



IMPACT OF THE 2024 IMPACT AWARDS

by Jessica Heskin

Our January 28th Impact Awards event was a resounding success. We honored two wonderful women with the Section’s Woman of Valor award for their unflinching commitment to the community and social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms:

- Nilda Valmores, Former Executive Director of My Sister’s House and President of Soroptimist of Sacramento.
- Lisa Culp, Founder and Executive Director, Women’s Empowerment

We awarded the Hannah G. Solomon Award to Liz Igra, a community icon and Founder of Central Valley Holocaust Education Network. The Hannah B. Solomon award is the highest honor awarded by NCJW, presented to an individual who helped to change and expand the role of others in vital areas of community life and whose leadership in improving the lives of women, children, and families resulted in real progress in the community.



(Impact of the 2024 IMPACT Awards, continued on Page 4)



National Council of Jewish Women
Sacramento Section



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Friends of Leataata Floyd – Jenny Pierre

Board meetings are open to all NCJW Sacramento 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.

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

Jessica Heskin, Editor

Bulletin Advisory Team:

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Welcome New Members

Join date November 30, 2023 - March 11, 2024

Marianne Budin
Lisa Culp
Posy Gering
Edith Gillett
Laurie Heller
Liz Igra
Elizabeth Kimball
Arima Kozina
Scarlet La Rue
Ashley Lieberman
Beverly Rose
Elise Rose
Lauren Solomon
Nilda Valmores
Diane Van Maren



PRESIDENT'S Corner

A Bridge Builder in our Community

by Eileen Jacobowitz

Looking out at the joyful IMPACT Awards crowd, my heart was full. The room was alive with a contagious energy that's both hard to describe and difficult to create. Call it community. Call it connection. Call it shared values and aspirations. Whatever it's called, if you're like me, you know it when you feel it.

The packed Milagro Event Center was abuzz with representatives from Sacramento Jewish community organizations including the Central Valley Holocaust Education Network, the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region, the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Jewish Film Festival, and Shalom School. Members and clergy of local congregations including Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, Mosaic Law Congregation, and Women of B'nai Israel were also well represented.

In addition to our Jewish family, representatives from non-faith-based organizations including Freda Fund, Hope Cooperative, My Sister's House, Women's Empowerment, Sacramento County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, and Soroptimist International of Sacramento were on hand to honor our awardees and support NCJW's ongoing work. Local public officials including Supervisor Patrick Kennedy and Mayor Darrell Steinberg lent their voices to the event with inspiring remarks about our honorees and NCJW.

As I watched and listened that morning, I recognized that this very special community event represented many things:

- The tireless dedication of the NCJW committee and volunteers who brought the vision of the IMPACT Awards to life; and
- Appreciation and admiration for the three honorees who have spent their careers transforming lives in Sacramento and beyond.

“NCJW is home to determined advocates and thoughtful educators. We are connectors and convenors.”



(A Bridge Builder in our Community, continued on page 4)

Impact of the 2024 IMPACT Awards

(Continued from Page 1)

The event was attended by representatives of numerous community organizations (see President's Column for a full list) and 175 attendees overall. We raised approximately \$8,000 for the Section's ongoing work to support women, children and families. Even more impressive than the attendance and fundraising was the communal reflection of NCJW Sacramento's impact on our community. Nilda Valmores noted in her acceptance speech that NCJW, along with the Soroptimist International of Sacramento, was instrumental in the creation of My Sister's House two decades ago. Lisa Culp shared that NCJW Sacramento has given financial assistance to 102 Women's Empowerment (WE) graduates, totaling \$35,568, including funding firefighting boots for one WE graduate so she could complete fire-fighting school. She is a firefighter to this day, in large part, thanks to our grant. The event underscored the depth of NCJW's impact, and that of our community colleagues. It was a wonderful reminder of why all of us are engaged in this work. And a special thank you to Phyllis Needelman for the amazing event photos.



A Bridge Builder in our Community

(Continued from Page 3)

What brings me the most pride, however, is that the IMPACT Awards event was emblematic of NCJW's hard work and our deep relationships with partner organizations and individuals committed to advancing the needs of women, children, families, and the disenfranchised.

NCJW is home to determined advocates and thoughtful educators. We are connectors and convenors. Here in Sacramento, our Section continues NCJW's 130-year legacy of being at the table with changemakers, arm-in-arm with fellow advocates, and on the ground in service to those in need. As Mayor Steinberg said so well during his remarks at the IMPACT Awards, "NCJW is a bridge builder in our community."

