



## National Council of Jewish Women Utah Section

**Utah Section: Connecting Socially to Connect Responsibly**

**A Faith in the Future. A Belief in Action.**

**September 2010**

Editors: Laura Polacheck [lpolacheck@aarp.org](mailto:lpolacheck@aarp.org); Rochelle Kaplan [ro@wifunds.com](mailto:ro@wifunds.com)

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

### **Message from the board:**

How the time has flown since the last newsletter! It's hard to believe Rosh Hashanah is here. We wish all our members and their families a happy and healthy New Year. We wish speedy and full recoveries to Rachelle Finkelstein, Toba Essig, Muriel Abrams, Julia Reagan and anyone whom we inadvertently omitted.

Some highlights of the past year include our participation in Democracy Day on the Hill held at the state capitol and our tour of Alliance House in February, The Amy Dishell Memorial Ski Day at Alta in March, the Passover Seder for Seniors, Yom Hashoah Remembrance and Yom Ha'atzmaut, all in April. In May, we did our Race for the Cure in Sugarhouse Park with Hadassah partnering, sponsored by Komen SLC, and for which we raised close to \$4000. We had an easy walk around Silver Lake in July, followed by lunch at the Silver Fork Lodge, and watched a game of the Salt Lake Bees in August. Our book club continues to meet every other month and has a core group of attendees but we'd love more participants. Thanks Mavis Green for organizing the club. And thanks to our many volunteers and to the participants in the events!



**Race for the Cure**



**Amy Dishell Alta Ski Day**

**Salt Lake Bees Game**

We supported Common Ground, an initiative to promote equal rights regardless of sexual preference.

We also supported two initiatives: Fair Boundaries, a non-partisan effort to have an independent redistricting commission draw legislative districts (as opposed to a partisan panel) after the 2010 census, and Utahns for Ethical Government, which would set up an independent ethics commission and strengthen ethics rules for state legislators. Fair Boundaries, unfortunately, failed to meet the threshold to be on the 2010 ballot, but please consider each candidate's stance on fair redistricting plans when you vote in November. Utah is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country, meaning districts are not fairly drawn to represent communities. Check out the Brennan Center for Justice if you wish to know more.

The ethics initiative may still appear on the 2012 ballot; to learn more, go to: <http://www.utahnsforethicalgovernment.org/> or ask Beverley Cooper, membership co-chair, for the latest scoop.

With the Salt Lake Film Center, we sponsored a showing of *On Holy Ground*, a film about the Klezmatics, the celebrated klezmer group, and the Klezbros performed live, even getting volunteers to dance onstage!



**Hikers at Silver Lake**



**Sheila Gelman at Passover Senior Seder**



**Passover Seder**

Kol Ami sponsors a knitting club of members from Sisterhood, Hadassah and NCJW. Check the Kol Ami schedule for dates. We always need hats and scarves for our Tikkun Olam project, so join in the fun!

We supported national efforts to get confirmed several federal judges and Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court. We fought to keep contraception available and to protect abortion rights. As part of national's new program, Higher Ground, to stop domestic violence, we will have a workshop with NCJW member and social worker, Jaye Rieser, on November 4, and hope you will come and bring friends.

We welcome new board members Beverley Cooper and Naomi Levy, who will chair membership, Karen Gladstone and Robin Perley who will co-chair programming with Rochelle Wenger assisting, and Robin Isaacson, who will become recording secretary. Kitty Kaplan became treasurer. We salute Rakella Richardson, Roberta Lovell and Denise Turkanis for their outstanding past service.

Alas, we still lack co-presidents. Eileen Hallet Stone and Rochelle Kaplan are serving as interim presidents until some eager ladies step forward to volunteer. Contact Eileen if at all interested or curious about the position.

Please check out our website: <http://ncjwutah.org/>. Also, if you haven't renewed your dues, please do, to enable us to continue our programming and support of national and Israeli initiatives.

