention NCJW participants attended workshops to help them hone their skills on topics such as fundraising, building coalitions and raising NCJW's visibility in one's community. A major

~ Michal Fishman

# President's MESSAGE



## Leading by Example

At the 44th convention in Chicago, hundreds gathered to speak out and make their mark on the future of NCJW. Members debated and voted on the resolutions, bylaws, and policies that will set the stage for the next triennium. Barb Herman and Dana Shepard were instrumental in this process, and we are proud of the way they represented GNO Section on the national level!

NCJW's faith in the future and belief in action are reflected in its new mission statement, updated and

approved by the delegate body:

*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.*

"NCJW has a distinct, essential role in the pursuit of social justice today," said Nancy Ratzan, newly elected national president. "We deliver the voice and action of progressive Jewish women. We address the issues that change lives and empower women: reproductive choice, religious freedom, violence against women, safety nets for children, and contraceptive access."

At the convention's Women Who Dared Luncheon, our own Joel Myers was presented with the Outstanding Pioneer Award. Joel's superlative Public Affairs record serves as a model for sections around the country. Now revved for November elections, she has lined up TV debates and voting programs...stay tuned.

Many thanks to Susan Hess, Cathy Bart, and the talented Pillars of Support Committee for the gorgeous, delectable, and successful celebration, ensuring that our mission and programming will be supported for another year. Congratulations go

to our Problem Solvers Program and Volunteers for respected service to Greater New Orleans.

Anyone who attended the Hannah G. Solomon Award Luncheon will tell you that it was a day to remember. Nearly every elected office in the city and state was present to honor and toast Honoree Phyllis Taylor. Thank you Madalyn Schenk, Sue Singer, and the Committee for the eloquent and elegant presentation. Mrs. Taylor, thank you for your moving remarks and for elevating awareness of NCJW's passion and progress in our community.

And now I am pleased to welcome the 2008-2009 NCJW Board of Directors! We have a stunning group of women – empowered to take action – and ready to make the world a better place. I encourage all of you to get in touch with our leadership, join committees, and let's advance NCJW's ideals together!

Check our website regularly: [www.NCJWneworleans.org](http://www.NCJWneworleans.org) for all things happening in the Greater New Orleans Section.

I truly believe that NCJW is the most potent, most effective, most satisfying place where you can take action and become a positive force for change.



**NCJW**

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater New Orleans Section

President, Ina Davis  
Editor, Mary Stein

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**NCJW**

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

Beginning June 1st through December 2008,  
NCJW's office hours will be Monday-Thursday  
12 noon - 5 p.m.

# 2008-09 NCJW Board

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Ina Davis  
VP: Joel Myers  
VP: Susan Hess  
VP: Michal Fishman  
VP: Sue Jernigan  
Treasurer: Kathy Shepard  
Assistant Treasurer: Tricia Kirschman  
Financial Secretary: Phyllis Nitzkin  
Corresponding Secretary: Sandra Chase Morris

## ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Jody Portnoff Braunig	Dana Shepard
Barbara Bresler	Jeanne Smolkin
Marjorie Cowen	Nicole Stone
Inge Elsas	Ann Thompson
Sheila Fenton	Jennifer Good Zurik
Carol Good	

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Barbara Bresler, Chair

### FROM THE BOARD:

Jody Portnoff Braunig  
Carol Good  
Dana Shepard  
Nicole Stone

### FROM THE MEMBERSHIP:

Leslie Fischman  
Linda Greenbaum  
Ann Harris  
Marsha Zander

### EX-OFFICIO NOMINATING:

Susan Scharff

### EX-OFFICIO PRESIDENTS:

Shellye Farber and Pamela Lyles

### RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY, 2007-08 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Susan Scharff, Chair	
Melanie Bronfin	Joel Myers
Barbara Herman	Phyllis Nitzkin
Tricia Kirschman	Gail Pesses
Miriam Latter	Kathy Shepard

### EX-OFFICIO:

Shellye Farber and Pamela Lyles

## 2008 Women's Seder at Woldenberg Village

Along with Woldenberg Village, cosponsors included NCJW, Lambeth House and Hillel.

The Seder was open to the community and well attended with more than 60 women in attendance!

Thank you to Rabbi Debbie Pine for officiating this lovely event.



