

P. 5 / SO, WHAT'S NU?
Group formed from leadership program to explore Judaism and help make a difference in the Sacramento region.

P. 7 / WRAP ON 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
With your advocacy, Governor signed many bills that advance NCJW priorities.

P. 9 / TASTY TWIST ON HANUKKAH LATKES
We remember the miracle of the single day's worth of oil that burned for eight days.

P. 10 / MITZVAH-IN-A-MINUTE EVENTS
Volunteer your time in meaningful community service opportunities.

NCJW® BULLETIN

SACRAMENTO SECTION

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

WINTER 2019-20

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 2

ON THE WEB: ncjwsac.org

INFORMATION: info@ncjwsac.org

IT'S PERSONAL

Immigrants and refugees are us. At Sukkot, we welcome those who seek refuge in our country with shelter and hospitality

Miriam Joffe-Block

According to Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Sukkot is a festival where we celebrate joy and courage amidst insecurity. We construct temporary huts that remind us as Jews of our vulnerability and historical displacement; yet we rejoice.

It is a holiday apt for us to recognize the current displacement of so many people, who are seeking refuge in our country, to welcome them with shelter and hospitality and to have the courage to fight against the dehumanizing actions



NCJW member Miriam Joffe-Block and her four-month-old daughter, Devorah, participated at the Sukkot demonstration.

of this administration.

On Oct. 15, the second day of Sukkot, NCJW joined other groups in a sukkot service and demonstration outside of the downtown Sacramento office of Geo Group. Geo Group is a for-profit prison company that earns its revenue through detention of immigrants and is ICE's largest detention contractor. For clear details, see www.freedomforimmigrants.org/detention-statistics.

While we celebrated the passage of AB 32, a law that prevents the state from renewing contracts with

for-profit prison providers, we also said kaddish for the 10 adults and six children who died in ICE custody this year.

Each speaker participated in the tradition of welcoming Ushpizin, ancestors, into the sukkah. Traditionally, these included the patriarchs and prophets – and a midrash teaches us the Ushpizin will not enter a sukkah that does not welcome the poor and the stranger.

Participants chose to invite an ancestor that inspired them to take action for immigration rights. Below you will read about ancestors from two speakers at the Sukkot event.

Courageous great-grandmother was her inspiration

Ann Kanter

My name is Ann Kanter and I'm representing the Sacramento Section of the National Council of Jewish Women. Today, our NCJW Sacramento members work to raise awareness of human trafficking in our own city and statewide. We are tremendously saddened that so many women immigrants and asylum seekers traveling across Central America and Mexico are raped and

later trafficked, for labor or sex.

Nationally, NCJW has over 90,000 members and we are keenly aware of the terrible trauma that is being inflicted on detained immigrants in our country. We have advocated on issues that impact women and children since our founding in 1893. NCJW set up a permanent immigrant aid station at Ellis Island. We helped women arriving alone to find shelter and jobs. In addition, a network

Please see Immigrants, Page 4



Ann Kanter spoke about and welcomed her great-grandmother into the sukkah.



National Council of Jewish Women
Sacramento Section

Board meetings are open to all NCJW members. Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday, 6:45 p.m. Check location before planning to attend. Please confirm time and place with any Board member.

Minutes can be downloaded from our website: ncjwsac.org/membership.

The BULLETIN is the official publication of the National Council of Jewish Women, Sacramento Section.

Carol Blackman, Editor
carolxo@comcast.net

Nela Lee, Webmaster
nela@ncjwsac.org

OFFICERS

Anne Eisenberg
PRESIDENT
anne@ncjwsac.org

Karen Soskin
TREASURER
karens@ncjwsac.org

Pat Sturdevant
RECORDING
SECRETARY
pat@ncjwsac.org

Beryl Michaels
IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT
beryl@ncjwsac.org

