



National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans Section

Bulletin

www.NCJWneworleans.org

September 2014

A three-session mini-course

What's Gender Got To Do With It?

by Brenda Brasher



This October, the National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans will present a three-session mini-course in gender and Judaism, “What’s Gender Got To Do With It?” Attendees will examine the contributions of gender to the past, present and future of Jewish women’s activism. The class will meet Wednesday evenings, Oct 1, 15 and 29 from 6:30 – 8pm, in the Anna Many Lounge at the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women at Tulane’s Uptown Campus. Light refreshments will be provided.

In SESSION 1, convened by Gail Chalew,
“Ten Things Everyone Should Know
About Gender and Judaism”

Dr. Brenda Brasher will introduce key terms and theories of gender studies, and discuss how religious text depictions of women’s nature, and early physicians’ understanding of women’s bodies helped fuel debates over women’s education and suffrage, and remain influential today.

In SESSION 2, convened by Ina Davis,
“Women’s Rights, Civil Rights and American
Jewish Women”

Dr. Nikki Brown will explore the interplay of the women’s movement and the civil rights movement with specific focus on the contributions Jewish women, locally and nationally, have made to the development of each. Excerpts from The

Feminine Mystique by Jewish author and “mother” of Second Wave feminism Betty Friedan will figure prominently in these case studies.

In SESSION 3, convened by Robin Goldblum,
“Jewish Women Through a Gender Lens:
Representation and Perception,
Authority and Power”

Prof. Betsy Weiss will focus on the representation of Jewish women in media and entertainment, and consider the implication of those representations for contemporary Jewish women’s activism.

Participants who complete all three sessions will be awarded a Certificate in Judaism and Gender Studies from NCJW. A suggested donation of \$10 per session, or \$25 for all three sessions is requested from NCJW members to attend. For non-NCJW members, a suggested donation of \$15 per session, or \$40.00 for all three sessions is requested. (All proceeds dedicated to future NCJW GNO study activities.)

Advanced registration is encouraged. To register, please email the NCJW Greater New Orleans office: ncjwgn@gmail.com. Donation checks should be made payable to NCJW, GNO, and mailed to the NCJW GNO office, 6221 South Claiborne Ave., Suite 208, New Orleans, LA 70125. Any questions? Contact Dr. Brenda Brasher, brashebe@yahoo.com.

President's MESSAGE



A FAITH IN THE FUTURE. A BELIEF IN ACTION.

As you write the number 5775, it seems like an incredible figure. Perhaps you can chance it on your next lottery ticket or even tuck it in as an exceptional password. I don't know of any great significance, but I want it to stand for hope, peace, abundance, happiness, love and all the best for the human spirit. May this New Year be good to this world.

Our NCJW year is full of exciting events. We begin with an Opening at Mimi Schlesinger's home on Monday, Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m. With fun, information, and nostalgia, we will hear from local TV personalities, Shelley Brown,

Morning News anchor on Fox 8 and on-air moderator of Fox 8 Defenders, and Terry Flettrich, formerly of WDSU, and hostess of Middy.

Then we will discuss and learn from our three session mini-course on Jewish Women and Feminism chaired by Brenda Brasher. The mini-courses will be held at the Anna Many Lounge on Tulane's campus October 1, 15, & 29 at 6:30pm. Throughout October, we will focus on Jewish women and their historical contributions.

In January, we have invited Nancy Kaufman, Executive Director of NCJW, to visit us from New York as a guest speaker at our General Meeting. Our Hannah Solomon Award Luncheon will be held on Monday, Feb 2, 2015, at the Westin Hotel, chaired by our talented Madalyn Schenk. If you have a recommendation for a community nominee, please send it to Madalyn by October 10.

NCJW Chairs Loel Samuel and Betty Kohn are planning a glamorous and dazzling gala fundraiser with entertainment

by New Orleans' best – sure to be a spectacular event at the Hilton. Put it on your calendar for Sunday evening, March 15.

