

A PUBLICATION OF THE NCJW–GREATER LONG BEACH AND WEST ORANGE COUNTY SECTION

▶ A Message From Our President *by Maria Osorio, President*



As I write this update, we are just past mid-February, more than halfway through my second year as President! Purim is just around the corner from Saturday evening, March 23rd, through Sunday, March 24th. Passover will soon follow, from Monday, April 22nd through Tuesday, April 30th. My, how time flies. Several activities are in the works or have just taken place.

For example, this past Thursday, Linda Fox and Sara Millman Silva organized a very special NCJW HugPacks event, “Dinner with Love for DCFS Foster Families,” which is featured in this issue of Pillars. It was a beautiful event. I missed the dinner, but happily, I was able to make it towards the end of the evening. DCFS, Linda, and Sara went above and beyond to create a meaningful family event for these children and their families. They all looked so happy and appeared to be enjoying themselves tremendously. I enjoyed a yummy, orange-flavored cupcake baked by one of the For Goodness Cakes volunteers. For Goodness Cakes matches volunteers to make and hand-deliver birthday and graduation cakes to children in foster care and youth overcoming adversity on their special day.

Here are a few of our upcoming events and activities. On Tuesday, March 5th at 6 PM, we will meet at the Alpert JCC Auditorium to prepare the next round of Abortion Comfort Kits with special guest speaker, NCJW member Sherri Sobel, as she shares her personal abortion story as part of our Courageous Conversations. On Friday, March 8th, four of our members will represent NCJW as they attend CCEJ’s (California Conference for Equality and Justice) Roots of Justice Breakfast and Convening. This event brings hundreds of people together for a day of learning, dialogue, and reflection in service of making our community more just and equitable. Also taking place on Friday, March 8th, is our Repro Shabbat at Temple Israel at 7 PM. And, in case you haven’t heard, this year we are bringing back Game Day. Please join us for our 2024 Game Day “Fun”draiser on Thursday, March 21st at 10 AM at the Long Beach Yacht Club. Finally, congratulations to Deborah Goldfarb, our 2024 Hannah G. Solomon Honoree. Please join us on Sunday, June 2nd, at the Old Ranch Country Club for our annual Charter Day event. You will be receiving an invitation.

There’s so much more happening; please read our e-newsletter for more details. Note this schedule change: Shining a Light, the antisemitism education conference previously announced for April 2nd at CSULB, for which NCJW is a partner, has been postponed to later in the year. Please note on your upcoming calendars. We will still be needing volunteers and donations to our Addressing Antisemitism Fund but will notify you when a new date is announced.

Our Nomination Committee is hard at work filling our slate for next year! If you’re interested in learning about what it means to be a board member, there are opportunities to join the NCJW board as a member-at-large without holding a specific portfolio. This opportunity would give you a chance to see what we do and how you might want to get more involved. We are also looking for an Executive Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Co-Vice Presidents for Communications & Marketing, Community Service, Membership, and Resource Development. If you are interested in any of these positions, please reach out to me directly by emailing president@ncjwlongbeach.org.



▶ CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 HANNAH G. SOLOMON RECIPIENT *by Judy Leff, Committee Chair*

On behalf of the Hannah G. Solomon committee, we are excited to announce the 2024 honoree, **Deborah Goldfarb**. Deborah, a long-time NCJW life member, has helped to change the lives of others through her leadership and service to the Greater Long Beach community as the interim CEO of Jewish Long Beach. She looks forward to accepting the award at Charter Day on June 2. Members of the committee were Judy Leff, Linda C. Fox, Chana Ham-Rosebrock, Joanne Levy, and Dale Strok. More information and a bio will be included in the next issue of Pillars.



*Be sure to save the date
June 2nd to attend our big
Charter Day Celebration at the
Old Ranch Country Club!*



▶ OUR SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE IS HARD AT WORK! *by Linda C. Fox, HugPacks Co-Chair and Immediate Past President*



We are about to launch the search for this year's NCJW Scholarship winners! The committee is hard at work -- thanks so much to its members Linda Waltzman, Trish Goldin, and Deb Lewis. Please consider donating to our Linda Calderón Memorial Scholarship Fund in time to honor the superstars who rise to the top! Funds are needed so that we can award scholarships to as many applicants who deserve to be recipients.

