



National Council of Jewish Women

Utah Section: Connecting Socially to Connect Responsibly

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Website: <http://ncjwutah.org/>

January 2010

A Portfolio of Recent and Upcoming Events



Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

Democracy Day on the Hill, Monday, Feb. 1, 7:45 AM-2 PM w/Community Action Partnership of Utah. Utah State Capitol, State Office Bldg. Auditorium, 350 N. State St., SLC. To register, go to: <http://utahcap.org/> & click on Democracy Day under news and events or contact Rochelle Kaplan, ro@wifunds.com, 942-6226

Jewish Film Series (Feb. 1-2, Mar. 8 & April 24), sponsored by SLC Film Center. Film *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days* at SLC Main Library, Feb. 1, 7 PM; Feb. 2, 5:30 PM, Lecture at U of U Eccles Auditorium with screenwriter; March 8, film *Waltz with Bashir*, U of U's Post Theater; Sat. Apr. 24, film *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Anne Frank Exhibit at Library runs April 11-May 11

UJF Community Dinner Thursday, Feb. 4, Dinner 6:15 PM, JCC, 2 N. Medical Drive, SLC
Info at www.ShalomUtah.org or phone 801-581-0102

ACLU of UT Lobby Night, Thurs. Feb. 4, 6-7:30 PM, 355 N. 300 W., SLC. RSVP by calling Reinard at 801-521-9862 ext. 101 or email to aclu@acluutah.org

Movie Day, Sunday, Feb. 7- The Broadway. Time and film TBA. Contact Maxine or Barbara Durst, 906-8214

Tour of Alliance House, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 11 AM, 1724 S. Main St. followed by lunch. Contact Edna Elkins, ednautah@msn.com or 930-5601

Wed. Feb. 10 10:30 AM, State Capitol Rotunda, A Call for Wilderness Stewardship. SUWA and the Interfaith Alliance.

Helenska Bimstein art exhibit opening reception, JCC, Monday, Mar. 1. Wine and cheese served.

Amy Dishell Memorial Ski Day at Alta, Thursday Mar. 11. Also Rochelle Kaplan's 60th birthday. Contact Annabel Sheinberg 582-5262 or annabel.sheinberg@gmail.com

NCJW Book Club: Sunday, Mar. 21, 6 PM. At Freida Sweitzer's home, 1331 Sonoma Court, 272-7707, hfsweit2@msn.com. Book is Wallace Stegner's *Crossing to Safety*. Contact Mavis Green, chair, if attending: 615-439-5771 or mavis.green@yahoo.com

NCJW Washington Institute, Mar. 21-23, in DC. Lilly Ledbetter and Eve Ensler speak. Workshops on NCJW initiatives. Meet legislators, lobby. If wish to attend (must report back to board and begin leadership role in UT Section), contact Rochelle, ro@wifunds.com or 942-6226

Passover Seder for Seniors April 1, 12-2 at JCC. Need chairperson for event (line up volunteers for food shopping, food preparation, driving seniors, greeting, serving, cleanup). Carla Cantor will do most of organizing. Contact Rochelle if can chair: 801-042-6226 or ro@wifunds.com

Yom Hashoah Remembrance April 11 at Main Library, 2-3. Followed by exhibit tour

Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's birthday), April 25, JCC. We need representative to attend meetings Mar. 22, April 19. Contact Elaine Miller if you can attend: ejmiller111@yahoo.com or 273-9647

Race for the Cure with Susan Komen Foundation, Sunday following Mother's Day in May. We need a chair for this event. Mostly done online with Komen's help. Contact Rochelle if can chair: 801-942-6226 or ro@wifunds.com

Utah Legislative Preview

Carl Wimmer is proposing HB 12 which would remove the prohibition against prosecution of a woman for killing an unborn child or committing criminal homicide of an unborn child. We oppose this bill. Please contact committee members listed and your representatives, using these talking points:

- HB 12 could potentially criminalize any number of harmless activities undertaken by pregnant women
- HB 12 increases the threat of prosecution for pregnant women struggling with addiction, creating a disincentive for these women to seek rehabilitative treatment or prenatal care
- HB 12 could unnecessarily target women who miscarry, with no ill intent and/or through no fault of their own
- By accepting as legal only pregnancy losses that occur under the direction of a physician, HB12 could result in midwives or doulas being charged with "killing" or "attempted killing"

Committee Members are: Ronda Rudd Menlove, rmenlove@utah.gov; Paul Ray, pray@utah.gov; Phil Riesen, priesen@utah.gov; Trisha Beck, tbeck@utah.gov; Stephen Sandstrom, ssandstrom@utah.gov; and Bradley Daw, bdaw@utah.gov.

