



National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans Section

Bulletin

www.NCJWneworleans.org

September 2009



Photo: David Vance

**NCJW President
Nancy Ratzan**

DATE

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

TIME

7:00-9:00 pm

LOCATION

2 Audubon Place
New Orleans

Home of Marjorie & Scott Cowen

RECEPTION

\$18 Couvert

Members only.
New members may
join at the door.

RSVP BY 9/16/09

Lindsay Pasternack
524 Hector Avenue
Metairie, LA 70005

QUESTIONS

Please call Terri Stoor
(504) 861-7788
www.NCJWneworleans.org

NCJW'S OPENING EVENT

Come join us for an engaging evening and meet Nancy Ratzan

To kick off this exciting 2009-2010 year, we are proud to present Nancy Ratzan, President of the National Council of Jewish Women. Nancy's work as a leader and a longtime member of our organization exemplifies our mission. She is a courageous, effective advocate of social change whose commitment to justice is grounded both in her Jewish and feminist values. Her vision, passion, and devotion to mobilizing the voice of progressive Jewish women inspire powerful grassroots engagement on women's and civil rights issues – locally and nationally.

Nancy became president in March 2008. Some of her recent activities include representing NCJW in Rome and Israel on a delegation of the Conference of Presidents of major American Jewish Organizations, which included a historic meeting with the Pope in February 2009. In March 2009, President Obama appointed her to the White House Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. She is in the forefront of issues which are the cornerstones of our mission.

Come join us for an engaging evening with Nancy, and learn first hand how NCJW is making a difference in the lives of women, children and families.



Official White House photo by Pete Souza

President Barack Obama meets with Jewish Community Leaders in the Roosevelt Room at the White House, July 13, 2009. Nancy Ratzan, NCJW President, is seated directly across from President Obama.

President's MESSAGE



A FAITH IN THE FUTURE. A BELIEF IN ACTION.

Tonight as I write this message, a flood of memories comes back to me. It is the eve of Katrina's 4th anniversary, hardly an image I need to replay. You all know the story.

But let me tell you another story. Yesterday I met a brave, young woman, new to town, who has come here to begin her medical career. She has a wonderful job and place to live, and already has made friends and been welcomed by many... the New Orleans way.

We started with some chicory coffee and then I felt compelled to show her our city from an insider's view. I have given the misery tour dozens of times (swearing never to do it again) but felt the need to expose her to the realities of our city, her newly adopted town.

Every time I give this tour, my passenger is no doubt humbled by the conditions - the streets, the houses, the X's still present albeit a few. They grow quiet, as the vastness and understanding sets in.

On the other hand, I marvel at new housing, exquisite camellias against fresh paint, rocking chairs on porches, and colorful arrays of shutters. People wave, mailmen deliver, dogs bark, progress!

We passed a group of volunteers, chatted a bit, and gave our thanks. This made me think about my women - you!

Our city is being rebuilt with the spirit of volunteerism, and New Orleans' NCJW women and men lead the way. Our members are building levees, creating schools and parks, advancing children and adults with books, music, joy, and love. We're helping people repair their lives and livelihoods. We are the voice for many who dare not speak. Everywhere I look I see the fingerprints of NCJW members!

Fortunately, I am moving into another year as president. I am most honored to be leading a group of thinkers and doers, and proud to welcome new members into our sphere of remarkable women and men, who are truly making a difference in the world around us.

Thank you all! I know it will be a great and productive New Year for NCJW.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ina". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

NCJW[®]
National Council of Jewish Women
Greater New Orleans Section

President
Ina Davis

Vice President, Administration
June Leopold

Editor
Mary Stein

Photographs
Ina Davis, Sheila Fenton, Bert Myers

ACE Testimonial:

Patti St. Martin's mother regularly attended the Ace Program at the JCC. In June, she quietly passed away. Patty sent us warm and heartfelt comments. Patty's husband, Armand, plays piano weekly for ACE:

"... It's a fabulous program and the staff and volunteers who help Allison and Inge are all so great. It's a wonderful, wonderful experience for our loved ones who need that extra help during the day.... when Armand returns home every Monday after entertaining at The Ace Program,... he always glows and says, "I've been with my friends!"

