



A Faith in the Future. A Belief in Action.

Utah Section Newsletter Editors: Laura Polacheck, Rochelle Kaplan

COMING IN APRIL:

JEWISHFILM FESTIVAL April 2-6

A promotional poster for the Jewish Film Festival. It features a central graphic of a film reel with a film strip looping around it. To the left of the reel is a blue 3D-style button that says "APRIL 2-6". Above the reel, the text "JEWISHFILM FESTIVAL" is written in a blue, sans-serif font. Below the reel, the "SLCFILM CENTER" logo is visible. On the far left, there are two sets of five stars, each enclosed in quotation marks. Between these stars, the text reads: "EXAMINE LIFE THOUGH A DIFFERENT LENS!" followed by "FIVE DAYS 11 AWARD WINNING FILMS ALL FOR FREE". At the bottom, there is a list of sponsors in small text.

A program flyer for the Jewish Film Festival. At the top, it says "EXAMINE LIFE THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS! JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL APRIL 2-6". Below this, it lists several award-winning films: "KNOWLEDGE IS THE BEGINNING" (International EMMY Award Arts Programming 2006), "THE BUBBLE" (2007 Berlin International Film Festival Reader of the Jury Award, 2007 Toronto Gay and Lesbian Festival Audience Award), "ORTHODOX STANCE" (Think Rocky meets Rashi), "SOMEONE TO RUN WITH" (2006 Israeli Film Best Award in 7 Categories including Best Actress, Best Director), and "IRA & ABBY" (Best Movie Audience Award Boston Jewish Film Festival and Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival). On the right side, there is a vertical strip of film frames showing scenes from the movies. At the bottom, it says "Please visit our website for the full listing of films, times and locations. www.slcfilmcenter.org".

As part of the Jewish Film Festival, The NCJW Utah Section is sponsoring *Making Trouble*, a 90 minute documentary about Jewish female comics. The film will be shown Saturday, April 5 at 1:30 PM at the Rose Wagner Center downtown. Please come out for this and other festival films. Members, please invite a friend or family member who is not yet an NCJW member. We plan to have literature about what we do and would love to enroll new members, even teens and spouses. We invite you to come 45 minutes early to talk up the NCJW, distribute flyers to audience members and schmooze. *Making Trouble* is terrific, partly filmed at Katz's Delicatessen on New York's Lower East Side and featuring rare archival footage and lots of laughs. For specifics about the Jewish Film Festival, go to www.slcfilmcenter.org.

The opening night film is an emotional documentary, *Knowledge is the Beginning*, about an Israeli/Arab orchestra founded by Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim and Palestinian scholar Edward Said. April 3 features a film about African Jews made by an Alvin Ailey dancer who will discuss his journey. Among other films showcased are *Hollywood and the Holocaust* and *Hollywoodism*, which received rave reviews by locals last summer.

The Bubble is a tale of three young Israeli roommates, two of them gay; *Bad Faith*, from France, follows the romance between a daughter of Polish Jews and an Arab Muslim. *Orthodox Stance*, a documentary about a young Russian immigrant to Brooklyn who is an orthodox Jew and a professional boxer, will close the festival and be followed by a panel discussion among local rabbis.

Several NCJW members have been instrumental in getting the festival together, among them Laura Green, Wilma Odell, Jill Sheinberg, Rochelle Kaplan and several ushers. Please come. Contact Wilma Odell if you wish to usher at one of the films. Her email is wodell9111@aol.com and her phone is 582-8731. We hope to make this an annual event!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

The SLCFC has added a grand finale to our Festival [Young@Heart](#), a 2008 Sundance favorite! It will be featured on April 8 at Gateway Megaplex beginning at 7PM. Check www.slcfilmcenter for details. How does it relate to the Jewish Film Festival? The choir director of a Massachusetts choir of seniors, Bob Cilman, is the son of Holocaust survivors and he has a unique vision of the young at heart. How appropriate that we begin and end with beautiful music.

