

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
Fairfax 1052 S. Fairfax Ave. (323) 938-8122	West L.A. 10960 Santa Monica Bl. (310) 477-9601	West LA 11801 Santa Monica Bl. (310) 444-7978	
Canoga Park 21716 Sherman Way (818) 710-7206	West L. A. 12120 Venice Blvd. (310) 572-9158	CALL FOR FREE PICKUPS 6 DAYS A WEEK (800) 400-6259 (323) 655-3111	



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. *ams provide.*

NCJW/LA CONTACTS		
NCJW/LA	(323) 651-2930	ncjw@ncjwla.org
Advocacy	(323) 852-8503	advocacy@ncjwla.org
Council Thrift	(323) 852-8510	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



SUMMER 2008
National Council of Jewish Women / Los Angeles Section

NCJW/LA Clothing Give-a-Way: Helping Those in Need!

On May 4th, Council Thrift provided nearly 20,000 items of clothing and toys to hundreds of families in need who lined up around the block in anticipation. In keeping with our commitment to reach out to those in need, our army of staff and volunteers helped sort and distribute gently worn or new items, many still with the tags on them! Children's books were provided by Women Helping Children. Several special visitors joined us to help children and families select a special book or find their size. Thank you to Mayor Jeffrey Prang and Mayor Pro-Tem Abbe Land from the City of West Hollywood; California State Assemblyman Mike Feuer and Former California State Assemblyman

Paul Koretz. A special Resource Fair, new this year, was coordinated by Women Helping Women Services so that 'Shoppers' could gather information distributed by various agencies including: PATH (People Assisting the Homeless); The Salvation Army; Travelers Aid Society; Children's Bureau; Los Angeles SABAN Free Clinic; Los Angeles County Public Health; JVS WHEST; Downtown Women's Center; Women Helping Women Services; Women Helping Children Programs; and the City of West Hollywood. The State of California Registrar's office provided a voter registration table. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a successful event!



❖ ANNUAL MEETING ❖

Our Annual Meeting, Installation and Volunteer Awards Luncheon was held on Sunday, June 1, 2008 at Lawry's in Beverly Hills. We thank the City of West Hollywood Mayor Pro Tem Abbe Land for installing our 2008-2009 Board and Officers. Our speaker was Los Angeles City Controller, Laura Chick, who is the first and only woman in the history of Los Angeles to hold citywide office. Our thanks to outgoing officers and board members and congratulations to our incoming officers and board members.

NCJW/LA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS 2008-2009

PRESIDENT Cipra Nemeth	Amy Straus <i>Women Helping Children</i>	TREASURER Irene Perer	Joel Binder Frances Frazen
VICE PRESIDENTS Anita Aratow <i>Membership and Outreach</i>	Leanore Saltz, <i>Co-Council Thrift</i>	ASSISTANT TREASURER Gail Pelote	Sophie Greenstadt Susan Isaacs Ruthie Jones
Barbara Greene Ruskin <i>Co-Council Thrift</i>	Merle Siegel, <i>Women Helping Women Services</i>	PARLIAMENTARIAN Fran Teller	C. Jean Pearlstein Lila Steinhart Rebecca Wayne
Jane Stoetzel, <i>Co-Advocacy</i>	Ruth Zeitzew, <i>Co-Advocacy</i>	DIRECTORS Rickie Avrutin	Lynne Wertheimer
	CO-SECRETARY Phyllis Cohen Peggy Schwartz		



Cipra Nemeth
President

Message from the President

Hello Everyone,

Summer is almost here, and a year has sped by since I began my first term as President. During that time I have been blessed to have enjoyed and participated in a wonderful variety of events, programs and projects. Along with members of NCJW/LA, guests and professional service providers I have been informed and enlightened on serious issues such as Human Trafficking, Women in Prison, Plan A, and the Domestic Violence. I have enjoyed our annual Women's Seder, I have shared my love of books and art with children, I have heard heartwarming stories of women and their mothers, and I have donated and shopped at our Thrift Stores – a lot!

Our Section has made a difference in the lives of thousands of women, children and families through our Women Helping Women Services, Woman Helping Children, Advocacy and Thrift programs in the community. Due to the vision, hard work, and passion of numerous volunteers, staff and supporters we have clothed the needy, listened to many, and empowered more. We have shared stories and ideas, frustrations and hopes, questions and answers; my sincere thanks to

everyone for your effort and your dedication to fulfilling our mission and truly transforming lives. Whether you encouraged a child to grow through poetry or paint; or helped a family in crisis discover options, or gave someone the gift of your time, you have turned our vision into action.

There are many ways each of us can help. I encourage you to contribute the best way you can; your support can be financial, but the gift of your time and talent is equally valuable. Each of us has a talent, skill or potential to effect change. Our Thrift Stores always appreciate your donations, and don't forget to tell your friends about the fabulous Best of the Best events.

