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| Fairfax 455 N. Fairfax Ave (323) 651-2080 | Van Nuys 14526 Victory Blvd. (818) 997-8980 | Los Angeles 8520 W. Pico Blvd. (310) 360-6505 |  National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles Section |
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Your donations support Women Helping Women Talkline & Counseling Services
Women Helping Children Art & Literacy Programs and Educational Advocacy Events


NCJW is a 501(c)(3) volunteer organization, inspired by Jewish values, that works to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families and to ensure individual rights and freedoms for all through its network of 90,000 members, supporters, and volunteers nationwide. Its efforts are executed through programs consisting of Advocacy for individual rights issues, reproductive freedom and child welfare; Women Helping Women Family Counseling Services; Women Helping Children Art and Literacy programs and Council Thrift Shops, whose proceeds benefit the many community services that NCJW/LA programs provide.

| NCJW/LA CONTACTS | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| NCJW/LA | (323) 651-2930 | ncjw@ncjwla.org |
| Advocacy | (323) 852-8503 | advocacy@ncjwla.org |
| Council Thrifts | (323) 655-3111 | thrift@ncjwla.org |
| Membership | (323) 852-8512 | membership@ncjwla.org |
| Women Helping Children | (323) 852-8505 | whc@ncjwla.org |
| Women Helping Women Services | (323) 852-8508 | whws@ncjwla.org |
| WHWS Talkline | (323) 655-3807 or (877) 655-3807 | |
| Council Thrift Donation Pick-up Service | (323) 655-3111 or (800) 400-NCJW | |

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NCJW
A FAITH IN THE FUTURE
A BELIEF IN ACTION

National Council of Jewish Women
Los Angeles Section
543 N. Fairfax Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
www.ncjwla.org



FALL 2008

Introducing our 100th year logo | 1909-2009

National Council of Jewish Women / Los Angeles Section

YEARS IN ACTION

NCJW/LA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF ACTION WITH THE HANNAH G SOLOMON AWARDS GALA

October 26, 2008

PLATINUM SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSOR



On October 26, 2008 at the Skirball Cultural Center, NCJW/LA will begin our celebration of 100 years of providing vital community services and advocacy leadership that enable women, children and families to build healthy and productive lives, and to thrive, regardless of culture, ethnicity, religion or race.

WE WILL BE HONORING:



PHYLLIS COHEN
HANNAH G. SOLOMON AWARD



SOPHIE GREENSTADT
HANNAH G. SOLOMON AWARD



JANET SCHULMAN
REMARKABLE WOMAN AWARD



EMPOWERMENT AWARD

Please join us on the 26th to pay tribute to our honorees and to help kick-off the celebration of our centennial year. Become a sponsor, purchase a tribute ad in our Program Book, bring your friends and buy a table, purchase individual tickets. Please contact Susan Sysler at 323-852-8512 or susan@ncjwla.org to have materials sent to you.

Proceeds from the Hannah G. Solomon Awards Gala will benefit NCJW/LA's Women Helping Women Services and Women Helping Children art and literacy programs for youth. We are women making a difference!

Hannah G. Solomon Awards Gala • The Skirball Cultural Center • 2701 Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles
5pm – Reception (No Host Bar) and Silent Auction with treasures from our Thrift Stores • 6pm – Dinner and Program

HAPPY NEW YEAR – L'SHANAH TOVAH 5769

September 29th marks the beginning of a New Year...a time for reflection and a time for celebration. We wish you and your family and loved ones a sweet, peaceful, happy, healthy and prosperous year.

Thank you for your commitment and support...we hope you will join us as we continue our journey.





Cipra Nemeth
President

Message from the President

Hello Everyone,

In June we entertained our Life Members at a luncheon with guest speaker courtroom artist Mona Shafer Edwards. In July the public was invited to a special Estate Sale courtesy of our Thrift Department. In August experts educated the community about labor vis-a-vis Human Trafficking at an Advocacy Lunchtime Series program. Truly, our Section has something for everyone!

And, while some of you may have been traveling to distant lands, reclining by the pool, or simply enjoying a relaxing break during the summer months, our staff and volunteers have been busy gearing up for our

Centennial celebrations. Beginning with the Hannah G. Solomon Awards Dinner in October we are planning a series of special programs for the coming year. Please keep watch for more information and join us as we look back with pride on our accomplishments, and greet new challenges with our unique brand of energy and creativity.

You will be offered a variety of ways to help us succeed in our mission to improve the lives of women and children. We look forward to sharing this exciting year with you, and creating a new century of Women Making a Difference.

