



National Council of Jewish Women

Faith in the Future. A Belief in Action.

Utah Section: Connecting Socially to Connect Responsibly

September 2008 Newsletter

Editors: Laura Polacheck and Rochelle Kaplan

lpolacheck@aarp.org

ro@wifunds.com

Annual Fall Membership Brunch is Coming September 21

Our membership brunch has new features this year and promises to be terrific! We are joining forces with the Kol Ami Sisterhood at the JCC on Sunday morning; if you are a member in good standing of either organization, the brunch is free. Otherwise, the cost is \$10, still a bargain. If you join both organizations, you'll get discounted membership.

The theme is local Jewish women scientists. Our distinguished panelists include Orly Ardon, research scientist, Elaine Cohen, computer science professor, Mavis Green, aviation science professor, Laya Kesner, chemistry professor and lecturer and Dr. Mara Rabin, with the Utah Health and Human Rights Project. They will discuss job challenges and how Tikkun Olam relates to their work.

We will again have Crumb Brothers New York style bialys. We'll also have blintzes and an Israeli salad made by Kol Ami's chef and other delicious food. The table decorations are science themed- go ahead, try to guess! We will have door prizes and a short film.

So come; bring spouses, friends or adult children who'd enjoy the event. RSVP please to ro@wifunds.com or call Rochelle at 942-6226. If you can volunteer to help in the kitchen, set up tables and decorations or clean up, please contact Rochelle.

A Message from the President

I hope you all enjoyed the summer and are feeling renewed.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Sept. 14- JFS honors NCJW member Carol Einhorn for community service

Sunday, Sept. 21- Membership Brunch, joint with Kol Ami Sisterhood

Sunday, Sept. 28- Tour of Temple Har Shalom and Israel@60 Photo Exhibit, followed by a hike and/or lunch in Park City. Lifetime member Hilary Nitka leads.

Wednesday evening, Oct. 29- Second in the series, Sex After Forty cocktail party, with sex therapist Freida Sweitzer, at Annabel Sheinberg's house.

Fundraising event with belly dancers and Turkish food; date TBA

Walking tour of Jewish Downtown SLC, led by Rochelle Kaplan, followed by light snacks at Esther Landa's home. Date TBA

This summer, the Jewish community suffered two great losses, Amy Dishell, NCJW past president, and Rafi Schwartz, Kol Ami religious school leader. Both died young. This newsletter will highlight Amy, with remembrances by Andrea Alcabes, Kitty Kaplan and Annabel Sheinberg. The NCJW will rename its annual ski day in Amy's name.

An informal hiking club of NCJW ladies has been out walking and will continue through the fall. Among the hikers are Sheila Gelman, Cathy Dern, Ellen Hartz, Helen Rappaport, Jill Sheinberg, Rachel Benator, Rochelle Kaplan and Susan Horn. Want to join us? Contact one of us.

Leadership Opportunities:

Lori Bush, co-president with me, resigned due to her responsibilities as president of Rodan + Fields. Additionally, we lost board members Elysa Moulding and Pam Silberman due to time constraints, and Amy Dishell. If a member can join the board, which now meets every other month, that would be much appreciated. I would love a co-president. We need help with correspondence, assistance with membership, fundraising help, and work getting out our directory. If you have the time, please consider helping. Welcome newest board member Mavis Green, who will be establishing our book club. Elaine Miller joined our board in March and organized NCJW's participation in Israel@60 celebrations. The Utah Section has a terrific history and continues to be involved in the community, as we connect socially to connect responsibly. But we depend on volunteers. Encourage your friends and locally-based relatives to join our organization.

Our Website:

Please visit and revisit often our website, which changes to reflect current and future happenings and includes a photo gallery. You can pay dues, give to the Shalom/Salaam/Tikkun Olam Project, buy tribute cards or make other contributions. Have photos or anecdotes to add to our history on the website? Contact a board member. The website is: www.ncjwutah.org

High Holy Days Message:

Since it is unlikely that another newsletter will go out before the Jewish New Year, I wish each member a healthy, happy Rosh Hashanah. Should you be in town and have no place to celebrate a holiday meal, I invite you to my home following services on September 30, or about 1:30 PM, where I will be hosting Kol Ami members in my zip code, 84121. You can call or email me if you plan to come.

