

NCJW[®]

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater New Orleans Section

Bulletin

www.NCJWneworleans.org

February 2010

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Throughout the year, NCJW touches many lives in our community through our service projects.



6 On Your Side Problem Solvers



BookPartners



Yoga class at the library



New Orleans Family Justice Center



Beanbag & Book Project

Extend a hand and make a connection to others by choosing a Community Service Program.

EVERYONE BENEFITS!

President's MESSAGE



A FAITH IN THE FUTURE. A BELIEF IN ACTION.

Dear Members,

As I reflect over the first few months of the NCJW year, I am awestruck by our accomplishments thus far, and we are only half way through our year!

In a short time, NCJW community service projects and programs have enriched at least a thousand lives. Don't believe it? Just look over the following pages to see the goodwill and joy for which NCJW members are responsible. I'm sure you will be as proud as I am to be a member of our historic section.

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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,
Rick Davis

Your volunteerism has made a difference.

I am greatly encouraged by the number of new members who have joined us. You have not been shy! You have jumped in, rolled up your sleeves and gotten involved!

We have a full board, filled with creative ideas and people who help turn dreams into action! For all those who have sat on the sidelines, please come join us.

The time you share creates meaningful memories that last a lifetime.

The best way to stay in the know is to make sure we have your email address. As ideas spring and coalitions

form, we move fast to make things happen. When you see the call for volunteers, please respond; we need you!

Many of you have answered the call to volunteer, and I want you all to know how very grateful I am for your support while the New Orleans community appreciates and reaps the benefits of your time and attention.

Thank you for your involvement, activism, your generosity, and your spirit. Your energy will continue to bring about change. Together, let us make 2010 the best year yet!

“The best way to stay in the know is to make sure we have your email address. As ideas spring and coalitions form, we move fast to make things happen. When you see the call for volunteers, please respond; we need you!”



Past Presidents' Cabinet Luncheon Antoine's • French Quarter • October 30, 2009

Standing from left: Flo Schornstein, Margot Garon, Dana Shepard, Loel Samuel, Sandy Schwarcz, Shellye Farber, Beth B. Rosenthal, Julianne Isaacson, Pam Lyles, Joan Berenson, Eddy Rosen, Celia Katz. Seated from left: Ina Davis, Sara Stone, Babs Isaacson, Barbara Bresler, (not pictured Mimi Schlesinger)

Public AFFAIRS

by Joel Myers

After several months of planning, National Council of Jewish Women of Greater New Orleans and 9 other non profit, politically non partisan groups in the City put on the very first Mayoral Debate of the season. WDSU-TV televised it live and WWNO also carried it and streamed it as well.

Our old friend Norman Robinson deftly managed a plethora of candidates with humor and good grace. Xavier University provided the space and, in spite of the miserable weather, the hall was filled. We advertised widely both in print and electronic media and all 10 groups shared the cost.

The debate was deemed such a success that in spite of its very heavy spring schedule, WDSU-TV wants to have a run-off debate in early March. We look forward to participating with them.



MAYORAL DEBATE AT XAVIER • DECEMBER 15, 2009

THANKS

SUKKOT CELEBRATION

Thank you Inge Elsas, for once again organizing a delightful and successful Sukkot Celebration at Woldenberg Village on October 3, 2009. The event was well attended by the residents, who enjoyed the service, refreshments, and fun.

* * * *

HIPPY

Over 500 books were collected for HIPPY (Home Instruction Program for PreSchool Youngsters), a project of NCJW and the New Orleans School System. These wonderful new books were donated for Chanukah by the children of the religious schools of Gates of Prayer, Touro Synagogue, Shir Chadash, Temple Sinai, Beth Israel, and by the Jewish Day School and the Jewish Community Center Nursery School students.

BookPartners creates libraries across Greater New Orleans

Every few months, NCJW, in association with Agenda for Children, holds BookPartners/Night of Literacy workshops at the Uptown JCC. Evening classes designed for early childcare providers demonstrates reading techniques, encouraging a lifelong love of reading. Before the beginning of classes, NCJW provides a nourishing dinner and then distributes a library of new books upon completion of the program.

If you are interested in joining NCJW at future BookPartners events, contact Marcy Fertel at marcy225@aol.com or 885-0338.



Marcy Fertel labeled and bagged hundreds of new books in preparation for BookPartners programs.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Rebecca McGilveray, Rachel Cahn Norman and Sylvia Harper

NCJW furnishes N.O. Family Justice Center's Children's Area with love!

