



National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans Section

Bulletin

www.NCJWneworleans.org

January 2014

Hannah G. Solomon Awards Luncheon to Honor Scott and Marjorie Cowen



Marjorie and Scott Cowen

There is a lot happening in New Orleans during the month of February. Hopefully the Saints will be in the Superbowl; the carnival season will be gearing up for the city and the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans Section Hannah G. Solomon Awards luncheon will be held on Monday February 3, 2014. This year we are honoring Scott and Marjorie Cowen.

Scott and Marjorie came to New Orleans in 1998 when Scott became the 14th President of Tulane University. Both of them jumped in feet first into the community they were now calling home.

After Katrina, Scott was appointed to the city's Bring New Orleans Back Commission and charged with leading a committee to reform and rebuild the city's failing public school system. He was the co-founder of the Fleur-de-lis Ambassadors Program, a group of civic leaders that spread the message to the rest of the country that New Orleans was in full recovery post Katrina. The list of his accomplishments to the community goes on.

Margie has been a strong supporting force behind Scott and a driving force in the community in her own right. She has served on several nonprofit boards since coming to New Orleans, The Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, Touro Synagogue, the New Orleans Museum of Art, and the National Council of Jewish Women just to name a few.

The luncheon will be held at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside in the Grand Ballroom "B" on the first floor. The cost is \$60.00 per person. A cash bar will open at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon will begin at noon. There is valet parking available or self-parking which is \$10.00. Tables of 8-10 people can be reserved. Please send your check payable to NCJW, GNO to Kathy Shepard, 3311 State Street Drive, New Orleans, LA 70125 by January 24, 2014.

~ Shellye Farber
Hannah G. Solomon Chair

President's MESSAGE



A FAITH IN THE FUTURE. A BELIEF IN ACTION.

Winter is known as a tough season. And yet as a young woman, it was the one I loved most. I loved the sport that winter brought. Skating. I could do a few figures, or put on my speed skates and breeze by everyone, or go with a favorite friend for a 'skate' on a weekend evening. I skated at the local rink, a frozen-over baseball diamond, at the forum arena when the hockey team was away, and best of all, at Lily Lake, when its glassy surface was almost perfect.

Every season brings its own excitement. And our winter events in NCJW-GNO are almost perfect themselves.

NCJW®

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater New Orleans Section

President

June Leopold

Vice President

Jill Zimmerman

Editor

Mary Stein

Photographs

Ina Davis

Our General Meeting at Newcomb Art Gallery was a perfect treat on Jan 7.

The selection of our Hannah Solomon Award recipients is a perfect (and meticulous) choice, as Scott and Marjorie Cowen have continually shown their love and dedication to our city. The Award Luncheon will be held at the Hilton Hotel on Mon., Feb3.

Our Community Needs Committee has received new and enriching propos-

als from several of our local agencies, with promises to offer renewed vitality to the community, as they seek approval from our Board later this spring.

What tough winter?

~ June

EDITORIAL:

NCJW in the Future

By Susan Keirr

Jim Carrey describes one of his good moments:

"A lot of people watch football to see the game and to get into the thrill of competition. I love football but I don't have this burning competitive edge to me that is going to die if one of the teams doesn't do well. I am a weird fan, a spiritual fan. I like everybody to have a fantastic game. I like to be at the stadium. It's a feeling of oneness, a feeling of being with people and being connected to them. I sit there and expand my consciousness and take the whole stadium in and feel all that energy."

(Richter, A. 2013, Energy Times, How Jim Carrey Rolls, vol. 23, No.10, p 19)

The Pew Research Center conducted one of their trademark national surveys in 2013 on Jewish Americans. Pew's first predilection was to think of Jews like Catholics or Muslims, a group defined by religious beliefs and practices. But that left out cultural Judaism. So the Pew study asked respondents to identify themselves as Jews, however they chose to do that. The survey then studied the attitudes and behaviors of the people being researched.

What evolved is an American story; people are finding out what it is like to live in an open, multicultural and pluralistic democracy where identity is not defined by race, culture or creed. The study shows that a large percent of Jews identify with and feel bound by shared beliefs, not religious practices. Jewish identity and pride is being reimaged in extraordinary ways. Values and behavior are the paramount claims to a Jewish identity, but religious practices are not.