COMMUNITY SERVICE & ENGAGEMENT

JOIN THE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT TEAM (WEST) AT GRADUATION

by Leslie Holzman

Show your support for the June graduates of the Women's Empowerment 9-week Job-Readiness and Empowerment training by assisting with the June graduation luncheon and gifts.



Hear these amazing women talk about their lives and the struggles they have overcome. Celebrate their hard work and dedication as they graduate, find jobs, and secure housing. Experience first-hand the joy that our presence brings to these women by showing them compassion and cheering their accomplishments.

Graduation will be Friday, June 14, 2024, at 9:00 AM. Look for more information in the April/May *eNews*.

Want more? You can volunteer now! Join a fun team to plan and participate. Contact Leslie Holzman at leslie.holzman60@gmail.com or call her at (530) 320-7433.

AN NCJW BRIDGE OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

by Rona Sherriff and Annie Hohn

The Bridge to Success Committee kicked off 2024 with several efforts to expand the reach of our program. We launched a new brochure that explains our program to graduates of Women's Empowerment's (WE) 9-week program, and we have instituted monthly meetings with WE staff and participants to enhance program outreach. See more at - <https://ncjwsac.org/programs/community/bridge-to-success-program/>

So far this year, we have awarded BTS grants to pay for name change filing fees for a transgender woman; we paid fees associated with federal employment authorization and biometric services to enable another woman to legally work in the U.S.; and we assisted another WE graduate with the costs associated with getting her vehicle repaired so she could start working.

Twenty-six women have started WE's Session #94 in January, and we expect a similar sized group for the next class and June graduation. Learn more about the services and programs offered at WE and why the Bridge to Success grants offer a needed step out of homelessness - <https://womens-empowerment.org/job-readiness-empowerment/>.

For more information on our BTS program, contact co-chairs Rona Sherriff at ronasherriff@gmail.com, or Annie Hohn at anniehohn@gmail.com.

PLANS FOR THE FIRST PAJAMA DAY AT LEATAATA FLOYD ELEMENTARY

by Laurel Hollis



At many California elementary schools there is a tradition of a once-a-year Pajama Day, often coinciding with a reading program event. "Come to school in your PJs and get ready to read a lot!" is the usual invitation. Even teachers and the principal wear PJs!

This year, NCJW Sacramento, TDX, Shalom School and other groups and individuals are helping Leataata Floyd Elementary (located in the Seavey Circle neighborhood) hold their first-ever Pajama Day event. In the past, many children could not participate because they didn't have pajamas. This year, with your support, everyone will be wearing new pajamas and reading a new book of their very own.

Thank you for helping to start a happy tradition at Leataata Floyd Elementary!

CHECK YOUR INBOX: TUESDAYS ARE FOR ENEWS

Get the latest NCJW Sacramento news and updates about events and important issues every Tuesday. Please be sure that eNews goes to your inbox and not in your spam folder. If you have changed your email address in the last year, please [contact us](#).

Hamentaschen

Recipe

by Evie Lieb



Just in time for Purim, here is a really good hamantaschen recipe on my website, complete with step-by-step photos in the instructions. Check out the link below for all the yummy details you need to make this wonderful hamantaschen:
www.evielieb.com/triangular-treats-for-purim/#more-1593

**SEE YOU AT THE SACRAMENTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
ON MARCH 17 - HATS ON!**

Don't forget to join us for the 25th annual Sacramento Jewish Film Festival! Wonderful films are showcased through March 24.

Grab your wide-brimmed hat and join NCJW at the screening of, "Bella " on Sunday, March 17 at 10:30 AM at The Center at 2300 in Sacramento. Sponsored by NCJW Sacramento, this documentary celebrates women's and civil rights advocate, Bella Abzug, known for her powerful voice for peace (and for her large hats!). Stop by the NCJW information table and find out how you can continue Bella's progressive legacy.

For more information and tickets, visit the 2024 Sacramento Jewish Film Festival website: sacjewishfilmfest.org



**IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO
ALREADY, PLEASE RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP WITH
NCJW SACRAMENTO.**

Not sure if you've renewed for the July 2023-2024 fiscal year? Email us at info@ncjwsac.org to confirm.

AS WE SPRING FORWARD TOWARDS A NEW SEASON,

Let's change lives.

