



Our 95th Anniversary A Celebration Through History

May 2018

1920s & 1930s

The National Council of Jewish Women, the oldest major Jewish women's organization in the United States, was founded at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 by Hannah G. Solomon. An ardent advocate of women's suffrage, she saw first-hand the multitude of problems facing a country beset by failed banks, millions of unemployed, factories shut down and women at the mercy of man-made laws. Solomon's vision was to unite women to address and solve the problems facing them and their families. Their issues, based on the Jewish heritage of her committee, included religion, philanthropy and education. They would apply their

knowledge to improve schools, further social reforms and secure the support of public officials to implement the new programs they advocated.

In 1923 this philosophy was adopted by a group of 14 Jewish women from Hackensack and Teaneck who organized the Bergen County Section of National Council of Jewish Women. Bergen was a rural farm community where horses outnumbered cars. Only one family in ten had its own telephone and the first radio program was broadcast in 1922. The Ku Klux Klan was active in Paterson and Bound Brook, NJ. Americans received no social security, no pensions, no health insurance, no paid vacations. The 20s were an age of dramatic social and political changes and deep cultural conflicts.

The Section immediately established a "Sinking Fund" for philanthropy work. The Social Welfare Committee in 1926 reported giving \$25.00 to a family in Dumont "whose husband and father had suddenly departed to the great beyond" and were in need of financial aid. Members voted to spend \$25.00 to purchase suitable gifts for Thanksgiving to the Old Ladies Home, the Children's Home and the Chestnut Ridge Rest Home.

After the crash of the market in 1929 at least 2 million men lost their jobs. During the economic crisis caused by the depression, Bergen County Section endowed a room at the newly-opened Hackensack Hospital and gave donations to local families in need: a ton of coal to a needy family in Englewood, food and milk to families in Teaneck and Ridgefield Park, and created a scholarship fund and a student loan fund. The GW bridge opened in 1931 and was hailed by President Roosevelt as a marvel of its time. Route 4 soon followed, and many New Yorkers moved to suburbia. The population and the needs of Bergen County changed drastically.

The Section offered classes in Americanization and citizenship to the foreign-born in the county. A legislative committee on Naturalization and Citizenship was formed and members visited legislators on Capitol Hill (cost \$20.00 for hotel, transportation, and food). When Great Britain and France declared war on Germany in 1939, a peace group was formed, and the Section solicited funds for children in Germany "tortured because they are Jews." And, with the addition of an annual Council Sabbath, it became an occasion for Council members to come together for the spiritual warmth of worshipping together. Advocacy included a 1930s report on legislation in which the Shepherd-Towner Act was explained: it shall promote the welfare and hygiene of mothers and children and the reduction of infant and maternity mortality.

From its inception, NCJW provided a wide variety of study groups and programs to educate its members. Small groups meeting in each other's homes, often with invited specialists, researched and discussed areas of mutual concern. Topics included: *The Woman and the Synagogue*; *Social Legislation*; *Contemporary Jewish Affairs*; *Parent Education – Modern Parental Attitudes*; *Services to the Foreign Born*; *The League of Nations – A Way to Keep Out of War*; *Finding a Home for German Jewish Children*.

In 1967 I had just moved from Brooklyn to a house in Teaneck and while out walking with my child, a neighbor stopped me, introduced herself and said, "You must come to a meeting of NCJW." I went to the meeting, and the rest is history.

—Marilyn Sirulnick



I have met the most supportive and caring people who are there in time of need as well as when it's time to celebrate.

—Elaine Bieger

1940s & 1950s

How good it felt to be involved in the creation of the first daycare facility, the Leonard Johnson Day Care Center, the Regional Mental Health Care Center and the Visiting Homemaker Program.

—Ellie Lubin



I went to join an afternoon bowling league and was told that I had to join “Council”, so I said, “What’s a Council?” They said it was an organization that did “stuff” so I joined “Council”!

—Peggy Kabakow

The war in Europe brought a new urgency to all Americans. In 1940 the United States Congress approved and enacted the first peacetime conscription draft. Paris fell to the German army, and Auschwitz received its first prisoners. The Lend-Lease Act was approved. Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japanese fighter planes. The Normandy invasion (D-Day) occurred. The GI Bill of Rights was signed into law. President Roosevelt died suddenly and Vice President Truman assumed the presidency. President Truman gave the go-ahead for the use of the atomic bomb in Japan. NATO was formed, stating that any attack against one nation would be considered an attack against them all.

