NCJW/LA’S
Teen Advocacy Working Group Presents

THE TALK PROJECT

The Talk Project is a new, original program created by the NCJW/LA Teen Advocacy Working Group. This past summer, five teen interns decided to create a project to educate their peers about sexual violence. This was inspired by the stories they had heard in the press about sexual violence on college campuses throughout the country.

The Working Group spent all summer brainstorming and researching sexual violence laws, statistics, terms, and best practices for prevention. They watched The Hunting Ground documentary, and were so inspired by the film that they got in contact with the film’s team who agreed to partner with us on the project. By the end of the summer, the teens had created a powerful curriculum to start taking to schools and youth groups across Los Angeles.

The Talk Project is an interactive, hour-long program educating high school students about sexual violence and consent. Students get to talk about these issues in a safe space in discussions led by educators their own age. The program includes inspiring and educational clips from The Hunting Ground.

The Teen Advocacy Working Group has also worked hard to recruit more members to their team. They reached out to teens from across L.A. to participate in two focus groups for The Talk Project, and some of the participants joined the team! Others learned of the program from staff at their schools and service learning programs. We now have twelve teen peer educators who have been rehearsing the program together on the weekends and who are ready to bring The Talk Project to schools in the spring.

NCJW/LA is proud and excited to present The Talk Project to schools and youth groups! We are currently working hard to connect with teachers and school administrators so if you have any contact with schools in the L.A. area and can help us get in touch with them, or if you are a teen interested in getting involved, please email teenswg@ncjwla.org.
"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

JOHN F. KENNEDY

Change is always around the corner. To grow we must always be willing to look at everything through a different lens. The lens of the past provides us with historical perspective. The lens of the present helps us see who we have become. The lens of the future lets us envision where we want to go. At the National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles we are always evaluating what we do, how we can do it better, and if there are gaps in service needs that we can fill for our community.

Los Angeles is a very diverse place and we at NCJW/LA pride ourselves on creating a space in which our diversity can thrive. To do so, we take the time to understand the needs of our participants and community members to provide better services.

Change takes many forms. Defining and creating new ways to communicate who we are is important as we continue to serve our Los Angeles community.

In order to ensure that everyone knows about all that we have to offer and can access our services and volunteer opportunities, we just launched our new and improved website. Check it out at www.ncjwla.org and learn about how we advocate and provide services for women, children and families throughout Los Angeles.

We also recently changed the name of two of our departments to better define who we are and what we do.

Our Women Helping Women Department is now called Community Mental Health and Supportive Services. This change clarifies the types of services we provide to the individuals and families we serve.

Our Women Helping Children Department is now called Youth Educational Programs and Services. This change defines the department and its core values of education through programs that include art, literacy, educational services, homework clubs, tutoring, and enrichment programs.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events and getting you involved as a volunteer!

Shelli Dodell
Board President

Hillary Selvin
Executive Director

Human Trafficking Outreach Project

TAKE ACTION!

NCJW/LA is always at the forefront of social justice advocacy. This year we are focusing on some really important issues including taking part in the Raise the Wage Coalition’s advocacy for wage theft enforcement and paid sick days in L.A. city and county and continuing our Human Trafficking Outreach Project to make sure the implementation of SB 1193 is successful throughout L.A.

We have been continuing our support of the campaign to End the Rape Statute of Limitations in California. On Saturday, November 21st NCJWLA advocates, including most members of our Teen Advocacy Working Group, participated in a demonstration at Bill Cosby’s star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame to support an end to California’s rape statute of limitations. The event was covered by CBS News, the Los Angeles Times, and many other news, blog and social media outlets, bringing much needed attention to this important issue.

On Sunday, January 24, we will be holding our biggest outreach day yet for the Human Trafficking Outreach Project: Eyes on Trafficking. We are organizing hundreds of volunteers to take the hotline posters to the businesses mandated to put them up and ensure that business owners know about the law and the importance of posting human trafficking hotline information on their premises. In the coming months, we will start planning for our annual Community Seder to Combat Human Trafficking, which will take place in May.