**JOIN OR
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
TODAY!**



COMMITMENT TO ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Claire Lipschultz

Reproductive rights, health and access continue as a key focus at the national, state and local level. The Supreme Court will soon hear another seminal abortion case which could overturn 20 years of prescribing and use practices in the U.S. Challenged is the distribution of mifepristone, a very safe drug used in medication abortions which account for half of the abortions today. We will keep you informed of developments in the Section's weekly *eNews*.

Our Section is fully engaged on the issue. NCJW ReproShabbat was honored in four area congregations with learnings about how Jewish values support abortion access. Claire Lipschultz spoke at Mosaic Law Congregation, and Laurel Hollis organized a meaningful service at Congregation B'nai Israel in partnership with Women of B'nai Israel. We collected hundreds of menstrual pads for area Planned Parenthood patients for after-abortion care and earlier organized the effort to provide 100 after abortion comfort kits to those patients.

Over the last year, we sent 600 Provider Appreciation cards written by NCJW volunteers to staff at 38 Planned Parenthood clinics. All of these actions have been very well received by Planned Parenthood. "Our health center manager got back to me and said that pads are most welcome," said Candalaria Vargas, Director of Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood, Mar Monte. She added, "The cards are a fantastic way for staff to feel supported, seen, and valued by community members, and they are so appreciated."

From Shira Zemel, NCJW Abortion Access Campaign Co-Director:
"Kol hakavod to you and the Sacramento Section for sending 600 postcards to providers this past year!!!! You all are an inspiration!"



READY TO TAKE ACTION?

Consider joining the statewide NCJW CA Rapid Response Team! It takes just a few minutes each time a "request for action" on state legislation is sent out. Take action via computer, phone, and/or in-person at the Capitol. Contact Claire Lipschultz, ncjwcaclaire@gmail.com, or visit ncjwsac.org/programs/advocacy.

COMMITMENT TO ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

PARTNERING TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

by Barbara Milgram

After seeing our fantastic turnout for our Speaker Series panel on homelessness last September, we've decided to deepen our work around the issue. We have begun collaborating with other organizations in Sacramento to leverage our collective expertise, resources, and networks to make a meaningful impact in our community.

So far, we have partnered with Hope Cooperative to sponsor an educational forum for landlords on the benefits of accepting tenants with vouchers (these are not Section 8 vouchers). We have also joined the Housing and Homelessness Local Organizing Committee overseen by Sacramento Area Congregations Together (SacACT). This new group has been formed by merging many organizations under one umbrella. Our work with this group is at the initial stages.

Additionally, we have met with HART of Folsom, SacACT, and The League of Women Voters to explore a project that will provide unhoused people access to public restrooms, portable toilets, and clean water. We will help develop a marketing and communications plan to educate the public on the human and financial benefits of this plan.

Together, we hope to amplify our impact and make meaningful strides toward combating homelessness and advocating for those in need.



COMMITMENT TO ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

WISE AGING AND END OF LIFE PLANNING SERIES

By Laurel Hollis

How often do you get to spend an afternoon with a paramedic, a trust attorney, a licensed fiduciary and a rabbi? Attendees at NCJW Sacramento's and the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region's second session on *Wise Aging and End of Life Planning*, learned the basics of creating a plan for support at the end of life.

The event was held in the KOH Library and Cultural Center on January 21, 2024. Being prepared for our own death means that our wishes will be carried out and spares our loved ones from being forced to guess what is right for us. We also learned about the Jewish perspective on death and traditional rituals preparing for death and burial and how to make it easier for paramedics to help us in a health crisis.

Let's Talk About Legal, Financial and Practical Preparedness

A Series on Wise Aging and End of Life Planning - Session #2

Guest speakers:

- Lynn A. Dean
- Rabbi Deni Marshall
- Michael Skaggs
- Wendy M. Moore

1:30 PM — 4:00 PM

January 21, 2024

KOH Library and Cultural Center
2300 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento
Live or Zoom

A recording of the January 21, 2024 event, and the Wise Aging event held on October 15, 2023, which covered physician-assisted death, is available on NCJW Sacramento's website. Click here to view the recordings: ncjwsac.org/news/learning-to-make-informed-choices/



COMMITMENT TO ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE IMPACT

by Sandy Kaufman, Donna Whittington, Mary Ader, and Deborah Meltzer

We have been busy with a variety of activities as we continue to challenge our viewpoints and raise awareness. We are now working towards partnering on projects with other organizations.