The Korean War began in 1950. Senator Joe McCarthy’s four-year reign of terror started. ‘I Love Lucy’ premiered. We were captivated by Edward R. Murrow’s ‘See It Now.’ Eisenhower was inaugurated as president. Jonas Salk developed a polio vaccine.

Advocacy efforts included telegrams to FDR and Secretary of State Hull to stop persecution and discrimination. The Section worked with the Office of Price Administration to explain rationing. We pressured the newly-founded UN to open Palestine to European Jews and demanded international control of the atomic bomb. Members urged President Truman to support the new State of Israel to the United Nations. It was created in 1948. Members campaigned for a minimum wage of 65 cents an hour and opposed forced registration of Communists. The Section supported one of the greatest Supreme Court decisions of the 20th century, *Brown v the Board of Education*, that held that the racial segregation of children in public schools violated the Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment. We supported a Federal Education bill. The need to revise immigration laws was also on our agenda, as was the battle for freedom in the face of the extreme political repression and witch-hunting of McCarthyism.

We consistently supported our Community Services even as we advocated for world peace and the rescue of European Jews and against discrimination. Members turned their efforts to raising funds for the war effort, volunteered in hospitals as nurses, and furnished a room for soldiers at Camp Shanks in Rockland County. We participated in war bond drives and created a ‘relative’ service to locate survivors in displaced person camps after the war. Along with other NCJW Sections, we relocated 1,122 refugees from ports in New York and Boston. With the cooperation of the Teaneck Public Library the Section created a book service for shut-ins, established a YMHA Camp fund and worked with the American Cancer Society on a research program linking lung cancer with smoking. As the Section recognized its aging population, it created a Golden Age Club. Volunteers helped the Cerebral Palsy and the March of Dimes campaigns and made recordings for the blind. Ship-A-Box started and packages were sent to Jewish children in European schools and institutions. Scholarships were given to Israeli and European students to study in the US.

1948 saw the creation of the Section’s Evening Branch which provided younger women the opportunity to join NCJW. Day Group (the older women in the Section) wanted to increase their membership and thus Evening Branch was formed. In addition to adult daughters of members, a cadre of women, many new to Bergen County, new to motherhood, eager to connect to other stay-at-home moms, welcomed the opportunity to socialize in the evening, hear interesting speakers and participate in local community services, thus satisfying their social and intellectual needs. Friendships made continue to this day. Evening Branch proved a great training ground for leadership, and many of its leaders went on to take major roles in the Section. In 1958 the Section changed its name to Teaneck Section, reflecting where most of its members lived.

Programming became a major focus for the Section. At monthly general meetings, we listened to provocative politicians and journalists, well-known authors and classical and contemporary musicians. Included in a diverse list of programs we heard: *A Workshop in Human Relations; Fair Employment Practices; Juvenile Delinquency; Mental Hygiene: Everyone’s Problem; The State of Israel; Novelist Fanny Hurst; Wiretapping – NJ State Senator Malcolm S Forbes; The Musical Stage Today; Religion in Our Schools; Emotional Aspects of Marriage; Your Child and the New Vaccines; Censorship: Safeguard or Threat?; The Role of Germany in a Unified Europe; A Code of Behavior for Teenagers; and United States Foreign Policy.*



The 60s produced a generation eager to rethink the direction of America. TV became the most important communication tool ever created. The first televised presidential debate was broadcast nationally on all TV networks as well as on radio. Political campaigning reached 70 million viewers. JFK was elected president and we suffered through the Cuban Missile Crisis. Martin Luther King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. Men were rocketed to the moon. JFK and Martin Luther King were assassinated. The Soviet Union tested a hydrogen bomb. The US Surgeon General reported "smoking is hazardous

to your health." By 1965, over five million women were on "The Pill." A gallon of gas cost 60 cents. Skateboarding became the latest fad. Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" was published. The Beatles came to the USA and hippies and flower children became part of a new vocabulary. The first artificial heart was implanted. LBJ proposed his Great Society, signed the Civil Rights Act into law and signed a Medicare bill. Thurgood Marshall became the first African-American to sit on the Supreme Court. Robert Kennedy was assassinated a day after winning the California presidential primary. The US Gemini docked with an orbiting satellite. The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded. The Stonewall riots transformed the gay rights movement from a small number of activists into a widespread protest for equal rights and acceptance. Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique" ignited the second wave of American feminism.