Also in January, we’ll be hosting our annual event honoring the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. This year the event is

End the Rape Statute of Limitations Rally at Bill Cosby’s Hollywood Star
Advocacy
Young Professionals Leadership Circle

The Young Professionals Leadership Circle held a Happy Hour in November with Kol Atid, Congregation Kol Ami’s 20s and 30s group, at Rosewood Tavern. Young professionals got to know each other over drinks and appetizers and learned about upcoming events for YPLC and Kol Atid.

In December, YPLC organized the Festival of Lights Fashion Show as part of Infinite Light, a citywide celebration of events geared towards people in their 20 and 30s each night of Hanukkah, powered by NuRoots. We received a grant from the Los Angeles Jewish Federation to make this event happen!

Over 20 models walked the runway in finds from Council Thrift Shops and guests enjoyed latkes, drinks, and music. The evening was emceed by Drian Juarez of the Los Angeles LGBT Center. At the event, YPLC raised funds for our Back 2 School Store program and collected donations for Council Thrift Shops.

YPLC has chosen to prioritize planning NCJW/LA’s Back 2 School Store for 2016. The Young Professionals are excited to work with JFS Young Leaders on the summer event by acquiring clothes, shoes, and school supplies, recruiting volunteers, and working on logistics. It is sure to be an exciting year!

If you are interested in joining the Young Professionals Leadership Circle, contact alexa@ncjwla.org or call 323-852-8513.

Life Transitions Workshops for Women

Over 50 participants joined us on Sunday, November 1 for the third annual Life Transitions Workshops for Women. It was an inspiring day and the attendees left feeling motivated and connected.

Fun times at the Festival of Lights Fashion Show (from left to right): Tiky Paley, Miriam Singer, Alexa Schwartz, Maya Paley, Ruby Flores
Fall marked the return of our programs to schools across the Los Angeles region, with volunteers visiting classrooms to provide students with enrichment and support to further their academic achievements.

Our After-School Homework Club is held at Rosewood and Laurel Span Schools. Volunteers meet with students twice a week to help with homework comprehension and completion. The support of our volunteers makes a huge difference for these students as it allows them to work through their assignments in a quiet and academically focused environment. We work with the administration at both schools to identify students who are most in need of additional academic attention and who will really benefit from being in Homework Club. These students form a community with our volunteers who also see the benefits of sharing their knowledge and experience with these students.

We celebrated Thanksgiving at the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission’s Great Thanksgiving Feast. NCJWLA supported the family programming, offering children and their parents an opportunity to do art projects together during the Thanksgiving meal. Of the 500 attendees at the Feast, more than 100 of them were young children. It is so important to us to give homeless children the joy of celebrating the holiday with their families by sharing in a family art project.

“Our students will be absolutely thrilled to see all the new books waiting for them. Many of our students select books about animals as their non-fiction choice. Thank you for adding such wonderful books to our collection! Thank you, and everyone at NCJW/LA, for the kindness and generosity you show toward our students — your work makes a tremendous difference here at Rosewood.”

Library aide at Rosewood Elementary School

Our commitment to supporting pregnant and parenting teens at McAlister High School continued this fall. We are sponsoring a program to give a copy of the popular text “What to Expect When You’re Expecting,” to every McAlister student. Over the next few months we will also be helping each McAlister site build a library of board books for the students to take home to read to their young children. Contributing to family bonding over books is central to the mission of NCJW/LA and Youth Educational Programs and Services. We want to see families reading together from a young age so that children develop a love of reading by the time they start school.