Welcome to the Board
Linda Yasnyi, Recording Secretary
Thank you for stepping up!

THANKS

Public AFFAIRS

LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE LOUISIANA CAPITAL

NCJW collaborated with Planned Parenthood for the annual Legislative Day in Baton Rouge in May. The purpose was to discuss and inform legislators of the “Provider Refusal Bill.”

The Provider Refusal Bill H.B. 517, now Act 372, Provider Refusal Law, includes several provisions designed to ensure health care facilities are adequately staffed and that needs of patients are met in a timely manner.



Joel Myers discusses the issues with State Representative Juan LaFonta.

State Representative Gregory Ernst listens as Ina explains why it's important to pass H.B. 517.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our community programs thrive from the result of your volunteer efforts. Please give your time to these important programs.

Yoga & Arts at the Library (pictured)
Main Branch
Contact Susan Kierr 432-4324

Six on Your Side Problem Solvers
at WDSU-TV
Contact Babs Isaacson 861-0716

ACE (Alzheimer's Care & Enrichment)
Arts teacher, Uptown JCC
Contact Inge Elsas 866-4138

NOMA Docents
Contact Cathy Bart 862-5556

LIFELINE emergency response system
Contact Marilyn Kline 885-4029

Our organization has been invited to add cultural enrichment to the NOLA Public Library system. In light of the lack of funding for children's arts in the schools, this is an important appeal, and because the talent exists among our membership, it is a brilliant idea that our members fill this need.



Please bring your skills out of the closet. Look at your Fall schedule, and make a move to help the children find their creative edge: lead a singing group, sketch class, poetry club, story telling circle, yoga, creative movement or drama improvisation; you name it.

All these fantastic possibilities are for beginner level; you can learn as they do. You choose the times and dates.

It is only fair to tell you at the start: YOU MAY FALL IN LOVE – the children are irresistible.

~Susan Kierr

PILLARS OF SUPPORT *Celebration*

honoring our

Legacy of Literacy

**NCJW gratefully thanks Our Pillars of Support
(March 31, 2009)**

Underwriters

Joseph Canizaro
Gerri and Murray Valene

Sponsors

Ina and Richard Davis
Julie Fishelson
Sandra Chass Goldsmith
Susan and Bill Hess
Sara Stone

Benefactors

Joan and Dr. Gerald Berenson
Vivian and Richard Cahn
Margot Garon
Carol Good
Barbara Herman
Babs Isaacson
Celia Katz
Madalyn Schenk
Dana Shepard
Sue Singer
Carol Wise

Patrons

Cathy and Morris Bart
Judith Barnes-Cochran
James P. Friedman, C.P.A.(APC)
Ana Gershanik
Cathy Glaser
Carol Good
Byrde Haspel
Julanne and Irwin Isaacson
Tricia and Rick Kirschman
Anne Lowenburg
Pamela Davis Lyles
Carol and Stanley Marx
Joel and Dr. Bert Myers
Julie Wise Oreck
Sandra and Arthur Pulitzer
Beth Rosenthal
Loel Weil Samuel
Flo Schornstein
Hal and Kathy Shepard
Louis Shepard
Ann Thorpe Thompson
Nancy Timm
Marie Wolf



At the event, many books were collected to benefit the N.O. Family Justice Center. NCJW is designing the Children's Room at the NOFJC.



What a switch, Nell Nolan in NCJW news...



Many thanks to Julie and Dr. David Silvers for opening up their splendid home for the Pillars of Support Celebration! Thank you, Susan Hess for chairing the Pillars of Support, once again!



Thanks to the Pillars Committee for flawless planning and a perfect event!



Guest Speaker Sarah Usdin of New Schools for New Orleans informed the crowd of the compelling transformation of New Orleans public education.

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Hannah G. Solomon Award 2010

Nominations due October 19, 2009

NCJW's volunteers have been a strong force in our community improving the condition of the less fortunate and making an impact in key areas leading to important changes in the quality of life for everyone. Because you understand the role of volunteerism, we need your input in selecting this year's recipient of the Hannah G. Solomon Award. As you know, this award is given annually to a community leader who exemplifies the qualities of Hannah G. Solomon, founder of the National Council of Jewish Women. Please send nominations of a volunteer (male or female) who has been outstanding in making positive changes and who has served as a leader and role model in our community.

