

<b>Fairfax</b> 455 N. Fairfax Ave (323) 651-2080	<b>Van Nuys</b> 14526 Victory Blvd. (818) 997-8980	<b>Los Angeles</b> 8520 W. Pico Blvd. (310) 360-6505
<b>Fairfax</b> 1052 S. Fairfax Ave. (323) 938-8122	<b>West L.A.</b> 10960 Santa Monica Bl. (310) 477-9601	<b>West LA</b> 11801 Santa Monica Bl. (310) 444-7978
<b>Canoga Park</b> 21716 Sherman Way (818) 710-7206	<b>West L. A.</b> 12120 Venice Blvd. (310) 572-9158	<b>CALL FOR FREE PICKUPS 6 DAYS A WEEK</b> (800) 400-6259 (323) 655-3111


**National Council of Jewish Women  
Los Angeles Section**



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 Thrift Shops	(323) 655-3111	thrft@ncjwla.org
Membership	(323) 852-8512	membership@ncjwla.org
Women Helping Children	(323) 852-8505	whc@ncjwla.org
Women Helping Women Services	(323) 852-8521	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	

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

**NCJW**  
A FAITH IN THE FUTURE  
A BELIEF IN ACTION

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Los Angeles  
Permit No. 35936



# UPDATE

**WINTER 2009**

National Council of Jewish Women / Los Angeles Section



1909-2009  
YEARS IN ACTION

## NCJW/LA KICKED OFF 100 YEARS OF ACTION AND HONORED WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT THE HANNAH G SOLOMON AWARDS GALA OCTOBER 26, 2008

Thanks to our sponsors:

**PLATINUM SPONSOR** 

**SILVER SPONSORS**   

### Congratulations to our honorees:



Anita Aratow, Board VP presents Phyllis Cohen, Board Co-Secretary with NCJW/LA Hannah G. Solomon Award



Front Row: Fran Teller, past Board President and past Hannah G. Solomon Honoree, presents the NCJW/LA Hannah G. Solomon Award to past Board President Sophie Greenstadt Back Row: Cipra Nemeth, Board President and Hillary Selvin, Executive Director



Janet Schulman receives the NCJW/LA Remarkable Woman Award from Xiomara Iraheta.



Sempra Energy, represented by G. Joyce Rowland, Senior Vice President Human Resources, receives the NCJW/LA Empowerment Award from Chun-Yen Chen, Executive Director of Asian Pacific Women's Center.




THANKSTO OUR MC - Kitty Felde, KPCC Special Correspondent



THANKSTO REBECCA LYN WAYNE - NCJW/LA Chair, Hannah G. Solomon Awards Gala.

### COUNCIL THRIFT SHOPS AND WOMEN HELPING WOMEN SERVICES

co-sponsored our annual Clothing Giveaway on December 7th at Council House. Over 30,000 items of clothing and toys were given to over 2,000 people in need who lined up around the block of Council House. Staff and volunteers helped sort and distribute gently worn or new items. Children's books were provided by Women Helping Children. Thanks to our special visitors including Mayor Pro Tempore Abbe Land



of West Hollywood who joined us to help children and families select their items. Our Resource Fair, coordinated by Women Helping Women Services and Women Helping Children, included various agencies so that our "Shoppers" could gather needed information: City of West Hollywood, Legal Aid, Sojourn Services for Battered Women, Bet Tzedek, Saban Free Clinic, Larchmont Charter School/West Hollywood, LA Gay & Lesbian Center, LA County Public Health Department. Thanks to everyone who made this another successful event!

## Message from the President



Cipra Nemeth  
President

*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness*  
- Charles Dickens

Hello Everyone,

This edition of our members' newsletter, Update, welcomes the arrival of fresh ideas, new faces, and the promise of hope throughout this city and across the land as we await the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States. At the same time, our organization, like our national leadership, recognizes the unique challenges facing all of us today. However, we also believe that we can meet and overcome these difficulties if we combine our skills, knowledge, resources, and energy. We have valuable, dependable staff, volunteers and supporters who share our mission and the desire to reach our goals. We know that we will be asked to stretch beyond our capacity and find new ways to solve problems, but we promise to exchange ideas, reach out to likeminded groups, and seek every possible avenue to accomplish our task. You can help us now by promoting our Council Thrift stores to your friends and acquaintances, shopping for surprise treasures, and, most importantly, by donating your gently used clothing, jewelry and household goods to support our programs. Each of us can make a difference – it only takes a little time and energy to donate unwanted items, and put them to good use.

