

BULLETIN



FROM PASSION TO POWER

NCJW'S FALL EVENT WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER
NANCY KAUFMAN, NCJW NATIONAL CEO

The Minneapolis and Saint Paul Sections of NCJW joined together for a wonderful event Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011 at the The Metropolitan Event Center in Golden Valley. During this special evening, we had a private NCJW St. Paul reception with Nancy, sampled a wonderful buffet from D'Amico's, and heard Nancy's powerful words about our potential to make change, locally and nationally. Following her address, we listened to a stimulating panel discussion moderated by Judith Kahn, VP Advocacy, Minneapolis section. The event was a great opportunity for all of us to connect with the national organization, and with our very inspiring new leader!



While the High Holy Days are a time to rejoice, they're also a time to reflect. They provide each of us with the opportunity to challenge ourselves to take one additional step on the road to becoming who we aspire to be. Having Nancy Kaufman join us during this busy time of year provided us with the chance to be inspired, learn and grow, get more involved...to turn our passion into power.

NANCY KAUFMAN has had a distinguished career as a public servant, advocate, and nonprofit leader. Prior to joining NCJW, Kaufman served as the Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Boston for twenty years. There she led the social justice, Israel advocacy, and governmental affairs agendas for Boston's Jewish Federation and its agencies. Kaufman has also held a variety of positions in state and local government and in the nonprofit sector. She is a graduate of Brandeis University, received a Master's in Social Work from Boston College and a Master's in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, and is also the recipient of an honorary Doctorate in Public Service from Northeastern University.



Fall 2011 Session is scheduled **Tuesdays, Sept. 13–Oct. 25; 1:45-3:15 p.m.** at Neighborhood House in St. Paul. This program is a joint-venture between NCJW St. Paul, the University Continuing Education program and Neighborhood House.

For volunteer opportunities please contact Linda Morgan at lfmorgan@comcast.net or Laurie Kamman at Lnkamman@aol.com

Join in the fun!

LETTER FROM CO-PRESIDENTS

Another Jewish New Year is upon us—in our religious tradition and in our Section programming. We start 5772 with a full slate of events that honors the heritage of the National Council of Jewish Women, a pioneer and champion of the rights of women, children, and families since its inception in 1893.

Our section is offering some of the tried-and-true events and fundraisers with which we are familiar, but look for new additions sure to energize the organization and give to our community. Take our Lilith Salon, for example, which offers the opportunity for cutting-edge conversation about our lives as Jews and as women. Neighborhood Takeout has a full fall schedule, with a new member event that focuses on our connection with Neighborhood House.

In December, during Book Fair season, our Reader2Reader initiative will co-sponsor “Latkes and Literacy” with the St. Paul JCC. The event will be held at Moscow on the Hill, a lively Russian restaurant in St. Paul. On that night, just before Hannukah, we will shed light on the achievement gap, a social issue that contributes to many inequities in our society. Those who join us for a latke buffet will hear a spoken-word performance by Central High School theater students about their experiences in the American public school system.

A new season is upon us. Please join us as we celebrate, renew our commitments, and make change in our community.

—Marilyn Bloom and Lisa Walker

NCJW HAS FASHION CENTS

Transform the unwanted clothing eating up room in your closet into something of value for your community. How? It's easy!

NCJW St. Paul collects gently used unwanted clothing from donors who want to make a difference. In partnership with local area consignment shops, the tax deductible profits and proceeds of your donated clothing become dollars that fund new and long-standing NCJW St. Paul community service projects.

It's super easy to help support these efforts!! Just gather up your up-to-date, gently-worn freshly laundered (or dry-cleaned) fall/winter designer/mall brand men's and women's clothing, shoes, jewelry and purses. **Call NCJW member Pamela Sulmer at 612-386-1409 to arrange for drop-off or pick-up.** Note: Clothing, including, jeans & T-shirts, must be pressed and on hangers.



Fashion Cents, modeled after a similar program run by the Minneapolis section of NCJW, was started in 2009. Since then, it has raised more than \$3,200.

According to former NCJW St. Paul president Stephanie Levine, Fashion Cents works exclusively with local consignment shops Elite Repeat and Encore. “They have been wonderful to work with,” she said.

Another former NCJW St. Paul president, Jacy Grais, also supports the program. “Fashion Cents is a win for everyone involved,” she said. “I donate clothing that I no longer wear and NCJW receives a portion of the consignment shop sale price. So I am supporting NCJW, cleaning my closet, getting a tax deduction, and helping the local economy by providing merchandise for the consignment shop. I feel good about all of those things!”

