



National Council of Jewish Women
St. Paul Section

BULLETIN



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NCJW ST. PAUL SECTION WINS FAITH IN THE FUTURE AWARD AT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2006

THE FAITH IN THE FUTURE AWARD WAS PRESENTED AT LEADERSHIP Conference in Chicago in March. This award honors a section that has developed a NCJW project/initiative that increases NCJW's community service/action efforts and promotes NCJW's mission in the spirit of tikkun olam. NCJW St Paul Section's Girls on the Move program was the proud 2006 recipient of this prestigious award!

Girls on the Move is a program developed by NCJW St. Paul Section to help girls in third and fourth grades learn the skills for developing good self-esteem and body image while providing tools to help empower girls and motivate them toward success. Taught either in the classroom or after school, this program integrates exercise with lesson plans. Future plans for this program include expanding it to the fifth and sixth grades and finalizing the curriculum to make it market-ready.



Receiving the award on behalf of NCJW were Stephanie Levine and Jennifer Kaplan shown with NCJW National President, Phyllis Snyder.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to write to you about some of the important issues facing us as women, Jews and members of NCJW.



Our annual Women's Morning at the Capital was a success, focusing our lobbying efforts in 3 areas and then meeting with individual legislators. As you will read in this bulletin, the speakers were informative and motivating. I want to thank those of you who made the trip to the capital. Like so much of

life, the best connections are the ones that are fact-to-face. I want to encourage you exercise your right to be heard by writing letters, postcards or sign up to receive action alerts (sign up at www.NCJW.org) NCJW offers you tools to make an impact!

I am also proud and excited for you to receive updates about our current programs and events—CHAI, Girls on the Move, Stuff for School, Spring Meeting and Project Development.

Allow me to brag just a little. At Leadership Conference 2006 not only were we one of the most well represented sections in the country, but also we were the proud recipients of the NCJW 2006 Faith in the Future Award. Our section may not be the largest, but we have the energy, enthusiasm and creativity that makes us admired throughout the country. We are leaders in pioneering new projects and Girls on the Move generated a lot of interest at the conference. Go St. Paul!

One important aspect of Leadership Conference was the unveiling of NCJW's new Strategic Direction. In order to best achieve its mission, NCJW has recognized the need to change. National strategic goals are: Maximizing our ability to be a force for social change, long-term financial strength, unifying NCJW as a national organization and expanding opportunities outside the section-based structure. To that end, we expect to see major changes in the focus of the National organization. As they materialize, you will be kept informed.

This is who we are, this is what we do—thanks for the privilege of being your President, I couldn't be more proud.

—Stephanie Brod Levine



SPRING MEETING WITH MINNEAPOLIS SECTION

SPRING MEETING WAS A WONDERFUL EVENT celebrating the accomplishments over the past year, installing the new board, dining and socializing with the Minneapolis Section and learning about the Religion-State debate with featured speaker, Nancy Kipnis.

At the section meeting, the following board members were recognized for their past service on the board: Nancy Perle, Sharon Benmamen, Nan Leventhal, Lisa Greenberg. Current and newly installed board members are listed on the back page. In addition, Sandy Wolkowicz was presented with the 2006 Volunteer of the Year Award.

After a delicious dinner at 317 on Rice Park, the St Paul and Minneapolis sections were inspired NCJW National Vice-President and Chair of Benchmark, Nancy Kipnis. Nancy urged us to get involved in the Religion-State Debate and gave us the following tools to get started:

- If you have not yet signed up for BenchMark: NCJW's Campaign to Save Roe, please do so at <http://action.ncjw.org/ncjw/home.html>
- If you have not yet joined NCJW's Action List, join at <http://action.ncjw.org/ncjw/join.html>.
- Sign NCJW's petition to Andrew von Eschenbach, acting director of the FDA, to approve over-the-counter access to Plan B, emergency contraception at http://action.ncjw.org/campaign/FDA_planB_petition
- Mark your calendar to attend the NCJW's Washington Institute, March 18–20, 2006, the quintessential advocacy event for progressive Jewish women.

PICTURED ABOVE: Amy Lieberman, president of Mpls section, Nancy Kipnis, National Vice President and Chair of Benchmark, and Stephanie Levine.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

NCJW TAKES ACTION IN CHICAGO



NCJW's Leadership Conference 2006 and Leadership Symposium: **Speaking Out for Women in the Religion-State Debate** were both huge successes—marked by education and action at every turn.