[Linda Calderón Memorial Scholarship Fund](https://www.ncjwlongbeach.org/donate): Offers scholarships every other year to Jewish students pursuing college, university, or trade school education residing in the greater Long Beach and West Orange County area. You can donate at <https://www.ncjwlongbeach.org/donate>, and then select "Linda Calderon Memorial Scholarship Fund."

While we don't know where our past recipients in every case are at this moment in time, we do know a few: Mayan Cohen, who studied in Israel, was working for Hillel on a college campus last we heard; Taryn Williams is now a Ph.D. candidate at UCI. Some of our other recipients (Maddie Braverman) completed a Master's degree at CSULB as a school psychologist, and one awardee graduated with a concentration from a technical/ vocational school in architecture.

► DINNER WITH LOVE

by Linda C. Fox, HugPacks Co-Chair and Immediate Past President

The Lipeles auditorium at the Alpert JCC was buzzing with activity on Thursday afternoon, February 15. The event theme was **A Dinner With Love**, cosponsored by our long-time partners, the South County LA Lakewood office of the Department of Children and Family Services and NCJW's HugPacks Project. Some 85 adults and children who are client families of DCFS, and 20 NCJW-related special guests (board members, veteran HugPack packers, and in-kind donors) were served a chicken, pasta, and salad dinner supplied by DCFS. The yummy dessert cupcakes were donated by a partner of Compton YouthBuild represented by the outstanding HugPacks Co-chair, Sara Millman Silva and her superb team leader, Alejandra Guizar. The giveaway age-appropriate items children took with them in their own drawstring bag were provided by the HugPacks project as were raffle prizes. Besides dinner and the gifts, children had fun with games, arts and crafts, and a photo booth!

Truly this was a labor of love by both DCFS, their staff and NCJW's stellar HugPacks team.

It does take a village, yet the suggestion that an event like this be held annually for foster families has already been brought up for discussion. It was a real delight to witness the joy and happiness spread at this event. As a faith-based organization partnering with DCFS, NCJW-Greater Long Beach & West Orange County was thrilled with the event's success.

A heart-felt thank you goes out to DCFS's staff (Lydia Laza, Sherrie Evans, Shamali Golea) and NCJW HugPacks team (Alejandra Guizar, HugPacks Co-chair Sara Millman Silva, helpers Brenda Guizar and José Leyva and HugPacks Co-chair Linda Fox) – and everyone who pitched in to serve, to help the children, take photos, or do clean up, etc. It was a great evening, showing the difference our HugPack project can make in people's lives!



▶ WRITE LETTERS TO POTENTIAL VOTERS TO GET OUT THE VOTE

GOTV 2024 Starts Soon!

Letter writers can expect new statewide letter-writing campaigns from Vote Forward for Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin in early March.

In this critical election year, their goal is to help turn out millions of infrequent voters, with a special focus on young voters under 35 in our Social campaigns.

Postcard writers' first 2024 campaigns: Virginia and Georgia are rolling out at the end of February and March 1st. These will be only in a couple of districts where primaries matter.

Throughout the Spring, NCJW hopes to host letter/postcard writing parties at members' homes. Deb Lelchuk can provide letters (if you can't print) or postcards, addresses (for either letters or postcards), and postcard scripts. Email advocacy@ncjwlongbeach.org with GOTV in the subject line if you'd like to participate or can host a GOTV party.