Seniors Celebrate Pesach with NCJW Volunteers on April 15

Our annual Passover Senior Seder Lunch will take place at the Wagner JCC on Tuesday, April 15. Sally Padawer, who we hope will join the NCJW, is organizing the event. She needs additional volunteers to set up, cook, serve and clean up. To reach Sally, email her at sallygp@mac.com or call her (801) 295-7263 or (801) 403-6758. This is a terrific opportunity to give back to the community and enjoy our charismatic seniors.

Celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday in May

Utah Jewish organizations are sponsoring several events from May 4 through May 21; among them are a cantorial concert, films, book discussions and special services.

On May 18, from 12-4 PM, at Kol Ami, there will be activities, food and music. As part of the festivities at Kol Ami, the NCJW Utah Section has agreed to highlight Tel Aviv with Ogden's synagogue, Brith Sholem, and we will have materials about NCJW's Women and Gender Studies Program at Hebrew University, the first such program in the Middle East, and the Yad b'Yad Grant Program which helps grow innovative programs to aid women, children and immigrant families in Israel. Beth Krensky has graciously agreed to let her use her art to dress up our booth.

To volunteer, please contact Elaine Miller at 273-9647 or ejmiller111@gmail.com. We hope to have fun and get information to the community about the NCJW and its Israel programs. A poster detailing events will be sent in a separate email.

If you plan to be in NYC on June 12, NCJW and US/Israel Women to Women (W2W) will host an Israel Benefit Luncheon at the Jewish Museum. To reserve a space, contact Emily Snyder at esnyder@ncjw.org

NCJW National Convention in Chicago: What We Learned By Rochelle Kaplan

Elaine Miller and I attended the NCJW Convention March 9 through 11 and have lots to share with Utah members, although no deep dish pizza, Cubbies or Obama memorabilia. Elaine showed her *sechel* in finding us incredible rooms at the nearby historic Drake Hotel for almost half the price of the conference hotel rooms. Our section was awarded the Section Growth plaque for Total Membership Growth among small sections! Thank you new members Andalin Bachman, Kay Brief, Gwen Campbell, Susanna Cohen, Beverley Cooper, Mavis Green, Ellen Hartz, Muriel Hartz, Fran Lapin, Claudia Lemone, Bonnie Rokeach, Sara Beth Shapiro, Hilary Silberman and Lynne Wimmer!

Women Who Dare honoree Cecile Richards, who heads *Planned Parenthood* and formerly led *America Votes*, wowed the audience when she told how Hannah Solomon, NCJW founder, was instructed at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 to serve coffee but instead demanded a seat at the table. We celebrate a victory over Wal-Mart, which reversed its prior stand against carrying emergency contraception in its pharmacies. Fourteen governors, to their credit, have refused to accept federal aid tied to abstinence only programs.



More sobering were Richards' statements that 750,000 teens will become pregnant and four million young people will contract a sexually transmitted disease this year. Community and university-based health centers are now denied access to low-cost contraception. Planned Parenthood and the NCJW continue fighting for affordable birth control, the end of abstinence only programs, the end of the global gag rule and a pro-choice president. Check out both these websites: <http://www.americavotes.org/> and <http://www.ncjw.org/>

Rabbi Marla Feldman, the Director of the Joint Commission on Social Action of the Union for Reform Judaism and Central Conference of American Rabbis, spoke of a future based in faith in Jewish values, which we inherited. *Jews are values voters*. Thirty seven million Americans live in poverty; the most vulnerable Americans must be reflected in our national budget.

Phyllis Snyder, the outgoing NCJW president, reviewed national campaigns such as *Benchmark* to protect reproductive choice, *Plan A* for contraceptive access, *StoP*, to end domestic violence, and the new *Promote the Vote/Protect the Vote*. Did you know that

twenty-two million single American women did not vote in 2004? Did you know that women in 1920 gained suffrage by a one vote margin in one state legislature? Watch a sobering six minute film called *One Vote: You Decide*, at: <http://www.archive.org/details/OneVote20041024>.

