

BULLETIN

SPRING EVENT

SIMCHA AND SCIENCE!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2010 SPRING EVENT
AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA

A joint program of the Minneapolis and St. Paul NCJW sections

Join us as we install our new board of directors, give a special warm welcome to our new St. Paul section co-president, Marilyn Bloom, thank our outgoing board members for their service, and share in the simcha of our Minneapolis sister section in recognizing their 2010 volunteer of the year, Michelle Shapiro.

Following the brief meeting, we will have an exclusive chance to explore the greatest archaeological discovery of the 20th century—one that has great historic and personal meaning to people all over the world.

Monday, May 3, 2010

6:30 p.m.

Science Museum of Minnesota

120 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, MN 55102

See RSVP on back.

The cost is \$36 for NCJW members and \$40 for non-members. Become a new member this evening and enjoy the program and one-year NCJW membership for only \$50! Includes beverages, appetizers and a tour of the Dead Sea Scroll exhibit: Words that Changed the World.

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ABOUT THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS EXHIBIT

The Dead Sea scrolls, most of which are more than 2,000 years old, include fragments of the earliest known texts of the Bible. After their initial discovery in the mid-19th century by a shepherd in caves along the western shores of the Dead Sea, archaeologists have excavated and pieced together tens of thousands of scroll fragments into more than 900 separate documents—from biblical manuscripts and commentary to religious legal writings. These ancient Hebrew writing fragments are now archived and conserved by the Israel Antiquities Authority. The Science Museum is one of only a few museums in the United States to host the scrolls.

LETTER FROM CO-PRESIDENTS

Recently, we have been giving a lot of thought to the meaning of community. What is community? Is it your neighborhood? Your friends? Your children's school? In the past several decades, life for many of us has become increasingly siloed. We spend much of our time in cars, in front of the computer, or even just stuck inside on a cold winter day. **Yet, right before our very eyes is a community like no other—the NCJW community!** A group of like-minded Jewish women who are passionate about making a real and lasting difference in the world around them, and who like to have fun!

This year, NCJW women have been busy with a range of events. Highlights include our Solar Cooker dinner at Fasika restaurant and Jewish Women's Morning at the Capitol, along with successfully spinning off our longstanding Stuff for School project to our partner 3M, and launching a new granting program with Kowalski's to help teachers in the St. Paul public schools bring something new to their classrooms. Looking forward, we hope to see you on May 3 for our installation event and tour of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

At NCJW, there really is something for everyone. If you haven't already, we urge you to reach out to us—and make NCJW your community!

—Jacy Rubin Grais and Jennifer Kaplan

SOLAR COOKERS HELP SAVE THOUSANDS OF LIVES

O N DEC. 8, 2009, NCJW ST. PAUL HELD A DINNER at Fasika African Restaurant to raise money to buy solar cookers. There was delicious Ethiopian food, African Honey Wine, and even a traditional coffee ceremony. It was fun and interesting, but most importantly the event raised money for a very good cause!

Solar cookers have saved thousands of lives in Africa. They have found their way to refugee camps in Chad that house refugees who have fled the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. Without the cookers, the women have to go outside the camps to gather firewood for cooking. This is when they are most vulnerable to rape and attacks. By using the power of the sun to cook, women do not have to leave the safety of the camps, and that keeps them alive.

NCJW St. Paul raised more than \$900, enough to buy 60 solar cookers!



ADVOCACY AND ACTION

JEWISH WOMEN'S (INCLUDING LITTLE WOMEN TOO!) MORNING AT THE CAPITOL INSPIRES ALL



ON TUESDAY, MARCH 2, APPROXIMATELY 80 women participated in our annual JWMC to become educated, empowered and excited about three policy issues before meeting with their state legislators. Beginning with hamantaschen, coffee and tea, Jewish women throughout the metro area noshed and schmoozed with old friends and new before Rabbi Lily Kauffman led us in prayer and elucidated the Jewish values that inspired us to advocate on behalf of women, children, families and the most vulnerable individuals in our communities.

Next, we learned how we could help preserve General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC), which serves the

lowest income individuals in Minnesota who are not eligible for any other medical support; then we heard about K-12 issues and a way to maintain funding by focusing on values we share with legislators from both political parties; finally, we considered options for persuading legislators to consider revenue increases along with program cuts to address the State's \$1.2 billion budget deficit.

Energized and knowledgeable, we headed out for meetings with our state senators and representatives knowing we were about to make a difference in other people's lives.

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW NCJW MEMBERS

Mariella Grais (life member)
Paige Grais (life member)
Frances Fischer

Elana Levine (life member)
Susan Moses-Zirkos

Samantha Rubin (life member)
Lisa Walker

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS



GIRLS ON THE MOVE ONCE AGAIN IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

SANDY WOLKOWICZ IS ONCE AGAIN TEACHING girls on the move to third grade girls, this time at the Amos and Celia Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School. There are twenty-one lively girls, and the program is moving along wonderfully!