Like us at: Facebook@ncjwsac.org
and Twitter @ncjwsac

DIRECTORS

Barbara Baran
ADVOCACY AND
EDUCATION
barbara@ncjwsac.org

Elena Friedman-Weiss
AT LARGE
elena@ncjwsac.org

Laurel Hollis
AT LARGE
laurel@ncjwsac.org

Eileen Jacobowitz
AT LARGE
eileen@ncjwsac.org

Leslie Levitas Martin
JCRC REP
leslie@ncjwsac.org

Claire Lipschultz
ADVOCACY AND
EDUCATION
claire@ncjwsac.org

Naomi Rice
AT LARGE
naomi@surewest.net

Shirley Rosenbloom
AT LARGE
shirley@ncjwsac.org

Jodie Weber
AT LARGE
jodie@ncjwsac.org

June Wiaz
AT LARGE
june@ncjwsac.org

WELCOME TO NEW NCJW MEMBERS

LEESA SPEER BARISH.....lspeerbarish@gmail.com

ANDREA ROSEN.....agrosen8@gmail.com

DEBORAH SMALL.....deborahsching@gmail.com

MIRIAM JOFFE-BLOCKjoffemir@gmail.com

SYMA SOLOVITCHslvtch@yahoo.com

LESLIE JACOBS.....ljacobs@pacific.edu

RANDEE HESELOVran1fan@yahoo.com

ANITA FORTMANaj4tman1@yahoo.com

JENNIFER GOLDWYN email not available

STELLA CONNELL LEVYstellaclevy@gmail.com

AMY SOLOV.....solovamy@gmail.com

ANN SOLOWAY.....asoloway@sbcglobal.net

SHELLEY ELLINGHOUSE.....Shelley.ellinghouse@gmail.com

ANNA JOYannaljoy2@gmail.com

JACQUELINE FIELDS.....jackietoby@hotmail.com

BARBARA KRONICK.....barbarakronick@gmail.com



Just a reminder...

NCJW Sacramento news and messages arrive in your email every Tuesday. Please be sure the eNews goes to your inbox and not into your spam folder. Keep up to date about events and important issues.

If you have changed your email in the last year, let us know at info@ncjwsac.org

You'll get the latest news and updates with your Tuesday NCJW Sacramento eNews.

Help more Americans VOTE in 2020

The path to improving the lives of women and children and nurturing our democracy rests on getting more Americans to vote. One of our national organization's key goals is voter registration and participation. If you want to grow our section's involvement in voter registration drives, please contact Laurel Hollis (laurel@ncjwsac.org).

Additionally, there will be sign-up sheets at Speaker Series programs.



- Laurel Hollis

TO DO:

- **SIGN UP FOR AMAZON SMILE** so that .5% of your online purchases will go to NCJW. It's easy; go to our home page at ncjwsac.org.
- **BUY FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATES** from Naomi Rice at 916 359-0787 or nrice@surewest.net. NCJW Sacramento gets a portion of sales.
- **MAKE A TRIBUTE** to celebrate, congratulate, appreciate, send get well notes or condolences. Recognize family and friends with a Tribute, while helping NCJW Sacramento. Email Sheila Budman at sheila@ncjwsac.org (see page 11).

MESSAGE FROM A BOARD MEMBER

Pat Sturdevant



Making the world a better place

NCJW is continuing to broaden our reach and enhance our effectiveness with programs in our Speaker Series programs that identify ways to make a difference.

Our Opening Meeting addressed immigration, with inspiring remarks from NCJW President Anne Eisenberg and from moderator Jennifer Kaufman. Dr. Dale Stark gave a compelling presentation about her recent experience assisting immigrants at a medical clinic in Tijuana.

Representatives from four local groups described their work: Abuelas Responden, or Grannies Respond, also known as the Overground Railroad; NorCal Resist; the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES); and SacAct, of which NCJW is a member. SacAct works for economic, racial and immigrant justice.

On the second day of Sukkot, NCJW joined with Jewish Action NorCal for an action that connected with our Jewish values of justice and compassion for immigrants and refugees.

It took place near the office of the GEO Group, a private prison corporation that profits from imprisoning people who are seeking refuge and safety in this country.

NCJW member Ann Kanter energized the audience with an impassioned and impactful speech on the importance of working for immigrant justice.

The Opening Meeting presentation received so many positive comments that the Speaker Series Committee will offer another program from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5 at Congregation B'nai Israel, entitled Humanitarian Crisis For Migrants Continues: Find Out What You Can Do; Act Your Conscience. The emphasis will be on identifying actions that NCJW members can take to make a positive impact in our community.

A program on gun violence prevention is planned for March 1, in collaboration with other organizations actively engaged in work to address the scourge of gun violence in our communities.

And, later in the year, the committee is planning a third immigration program, collaborating with the Japanese community, on the adverse effects of detention and incarceration of children.

Also, our Mitzvah-in-a-Minute chair, Sheila Wolfe, has exciting plans for at least six MIMS for the year. For example, she collaborated with the Freda Fund of the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento and Congregation Beth Shalom and organized a birthday party on Nov. 3 for 40 youth in foster care, plus one guest each. In recognition of their birthdays, this special celebration included dinner, entertainment, desserts and gift cards.

These are just a few of the ways NCJW is actively involved in improving the lives of women, children and families.

EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 1 TEA WITH ABBY STEIN**
3 p.m. Details, page 10
Congregation Beth Shalom
Suggested donation: \$10

- 8 RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN ISRAEL**
1-4 p.m. Details, page 7
Sponsor: The Israel Civil Voice Alliance (TICVA)
Congregation Beth Shalom

- 16 MIM AT THE FEDERATION**
Time: Watch for Tuesday eNews.
Making Hanukkah gift bags for seniors and others with special needs.
2130 21st St.

