



National Council of Jewish Women
St. Paul Section

BULLETIN

NCJW ST. PAUL

SPRING MEETING, BENEFIT AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

L'dor V'dor

From Generation to Generation

A special tribute honoring three generations of NCJW leadership

INSIDE

2

Incoming President
Jacy Rubin Grais

3

Rainbow Connection
Tributes

4

Neighborhood TakeOut
Girls on the Move

5

5th Anniversary of CHAI

6

Washington Institute

7

Women's Morning
at the Capitol



Jacy Rubin Grais will be installed as president by her mother, past-president Wendy Rubin. We will pay tribute to Jacy's grandmother, past-president and NCJW pioneer Marice Halper.

Dinner and Wine Reception—\$36

May 29, 2007

6:00 PM

Mt. Zion Temple
1300 Summit Ave., St. Paul

RSVP by May 16th to Shelly Cozine,
651-994-1252, or gscozine@comcast.net

We encourage you to bring your mothers,
daughters and husbands

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I reflect on my past two years as President of NCJW St. Paul, a roller coaster comes to mind. While first thoughts are of the ups and downs of the ride, more importantly are the unexpected twists and turns, the anticipation, the soft landing at the finish and the fun and excitement of it all.



St. Paul section has had exciting developments and overcome some significant challenges: Neighborhood TakeOut is under way, existing programs such as CHAI, Stuff for School and Girls on the Move (2006 Faith in the Future National award

winner) have been successful. Financially, the board was able to take a hard look at how we raise money, redirect our efforts, and put us on a path towards a stable financial future of personal giving.

NCJW is a labor of love for people at many levels: members, donors and active volunteers generously give their time and money to this organization which has been a vital part of our St. Paul and greater community for over 100 years. Our long history of community action on behalf of women, children and families is a legacy in which we should all take pride.

Although I was active in NCJW for many years, I have come to appreciate NCJW in a new way these past two years. I came to know volunteers, board members, members of our St. Paul community and nationally who inspire the work of NCJW and who are unbelievably creative, passionate and pioneering.

I would like to thank the fabulous NCJW board, the amazing group past presidents who are incredible mentors and NCJW National president Phyllis Snyder for her understanding and willingness to listen. Thanks to my family—extended and my kids, Josh, Elana, Maya and “First Husband” Jimmy. Your love and support while shouldering the extra load when I ran out to my meetings was very much appreciated.

Continuing the “roller coaster” theme, I’d like to say that if my Presidency was a trip through a thrill ride theme park, it is now time to pack up my stuff and head home. I certainly have mixed emotions about the end of this thrilling experience. One thing that makes my end easier is the fantastic crowd waiting at the gates to get in and have their day. I will no longer be the leader, but I will certainly be among the many participants. I am thrilled and honored to pass the gavel, along with this wonderful experience to Jacy Rubin Grais and her new board of directors!

—Stephanie Brod Levine

JACY RUBIN GRAIS

INCOMING PRESIDENT OF NCJW ST. PAUL

NCJW loves to break new ground, and Jacy will make that happen by being the youngest president in the history of NCJW St. Paul! Jacy’s youth does not translate to inexperience, though. Before becoming president elect, Jacy served as Vice President of Community Service and, prior to that, as Chair of the Project Development Committee. Under Jacy’s leadership, Neighborhood TakeOut, our newest community service project was developed. Jacy has attended two conventions on the National level—Leadership Institute and, this past March, Washington Institute.

Jacy has been a life member of NCJW since birth, and leadership runs deep in her history. Her mom, Wendy Rubin, served as president of NCJW from 1983-1985 and her grandmother, Marice Halper, served as president of our section from 1960-1963, was a National Vice President, and President of ICJW (International Council of Jewish Women), the umbrella organization of NCJW.



Jacy graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a BA in 1999, and from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2003. She is an attorney with Littler Mendelson, the largest employment and labor law firm in the country. In addition to her volunteer work with NCJW, Jacy enjoys traveling, yoga, and spending time with her family and friends. Jacy lives with her husband Jason and their dog in Minneapolis.

NCJW's Israel Program Includes:

- Women and Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University
- Women Studies Forum at Tel Aviv University
- Yad B'Yad Grant Program
- Emergency Funds
- Advocacy on behalf of women, children and families

Learn more about NCJW's Israel program by logging onto www.ncjw.org!



RAINBOW CONNECTION

Thank you so much to all who have made contributions to this year's Rainbow Connection. Your donations are critical to enable NCJW St. Paul to meet vital community needs.