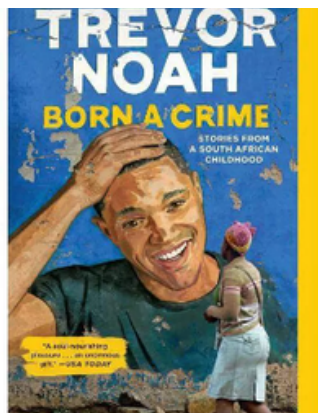
We are happy to share that Deborah Meltzer and Mary Ader have joined our committee. After our dinner and discussion of “The Right to Read” and the interest in taking action, Donna and Sandy met with April Javist, Executive Director of the Sacramento Literacy Foundation. They too work with Leataata Floyd Elementary School. They would love to partner with us, and Deborah followed up with April to work out the details of putting together the Literacy Fair in September.

Sandy met with Donna Wood from the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). Donna is the president of the Regional NCNW. Donna joined Sandy at the Repro Shabbat at Congregation B’nai Israel, and at dinner they found many mutual areas of focus. Donna and Sandy both believe NCNW and NCJW would make great partners.

We started our second Book Club on February 15th and were again delighted that so many joined us in reading and discussing Trevor Noah’s book, “Born A Crime”. It is an amazing education on what it is like to be mixed race in South Africa during and after the end of apartheid. Folks can still join us on April 4th.

And finally, our tour at Sojourner Truth Museum was wonderful and educational.

Please join us in learning! We plan to organize a group to attend the “Black Artists in America From Civil Rights to the Bicentennial Exhibit” at the Crocker Museum and to see a play at Celebration Arts. Stay tuned for those dates!



CARING IN THE COMMUNITY

Tributes

In honor of John Rice

Jenny Isakson

To Liz Igra

Congratulations on receiving the Hannah G. Solomon award for your wonderful work for Holocaust education in schools.

Eleanor Mitchell

To Naomi Rice

In memory of your husband, John.

Bonnie Kaplan and Rachel



We Care Notes

To Maxine Milner Krugman: Condolences on the passing of her sister, Doreen

To Jessica Braverman Birch: Condolences on the passing of her mother,

Alison Braverman

To Karen Oakley: Get well wishes

To Elaine Hussey: Condolences on the passing of David Hussey

To Jill Stecher: Condolences on the passing of her father, Leonard Stecher

To Lynn Belzer: Get well wishes

To Jessica Heskin: Condolences on the passing of her father, Joseph Heskin

To Linda Yassinger: Condolences on the passing of her sister, Barbara Spooner

To Brinn Yterdal: Get well wishes

To Kim Steinhardt: Condolences on the passing of his sister, Barbara Steinhardt-Carter

PURCHASE A TRIBUTE

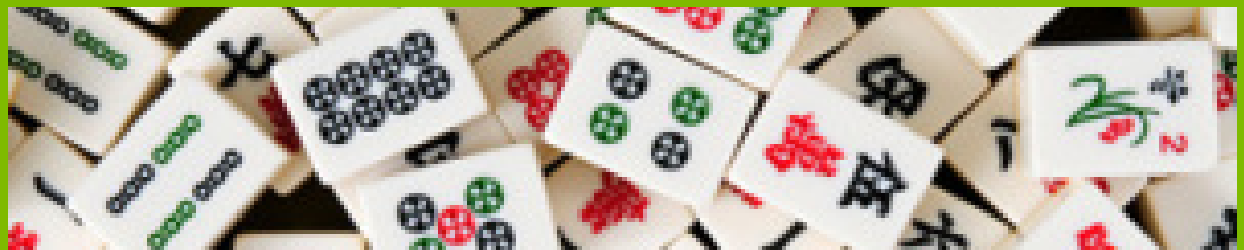
Want to honor a friend, celebrate an occasion or remember someone in the nicest possible way? Susan Abrams, NCJW's Tribute Chair, will send a personal note on your behalf to the persons and/or families you choose to honor. The minimum donation is \$10. Visit ncjwsac.org/donate/#tribute.

WE CARE NOTES

We Care Notes are sent to members by our We Care chair, Jo Ann Solov, on behalf of the Section to offer condolences, support, or to mark a milestone. Do you or someone you know have an occasion you'd like the Board to mark or celebrate? [Email us](#), subject line: We Care.