Nationally-renowned advocates and a cadre of issue experts joined hundreds of activists in Chicago—the birthplace of NCJW and its founder, Hannah G. Solomon. All together, the three-day event underscored the need for women to speak out on both local and national platforms.

NCJW Leadership Conference participants from the Twin Cities included: Judie Liszt, Renee Popkin, Jacy Grais, Stephanie Levine, Jennifer Kaplan and Amy Lieberman, president of Mpls. section. Not pictured above are: Marilyn Horowitz and Polly Saxon.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2006 TOOK place in Chicago, Illinois, from March 4–7. The St. Paul section was well represented at the Conference, with five attendees: Stephanie Levine, Jennifer Kaplan, Jacy Grais, Marilyn Horowitz, and Polly Saxon. With speakers like Ellen Malcolm, President and founder of Emily's List, and the Reverend Barry W. Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, in addition to workshops on refusal clauses, faith-based initiatives, and other timely topics, one could not help but recognize the urgency of NCJW's pioneering work, as well as appreciate that we are part of a unique organization which is recognized around the world for its commitment to remaining at the forefront of social change, even when our position is not universally popular.

Participants attended skill-building workshops on topics such as turning ideas into action, bridging community action and advocacy, and Israel programming, where small groups shared experiences and challenged each other to think creatively and find ways to bring new ideas home. We also heard from NCJW leaders, such as President Phyllis Snyder and Vice President and Leadership Conference Chair Nancy Kipnis, about the organization's strategic direction. The Conference provided opportunities to form relationships with other like-minded women, to exchange ideas to bring back to our communities, and to recognize that each section is but one part of a larger organization, united by common values and ideals. Sitting in a room full of women committed to bettering the world around them, and learning about the tangible ways this is done in different communities by creative and ingenious women, was refreshing, invigorating, and empowering. As a section and an organization, we have many great accomplishments—and there is still more work to do. Leadership Conference 2006 allowed us the opportunity to both recognize our achievements and renew our energy and commitment to continuing the essential work that we do.

—Jacy Rubin Grais

ANOTHER YEAR OF CREATIVITY AND GROWTH FOR CHAI

N **CJW ST. PAUL SECTION'S AWARD-** winning Childrens Healing Arts Initiative/CHAI program once again provided four weekends of community, creativity and artistic expression for Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare Patients and their families. Under the care and guidance of artist Armando Gutierrez, the children created beautiful, imaginative paintings depicting their own unique images reflecting this year's CHAI theme: *Growth*. Approximately 70 Gillette children and their families participated. Armando was amazing to work with—his nurturing presence and quiet guidance allowed for an immediate connection with the children and our NCJW volunteers.

This year's final project will be the creation of collage-style window clings that grace the windows of the Gillette facility, we look forward to the completion of the project and the upcoming CHAI "Mock-tail" event unveiling the finished pieces.

We once again want to thank all of our NCJW volunteers who shared their time, energy and enthusiasm with us during the Sunday sessions, we absolutely could not put this on without each and everyone of you. Your support continues to be the secret of our success. This year for the first time we were assisted by the women volunteers from the Minneapolis Jewish Family and Childrens Service, Young Leadership Section. Coordinated with the help of NCJW St. Paul member Julie Burton, it was a wonderful collaboration and one we hope we can continue.

We are already looking forward to plans for our fifth CHAI program season to take place January 2007 and hope that you will consider joining us to make next year's sessions the best and biggest ever. For more information, or to make a donation to the CHAI project please contact CHAI co-chairs—

—Tracey Agranoff and Robin Taple



NEW FUNDRAISING METHOD A SUCCESS!

Thanks everyone who contributed to Rainbow Connection as well as to the personal solicitation campaign. Your support allows NCJW to continue its work both on the Local and National Level. Thanks to the following:

NCJW PILLARS (\$1000+)

Beth Johnson
Lois Johnson
Marice Halpen
Marilyn Horowitz
Stephanie Brod Levine
Wendy Rubin
Polly Saxon
Michelle Shaller
Zamansky Professional Association

NCJW PATRONS (\$500-\$999)

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Pamela Sulmer
Robin Taple
Shirley Vinitzky
Joanna Volk
Evelyne Weinberg
Margery Weisman
Barbara Winthrop
Judy Wolf
Patty Wolkoff
Laura Zelle

We apologize if anyone was inadvertently left of this list.