Election 2008 Draws Near- Please get involved locally and vote!

Here is a comparison of McCain and Obama on issues central to NCJW:

Taxes:

BREAKING DOWN THE NUMBERS

Here's how the average tax bill could change in 2009 if either John McCain's or Barack Obama's tax proposals were fully in place.

	MCCAIN	OBAMA
Income	Avg. tax bill	Avg. tax bill
Over \$2.9M	-\$269,364	+\$701,885
\$603K and up	-\$45,361	+\$115,974
\$227K-\$603K	-\$7,871	+\$12
\$161K-\$227K	-\$4,380	-\$2,789
\$112K-\$161K	-\$2,614	-\$2,204

\$66K-\$112K	-\$1,009	-\$1,290
\$38K-\$66K	-\$319	-\$1,042
\$19K-\$38K	-\$113	-\$892
Under \$19K	-\$19	-\$567

Source: The Tax Policy Center (non-partisan)

Funding **comprehensive sex education**, including contraception and abstinence:

McCain NO

Obama YES

Roe vs. Wade

McCain: Should be overturned.

Obama: Supports Roe vs. Wade

Health Issues

SCHIP: McCain: NO

Obama YES

Social Security: McCain would privatize

Obama opposes privatization

Israel: McCain Strong supporter

Obama Strong supporter

Alternative Energy: McCain Absent all votes

Obama Absent some, YES others.

Hate Crimes Legislation McCain NO

Obama YES

Equal Pay for Equal Work: McCain Absent

Obama YES

Educational Vouchers: McCain YES

Obama NO

Gay Marriage: McCain: NO, for some legal contracts Obama: NO, but for civil unions

Note: NCJW supports comprehensive sex education, Roe vs. Wade, SCHIP, Israel, Hate Crimes Legislation, Equal Pay for Equal Work. NCJW opposes school vouchers and bans on same-sex unions/marriages. On Supreme Court decisions, NCJW opposed voter ID photo requirement, gun decision.

Utah has nation's worst voter turnout rate, study says (Deseret News from July 5, 2008)

Despite the money politicians spend courting Utahns and the constant pleas by ecclesiastical leaders to show good citizenship by voting, Utah now has the nation's worst voting participation rates. That's according to a study released this week by the U.S. Census about the 2006 general election. As part of its regular massive surveying, the bureau asked Americans after the election two years ago if they voted -- and why -- to help show differences among groups and likely reasons for their actions.

Utah came in last among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Some 36.7 percent of Utahns age 18 and older -- about one of three -- reported voting in that election. Nationally, the average was 47.8 percent, about a third higher than in Utah. Minnesota had the highest turnout at 65.4 percent, almost double Utah's rate.

Why so low in Utah? Brigham Young University political science professor Kelly Patterson has some ideas. "It (the 2006 election) was a very nondramatic, mid-term election where none of the races in the three congressional districts was competitive, and the statewide senate race wasn't competitive. Campaigns were not spending a lot of time motivating voters to register and get out to vote like we normally see with the most competitive races," he said. Perhaps another factor, he said, is that Utah has more young people than most states, "and voter registration rates and voting are highly correlated with age" -- with young people tending to vote less than older folk.

Salt Lake County Clerk Sherrie Swensen said her office has made so many efforts to make voting and registration easy that, "If people haven't voted, it's not because they do not know how. It's because they have chosen not to." For example, she says her office sends postcards to every home where a

registered voter lives telling them where to vote and where early voting is available. She has registration forms available in grocery stores and post offices. She goes to high schools and senior centers to encourage registration and even pushes it at home shows and garden expos. Also, her office allows people to permanently request on her Web site that their ballot always be mailed so they need not worry about traveling to polls or standing in lines.