We are also continuing the yearlong countdown to our Centennial Celebration in the fall. We began with our Hannah G. Solomon Awards Dinner - a lovely evening at the Skirball Cultural Center in October where our guests enjoyed delicious food, heartfelt speeches from our worthy honorees, and a very "haimish" atmosphere. Our next community event will be our Open House in March, which will showcase our programs, agency partners, and volunteer opportunities. There will be something to delight all ages. After that will be our unique and much-loved Women's Seder in April. I look forward to sharing these special gatherings with you.

*The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May.*  
Edwin Way Teale

B'shalom,

## News from WOMEN HELPING WOMEN SERVICES

The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him his own.—Benjamin Disraeli

At Women Helping Women Services, we share our resources and our skills to enrich and empower the women and families who reach out to us every day for help. This holiday season, we gave gifts of food, clothing, emergency assistance and supportive services in ways as diverse as our community:

- \* A scholarship for a single mother who is returning to school to make a better life for herself and her children, thanks to the generosity of our **Scholarship Committee**;
- \* Bags full of pants and sweaters from our Thrift Stores given at our **Annual Holiday Clothing Giveaway** to a family whose children have grown out of their winter clothes;
- \* A holiday gift of Ralph's and Target vouchers to assist a family in preparing a holiday meal and in purchasing gifts for their children, made possible by the **WHWS Emergency Survival Fund**;
- \* A family support group to help parents at a local elementary school to strengthen the social and emotional development of their school-age children, offered as part of our **school-based counseling program**;
- \* **Spanish and English Self-Esteem Groups** for women who have experienced domestic violence, child abuse and depression;
- \* **A Teen Talk Group** to help middle school age boys at the Alexandria House shelter in navigating through puberty;
- \* And the warmth of a **Talkline Counselor's voice**, as she provides support to a woman who escaped a violent relationship.

Every day, the volunteers, staff therapists and social work interns at Women Helping Women Services reach out to share our riches, our compassion and our encouragement with those in need. We know that help comes in many forms, and that the greatest gift is letting someone know that they matter.

This season, we welcome a new class of Talkline Trainees who have embarked on our annual 30 hour training. In our 10 week seminar, they will learn about the challenges facing our community: the effects of poverty and homelessness, the barriers to services for immigrant families, the impact of child abuse and domestic violence, and the needs of those coping with anxiety, grief, depression and suicidal thoughts. Our Talkline Trainees are learning to listen with compassion, to take in another person's pain, and give back empathy, encouragement and support. At the end of their journey, they will become part of a tradition of "women helping women" by joining a Talkline shift, where they will give out scholarships, referrals, bus tokens, food and clothing vouchers, and, the greatest gift of all: themselves. In return, they will receive something more valuable than any present ~ they will make a difference.

For more information about our Counseling Talkline, Emergency Survival Fund, Scholarship Committee, Family Court Advocacy Project COURTWATCH, and other programs, please call: Ava Rose, LCSW, Clinical Director, WHWS at 323-852-8521.

## Tributes and Tribute Form

NCJW/LA is grateful to all those who support our vital community services through Tributes. Tributes are a wonderful way to honor and recognize the people in your life, while supporting the programs and services of NCJW.

### IN MEMORY OF:

Rhea Beierfeld  
Roslyn Cooperman  
Roslyn Cooperman  
Roslyn Cooperman  
Roslyn Cooperman  
Roslyn Cooperman  
Vivian Cron  
Perry Edwards  
Ann Eldore's grandmother  
  
Errol Haft  
Phyllis C. Jordan  
Hal Karp  
June Pawland  
Anna Schulman  
Anna Schulman  
Carl L.White

### FROM:

Roberta Gillerman  
Helen Katz  
Michael A. Marcus  
Georgia L. Mercer  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Ostiller  
Lenore Wax  
Alan Yellin, Ph.D.  
Charlotte and Sam Sinay  
Sylvia Schulman, Susan Begley  
Scholarship Fund  
  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff  
Charlotte Sinay  
Eleanor Crane  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff  
Susan Sysler  
Elliott Hutkin