HANUKKAH: DEC. 22-30

JANUARY

- 5 THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS FOR MIGRANTS CONTINUES**
3-5 p.m. Details, page 10
NCJW Sacramento Speaker Series
Congregation B'nai Israel
Suggested donation \$5

- 19 MAH JONGG & CANASTA 2020**
11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Details/order form on back page

FEBRUARY

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
Feb. 19,20, 22,23, 2020

MARCH

- 1 GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**
3-5 p.m.
NCJW Sacramento Speaker Series

- MIM MAKING PB&J SANDWICHES FOR THE FOOD BANK**
(Date and location TBD)
Watch for upcoming eblasts.

APRIL

April 23 - 25, 2020
NCJW National Convention
Chicago, IL
Watch for upcoming eNews.

CalPERS sells off holdings in private prisons

For-profit detention of immigrants is a lucrative business with 71% of ICE detainees held by private contractors. While many of us abhor the idea of profiting from the desperate situation of asylum seekers, until now, CalPERS members' retirement was, in part, financed by these operations. In October, after pressure from members led by the California Faculty Association and Educators for Migrant Justice, CalPERS sold their holdings in Geo Group and Core Civic, two of ICE's largest contractors. While CalPERS only owned about \$11 million in stock of these companies, as the largest pension fund in the country, the divestment carries symbolic weight and provides a signal to other investors. The CalPERS action already follows divestment by CalSTRS and New York City pension funds as well as decisions by major banks such as Bank of America and Wells Fargo not to provide financing to Geo Group and Core Civic – also in response to activist demands. This financial strategy is an important component of the fight for justice for immigrants which takes place on many fronts.

Thank you to all of the NCJW members who are CalPERS members and who signed postcards urging the board to take this step.

— Miriam Joffe-Block

Immigrants: Justice and compassion

(Continued from Page 1)

of NCJW representatives assisting immigrant girls grew to cover over 300 cities. One of those women could have been my great-grandmother who arrived alone in the early 1890s at the age of 19.

I want to invite my great-grandmother, Sadie Reicher Schlossberg, because though she could not read or write and had survived smallpox, she had the courage to leave her small town in Southern Poland, which had been mostly destroyed by fire. She left her parents and 12 brothers and sisters.

The story goes that she also left her fiance Sam, who had escaped from a pogrom as a boy and been taken in by her family to help work in their bakery. When she got to America, my great-grandmother worked as a maid for a Jewish family in Memphis, and eventually saved enough money to move to New York

and send for Sam. Together they joined the baker's union and later started their own bakery.

I am grateful that they did not have to endure incarceration coming to this country and that they were never separated from their children, my grandmother and her brothers. I wish I could have tasted their baking – especially their challah – and I invite them into our sukkah.

Their example inspired me to become an immigration lawyer almost 43 years ago. For my first 20 years in practice here in Sacramento, I represented people seeking asylum – from Chile, Iran, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Serbia and Bosnia.

Asylum is a difficult process, and since the 1990s the average number of cases that are actually granted has ranged from a low of about 10,000 to a high of 40,000, many of them women and children.

Sukkot Drash: Migration and refuge

Margee Burch

One of the last things my grandfather said on his deathbed was, "We beat the Nazis." What he was talking about was us. He was looking at his children and grandchildren and our lives were proof that he had survived the Holocaust, even when so many didn't.

I am here because my grandfather spent four years in a closet, much like Anne Frank's attic, sheltered by strangers who fed him, housed him, and hid him while the Nazis killed anyone who was different.

Most of my family died in the Holocaust, a large family diminished to almost nothing.

I am here today because someone saw the humanity in my grandparents



Margee Burch chose to welcome her grandfather into the sukkah.

because a stranger saw this twelve-year-old boy as more than Jewish, but as a citizen of his country and a human whose life deserved to be saved.

My name is Margee Burch, I

Please see Tradition, Page 5

TURNING OUR PASSION INTO ACTION

So, What's Nu?

Eileen Jacobowitz

Nu? is an outgrowth of last year's inaugural NCJW Leadership Program. At the program's conclusion, many participants expressed an interest in deepening the relationships forged over the course of the four-month program.

Under the leadership of long-time NCJW member and Leadership Program grad, Sheila Wolfe, the desire to stay connected has evolved into "Nu?"

Nu? is a group of a dozen or so dynamic Jewish women of all ages and backgrounds with a common desire to create community and build friendships while exploring Judaism and making a difference in the Sacramento region. Some Nu? members are NCJW Leadership Program alums, others are friends of friends; many are new to NCJW, others have long ties to the organization. Some are single and some are married, some with young children and others with adult children. Some have strong Jewish identities while others are new to Jewish practices and ritual. The diversity of Jewish and life

experience makes the group that much richer.