In October we will kick off a year-long celebration of our Centennial in Los Angeles. We will begin with our wonderful Hannah G. Solomon Awards Dinner, and continue with a variety of special events. I hope you will join us as we remember what we have accomplished, and create our goals for the next hundred years. Certainly there are challenges that await our ingenuity, inspiration and determination; but we are Women who Make a Difference, and together, we will succeed.

B'shalom,



Hillary Sevin
Executive Director

An Update from the Executive Director

"I am only one, But still I am one. I cannot do everything, But still I can do something; And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

Helen Keller

ADVOCACY

□ Impacting the community through education and advocacy on issues relating to reproductive rights, access to contraception, individual rights, child welfare, domestic violence, human trafficking and other issues.

THRIFT

□ Creating a way for people to donate to help others through our clothing give-a-way assists over 1500 people each year, voucher program working with other organizations and agencies to help their clients receive clothes for job interviews, school or other meeting other needs.

This is just a small portion of the things NCJW/LA does to impact the lives of our community. We thank all the volunteers and staff that help put these programs together. If you would like to "make a difference" in your life by helping "make a difference" in the lives of others, call us at 323-651-2930.

The impact National Council of Jewish Los Angeles makes in Los Angeles is far reaching. Though we can not be all things to all people, we can and do find our niche. NCJW/LA is made up of programs that include our:

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

- Women Helping Children's program helping over 4500 youth learn about art, the enjoyment of reading as well as provide homework clubs in Title I schools and provide afterschool and teen programming at two homeless shelters.
- Women Helping Women Service's Counseling and support groups through our Free Counseling Talkline and individual and group counseling.
- Scholarships assisting those who want to make a difference by helping with their education

What is happening at NCJW/LA...

❖❖ LIFE MEMBER BRUNCH ❖❖

If you are a Life Member and haven't already sent in your RSVP, there is still time to join us on Sunday, June 22 at 11:00am at Anita Aratow's home for a special brunch for NCJW/LA's Life Members. Our guest speaker will be courtroom artist, Mona Shafer Edwards who will discuss her fascinating insider observations of trials and her perspective of our justice system. Contact Susan Sysler, Director of Development & Outreach at susan@ncjwla.org or 323-852-8512.

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.

JUNE 26 Tomchei Shabbos – assembling Kosher food baskets for those in need.

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

Welcome ***

We welcome Susan Sysler as our Director of Development & Outreach. Susan comes from an extensive background in programming, event planning and fundraising. We welcome her to our NCJW/LA family.

Thank You

Thank You to...

The family of Past President, Margit L. Craig, who has donated the monies from the Margit L. Craig Fund to the Esther Lewin Emergency Survival Fund to help those women and families in crisis. We are grateful for their support and generosity.

Mazel Tov ***

Mazel Tov!

To our own Rachel Andres, (former NCJW/LA Board member) on being a recipient of \$100,000 Charles Bronfman Prize for her humanitarian work indirecting the Jewish World Watch Solar Cooker Project raising more than a \$1 million dollars to provide the \$15 solar cookers for the families in the refugee camps for those that have escaped the massacres in Darfur.

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

★★ SAVE THE DATE ★★

Sunday, October 26, 2008 at the Skirball Cultural Center will be our Hannah G. Solomon Awards and the kick-off to NCJW/LA's Centennial Celebration. For information on sponsorships and the event, please call Susan Sysler at 323-852-8512 or susan@ncjwla.org

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

News from the COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WOMEN HELPING CHILDREN ART & LITERACY PROGRAMS...

We must view young people not as empty bottles to be filled, but as candles to be lit...Robert H. Shaffer

THE VALUE OF ONE VOLUNTEER'S SERVICE IS IMMEASURABLE!

One hour of volunteer service in California is now valued at nearly \$22 but what is the true difference that \$22 worth of your time can make in the life of one child or one woman or one family? Does this dollar value misrepresent the real value of volunteer work? For instance, what is the value of:

- * One volunteer in a school library to read to 20 elementary school children for a year and those children gain a love of books and of reading and they learn to read at a functional level... If the student is then successful in continuing their education, graduating, getting a better job, does not go on welfare, does not end up homeless...
- * One volunteer who works each week to teach a student to read or tutors them to complete their homework and reach their academic goals...
- * A volunteer who takes a child on a field trip to learn about butterflies, and about life and nature...
- * One volunteer who mentors a 'high risk' child, who then does not join a gang or get pregnant at the age of 14...
- * Thirty six volunteers who volunteer each week to provide comprehensive art programs to over 400 students every year... Are these all good investments?

Last month many of our NCJW/LA volunteers were honored with the President's Volunteer Service Award and at our Volunteer Recognition Dinner and again at our Annual Meeting.

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN SERVICES (WHWS)

What is the value of one hour of counseling by a Talkline Volunteer to one woman in crisis who decides to take her children to a safe house to escape an abusive spouse, begins a new life for herself and her family, goes back to school, gets an exciting new job, and breaks the cycle of violence?

Volunteer Paraprofessional Talkline Counselors make a difference in someone's life everyday. Our ten week intensive training provides you with skills to assist callers on a range of issues and crisis, who need a safe place to reach out for guidance and resources which will help them change their lives and the lives of their families.