Soon the nominating committee will begin its selection process. Deadline for nominations is October 19, 2009, and nominations should be sent to Ana Gershanik, 1303 Henry Clay Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118 or emailed to anagersh@aol.com.

Recipients must meet the following requirements:

- Should be known for their interest, activity and stands on issues with which NCJW is in sympathy
- Should have brought about important programs and services through their leadership in a volunteer capacity
- Should be a catalyst for social change

Previous Hannah G. Solomon Award recipients include Rena Wilson, Margery Stich, Myra Soboloff, Thomas Godchaux, Olga Jackson, Edith Rosenthal Stern, Helen Mervis, Sarah Davis, Edith Schulhofer, Jane K. Buchsbaum, Millie McClendon Charles, Sara Stone, Flo Schornstein, Rosalie Cohen, Roy Schwarz, Barbara Lemann, Rosa F. Keller, Mike Brenner, Norma Freiberg, Sunny

Norman, The Honorable Joan B. Armstrong, Elizabeth Rack, The Honorable Miriam Waltzer, Diana Lewis, Grace Hudson, Donald Mintz, Sybil Morial, Julianne Isaacson, Pres Kabacoff, Dr. Robert and Shirley Haspel, Harry Blumen-

thal, Jr., Eddy Rosen, Hugo Kahn, Roger and Marjorie Bissinger, Barbara Herman, Madalyn Schenk, Babs Isaacson, Melba and Moise Steeg, Jr., Betty Wisdom, Inge Elsas, Carol Good, Phyllis M. Taylor and Carol B. Wise.

Scenes from the 2009 Event



"... I see my parents and the presence of Hannah Solomon saying, "Yes you can". Each of you has your own story and each time the ending has the same feeling of satisfaction in it. Sometimes it IS hard to get up in the morning, to exercise or walk, take the kids to school, face a tough day or a tough decision, make a difficult choice, but what we should say is "Yes, I can"...
... in the morning let Hannah Solomon speak to you and say "Yes, I can" because if you say it, it is so."

~ Carol Wise

- President Ina Davis welcomes the members and guests at the 2009 Hannah G. Solomon Award Luncheon.
- Carol B. Wise, Hannah G. Solomon Award Recipient 2009, with her proud family and friends.
- Members and guests enjoying the program.
- Carol B. Wise accepts the Hannah G. Solomon Award.
- Julie Schwam Harris honors Carol with the mayor's proclamation as Chairwoman Joan Berenson looks on.

It was an outstanding afternoon!

NCJW

Springtime events!



BookPartners, March 2009 – Once again, early childcare givers were thrilled to get their collection of new books for their in-home or day care center libraries. For some caregivers, these are their first collection of books! NCJW sponsors this workshop along with Agenda for Children.



Susan Kierr, Rabbi Alexis Berk and drummer Jeff Kline led a spiritually moving (literally!) Passover “Cleansing of the Soul” program. Jeff brought 8 drums; we all played, danced, and enjoyed the program enormously. All of us decided it would be fun to do again next year.



Women’s Seder at Lambeth House 2009 – Ruth Rosen Weisler thanked NCJW for her scholarship to college.



Acclaimed author and NPR commentator, Marion Winik, gave NCJW-GNO the proceeds from book sales at her book signing event last Spring. Thank you, Marion!



The inscription reads: “To NCJW, GNO: Can’t Imagine Us Without You. Thanks & Gratitude, HIPPY ‘08-09.” Award presented July 31, 2009, at the Orleans Parish School Board HIPPY annual luncheon.

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.

- ▶ **Harry Blumenthal**
In memory of his mother,
Hannah Betty Blumenthal Stich
- ▶ **Flo Shornstein**
In honor of Margot Garon's
birthday
- ▶ **JoAnn Greenberg**
In honor of Carol Good's birthday
In honor of Carol Wise's award
- ▶ **Babs Isaacson**
In honor of Carol Wise's award

H.I.P.P.Y. ...