The Community Services Committee Chair Sue Jernigan has been quite active over the summer. We welcomed several new programs including P3, Girls on the Run, a coalition with the NO Public Library and an Advocacy Committee which will be a strong voice for education, domestic violence issues, reproductive rights, immigration and many other social concerns.

Thanks to Membership VP Jenny Nathan for exciting events this summer where we welcomed several new members.

As important elections are just around the corner, we are again part of a local coalition of non-profit and non-partisan groups sponsoring a full calendar of senatorial candidate debates.

Our wish to you all for a full and happy New Year.

~ June

NCJW Greater New Orleans Section Ramping Up New Member Engagement!

by Jenny Nathan

After a busy summer, including the NCJW Way Wine Around and a membership happy hour at Freret Street Publiq House, the section has welcomed many new members into the fold. In an effort to make sure that new members feel welcomed and able to get involved, we have developed a new member intake survey that will be available on the membership page of the NCJW website. Please email Membership VP Jenny Nathan, jenny.nathan@gmail.com, with the names and email addresses of anyone who you think should get involved! I will reach out and send this online survey, along with a personal message. In the survey, new or potential members have the opportunity to schedule a coffee date or a phone call with a current member of NCJW to learn more.

New member e-newsletter and more, coming soon! See you at the opening event!

NCJW®

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater New Orleans Section

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Public AFFAIRS

Louisiana Coalition for Reproductive Freedom

In its June 30 decision, the Court by a five-to-four vote gave businesses formed as “closely held corporations” a new exemption from the requirement that most businesses must provide a variety of pregnancy-preventative health care coverage for their female workers, if the firm’s owners have religious objections to those services.



On July 12, NCJW protested with Louisiana Coalition for Reproduction Freedom Against the Hobby Lobby Court decision.

Election Info

by Michelle Erenberg

Elections are coming up – what you need to know!

Though it is not a presidential election year, it is critical that we all go out this fall to vote since there are 45 offices on the ballot, 34 of which are for district judicial seats. The courts now play a major role in upholding or denying rights – from reproductive rights to marriage rights to voting rights – and taking the time to vote can make a difference on who is presiding over those courtrooms. The NCJW Advocacy committee is organizing voter registration tables in September for National Voter Registration Day.

Want to volunteer to register voters? Contact Cole Trosclair at colebern@gmail.com
Visit www.geauxvote.com for information on elections and registration

DATES:

- ▶ ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 4 for the primaries. The last day to register to vote is October 6th.
- Oct. 21-28, 2014 is the early voting period (except Sunday).
- Mail Ballots - Deadline to request - Oct. 31, Deadline to Submit- Nov. 3

(Continued on next page)

Our Work in Israel: NCJW Responds to Emergency Call to Action

by Ina Davis
NCJW Inc. Board Director

NCJW has been a leading organization in supporting Israel for more than 60 years and has been committed to advancing women's status in Israel by helping women to develop a stronger voice at all levels of society.

Our Israel Granting Program addresses critical challenges that women face in Israel with programs designed to address women's rights and well-being in areas like economics, politics, education, domestic violence, and social justice.

Most recently with Israel under attack, NCJW has stepped up to provide emergency protection to Israel's most vulnerable populations:

- ▶ The Woman to Woman Jerusalem Shelter for Battered Women benefited from NCJW's Emergency Grant Fund. With the shelter's halfway house located close to the southern border, women and children were moved to a guest house, attended facilitated support group meetings, and received emergency allowances for groceries.
- ▶ When ordered to "evacuate immediately", funds raised by NCJW pro-

vided two weeks of evacuation costs for EDEN Village, a residential educational program for at-risk girls that is just a mile and a half from the Gaza Strip.

- ▶ NCJW also supplied funding for three bomb shelters for Arab Bedouin villages in the Negev, where access to shelters or emergency services is unavailable. The shelters protect 20 children and can be delivered to remote areas. AJECC-NISPED (Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation – Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development) was the grant recipient.

“Pay attention to what is happening with your senators and representatives... let them know that you support financial aid to Israel and the right to defend itself.”