Snyder talked about NCJW's Israel programs - the Women and Gender Studies Program at Hebrew University, the first such program in the Middle East, RIFIE, an education study center, and Yad b'Yad, a grant program. Twenty-five percent of NCJW's budget goes to its Israel programs. Snyder mentioned core issues such as ending genocide in Darfur, ending the Iraq War, restoring our civil rights and separation of church and state.

Program support from sections has decreased from 50% of NCJW revenue to 36%, good news for small sections like ours. A grant from the Mandel Corporation will fund an improved website. Stacy Kass, NCJW Executive Director, expanded on these ideas and told how NCJW is becoming more efficient. The NCJW will pilot regional events, and add more conference calls and web-based community action.

At the voting business sessions, the NCJW bylaws and mission statement were amended. Elaine and I were disappointed to find out that only attending delegates could vote. There is no provision for proxy voting, internet or mail-in voting. Snyder feels strongly that voters have to be there to partake of the discussions. Elaine and I disagree; we plan to ask our board to put forth an amendment calling for proxy voting. Based on our size, we are entitled to four votes, but since only two delegates attended, we had two votes. The majority also voted to omit the amount of dues in the by-laws, which we fear may lead to increased dues. There was a heated debate on abolishing the death penalty but the vast majority voted to keep the language.

I attended the Incoming Leaders Workshops but found these a mixed bag. Good ideas from other section leaders included partnering with other organizations, speaker and film programs, utilizing NCJW national campaigns like StoP, membership appreciation events, and having each member bring along a potential member to events. Other sections have similar problems to ours, such as too few volunteers and insufficient income. We have implemented a newsletter and survey to help and we hope to have our website up and running by the end of April.

Elaine and I both loved the Section Showcase and Networking Tables (around specific issues like fundraising, membership involvement and recruitment). Great ideas included a programming chair, partnering with the LWV around an issue like promoting the vote or immigration, discounted membership for spouses and female teens, Chanukah membership gifts, film and speaker events, a showcase of Israel programs and targeting to different audiences.

For example, the Peninsula Section showcased a Plan A teen advocacy program with events for parents and teens, a sex survey, training and a screening of *The Education of Shelby Knox*, who spoke afterwards. The Dallas NCJW put together a conference on immigration. Both St. Louis and Los Angeles used effective flyers to energize their local

populations about domestic violence. Greater Danbury Section had a powerful Silent Witness Exhibit, with life-size red cut out wood human figures, each with a card indicating the person killed by domestic violence. "Love Shouldn't Hurt" was screened.



Palm Beach developed a Luggage for Independence program for female victims of domestic violence and teens aging out of foster care. Some sections spearheaded tutoring programs in local elementary schools. Other sections concentrated on environmental or foster care concerns. We have contacts for each section showcase we admired and hope to bring to Utah.



There were concurrent workshops on Strategizing (or as George W. Bush might say, strategizing), Fundraising, Israel programs, Finding the NCJW Niche, and the Art of Messaging. Our section, in seeking additional members and dollars, should address our successes, causes and the opportunities to make a difference. We should consider matching grants. Social change philanthropy trumps charity because the latter is proactive, collective, long term, leads to social change and independent communities. We need to be unique and visible, filling gaps in the community other organizations don't fill.

Incoming NCJW President, Nancy Ratzan, inspired delegates when she delivered her installation address:

"We must lead around issues that would not be on the table but for us. We must lead the Jewish community, here and in Israel, to prioritize women's rights, because women's rights are human rights, and human rights are a core Jewish value!...As the voice of progressive Jewish women, we must ensure that NCJW is at every table in the Jewish community where progressive reform is needed... When NCJW is present, change happens, social justice is delivered, we make the difference."

Are there ideas you like that we might adopt or that we should further research? Would you be willing to take on the position of programming, membership or correspondence chair? Do you know of potential program partners or donors we might contact? Would any member be willing to chair the nascent book club? If yes to any of these, please contact Rochelle at ro@wifunds.com, or 801-942-6226.