The group's first gathering was a potluck dinner in June at Sheila's home. Since that time,

Nu? members have been busy: In July, the

Nu? network helped stuff backpacks for children as part of NCJW's MIM in partnership with the Jewish Federation's PJ Library; Nu? members gathered to explore high holiday traditions and took to the trails for a hike to usher in the new year. They decorated a Sukkah and sat under the stars, discussing the rituals associated with the holiday. Some Nu? members participated in the Oct. 15 Sukkot immigration service and action. Nu? members also supported NCJW's November MIM – the birthday celebration for local teens in Foster Care (story, page 10).



Photo/Sheila Wolfe

Nu? Group, from left front to right, Rachel Phillips, Sharyn Bernstein, Davita Levin-Robinson, Miriam Joffe-Block, June Wias, Hailey McNair, Shelly Kremer, Annie Hohn, Amy Solov and Eileen Jacobowitz.

Annie Hohn, is new to NCJW and excited to be part of Nu?. As she says, "My experience with Nu? so far has been nothing short of wonderful. We have such a great group of generous, interesting women and they have given me a strong sense of community. I love getting the opportunity to explore my Judaism while developing lasting friendships with like-minded people. I am so grateful."

For more information about Nu?: Sheila Wolfe at sheilaw@ncjwsac.org or Eileen Jacobowitz at eileen@ncjwsac.org

Tradition: Welcoming the stranger with safety and loving kindness

(Continued from Page 4)

I am the granddaughter of two Holocaust survivors and refugees. I was able to co-found the Jewish organization of Kol Rinah, a welcoming place where people pray and sing, all because my grandfather survived and found a better life in the United States.

Today, so many migrants aren't as lucky. Thousands have died in 2019 as they try desperately to seek freedom from violence. Others are jailed for simply asking for the chance to live.

Each day of Sukkot has a special meaning, and today is Chesed of Gevurah, loving kindness of judgment and restraint. Today asks us, "How can we make the world a better place in a way that radiates Godliness?"

In Leviticus, our Torah commands us, "When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."

Our tradition is clear: We are to make the world a

better place and welcome the stranger. Not to limit them, or detain them, or send them back to where they came from. Just as my grandfather found refuge and safety in the United States, so too should immigrants of all religions and national origins.

During Sukkot we celebrate the abundance by taking away comfort. We show all that we have – a roof that shelters us, food that feeds us, water that sustains us. We celebrate all we have, by moving our lives outside, by living in a temporary place. This temporary shelter is more than many migrants have. It is our job to make the world a better place, to give proper shelter and care to those seeking refuge.

There is a tradition, called Ushpizin, where we invite in those prophets and family who are no longer with us. I invite in Sarah and Isaac, who saw the impossible happen and then created a nation of greatness. And I invite in my grandfather, John Gardon, who survived the Nazis and found shelter within the U.S. May his memory be for a blessing that helps give freedom to all and refuge to all who need it.

Bridge to Success continues to impress

Iris Bachman

Carole Jacoby and Andrea Segal made a presentation about NCJW's Bridge to Success grants to the Women's Empowerment graduating class on Sept. 13. It was impressive to see the women graduating fill the classroom. The energy in the room was so positive, and was expressed with at least three impromptu "wows" during NCJW's talk.

After the presentation, Carole and Andrea were given two thank you notes from grant recipients.

N., who needed immediate help for her rent deposit, wrote, "Dearest NCJW, I would love to express my gratitude for the help you have provided for me. May God continue to

bless you all so others can receive the love I received from you. Thank you!!!"

D. began her thank you note on the outside of the envelope: "To: The beautiful NCJW women who made my dreams come true, From: One Lucky College Student Scholarship Winner." Inside the note read, "To the National Council of Jewish Women, Thank you so much to have blessed me with the scholarship and I promise to work hard and study harder with these new books that I am about to purchase. Thanks a million to Jesus and to you for Bridging me to Success as a first year 48-year-old college student."

These notes resonate very powerfully with the BTS Committee members. They provide validation for the application process.

Grant applications are vetted by Women's Empowerment staff and then reviewed by the BTS committee. The application packet contains the application form and the applicant's financial request. There is also a Women's Empowerment employment specialist or social worker's recommendation specific to the applicant. And, in most cases, documentation is provided to support the request (e.g. class registration information; invoices for materials needed for work; past due utility bills and rental applications).

The committee thoroughly reviews each document and discusses each applicant's story, reviews her long-term goals, then chooses those recipients who can be helped most by NCJW.