The Census shows that huge numbers of Utahns do not bother to register to vote. It said Utah has the third-lowest reported registration rate among the states -- 56.8 percent of adult citizens. Nationally, the average is 67.6 percent, about a fifth higher than in Utah.

Swensen says Utah law changes have made it a bit more difficult to register in recent years. She said the Legislature eliminated "satellite registration" that had been available in neighborhoods for a couple of days about a week before an election. It also moved what had been a deadline for by-mail registration back from 20 days to 30 days before an election. Voters can register in person up to 15 days before an election, but now must go to a county clerk's office to do so. "I personally would like to see election-day registration" at the polls with proof of residency, as is available in many states, she said. "A lot of people just don't think about elections 30 days in advance (when mail deadlines hit), so later registration would help." She adds that bills proposing same-day registration have not gone far in the Legislature.

Census data show little difference in voting rates among different racial groups or genders in Utah -- all are low. It said 36.8 percent of Utah adult women reported voting, essentially the same as the 36.6 percent of males who said they did. It said 38.5 percent of Utah whites reported voting, as did 29.8 percent of Hispanic citizens. Sampling rates for other minorities were too low to be considered statistically reliable. Data breakouts for other Utah groups were not available in data released this week. But data for all Americans show some interesting trends nationally.

For example, older Americans tend to vote more than young adults. Those who are married tend to vote more than those who are not. And those with higher incomes tend to vote more. The Census found that among nonvoters nationally, 27 percent said they skipped voting because they were too busy or had conflicting work or school schedules. About 12 percent said were not interested or did not think their vote would make a difference. Another 12 percent said they were ill. And 11 percent said they were out of town. Other reported reasons for not voting included dislike of the candidates or issues, 7 percent; forgetting to vote, 6 percent; confusion over registration procedures, 4 percent; and inconvenient polling places, 3 percent.

The Census also asked those who had not registered why they did not. It said 48 percent said they were not interested in the election or were not involved in politics; 14 percent said they missed deadlines; 7 percent said they did not know how to register; 5 percent did not meet residency requirements; and 3 percent said their vote would not make a difference.

NCJW: Proposed HHS Regulation Threatens Health-Care Access

August 26, 2008, Washington, DC -- The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) today denounced a regulation proposed by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that would require as many as 584,000 providers of health care to certify that they allow their employees to refuse to participate in providing any health services, referral, or even information that violates their moral or religious beliefs. NCJW President Nancy Ratzan released the following statement:

"Through the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Bush administration has proposed a new regulation that purports to implement three federal laws giving health providers the right to refuse to perform, aid in, or learn about abortions or sterilization procedures. But the regulation would not end there. Health-care employers would be required to certify that they 'will not require involvement in procedures that violate an individual's conscience as part of any' health service program.

"As an organization inspired by Jewish values, NCJW is keenly aware of the need to protect freedom of religion and belief. However, the administration's proposed regulation is not about protecting religious freedom. Rather, it is a subterfuge which uses the guise of religious freedom to create unreasonable barriers for women to access reproductive health-care. The proposed regulation is another assault by the administration on women's rights.

"During the comment period, health care providers, the civil rights community, and grassroots activists need to expose this latest tactic to impose one extreme religious view about reproductive rights on us all. We cannot allow public health policy to, once again, be contorted to meet an ideological agenda."

Member Spotlight: A Conversation with Mavis Green by Eileen Hallet Stone



Mavis Green

Armed with a Ph.D. degree in educational organization and leadership, Master degrees in both public administration and aviation safety, and a Bachelor of Science in environmental studies, Mavis Green, a gold-seal flight instructor, is a busy woman with her head in the clouds and her feet firmly planted on the ground.

A recent east coast transplant, Mavis is an assistant professor of aviation at Utah Valley State College (UVSC). Flying is a way of life for this new NCJW member. But it didn't start out that way. "You think you have only one career path," Mavis told me last week. "But sometimes you don't end up where you thought you were going to be."