HB 200, sponsor Rep. Wimmer, would mandate a free ultrasound, paid for by taxpayers, to a woman planning to have an abortion. Medical personnel would be required to describe what the unborn baby is doing. In Utah, if a woman wants an abortion, she receives information, including a video, which details the procedure. If a woman decides to abort her pregnancy, most procedures already include an ultrasound that is paid for by the patient. NCJW opposes HB 200 as intrusive, costly and unnecessary.

HB 72 would require a Utah School Seismic Activity Inventory. HB 81 would strengthen the law on school employee background checks. HB 85 would modify existing law to responsibly develop nuclear power generation. HB 194 would give grants to provide for math teacher training. HB 198 would establish a pilot program within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Act for the provision of assertive community treatment services to people with a severe mental disorder, who are not receiving or are transitioning out of other mental health services, and to their families.

Legislation is anticipated that would make comprehensive reproduction health education available to a student if permitted by the student's parent. Other health matters include possible legislation in response to federal legislation, including "opt out" provisions and laws relating to the Utah Health Exchange, the second of only two health insurance purchasing exchanges in the nation. Representative Matheson said that the Utah pilot exchange is not working well.

To date, there are no bills concerning air quality, although Governor Herbert and area mayors will announce efforts to improve air quality across the state. The governor and SLC Mayor Ralph Becker issued a "Clean Air Challenge" asking residents to car pool, commute by bike and avoid engine idling to help combat the state's pollution problems. Between Nov. 1 and March 1, the state issues daily reports on the region's air quality. Already this season, Salt Lake County has experienced about twenty "red" days. As part of the "Clean Air Challenge" the Utah Transit Authority will offer free rides on Feb. 12 to urge motorists to get out of their cars and onto buses. AIRNow, a national index for reporting daily air quality, recently ranked portions of Utah as having the most polluted air in the country. So far government officials have only asked for voluntary measures. NCJW thinks more action is needed.

On ethics reform, we will keep our members apprised of upcoming bills. Among them is a proposed one-year lobbying ban and the creation of a nonpartisan commission to first hear ethical complaints against legislators. Bills are expected that would provide more transparency in campaign finance. An Ethics Reform Initiative Petition drive is underway, with NCJW members such as Nano Padolsky and Beverley Cooper active. For more info, check out this website: <http://www.utahnsforethicalgovernment.org/>

Utah continues to have among the highest student-teacher ratios and among the lowest per-pupil expenditures. The public supports increasing public school investments. Legislation is expected that would equalize property tax burdens and assist districts with rapid enrollment growth. Enrollment is expected to rise at all levels of education.

The House passed SB 33, which permits nonprofit organizations to use Capitol meeting rooms free of charge during the legislative session. To find out more about bills of concern to you, your family and community, to contact your legislators or to follow the progress of various bills, go to: <http://le.utah.gov/>

The Women's State Legislative Council of Utah celebrates its 90th birthday this year! Organized after the passage of the 19th amendment giving women suffrage, the WSLC aims is to bring about good legislation. The WSLC meets weekly to review proposed legislation and make recommendations to the legislature in the form of resolutions or letters. The meetings are Wednesday, 11:45 am -1:45 pm, in the State Office Building Auditorium. NCJW, which has one delegate, has been a member since 1943. Contact Kitty Kaplan (kittykaplan@msn.com or 801-942-5133) if interested in attending or joining as an individual.

Lt. Gov. Greg Bell opened the legislative session addressing pressing issues– the budget and taxes. Mike Christensen, Public Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research, introduced his book, *Utah State Government: A Citizen's Guide*. LaVarr Webb and Frank Pignanelli, Deseret News political opinion writers, offered their Perspectives of the Upcoming 2010 Legislative Session. The next WSLC session dealt with educational funding and prescription drug abuse and workplace drug testing. Rep. Trish Beck presented HBs 28, 35, 30 and 23.

Faith and the Land Lobbying Opportunity on February 10

Have you ever found spiritual sustenance, inspiration or renewal from Utah's wild lands? Now is your opportunity to give back to the wildness that has enriched your life. Gather with people from many different faiths to call on Utah's elected officials to recognize the spiritual importance of Utah's wild lands and to support their preservation.

Many of you helped to create "Wilderness Stewardship" posters from your faith community featuring handwritten personal statements about why Utah's wild lands are important to us spiritually. On Wed., Feb. 10 at 10:30 AM, we will present these posters and speakers at a media event in the State Capitol Rotunda. There will be an opportunity to "call out" and meet with your Senator/Representative. We will provide copies of the "A Call for Wilderness Stewardship" interfaith statement and a fact sheet. For more info, contact: Terri@suwa.org, 801-236-3778.

December/January Events Successful

The Salaam/Shalom/Tikkun Olam Project, now in its 18th year, was a grand success, serving 85 families of various nationalities, 30 African-Americans and 402 seniors. Over 300 people volunteered. Despite the recession, the organizers raised close to \$10,000, including last year's balance. The event garnered TV and newspaper coverage On February 5. immigrant students will go ice-skating, many for the first time! For next year, organizers will seek grants and flat bed dollies.