### IN HONOR OF:

Mrs. Sanford Allinson  
Phyllis Cohen  
Dr. Francis Dann  
Stanley Dashew  
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Feldman  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Goodfriend  
  
Isabel and Paul Greenwald  
Mark and Amy Kestenbaum  
Mark and Amy Kestenbaum  
Dr. Bernard Koire  
Helen Lelah  
Jo Ann Lesser  
Brina Rosenblatt  
Janet Schulman  
Peggy Schwartz  
Hillary Selvin and Bonnie Anderson  
Hillary Selvin and Bonnie Anderson  
Hillary Selvin and Bonnie Anderson  
Gladys Stein  
Shirley and Al Talbot  
Jennifer Wolbransky and David Baronoff  
  
Sylvia Schulman  
Anita Aratow  
Sylvia Schulman  
Sylvia Schulman  
Sylvia Schulman, Samuel Schulman  
Scholarship Fund  
Gladys Stein  
Cipra Nemeth  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff  
Sylvia Schulman  
Rosie and Joe Saltoon  
Cherie and Martin McDermott  
Sylvia Schulman  
Max and Nanette Cutler  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff  
Merle Siegel  
Susan Sysler  
Fran Teller  
Suzi Cohen  
Eleanor Crane  
Susan Demskey-Horiuchi

### GET WELL:

Mark and Amy Kestenbaum  
Mark and Amy Kestenbaum  
Jane Stoetzel

### FROM:

Cipra Nemeth  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff  
NCJW/LA Board and Staff

*Don't forget to donate and shop at one of our eight Council Thrift Stores to support our Women Helping Children Art and Literacy programs, Women Helping Women Services individual counseling, Talkline and support groups.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER**  
*\*Your Donations to Council Thrift\* are greatly valued!*

### TRIBUTE FORM

Honor your friends and family through an NCJW/LA Tribute. A beautiful tribute card will be sent to the person/family you are honoring. Tribute donations are fully tax-deductible and benefit the programs and services at NCJW/LA. A receipt will be sent to the donor for tax purposes.

[ ] Congratulations [ ] Bar/Bat Mitzvah [ ] Birthday  
[ ] Best Wishes [ ] Condolence [ ] Get Well  
[ ] In honor of [ ] In memory of

**HONOREE**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Tribute message: \_\_\_\_\_

**DONOR**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**TRIBUTE AMOUNTS:**  
[ ] \$18 [ ] \$36 [ ] \$56  
[ ] \$72 [ ] Other

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] Checks: make payable to NCJW/LA  
[ ] Bill my credit card:  
[ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Please send this form and your payment to:  
NCJW/LA  
543 N. Fairfax Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Tax ID# 95-1641433

# New Members

<b>Life Members</b>	<b>Annual Members</b>	Michelle Dadoun	Ron Galperin	Dale Halperin	Francine Pflug	Judith Rodman
Esther S. Baum	Gail Cohen	Lois Davis	Jean Gaynor	Rose Hernandez	Marlene Rapkin	Dita Sidlow-Deutsch
Karen Mason	Gloria Cohen	Rachel Finkelstein	Leslie Gersicoff	Geri Langsner	Shana Rapoport	Gail Solo
						Jane Wollman Rusoff

## News from our VISTA VAL Division... For those in the Valley

- Trips:**  
**JANUARY 20, 2009** Metro Red Line (Subway) for an art tour of different stations. Free.  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2009** Docent tour of New Contemporary Art (BCAM) at LACMA .  
**MARCH 17, 2009** Heritage Square Museum.  
**APRIL 21, 2009** Fashion Institute Design – Hollywood Exhibit – The Art of Motion Picture Costume Design.

Call Sandy Tilsen at 818-986-8365 for fees and details on each trip.

### Discussion Groups: Art, Books, Movies, Jewish Studies, World Affairs, Women To Women Groups

- JANUARY 26** Jewish Studies: Noah and the Flood  
**FEBRUARY 2** Women To Women: How To Take Care of Your Money Now

**VISTA VAL** continues their Light Up A Library Book Drive for At Risk Children. We appreciate donations of new or gently-used books for pre-school thru elementary age children.