SCHEDULE

FEB 19+20+22+23
JEWISHSAC.ORG/SJFF



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020
3:15pm Golda
5:00pm Reception with filmmaker Dani Menkin and photographer Amos Nachoum
6:00pm Picture of His Life
8:30pm Aulcie

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
2:00pm Love in Suspenders
5:30pm Carl Laemmle
8:10pm Tel Aviv on Fire

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020
6:00pm Reception with Joel Westheimer
7:00pm Ask Dr. Ruth
10:15pm Leona

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020
10:30am There Are No Lions in Tel Aviv
12:15pm Crescendo
2:30pm Reception with filmmaker Yael Katzir
3:30pm The Albanian Code
5:20pm Dimona Twist
7:20pm Those Who Remained



So many ways to be a Jew: religious pluralism in Israel

Join us 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 to learn about religious pluralism in Israel.

The Israel Civil Voice Alliance (TICVA) invites the Sacramento Jewish community to learn about religious pluralism in Israel, encompassing issues of acceptance of worship and status for Jews of all denominations.

The event will take place at Congregation Beth Shalom, 4746 El Camino Avenue, Carmichael, California 95608. Please RSVP to TICVA.SacDavis@gmail.com.

It's a wrap on the 2019 CA legislative session

Claire Lipschultz

While there were some disappointments, the Governor signed many bills that advance our priorities. This could not have been possible without your advocacy and that of our partners, including Stronger California Network, CA Interfaith Coalition, CAST and California Women Lawyers, among others.

Now we look forward to the 2020 NCJW CA Lobby Day. We hope you will join us to continue our fight for social justice and economic justice for women, families and children. As your state policy advocates, Barbara Baran and I thank you for all you do. We are grateful for your support.

Child Care

AB 194 (Reyes) seeks to improve access to subsidized child care by providing \$1 billion to child care services.

Status: The bill did not make it out of Assembly Appropriations Committee. However, the Governor's budget allows for 12,000 plus new vouchers (the ask was for 30,000). AB 194 will likely be a two-year bill.

SB 321 (Mitchell) A Strong Start to CalWorks would allow families first entering CalWORKS to have continuity of childcare (budget ask).

Status: The bill passed both houses and is in Governor Newsom's 2019-2020 budget.

Human Trafficking

SB 630 (Stern) gave local governments clear ability to enforce the Human Trafficking Hotline poster law.

Status: The bill, which was co-sponsored by NCJW CA, was passed by both houses and was signed into law by the Governor.



Claire Lipschultz and Barbara Baran represent NCJW Sacramento as state policy advocates.

AB 629 (Smith, Gonzalez) secures lost income for human trafficking survivors from the California Victim's Compensation Fund.

Status: After seven years of advocacy on this issue, and a veto last year by Governor Brown, the bill which was co-sponsored twice by NCJW CA, was signed by Governor Newsom – great win for survivors.

Health Care Access

SB 29 (Lara and Durazo)/

AB 4 (Bonita, Chiu, Santiago) would provide Medi-Cal coverage to undocumented adults who are otherwise eligible from ages 19-25 and seniors over 65 years.

Status: The bill was amended and passed to expand coverage only to undocumented young adults ages 19-25 and the Governor's budget includes funds to do so.

Ending Childhood Poverty

AB 24 (Gonzalez and Burke) provides for targeted child tax credit to help low income families.

Status: The bill did not make it to the Governor's desk.

Paid Family Leave

SB 135 (Jackson) extends job protection to workers who take such leave at businesses with five or more employees.

Status: The bill did not make it to Governor's desk.

NCJW Sacramento's state policy advocate speaks out at Capitol



Claire Lipschultz, at the U.S. Senate building, spoke about the NCJW's effective advocacy network across the country and urged Congressional staff to pass gun violence protection laws and ensure competent and fair federal judiciary appointments. Claire is a NCJW Sacramento board member and NCJW CA State Policy Advocacy co-chair.

Join NCJW-CA Rapid Response Team

Please sign up to be part of the NCJW-CA Rapid Response Team. It takes just a few minutes each time a 'request for action' on state legislation is sent out. You can do it at your computer, on your phone and/or come to a rally at the Capitol. It's fun!

If you would like to be part of our statewide network of "just in time" advocates, contact ncjwcaclaire@gmail.com.

Afternoon Tea with Abby Stein on Dec. 1

Beryl Michaels

As part the NCJW Sacramento Speaker Series, we are pleased to co-sponsor Afternoon Tea with Abby Stein at 3 p.m. Dec. 1 at Congregation Beth Shalom. Abby Stein is a direct descendant of the Baal Shem Tov. Born and raised as a boy in a Hasidic enclave in Brooklyn, she also attended yeshiva and completed a rabbinical degree in 2011. The following year, she left the Hasidic world

when she came out as the woman she always knew she was.

Hear about the personal journey of this Jewish educator, writer, speaker and activist, and learn how she works to build awareness and support of transgender rights and those leaving ultra-orthodoxy.