SANDY WOLKOWICZ 2006 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

SANDY WOLKOWICZ WAS PRESENTED WITH THE 2006 Volunteer of the Year award at the St. Paul Section Spring meeting on May 9, 2006. Sandy has been involved with NCJW for many years and her most recent volunteer efforts have been truly inspiring. She has been involved with *Girls on the Move* since its inception. She has taught classes for two years—this year at the Talmud Torah of St. Paul—to rave reviews. In addition, her work in the classroom has provided invaluable feedback. Thanks to Sandy's hard work, and that of the committee, *Girls on the Move* received the 2006 "Faith in the Future" Award at the National Leadership Institute in Chicago.

Sandy is also involved with the social and fundraising side of NCJW as well. Sandy spent her 2005 summer scouring art fairs for the best artists, and planning Palette of the HeART. In the past Sandy has been involved with ArtReach, Shalom Outreach Services (now the Jewish Domestic Abuse Collaborative), and Luggage for Freedom. Sandy's hard work is an example and inspiration to us all!

ABOVE: Sandy Wolkowicz receives the Volunteer of the Year Award at the Spring meeting. Pictured L to R are: Deb Jopp, Tracey Agranoff, Sandy Wolkowicz, Laurie Kamman, Nancy Perle and Stephanie Levine.

DIRECTORY

NCJW's Directory is updated and sent out every two years. We are now accepting ads for the new directory, due out this summer. We need your help! We are selling ads (see below). Please spread the word about advertising in the NCJW directory—it is a great way to get the word out about your business to over 600 women while supporting the great work that NCJW does. We encourage our members to patronize our advertisers. Also, your ad is good for two years! In addition, if you are moving or if your phone number will change, please let us know. Call Stephanie Levine at 651-686-0340 with address and phone number updates. Call Beth Johnson at 651-699-2678 about advertising in the directory.

PRICING FOR ADS: FULL PAGE: \$200; HALF PAGE: \$125; BACK COVER: \$300; FRONT COVER: \$500.

JEWISH WOMEN'S MORNING AT THE CAPITOL

DESPITE WINTRY CONDITIONS, advocates from National Council of Jewish Women and Hadassah joined forces at the Capitol on March 16 to learn about issues and speak with our legislators. The ten inches of freshly fallen snow only served to reinforce the commitment of the women who attended Jewish Women's Morning at the Capitol. The program began with inspirational remarks from **Rabbi Amy Eilberg**, who quoted from the *Book of Esther*, "Who knows if for precisely this moment you came to be queen?" equating our roles as advocates to this powerful statement.



Sharon Benmaman, Linda Morgan, Jennifer Brod Faulkner and Stephanie Brod Levine met with Senator Jim Metzen.

Marcia Avner, Public Policy Director from the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits spoke about the important role constituents play in affecting legislators' opinions and votes. **Tim Stanley** in his new position as Senior Director of Government and Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, **Zoe Nicholie**, Public Policy Director for Ready 4 K, and **Mary Jane Morrison**, Professor, Hamline Law School presented background information on the three issues we addressed: Reproductive Choice, Early Childhood Education, and Opposition to the Proposed Constitutional Amendment banning gay marriage.

The legislature adjourned on May 21. The following is a status report on the issues we lobbied for during the session.

Early Childhood

The Supplemental Spending Bill allocated \$22.6 Million in new funding for early care and education, which included:

- \$\$ to reduce the waiting list for childcare assistance
- \$\$ to Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
- \$\$ to increase childcare provider reimbursement

rates and an additional increase for accredited providers

- Scholarships for parent co-pays can now be given without penalty to parents

Thank your Representative, your Senator, and Governor Pawlenty, for their support of our youngest children by investing in early care and education, housing and poverty issues.

Thank Senator Hottinger and Representative Slawik for their special work on these issues.

Governor Pawlenty, 651-296-3391, or tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us

Senator Hottinger, 651-296-6153, or sen.john.hottinger@senate.mn

Representative Slawik, 651-296-7807, or rep.nora.slawik@house.mn

Constitutional Amendment to Ban Gay Marriage

For the third year in a row, the Legislature has adjourned WITHOUT approving a proposed amendment to that same constitution that would bar any form of legal recognition for same-sex couples and their families in Minnesota!

Because of our community's work, Minnesota joins just five other states which have defeated similar proposals. There is a lot to be proud of in this outcome.

Reproductive Choice

Pro-choice Minnesotans can breathe a sigh of relief: the 2006 Minnesota State Legislative session concluded without the MCCL's anti-choice "Abortion Regulation Act" passing.

Family Planning Funding: The Minnesota Senate voted to restore grants to the Family Planning Special Projects Program, which had its funding slashed by 50 percent in 2005. Unfortunately, restoration of funding to this critical program was eliminated in conference committee.