## Harold Salmon Sr. Award Nominations

The Harold Salmon Sr. Award is named for a man who recognized the value of volunteerism and was strongly committed to the welfare of the NCJW. This award is presented to a NCJW member who has exhibited continued commitment to NCJW; who by being available time-wise, innovative and motivated, and who by working well with people and resources has proven an overall awareness of NCJW.

Please send me your nomination by e-mail. Make sure to include your reasons. Your nominations are welcome.

Thank you,  
Loel Samuel

# Joel Myers receives 2008 Outstanding Pioneer Award

This award honors an individual NCJW member who has been instrumental in moving her section toward accomplishing NCJW's mission in an identifiable and pioneering way.

## Criteria

- Has been instrumental in developing and/or implementing an activity (program, project, campaign, etc.)
- Furthers the mission of NCJW
- Exemplifies innovation, creativity and courage in her actions
- Serves as a compassionate role model in her own section, other sections and/or the general community
- Involves and mentors others (NCJW members and/or other community members)
- Demonstrates a financial commitment to NCJW and its issues
- Raises awareness of NCJW in her community through her pioneering efforts



*Out-going National President Phyllis Snyder and Joel Myers.*



*Joel Myers with husband, Bert.*

- Activity should have occurred since March 2005
- Current NCJW national board members and officers, SPA chairs, commis-

sioners, honorary national board members, and honorary national officers are not eligible for this award

## Joel Myer's Speech for the Outstanding Pioneer Award

I could stand up here and say that I firmly believe that advocacy is an essential component of every non-profit organization. But I am not going to do that.

Or I could thank our section president, Ina Davis, for nominating me for such a prestigious award. But I am not going to do that either.

I could also effusively thank National for choosing me for this wonderful honor, but no, not now.

Instead, I will tell you that my family has lived in New Orleans for eight generations.

... Now is the time to thank National for all the help you gave our section and our city.

And now is the time to thank all of the sections who could not do enough for us.

And now is especially a good time to thank each of you individually, for your children and grandchildren, and all of the tens of thousands of volunteers who have come to help us fight for our future.

It has been a tidal wave of people of all colors, ages, religions, occupations and nationalities who have swept into our city to help. It has been an amazing and heartwarming phenomenon.

We have surely had a sterling example of the kindness of strangers, of how important volunteerism is, and of how much difference each individual person can make.

We are recovering but we are not there yet.

So please continue to keep us in your minds and hearts as we shall overcome.

For all of this and for all of you, thank you, thank you.



*Michal Fishman and Joel Myers with our exhibit at the National Convention.*

## **New Orleans “Newbie” National Convention Notes**

I was flattered and delighted when Ina asked me if I could attend the National Convention in Chicago. As a new member, I am still feeling my way around our organization. From my local perspective, NCJW was a group of women who had spent a century quietly providing volunteer services and philanthropic support for some important and specific local programs. When I joined the year after Katrina, the uncertainty of what portion of our membership had returned was still a big question. Programs which are a big part of our activities, such as HIPPIY, were on hold for a myriad of reasons, none of which we could control. Other programs in which we participated simply did not “come back”.

The more I listened, the more impressed I became. Our Section had been a catalyst for numerous programs. The connection between members was strong, and Ina’s new leadership was supported by a Board that had experience, energy and commitment. I was excited to participate, but I still did not get the Big Picture.

The National Convention in Chicago provided me with the frame of reference for our members, our Section, and our entire organization. As I watched the discussions about our mission, and listened to impassioned speeches regarding resolutions and by-laws, I realized that NCJW, nationally, and through each section, is composed of people who care to make a difference. The drive to ensure that our own projects embody our national mission, which had seemed almost academic when sitting in a room of women that I barely knew, suddenly made sense. It was as if I had just found the map.

The Chicago Convention gave me the opportunity to view the whole organism and see the resources provided by our National organization. Meeting women from around the country and exchanging ideas and challenges gave me my first real moments of NCJW pride. And that pride, which lingers and now shapes my NCJW experience, is derived from my excitement and growing understanding of OUR Section.

As you longtime members know, NCJW is not an activity. It is a wonderful part of the journey in lives seeking solutions to social and systemic problems, which may be achieved through our strength and our vision. Thank you for inviting me.