B'Shalom,



Hillary Sevin
Executive Director

An Update from the Executive Director

"Find a purpose in life so big it will challenge every capacity to be at your best"

David O. McKay

The world in which we live provides us with many challenges. This past year the economic outlook in Los Angeles along with the rest of the country has deteriorated. We here at NCJW/LA understand how this impacts our clients, volunteers, and staff. Our task becomes larger as the needs in our community become greater.

NCJW/LA, as always, rises to the challenge. We continue to increase funds for our Emergency Survival Fund, we are providing more individual and group counseling hours, we are the lead organization for the

Courtwatch program and we are outreaching into the community each day to provide services letting people know about our Free Counseling Talkline.

The challenges we face are not only economic but are about policies that affect our community. We are opposing Prop 8, the anti-gay marriage proposition, and we are opposing Prop 4, parental notification. We continue to educate the community on the issues of human trafficking and domestic violence.

As we being our 100 years of service we can be proud of the stands we have taken and the way we have risen to the challenges faced by our community. Join us as we celebrate our achievements and look to the next 100 years of serving our community.

What is happening at NCJW/LA...

❖❖ ON VACATION IN ISRAEL ❖❖

By Cipra Nemeth



In July, while on vacation Israel, my husband and I met Shari Eshet, the Director and sole staff person of the NCJW Israel office. Together we visited the Jerusalem Shelter for Battered Women, one of about fifteen places funded by our Israel granting program. We spent a very interesting and enlightening morning with the Shelter's Director, Rachel Bailer, and the Director of Development, Naomi Schneiderman. They answered many questions, and gave us a tour of the facility.

There are only thirteen women's shelters in the entire country, and this one serves as a model for the rest. Those who seek aid are helped regardless of their religion or legal status. The Jerusalem Shelter's goal is to help women and children escape domestic violence situations, and give them the tools to control their lives by teaching them how to rebuild their self esteem, lead a violence-free life, and understand their rights.

The facility is a 3-story stone building, typical of Jerusalem's architecture. It can accommodate up to 15 women and about 30 children in either shared or single rooms. The average length of stay is 5 months, but families can stay up to a year. Residents receive a wide range of comprehensive services: individual and group therapy, legal aid, parenting, life and work skills. A Children's Center is open year-round to offer a nurturing, educational and therapeutic environment.

If a woman cannot return home, she may be able to live in an apartment in the Halfway House owned by the Shelter. There she can continue to receive all the previous support services while being encouraged to continue her education, or study a skill or profession in order to be financially secure. Women who go home but unfortunately need to return to the shelter are given priority.

When I asked Rachel to define "success" in terms of a client, she said that it is when a woman chooses freely to return home, or not. Interestingly, the police are part of this decision-making process. Often, the husband is asked to meet his wife at a police station, where he signs a document promising to refrain from violent behavior. This enables the women to (a) have proof that her husband has a history of violence, (b) have evidence that he accepts responsibility, (c) feel the support of law enforcement and social workers. Sadly, this scenario does not always have a happy ending. Rachel told us that two Arab women who left the Shelter were subsequently killed in separate incidents.

After our discussion we toured the living areas including a bright, airy dining room, a communal kitchen that is open 24/7, private therapy rooms, bedrooms, many children's classrooms designed for three age groups, and a vibrant outdoor playground.

Of course, the shelter would like to expand its services, offer help to more families, and include a follow-up of its clients once they leave. Like all social service agencies they are constantly looking for funding. NCJW Sections may earmark support for a program in Israel for a minimum of \$2500. I hope that our Section will consider this goal in the future. In the meantime I urge anyone who is planning a trip to Israel to contact Shari and arrange a site visit to one of the programs we support. Our mission, whether at home or abroad, truly makes a difference in the lives of women and children.

WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We are married, single, mothers, daughters. Our group is comprised of busy energetic, compassionate, dynamic women who want to help make an impact on their community.

Please join us, whether you have one hour a week or one hour a month, for an opportunity to help others and meet new friends.

OUR SCHEDULE FOR THE FALL IS:

- Sept. 25** Mitzvot & Merlot – creating Rosh Hashanah Cards
- Oct. 30** Mitzvot & Merlot - Backpacks for Foster Kids
- Nov. 20** Cook Diner at Alexandria House
- Dec. 7** National Council of Jewish Women/LA Clothing Giveaway
- Dec. 18** Mitzvot & Merlot – Chanukah Party/Thrift Donations/Closet Organizing

Interested? Want more information? Please contact Susan Sysler, Director of Development & Outreach at 323-852-8512 or susan@ncjwla.org

Help Is As Close As Your Phone

**FREE COUNSELING TALKLINE
TOLL FREE 877-655-3807**

Everyone Needs Help Some of the time
Women Helping Women Services

NCJW®

www.ncjwla.org

★★ CLOTHING GIVEAWAY ★★

Sunday, December 7, 2008

9am – 12noon

NCJW/LA Parking Lot

★★★

To receive information on National NCJW issues go to www.ncjw.org

News from the COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WOMEN HELPING CHILDREN ART & LITERACY PROGRAMS...

"Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud." – Helen Dyer

WHC would like to thank all 2007-2008 volunteers for a wonderful year! We wrapped up the school year at Alexandria House with a visit from a child Holocaust survivor, a workshop from Star EcoStation and an overnight camping trip to Jackson Flats! Earlier this year, the Teens of Alexandria House published "A Dose of Our Minds," a collection of their true life stories and experiences. The book is available for purchase at:

www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/84734

\$5 from every book purchased will be donated back to the writing program!

NCJW/LA Volunteers were proud to take the young residents of Gramercy Place to Dodger Stadium this summer for a day out at the old ball game!

Picture of kids at Dodger Stadium

Purchase Art Cards for your special occasions! The proceeds from Art Cards benefits the Art Pals Program at several elementary schools in the San Fernando Valley! View the current collection at www.ncjwla.org.

"...in serving the best interests of children, we serve the best interests of all humanity." – Carol Bellamy

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN SERVICES (WHWS)

The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread. – Mother Teresa

At Women Helping Women Services, our social work staff and volunteer paraprofessional Talkline counselors do so much more than connect clients with resources and services—they offer human connection, caring and concern to those who need it most. With budgets tightening and social services stretched thin, women and families in our community are struggling more than ever to find affordable housing, earn a living wage, support and educate their children, break free of abusive relationships, and care for their loved ones.

Thanks to our Thrift stores, NCJW members, and the contributions of our wonderful volunteers, Women Helping Women Services is able to offer free counseling and support on the Talkline, in our therapy program at Council House, and in local schools and shelters. Every day, we help families to grieve the loss of loved ones, heal from the trauma of abuse, and gain the support and self-esteem they need to improve their lives. Our social work staff and MSW interns lead parenting workshops, Teen Talk groups, and self-esteem groups for women in Spanish. This fall, we are excited to launch our new Girl Talk program—an empowerment-focused therapy group to improve girls' self-esteem, enhance self-care skills and promote healthy relationships based on respect and trust. **If you would like to make a difference in our community, consider vol-**

GET INVOLVED WITH ONE OF OUR PROGRAMS:

- * School and shelter based tutoring
- * After school enrichment
- * After school homework clubs
- * Art Pals and Art Bridges Culture arts education
- * Our award-winning Light Up A Library literacy program

In order to expand our programs, we need more volunteers! The new school year begins on **September 2, 2008**. Please contact WHC Program Coordinator, Melissa Tillman at 323-852-8505 or Melissa@ncjwla.org to learn how to make a difference in a child's life!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 28, 2008

- * West Hollywood BookFair
- * Volunteer to help man our children's booth at the fair!
- * Flexible Hours 10am-6pm

October 11, 2008

- * NoHo Children's Art and Poetry Festival



unteering for the Women Helping Women Talkline. Our 10 week intensive Talkline Training begins November 5. To join us, call 877-655-3807 today.

In our ongoing efforts to provide responsive services for domestic violence victims and their families, WHWS is proud to announce that NCJW/LA has been named the lead agency in the Westside Domestic Violence Network's **Family Court Advocacy Project**, a collaboration of WDVN members, including Legal Aid Foundation/ Los Angeles and Sojourn Services for Battered Women and their Children. As Coordinator of the Project, WHWS Clinical Director Ava Rose led the development of the Pilot Family Court Advocacy Project **Toolkit** this Spring, and hosted a Toolkit Training for Domestic Violence service providers at Council House on June 27.

The Family Court Advocacy Project **Courtwatch** was also launched this spring, with WHWSVP Merle Siegel leading a dedicated group of NCJW volunteers who are gathering data in local courthouses for this exciting project. The Courtwatch protocols are currently being revised, and new volunteers will be trained this fall. If you are interested in domestic violence advocacy, **please consider joining the fall training for Courtwatch Volunteers**—we need your help to make the courts more responsive to domestic violence survivors!

Thanks to the dedicated staff and volunteers of Women Helping Women Services, who reach out every day to those who are hungry for human connection. You make a difference!