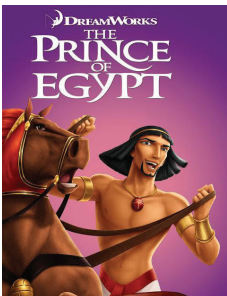


▶ FOURTH THURSDAY MOVIE NIGHT

by Natalie Swit, Co-VP Programs



March's Fourth Thursday movie night is **Thursday, March 28th**. In honor of Women's History Month, we will watch *Simone: Woman of the Century*, an intimate and epic portrait of an extraordinary woman who eminently challenged and transformed her era defending a humanist message still keenly relevant today. To register for *Simone*, [click here](#).



April's Fourth Thursday movie night is **Thursday, April 25th**. In celebration of Passover we will watch *The Prince of Egypt*. This 1998 American animated musical drama film produced by DreamWorks Animation is an adaptation of the Book of Exodus and follows the life of Moses from being a prince of Egypt to a prophet. To register for *Prince of Egypt*, [click here](#).

We will meet at a member's house at 6:45 pm. For more information or to register, please [click here](#) or email info@ncjwlongbeach.org for more information about this event.

▶ NCJW IS SERVING OUR COMMUNITY! by Andrea Friedenthal, VP Community Service

Oh my goodness, so much happening! Here are some short 'catch-up's' on what we've been doing!

Funds from our Homeless Assistance Fund bought much-needed tarps for our ever-growing homeless population. About a third of the newly homeless are seniors, unable to meet the rising costs of rent, food and medical needs. Many are older women who find themselves without husbands or families.

Our cooking skills are coming in handy! Our Co-VP of Advocacy, Chana Ham-Rosebrock, (one of our favorite chefs) stepped up to make a huge batch of chili and beans for the 35 women and children at Lydia House (the women's part of LB Rescue Mission), which suffered a fire on Christmas Eve. Quite a bit of damage was done (including the kitchen), so the residents had to move to a temporary location with no place to cook. We were the first community group to respond, and we took 2 huge pots of chili and 40 pieces of cornbread (baked by yours truly, Marie Callendar's package of course!) We had a wonderful time visiting with the women and letting them know they were cared about. Those women lost everything. Our Community Service volunteers mobilized to replace some of what was lost — clothing, blankets, shoes, etc. They still need stuff, so let us know if you've got something to donate.



Warm clothing is needed desperately, and the men of course are still in need as well. The need for cooked meals for 35 will continue until the repairs are done. If you're interested, let us know!

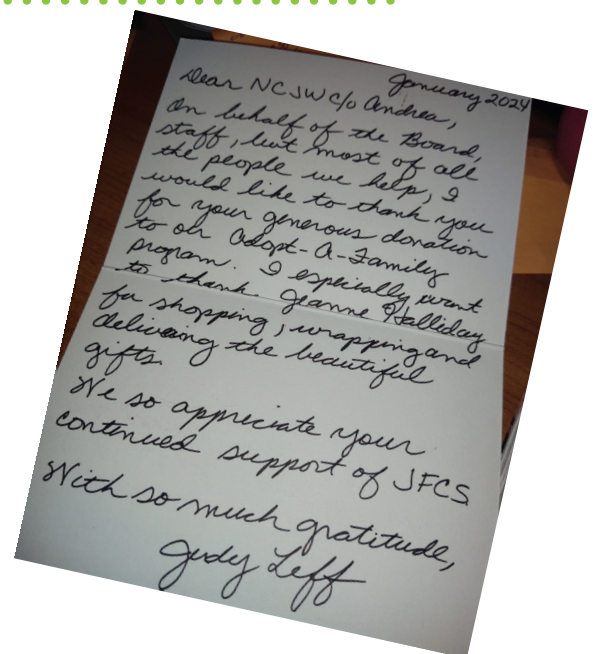
Our Tikkun Olam Fund enables us to adopt a family for the holidays through Jewish Family and Children's Service. This year, JFCS gave us our own Afghan family, who just had a brand-new little baby! We were able to purchase some sorely needed things, and our Advocacy folks threw them a baby shower as well. Our community service connections in the community gave us several packs of size 0 diapers (which are expensive!), so that was great. The family members are all fine, happy, and living in a small room and looking for jobs. If you have baby things or household goods to donate, please contact us and we'll make arrangements.