- ▶ **Phyllis Herman**
In memory of Barbara Herman's
mother, Rita Loeb
- ▶ **Margie Bissinger**
- ▶ **Frank Wolff**
- ▶ **Jane Kohlmann**
- ▶ **Sara Stone** *(also in memory of
Barbara Herman's mother)*
In honor of Carol Good's birthday
- ▶ **Sandy & Edward Heller**
- ▶ **Julanne & Irwin Isaacson**
- ▶ **JoAnn Greenberg**
- ▶ **Marie & Robert Wolf**
In Carol Good's honor

Birthday dollars...

JULY 2009

- ▶ **Gail Pesses**
- ▶ **Ruth Weisler**

Birthday dollars... (Continued)

- ▶ **Sharon Jacobs**
In memory of Marilyn Davis
- ▶ **Susan Glazer**
- ▶ **Betty Kohn**
- ▶ **Elsa Schneider**
- ▶ **Jackie Ames**

Irma M. Isaacson Memorial Scholarship Fund and Clara and Roy Schwarz Memorial Book Fund

By Ann T. Thompson and Nancy B. Timm

"As I close the third chapter of my undergraduate college career and begin my final year, it gives me great pleasure to update you and the Scholarship Committee on my status. My family and I are very thankful for your continued support of my education. Thanks to your efforts, I have been able to make it through my undergraduate years without going into debt, and there is no dollar figure that one can assign to such peace of mind." The words of this current scholarship recipient reflect the gratitude felt by the hundreds of young Jewish New Orleanians who have been granted financial assistance from the Section in attaining a higher education.

For more than a century, the Greater New Orleans Section has been providing scholarships for Jewish individuals who live in the Greater New Orleans area and need financial assistance to pursue their educational dreams and goals. This year, the Scholarship Committee met on June 30 to review applications presented anonymously by the two Co-chairs, Nancy Timm and Ann Thompson. Grants were awarded to existing recipients who re-applied, and to new students applying for the first time. The names of those awarded the scholarships are kept strictly confidential. A recipient may receive the grants for eight semesters.

As the oldest Section program, the Scholarship Fund continues to be supported by NCJW-GNO and by generous donations from the membership. This fall, as you send your children back to school and reflect on your own college memories, please consider a donation in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. Your contributions are essential to the future of this important program. Contributions can be mailed to Marjorie Bissinger, 354 Walnut Street, New Orleans, LA 70118.

THANK YOU FIRST BOOK NOLA

Hundreds of free books have been given to the NCJW programs, Book Partners and HIPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters)! First Book provides new books to children in need, addressing one of the most important factors affecting literacy – access to books. They give new books to low income families, who ordinarily might not be able to purchase new children's books.

NCJW is grateful to First Book for their support. We look forward to a continuing relationship to benefit our community.



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater New Orleans Section

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New Orleans, LA 70125

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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.

Calendar of EVENTS

- ▶ Sept. 18 Rosh Hashanah at sundown
- ▶ Sept. 22 Opening Event, Meet Nancy Ratzan
7-9 p.m., 2 Audubon Place
- ▶ Sept. 27 Yom Kippur at sundown
- ▶ Sept. 29 NCJW Exec. Board Meeting
Noon, Uptown JCC
- ▶ Oct. 6 Board Meeting – 7 p.m., Metairie JCC
- ▶ Oct. 19 Hannah G. Solomon Award
Nominations due
- ▶ Oct. 27 Executive Committee Meeting
7 p.m., Metairie JCC
- ▶ Oct. 28 “Spotlight on Safety” – Self Defense
6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Uptown JCC
- ▶ Oct. 30 Past Presidents’ Cabinet Luncheon
Antoine’s 11:30 a.m.
- ▶ Nov. 3 Board Meeting – Noon, Uptown JCC
- ▶ Nov. 24 Executive Committee Meeting
Noon, Uptown JCC
- ▶ Dec. 15 N.O. Mayoral Debate at Xavier University
(NCJW Sponsor)

Got a consumer problem?

Get help from the NCJW Problem Solvers Volunteers! Call 1-800-416-NEWS (6397)