News from the ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

The Advocacy Committee is proud that we have presented programs that educate and advocate improving the quality of life for women, children and families; all in collaboration with other community organizations:

AUGUST 20: *Massages, Manicures and Melons...* at what cost to Humanity? The event focused on the problem of labor trafficking within the Asian and Hispanic communities in the Los Angeles area, the event was cosponsored by the Los Angeles Unity Coalition's Rescue and Restore project and was Moderated by Joel Grover, Investigative Reporter from KNBC Channel 4, with panelists that included acclaimed award winning producer Michael Cory Davis, Rohida Khan Director of Emergency Trafficking Services for the Salvation Army, Harkmore Lee Assistant Director of Center for The Pacific Asian Family and Charles Song, Attorney at Law at Howrey LLP. The event was followed by breakout sessions focused on labor and sex exploitation in the Latino Communities of Los Angeles with Kelsey Talbot and Ruben Nuno and Charity Marquis from NightLight USA, a "how to" for street outreach and local stories in the Asian and Latino community. Michael Cory Davis premiered his "END THE DEMAND" promo that will begin airing on television designed to increase awareness of human trafficking.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

SEPTEMBER 9: Lunchtime panel will focus on Prop 8 which is a constitutional amendment which would eliminate the right of same-sex couples to marry. The event is cosponsored by: California Faith for Equality; Equality California (EQCA); PFLAG; Jews for Marriage Equality and the City of West Hollywood. Panelists included Robin Tyler and Rabbi Denise Egger of Congregation Kol Ami.

SEPTEMBER 24: Prop 4 is The proposed Waiting Period and Parental Notification Initiative that would require a parent be notified by a doctor and that there be at least a 48 hour waiting period for a minor under 18 to have an abortion. The 2008 initiative goes further than propositions 73 and 85 and would also force medical professionals to report the parents of a teenager to Child Protective Services if the teen chose to tell a family member other than a parent. The teenager would be required to state in writing that the choice to tell a substitute family member is because there is an abusive environment. This would then trigger a law enforcement investigation into the home.

NOVEMBER – DATE TBD – Congressman Henry Waxman In the upcoming year, we plan to develop programs dealing with senior citizens including legal issues, elder law and exploitation.

COUNCIL THRIFT SHOPS Estate Sale

On July 19-20, Council Thrift Shops held a major estate sale at the old Morton's Restaurant on Melrose Avenue. The location was generously donated to us by the new owners, Soho House, who were very enthusiastic about helping NCJW/LA. The furniture, paintings, rugs, accessories, etc. were from a prominent Malibu estate who donated the entire contents of their home to NCJW/LA. Advertisements were placed in the LA Times for two weeks prior to the sale along with emails to our most preferred customers. At 8:00am on the day of the event,

there were approximately 100 eager buyers waiting in line for the doors to open. The sale was a major success resulting in increased funding for our Community Service and Advocacy Programs.

Council Thrift Shops has become the leading Thrift Shop in the Los Angeles area with increased visibility from this type of event, along with the incredibly successful Best of the Best Sales. We ask all our readers to think about Council Thrift Shops when donating any saleable contents from their home.

WAYS TO GIVE...

National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles (NCJW/LA) provides many vital services to the community. With your help and the help of your family and friends we can continue these important programs. NCJW/LA has partnered with various businesses to create innovated ways for you to donate and support our programs: Teen Literacy and Life Skills Support, Light up the Library, Art Pals, Art Bridges Culture, Support Groups, Counseling for Women, Children and Families, and Counseling Talkline.

CELL PHONE DONATION

NCJW/LA benefits from the donation of your old cell phones. NCJW/LA receives funds for each of the phones it collects and your old cell phones are sent to an environmentally safe recycling program. Please drop your old cell phone off next time you are at NCJW/LA offices.

eSCRIP

Participating merchants will make contributions to NCJW/LA, based on purchases by using the cards you have registered. Visit www.escrip.com to sign up and find participating merchants.

GIVELINE.COM

Giveline.com is an online store with every transaction generating a financial contribution to NCJW/LA. Go to www.giveline.com under "select your cause" and type in National Council of Jewish Women.

GOODSEARCH.COM

Click on a merchant that you might use online who donates a portion of the sale to NCJW/LA. Go to www.goodsearch.com and type in National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Los Angeles Section as the charity name.

MISSION FISH

eBay sellers list items and donate some or all of their proceeds to nonprofits like NCJW/LA. Visit www.missionfish.com for more information on the program.

TRIBUTES

Express your regard for a loved one with a gift to NCJW/LA. Commemorate a celebration, landmark, or memorial with a tax-deductible gift. We acknowledge your contribution by sending a beautiful card. Make donations at www.ncjwla.org or by calling 323-852-8518. Tributes are a minimum of \$18 each.