As strong advocates of the civil rights, voting rights and women's rights movements, our members involved themselves in the use of applied non-violence by marching and picketing. As activism became more acceptable, we began to pressure all branches of government at federal, state and local levels for change. NCJW women eagerly signed petitions opposing the Vietnam War. The fear of nuclear power resulted in our marching to oppose nuclear testing. A few built bomb shelters in their homes. We offered our services at Women's Job Corps Centers where we helped screen underprivileged girls for job training. A state Fair Housing bill and state income tax were also supported vigorously. The Section fought **for** a cleaner environment, freedom of speech, equal pay and jobs and **against** prayer in public schools. Our advocacy efforts led to the establishment of Medicare in 1965. Even as we rebelled against the roles in the kitchen assigned to us, we fought for consumer protection laws and food labeling to protect our families.

Our successful community volunteer efforts included the Edna B. Conklin Home in Hackensack where we visited the children's center and brought birthday cakes; Friendship House, dedicated to improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities; and recording books for the blind. We served as teachers' aides in the Hackensack school system in remedial reading programs. And many of us were active in the movement that resulted in the Township of Teaneck becoming the first US city to voluntarily integrate its public schools. Council women helped register senior citizens in Teaneck for rent subsidies to which they were entitled under federal law. In the mid-sixties the Section provided scholarship funds to township employees so that they might attend workshops on Human Relations held at Rutgers University.

Evening Branch held its first Art Show. The members had no idea how much work would be involved but were thrilled when they netted \$400. It was so successful that the next year Section's 'Day Group' took it over. The Art Show finally ended when our members' walls were filled to capacity.

A broad spectrum of stimulating programs included: *A Political Forum*; *Robert B. Meyner vs. William T. Cahill for Governor*; *Life in India Today*; *Education Problems in Israel: The Growth of the Conservative Movement in America*; *Sex Education in the Home*; *United Nations and the Middle East*; *The Nature of Prejudice*; *Gourmet Cooking*; *Public Funds for Public Schools*; *The Status of Women*; *The New Africa 1960 – Africa's New Nations*; *The Urgent Need for Reform of the NJ Abortion Law*.

When Israeli soldiers needed hats, I became chair of Knit Wits and we made 50 hats.

Since then we've made many scarves, hats, teddy bears and blankets for the children of our community services.

—Sabina Sicklick



Once upon a time, when every organization had a dinner-dance, we too were on board. At one of ours, two of our members came to the event wearing the same dress, same color, same fabric.

One covered hers immediately with a fur jacket which she wore for the entire evening.

That may have been our last dinner-dance!

—Henrietta Wolfeiler

Evening Branch gave “mommies” who were home with their young children all day the chance to get out and talk to people over 3 feet tall.

—Alice Kanrich



Evening Branch Art Show gave us a chance to make new friends. We worked together to plan and organize shows and food while our husbands built the flats for the paintings.

—Marian Kugelmass



Evening Branch gave young mothers a chance to bowl, socialize, model the latest fashions, star in “in house” productions and perform in our annual Evening Branch sings.

—Ina Miller Silverstein

1970s

In some ways the 70s were a continuation of the activism of the 60s. More women entered the work force. The US celebrated its First Earth Day in 1970. We also heard the strident new voices of the New Right (Jerry Falwell) and the Moral Majority (Phyllis Schlafly). Our direct involvement in the war in Viet Nam finally came to an end with the Paris Peace

Accord in 1973. The women’s movement continued to do battle for economic equality. In spite of the 1973 landmark Roe v Wade decision, Congress cut off Medicaid funding for most abortions, limiting access of the poorest to the procedure. Affirmative Action programs were instituted. Desegregation programs shifted from the south to the north where housing patterns resulted in segregated schools. In 1973, the country suffered the worst gasoline and heating oil shortage in its history. The Watergate crisis caused Richard Nixon to resign, the first and only president in US history to do so. The first home personal computer was released for public sale. Bill Gates founded Microsoft. *All In The Family* was a phenomenal success. In 1976, the Bicentennial was celebrated. Margaret Thatcher became the first woman Prime Minister of the UK.