– Shari Eshet, NCJW, Director Israel Office

When asked what we can do from the U.S., Shari Eshet, Director of NCJW's Israel Office stated, "Pay attention to what is happening with your senators and representatives... let them know that you support financial aid to Israel and the right to defend itself."

NCJW, GNO Section is an active partner in the Israel Granting Program through Yad B'Yad and the Women to Women Empowerment Initiative.

If you would like to be GNO Section's eyes and ears on behalf of our Israel programs, contact GNO President June Leopold: gilliano@aol.com or call 504-494-2783.

Election (Continued from page 3)

▶ GENERAL ELECTION IS ON DECEMBER 6 for the run-off. The last day to register to vote is November 5th. Nov. 22-29, 2014 is the early voting period (except Sunday). Mail Ballots- Deadline to request- Dec. 2nd, Deadline to Submit- Dec. 5th

Early voting takes place at the registrar of voters office in each parish and at additional designated locations in certain parishes.

Orleans Parish:

- ▶ City Hall, 1300 Perdido St., #1W23, New Orleans, LA 70112-2127
- ▶ 225 Morgan St., Room #105, New Orleans, LA 70114

Jefferson Parish:

- ▶ 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Room 502 Harahan, LA 70123
- ▶ 5001 West Bank Expressway, Suite C-2 Marrero, LA 70072
- ▶ 408 Minor St., Kenner, LA 70072

For those 65 years of age or older or disabled, there is a program where, once accepted, you will automatically receive a ballot by mail for all elections. Details on enrollment and all information you need about voting can be found at <http://www.geauxvote.com>

A Call For Nominations

National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans Section is pleased to announce that the Hannah G. Solomon Award will be presented on Monday February 2, 2015 at the Westin Canal Place Hotel.

This award is given annually to a volunteer community leader who exemplifies the qualities of Hannah G. Solomon, founder of the National Council of Jewish Women. Recipients are individuals who have

- a) brought about important programs and services through their leadership in a volunteer capacity
- b) been a catalyst for social change
- c) been known for their interest, activity and stands on issues that are in line with those of NCJW

Please send nominations to Madalyn Schenk, 600 Port of New Orleans

Place #8G, New Orleans, LA 70130 or email to mschenk@bellsouth.net.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, October 10, 2014.

Previous Hannah G. Solomon Award recipients include Rena Wilson, Margery Stich, Myra Soboloff, Thomas Godchaux, Olga Jackson, Edith Rosenwald 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, Julanne Isaacson, Pres Kabacoff, Shirley and Dr. Robert Haspel, Harry Blumenthal,



Jr., Eddy Rosen, Hugo Kahn, Marjorie and Roger Bissinger, Barbara Herman, Madalyn Schenk, Babs Isaacson, Melba and Moise Steeg, Jr., Betty Wisdom, Inge Elsas, Carol Good, Phyllis M. Taylor, Carol B. Wise, Nancy Marsiglia, Joan Berenson, Mary Keller Zervigon, Ruth Kullman, Marjorie and Scott Cowen.

Community Services UPDATE

by Sue Jernigan

As the summer winds down and we get geared for another fabulous year there have been so many things happening behind the scenes. To highlight just a few: NCJW's Fox 8 Defenders continue to bring help and relief to consumers throughout the Greater New Orleans region. From January through May of this year, they logged over 900 volunteer hours and helped dozens of people. If you want to participate, which involves a bit of training and the ability to spend a few hours a week at the WVUE station, please contact Babs Isaacson at 504 861-0716, or via email at babsisaacson@cox.net. On September 17, there will a luncheon at the Fox 8 WVUE station to honor and thank our wonderful volunteers. Congrats to all for a fabulous job!

The New Orleans Family Justice Center (NOFJC) is a unique organization offering complete services and sup-

port for victims of domestic violence and their families. NCJW is its community partner. As a member of that Board representing NCJW, I would like to report that in 2013, the New Orleans Family Justice Center had 1066 actively enrolled survivors and had 5725 visits for services, an almost five-fold increase since 2012. To learn more, visit www.nofjc.org. Domestic violence crosses all lines of gender, ethnicity, income level and education level. There is a wonderful tool available for assessing the risk of a victim by her/his intimate partner that can be found at <http://dangerassessment.org>.