In 1975, the environmental field was her career of choice. Working in the southern part of New Jersey, which was considered a mosquito mecca, Mavis studied biological insect control. She raised *Gambusia Affinis*, the mosquito fish, as a natural predator. In doing so, she hoped to, "lessen the use of chemical (pesticide) applications for mosquito control." During assignments, she went on, "small aircraft rides with crop dusters [aerial applicators] and helicopter pilots," and seemingly out of the blue was smitten with another kind of airborne bug. "I don't know whether it was because we lived near an airport when I was young or because my New York parents were adventurous when they moved to the country, but the moment I was in the air, I knew I was going to love it," Mavis said. Working days monitoring clean-up procedures on chemical spills, she turned her "paychecks over to the flight school," and soon earned her flight instructor's license.

"When I got an offer to fly full time, I had a big decision to make," she said. "My career changed dramatically." At UVSC, Mavis teaches aviation science including classes on flight theory, crew resource management, regulations, and airport operations. In 2001, she was president of the prestigious University Aviation Association representing "interests of all of the collegiate aviation

programs on a college level.” In a male-dominated professional field that comprises only 3% female pilots, Mavis stresses programs that “maximize the retention of women students in collegiate aviation studies.”

Most importantly, Mavis understands the isolation of being the rare woman in the cockpit. Alone while piloting her 1948 Cessna 140 two-seat (single engine) tail dragger far above the trees, she’s pretty much at home. “The feeling that comes with flying is a lot of freedom accompanied with a great deal of discipline for the physics, the limits, and boundaries you have to work within,” she explained. “Before taking off, I love the feeling of anticipation, the subliminal stomach flurry of being alive. And then once up in the air, there’s a great satisfaction with the routine work, even the check list.”

Logging more than 10,000 hours, and relying on maps and checkpoints in her radio-less, single-engine aircraft, Mavis said evening flying is ideal. “At night you’re in a little cocoon, by yourself, surrounded by brilliant stars that create a peaceful feeling and, for me, a sense of homecoming.”

NCJW is thrilled to welcome Mavis home.

From the desk of Jewish Family Service...

As many of you may know in mid-September Carol Einhorn will be retiring from her position as the Executive Director of Jewish Family Service. Carol feels a deep connection to our community and her decision comes with mixed emotions. She is retiring in order to move and be close to her family, all of whom are in the New York metropolitan area. **On September 14th JFS will celebrate her professional service and Jerry’s volunteer service to our community. For more information about this event, please call 746-4334.**

At this time JFS announces with pleasure that Carol’s successor will be Ellen Silver, the current JFS Associate Executive Director. Ellen has been with the agency for almost four years so the transition will be a smooth one. Ellen has been overseeing all the older adult services of the agency and has been responsible for staff oversight, fund development and grant writing. She has supervised graduate students from the University of Utah Graduate School of Social Work and has been intimately involved with all aspects of the agency’s programs.

Ellen and her husband, Barry, came to Utah to fulfill a dream of living in the West. They couldn’t be happier about their decision. Ellen worked as the Assistant Director for Jewish Family and Vocational Services of Middlesex County for seven years and prior to that she worked for Jewish Family Service of Monmouth County. Needless to say Ellen has the knowledge and experience from which our JFS can benefit. She knows that Carol was very much a part of the Jewish community of Salt Lake and that she made herself available to everyone. Ellen says “My hope is that I will be seen as accessible to the community and people will feel they can call on me for whatever they need. I look forward to becoming more familiar with everyone and developing the relationships that foster community.”

Are you a local or long distance caregiver?

Jewish Family Service is forming an outreach program for local and long distance caregivers. We want to provide support, information and resources about emotional, legal and financial issues as well as helping caregivers deal with the complex concerns surrounding in-home vs. facility care, keeping a parent where they are or moving them and a host of other issues we hear people addressing.

If you are interested, please call Clara McClane or Hindy Friedman at JFS 746-4334 and if we have not reached out to you, please call us. We are exploring convenient dates and times so your input will be important.