This event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region, JCRC, NCJW Sacramento and Congregation Beth Shalom. Suggested donation: \$10.



Abby Stein

Find out what you can do: Act your conscience on Jan. 5

Humanitarian crisis for migrants continues

Bobi Gould

The response to NCJW's Opening Meeting on Sept. 8 was so strong, that as part of the NCJW Sacramento Speaker Series, we will present an event featuring attorney for the state of California Anna Molander Hermann. Molander Hermann volunteers for Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services. She will give an eyewitness account of the detention conditions in San Antonio.

A panel discussion will follow, including four advocacy organizations actively involved in assisting asylum seekers and children in detention

camp. These groups help with everything from basic necessities to doctors and legal advice. The program will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Jan. 5, 2020 at Congregation B'nai Israel.

The advocacy groups are the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), Abuelas Responden, (Grannies Respond, also known as the Overground Railroad), NorCal Resist, and SacACT (Area Congregations Together).

They will explain their work to help refugees and migrants and will describe specific ways in which volunteers can assist.



Overcrowding of families observed by the Office of Inspector General in June 2019, at Border Patrol's McAllen, TX, Station.

Attendees will be able to stop at each group's information table for personal contact with an advocate.

If you have ever wondered what you can do to assist asylum seekers or children separated at the border, this is the opportunity to act your conscience.

NCJW will offer scholarships for National Convention in Chicago

Leslie Levitas

As part of our ongoing goal of developing future leaders for our section, NCJW Sacramento is making a number of scholarships available to attend the upcoming National Convention to be held April 23-25, 2020 in Chicago, IL.

Scholarships and stipends of various amounts will be available in two categories:

1. Those who need financial support and have not attended a national

convention in the past three years.

2. Those who have demonstrated their commitment as an emerging leader by their work over the past year.

At the convention, participants will learn more about the work NCJW does at a national level and how to be involved with activism and advocacy at the local level. Participants will help set NCJW's path forward as resolutions and bylaws that drive our work are adopted. The many workshops, engaging speakers and networking opportunities will

leave attendees reinvigorated and inspired to continue social justice work with new skills, ideas, and knowledge when they return home.

The future of NCJW is brighter than ever. Be a part of that future by applying for a scholarship to attend the National Convention in 2020. Feel free to nominate a section member for a scholarship to the convention. Deadline for submitting scholarship application is Feb. 1, 2020. To apply and for more info, please contact: Nela Lee at nela@ncjwsac.org.

A tasty twist on latkes at Hanukkah

Evie Lieb

Why do we eat latkes for Hanukkah? In fact, not all Jews do! The significance of this dish isn't the pancakes, but rather the oil in which they are fried. The oil is a reminder of the miracle of the single day's worth of oil that burned for eight days when the Maccabees rededicated the Temple.

It is only in Ashkenazi Hanukkah cuisine that latkes, pan-fried pancakes, are featured. Sephardim celebrate with dishes that are deep fried, like fritters and donuts.

As we enjoy our potato latkes, it's funny to think that the original Hanukkah heroes, the Maccabees, never heard of potatoes. And since they weren't from Eastern Europe, they wouldn't have eaten latkes anyway!

“Part of the secret of success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside.”

— Mark Twain

“Sweet Potato” Latkes

Here's a tasty new take on potato latkes; it's from *GOURMET* 2001.

Some readers who commented on the recipe on www.epicurious.com suggested adding flavors like cumin and nutmeg; others tried baking the latkes. I have specified garnet yams and cut down on the original amount of frying oil. Makes about 26 pancakes.

1 lb garnet yams, peeled and coarsely grated	2 large eggs, lightly beaten
2 scallions, finely chopped	1 tsp salt
1/3 C all-purpose flour	1/2 tsp black pepper
	Canola oil for frying

Stir together potatoes, scallions, flour, eggs, salt, and pepper. Heat 1/8-inch oil in a deep 12-inch nonstick skillet over moderately high heat until hot but not smoking. Working in batches of 4, spoon 1/8 cup (2 TBSP) potato mixture per latke into oil and flatten to 3-inch diameter with a slotted spatula. Reduce heat to moderate and cook until golden, about 2 minutes or more on each side. Transfer latkes with spatula to paper towels to drain. Good plain or with applesauce, sour cream or tzatsiki. Also delicious with caramelized onions!

Caramelized Onions for Latkes

Chef Rachel Klein of Cambridge, MA offers this onion topping for traditional potato latkes. It's delicious with the sweet potato pancakes as well. You can prepare the onions a couple of days ahead and store them in the fridge. Serve at room temperature or warmed up in the microwave. This doesn't make a huge batch; so consider making more if there are real onion fans at your table!