NOFJC was awarded a \$15,000 check from Verizon in August. NOFJC is having a soiree in October honoring Senator JP Morrell and Representative Helena Moreno, both of whom have been staunch advocates on behalf of stronger legislation to protect victims.

They were sponsors and leaders in the passage of several laws enacted in this last legislative session. NCJW, as a community partner and as a member of the NOFJC Board, will have a table. If you are interested in attending, please contact me at suejern@gmail.com.

We have many exciting community service projects that are always seeking volunteers. If you would like to learn more about working with the Krewe of Dewey Readers, contact Ina Davis at inanev@me.com or Debby Ehrlich at debbyehrich@yahoo.com; for Girls on the Run, contact Jody Portnoff Braunig at jody@gotrnola.org; for Prospect 3, contact Vivian Cahn at vcahn@cox.net; for ACE, contact Allison Freeman at allison@nojcc.org. Remember, this is just a sampling of how you can get involved!

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.

► **Marjorie Bissinger**

-in honor of Walter Isaacson's Humanitarian Award

► **Sara Stone**

-in honor of Walter Isaacson's Humanitarian Award
-in memory of Irma Isaacson
-with appreciation to Dana Shepard

► **Nancy and Steve Timm**

-in honor of Walter Isaacson's Humanitarian Award
-in honor of Sara Stone's Birthday

► **Ina and Richard Davis**

-in memory of Sue Singer's father
-in honor of Dana Shepard's Young Leadership Committee's Award
-in memory of Dottie Mintz

► **Amy Gainsburgh Haspel and John Haspel**

► **Harry Blumenthal**

-in memory of his mother, Hannah Betty Blumenthal Stich

Birthday Dollars...

► **Margot Garon**

-in honor of Sylvia Stern's birthday

► **Sue Singer**

-in honor of the birth of Avery Raizel Singer

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 Gainsburgh Haspel and John Haspel**

Personal Giving...

Your annual gift to the Personal Giving Campaign helps us continue our many community services and advocacy. From July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

► **\$1-\$99**

Diane Africk, Lazelle Alexander, Rachel Bergman, Phyllis Bernstein, Marilyn Brown, Joan Cox, Michelle Erenberg, Allison Freeman, Susan Friedman, Edel Gainsburgh, Shannie Goldstein, Judy Guth, Julie Schwam Harris, Lisa Heller, Amy Lake, Donna Levin, Toby Mandler, Margaret Meyer, Betty Moore, Jennifer Nathan, Marilyn Oelsner, Cynthia D. Sacks, Paula Samuels, Florence Scharff, Sandy Schwarcz, Katie Single, Betty Straus Smith, Judy Steinberg, Nicole Trosclair, Rita Warren, Linda Warshauer

► **\$100-\$249**

Carol Asher, Patricia Barnett, Hertha Bart, Nicki Berger, Benay Bernstein, Jody Braunig, Barbara Bresler, Jane Buchsbaum, Mindy Caplan, Susan Daube, Shellye Farber, Cynthia Farber, Diane Franco, Jean Frank, Ana Gershanik, Cathy Glaser, Susan Good, Harriett Handelman, Amy Gainsburgh Haspel, Eve Hirsch, Julianne Isaacson, Peggy Jacobs, Sue Jernigan, Nancy

Hudson Kaplan, Barbara Kaplinsky, Charel Katz, JoAnn Katz, Celia Katz, Susan Kierr, Anne Leightman, Ellen Manshel, Nancy Marsiglia, Elene Miller Blotner, Debbie Newman, Gail Pesses, Sue Preis, Cynthia Rittenberg, Eddy Rosen, Beth Isaacson Rosenthal, Madelyn Schenk, Shirley Seelig, Phyllis Shames, Karen Sher, Leona Shlosman, Jeanne Smolkin, Karen and Dr. Edward Soll, Mary Stern, Sylvia Sterne, Ann Streiffer, Lois Sutton, Ann Thompson, Nancy Timm, Susan Tramontoma, Sue Robin Weinbauer, Jennifer Zurik