Anne Dolowitz and Elaine Miller Lead Colorful Tours of UMFA

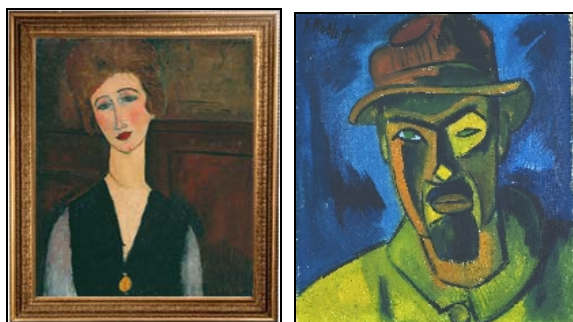
To celebrate the Utah Museum of Fine Art's special show, *Monet to Picasso*, on loan from the Cleveland Museum of Fine Arts, two NCJW members who also serve as docents to the museum, Elaine Miller and Anne Dolowitz, led tours of the exhibit on August 3 and on August 6. Prior to the show's opening, all docents received training at the museum. The exhibition was made possible because the Cleveland Museum of Art is temporarily closed for a massive expansion and renovation project. It will fully reopen in 2011. *Monet to Picasso* opened in Beijing, and then traveled to Seoul and to Tokyo before heading back to this continent. The UMFA is one of only four North American venues selected to host this marquee international touring exhibition.

Close to forty people enjoyed the NCJW tours. The exhibit cost about 2.5 million dollars to mount in Utah; by mid-August, over 40,000 visitors had viewed the UMFA show.



Masterworks by such artists as Renoir, Degas, Monet, Van Gogh, Dali, Picasso and Matisse graced the walls of the Museum's galleries and are on exhibit until September 21, 2008. With over 70 paintings and sculptures, *Monet to Picasso* showcases key examples from the European Modernist movement and reveals a period of artistic innovation that profoundly changed the course of European art. The works created by stars of Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Dadaism, Cubism, and Surrealism, represent the core of the Cleveland Museum of Art's collection of nineteenth century and twentieth century European art.

Highlights include: Monet's *The Red Kerchief: Portrait of Mme. Monet*, Van Gogh's *Poplars at Saint-Rémy*; Rodin's *Heroic Head of Pierre de Wiessant*, *One of the Burghers of Calais*; Modigliani's *Portrait of a Woman*; Matisse's *Festival of Flowers, Nice*; Gauguin's *In the Waves*, and Pablo Picasso's *Harlequin with Violin*.



Anne Dolowitz told our group that painters such as Max Ernst, Otto Dix, Schmidt-Rottluff and Max Bechmann were considered degenerate artists by the Nazis. "Pissarro", Elaine noted, "a non-practicing Jew, was considered the father of Impressionism. The Dreyfus trial divided the artistic community. Pissarro sided with Zola. Degas and Renoir, both anti-Semitic, stopped talking to Pissarro."

A lovely portrait, *Woman in Stockholm*, by Kandinsky's one-time girlfriend, Gabriele Münter, impressed me. Anne said that the Münter and Kandinsky fled to neutral Switzerland during World War I, but, as a Russian national, Kandinsky was considered an enemy alien, so he returned to Moscow in 1914. Münter never saw him again. Berthe Morisot, another painter in the exhibit, could not study at the academy because she was a woman. She taught herself painting, befriended and posed for Manet, and later married his brother, Anne recounted.

One room was devoted to Picasso paintings. The Cleveland Museum has the second largest collection of Picassos in the U.S. One painting from his blue period, *La Vie*, was inspired, Anne told us, by the 1901 suicide of a close friend, Carles Casagemas. Only twenty-two years old and destitute, Picasso limited his palette to cold colors suggesting night, mystery, dreams, and death. Regarding another Picasso, *Bottle, Glass and Fork*, Anne confessed that in hours of scrutinizing the painting, she still has not found the fork!

In Loving Memory: Kitty Kaplan remembers Amy

Amy Dishell, wife, mother, sister, daughter, friend... colleague and comrade.