The next Abortion Comfort Kit packing is Tuesday, March 5th. We'll be packing about 300 kits and having our own Sherri Sobel (our favorite Juvenile Court Referee) tell her personal abortion story for our next Courageous Conversation. You can RSVP on our [website](#) or email communityservice@ncjwlonbeach.org. We also still need toys for the on-site Treasure Chests and we always need more volunteers! See ya soon!



▶ OUR ANNUAL NCJW BUDGET INCLUDES A SUBSTANTIAL DONATION TO SUPPORT JFCS!

A shout-out to Jeanne Halliday, who, all year long and especially at the holidays, brings well-wishes to members, and gifts to needy families from our section. We love you, Jeanne!



▶ K-FESTS CONTINUE TO BE IMPORTANT PROJECT FOR NCJW

by Lisa Robinson, Early Childhood Committee

The women and men of NCJW have been an integral part of the LBUSD Kindergarten Festivals for many years, participating on the planning committee of the ECE, and helping staff the gatherings of families with children ready to begin school. Our volunteers work at the Welcome table and the registration tables, helping the families pick up information.

This past year we participated in K-Fests in January, February and March. We donate the backpacks that the children receive through the Denise Berro Kindergarten Festival Tribute Fund.

Families also receive free books donated by Rotary. They meet police officers, who distribute badge stickers and backpacks while posing for photos, and firefighters, who pose with the children as they explore a fire truck.



A memorable day for so many reasons. Our volunteers enjoy meeting and working with the other volunteers, working with the families and with the staff. Looking forward to you joining us next year.



▶ CARING CORNER

by Jeanne Halliday, Chair

NCJW cares about the lives of our members and Jeanne sends cards to recognize the joys and sorrows they experience. Please let her know by emailing info@ncjwlongbeach.org if there is information to share. Cards were sent from the NCJW Caring Corner to:

Barbara "Bobbi" Becker.....Condolences to her family and friends

Harriette Ellis.....Condolences to daughter Deb Kaplan-Wyckoff and family and friends (Harriette was editor of Pillars for many years and a Hannah G. Solomon Award recipient)

Tila Carrol.....Condolences to her family and friends

Arlene Schaefer.....Condolences to her daughter Susie Amster, granddaughter Sharon Amster Brown, and family and friends



▶ GET READY TO PLAY!

by Roberta Friedman, VP Resource Development

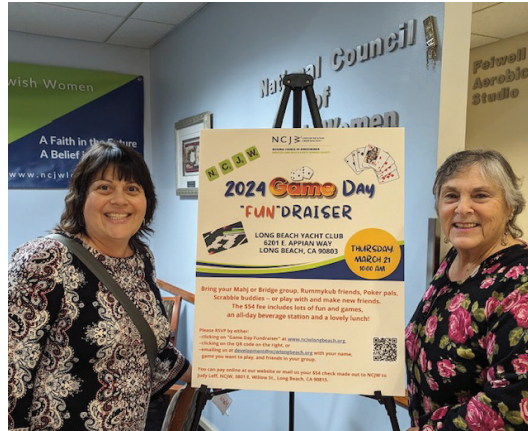
We all have so many priorities for spending our hard-earned money, from providing for our own needs to being able to live the kind of life we enjoy. And for many of us, being able to give to others, to help them have what we have, feels good. We join organizations because we believe in the cause or mission, we want to help others, and we want to socialize. There are also many ways to support that organization. We attend events, volunteer, advocate for the causes that speak to us, and we donate. Why? As NCJW Life Member Roni Love explained, "I donate because I believe NCJW supports legislation and values I hold, and it's important to let people know there are others that agree."

Without your donations, we cannot provide all the services and opportunities we value. You know that many of our special projects and initiatives have dedicated funds, and we are so grateful for all the gifts you make to them. Our General Fund is another vital way to make sure we are able to fulfill our mission of service and advocacy. In fact, without it, we could not continue to operate as a section. This fund covers our administrative costs in addition to leadership development and lobbying activities at the local, state and national levels. There are numerous ways to support our general fund, and these can even involve FUN!