Our library partners had to make room on their shelves for brand new books this Fall. Lately, students have been interested in reading about reptiles and snakes, the latest in the ongoing Dork Diaries tales and biographies of notable historical figures. A note from the library aide at Rosewood Elementary School said, “our students will be absolutely thrilled to see all the new books waiting for them. Many of our students select books about animals as their non-fiction choice. Thank you for adding such wonderful books to our collection! Thank you, and everyone at NCJW/LA, for the kindness and generosity you show toward our students — your work makes a tremendous difference here at Rosewood.”
INTAKE LINE: We always welcome referrals into our Community Mental Health Clinic where we provide high-quality low and no cost therapy. To make it easier for people to access our services, we created an intake line specifically for inquiries and requests for our psychotherapy services. This number is (323) 556-3584. This new number will not replace our Talkline, (877) 655-3807, where people can still receive referrals, resources and empathy from our peer counselors. The phone line will be checked regularly by our clinical staff who will respond appropriately with a phone screening or a referral into the community.

HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM: We wanted to extend our thanks to all who donated to CMHSS’s Holiday Gift Program which provides gift cards and gift bags to Talkline callers and in-house therapy clients who can use assistance in purchasing gifts or basic needs for their families. We wish to especially thank Gail Cohen, who collected gifts for over 100 families throughout the year.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: We are incredibly excited to debut our Adopt-a-Family Program, designed to meet specific needs of families struggling with domestic violence, chronic illness and homelessness by providing basic goods and direct subsidies (such as food, clothing, beds, rental assistance, utility payments, etc.). In addition to helping with basic needs, the program also provides tailored gifts/clothes to each family member during the holidays. We received 24 applications that were required to be completed by both a community member as well as a social worker/case manager working with the family.

With Adopt-a-Family displays and collection boxes in each of the NCJW/LA Council Thrift shops as well as gifts from our donors, this is a community driven program and we want to send a huge thank you to everyone who contributed. This is going to have a significant impact on many families! If you would like more information or to arrange for a donation, please visit www.ncjwla.org/adopt-a-family or contact Carrie Jacoves at carrie@ncjwla.org or (323) 852 8512.

THE S WORD: On November 18, NCJW/LA’s Community Mental Health and Supportive Services (CMHSS) Department held their first event: The S Word: Breaking the Silence, a dialogue and panel discussion about suicide. With suicide as the 10th leading cause of death in the United States we wanted to invite the community to open up a conversation about suicide prevention and saving lives. We had approximately 50 attendees and our panelists included Lisa Klein, director of The S Word (2016) a documentary about suicide, Brock Dumville, Crisis Services Manager at the Trevor Project, Rebecca Stock, Program Coordinator at Didi Hirsch, and Krystal Harris, Outreach Coordinator at Teen Line. Additionally, Abbe Land, the Executive Director of the Trevor Project and former five-term mayor of West Hollywood, moderated the event. We hope to bring forward many more important topics to the community in 2016.

SCHOLARSHIPS: CMHSS educational scholarships provide people facing social and economic setbacks an opportunity to advance and improve their quality of life. This year we had 83 applicants for our fall 2015 cycle and the CMHSS Scholarship Committee will choose nine people to receive scholarships for the upcoming academic year.

The S Word: Breaking the Silence, a dialogue and panel discussion about suicide.
Annual Clothing Giveaway
A Special Gift to Our Community

December 6, 2015

Thank You to our Donors & Sponsors

Assemblymember Richard Bloom’s Office
Bagel Broker
City Councilmember Paul Koret’z Office
NBC4 Southern California
Nestlé USA
Robin Weisz Photography
Western Bagel
Whole Foods West Hollywood
Thousands of pieces of free clothing given away

We appreciate your support and participation:

David Ryu, City Councilmember
Fritz Coleman, Weatherman
Lindsey Horvath, Mayor of West Hollywood
Paul Koretz, City Councilmember

and families receive clothes
VISTA VAL

Meeting three Mondays of the month — we offer a variety of opportunities to learn and socialize and be a part of the National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles membership through the following interest groups: Woman to Woman, Movie Group, Book Group, World Affairs and Jewish Studies. Additionally, we have our monthly Board Meeting and General Meeting including special programs and/or speakers. All Vista Val Monday meetings are held at Temple Judea in Tarzana. More information is available in Vista Val’s monthly bulletin. Please call 323-852-8512 to receive these mailings.

WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Mitzvot & Merlot

We are married and single, mothers and daughters. Join us to make an impact, make new friends and aid our community through NCJW/LA community service projects for women, children and families.

There are four chapters to choose from: The City, Agoura Hills, Encino/Sherman Oaks and the Santa Clarita Valley.

“Thank you for helping others in need. You make me feel so special by sending me information concerning your activities. You did not ask for my help, but while finishing my education your flyer was there. So your labor is not in vain. I am pleased to send you what I can.”

Beverly Fuller

Membership & Outreach

Member News and Events

For more information about any of these programs please call Carrie Jacoves, Director of Development and Membership at 323-852-8512 or carrie@ncjwla.org.
On October 15th, the city group of Women Making a Difference gathered at Pamela Brown’s house to bring a little comfort to Los Angeles’s homeless population. Our generous members brought supplies that they thought people living on the streets may find useful and comforting.

“I bought 60 Ziploc bags and thought I’d have some left over at the end of the night, but our members packed every single bag! My dining room table was overflowing with their generous contributions.”

Each volunteer made a unique contribution. Lysa Stone brought pop-top cans of prepared pastas. Debbie Weiner’s dentist, Rudell Jacinto, donated dozens of toothbrushes and toothpaste. Our host remembered she had some old cutlery bound for Council Thrift, so we were able to provide reusable spoons and forks in the bags, too. The finishing touch in each bag was a Talk Line card, where recipients can call and access NCJW/LA’s resources and find additional help.

At the end of the evening, members took several bags to keep in their cars, ready to distribute when they encountered someone they thought would appreciate the help. We had so many bags that volunteers distributed some to friends and many were handed out at NCJW/LA’s monthly board meeting.

One volunteer told us, “One day as I drove by a grocery store, I gave a man in front a bag. I saw the first thing he did was use his new comb to comb his hair. I’m so grateful I had this opportunity to make a small difference in someone’s life.”

Volunteer

“One day as I drove by a grocery store, I gave a man in front a bag. I saw the first thing he did was use his new comb to comb his hair. I’m so grateful I had this opportunity to make a small difference in someone’s life.”

Volunteer

For more information about any of these programs please call Carrie Jacoves, Director of Development and Membership at (323) 852-8512 or carrie@ncjwla.org

COUNCIL ART GALLERY:
January 11 – February 29
Featuring two of our Youth Educational Programs and Services programs: Art Pals and Art Bridges Culture

Thursday, January 21
In Our Own Words: Standing Together for Reproductive Rights, Health and Justice

Sunday, January 24
Eyes on Trafficking: Join a Team for a Night of Outreach

Sunday, February 21
Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

March 13-15
Washington D.C.
NCJW Washington Institute 2016

Wednesday, April 27
Annual Women’s Seder

Sunday, May 1
Community Seder to Combat Human Trafficking

Monday, May 16
Vista Val Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, June 8
Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers and Board

Sunday, August 7
Back 2 School Store
Council Thrift

Thank You!

Your donations help us to:

- Serve more than 12,000 individuals and families in-need and at-risk.
- Provide art, literacy and educational programs for youth.
- Provide community mental health and supportive services for women, children and families.
- Provide over 25,000 hours of programs and services in LA.

You Shop...
You Make a Difference

Regular Member $60
Senior Member $35
Full-Time Student Member $18
Couple Members $100
Life Member $350

Contact Carrie Jacoves, Director of Membership at 323-852-8512 or carrie@ncjwla.org

All donations to Council Thrift Shops support the programs and services of NCJW/LA.

Let’s Be FRIENDS!

Follow us on social media for the latest deals, sales, eBay auctions and more!

@CouncilThriftShops
@councilthrift
@NCJWLA
@councilthrift

ncjwla.org

Go to ncjwla.org to see all that we do for our community.

Council Thrift Shops
National Council of Jewish Women
Los Angeles

Become A Member!
Save 20%

Shop for a cause

Let's Be FRIENDS!

