



**Utah Section Newsletter December 2007**  
**Connecting Socially to Connect Responsibly**  
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**From the Editor:**

We're excited to share our newsletter. We hope to publish quarterly, distributed primarily by email. For those who lack computer mail addresses, we'll send the newsletter by snail mail (post office). **If you have an email account but have received this by snail mail, please forward your email address to Rochelle at [ro@wifunds.com](mailto:ro@wifunds.com).** It costs money to print and mail the newsletter and we need volunteers to label envelopes and stick on stamps. We'd love to use our budget and volunteers to better meet community needs and to carry out fun activities.

If you have trouble opening this document, please email Rochelle a note to that effect at [ro@wifunds.com](mailto:ro@wifunds.com) or call her at 942-6226 and she will mail out a hard copy.

This edition covers December events and NCJW activities going back to August. We hope you'll read and enjoy the articles. Pay attention to the calendar so you can participate in upcoming activities. In future issues, we hope to spotlight members and share more national NCJW news. Board member Laura Polacheck has graciously agreed to be the newspaper editor. We welcome suggestions, comments and articles.

We have hired Sara Lambrinos to design a website, which we expect to be up in a few months. On January 13, Robin Lipkowitz and Pam Silberman will conduct lobbying training for interested members, in anticipation of the 2008 legislative session. We may use the renovated Capitol to do the training.

Based on results of the membership survey, we hope to initiate book, movie and hiking clubs. Elysa Moulding and Rochelle will serve as movie club and book club liaisons, respectively. We need someone to head up the hiking club.

Welcome, and thank you, to new NCJW members Debbie Aaronson, Andalin Bachman, Susanna Cohen, Beverley Cooper, Mavis Green, Ellen Hartz, Muriel Hartz, Fran Lapin, Claudia Lemone and Bonnie Rokeach. Lynne Wimmer and new life member Lynn Cohne.

## **NCJW Joins George Bailey in Christmas Makeover**

by Annabel Sheinberg

For the past three years I have participated in the committee to plan the Christmas Dinner for the Homeless as one of my board duties for NCJW. It has been a joy to work with Eileen Hallet Stone and her dedicated volunteers of all faiths and to be part of the amazing celebration they create for the homeless, homebound and economically unstable on Christmas Day. The magnitude of the labor, donations from community members, and compassion is wonderful.

While cooking a warm meal for the clients of St. Vincent de Paul on Christmas Day was the intent 16 years ago, the times they are a changin'. Now several groups serve food for homeless folks on Christmas. Last year, volunteers from our group hand-delivered 600+ meals to the homebound. The personal visits were meaningful for those receiving the food and those delivering it. The committee reassessed its work and changed its focus. **This year, we will NOT be at St. Vincent de Paul's Soup Kitchen. Instead, our headquarters will be the Rowland Hall Middle School. We still need volunteers, drivers on Christmas Day and donations such as new coats and hygiene kits. Deliverers must be able to lift a 20 pound carton.**

Eileen and her committee this year found a similar population that desperately needs support but may not come to large events in the social service sector. Committee members involved in Salt Lake City's public schools confirmed that newly resettled refugees, mostly from Burma and Somalia, are in dire need of basics like shoes, coats and warm clothes. The committee has identified families with children and obtained their clothing sizes. Volunteers and donors are contributing gifts and clothes. We expect to help 400 refugees with culturally specific sustenance baskets of cooking supplies such as basmati rice, oil, curry powder and other staples. We also plan to deliver meals and other goodies to 600 seniors.

Please be among the volunteers providing meals, sustenance baskets, gifts and clothing to 600 seniors and 400 refugees on Christmas Day. My family, including my children, will bring a meal to four family units hosted through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. My kids are practicing songs for the occasion and I hope they will learn other songs from the families with whom we will spend time. **Contact Kitty Kaplan, Eileen Hallet Stone or Annabel Sheinberg if you wish to help.**

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\*By the way, for you youngins, George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart, is the protagonist of the movie classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*.

## Talk About Jewish Gelt!

The Chanukah luncheon for about sixty seniors at the JCC, held this year on December 6, was organized by Karen Gladstone and Robin Perley of the NCJW, with a major assist from Elysa Moulding in the kitchen and the JCC staff. Other volunteers included Gwen Campbell, Annabel Sheinberg, Emily Lischer, Roberta Lovell, Laura Polacheck, Lynne Wimmer, Shelia Gelman, Gina Dalton, Vivian Dowsett, Betty Yanowitz, Irene Grossman, Ed Bronsky, Nancy Donnelly, Fran Lapin, Diane Smith, Rochelle Kaplan, Andrea Alcabe, and piano player Tress Eberhard. Some long-standing NCJW members such as Ada Mae Stein, Muriel Abrams, Maya Ozonur, Dorothy Feiler and Rachelle Finkelstein enjoyed the potato latkes, chicken, salad and dessert served by attentive volunteers. Rabbi Tracee Rosen of Congregation Kol Ami led the lighting of the candles, prayers and song and a troupe of young children performed a play and sang for the crowd. Many Russian Jewish immigrants to Salt Lake City came and there was a Chanukah trivia quiz. We'd like to thank Jewish Family Services, members of the NCJW and JCC staffers who acted as chauffeurs for the seniors and all who contributed to make the luncheon enjoyable.