A comprehensive range of direct counseling services, and school & shelter based psycho-educational and therapeutic programs is provided by our staff of bilingual Social Workers. Join us - call 877-655-3807 today.

We say good bye to our 'best ever' team of Interns as they graduate. We are happy to announce that graduating intern Leah Ziskin will return in July as a bilingual Social Worker and part of our WHWS team. We are currently interviewing for our September intern program. WHWS Clinical Director, Ava Rose and Director of Community Services, Leslie deBeauvais are proud to share with you that WHWS is becoming well known for being a Top Notch training facility for Social Workers. We have reached our goal of 100% bilingual Spanish Social Work staff! School and shelter based programs are firmly in place. Ongoing professional trainings are tailored to the needs of our clients and staff. Outreach to our community has increased sub-

stantially. Our dynamic team of staff and volunteers is working together to identify the needs of our community and provide services to change lives, one child, one family at a time.

The Emergency Survival Fund was recently re-named in honor of Esther Lewin, who was not only a long time member of NCJW, but also a dedicated Volunteer Paraprofessional Talkline Counselor. Like our other dedicated Talkline Volunteers, Esther offered a reassuring voice for callers in crisis to receive counseling, a place where they can feel safe in sharing their deepest fears and personal goals and create long term solutions to the challenges that they face. The Emergency Survival Fund assists women and their families in severe need with food, essentials, bus tokens to be able to access counseling or go to a job interview and other emergency needs. Call 877-655-3807 to make a donation. We also wish to thank Sempra Energy and Origins for their sponsorship and to Sally Wilk and Merle Siegel for coordinating our successful fundraiser.

Women Helping Women Services... Making A Difference:

IMPORTANT DATES & OPPORTUNITIES: *Ben's Books and Art Cards* provide additional valuable art books for our school libraries. Art Cards for your special occasions can be obtained on our website with a nominal donation. View the current collection at www.ncjwla.org.

September: Plan ahead to schedule your volunteer services for the next school year. Call Melissa at 323-852-8505.

Women Helping Women Services... Making A Difference:

- * Become a Volunteer Paraprofessional Talkline Counselor
- * Join Court Watch
- * Help plan our next event to support the Holiday Giveaway or the Emergency Survival Fund
- * Distribute essential items to those in need at our Annual Clothing Giveaway
- * Be an advocate - speak on Public Affairs radio and television shows
- * What are your ideas? Check out our website at www.ncjwla.org for further information.



News from the ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

In 2008, the NCJW/LA Advocacy Committee continued its efforts to present programs that addressed the needs of, and also the available avenues of assistance for, our community.

For our final Spring presentation we joined with other community activists, and our own Women Helping Women Committee, to present a program entitled The Undocumented and Under-Served. We presented experts who dealt with the problems and controversies associated with undocumented immigrant women and their children. Our outstanding panel of speakers was moderated by political journalist David Bryan.

That well-attended program was remarkable for its audience of many young and ethnically diverse men and women. We gained 7 new members and a Talk-line volunteer.

Our next program August 20, 2008 will address the problem of Labor Trafficking Victims, and we will co-sponsor that meeting with The Unity Coalition and our Women Helping Women Services Committee.

September 24, 2008 we will present a program relating to the November 4th Elections, which will provide our community with an opportunity to meet the various candidates who are running for public office.

In October we will kick off our Fall Season with a program on the very timely subject of The Separation of Church and State.

The NCJW/LA Advocacy Committee is looking forward to another exciting and informative program year.

FROM RUSSIA with Love

Thirty some odd years ago, Sophia and Ilya Orshansky, emigrating from their home in Minsk, (now in Belarus) arrived in Los Angeles with two children, \$400 and a dream. Although the couple had several advanced degrees from universities in their USSR homeland, they had practically no knowledge of English. Their prospects for their future looked dim, indeed. But Sophia's determination, her willingness to tackle the job that needs doing, her reliability, her stubborn optimism and her smarts landed her a part-time position at Council's Adams Blvd. Thrift store. That initial job grew to become the story of a dream fulfilled. It also grew to become a blessing for NCJW/LA.

These many years later, when Sophia walks down Fairfax Avenue or on the Westside's Santa Monica Blvd, she is greeted by name, a local celebrity. It is Sophia's friendly hand that reaches out to Council's customers, from all walks of life, all social classes, all economic means and makes them feel as if she is there

to serve them alone. And she is. It is Sophia's smile, her indomitable good cheer that bring customers back and back again. Add all that to her indisputable retailing instincts and you can see why she has become Council Thrift's secret weapon.

The Orshansky's personal life has flourished also. Their children are now successful professionals with families of their own. And the music that lends Council's Veteran store its Nordstrom ambiance is most likely Chopin played by her grandson on a piano donated by a generous supporter.

Today, Sophia is Bob Klausner's right hand on the store level, his boots on the ground and the acknowledged power behind the throne. While Bob may be "Herr Direktor," he knows and we all know that it is really Sophia who makes the magic.



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.