NCJW and the St. Paul JCC introduce LILITH SALON to St. Paul

In 2005, *Lilith Magazine* ran an article on “The Power of Jewish Women’s Conversation,” which brought to light the tremendous influence and pleasure of Jewish women’s salons in Europe. Now Lilith Salons are meeting all across the country. And this year, in partnership with the St. Paul JCC, the National Council for Jewish Women (NCJW) is bringing the salon to St. Paul!

We will gather four times a year on a Thursday evening for two hours (dates are below). Beth Friend, St. Paul JCC Adult Program Coordinator and former Minnesota Public Radio personality is the facilitator. Women of all ages are welcome to what we see as an evening of free-flowing conversation that takes as its jumping off point the current issue of the magazine. Where the conversation goes...it goes!

Past issues of *Lilith* have covered a wide range of social issues and phenomenon, for example, “J.A.P. baiting” on college campuses, publications of works of “forgotten” women writers, analysis of infertility among Jewish women, reports on

clergy abuse, women’s philanthropy, body image and eating disorders, and crises for interfaith families.

The cost of the four salons is \$36, which includes a one-year subscription to

Lilith Magazine. You can pick up your issue at the JCC or we can have the magazine sent to your home. Scholarships are available, please don’t let finances keep you away. We will provide refreshments.

Our first Salon was on Thursday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. You can still register at the St. Paul JCC or by calling 651-698-0751.

Call now to reserve your spot and receive your magazine. Remaining dates are: December 8, March 1, June 14—all Thursday evenings from 7–9 pm.



LATKES AND LITERACY

NCJW of St. Paul and the St. Paul JCC would like to invite our combined communities to share a wonderful evening program together.

The upcoming and always illuminating JCC book fair and Hanukkah season inspire NCJW and the JCC of Saint Paul to offer you a joint program called “Latkes and Literacy,” designed to raise our own awareness to the issues presented by the literacy gap as we listen to an engaging speaker on this topic.

This event will enable us all to give to our community in small but substantive ways—by providing us with an opportunity to donate gently used books, to send a short note to our legislators, to gain knowledge and strategies for continued improvements in our homes and institutions. All this, and we get to enjoy each other’s pleasant company as we sample a variety of latkes, with the usual accompaniments, in the beautiful atmosphere of Moscow on the Hill Restaurant in the historic Cathedral Hill neighborhood of Saint Paul!

We hope you will put “Latkes and Literacy” on your calendar: Dec. 5, 7 p.m.

Please bring a gently used or new book for a child in need. More details to follow.

TRIBUTES AND DONATIONS 2010–2011

Thank you to everyone who supported NCJW St. Paul through Rainbow Connection, Count Your Blessings, tributes and special events including Reader2Reader and Tubman Shower. We apologize for any errors or omissions in the list.

RAINBOW DONORS

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Robert Rubenstein
Helen Swartz
Gretta Freeman
Lois Devitt

TRIBUTES

Sheila Brod

In honor of Lisa Walker on her installation

Martin Chester

In honor of Jenny Benowitz on receiving Cardozo Society award

Marilyn Horowitz

In memory of Lisa Perlman's mother

Jennifer Kaplan

In honor of Naomi Kaplan

In honor of Bella Kaplan

In honor of Jacy Grasi

In honor of Marilyn Bloom

In honor of Stephanie Levine

Esti Koen

In honor of my readers

Stephanie Levine

In honor of Ben Saxon on his graduation

In honor of Danny Bernick on his graduation

In honor of Sheila Brod

Judith Liszt

Debbie & Chad Goldenberg in memory of Sybil Lipschultz

Bob Rubenstein

In honor of Wendy Rubin on her birthday

In honor of Jacy Grais on her birthday

Patricia Wolkoff

Sue Meyers in memory of her husband

Roslyn Segal
Leslie Strohm
Pamela Sulmer
Lisa Walker
Sandy Wolkowicz
Sherri Yarosh

TUBMAN SHOWER

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READER2READER

Anonymous
Lisa Bernick
Marilyn Bloom
Jennifer Kaplan
Esti Koen
Stephanie Levine

Newest session of Neighborhood Takeout is underway

“The goal of the program is to offer healthy, great-tasting recipes on a budget while preserving participants’ cultural traditions,” said University of Minnesota Extension Service Educator Karen Kulus, who leads the cooking and nutrition instruction. But in practice Neighborhood Takeout (NTO) does much more than that.