Amy was a colleague at the JCC Elementary School, now the McGillis School, the JCC, Kol Ami and NCJW. In all the positions she held in those organizations, she was thoughtful, reasoned, and articulate. Her skillful leadership successfully guided our Jewish community when we were at a crossroads – expanding an elementary school and planning and building a new JCC. While serving as president of the JCC Elementary School she helped transition the school to be housed at Congregation Kol Ami... that included many decisions...kosher lunches? Not a problem ... she delighted in the fact that they found a Middle Eastern cook who served vegetarian lunches to the students. She stepped up to become co-president of the Utah Section of NCJW, representing Utah at the esteemed Washington Institute and at her death, she was in line to be president of the IJ & Jeanne Wagner JCC. While leading one organization, she somehow found time to help in others, like taking on the children's Christmas party at the St Vincent de Paul Center or being bulletin editor and photographer of NCJW.

Amy was a comrade on a bike trip last fall. She and Rabbit joined Gina (Dalton), a group of Salt Lake friends and me on a Back Roads bike trip in Croatia. We had a blast on the narrow roads and on our private boat as we were shuttled between islands.



Amy Dishell



Kitty Kaplan, Gina Dalton, Amy Dishell

Not an easy bike ride...the ancient roadways did not follow the low coastline, as one might expect, but instead went up and over the islands. Despite a setback in May, Amy was a strong, steady rider. As we heard at her service, she was an adventurer and a bit of a free spirit. It was a privilege to share what became the last adventure of this most extraordinary person and to discover what was not exhibited in the leadership positions, she took seriously so seriously....her wonderful free spirit.

Andrea Alcabes Remembers Amy

There's a song by Lucinda Williams called *Joy*. Amy sang an imitation of Lucinda Williams doing this song, bellowing, "you took my Joy. I want it back," better than Lucinda did herself. Amy had a gift for mimicry that few possess. Her imitations of Ricky Lee Jones, Iris DeMent, Deszo and the crazy Cockney lady were unparalleled. Her rendition of *Joy* was not only funny but genuine. For her, life was joy and people were joy and everyone who came in contact with knew that when they saw her smile. Not only was Amy irresistibly lovable, she had few limits to what she would give of herself. She would not say no. Not unexpectedly, this led to extensive service to this community.

Amy chaired the Parent Advisory Board of the JCC Elementary School, giving the school community a piece of Amy. She was a past co-president of NCJW. She served on Shalom on the Range committees, camp committees, governance committees, executive committees, religious school committees, feed the homeless for Christmas committees, Bowling for Bucks committees and others that don't occur to me right now. At the time of her passing, she was a vice president of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community Center.

Her mantra throughout her service in community organizations was that we are all one family and that we need to treat each other with the consideration, generosity, understanding and respect befitting of family.

Of course, it is more than a community that has lost Amy. She and her soul mate Rabbit were unconditionally devoted to each other. She adored and leaves behind, Jessie, Willy, her parents and Susie, her sister, who literally breathed life into Amy during the last few months. She leaves aunts, uncles, cousins and a host of people fortunate enough to call her a friend and also, her handsome puppy man, Marley Dishell.

I'm in that group of folks lucky enough to be a friend of Amy's. Because she was so open and warm and genuinely happy to see us, we all thought we were someone special to Amy. The truth is that we all were. Her heart was big enough to love us all.

For me, Amy has been my closest friend for 30 years. We held each other's hand through law school, the bar exam (Amy was the one who walked out the exam and nervously talked about all the issues that she included in her essays, issues I hadn't thought of). Our lives together were woven around good jobs and awful ones, boyfriends, husbands, pregnancies, tiny children who grew up into beautiful ladies, tremendous losses, great highs, holiday dinners, picnics, exotic vacations, great escapes, sickness, dogs, a cat, birds, foul moods, incredible happiness, quiet moments of confiding, love of life, laughing, hikes, behaving like fools (Amy's New Year's ritual included the song from the Patty Duke Show and dancing the Macarena till dawn). There were diets, pig outs, music, fun, too much fun, cool water, blue skies, red rocks and watching turtles swim through the reef and the clear water off Akumal.