In 1972 NCJW Washington Institute set World Peace, Health, Welfare, Education, Jewish Security and Identity as its advocacy priorities. This section followed National’s lead but gave priority status also to child care. The Section reported its findings of existing day care needs and services in the county to NCJW, Inc. for its “Windows on Day Care” publication. Included in the survey were recommendations for advocacy actions to expand and improve day care services at the national, state and local levels. We joined forces with other activists and urged our legislators to protect the environment. The Camp David Peace Agreement signed between Israel and Egypt was supported by all members. The Section opposed an Education Voucher Plan and the Helms Amendment (School Prayer). Members lobbied for 2.2 billion dollars for support of Israel. We supported the Jackson amendment (Soviet Jewish Emigration) and the School-Lunch Act, “Hungry Children Cannot Learn.” A delegation of our women marched and protested before the Soviet Embassy in support of the release of Ida Nudel, a Jewish prisoner of conscience.

Our community services roster grew larger. The Section founded and co-sponsored Holley Child Care and Development Center with Youth Consultation Services for school-age children. It was the first fully federally-funded project in the county. Governor Cahill attended the dedication, and “Windows on Day Care” became a model for the Health, Education and Welfare’s efforts in support of day care. Our efforts extended to include Swim-In for those with Multiple Sclerosis; the Post-Mastectomy Program, a special water therapy program for post-mastectomy patients; ADV (Alternatives to Domestic Violence), a counseling service for those subjected to domestic violence. A cadre of women worked at the Group Care Home for Girls age twelve to eighteen and at an Information and Referral Service for those needing special counseling for a variety of problems.

A broad spectrum of programs kept us politically, culturally and socially engaged: *Your Privacy – Can it be Protected?; Israelis – Founders and Sons; Harlem Prep – A Success Story; Genetics in Our Future; Drug Abuse; Women’s Liberation; Dore Shary Discusses the Arts; Battered Wives; Bella Abzug and Women’s Issues; The New Face of Anti-Semitism; Learning Disabilities; Moonies and the Cults; The Death Penalty; Genetics in Our Future; India, Pakistan and Bangladesh; The Jew on Broadway; Abortion Reform; Priorities in Soviet Policy; The Art of Needlepoint; Clive Barnes – On Being a Drama and Dance Critic.*



Ronald Reagan was elected president. The Iran-Contra affair was the scandal of the decade. This era was marked by a new political conservatism intent on the destruction of all anti-poverty programs including spending on vital social services geared to the poorest sectors of society. Reagan appointed the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court. This decade witnessed the AIDS crisis, worsening racial

tensions and continued fear of a nuclear war. John Lennon was assassinated. Beijing's Tiananmen Square was the scene of a peaceful student demonstration that resulted in the murder of hundreds of students when the government quashed the protest. On the positive side, Sally Ride was the first woman in space. The Berlin wall was torn down. The Rubik's Cube was the craze. Reagan's presidency saw unprecedented international cooperation to combat the disappearing ozone layer. The World Wide Web was invented and changed the way we communicated. Two bipartisan compromises shaped our nation. First, when the Social Security trust fund was poised to run a deficit, Senators Dole and Moynihan fought to install amendments to the program and the reform was signed into law by the president. Secondly, the biggest and most complete overhaul of the tax code, the Tax Reform Act, was passed in 1986.

Our advocacy efforts continued on all fronts. We urged Congress to enact Social Security reform legislation and opposed reductions in subsidized food programs. Although our members supported the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, it was defeated just shy of the six votes needed for a two-thirds majority. The membership stood firm on maintaining separation of Church and State and we successfully advocated against tuition tax credits. We opposed arms sales to Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The Section vigorously opposed the appointment of Judge Robert H. Bork to the Supreme Court and we proudly watched TV as our National President Joan Bronk (a Section member) testified against his appointment. Members reaffirmed the right of women to a safe, legal abortion on the sixteenth anniversary of Roe v Wade and joined CHOICE NJ in support of Medicaid funding for abortion. NJ Governor Kean's budget inclusion to provide enough funding for housing homeless and low income people became another one of our advocacy issues. A group of members met with and joined the State Women's Environmental Coalition to study food irradiation and pesticides.