The Chanukah lunch for seniors went well; 25 volunteers served 60 seniors home-made latkes and apple sauce, chicken soup with matzo balls, chicken and vegetables, donuts and cookies. Hadassah graciously donated the matzo balls. Rabbi Rosen led a service, kindergarteners performed and a guitarist performed.

The book club animatedly discussed *Three Cups of Tea*, Greg Mortenson's account of his adventures establishing schools in rural Afghanistan and Pakistan. The author and ex-mountaineer was recently interviewed on Bill Moyers' Journal, and we watched the clip. The title comes from a proverb: "The first time you share tea with a Balti, you are a stranger. The second time you take tea, you are an honored guest. The

third time you share a cup of tea, you become family.”

Mary Jane Ciccarello spoke at Kol Ami on legal issues concerning the elderly. She suggested those caring for parents write down the goals of both the care-giving child and the parent(s), determine how you live with estimated costs, care and medical needs. She suggested inventorying what you own and how you own it, listing where documents are, and giving document copies to your financial planner, accountant, insurance agent and lawyer. Funeral issues and senior driving issues should be addressed delicately. Mary Jane discussed life planning versus death planning. She spoke about health care issues and advance health care directives. The primary care physician should have a copy of the directive. A good source for Utahns is found at: http://aging.utah.edu/utah_coa/directives or call Louise Tonin at 585-9540. If you already have health care directives, revisit these periodically.

Books Mary Jane recommended are: *The ABA Legal Guide for Americans Over Fifty; Caring for Your Parents: The Complete Family Guide* (from the AARP) and *Legal Guide for the Seriously Ill* (from the ABA Commission on Aging.) She also recommended NOLO Press, a legal publisher. She suggested the National Senior Citizen Law Center at <http://www.nsclc.org/>, the National Consumer Law Center at <http://www.nclc.org> and local area centers on aging such as Jewish Family Service.

For legal issues such as power of attorney, Mary Jane suggested using a lawyer. Once completed, copies of this form should be given to pertinent banks, doctors and investment companies, some of whom may have their own forms. An attorney is needed for trustee issues, in the case of a sizable estate. If you own land in more than one state, a trust may be a good idea. Check periodically regarding beneficiaries of pensions and revisit your will to make sure everything is correct and up to date.

In Utah, those of limited incomes may apply for a property tax rebate (done by the county tax assessor) or for help with utility bills. Medicare kicks in at age 65, but it doesn't pay for assisted living.

Fair Boundaries E-Petitions and Politicking

Last week Fair Boundaries launched its official e-signature campaign to much success. Thanks to support, the website received so many hits that it overwhelmed our servers. Legal challenges will likely be raised about e-signatures.

NCJW, a supporter of FB, urges you to forward this message to friends and neighbors. Tell them to visit the website again - especially if they were unable to log on last week. The web address is: <http://fairboundaries.utahpetitions.org/>

For more info on Fair Boundaries, visit: www.fairboundaries.org
Or pick up a petition form and drop off petition forms at: 211 East Broadway, Suite 201, SLC, UT

NCJW News about Anti-Abortion Ad on CBS, Fair Pay, Don't Ask, Don't Tell

The NCJW released a letter to Leslie Moonves, president and CEO of the CBS Corporation, criticizing his company's decision to air an anti-abortion ad during the Super Bowl for the group Focus on the Family.

In 2009, President Obama signed his first bill into law, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which guaranteed that wage discrimination would be subject to challenge in our legal system. Despite the ground made up by the law, women continue to earn only 78 cents for every dollar made by their male colleagues. The Paycheck Fairness Act, passed by the House last January, would remedy that. By addressing systemic inequalities, educating employers about, and ensuring enforcement of existing laws, and strengthening penalties for violators, the Paycheck Fairness Act could help close the wage gap - if the Senate acts. Ledbetter said that

passing the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act without passing the Paycheck Fairness Act would be like giving someone a nail but not a hammer. Contact your senators to urge them to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Please write your congressional representatives to support Obama's call for repeal of the military policy that allows gays to serve in the military as long as they are not identified as gay.

Sixteen religious and religiously affiliated organizations (including NCJW) called on Congress and the White House to move forward with meaningful health care reform that does not create new abortion coverage restrictions. The NCJW called again for its members to contact their congressional representatives, urging them to vote for comprehensive, non-discriminatory health care reform that does not erode current abortion rights.

Report from Israel

The grant recipients were announced for Yad B' Yad: NCJW's Initiative to Nurture Knowledge and Women to Women: NCJW's Empowerment Initiative. NCJW's Israel Granting Committee recently met and recommended the grant allocations in accordance with the guidelines implemented through NCJW's merge with US/Israel Women to Women. Beginning with gifts of \$2,500, your contribution can be recognized through the NCJW Israel Granting Program.