I consider myself so incredibly lucky to have had such a friendship with Amy. I will miss her and I know I'm not alone in that. I love you, Amy.

Annabel Sheinberg Remembers Amy

I first met Amy at an NCJW meeting at Kol Ami while Jessie was at religious school. Kitty Kaplan was Board President, Robin Shapiro and Cathy Collins were involved and, of course, Wilma Odell. I knew from watching Amy offer her help in a thoughtful way that I would really like her. I can still remember looking at her across the table thinking that I wanted to know her. She had offered to do the NCJW Newsletter and everyone was grateful.

Fast forward a bit; I remember a “note from Amy” in the corner of the newsletter thanking people for asking about her health due to her recent cancer diagnosis. She wrote that many people asked her if she were going to stop volunteering with NCJW or doing other community work; she wanted everyone to know that she would continue to do the things that she enjoyed, including her work with NCJW, skiing, river running, etc.

She completed her treatment the first go round. Her oncologist commented that Amy skied the most during chemo of any cancer patient he had treated. I knew I liked this woman when I met her! I love to ski and talk about the snow, the weather up at Alta, and the beauty of the mountains. The next spring at NCJW Ski Day, Amy told us about her first time scuba diving in Belize. She shared with new members that she was a recent survivor of breast cancer and that she was thrilled to have been able to learn something new. I know that left a lasting impression on Pam Silberman.

At some point during my life with small children – it seems a blur now – Wilma asked Amy and me to serve as NCJW co-presidents. Clever Wilma knew that Amy and I would enjoy working together. Amy was gracious; she hosted tons of board meetings, making everyone feel welcome and valued. I watched her patience and humility and tried my best to learn both. I admired how her family pitched in to support her. Rabbit poached salmon year after year for our senior Seder and sometimes Hanukah luncheon. Jessie ran over extra plates or serving pieces.

For me, Amy was a friend, a mentor and a role model. She had a full life and was interested in new people; getting to know my family was an example. When it came to community, she followed her instincts and got involved wherever she and Jessie were. She was curious and her smile was irresistible. She told me how she just poked her head in the kitchen at the JCC one day and asked what people were doing; that is how she discovered the Senior Seder and Senior Hanukah Luncheon that NCJW put on. She got involved in many things in the Jewish community and in the larger community.

Amy was really great at keeping a cool head. One of her mantras I remember from community volunteering was “play through”. She said it came from golf. Play through in golf etiquette allows a faster group to go ahead of a slower group, at the invitation of the slower group. The places we learn our lessons! Amy had a dignified and warm way of making her point that made people listen in any discussion. And she was nice to everyone. She said it was because she was such a mean older sister growing up that the meanness was now out of her system. I have to admit that as an older sister, I could relate to that comment – at least that part about being a meanie during childhood.

In discussing dynamics between community organizations, I learned another mantra from Amy and that was, “it’s really like a family”. That is what she believed about all the groups connected to the SLC Jewish community. I hope to hold on to this way of thinking, moving forward in my personal and community life.

Like so many of us I think of Amy a lot. Every time I drive up Virginia Street on the way to soccer practice, or go to the JCC or do something for NCJW. I hope this continues. Because the role model part stays. The learning about parenting a teenage child and now a young woman, receiving love and support from a devoted spouse and immediate family throughout the challenges of illness, staying connected to friends, building community, and maintaining one’s individuality through pursuit of passions during a life far too short but well lived.

Sex After Forty Cocktail Party Series To Continue! Part 2: October 29

Sex and the City, the popular television hit, had many fans among NCJW Utah Section members, no doubt because of dialogue like this:

Carrie: Meanwhile, uptown, Charlotte wondered when relationships had gotten so complicated. She yearned for the time when dinner was followed by dessert, not lubricant. Or this:
Carrie: Come on, you wouldn't commit to a nice guy, given the chance?
Stanford: I can't even commit to a long distance carrier.