In October, NCJW completed the installation of the Children's Area at the New Orleans Family Justice Center at 830 Julia Street. The NOFJC is a one-stop center for victims of family violence and their children. The center co-locates a myriad of agencies to provide coordinated and consolidated legal, law enforcement, social and healthcare services.

The Children's Area is for the kids who come in with their mothers. While a parent is meeting with the professional staff, the Children's Room serves as a happy, comforting environment where children can play, rest, have a healthy snack and even take home a cute, huggable stuffed animal.

Last year, NCJW President Ina Davis attended a forum at the Tulane Law School Domestic Violence Clinic. The program focused on identifying families at risk of domestic abuse. Experts from the NOFJC gave a presentation on their mission. Ina was so impressed with their efforts on behalf of women, children and families, that she approached them, asking how NCJW might help. What they needed was a center in which children can play while their mothers meet with counselors. Ina told them this was a project NCJW could take on.

Interior designer Vivian Cahn volunteered to design and furnish what was at the time a vacant room at the center. Today, this room has lots of color and is filled with cabinets, a water dispenser, refrigerator, microwave, bookcases, books, toys, bean bags, play table and chairs, and much more. All was furnished by NCJW with energy and love!

Special thanks are extended for donations from members Vivian Cahn, Julie Fishelson, Adele Cahn, Rick Davis, Lisa Pulitzer, Gail Pesses, and all the members who contributed books and toys.

At the second anniversary party attended by Vivian Cahn and Ina Davis, NOFJC recognized NCJW-GNO Section for our outstanding and val-

ued dedication.

Do you or someone you care about need help? NOFJC 24 Hour Crisis Line (504) 866-9554.



NCJW's "Beanbag & Book" Project A Huge Success

by Susan Kierr

Vice President of Community Services

On Saturday, December 5th, our New Orleans NCJW celebrated an early Chanukah. The most wonderful part was that while we gave away beanbags and books to New Orleans children, WE received the best gift of all. Our joy was the evidence that our commitment to the future of the children of our city and our belief in action was impacting our community. Ina Davis and her husband Rick arranged for 200 beanbag chairs to come to town, and these were given to local branches and at the main branch of the Public Library.

Each child who came to the Main Library and presented a library card signed a contract - designed by Sarah Covert - promising to read, along with the accompanying parent, for 5 minutes a day. The child, with very serious study, chose a book from among a huge selection. Then the child selected a beanbag chair from a mountain of cushions. Parents and children were invited to linger and play with professional drummers. Thanks to Sheila Fenton and Rick Davis for their great photos, illustrating that in spite of the early winter chill, the crowd was huge, the children adorable and the volunteers amazing!

The lights in the eyes of the children affirm the spirit of the Festival of Lights and celebrate the People of the Book.

► Sarah Covert amidst the 200+ beanbags given away on Dec. 5, 2009. Every child who came to the event received a beanbag and a book! Note: 50 more children showed up after the beanbags were gone that day. NCJW member Rick Davis had more shipped in and the new beanbags were distributed in time for Christmas.



◀ Parents and children signing the Reading Contract which states, "In accepting this beanbag, I commit to read with my child for 5 minutes every day." After presenting the signed reading contract, each child received their beanbag and book.

► Susan Kierr, VP Community Services NCJW, helps children pick out their books.



◀ Happy faces and a lifelong love of reading is what it's all about.

"I like my purple bean bag. Thank you."

~ Jayla

National NCJW President Visits New Orleans

On September 22, 2009, the Greater New Orleans Section pulled out all the stops in welcoming National NCJW President Nancy Ratzan, at the beautiful home of Board member, Marjorie Cowan. Our appreciation goes to Marjorie for her most gracious hospitality. A large crowd heard Nancy tell of the proud accomplishments of NCJW and she encouraged the membership to maintain a strong insight into current issues. NCJW has an important voice at the national level in shaping perspective, and also locally, in working with community programming.

Tulane University President, Scott Cowan (Marjorie's husband) also welcomed the guests, and spoke of the essential need of volunteerism in our community. He recalled his own past participation and emphasized that the benefits were certainly not only to the organization and community, but to the person as well.

The Executive Board met with Nancy at breakfast the following morning, where her charm and enthusiasm led discussions citing past achievements of our Section, and further ways in attaining new goals.



▲ Tulane President Scott Cowan addresses NCJW members attending the event.

◀ Board member Marjorie Cowan welcomes NCJW's local President Ina Davis and National President Nancy Ratzan to her lovely home.



Spotlight on Safety: SELF DEFENSE

Scott Reynaud, Dragon Claw Kung Fu 2nd Degree Blackbelt volunteered his time to teach our members the art of self defense for women.