### YOUR DONATIONS...

...There has also been some confusion about where your donations and dues go. When you mail a check to New York, the Los Angeles Section does not receive any of those funds. When you send your check to Los Angeles, we utilize the funds in Los Angeles to help make a difference in the lives of women, children and families and we send our commitment to the National Office. Our commitments to the National Office help support the amazing advocacy work we do in Washington, throughout the country and in Israel.

## Join Second Century Society - providing a legacy

To ensure that the work of NCJW/LA will continue well into the next century, we invite you to become part of our future. No matter your age, means, and walk of life - through a will, retirement plan, charitable gift annuity, fully paid insurance plan, or trust - by including NCJW/LA in your estate plans, you can add your legacy to ours.

NCJW's Second Century Society was established to celebrate those individuals who have included NCJW/LA in their estate plans. By joining the Second Century Society, you can be acknowledged today for your future commitment. You can join Second Century Society by naming NCJW/LA in your Will, Living Trust or as beneficiary on your Life Insurance policy.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** NCJW/LA - Development Department  
 543 N. Fairfax Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90036 • Tel 323-651-2930 • Fax 323-651-5348 • development@ncjwla.org

# Membership Form

## INVITE THE NEXT GENERATION TO JOIN US!

NCJW/LA believes in our mission to create social change through our advocacy, social and community services. But we can not do this alone. We appreciate your support as a member. Please take the time to invite a family member or friend to join.

Become a Life Member: \$350     Become a New Member: \$50     Become a Student/ Senior (62+) Member: \$ 35

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  Checks: *Make payable to NCJW/LA*

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  Bill my credit card:

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  Visa     MasterCard

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Please send this form and your payment to: NCJW/LA • 543 N. Fairfax Ave • Los Angeles, CA 90036

Tax ID# 95-1641433

## An Update from the Executive Director



Hillary Sevin  
Executive Director

Words can mean different things to different people. But I believe that words like "Courage, Compassion and Strength" are universal. These words describe the women of NCJW/LA and the women and organization we honored at our Hannah G. Solomon Awards Gala. The legacy we each leave behind becomes a testament to our Courage, Compassion and Strength and the difference we have each been able to make in the lives of others.

It has been said that ...  
*"Time is a companion that goes with us on a journey. It reminds us to cherish each moment, because it will never come again. What we leave behind is not as important as how we have lived".* In October I attended the Women's Conference, a gathering of 14,000 women, the largest in the United States. What an amazing experience! .... One of the themes of the conference was looking at .... How we live our lives ...How we empower each other ... and How we are empowered. We celebrated the amazing lives of women that have opened doors, broken the glass ceiling and through their work each day created paths that have led us to be able to follow our dreams and instill tremendous hope for our future and the future of our world.

These women have created legacies beyond what any of us could have imagined. Women, like Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Gloria Steinem, Billie Jean King, and our own Hannah G. Solomon and Rachel Kauffman. These women showed that knowing the truth of who we are is a strength and that equality must be fought for each and every day. As the Conference encouraged us all to be, they were and are "Architects of Change" for themselves and the world.

The National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles Section has been an "Architect of Change" in the Los Angeles Community for almost 100 years. We look back at all we have been able to accomplish at NCJW and look ahead to what still needs to be done. We celebrate our achievements and look at how our work has met the continually changing needs of our community. NCJW has always been about finding solutions for those most at risk and in need.

We reflect and are proud of the programs we have created; like the El Nido Program for Girls, which has become its own thriving organization now known as El Nido Family Centers; the programs and community projects NCJWLA helped start like the Moses Mendelssohn Settlement House, which became the Jewish Community Center program; the Children's Bureau to help change the lives of children at-risk. The women that created these programs are you our members and supporters. The list goes on. NCJW/LA helped create the social services foundation in Los Angeles. We saw needs in our diverse community and stepped up to make a difference. It is something we should all be very proud of.

Today's NCJW/LA is not much different from that in 1909, we still fill the gaps in service for those in need or at risk; WE ...