Our local branch asked interested members to see the recent film, *Sex and the City*, and followed that on June 25 with a cocktail party at Rochelle Kaplan's house, featuring cosmopolitans and a talk and Q & A on sex after forty with NCJW member and recently retired sex therapist, Freida Sweitzer. Annabel Sheinberg asked us to combine forces with Planned Parenthood to make the event a house party. Planned Parenthood Association of Utah sent us literature, buttons and a petition to sign. The petition asked that the legislature support comprehensive sex education, including information about contraception and venereal disease prevention. A 2007 article in the *Deseret News* noted that, "Gonorrhea rates in Utah increased a staggering 195% between 2000 and 2005, from 231 to 896 cases. The jump was nearly five times the increase found in other Western states and comes at a time when the national rate is on the decline. At the same time, Chlamydia cases in Utah increased 110% during the same period."

Rochelle hired a female bartender, who it turns out, was pregnant as a teen, and whose parents encouraged their daughter to speak out. The bartender, who had an abortion, spoke for Planned Parenthood for five years. Now a mother and a terrific drink-mixer, she helped NCJW members to alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Snacks were provided too.



The women who'd seen the movie talked of their favorite characters and scenes. I remember Samantha, nude, on a table, wearing only sushi she'd made, artfully placed, waiting for her boyfriend on his birthday. And Samantha ogling a naked, showering hunk of a neighbor. The girls, drinking, guffawing and helping Carrie decide what clothes to toss and which to keep. Miranda, angry, dealing with her husband's transgression.

The fifteen or so women anonymously wrote questions for Freida. She then responded to the queries and offered suggestions. The ladies chimed in with their comments, experiences and laughter. Freida showed us wonderfully complete pictures of the female sexual organs, from the book, *A New View of a Woman's Body: A Fully Illustrated Guide*, written in 1982 and revised in 1991. We were astonished to find out that female sexual parts are as complex as male sexual organs. We learned about the G-spot, an erogenous zone different from the clitoris. We learned that more women experience orgasms with oral sex or self-stimulation than from sexual intercourse. Freida discussed the benefits of and differences among vibrators. Rakella talked about growing up in Turkey among women who freely discussed sex and whose mores were so different from Utah's. Rochelle Wenger encouraged those taking medicines to check on the effects regarding sexual arousal. We talked about solutions to vaginal dryness that comes after menopause.

Due to the popularity of the June 25 event, one participant gave a generous grant to continue the series. **So the second installment of *Sex after Forty*, with cocktails, and featuring Freida**

Sweitzer, will be held at Annabel Sheinberg's home on Wednesday evening, Oct. 29th. Mark your calendars for this fun and informative event!

Short takes

Denise Turkanis led NCJW members on a hike at Red Butte in May. Denise, a volunteer at Red Butte, knew an incredible number of plants and had anecdotes about several. Snakeweed was used by native Indians to make brooms. Balsam root was used for flour. She distinguished among Mules' Ears, Cutleaf Balsam Root and Arrowhead Balsam Root, which have similar looking flowers.



Sheila Gelman & Denise Turkanis hike



Israel@60 NCJW area



Elaine Miller

Elaine Miller organized the NCJW effort for the Israel@60 celebration at Kol Ami, in conjunction with Congregation Brith Sholem. The two organizations both picked Tel Aviv as their focal point. Volunteers helped youngsters make paper mosaics like those found in that Israeli city and used building blocks to duplicate Bauhaus architecture. Children also created poetry in the style of Bialik, who was Israel's national poet. Elaine put together lovely posters about the city for our booth, gave out literature describing NCJW programs in Israel and recruited new NCJW members.

In June, NCJW through the Utah Humanities Council Public Square Series invited Dani Eyer to speak about the Constitution and Religion in the 21st Century at Kol Ami. The main thrust of her talk was that the religious majority, once it gains power, often finds its compassion towards minority views lessen. She gave several examples of this abuse of power. A lively Q & A followed. Dani Eyer teaches constitutional law at the U and was former director of the ACLU of UT.