## COMING UP THIS FALL:

**Thurs. Sept. 23, 6 PM Tomato Tasting**, is now to be held in conjunction with the JCC's Salsa in the Succoth. Bring your tomatoes to the JCC, learn how to make salsa, and learn to dance salsa! NCJW members \$5, which is the discounted price. \*Note the change in time/location. RSVP to Carla Cantor at the JCC.

**Sunday Oct. 10 NCJW Annual Membership Brunch at the JCC, 9:30-11:30 AM.** This year's topic is "The Politics of Environmental Activism" with panelists Deeda Seed of SUWA, Vanessa Pierce of Heal Utah, James Westwater of Utah Valley Earth Forum, Mark Clemens of the Sierra Club, Zachary Frankel of the Utah Rivers Council and Carl Fisher of Save Our Canyons. Learn how you can help protect Utah's quality of life. Pay your annual dues (if you have not) and keep the NCJW strong! We'll have terrific food, displays and also permanent vote by mail forms at the NCJW booth. This is our premier event!

**Sunday, Oct. 17, 6:30 PM, NCJW Book Club** talks about *The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness* by Joel Ben Izzy. For more info, contact Mavis G. 615-439-5771 or [mavis.green@yahoo.com](mailto:mavis.green@yahoo.com)

Thurs. Oct. 28, 6:30-8 PM, NCJW Halloween Party for Women and Children in Jeopardy at the YWCA. Contact Gina Dalton or Susan Way for details and/or to volunteer: [ginadalton@msn.com](mailto:ginadalton@msn.com) or (801)532-7770 or [suway@q.com](mailto:suway@q.com) or (801)598-5866

**Thurs, Nov. 4, 6:30-8:30 PM, Cocktail party at Rochelle Kaplan's home**, 8011 S. Dazzling View Circle, Cottonwood Hts., UT with Jaye Rieser introducing new NCJW initiative, Higher Ground and with guest speaker Karla Arroyo of South Valley Sanctuary. This should be fascinating. A sobering topic we can learn more about while we drink and nosh.

**Sat eve, Nov. 13 and Sunday, Nov. 14 Jewish Arts Festival at the JCC.** Last year, we sold brisket sandwiches, hot dogs, bagels and bialys, Ellen Hartz' homemade honey, pumpkin bread and more, helping make the event a great fundraiser for NCJW and fun-raiser for everyone who attended! Can we do the same this year? We need volunteers to shop, cook, serve and man the NCJW table. Food will be sold only on Nov. 14.

## Member Spotlight: Naomi Levy

Naomi Levy, our incoming membership co-chair, started baking when she was very young. But no one ate the challah she made, even though she carefully watched her grandmother and mother. Perhaps that was because her challah was made from clay.

When I called Naomi the day before Rosh Hashanah, she was baking luckshin kugel. So was I. She said she lives catty corner to an elementary school and the kids all know when she is baking. During the Korean War, she baked cookies for the USO but her dad delivered them to the base because Naomi was too young to go.

She grew up on the north side of Chicago, in Albany Park. There she belonged to the nearby Jewish Community Center. Her parents enrolled her in Hebrew school when she was nine years old. The class had twenty-four boys and Naomi, although two girl friends later signed up. She was bat mitvahed at age eleven in an orthodox synagogue. She maintains that she reads Hebrew (at least the prayer books) better than she reads English.

Naomi married in Chicago and has a daughter, Carole. Her husband passed away when Carole was young and her mom raised her. (Carole was almost named Consuela, the preferred name of her mother-in-law, who was from Spain.) Carole, who is married, is now the vice president of an ad agency in New York City and she also works with independent filmmakers. Naomi, while in Chicago, was the service unit manager of the Girl Scouts and had her own troop.

Naomi has lived a peripatetic life. She worked for the Burroughs Wellcome Pharmaceutical Company in Chicago, which then transferred her to North Carolina, and then to Kansas City. Ironically, the company logo contains a unicorn, and Naomi has always collected unicorns, attracted to the fantasy element in the mythical animal. Burroughs subsequently underwent restructuring and Naomi's job was cut. So after twenty-one years with the company, she sought a new employer and found work with a young biotech company in Boulder, Colorado. When the company downsized, Naomi answered a Denver advertisement seeking someone with experience with regulatory affairs, pharmaceutical labeling and dealing with labeling in foreign countries. That ad is what brought her to Salt Lake City sixteen years ago. She liked living and working near a college, in the Research Park. In Utah, Naomi continued her involvement with the girl scouts, although she is less busy with that these days.