Girls on the Move was developed by St. Paul NCJW to help third and fourth grade girls learn skills for developing strong self esteem and a positive body image, while providing tools to help empower them towards success.

For more information contact Sandy Wolkowicz at 612-759-2512 or sandyww@aol.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD TAKEOUT RETURNS!

ONCE AGAIN THIS SPRING, NCJW IS sponsoring Neighborhood Takeout, a collaborative project with the Neighborhood House of St. Paul in which we help low-income immigrant families improve their nutritional welfare and overall health through education about quality food choices, food safety and money saving practices for their children and families.



We are currently seeking volunteers for this year's program, which began on Thursday, April 8, with Thursday afternoon sessions continuing through May 13. Volunteers are needed from 12-3 p.m., or from 12-1:30 p.m., and 1:30-3 p.m.

The program will be held at the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center in West St. Paul.

NCJW volunteers will purchase groceries and deliver them to the site, and then are encouraged to stay for cooking classes led by a certified dietician, and then to hand out canvas grocery bags filled with food for the featured recipe to the participating women.

The program will culminate in a multicultural potluck meal for all of the women and their children and NCJW volunteers, showcasing the diverse cuisines represented in the participants' home countries.

If you are interested in volunteering for one or more sessions, contact Linda Morgan at 651-452-6668 or lfmorgan@comcast.net, or Laurie Kamman at 651-452-0422 or lnkamman@aol.com

BACK(PACKS) TO SCHOOL IS BACK IN 2010!

BACK(PACKS) TO SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM, NCJW's newest community service project, is a partnership between NCJW and Kowalski's Markets on Grand Avenue. This project stemmed from Stuff for School, an NCJW initiative that is now fully funded and operated by 3M. Through Back(packs) to School, grants are available to select St. Paul public schools, based on the economic status of the student body and the specific supply needs of the classroom teacher.

Money for these grants is raised through donations to NCJW and the sale of "paper backpacks" at the registers of Kowalski's Market on Grand Avenue. Customers coming into Kowalski's during July and August are offered the opportunity to purchase "backpacks" for a minimum dollar donation. The backpacks, with the name of the donor, are hung in the window of the store and proceeds are used to fund the Back(packs) to School program.

This spring 16 grants totaling \$1200 were awarded to classroom teachers so they can replenish school supplies for their classrooms during the second half of the school year. Thanks to Kowalski's, NCJW donors, and the St. Paul Public School's Office of Innovation and Development for making the first year of this wonderful program a success!

DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who gave to our Rainbow Connection and Count Your Blessings Campaigns during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. (We apologize for any errors or omissions in the list.)

RAINBOW DONORS

Anonymous	Joanie Levey
Sandra Abramson	Stephanie & James Levine
Tracey Agranoff	Judith Liszt
Mary Andler	Rhoda Mains
Constance Berde	Mildred Mastbaum
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Rebecca Kvasnik	Diane Wolfson
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COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Maxine Applebaum	Mildred Miller
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Stephanie Brod Levine	Robert Rubenstein
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Rhoda Mains	Judy Wolf
Mildred Mastbaum	
Barbara Melamed	

IMPORTANT NCJW WEB SITES FOR INFORMATION AND DONATIONS

VISIT US ONLINE

<http://www.ncjwstpaul.org>

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Browse pictures of events. Start a discussion. Invite friends to join NCJW. Go to www.facebook.com and search for NCJW St. Paul.

NCJW ACCEPTS ONLINE DONATIONS.

Go to www.ncjwstpaul.org to make an on-line donation. Thank you!



AUTHOR LILY KOPPEL SHARES HER BOOK AT THE 2009 JEWISH BOOK FAIR

ON NOVEMBER 17, 2009, NCJW ST. PAUL

co-sponsored a Jewish Book Fair dinner and speaking engagement with author Lily Koppel. The fabulous dinner was held at Luci Ancora. Lily spoke to us about her discovery of the diary and her personal journey to find the woman who wrote in those pages.

In her book, *The Red Leather Diary: Reclaiming a Life Through the Pages of a Lost Journal*, author Lily Koppel tells the story of discovering a lost diary in a dumpster outside her Upper West Side Manhattan apartment. Koppel describes how she set out to find the writer of this remarkable journal, which painted a vivid picture of a young artist coming of age in 1930s New York. The diary's author, Florence Wolfson, the daughter of Jewish immigrants from Russia, was one of a generation of Depression-stamped young women who longed to cultivate an artistic life.



Lily Koppel writes for *The New York Times* and other publications. A graduate of Barnard College with degrees in English and creative writing, she studied at Oxford and in Paris. She lives in New York City. She describes finding the diarist as rediscovering her “bubbe.”