So... Get ready to play! Join us on Thursday, March 21 for Game Day!!! Bring your friends and the games you love to play (Mah Jongg, Bridge, Scrabble, Trivial Pursuit, etc.), and enjoy the company and the views at the beautiful Long Beach Yacht Club.



For just \$54 a person, including lunch, prizes and a raffle or two, you can support our local section's general fund, so that we can continue all our good works - All while having a good time! Or you may want to come and find a group to join, and maybe make new friends and learn a new game, too. Sign up by March 10 on our website, ncjwlongbeach.org, or send a check with the tear-off slip from the eblast invitation you received recently.



Then, join us for Charter Day, our major annual fundraiser. Note the new date – Sunday, June 2, at the always beautiful Old Ranch Country Club. We will celebrate another year of accomplishments, and

honor Deborah Goldfarb, CEO of Jewish Long Beach, as our newest Hannah G. Solomon recipient! Deborah is a Life Member of NCJW and has impacted the lives of so many through her leadership and service to the greater Long Beach community. We will thank outgoing board members, install our new board, and auction off a variety of wonderful items, services and experiences. You can also help make Charter Day a success by requesting friends or merchants you know to donate gifts for our silent auction. If you have questions, you can contact me at development@ncjwlongbeach.org. Stay posted for further details!

Let me know if you have ideas for supporting our section or would like to help plan some great activities, and we hope to see you at all our FUNdraising events!





National Council of Jewish Women

GREATER LONG BEACH & WEST ORANGE COUNTY

3801 E. Willow Street
Long Beach, CA 90815
(657) 235-2511
www.ncjwlongbeach.org
info@ncjwlongbeach.org

NCJW Executive Committee

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María Osorio

Executive VP
Lisa Raufman

Immediate Past President
Linda C. Fox

VP Communications
Dale Strok

VP Resource Development
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TRIBUTES AND CONTRIBUTIONS
by Joanne Levy, Treasurer

We thank everyone who has made [donations](#) to NCJW projects! Your generosity helps us to do our good work in the community. A reminder: when making a donation to a specific project, you can designate that it be made as a tribute in honor or memory of a specific individual, who will then be notified of the donation made in their name.



We send special thanks to donors who made contributions to NCJW Programs:

ABORTION COMFORT KITS:
In Memory of Harriette Ellis

Audrey Zahler, Naomi Rice, Sharon Turner

ABORTION COMFORT KITS:

Michele Berro, Kate Sachnoff, Linda Schroeder, Annette Gordon

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GENERAL FUND:

Joyce Greenspan, Lauren Friedman, Roxana Tynan, Elyce Vanden Broecke

SUSTAINING MEMBERS MONTHLY DONATIONS:

Dawn Haldane, Cincy Gotz, Phyllis Sands, Susan Sklar, Rabbi Scott Fox/ Dori Chandler, Roni Love, Laurie Arroyo, Janet Neuenschwander, María Osorio, Joanne and Jerry Levy, Michael Martin.

SUSTAINING DONATIONS TO DESIGNATED FUNDS:

María Osorio (Barbara Shipnuck Fund), Sara Silva (HugPack Fund), Linda Fox (HugPack Fund), Stephanie Holzman (Abortion Comfort Kit Fund), Joanne Levy (Chai Campaign), Michael Martin (Senior Outreach Fund)

TRIBUTE FUNDS

Addressing Anti-Semitism/Hate
Advocacy Fund

General Fund

HugPack Fund

Chai Donation for Life Fund

Immigration Services Fund

Linda Calderón Memorial Scholarship Fund

Senior Outreach Fund

Abortion Justice and Reproductive Rights
Advocacy Fund

Abortion Comfort Kits Fund

College Student Nutrition Fund

Barbara Shipnuck Women’s Advocacy Fund

Domestic Violence Fund

Homelessness Assistance Fund

Denise Berro Kindergarten Festival Fund