CHAI donor \$2500+

Alex and Mollie Tankenoff
Family Foundation

Pillars \$1000+

Stephanie Brod Levine
Marilyn Horowitz
Beth Johnson
Sybil and Bill Lipschultz
Wendy and Steve Rubin
Jacy Rubin Grais and Jason Grais
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Laura Zelle

TRIBUTES

Wishing Stacy Mosow a quick recovery, we send our prayers and good wishes to Stacy and her family.

PS Miri Looks forward to seeing Zoe at camp!
Robin Taple and Family

Wishing a speedy recovery to Stacy Mosow

With Love and best wishes,
Ronna and Tom Sherman

Wishing Judy Marvy a speedy recovery

With love and best wishes,
Ronna and Tom Sherman

To Stacy Mosow—wishing you a speedy recovery
The Levine Family

Wishing Stacy Mosow a healthy recovery
NCJW Board

Wishing Stacy Mosow a healthy and speedy recovery
Laurie and Lee Kamman

In Honor of Samantha Saltman's Bat Mitzvah

In Honor of Sarah Garr's Bat Mitzvah
The Levine Family

In memory of Marian Rubin
From the NCJW Board of Directors

In Memory of Joyce Malmon
Alex & Mollie Tankenoff
Family Foundation

In Memory of Marice Halper

Patty and Jen Baskin
NCJW Board
Stephanie Levine
Wendy and Steve Rubin
Sybil and Billy Lipschultz

In Memory of Judy Skadron's father
The Zelle Family

Wishing Stacy Mosow a speedy recovery.
Love, Debbie and Chad
Goldenberg

NEW PROJECT NEIGHBORHOOD TAKEOUT

Our newest community service program, Neighborhood TakeOut, will officially begin in May! The program is a collaboration with Neighborhood House, and will provide culturally-sensitive nutrition education and healthy food to immigrant women and their families for consumption on weekends, when parents are busy and school-age children do not receive the benefit of subsidized meals. The first season of the program will run for nine consecutive **Fridays from 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., from May 4 through June 29**, at the Paul & Sheila Wellstone Center/Neighborhood House, 179 Robie St. E., St. Paul.



Sessions 1–3 (May 4, 11, 18): for Latina women
 Sessions 4–6 (May 25, June 1, 8): for Hmong women
 Sessions 7–9 (June 15, 22, 29): for Somali women

The University of Minnesota Continuing Education program has supplied a grant to teach the nutrition course. Classes will emphasize the food pyramid, balanced meals, food safety, stretching food budgets, and reading food labels, and will be targeted toward the ethnic group of the participants. Each participant will receive a certificate of completion after her final nutrition class.

NCJW is looking for volunteers for the sessions. Volunteers will use our budgeted funds to purchase food, transport it to Neighborhood House, and bag the food for participants. We are also looking for volunteer grantwriters for the project. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dede Smith (dede@stpaulplumbing.com) or Anna Brezman (abrezman@hotmail.com).



THIRD GIRLS ON THE MOVE A HUGE SUCCESS

It's true what they say, the third time is the charm. Teaching my third class of Girls on the Move, everything seemed to fall into place! The class of 21 girls at Expo Elementary was a virtual United Nations of third and fourth grade girls from every background and nationality! This served as the perfect setting for this class. The girls were so eager and willing to express their opinions on everything we did, and it was a pleasure for me to teach them.

I taught classroom lessons twice a week for six weeks, but the highlight for the girls this time was that they took dance twice a week, taught by OUT On a Limb Dance Company. They practiced Ballet and Hip Hop, and everyone had a blast dancing!

The girls even had a Hip Hop recital for the parents at the end! Many of these girls would never have had the opportunity to be exposed to dance if Out on a Limb had not volunteered their time for us!! Girls on the Move continues to be a wonderful program, and I am looking forward to teaching it again. We expect the next class to be even better. After all, who is to say a fourth time can't be the charm too?

—Sandy Wolkowicz

Girls on the Move—WOW!

It was one of the funnest opportunities ever! Busy too! Every Monday, all the girls would go to the library and take a ballet lesson. Every Tues. & Thurs., Sandy would pick out a girl-of-the-day. Everyone had to draw a picture of that person. Later we would do an activity—sometimes games, sometimes candy and cupcakes, sometimes we discussed how great it is for us not to be bothered by the creatures we call “boys”. On Wednesday, we all would go into the gym and take a jazz and hip-hop dance class. The last Wednesday, we went to the gym—but instead of a regular class—we all did a performance in front of parents, cousins, even the school principals! On the last day everyone was disappointed. Thank you for Girls On The Move!

—Jessica, (4th Grade) EXPO Elementary School

5TH AND LARGEST YEAR FOR CHAI

The Children's Healing Arts Initiative (CHAI) helps children with physical and mental disabilities build a sense of pride, accomplishment, and self-confidence by working creatively with others to develop and execute "theme"-based art pieces for public display.