1 TBSP unsalted butter
1 1/2 tsp canola oil
1 large onion or 2 weighing a total of about 3/4 lb, thinly sliced*
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1 TBSP cider vinegar
1 1/2 tsp golden brown sugar

* I like to slice the onions in half from top to bottom, then slice each half into thin slices from top to bottom instead of across. If the pieces aren't even, it doesn't matter; after long cooking they blend into a sort of jammy consistency.

Melt the butter in the oil in a large saucepan over moderately high heat. Add the onion slices, salt and pepper. Mix well, lower heat to moderate and cook, partially covered, for about 10 minutes to soften the onions. Uncover and continue to cook, stirring occasionally, until onions are golden, up to an hour. Watch carefully to avoid scorching. Add the vinegar and brown sugar and cook until mixture is brown and almost dry, about 10 minutes. Cool and set aside or store for later use.



MIMS: WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Photos from left, NCJW MIM group sets up for the birthday celebration. Anne Eisenberg gets into the rhythm with drumming. Drumming was a "hit" with Sheila Wolfe.

Photos/Beryl Michaels

MIM volunteers enjoyed the birthday fiesta as much as foster youth

Sheila Wolfe and Anne Eisenberg

NCJW Sacramento collaborated with the Freda Fund of the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento and Congregation Beth Shalom to organize a birthday party on Nov. 3 for 40 youth in foster care.

The birthday party was filled with the joyful, rhythmic sounds of drums and other instruments, courtesy of MusicLandria. Buddy Hale, himself a foster child at one time, envisioned a music library available to all. He and about 10 others from the group joined our foster youth guests in an

ongoing drumming circle. About 40 teens and their foster families enjoyed a delicious Mexican buffet, birthday cake and ice cream, thanks to NCJW.

The quarterly birthday parties were started by the Freda Fund, now a project of the Sacramento Child Abuse Prevention Council. In addition to a festive party, each youth received a gift card from a store of their choice provided by the Freda Fund.

NCJW volunteers decorated the room like a birthday fiesta, served and cleaned up and contributed to the cost of the event. Everyone had a great time and left full and happy.

Just a part of a thank you letter from the MusicLandria leadership reads, "Thank you so much for inviting us to take part in Sunday's birthday celebration. It was a real dream to see and hear so many youth engaged and happy, making music together. We appreciate all the effort you put into making Sunday special for the kids, and the contribution of all the volunteers and NCJW members who made the event a success."

If you have want to volunteer and contribute to upcoming Mitzvahs-in-a-Minute, please contact: Sheila Wolfe, sheilaw@ncjwsac.org or 916 955-1587.

Upcoming MIMs to volunteer your time and support

DECEMBER 16

Holiday Outreach: Hanukkah Gift Bags

Time: Watch for Tuesday eNews.

In coordination with Jewish Family Services, NCJW members are encouraged to contribute to and/or join us. We assemble and deliver holiday gift bags for seniors and those with special needs throughout our area.

To sign up now, contact Gloria Storer, senior programs associate at the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region: 916 486-0906 or gloriastorer.jfs@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 19, 20, 22, & 23

Mitzvah at the Movies

Time: Watch for Tuesday eNews.

Volunteer your time and support the special events at the 21st annual Sacramento Jewish Film Festival at the Crest and IMAX theaters. For details: sheilaw@ncjwsac.org or 916 955-1587.

MARCH

Peanut Butter & Jelly Lunches

Date and time: Watch for Tuesday eNews.

Make Peanut Butter & Jelly sandwiches and fill lunch bags with food and beverages for Sacramento children, adults and families in coordination with Congregation Bnai Israel and a local food bank.



Proud group at the Peanut Butter & Jelly Lunches MIM in 2017.

Purchase a Tribute

Sheila Budman, NCJW Sacramento's Tribute chairperson will send a personal note on your behalf to the persons and/or families you choose to honor.

Want to honor a friend or celebrate an occasion or remember someone in the nicest possible way?

Purchasing a Tribute is a great way to honor a loved one and share your sentiments with friends and family while supporting NCJW projects locally and in Israel.

You can designate a Tribute in the name of a family member, colleague, friend or loved one, or to commemorate a special occasion or holiday, by emailing sheila@ncjwsac.org or visiting our website, ncjwsac.org/giving.

PURCHASE A TRIBUTE ONLINE OR BY MAIL:

Send your name, check, indicate the number of cards, dedication, name of honoree and address of the honoree to NCJW Sacramento, Attn: Sheila Budman, P.O. Box 340174, Sacramento, CA 95834.

Tribute minimum donation is \$10. A Tribute card will be sent out in your name to your honoree.

You may also purchase blank Tribute cards to personally send yourself— \$45 for a package of five cards.

NCJW appreciates all of your Tribute donations.