- Educate over 4,500 children through art, literacy, and after school programs at schools & homeless shelters,
- Clothe over 2,500 families through our community-based voucher program & free clothing give-a-way,
- Empower over 1,000 individuals and families through our free counseling & support groups,
- Inspire teens to achieve their high school diplomas & create a better life for themselves,
- Improve the lives of over 150 at-risk youth through life skills programming & support groups,
- Advocate to advance the rights of all women, children, & families through legislation & education.

Your donations made to our Council Thrift Stops, enable us to provide clothing to those who need a new suit, jacket, pants, or shirt by working with other organizations and agencies, through our voucher program and our Annual Clothing Giveaway.

Each of us are "Architects of Change." Our choice is to decide what type of architect we will be and what we will choose to change about ourselves and our community. NCJW/LA will continue to lead as an "Architect of Change" in providing services and programs for those at risk and in need. The legacy of NCJW in Los Angeles has a past, present and will have a future as our community and its needs grow. NCJW/LA is a unique and gifted organization that reaches out to people from all walks of life - young and old.

We will be there! We hope you will continue the journey with us.

As Billie Jean King said, "Create your legacy, and pass the baton".

Together we are "Courage, Compassion and Strength" and We Make a Difference!

# What is happening...

## \*\*\* 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 WINTER/SPRING IS:

- Jan. 25** Prepare Food at Project Chicken Soup  
**Feb. 19** Mitzvot & Merlot – SOVA craft project  
**Mar. 19** Mitzvot & Merlot - Craft project for Passover for Hayworth Terrace Retirement Facility  
**April 13** NCJW/LA's Women's Seder  
**May** Women Helping Women Services Fundraiser – date and location to be announced.

**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](http://www.ncjwla.org)

★★ VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE ★★  
[www.ncjwla.org](http://www.ncjwla.org)

**To receive information on National NCJW issues go to  
[www.ncjw.org](http://www.ncjw.org)**

## News from WOMEN HELPING CHILDREN

### PICTURE PERFECT

The Alexandria House Teens had a terrific evening with photographer Andrew Southam and his colleague J.C. Andrew photographs top talent in Hollywood, and he brought his professional gear to Alexandria House to photograph the teens! A million thanks to WHC volunteer, Kelly Hill for bringing Andrew and J.C., as well as providing costumes and make-up so the teens could make the photo shoot their own.

Alexandria House's Michelle Carranco and AH friend, Vivian were on hand for make-up (while Kim Fay took behind-the-scenes shots), but it was the teens who came up with all the creative looks you can check out on <http://alexandriahouse-teens.blogspot.com/>. While some of the photos were taken by Andrew, many were taken by our own AH Teen ... Carlos, who proved himself to be the next Andrew Southam! Yet another wonderful evening at Alexandria House!



### SAVE THE DATE!

Come mid-May thru early June 2009 the 'Windows on West Hollywood' exhibit at the Center for Early Education will feature artwork from our very own Art Bridges Culture Program!

**NCJW/LA 'Lights Up' Reseda Elementary School's Library**  
The Women Helping Children Department opened a new 'Light Up A Library' Program at Reseda Elementary School! Administration Staff, Teachers, NCJW/LA WHC Volunteers and Staff gathered for an opening celebration on October 28th in the school's library.

### Art Pals are headed to Malibu

This winter, 3rd grade students in our ART PALS program will visit the Pepperdine University Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art to view the Robert Dowd: Pop Art Money exhibit. Robert Dowd (1936-1995) was an American artist best known for his imaginative, whimsical paintings of money and stamps. This

exhibition is the first in-depth examination of the currency paintings and related work by this seminal Los Angeles modernist and we know the students will be fascinated by his work!

### BEN'S BOOKS MAKES THEIR ROUNDS

This fall, the Ben's Books Committee lifted spirits and brought smiles and joy to sick children in pediatric departments and waiting rooms all over Los Angeles. A set of Ben's Books were delivered to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills, Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles, St. John's Health Center, Saban Free Clinic Beverly Health Center and Hollywood Wilshire Health Center, Venice Family Clinic, MEND, and Northeast Valley Health Corp Canoga Park and Pacoima Health Centers. The donations were such a hit and we received several thank you notes from the various medical facilities.