For 2010, we are supporting organizations we have partnered with for years and new organizations who we believe will succeed in making Israel a more just society. One such organization, **Women's Spirit**, and its "Opening Doors Project for Integration in the Employment World for Women Victims of Violence," aims to move women victims of violence from financial dependence, unstable employment positions, and unsatisfying career paths, to financial independence and the development of long-term careers.

NCJW is also supporting a multi-year project from the **Alon Association**, which targets 15 young Druze women - all high school graduates - who devote a period of their lives to volunteering in their community. The young women raise their level of social awareness, sense of solidarity, and commitment to social change.

National Nominating Committee Members Sought

The National Nominating Committee will include two members (with four alternates) representing the general membership. Eligible members are invited to apply. The committee plays a critical role in the process of selecting NCJW's national leadership each triennium. The deadline is Tues., February 17, 2010.

Excluded are current national NCJW Board Directors, honoraries, section presidents, commissioners, and SPAs – who are given separate opportunities to apply for the NCJW National Nominating Committee. However, those who have served in these capacities in the past are welcome to apply.

For more info, contact Nuris Cevallos at ncevallos@ncjw.org or 212 645 4048 x 111.

Three Generations of NCJW – Spotlight on the Steins

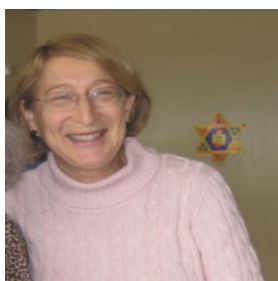
Ada Mae Stein, her daughter Ada Mae Crouse, and Ada Mae Crouse's daughter, Sarah Stein, represent three generations of NCJW Life Members in Utah. We salute them. Ada Mae senior, now 95 years young, was long active and president of the Bergen County, New Jersey Section and board member emeritus of Temple Emeth in Teaneck, NJ. As President of Council, she forthrightly urged integration and busing during the Civil Rights Movement. An avid traveler and art lover, she knows much about art and archeology. She regularly comes to NCJW events, dressed stylishly, with matching jewelry and a captivating smile, often accompanied by her daughter, Ada Mae Crouse.

Ada Mae Crouse went to Guatemala in 2002 to adopt a son, Carlos. Struck by the quality and beauty of the textiles and art and by the poverty of the Guatemalans, Ada Mae left her job as head of music therapy at the U of U Neuropsychiatric Institute to open her own company, A.M. Stein Imports, in memory of her late father, who owned an import company. Anthropologist Brenda Rosenbaum, a member of an old Guatemalan Jewish family, and Brenda's husband, who had organized Mayan Hands, a Fair Trade women's weaving cooperative, teamed up with Crouse to develop a line of Jewish-themed, Guatemalan made goods. Stein Imports has expanded to include textiles from Africa. Check out the beautiful website: <https://www.amsteinart.com/>. In addition to daughter Sarah and son Carlos, Ada Mae has a terrific husband, Irvin, and a 23 year old daughter, Leah Kovach, who studies viola at Indiana University.

Sarah is the rabbi's assistant at Congregation Kol Ami, where she has worked nine years. She has lived in Utah since she was nine. She is interested in politics and social justice, plays guitar and likes camping, canoeing, traveling and reading. We hope she enjoys her new NCJW life membership! The entire family practices Tikkun Olam; we are honored to have them as life members.



Ada Mae Stein
Gelman



Ada Mae Crouse



Edna Elkins, Rochelle Kaplan, Kay Brief, Sheila

Welcome New Board Member Kay Brief and New NCJW Members

Kay Brief recently joined the board. We hope she'll be able to help us realize our recently reformulated goals. Her career has been in public relations and marketing. She headed her own firm in New Orleans for over ten years; clients numbered the largest regional bank, the art museum, symphony, Ernst and Young and Tulane University among others. Brief is a four-time winner of the Silver Anvil - the top award given by the Public Relations Society of America. Before that, Kay lived in NY and was director of special projects and media relations for UJA Federation of NY. She is on the board of the Chamber Music Society of SLC and belongs to Hadassah and Kol Ami Sisterhood. Her husband Arthur is the George S. Eccles Chair in Business Ethics and Presidential Professor at the University of Utah.

We welcome newest NCJW members Alison Hertz, Helenka Bimstein, Barbara Barman, Carla Cantor, Deborah Dworkin, Orit Sommer, Gwen Campbell, Dottie Alt, Jennifer Elsken, Judy Sheffres and we welcome back to town Rakella and Don Richardson.

Check out our website periodically for additions to our photo gallery, copies of newsletters and upcoming events! <http://ncjwutah.org/>