– Sue Jernigan

**Many Thanks  
to  
Cahn Family  
Foundation  
for their  
continued  
generous  
support.**

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**Thank you to  
Jewish Federation  
of  
Greater New Orleans,  
Jewish Endowment  
Foundation of La.,  
United Jewish  
Communities, and  
Goldring-Woldenberg  
Foundations  
for your generous  
financial support  
of the  
New Orleans  
Section  
in our recovery.**

# PILLARS OF SUPPORT

## *Celebration*

proudly salutes

## **The Problem Solvers Program**

NCJW Gratefully Thanks Our Pillars of Support

### **Underwriters**

Cahn Family Foundation  
Crescent Bank and Trust  
Harrah's New Orleans Casino  
Peake BMW  
Patrick Taylor Foundation  
WDSU – TV 6  
HRI Properties  
New Orleans Saints  
Baptist Community Ministries  
Capital One Bank  
Freeport McMoRan Foundation  
Peter Mayer Advertising

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### **Benefactors**

Julie Fishelson | Carol Good | Babs Isaacson  
Patricia & Rick Kirschman | Debbie Schlackman | Dana & Louis Shepard  
Kathy & Hal Shepard | Jon B. Strauss | Touro Infirmary

### **Patrons**

Jane Bories | Barbara Bresler | Vivian Cahn  
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Dr. J E Isaacson | Celia Katz & Dr. Diane Africk | Charel Katz | Jane and Henry Lowentritt  
William Lucas, Jr. | Pamela & Jack Lyles | Carol & Stanley Marx | Joel & Dr. Bert Myers  
Julie Wise Oreck | Gail Pesses | Joyce Pulitzer | Loel & Larry Samuel | Mimi & Claude Schlesinger  
Sue S. Singer | Mary Yerby Stern | Phyllis Stern and Gerald Strug | Ann Thompson | Marie & Robert Wolf  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater New Orleans Section

Special thanks

Republic National, Mr. William Goldring  
Hotel InterContinental

\*As of April 1, 2008\*



## PILLARS OF SUPPORT RECOGNITION

### Acceptance of NCJW Award

“...There is a great deal of interdependence in our work. We volunteers rely, not only on information available in the resources on our desks, but also on the experience and knowledge of each of our co-workers.... Sometimes we resolve an issue, sometimes we're unable to. Sometimes we serve as a clearing house to point a person in the right direction, and sometimes we're there just to listen. The important point is that we are there, ready and willing to do our very best.

I really believe our efforts impact our community and on behalf of all of us who are privileged to serve, I want to thank WDSU for making it possible for us to provide this kind of assistance to our fellow citizens.

April 3, 2008  
Babs Isaacson



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## A Problem Solver's Response

Keeping our mission in mind... to improve the quality of life for women, children and families... through the consumer Helpline...

I listen to the plight, I hear the fight, the complaint to have been taken for a ride, the anxiousness to get it right.

What's going on, what does the consumer hide? Seems the situation reached an impossible height. To provide services for unmet needs is written in white. To resolve a consumer's tough problem takes much might. Very gradually, I see the light.

When things begin to be clarified, with knowledge and ability to guide, Then with a feeling of much pride, resolve the problem and manage to destroy the worries and get them out of sight.

There derives a thankful feeling, to have turned the dark night into a much brighter sight.

by Inge Elsas



# Hannah G. Solomon Award Luncheon



“Today the New Orleans section of the NCJW is celebrating 110 years of service to our community. It is important to note that their work is for the benefit of the entire community.”

“We have all seen an increase in the challenges and problems that we now face. The solutions will come only when, and if, we work together. Many of the concerns we face will take a great deal of time and patience before any progress is seen. There are many lessons to be learned from the example of Hannah Solomon. I’ll do my best to remember them.

~ Phyllis M. Taylor

## A PLACE TO BE SEEN!

*Special thanks to Hotel InterContinental for their delicious hors d’ouerves presented in a beautiful setting and Bert Myers’ Photography.*



# Legislative Day in Baton Rouge

This year we decided to do something different for Legislative Day; we went to Baton Rouge to advocate for women's health!

This effort is in keeping with National's Plan A adopted as one of its major efforts this year.

This plan, which is a campaign for Contraceptive Access, educates and empowers individuals to advocate for women's universal access to contraceptive information and health services.

We were very fortunate to have Jenny Nathan, who has been NCJW's Grassroots Administrator since February of 2007, come to visit us. In her capacity, she works with sections and members across the country to engage in projects related to Plan A.