NCJW Ladies Blitz the Slopes at Alta on March 7

Annabel and Jill Sheinberg, Gina Dalton, Turid Lipman, Rochelle Kaplan and Mike, a friend of Annabel's, got together on a powdery, sunny day to ski a mix of intermediate, advanced and off-trail terrain at Alta. We lunched at Alf's, then some of the high spirited gals continued to nail turns on the slopes. Someone took a picture of the group but moisture in the lens resulted in blurry images. We had a blast. Hope more of you come out when we hike in the late spring.

Tania Kazan Show on Surviving Breast Cancer Wows Audience



Annabel Sheinberg organized a fabulous evening at the Main Library, sponsored by, among others, Planned Parenthood Association of Utah and NCJW, Utah Section. Tania Katan's gut-wrenching and funny solo performance blew the audience away and the subsequent panel discussion with Ms. Katan, Rabbi Tracee Rosen, Dr. Erika Lloyd, Caroline Kiley, and Dr. Leigh Neumayer was informative and personal. Tania Katan is an author, playwright, two-time breast cancer survivor and an inspired performer signed copies of her memoir *My One Night Stand with Cancer*. She told of topless 10K races and of finding the love of her life in her ironic, sexy and hopeful cancer narrative.

Kudos and Complaints - A Legislative Wrap-up

Utah's 2008 legislative session ended March 6. The sales tax increased slightly to fund transportation projects and sadly, there was no reduction of the sales tax on groceries. Likely, this was because revenues were down \$340 million from December 2007 projections.

Public education teachers will get raises, with extra bonuses for math and science teachers. The IB and Head Start programs will be expanded. Salt Lake City will have a domestic partner registry.

Unfortunately, beginning in 2009, anti-illegal immigrant bills will make it harder for undocumented aliens to find work or obtain public benefits, though a bill to require additional documentation as proof of citizenship to vote was defeated.

Health care reform was largely delegated to a legislative task force who must issue recommendations by November of this year; Utahns who care about affordable, accessible, quality health care should make their opinions known to the legislature, which is strongly in favor of shifting people off of government programs to the private sector, without necessarily considering affordability or quality.

Medicaid did receive one-time authority to offer limited dental and vision coverage to beneficiaries. Furthermore, mini grants will be available for community-based organizations to identify and enroll Utahns in Medicaid, CHIP and UPP and teach them to make effective use of benefits.

Legislation to help improve the air quality in Utah passed, including a bill to create tax incentives for clean air and efficient vehicles, and a bill requiring that twenty percent of an electrical corporation's or municipal electric utility's adjusted retail electric sales beginning in year 2025 come from renewable energy sources, if cost effective. School buses won't be able to idle their engines and school buses will be retrofitted to be cleaner.

Spotlight on New Member of the Utah Section, Kay Brief

Kay and Arthur Brief moved in August 2006 from five feet above sea level to five thousand feet above sea level – from New Orleans to Salt Lake City. They lived in New Orleans for 15 years, where Arthur taught at Tulane University, and before that in Manhattan, for ten years, when Arthur taught at NYU. Prior to that the Briefs lived in the Midwest. They originally hail from Memphis, TN. Arthur teaches management and organizational behavior at the University of Utah Business School. They have one married daughter, Laura, living in San Francisco and an almost two year old grandson, Noah, about whom Kay is passionate.

Kay had a public relations business for many years in New Orleans and in NYC. She closed her office after Hurricane Katrina but still works with previous clients. What Kay likes about Salt Lake City is its beauty and the welcoming people. It is an easy city to live in and one that works, in contrast to the problems of New Orleans. Kay was long a member of the New Orleans NCJW Section, and a former member of its board. She would like to be active in our section, probably beginning next fall. Right now she is concentrating on their new house in the Florida Panhandle, which the contractor built partly on a neighbor's lot. Good luck, Kay, overcoming that awkward situation, and welcome to the Utah NCJW.