10 National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles
In Memory Of
Mendel Nisen Baum
Sarah Berg
Ben Zion Bergman
Frances Brown
Stephanie Brown
Andy Cohen-Cutler’s mother
Shannon Docherty’s Grandfather
Claire Frisman
Ruth Lieberman
Linda Lessing’s son
Linda Lessing’s son
Najiba/Aviva Zecharia
C. Jean Pearlstein’s mother
C. Jean Pearlstein’s mother
C. Jean Pearlstein’s mother
Hilda Schaffer
Fran Teller

From
Paula Snyder
Marla Goodman
Suzanne Rosenswieg
NCJW/LA Board and Staff
NCJW/LA Board and Staff
Elaine Klein
NCJW/LA Board and Staff
Mary Ruane
Rosanne Keynan
NCJW/LA Board and Staff
Merle Siegel
NCJW/LA Board and Staff
Sofiya Dubinsky
Susan Isaacs
NCJW/LA Board and Staff
Susan Grieder
Sandra Singer

In Honor Of
Elisa and Adam Rhodes
Robbie Conason Dodell
Leanore Saltz
Leanore Saltz
Donald Seligman
Jeanne Wirtzer
Leona Cohen

From
Arlene and Richard Agay
NCJW/LA Board and Staff
Anita Aratow
SUanan Isaacs
Anita and Arthur Aratow
Louis Wirtzer
Geraldine Moscowitz

Get Well
Gloria Burney’s husband
Jane Stoetzel
Lenore Manachic
Lenore Manachic
Evelyn Weinstein
Gloria Burney

From
NCJW/LA Board and Staff
NCJW/LA Board and Staff
Geraldine Moscowitz
Vista Val Board
Geraldine Moscowitz
Geraldine Moscowitz

National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles is grateful to all those who support our vital community services through Tributes. This is a wonderful way to honor and recognize the people in your life.

To send a Tribute: Call 323-852-8518

Tributes

To Get Help Call 877-655-3807 or for more info visit www.ncjwla.org.
NCJW/LA Council House
543 N. Fairfax Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
323-651-2930
info@ncjwla.org
www.ncjwla.org

Council House Talkline
877-655-3807
Council Thrift Shops
Donations/Pickup
800-400-6259
thrift@ncjwla.org

Back 2 School Store
323-852-8505
b2ss@ncjwla.org
Advocacy
323-852-8536
advocacy@ncjwla.org
Development
323-852-8512
development@ncjwla.org

Legislative & Community Engagement
323-852-8536
legaction@ncjwla.org

Membership
323-852-8512
membership@ncjwla.org
Non-Crisis Psychotherapy:
(323) 55-3584
Scholarships
323-852-8515
scholarship@ncjwla.org

Tributes
323-852-8518
info@ncjwla.org
Volunteer Opportunities
323-852-8512
volunteer@ncjwla.org

Youth Educational Programs
and Services
323-852-8505
youth@ncjwla.org
Community Mental Health
and Supportive Services
323-852-8515
cmhs@ncjwla.org

Women Making a Difference
323-852-8512
wmd@ncjwla.org

The Update Newsletter is published three times a year by the National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles Section.

Your NCJW/LA membership connects you with a network of courageous and compassionate individuals who work together to improve the quality of life for women, children and families. As a member you have the opportunity to enjoy programs and events that keep you informed, educated and entertained. Volunteer on NCJW/LA committees. Speak out on public policy issues. Enhance your personal and professional skills, meet new people and build new friendships.

**Membership Form**

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**GET INVOLVED!**

NCJW/LA's mission is to create social change through our advocacy, social and community services. We cannot do this alone. We appreciate your support as a member. Please invite a family member or friend to join.

- [Facebook](facebook.com/NCJWLosAngeles)
- [Twitter](twitter.com/ncjwla)
- [Instagram](instagram.com/ncjwla)
- [Pinterest](pinterest.com/ncjwla)
- [YouTube](youtube.com/user/ncjwla)

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**Executive Director**
Hillary Selvin

Membership is a donation to the organization and is non-refundable. Membership is according to our fiscal year July 1-June 30.