Learn more about Lily Koppel and her work at www.redleatherdiary.com



ST. PAUL NCJW MEMBERS MINGLE IN STYLE AT THE BEAUTY LOUNGE

THE ST. PAUL SECTION OF NCJW GATHERED

on March 9, an especially rainy Tuesday night, at the Beauty Lounge, a salon/boutique on Grand Avenue. While sipping wine and munching on appetizers, about 20 members and guests mingled, tried on fun and funky accessories, and bonded as “sisters” in an effort to promote Jewish values through community service. Many of us found the event relaxing, inspiring, and rejuvenating — a chance to appreciate the strength and beauty so evident in all of us.

We look forward to other events that will simply give us a chance to get to know each other and to celebrate being Jewish women!

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

NCJW HAS NEW MAILING ADDRESS

NCJW St. Paul
1039 Overlook Road
Mendota Heights, MN 55118

MEET ALISA WARSHAVSKY – ST PAUL’S SHALICAH

A LISA WARSHAVSKY WILL BRING AN ISRAELI FLAVOR TO THE ENTIRE ST. PAUL JEWISH COMMUNITY for the coming year as our Shlichah (Israeli emissary), sponsored by the United Jewish Fund and Council.

Alisa is from Rishon L'Tzion in Israel. She recently finished her service with the Israeli Defense Force, working as an education officer in the IDF Officer's Training School. She was an assistant operations manager at the Zapari Zoo which is a bird zoo and has volunteered with Magen David Adom (Israeli Red Cross) and "Latet" an Israeli humanitarian aid organization that provides assistance to the needy.

The Shaliach program was created to strengthen to bridge between our local programming and Israeli and Jewish culture and ways. It is funded by contributions from the Jewish Agency for Israel's (JAFI) Partnership 2000 program, which receives funding through the UJFC, and a grant by the UJFC's Endowment Grants Committee, as well as through monetary and in-kind donations from St. Paul agencies and other private donors.

For more information, contact: Alisa Warshavsky, Shlichah (Israeli Emissary): 651-255-4753. Alisa is a fantastic community resource for all Israel related advocacy and events.

CELEBRATE YOM HA'ATZMAUT WITH SHIRA BETZIBUR

Tuesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m. at the St. Paul JCC

Join us as we celebrate Israel's 62nd anniversary and be transported to the hum of Israel with Shira Betzibur, a sing-a-long, Israeli style. We will sing the folk songs that remind us of the early days as well as the Israeli songs of today.

Leading the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration in song will be two visiting musicians from our Partnership 2000 (P2K) region in Israel, the Sovev Kinneret. Evyatar Edri is from Kibbutz Ma'agan and is the lead singer and guitarist for the Israeli rock band, Haktzizot Shel Lidia (Lidia's Meatballs). Or Cohen, a recent law school graduate from Netanya Academic College, is from the town, Poriyya Elite, and is a song leader and guitar teacher.

Israeli folk music originated in the early 20th century. Patriotic composers, convinced that there should be music that would unify the various immigrant groups, invented a "new" folk tradition, writing songs to inspire the young nation. If Arik Einstein, Shalom Chanoch, Naomi Shemer, HaParvarim, Noa, and Sheva get you nostalgic, you belong with us on Israel Independence Day. (Previous knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary.)

There is nothing like a good sing-a-long! Bring your family for this fun Yom Ha'atzmaut event.

NCJW HAS FASHION CENTS

Now in its second year, NCJW's latest fundraiser has raised nearly \$2,000! NCJW Fashion Cents is a wonderful way to recycle clothing, support NCJW and get a tax break! Donors receive a tax receipt for their donations that are then resold at consignment shops. When the clothes sell, NCJW receives



the profits. This is a simple and easy way to clean your closet and support NCJW programs!

Contact Stephanie Levine at stephanielevine@comcast.net for donations or to help out on the committee.



ST. PAUL SECTION

2846 Huntington Avenue
St. Louis Park MN 55416

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2009-2010

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Jennifer Kaplan

Advisor (Stuff for School Chair and Chair of Fashion Cents)

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Treasurer

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Jennifer Benowitz

VP Community Service

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SPA

Jodi Wolk

RSVP
2010 SPRING EVENT

Yes – I would like to attend!

MEMBER: \$36

NON MEMBER: \$40

NEW MEMBER: \$50 (includes one-year membership)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Amount enclosed _____

Mail to: **NCJW St. Paul**
c/o Jennifer Kaplan, co-president
1039 Overlook Road
Mendota Heights, MN 55118

CALLING ALL EMAIL ADDRESSES!

In the spirit of improving the ease of section communications and reducing waste, please send a message with your name and email address to info@ncjwstpaul.org. Email addresses will be used to notify you of NCJW activities and events. Email addresses will not be shared with others.