► **\$250-\$499**

Brenda Brasher, Vivian Cahn, Richard Davis, Ina Davis, Robin Giarrusso, Carol Good, Sandra Heller, Babette Isaacson, Tricia Kirschman, Pamela Lyles, Joel Myers, Phyllis Mitzkin, Loel Weil Samuel, Marie (Mimi) Schlesinger, Florence Schornstein, Kathy Shepard, Sue Singer, Jane Sizeler

► **\$500-\$999**

Cathy and Morris Bart, Joan Bronk, Janes Bories Burkedale Family Foundation, Michal Fishman, Sandra Chass Goldsmith, Susan Hess, Betty Kohn, Edie and Paul Rosenblum, Pamela Steeg, Jr.

► **\$1000-\$2499**

Joan and Gerald Berenson, Marjorie Cowen, Tracy Dodd, Ann C. Fishman, Barbara Herman, Anne P. Lowenburg, Dana Shepard, Cahn Family Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Matching Program, Patrick Taylor Foundation (Phyllis)

► **\$2500 and Above**

Margie Bissinger, Sara Stone

(Dedicated Funds continued on next page)

NCJW Cares...

Your donations to NCJW CARES support important NCJW, GNO Section education, advocacy, and community service programs to improve the quality of life for women, children and families. It also helps to support HIPPIY, ACE, Irma Isaacson Memorial Scholarship Fund and Fox 8 Defenders. Please send your donations to Sheryl Title, Chairwoman - 515 Hillary Street, New Orleans, LA 70118.

► **Joan Berenson**

-Good health wishes to Martin Goldstein to stay well

► **Barbara and Mark Greenberg**

-In honor of Ruth Rosenthal's 90th birthday

-In memory of Honore Fox

► **Mary Dumestre**

-In honor of Florence Zimmering

P.3 Reads

by Vivian Cahn

Many of you will remember the fascinating presentation NCJW had at Hillel several years ago to introduce us to Prospect.2 (P.2) the International Arts Biennial taking place in New Orleans. Now Prospect.3 is on the horizon, running from the end of October through January of 2015. One of the many programs in this ambitious 3 month city-wide event is P.3 Reads. NCJW is one of the proud supporters of this program which occurs every few weeks in various library branches throughout the city, and is free and open to the public. In it, various P.3 artists are paired in dialogue with accomplished New Orleanians discussing how certain books have influenced them as artists and leaders. The August P.3 Reads took place at the Rosa Keller Library branch in Broadmoor featuring local artists Keith Calhoun and Chandra McCormick. It was a resounding success with a standing room-only-crowd.

Mark your calendars and come experience our upcoming P.3 Reads:

► Oct. 16, 6-7 pm - Franklin Sirmans (the Artistic Director of P.3) with photographer Sophie Lvoff, discussing Walker Percy's 'The Moviegoer,' at the Main Library.

NCJW member Vivian Cahn serves on the board of Prospect New Orleans. For further information, or if you'd like to get involved with this exciting event, please contact her – vcahn@cox.net or 722-1014.

Freedom Summer Screening



Café Istanbul
July 10
organized by
Michelle Erenberg and Jenny Nathan

Meet Up With The Rep

Many thanks to Liz Yager and Harriett Cortez for organizing "Meet Up with Rep. Neil Abramson"





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 contact the office

Phone (504) 861-7788

Fax (504) 861-0044

Email ncjwgn@gmail.com

Calendar of EVENTS

- ▶ Sept 15 – Opening Event
Mimi Schlesinger's home
- ▶ Sept 30 – Board Meeting
Noon, Temple Sinai
- ▶ Oct. 14 – Exec. Board Meeting
Noon, Rosa Keller Library
- ▶ Oct. 1, 15, 29 - Mini-Workshop
6:30 pm, Newcomb College Center
for Research on Women
Tulane Uptown Campus

Save the Date

NCJW Annual Fundraiser
Sunday, March 15, 2015
New Orleans Hilton Riverside