The night before we went to Baton Rouge, Ina had an open board meeting dinner at her house. Jenny spoke about Plan A as well as our efforts the next day. The meeting was very well attended, interesting and fun.

Jenny also went with us to Baton Rouge.

This year we joined Planned Parenthood who is sponsoring 2 bills, one of which is HB 562 by Representative Karen Carter Peterson. This would require insurers who provide an otherwise full range of prescription drug coverage to include all FDA approved contraceptives. This bill was going to be heard in the Insurance Committee the day we were there. Jenny helped us write a statement so that we could testify.

Unfortunately, the bill was not heard that day; however, we were fascinated with those that were discussed, among them more coverage for children with autism. Women got up and told their stories which were unbelievably sad; the young woman next to me never stopped crying.

After the hearings we went to



*ON THE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL - from left, Jenny Nathan, Ina Davis, Sue Singer and Joel Myers*

National's Grassroots Administrator, Jenny Nathan, came to NOLA to educate members of Plan A: NCJW's Campaign for Contraceptive Access. While in town, Jen joined the NCJW-GNO delegation to Baton Rouge for Legislative Day and was most fortunate to experience Jazz Fest for the first time!

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*"It meant so much to me to visit New Orleans, meet such wonderful people, and see the importance of NCJW to the greater community. I will never forget what I saw and experienced, and look forward to visiting again soon and hearing about your future work on the Plan A campaign."*

*– Jenny Nathan*

Planned Parenthood's office, had a lovely lunch and listened to an excellent speaker talk about advocating. We then divided into groups and went to the Capitol to find our representatives to talk about the bill.

Some of us left after lunch.

In all, it was a very satisfying day and very worthwhile.

~ Joel Myers



CHOOSE TITLES AND SPREAD THE JOY OF READING – BookPartners’ committee plans for future programming and book purchasing. Interested? Call chairwoman Marcy Fertel, 885-0338.



The new Beanbag /Hebrew Toss game was the hit at the JCC’s Adloyadah!

## Sammie Moshenberg named to 21 Leaders for the 21st Century List

Sammie Moshenberg, NCJW’s director of Washington operations, has been named to the Women’s eNews list of 21 Leaders for the 21st Century. With a professional career at NCJW spanning more than 25 years, Sammie has become an outspoken champion of social justice and a respected representative of NCJW’s important public policy work. Sammie was recognized as an “energizer of conscious feminism” at a Women’s eNews gala on May 21, 2008.



Barb Herman with NCJW Director of Washington Operations, Sammie Moshenberg

W • E • L • C • O • M • E

## NEW MEMBERS

Carolyn Braumberger

Renee Levine Brown

Michelle Denney

Deanna Lesht

Anne Marvin

Lindsay Pasternack

Rebecca Rose Steingut

# Dedicated FUNDS

## Irma M. Isaacson Scholarship Fund...

Irma M. Isaacson Scholarship Fund enables the National Council of Jewish Women, New Orleans Section, to provide needed financial assistance to local Jewish students pursuing an academic or vocational goal.

### MARCH 2008

- ▶ **Sara Stone**  
In honor of Stuart Farber's Birthday  
In honor of Phyllis Taylor
- ▶ **Marjorie Bissinger**  
In honor of Sara Stone's award
- ▶ **Eddy and Bill Rosen**  
In honor of Sara Stone's award
- ▶ **Beth Rosenthal**  
In honor of Babs Isaacson and Six on Your Side Volunteers

### APRIL 2008

- ▶ **Joan and Gerald Berenson**  
In memory of Marjorie Lobman  
In honor of Bill Goldring
- ▶ **Sara Stone**  
In memory of Marjorie Lobman
- ▶ **Marjorie Bissinger**  
In memory of Lulu Levy
- ▶ **Nancy Timm**  
In memory of Marion Burstein

### MAY 2008

- ▶ **Sandy Schwartz**  
In memory of Herman Moise
- ▶ **Joan and Gerald Berenson**  
In memory of Lone Fellman
- ▶ **Marjorie Bissinger**  
In honor of Babs Isaacson's birthday  
In honor of Frankie Wolff's birthday