Naomi, who retired last year, loves the Utah Symphony and Opera and Ballet West and is a season subscriber to each. She loves music.

A member of NCJW and Hadassah, Naomi likes the National Council because she enjoys people, likes learning about different people and what they believe in and supports our mission of helping others. We're thrilled to have Naomi join our board!

## **Election Day Coming- Switch to Permanent Vote by Mail Ballot**

Please don't forget to vote in November. An NCJW initiative is Promote the Vote/Protect the Vote. There are many important local and statewide races which will impact the issues NCJW cares deeply about. Our own Patrice Arent is again running for office and we wish her success. You can vote at your convenience, by mail, by applying for a permanent vote by mail ballot. For Salt Lake County, the application and details: <http://www.clerk.slco.org/elections/voteByMail.html>

For further details on the Permanent Vote By Mail Program, please call the Salt Lake County Clerk, Elections Division at (801) 468-3427. For other UT counties, check with your elections clerk.

## **Message from Shari Eshet , NCJW Director Israel Office**

As summer draws to an end, I wanted to update you on some of the NCJW Israel-related events that have taken place this summer -- especially the Israel Benefit Luncheon that took place on June 10, 2010 at the Harmonie Club in New York City. As director of the NCJW Israel office, I was delighted to be present when NCJW honored philanthropist, advocate, and dedicated volunteer

Jan Schneiderman, who served as NCJW's president from 1999 to 2002 and was the first chair of the NCJW Yad B' Yad program. The 2010 Israel Benefit Luncheon also celebrated NCJW's pioneering Israel Program and the continuing partnership of NCJW and US/Israel Women to Women (W2W). Together, we are creating progressive social change in the lives of Israel's women, children, and families. With over 140 people in attendance, we exceeded our fundraising goals for 2010, and once again NCJW members and donors reaffirmed their commitment to Israel and its people. And as Shirley Katzir, executive director of the EDEN Hostel for Girls, an IGP grantee, spoke of the need to support young girl victims of domestic violence, there was not a dry eye in the audience.

Israeli feminists, including Irit Rosenblum, founder of New Family; Anat Hoffman, founding member of Women of the Wall; and Dr. Daphne Hacker, new head of the NCJW Women's Forum have also been busy this summer and NCJW has been busy supporting their efforts. I invite you to read on about their activities as well.

And after you read these other updates, please take a moment to share this Israel Program Report with friends and family who may also be interested in receiving news from Israel.

With Rosh Hashanah coming early this year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish us all a year of true peace and calm for the State of Israel, its people, and its neighbors.

\* The complete and informative August Report from Israel can be read in its entirety at the NCJW website: <http://www.ncjw.org/> There you can also find other NCJW news.

## **From Nancy Ratzan, NCJW President**

As we prepare to celebrate our New Year, let us look back with pride and gratitude for our collective strength this past year. NCJW volunteers across this nation took courageous action and spoke up to ensure that the lives of women and families in their communities and throughout the world would be empowered by our actions in support of progressive social change for all. Together we played valuable roles in winning comprehensive health care reform, maintaining the safety net for those in need, upholding and expanding civil rights, including LGBT rights, reproductive freedom, equality in the workplace, and the right of women to be free from violence.

This year through our collective strength we must not only hold that ground, we must engage in even more powerful action and more progressive change. As we observe Rosh Hashanah, share this commitment with us.

Let the shofar call us all again to action and renewal. Stand up and speak out with me and NCJW, and may we all pledge once again to work for a better life for all women, children and families, to safeguard our sacred individual rights and freedoms, and for peace in Israel and throughout the world.

L'shanah tovah and best wishes to you and your families for a healthy, peaceful, and fulfilling new year.