NCJW is the scene of values' action, the field on which shared beliefs are put to play. It is and always has been the place where we find the kind of awareness Jim Carrey feels in the football stadium. We expand our consciousness "and take in the whole stadium." The name of that game illustrates the belief: "A Jew is what a Jew does." Today's NCJW in New Orleans has members who have been on the field of action for a life time, players we all know: Sara Stone, Julianne Isaacson, Flo Schornstein, Myra Soboloff, Joan Berensen, Joel Myers, Celia Katz, Carol Good, Babs Isaacson, Carol Wise.... and those of us who took inspira-

(Continued on page 4)

Public AFFAIRS

Election Forums

NCJW, in cooperation with WDSU-TV, League of Women Voters of NO, Urban League, 100 Black Women and the Public Law Center is putting on the following forums:

- ▶ **SHERIFF**
Friday, Jan. 10 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Channel 6 studio*, to be aired on WDSU Sunday, Jan. 12 at 10:30 p.m.
- ▶ **MAYOR**
Thursday, Jan. 16 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Dillard Univ. to be aired on WDSU Sat. Jan 18 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 19 p.m. at 10:30 p.m.
- ▶ **COUNCIL AT LARGE CANDIDATES**
Thursday, Jan. 23 7:00 p.m.
Channel 6 studio* to be aired

on WDSU Saturday, Jan. 25 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday Jan. 26 at 10:30 p.m.

Please send any questions you want to see NCJW ask regarding women and children and families that candidates for the City of New Orleans can address to joelmyersnola@gmail.com

Contact Joel with questions. Once the programs are aired, they will be streamed from WDSU.

On Wednesday, Jan. 8, the above organizations, without WDSU, will hold a forum for all District City Council Members (except B-not opposed) at 6:00 at Dillard Univ. This will not be broadcast.

(*Will hold 150 members.)

Save the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 29

Join NCJW and coalition partners as we present an expert panel to discuss the critical importance of judicial nominations and the federal courts with

- Ellen Buchman, V.P., The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Wash., D.C.
- Sally Kenney, Executive Director, Newcomb College Institute of Tulane University
- Terry O'Neill, President, National Organization for Women (NOW)
- Moderator: María Pabón López, Dean, College of Law, Loyola University New Orleans

Federal court decisions impact every aspect of our lives: the schools we can attend, our privacy, our ability to marry whom we choose and start a family when we choose, the safety of the products we buy, our religious freedom, and our voting rights. Hard-won legal protections for women are at risk... find out why Courts Matter!

Questions? Contact Ina Davis inanew@me.com or call 504-919-2559. Details to follow!

NCJW Study Day on Juvenile Justice in Louisiana

You are cordially invited to the NCJW Study Day on Juvenile Justice in Louisiana sponsored by Sisters Chaverot* and NCJW.

Guest Speakers include Gina B. Womack, Executive Director, Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC) and Dana Kaplan, Executive Director, Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana (JJPL)

The event is hosted by The Youth Study Center (YSC), 1100 Milton Street, New Orleans, LA 70122 (located near City Park) on March 19, 2014, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Special Tour of the facility will be provided by the YSC Staff)

Kindly RSVP by March 10, 2014 to Allison Kushner at Allison@jewishnola.com or (504) 780-5688.

A video from Michelle Alexander, Esq. "The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness" will be shown.

For more information about FFLIC and JJPL, please visit: www.fflic.org and www.jjpl.org

*The pursuit of strong relationships among racial, ethnic, religious, and social groups in the Greater New Orleans area is a founding principle of Sisters Chaverot, a grass roots outreach group supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans. Through events, programs and experiences, Sisters Chaverot brings together women to learn from each other and develop meaningful friendships essential for the continued growth and success of our complex, diverse community.

Editorial (from page 2)

tion from them: Madalyn Schenk, Sue Singer, Susan Hess, Vivian Cahn, Nancy Marsiglia, Barbara Herman, Pam Lyles, Barbara Greenberg, June Leopold, Loel Samuels, Kathy Sheperd, Ina Davis, Pam Lyles, Shellye Farber, Sue Jernigan, Phyllis Nitzin, Dana Sheperd, Wendy Good, Linda Friedman.....it is a long list. You probably put yourself on this one, and rightfully so.