A list of our accomplishments:

- ✓ Winner of the first national NCJW Tikun Olam Award.
- ✓ Have collaborative children's mural displayed at gallery showing.
- ✓ Sponsor a giant mural of children's artwork on the JAX building in Downtown St. Paul.
- ✓ Create amazing, unique, visually engaging decorative window clings for Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare.
- ✓ Partner with nationally and internationally recognized Artists Ta-Coumba Aiken and Armando Gutierrez.
- ✓ Partner with the award winning ArtStart program.
- ✓ Receive monetary and in-kind support from major corporations and sponsors.
- ✓ Provide years of pride and volunteer opportunity for section and new members of NCJW, St. Paul Section.

Thank you to everyone who made our fifth year of CHAI the largest ever! With capacity-only sessions infused with creativity, joy, excitement and community, CHAI was the place to be for four Sundays in January at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare. We were once again joined by artist Ta-Coumba Aiken, ArtStart, our dedicated NCJW members and Minneapolis Jewish Children's And Family Service Young Leadership volunteers and most importantly, the amazing Gillette patients and their families for an inspiring collaborative arts experience.

Our theme this year was Independence, represented by the Gillette bird icon. Our culminating project will be a compilation book of participant art and writings to be presented to the children and offered as a gift to all patients who are discharged from inpatient treatments and care. It will be a book of inspiration and hope to be shared with Gillette patients and their families. Anyone interested in helping us to design and publish this wonderful keepsake should contact CHAI Co-chairs Robin Taple or Tracey Agranoff.



ARTSTART TO TAKE OVER CHAI PROJECT IN 2009!

An Invitation To All NCJW St. Paul Members:

UNDER THE STARS: A NIGHT IN THE CARIBBEAN

A Block Party and Fundraiser for ArtStart

Saturday, June 9th 6:30–10:00pm

ArtScraps Store and Gallery 1459 St. Clair Avenue,
St. Paul

All proceeds from this event will go towards scholarships to ArtStart's summer arts program for children, the new teen program "Signatures" and continuing support for the CHAI—Children's Healing Arts Initiative program.

For more information contact ArtStart at (651) 698-2787
or www.artstart.org

Dates for CHAI 2008 have not yet been set. Beginning in 2009, Artstart, one of our fabulous CHAI partners, will take over the program, thereby enabling NCJW to continue to create new and innovative community programs. We look forward to our final year and to remaining involved when ArtStart takes over in 2009.

Thank you again to all of our volunteers and supporters. If you would like more information on volunteer or financial support opportunities please contact CHAI Co-chairs Robin Taple (getdesigned@msn.com) or Tracey Agranoff (twtbbe@juno.com) —CHAI Co-Chairs

INSPIRED

In March, I had the opportunity to attend Washington Institute. Although I have been involved in NCJW for about 10 years, I had not attended any National events. I had always heard about everyone's amazing experiences at past Washington Institutes, and I knew it would be a wonderful learning experience.

I have wanted to become more politically active so for the first time last year, I attended Women's Morning at the Capital. That experience inspired me to get more involved in learning about advocacy and the issues that surround us everyday.

My aunt, Marice Halper, was a woman who always worked tirelessly for progress both within NCJW and beyond. When she passed away suddenly last August, I realized that this year I would do something that was close to Marice's heart. She loved Washington Institute. During my few days in Washington, I met a handful of people that had known Marice very well. Like me, they were always inspired by her ongoing commitment and dedication to NCJW.

Washington Institute, held every three years, attracts more than 400 NCJW members from 75 sections in 31 states and eight countries. These women come together in this three-day event for leadership and advocacy training, as well as briefings from coalition partners, political experts and members of Congress. The institute culminated on March 20 with 200 congressional visits. All together, the event underscored the need for women to speak out on both local and national platforms. It was empowering to have access to our Senators and Congress people.

One of the most exciting aspects of Washington Institute is the chance to meet NCJW representatives of all ages. There were first-timers, like myself, and women who have been coming for 30 years. There was a group of teenage girls from the Miami section, who are part of a new program cultivating girls' involvement in social action and volunteering. Inspiring.

I am really grateful I had the opportunity to attend Washington Institute. Put it on your Things to Do List: Washington Institute 2010.