TRIBUTES

Your Tribute funds support our programs and projects both locally and in Israel.

To: BETTY REUBEN in honor of her birthday

From: Phyllis Jacobs, Ceal Kaplan, Carry Cohn, and Marianne Laws

COUNCIL NOTES

Our Section recognizes and honors members' news with sincere thoughts.

To: ROBERTA SPIVEK and BEVERLY SPIVEK MORRIS

- The NCJW Board sends condolences on the death of their mother, Ilse Spivek.

To: HENRIETTA BARON

- Congratulations on her 106th birthday! Also, get well wishes for broken hip.

To: NELA LEE

- The NCJW Board sends condolences on the death of her father-in-law.

To: RICCI ACHEL

- The NCJW Board sends condolences on the passing of her husband, Dr. Robert Achetl.
-

New nonprofit will support community Mikveh

Leslie Levitas and Carolyn Reuben

Following a long effort from a group of dedicated volunteers, a new non-profit has been established to support a community Mikveh in the Sacramento Region.

The goal is to make the ritual of Mikveh available to the full diversity of the Jewish people, men and women, gay and straight, those who lost a child and those who healed from disease, those who just adopted a child, those who safely returned from a perilous journey or to acknowledge a momentous transition in life of any nature.

The new non-profit has created a board of directors representing the full spectrum of Jewish religious institutions in our community with the intent to spread the word of our progress.

The hope is that this regional Mikveh will reduce rabbi fatigue caused by travel to other areas and create a neutral, happy, useable site to express our Jewish souls.

It will be a kosher Mikveh, and

so will also be available for women to mark the monthly end of their time of separation, and a new location for men who enjoy immersing before Shabbat or the High Holidays.

The board of directors represents several Jewish institutions our region. It includes Carolyn Reuben, Rabbi Ricki Lobel, and Mehrnaz Halimi from Mosaic Law, Dr. Sara Shakked from Or Rishon, and Robyn Asch from Beth Shalom. Rabbi Lobel and Mehrnaz also are members of Keneset Israel. We are seeking additional representatives on our Board from Or Rishon, Bet Haverim, and B'nai Israel.

We meet regularly to design our fundraising, our building plans, and our maintenance support. Carolyn says, "We are a dream in the making and welcome community support."

To make a tax deductible donation or learn more about this project, please contact Carolyn Reuben at reubencarolyn@gmail.com or 916-214-060. Please send donations to HaMakor at 2443 Fair Oaks Blvd., #135, Sacramento, CA 95825-7684.



NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SACRAMENTO, CA
PERMIT NO. 854

National Council of Jewish Women
Sacramento Section

No. 340174
North Natomas Station, Sacramento, CA 95834
Return Service Requested

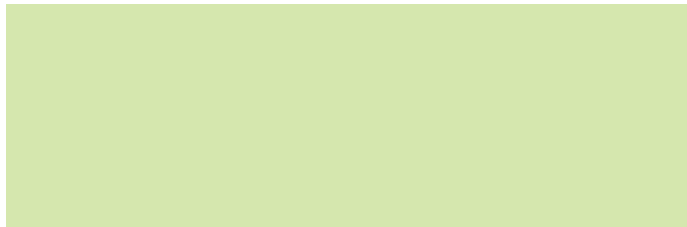
VOLUME 32 ISSUE 2

WINTER 2019-20

Email: info@ncjwsac.org

Web: ncjwsac.org

Family Shalom: 916 204-8777



EAT, PLAY, WIN. CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR AT OUR ANNUAL

Mah Jongg & Canasta 2020

Enjoy a delicious lunch with old and new friends. Fabulous raffle prizes. Proceeds support NCJW Sacramento helping women, children and families.

Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Silverado Design Center
5250 South Watt Ave., Sacramento

Donation \$40

Please bring your own Mah Jongg set and or playing cards for canasta, and let us know who will be sitting at your table. If you don't have a table, we will help to arrange one. Contact Suzie Lauer at suzie@ncjwsac.org.

Register online: ncjwsac.org, or complete the form (at right) and mail it with your check for \$40 to NCJW Sacramento by Dec. 30, 2019, to: P.O. Box 340174, Sacramento, CA 95834-0174. Please note "Mah Jongg & Canasta 2020."

YOUR NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

LUNCH CHOICES (choose one):

Please circle whole sandwich or half sandwich and half salad:

- TURKEY BREAST (whole/half sandwich & half salad)
- TUNA SALAD (whole/half sandwich & half salad)
- VEGGIE (whole/half sandwich & half salad)
- ENTREE SALAD WITH TUNA (whole/half sandwich & half salad)

PLAYERS AT YOUR TABLE

Select table: Mah Jongg Canasta



National Council of Jewish Women
Sacramento Section