## Pumpkin Pleasure

The Halloween celebration for women and children associated with the YWCA Women In Jeopardy Program, organized by the NCJW for the past 28 years, was held for the first time on a Monday- October 29, and over fifty children and toddlers attended. Susan Way chaired the event, Gina Dalton provided paints and supervised Halloween games, Shoshana Jansen provided mini pumpkins and decorations, Fran Lapin put together goody bags for women and children, Judy Dahlquist, a professional cake decorator, and her son Nathan, and Toba Essig's sons Brian and Adam, provided home-made cupcakes, cookies and decorations. Benita Jackson and Ginny Rothstein, long-time volunteers of this event, applied make-up to the children, while Rebecca Fleishman socialized with the moms. Connie McKay once again entertained guests by making balloon animals. U.S. Novelty once again provided decorations, paper goods and prizes.

## School Voucher Referendum Crushed

The ill-considered school voucher referendum went down to defeat on Election Day, by a resounding 62% to 38% margin. The measure would have cost taxpayers megabucks over the thirteen years of the legislation and would have weakened our public schools. The NCJW was among many organizations that joined Utahns for Public Schools to oppose the measure. The law's sponsors in the legislature, chastened, have said they will not bring up the issue this coming session. The primary supporter of the voucher measure was the founder of Overstock.com. Thanks to each NCJW member who helped score a win for public education.

## Two Men Invade NCJW Membership Brunch - Are Welcomed

The annual fall NCJW membership brunch was held on October 21 at the JCC, and for the second year, celebrated some of Utah's Jewish Women Artists. Over 125 people showed up, even some men! The

panelists included moderator Beth Krensky, a visual artist on the panel last year, Andalin Bachman, a musician with Desert Wind, Helen DeHay, a visual artist, Kirstie Gulick Rosenfield, artistic director of the Utah Contemporary Theatre, Eileen Hallet Stone, writer and oral historian, Elise Lazar, a ceramicist and mosaic artist, and Jackie Osherow, poet. Almost all the panelists and moderator are NCJW members.



The panel discussed questions of Jewish identity, inspiration and the role of Tikkun Olam in their work. Andalin Bachman performed music, including a song Tikkun Olam, with her husband Alan. The scrumptious food included bialys from Crumb Brothers Artisan Bakery in Logan, homemade kugel, a cream cheese and lox spread and salads. To qualify for valuable door prizes, members completed an interest survey. Door prizes included a cosmetics basket, art work contributed by the artists, jewelry made by members and theater tickets. Artists sold their work, with a portion of the proceeds going to the NCJW. Board member emeritus and former national NCJW president, Esther Landa, close to 95 years old, gave a spirited talk about the early days of the NCJW and then she installed our new board members.



Rochelle spoke briefly about the upcoming referendum on school vouchers, which she and the board urged NCJW members to defeat. Jill Sheinberg and Rochelle Kaplan organized the event, with help from Lois Spiegel, Karen Gladstone, Wilma Odell, Lori Bush, Vivian Dowsett, Eileen Hallet Stone, Julie Wolfe, Annabel Sheinberg, Rakella Richardson, Helen Rappaport, Sheila Gelman, Cathy Dern, Kitty Kaplan and others. The JCC co-sponsored the event; Daniel Burg designed the program brochure and poster, using art by Beth Krensky and Helen DeHay. The program contained an excerpt of an Osherow poem, *New Tanager/New Song*:

At that time, though, it was mostly wings-  
 That the real world contained such far-fetched things...  
 To me, a city kid, it was a matter of faith;  
 All these species were purely theoretical,  
 Except for the occasional hygienic cardinal  
 Stopping for a dip in our neighbors' birdbath,  
 They weren't sights I'd ever thought I'd see-  
 But I believed in them, as I believed a sea  
 Had opened, years before that, for my family,  
 That a bush, in flames, might not burn away,  
 I loved the idea that, any time at all,  
 Some red or blue or gold might fly your way...  
 And limited my wish list to what was possible  
 In my relatively unambitious region:

Lori Bush and Rochelle Kaplan, new co-presidents of the NCJW, have their own *wish list*:

- Help us send Esther Landa, our own local dynamo, a tribute card for her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is a former NCJW National President. Contact [rakella@sisna.com](mailto:rakella@sisna.com)
- Recruit new NCJW members
- Volunteer to be correspondence coordinator or membership coordinator
- Take on a leadership role
- Sign up for the Action Center at the NCJW website: <http://www.ncjw.org/>

Board members for 2007-2008: Lori Bush, Amy Dishell, Eileen Hallet Stone, Shoshana Jansen, Kitty Kaplan, Rochelle Kaplan, Esther Landa (emeritus), Robyn Lipkowitz, Roberta Lovell, Elysa Moulding, Laura Polacheck, Rakella Richardson, Annabel Sheinberg, Denise Turkanis, Susan Way.