NCJW and Hadassah members learned many techniques and maneuvers that evening. We felt empowered and were most appreciative of Scott's time. In fact, we asked Scott to return for another session, and he has agreed! So we'll keep you posted of the next session this spring.

That evening we also collected toiletries to be distributed at a women's shelter in New Orleans.



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.

- ▶ **Babs and J. E. Isaacson**
in memory of Donna Cohen
- ▶ **Joan and Gerald Berenson**
in memory of Luba Glade
- ▶ **Nancy B. Timm, LCSW-BACS**
- ▶ **Joan and Gerald Berenson**
in memory of Luba Glade
- ▶ **Ina Davis**
in honor of Ann Thompson's ADL Emerging Leader Award
- ▶ **Helen Shocket**
in honor of the birthday of Janice Stern
in honor of the birthday of Madilyn Samuels
- ▶ **Nancy Kaplan**
in memory of Grace Hudson
- ▶ **Leone Marks**
in memory of David Covert
- ▶ **Nancy and Steve Timm**
in memory of Jon Thompson

Birthday dollars...

- ▶ Joan Berenson
- ▶ Leah Deutch
- ▶ Ana Gershanik
- ▶ Jo Ann Flom Greenberg
- ▶ Paula Picker
- ▶ Jane Sizeler
- ▶ Amy Gainsberg Haspel
- ▶ Barbara Herman
- ▶ Esther Hendler
- ▶ Jarrett Johnson
(in memory of Aida Johnson, Ivory Johnson, Quinn Johnson)

Birthday dollars...

(Continued)

- ▶ Lillian Opotowsky
- ▶ Mimi Schlesinger
- ▶ Sandra Schwarcz

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

- ▶ Ferber Family Foundation of Houma

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have supported our 2009/2010 Personal Giving Campaign. These funds sustain local and national NCJW programs. It's not too late to send in your gift.

NCJW Endowment Fund Established

Thanks to a generous contribution from Joan and Dr. Gerald Berenson and the bequest to the Section of Margery K. Stich, The NCJW Board has established the NCJW Endowment Fund at the Jewish Endowment Foundation. Contributions will help to ensure the strength and the future of our Section. Donations to the Fund of any amount may be sent to

Kathy Shepard, Treasurer
331 I State Street Drive
New Orleans, La. 70125

Can you guess which program is the oldest on-going community service project of the Greater New Orleans Section?

The Greater New Orleans Section has been providing grants to further the educations and careers of young Jewish people who are residents of the metropolitan area. The scholarships are primarily used by students at the college level, but have also been used for vocational and professional training.

The awards do not cover the full cost of a student's education, but often the NCJW funds are the extra which allow a student to attend. The money is a grant, not a loan. It is the hope of the Greater New Orleans Section, National Council of Jewish Women that, when able, the recipient shall donate to the fund so that it will continue for the benefit of other students.

Are you aware of the criteria?

- The applicant must be Jewish.
- The applicant must live in the Greater New Orleans area.
- The applicant must demonstrate financial need.
- The applicant must have a realistic educational plan towards a degree.

During the 2009-2010 school year, eight students were awarded grants, and the allocations from the Section included \$8,500 from the Irma M. Isaacson Scholarship Fund and \$2,400 from the Clara and Roy Schwarz Book Fund. This year the majority of the recipients are attending college in-state. How can you invest in the future of our youth?

Please consider a donation to the Irma M. Isaacson Scholarship Fund or the Clara and Roy Schwarz Book Fund and help a young adult achieve her or his dreams.



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.

Calendar of EVENTS

- ▶ Feb. 6 Election day. Be sure and VOTE!
- ▶ Feb. 7 Superbowl, 5:40 p.m. kickoff
GO SAINTS!
- ▶ Feb. 16 Mardi Gras
- ▶ Feb. 23 NCJW Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ Mar. 2 NCJW Board Meeting, Noon
- ▶ Mar. 11 Charles London, Author *Far From Zion*
w/JCC, Uptown JCC, 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Mar. 18 Pillars of Support, 7 - 9 p.m.
Save the Evening!
- ▶ Mar. 21-23 Washington Institute 2010
Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC
- ▶ May 16 Closing Event / Installations
Renaissance Arts Luncheon.
Save the date!

Be on our email list.

Send your email address to ncjw@bellsouth.net or call Terri at 861-7788.

Mazel Tov to Phyllis Nitzkin,
who has stepped up to NCJW, GNO Section Executive Vice President!