“The program creates a community for people to share their stories through cooking,” said Milena Gebremeskel, Family Support and Education Manager for Neighborhood House. Two participants, Daoud Ibrhime and his wife Zahra Dirar, enjoy the classes but also see them as a stepping stone to finding careers in food service. “We want to gain knowledge that can be applied in a professional setting,” said Ibrhime.

Long-time NCJW member Sheila Brod has been involved with NTO for two years. “Making connections with people who come from different cultures is what keeps me coming back,” said Brod.

Neighborhood Takeout is a joint-venture sponsored by NCJW St. Paul, the University of Minnesota Continuing Education program and Neighborhood House. To learn more about volunteer opportunities please contact Laurie Kamman at lnkamman@aol.com or Linda Morgan at lfmorgan@comcast.net.



A Chance to Make a Difference

Personal reflections on advocacy from Stephanie Levine, past president

One of the reasons I love being a part of NCJW is that I get a chance to participate in the political process in new and exciting ways. Our SPA, Jodi Wolk, arranged a face-to-face meeting for June 27 with House of Representatives member Betty McCollum. I wasn't sure what we were going to talk about, but I wanted to meet the congresswoman.

We met for about 15 minutes before our meeting and Jodi briefed us on what we were planning to discuss—and we made a plan. We were to advocate for bills on the floor regarding reproductive choice (actually cuts to Planned Parenthood) and Family-Friendly Budget. As usual, the script changed once the meeting started. For starters, Rep. McCollum had just been in Israel. We had a chance to speak with her about the work NCJW does in Israel—including funding the only Women's Study program in the Middle East (at Tel Aviv University). We also highlighted Israel's role in women's rights as a model for the Middle East.

Our discussion moved on to reproductive choice, and its importance. At the time Congress was moving to cut funding for Planned Parenthood—which she opposes. As a pro-choice Catholic, she has a lot in common with the Jewish women of



Stephanie Levine

NCJW. We spoke to her about NCJW's Plan A campaign and she was very intrigued, as she is very concerned about access to birth control, and she requested additional information.

Regarding the budget, we spoke about the need to have our most vulnerable citizens protected from large budget cuts, and she is opposed to spending caps.

An interesting point she made was when one of the group apologized for taking her time to discuss issues that she clearly supported (we were, in a sense, preaching to the choir). She immediately said that it was vitally important for her to hear when we agreed with her position. She is often asked by the media for the response to a particular bill. When only those opposed to the bill contact her, the response looks like it is negative. Therefore, let your legislators know when you AGREE with them as well as when you disagree. Those phone calls and meetings MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

What a wonderful hour! Rep. McCollum came away with information about NCJW (we spoke to her about our sections as well as National initiatives and community service work) and we came away with a strong friend in congress, who will advocate for the issues about which we feel strongly.



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Jodi Wolk

2011-12 CALENDAR

- Oct. 4 – Nancy Kaufman, CEO NCJW, Inc., 6:30 p.m.
St. Paul Reception, 5:30 pm
- Nov. 6 – Fall Membership Event at Neighborhood House
- Nov. 13 – Twin Cities Jewish Community
11th Annual Conference on Mental Health
- Nov. 15 – Board Meeting, St Paul JCC, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 5 – Reader2Reader Event: Latkes & Literacy
- Dec. 8 – Lilith Salon, St Paul JCC, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 – Board Meeting, St Paul JCC, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 18 – Dreidel Dash
- Jan. 17 – Board Meeting, St Paul JCC, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 19 – Book Fair Dinner with the author
- Feb. 21 – Board Meeting, St Paul JCC, 7 p.m.
- March 1 – Lilith Salon, St Paul JCC, 7 p.m.
- March – Jewish Women’s Morning at the Capitol (Date to be determined)
- March 20 – Board Meeting, St Paul JCC, 7 p.m.
- March 21 – Center for Jewish Studies Lecture Series
- April 17 – Board Meeting, St Paul JCC, 7 p.m.
- May 15 – Installation/Annual Meeting
- June 14 – Lilith Salon, St Paul JCC, 7 p.m.

Watch your inbox for more information about these and other events like the popular “Up Close & Personal” dinner event.

HELP NCJW ST. PAUL SAVE HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS IN MAILING COSTS

EMAIL US AT INFO@NCJWSTPAUL.ORG

WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED ON THE LATEST EVENT DETAILS.