—Debbie Goldenberg



Minnesota Delegation to Washington Institute l-r from back row: Renee Popkin, Debbie Stillman, Holly Brod Farber, Amy Lieberman, Marge Weiser, Lisa Liszt, Reida Lazer-Chein, Liza Lieberman, Jacy Grais, Judie Liszt, Beth Silverwater, Sherry Stern, Susan Byers, Debbie Goldenberg, Stephanie Levine, Amy Paster, Wendy Lovell-Smith

Washington Institute—Israel Affairs

I am happy to report that the message from the main stage at Washington Institute regarding Israel was right on target. We were briefed by Martin Indyk, Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution and former U.S. Ambassador to Israel. He spoke about the many failures of foreign policy, specifically about the difficulties trusting representatives of the Palestinians. He also spoke with some hope about initiatives from the wider Arab world and the importance of U.S. engagement in the process. We then were briefed by Shari Eshet, who is the NCJW staff person in Israel. She was born in the United States but has lived in Israel for more than 20 years. She explained some of the difficult details of her life and how, despite the hardship, she is a proud Israeli. She explained the two advocacy issues that are currently the focus of National. One is supporting Israeli legislation that, if approved, could empower women in the divorce process. The other is supporting a brief filed with the Israeli Supreme Court by the Israel Religious Action Center. This brief opposes mandatory separation of men and women on some unmarked bus lines in Israel. I think we can feel proud of the community service and advocacy work NCJW is doing in Israel.

—Holly Brod Farber

ADVOCACY

35th Anniversary of Roe

Planning is already underway for the celebration that will mark the 35th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, Roe v. Wade. NCJW is a member of the Minnesota Choice Coalition along with Midwest Health Center for Women, Minnesota Women's Campaign Fund, Minnesota National Organization for Women, Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota, Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Pro-Choice Resources. Together, our organizations are planning a major community event to commemorate the January 2008 anniversary. We are looking for someone to be NCJW's coalition representative for this high profile event. If you are interested in serving, please contact Renee Popkin (RBPOPKIN@aol.com), or Judie Liszt (judiel@comcast.net).

Immigration Reform Forum

Immigration reform has become an increasingly prominent issue in recent years, and the debate has raised concerns about individual rights, citizenship, and national security. This is a complex issue with much variation and the national conversation surrounding this topic is becoming increasingly contentious.

Join NCJW and Jewish Community Action at a forum on **Wednesday, June 13 from 7-9 PM** at the Sabes JCC to become knowledgeable about this very important issue. We will look at immigration through a Jewish historical perspective and hear from individuals impacted by current national policy. It promises to be an interesting and informative evening. The public is welcome and we encourage you to bring your spouses and friends.

Plan A

NCJW rolled out its new campaign to ensure access to contraception called Plan A at Washington Institute. The campaign will provide sections with programming options that reflect the varying status of each state regarding reproductive choice. To find out more about this important project, log on to www.ncjw.org and enroll in the Plan A campaign.

Do you know someone who might like to join NCJW? We welcome new members! Please let us know their name, address and phone number and we will do the rest!



MORNING AT THE CAPITOL

February 13, 2007 was Jewish Women's

Morning at the Capitol. It was a great experience. Upon arrival, we were briefed on three issues that are presently before the Minnesota Legislature: affordable housing (the Housing Solutions Act), children's healthcare (the Children's Health Security Act), and sex education. Because we were given information about the issues in advance, many of us were familiar with the general concepts and could learn some of the finer details, which made us even better advocates for our causes. We then attended meetings with our state Senator and Representative. These meetings were arranged in advance, so our legislators were expecting us. I was delighted at the warm reception we received from Senator Metzen and Representative Hansen. They know us and are aware of our power as advocates. The work we do is heard and respected. We heard similar feelings echoed all over the Capitol by members of our group. Our delegation included my 10-year-old niece, and I believe she was our ticket to the royal treatment we received. After a thorough discussion of the issues Representative Hansen offered to take us on a tour, which ended with my niece getting her picture taken in the chair of the Speaker of the House. I can't encourage you enough to come to the Morning at the Capitol. You will learn about important issues, you will use that knowledge as an advocate for change, and you just might have some great fun in the process!—*Holly Brod Farber*

This year an optional lunch was added to Jewish Women's Morning at the Capitol offering participants an opportunity to share this powerful experience together in a relaxed atmosphere.

STUFF FOR SCHOOL

Planning for the 2007-08 school year is under way! Please help support Stuff for School by donating school supplies, purchasing backpacks at Kowalski's Market on Grand or stuffing bags. These activities will take place in July and August. Check the NCJW website (www.ncjwstpaul.org) later this spring and summer for details.



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TRIBUTE CARDS

TRIBUTE CARDS CAN BE PURCHASED AT ANY AMOUNT STARTING AT \$10.00.

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.

MOVING?

Please let us know! Contact us at 651-768-0173 or info@ncjwstpaul.org. As an all volunteer organization, we count on you to keep our records up to date. Thanks for your help!



ST. PAUL SECTION

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