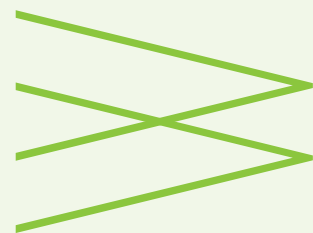
Here's what has to happen if the findings of the Pew Research Study are to be considered: it is the next generation that needs to be on this playing field. It is the daughters and

granddaughters of these women, and those women's friends and colleagues, religious and cultural Jews, who now need to jog out of the training room and take the ball and call the plays. And here they come: Brook Bissinger, Missy Taranto, Michelle Erenberg, Jill Zimmerman, Robin Goldblum, Rollie Rabin, Sarah Covert, Hallie Timm, Sarah Hess, Katie Single, Jennette Ginsburg, Dana Kaplan, Emile Tenenbaum, Cole Bernstein Trosclair...

Without having to agree on orthodoxy, conservatism, reform practice, intermarriage, or even Israel, we need

to agree that the world still needs the practice of Judaism in the arena of social justice. That is the name of the game for our organization. We need to meet in libraries and college campuses, not in banquet halls and dinner dances. Our concerns need to reach into the future of families of all makes and kinds. We know what Jim Carrey meant because we want to be there too when the whole stadium rises to its feet and cheers to make the world a better place.

Sammie Moshenberg, Executive Director of the NCJW-DC Office, visits New Orleans



A FAITH IN THE FUTURE.
A BELIEF IN ACTION.®

Krewe of Dewey Readers “Do WE Read!!!”

Can you find time to read to youngsters for one half-hour a week? Krewe of Dewey Readers is a collaborative program between NCJW, New Orleans Public Library, and Orleans Parish Head Start centers. Reading sessions are brief, but the results last a lifetime. The exceptional books will delight you as well as the children!

Here's what some of our Readers have to say:

“Kiddy Lit” is my “thing.” I love reading books with children. Since my grandchildren live out-of-state, I enjoy the quiet moments I share with the Head Start children as a Krewe of Dewey Reader every week. We laugh, whisper, beat out rhythms, sing, cuddle, and share the beauty of the written word and wonder of artistic visual expression. The children enrich my life! We’ve scheduled my time early on Monday mornings. What a way to start my week! It only takes an hour to do two centers yet the effect lasts all week long for the children and for me! Thank you, NCJW, for the opportunity and providing the award-winning books!

-- Janie Soslow

I have so enjoyed reading to the young children at the Louise Head Start Center. I get lots of hugs when I arrive and am treated with such respect as I read. Everyone is quiet, listening and very interested. It is a wonderful volunteer assignment!

-- Charel Katz

The children are adorable and the teachers are great. The class room is impressive and well organized. I am thoroughly enjoying the youngsters, the books and this volunteer program!

-- Helen Polmer

To volunteer as a reader, contact Ina Davis: inanew@me.com or call 504-919-2559. Please do... we need readers!

Dedicated FUNDS

Birthday Dollars...

► Mimi Schlesinger

NCJW Cares...

► In honor of Carol Good
By Jen and Sam Zurik



NCJW GNO Community Service Committee Hard at Work!



NCJW visits Kingsley House



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater New Orleans Section

6221 S. Claiborne Ave., Suite 208
New Orleans, LA 70125

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 608
New Orleans, LA

Have You Changed Your Address?

If so, please contact the office

Phone (504) 861-7788

Fax (504) 861-0044

Email ncjwgn@gmail.com

Calendar of EVENTS

- ▶ Jan. 29 – Courts Matter Panel
- ▶ Feb. 3 – Hannah Solomon Award, Hilton Hotel 11:30 a.m.
- ▶ Feb. 11 – Board Meeting, Noon, JCC Uptown NCJW Way, 7 p.m.
- ▶ Mar. 11 – 7 p.m., Woldenberg Campus, Metairie
- ▶ Mar. 19 - Study Day on Juvenile Justice, 6-8 p.m. The Youth Study Center (YSC), 1100 Milton Street New Orleans, LA 70122
- ▶ Apr. 29 - Women and Judaism Study Group 7 p.m., Woldenberg Campus
- ▶ May 13 - Noon, JCC Uptown
- ▶ May 18 – Closing Event