## Reaboi Concert Honors Larisa Jaffe

Tevye sings, "Dear God, you made many, many poor people.  
I realize, of course, that it's no shame to be poor.  
But it's no great honor either!  
So, what would have been so terrible if I had a small fortune?"

It was our *big fortune* to host the NCJW summer fundraiser featuring musicians Julia Jaffe-Reaboi, Colman Reaboi and Olga Mikertychan. Their concert, on August 19 at the Gardner Hall on the University of Utah campus, was a success. Julia, a mezzo-soprano, her husband Colman, a bass, and Olga on piano, traveled from Boston to mesmerize a sell-out crowd.

Julia was fifteen when she emigrated in 1980 with her parents from the USSR. They each brought the maximum allowed two suitcases and eighty dollars to Salt Lake City, sponsored by the NCJW. Julia's mother, Larisa, returned to SLC after years teaching Russian at Monterey's Defense Language Institute Center. To our section she recounted how she traveled the world solo in fifteen months on ten thousand dollars. She then fulfilled her dream of joining the Peace Corps. While volunteering in Zimbabwe, she was murdered at age sixty-three in 2001 during a burglary at her home.

Julia, a graduate of the University of Utah, offered to perform here with Colman to thank our section for helping her family to settle here. Their musical selections ranged from Hebrew liturgical songs to Yiddish classics to French opera to "If I Were a Rich Man". Colman, a cantor who has performed with the Tampa Opera and the Greater Miami Opera, explains that he chose the songs for their themes of personal longing, ecstasy, reverence, struggle and hope, which collectively make up the Jewish psyche. There remain a few DVDs, which we thank Si Sakhai for making. **A CD of the concert, entitled *Remembering Larisa*, produced by engineer David Balandrin, is available for only \$5 plus postage.** Contact Rochelle Kaplan at 942-6226 or [ro@wifunds.com](mailto:ro@wifunds.com) if you wish to buy a CD.

We thank those who made this amazing event possible. Among the donors and volunteers were Lori Bush, Wilma Odell, Rakella and Don Richardson, Rochelle Kaplan, Kitty Kaplan, Roberta and Bobby Lovell, Elysa and Helga Moulding, Marsha and Ed Bronsky, Shoshana Jansen, Donna and her son David Balandrin, Nicole and Si Sakhai. Several donors requested anonymity.

## Interest Survey Analyzed

We received interest surveys from most members at the fall brunch and a few surveys dribbled in afterwards. How I wish those who didn't complete the surveys would complete them and return them to me, so that the board can better meet our membership's desires! Call me, Rochelle, at 942-6226 and I will gladly walk you through the survey.

An analysis shows that most members joined the NCJW for friendship and community service. Most members opted to volunteer on a one-shot basis of two to three hours. The activities that drew the most interest were the Jewish Arts Festival, the Chanukah lunch, the Christmas dinner, the Passover Seder and the Race for the Cure. The Ski Day, Arts Brunch and Halloween also drew volunteers. There is tremendous interest in forming Book, Movie and Hiking Clubs. Happily, some NCJW board members agreed to organize these. Some members would serve on committees such as membership and programming. Several expressed expertise in areas such as writing, public speaking, training, education and event planning. The board plans to tap these individuals. The section president has asked National to send us an expert to train our board. In the meantime, if we send a board member to the National Convention in March, she can attend pertinent workshops about strengthening NCJW sections and subsequently share the information.

Emily Lischer and Heather King expressed interest in forming a play group. Interested? Contact Emily at [telischer@hotmail.com](mailto:telischer@hotmail.com) or Heather at [mikeandheatherking@msn.com](mailto:mikeandheatherking@msn.com)

### NCJW Proposed Calendar

December 07	January 08	February 08	March 08	April 08	May 08
Senior Hanukkah Luncheon  Winter Sustenance Basket Program	Lobbying training January 13, 9:30 -11:00 AM  Legislature activity Dates TBD (begins Jan 22, ends Mar. 5)	Legislature in Session- NCJW and CORC Day at Legislature. Tues. Feb. 12, 9 AM	March 7- Ski Day at Alta  Tania Katan (comedienne and cancer survivor) scheduled for March 13 at JCC  National NCJW Convention Mar. 9-11, Chicago	Senior Passover Seder lunch with JCC (Passover begins Sat., April 19)  Jewish Film Festival being planned (April 3-6, 12-13)	Mother's Day Luncheon for battered women (held only if somebody willing to lead effort)  Race for the Cure