Ben's Books, a fund affiliated with the Art Pals program of NCJW/LA, is dedicated to promoting art appreciation, literacy, and creativity in children by providing art books to elementary schools libraries, pediatric departments in hospitals and free clinics. If you would like to make a contribution to the Ben's Books fund, please note "Ben's Books" in the memo line of your check made payable to NCJW/LA.

A special thanks to Ben's Books Committee for all of your hard work and dedication to this very special donation. Please contact Melissa Tillman at [Melissa@ncjwla.org](mailto:Melissa@ncjwla.org) or at 323-852-8505 if you have any future donation location suggestions!



## COUNCIL THRIFT SHOPS

### We Need Your Help!

In these troubled economic times, the powerful lure of a "secondhand" retail bargain is attracting a new breed of customers from the middle and upper class.

Customers cannot make the stock market go up again, but they can control the price of clothes and furniture by becoming a savvy shopper at Council Thrift. We are seeing these new customers more now than ever before as evidenced by just looking at our parking lot filled with Mercedes, BMW's, etc.

The widespread economic turmoil and personal financial struggles occurring are not the only factors driving the increased interest in thrift, as a growing "green" ethic among consumers

has propelled our sales as well. With a thrift donation, personal taxes are benefited, and each consumer recycles, which in turn benefits the world.

The increase in sales for Council Thrift Shops continues, but we need your help. The same economic woes sending consumers into our stores are causing some donors to give fewer items. Council Thrift Shops needs your help in letting everyone know the amazing work NCJW/LA does for our community through Women Helping Women Services' counseling and community programs and Women Helping Children art and literacy programs. Without donations to Council Thrift Shops, NCJW/LA could not do as much as we do. We need your help!

## News from the ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

The Advocacy Committee has proposed several exciting and informative meetings for our upcoming brown-bag luncheons.

On December 1, 2008 we presented Congressman Henry Waxman speaking on the "Priorities of the 111th Congress." A long-time advocate for our community, Congressman Waxman spoke to a packed house and offered insights into what can be expected in the coming year.

Put together the issue of the backlog of DNA rape kits at the LAPD and Sheriff's Department, which total over 12,000 untested kits, and City Controller Laura Chick, and you can be sure of an animated and informative discussion. Look for more information for this tentative February program.

Other programs being discussed are: Human Trafficking; a workshop on Elder Abuse and Senior Issues which will be cosponsored by Leeza's Place and the Beverly West Division of NCJW/LA. Other programs of concern are the issue of Compassion and Caring, and the Separation of Church and State.

Advocacy is still focusing on Plan A and we look forward

to meeting with educators at Fairfax High School; Lee Saltz will be spearheading this NCJW/LA program that has developed out of our National office.

We will continue to support the "No on Prop 8" organizations along with our Orange County section and other NCJW California sections. NCJW has signed onto an amicus brief that was filed in November with the California Supreme Court by the National Center for Gay Rights.

Advocacy is partnering with the City of West Hollywood to present a January 22, 2009 program on Roe v Wade.

If you want to help make a difference, join our Advocacy Committee, which meets the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the NCJW/LA main office at 543 N. Fairfax, or please contact Ruth Williams, Director of Advocacy at 323-852-8503 or [ruth@ncjwla.org](mailto:ruth@ncjwla.org) for more information.



### NCJW/LA and SOVA:

In addition to NCJW/LA offering vouchers to SOVA clients, we are now an emergency food bag site for SOVA. SOVA is a Hebrew word that means "eat and be satisfied" and SOVA is a community food and resource program of Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles. Each month SOVA focuses its donation efforts on one certain food category crucial to meeting the needs of their clients:

JANUARY – Canned Soup

FEBRUARY – Canned Vegetables

MARCH – Tuna

APRIL – Canned Fruit

Please feel free to donate any of the above or cereal, peanut butter, rice, dry milk, and toiletries by dropping these items at NCJW/LA: 543 N. Fairfax Avenue or one of the SOVA Centers: 7563 Beverly Blvd., 8846 W. Pico Blvd., 16439 Vanowen St., Van Nuys.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ncjwla.org) or by calling 323-852-8518. Tributes are a minimum of \$18 each.