Comprehensive Sex Education: The Minnesota Senate passed language that would require public schools to teach honest, age-appropriate, and medically accurate sex education. Unfortunately, the provision was eliminated in conference committee.

—Judie Liszt

BACK UP YOUR BIRTH CONTROL WITH EC CAMPAIGN

Do you go to the pharmacy? If so, you can easily become a part of the Back up your Birth Control Campaign. Expanding access to emergency contraception (EC) is a hollow undertaking unless local pharmacies stock the product and/or pharmacists pass information about EC on to their customers. This campaign is designed to educate pharmacists and pharmacy staff about EC. Next time you are at the pharmacy, just ask if they stock emergency contraception. We will coach you on how to respond to their reply. If you are interested in becoming involved in this effort, please contact either Judie Liszt, 952-933-4656, judie@mn.rr.com or Renee Popkin, 763-476-1664, rbpopkin@aol.com.



BenchMarkSM

NCJW's Campaign to Save Roe

BENCHMARK UPDATE

BenchMark, the National Council of Jewish Women's Campaign to Save Roe, is more important than ever! Benchmark's goal is to prevent anti-choice judges from being confirmed for lifetime appointments to the federal bench. This is so critical because most case law is determined at the federal district and appeals court level with only a relatively small number of cases being heard by the Supreme Court.

Reproductive rights are closely tied to religious freedom. Women have the right to be respected as moral decision-makers, able to make choices based on their own beliefs and traditions. For the courts to impose one religion's view on all of us defies the very meaning of religious liberty.

It is time that you fight to protect your own freedom. Log on to www.benchmarkcampaign.org and join the fight! When a vote is pending on a ideological nominee, you will receive an email message urging you to contact your senators to oppose this extreme candidate. With just a few clicks of your mouse you can send messages to our senators urging them to reject the troublesome nominee.

Tributes Summer 2006

In honor of Mike Saxon on his special birthday
Nancy & Harvey Perle

In honor of Mike Saxon. Our wishes for many more PERFECT birthdays.
Leonard & Marilyn Horowitz

In honor of Wendy Ringer
NCJW Board

In honor of the birth of Bobbi & Lee Levitan's first grandchild.
Sally Lorberbaum

To Beth Gendler and Family. In honor of the birth of your daughter & sister.
Stephanie Levine

In honor of Sandy Wolkowicz. Congratulations on receiving the 2006 Volunteer of the Year Award.
NCJW Board

In honor of Pamela Sulmer's son, Michael. Congratulations of Michael's Bar Mitzvah.
Judie Liszt
Renee Popkin

To Faith Schway & Family. In loving memory of your mother. We are sorry for your loss.
Leonard & Marilyn Horowitz

In honor of Esther Capp. In celebration of your birthday. May it be a wonderful one.
Marilyn & Leonard Horowitz

Thank you to those who contributed to the Marilyn Horowitz Leadership Fund:
Stacy & Dan Mosow
Judy Wolf

In memory of Charlotte Garelick
Stephanie Levine
NCJW St. Paul Section

To Marge Weiser. In memory of your mother, Ruth Dicker
Polly & Mike Saxon
NCJW Board

To the Family of Marsha Atkind in memory of Russ Atkind.
NCJW St Paul Board

Tribute to Marsha Atkind. In memory of Russ, with my deepest sympathy.
Polly Saxon



STUFF FOR SCHOOL

Stuff for School, a collaborative effort between NCJW St. Paul, 3M and the St Paul Public Schools, is gearing up for September, 2007. In its 10th year, Stuff for School provides a bag of school supplies to the each student in approximately 37 St. Paul Public Elementary Schools—nearly 16,000 children! The needs of the St. Paul community are great. Often families living in poverty do not have the resources to provide school supplies to their kids. You can help. If you are interested in "stuffing" bags with school supplies in August, please contact NCJW. You must be at least 16 years old.

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Tribute Cards

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TRIBUTE CARDS

TRIBUTE CARDS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE FOLLOWING LEVELS:

- Blue - \$5.00
- Silver - \$18.00
- Gold - \$50.00
- Pearl - \$100.00

To purchase cards, contact Laura Zelle at 651-699-3211 or laura@toleranceminnesota.org. Please note Laura's new email address.

TRIBUTE CARD MESSAGE:

A generous contribution has been made

to the National Council of Jewish Women by

This gift supports NCJW's efforts to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families and ensure individual rights and freedoms for all.



ST. PAUL SECTION

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