- ▶ **Nancy and Steve Timm**  
In honor of Babs Isaacson's birthday

### JUNE 2008

- ▶ **Sandy Heller**
- ▶ **Leone Marks**
- ▶ **Dana and Louis Shepard**
- ▶ **Frankie Wolff**
- ▶ **JoAnn Greenberg**
- ▶ **Bill Lucas**
- ▶ **Inge Elsas**
- ▶ **Frances Jalenak**
- ▶ **Flo and Richard Schornstein**
- ▶ **Alana Seelig**
- ▶ **Perky Cohen**
- ▶ **Allan and Nancy Bissinger**
- ▶ **Nancy and Steve Timm**  
In honor of Babs Isaacson's Birthday
- ▶ **Beth Rosenthal**  
In honor of JoEllen and Abe Kupperman
- ▶ **Dana and Louis Shepard**  
In memory of Marilyn Davis
- ▶ **Marjorie Bissinger**  
In honor of Frankie Wolff's birthday  
In honor of Richard Schornstein
- ▶ **Babs Isaacson**  
In Memory of Madeline and Howard Stern
- ▶ **Amy and John Haspel**  
Donation

## Clara and Roy Schwarz Book Fund...

The Clara and Roy Schwarz Book Fund provides each Irma M. Isaacson Scholarship Fund recipient with supplementary funds for the purchase of books.

- ▶ **Amy and John Haspel**  
Donation

## NCJW Cares...

- ▶ **In honor of Joel Myers upon receiving the Advocacy Award at the national NCJW convention in Chicago**  
By Joel and Leonard Stern  
By Phyllis Stern and Gerald Strug  
By Florence Scharff

- ▶ **In honor of Joel Myers upon receiving the NCJW Outstanding Pioneer Award for 2008**  
By Pam and Jack Lyles  
By Joan and Gerald Berenson

- ▶ **In honor of Sara Stone**  
By Marian Mayer Berkett

- ▶ **In honor of Sara Stone upon receiving the Roger Bissinger Memorial Award**  
By Ina Davis

- ▶ **In honor of Roxanne Garrity upon her graduation**  
By Susan Kierr

- ▶ **In honor of Ina Davis upon receiving the ADL Barney Mintz Leadership Award**  
By Joan Berenson

- ▶ **In honor of Phyllis M. Taylor upon receiving the Hannah G. Solomon Award**  
By the New Orleans SAINTS  
By the New Orleans Ballet Association  
By Ralph Brennan  
By the UNITED WAY  
By Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. Rosenblum  
By Sharon N. Litwin  
By Dotty and Buddy Jacobs on behalf of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra

By Pam Lyles  
By Juliet Page  
By Ana Gershanik  
By Barbara Campbell MacPhee  
By Miriam and Bruce Waltzer  
By Sandra Ruth Buring  
By Edith Gee Jones  
By Janice R. Manuel  
By Beth Lee Terry  
By Madlyn B. Bagneris  
By Jacqueline G. Toledano  
By Julia Fishelson  
By Carolyn Clare Rumm  
By Catherine L. Goslee-Vaughn  
By Sheila R. Fenton  
By Mimi Schlesinger  
By Carol B. Wise  
By Milling Benson Woodward L.L.P.

- ▶ **In appreciation for all NCJW does for the community**  
By Phyllis M. Taylor



National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater New Orleans Section

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### Have You Changed Your Address?

If so, please remove the mailing label from this issue of the Bulletin, cross out the old address, write in the new one, and send it to our above address.

As strange as it seems, women around the country are being denied access to contraception and given misinformation. Every single day.

#### **Personal Decisions, Public Action**

Plan A: The National Council of Jewish Women's (NCJW) Campaign for Contraceptive Access aims to secure and protect access to contraceptive information and options. Plan A is firmly rooted in the belief that such access is essential for women's well-being and equality.

#### **Get Involved Today!**

To learn more or sign up for Plan A — or to find out more about Plan A efforts in your community — please visit [www.ncjw.org](http://www.ncjw.org), email [PlanA@ncjwdc.org](mailto:PlanA@ncjwdc.org), or call 202 296 2588.



NCJW's Campaign for Contraceptive Access

Consider making a donation to one of NCJW's Tribute Funds to celebrate a memorial occasion or to honor someone special.



- ▶ **NCJW CARES**  
Sheryl Title  
515 Hillary St.  
New Orleans, LA 70118
- ▶ **IRMA M. ISAACSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**  
Nancy Timm  
5708 Garfield St.  
New Orleans, LA 70115
- ▶ **BIRTHDAY DOLLARS**  
NCJW  
6221 S. Claiborne Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70125