WELCOME: NCJW SACRAMENTO INTERN

My name is Elisheva Joelson. I am super excited to work with the NCJW Sacramento Section as an intern for the next few months. I am currently a junior at Rio Americano High School. I am part of the prestigious CIVITAS (civic learning) program. Additionally, I had the amazing opportunity to spend my first semester of my junior year, fall of 2023, studying abroad at the Jewish National Fund's, Alexander Muss High School in Israel. Unfortunately I did not complete the semester due to the outbreak of the Hamas/Israel war. I enjoy giving back to my community, especially the Jewish community, which I have felt much more connected to after spending time abroad in Israel. I can't wait to help make an impact with NCJW in repairing the world.



MAH JONGG CARD SALES

by Beryl Michaels

Each year, Mahj players await the arrival of the "new card." The National Mah Jongg League encourages nonprofits to use the sale of the new card as a fundraiser. The nonprofit receives a donation from the league of \$5 per card.

This year, NCJW Sacramento sold 336 cards, 71 cards more than last year. We are grateful to our Mahj-playing friends for purchasing their cards from us. We can expect a donation of \$1,680 later this year from the National Mah Jongg League.

Wishing all our Mahj friends the pairs and jokerless hands of their dreams!

*Lydia Inghram and Beryl Michaels
Mahj Card Sales Coordinators*

REPORT OF THE NCJW SACRAMENTO NOMINATING COMMITTEE

by Anne Eisenberg, Chair

The nominating committee is pleased to present the following slate for the 2024-2026 term:

President: Jessica Heskin
Secretary: Carol Goodman Gaine
Treasurer: Karen Oakley
Immediate Past President: Eileen Jacobowitz

Board of Directors

1st Term

Alexandra Guitierrez
Leslie Holzman
Davita Levin Robinson
Barbara Milgram
Ellen Savage



2nd Term

Abbie Blackman
Sandy Kaufman



3rd term

Beryl Michaels
Sunny Romer

Additionally, Claire Lipschultz and Barbara Baran as the nationally appointed State Policy Advocates will serve on the Board in accordance with our bylaws. Finally, the nominating committee recommends to the president the appointment of Anne Eisenberg, Laurel Hollis, Shirley Rosenbloom and June Wiaz whose contributions to the Board and the Section are highly valued.

Our bylaws require that additional nominations be accepted for 10 days after publication of the slate. If you have someone you want to nominate for a position, including yourself, please send that nomination to the chair of the nominating committee, Anne Eisenberg (anneisenb@yahoo.com), no later than March 29, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Nominating Committee

Abbie Blackman
Lydia Inghram
Claire Lipschultz
Beryl Michaels
June Wiaz
Anne Eisenberg, Chair



NCJW IMPACT AND ISRAEL

by Elisheva Joelson

Information gathered from the NCJW National Website

For more than 75 years, NCJW has been supporting women, children, and families across the diverse spectrum of Israeli society. We continue to emphasize the importance of compassion, justice, and empowerment in our mission, along with being committed to transforming lives and cultivating a more just society for all.

Through diverse initiatives, NCJW leaves a lasting impact on Israeli communities, protecting the rights of women, children, and families. In 1990, NCJW established the Israel Granting Program (IGP) which raises funds to support advocacy and service organizations in Israel.

The focus of IGP efforts is a steadfast commitment to gender equality. Recognizing the critical role of women in society, NCJW empowers them to overcome obstacles, pursue education, and achieve financial stability. By creating a culture of empowerment and strength, they allow for a more inclusive and just future.

What sets NCJW apart is our dedication to growth through meaningful values. In a complex and often separated world, NCJW represents a sign of hope, standing up for social justice, human rights, and peace. NCJW strives to create a world where everyone can live with dignity and respect.





Upcoming Events

2024

APRIL

11 - ROSH CHODESH

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Visit our website for event information.

MAY

15 - LOBBY DAY

Please contact Claire Lipschultz at clairelipschultz@gmail.com or Barbara Baran at b.baran@comcast.net for more information.

JUNE

13- ROSH CHODESH

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Visit our website for event information.

CHECK YOUR TUESDAY ENEWS OR THE NCJW WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THESE AND OTHER NCJW EVENTS.



NCJW SACRAMENTO SECTION

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Facebook: [@ncjwsac.org](https://www.facebook.com/ncjwsac.org)

Instagram: [@ncjwsac](https://www.instagram.com/ncjwsac)

Twitter: [@NCJWSac](https://twitter.com/NCJWSac)

LEARN. CONNECT. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



Remember it's easy to connect with NCJW Sacramento. We'll happily answer questions, welcome your input, and put you in touch with others who share your interests and/or who live in your neighborhood.