Our Community Services expanded to include Spectrum for Living, an assisted living facility for the multiply-handicapped and developmentally-disabled. With Holy Name Hospital we co-sponsored Day-Away, the first adult medical day care center in Bergen County offering recreational and occupational activities for the chronically ill and frail elderly. The membership supported the Bergen County Family Day Care Coalition. In 1981 Northern Valley Section merged with Teaneck and we became the Greater Teaneck Section.

Our programming reflected the major speakers, issues, ideas and concerns of the 80s. Speakers included Dave Marsh of CBS News; Jane Brody, New York Times columnist; Max Lerner, author; Michele Marsh, CBS Anchorwoman; Beate Klarsfeld, Nazi Hunter; Fran Lebowitz, humorist, author; Earl Ubell, Health and Science Editor, CBS News. Topics ran the gamut: *Black/Jewish Relations; Understanding Modern Art; Problems with Aging Parents; Can Gun Control Stop Violent Crime? Soviet Jewry -- The Plight of the Refuseniks.*

Introducing Phil Murphy to our Study Group before he was famous and our Governor was exciting. He impressed all of us with his knowledge, wit and charm.

—Marilynn Friedman



I remember helping to publicize the Art Show at the Fairleigh Dickinson Field House. Section President Susan Katz and I placed bright orange posters all over FDU, Teaneck campus in the rain. No one told us the poster paper would run and run. Our hands, our clothes, our shoes were orange, even the trees to which we taped the posters were orange. I don't think FDU was happy, but boy did we laugh.

—Ann Levenstein



The last decade of the 20th century was a time of relative peace, prosperity and rapid technological change. A New York Times journalist suggested that it was a decade of moral “self repair.” The cold war ended with the fall of the Soviet Union. Israel airlifted 14,000 Jews from Ethiopia. Student murders at Columbine pushed gun control debates. The expansion of the World Wide Web

led to the creation of a panoply of hi-tech digital devices such as personal computers, cell phones and faxes that suddenly became a necessity. Promoting legislative action was a click away. On the negative side, two domestic terrorists bombed the Federal building in Oklahoma City and the first World Trade Center bombing by Muslim radicals seemed to set the stage for terrorist attacks to come. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated. The beating of Rodney King by police in LA ignited riots after the police were acquitted.

NCJW New Jersey State Public Affairs meetings in Woodbridge gave us opportunities to study and discuss advocacy issues in depth with other NJ Council Sections. Focus on Advocacy Training increased, as we learned the efficacy of Action Alerts. In coalition with NJEA, we opposed legislation which would undermine public school education through school vouchers. Members urged legislators to pass the Violence Against Women Act, the Freedom of Choice Act, Title X Pregnancy Counseling Act and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The Section joined the NJ Coalition for Democracy to monitor the Radical Right. Child Care issues became an integral component of the new social welfare policies. We spearheaded a coalition effort to restore state funding for family planning clinics in NJ. Members advocated for the restoration of funds to the NJ Commission on Sex Discrimination. After years of advocating for the Family and Medical Leave Act, we rejoiced when the bill became law in 1993.

This was a period of enormous community service growth for the section. We included among our new programs HIPPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) at Bergen Family Center; the Clothesline Project; the Children’s Court Care Center, where we supervised and played with young children while their parents were in Court; Hello Israel (in the public schools in Teaneck); Fellowship for the Homeless; and the Center for Food Action. We offered ESL programs for Russian immigrants, bought a piano for Day-Away and changed the name of the Post-Mastectomy program to ABC (After Breast Cancer Surgery). The Telephone Language Companions program started, and Public Education, Career and Jewish Education Scholarships were instituted.

Throughout the decade programming attracted non-members. *Governor Florio Comes to Teaneck; Assault on Meaningful and Reasoned Public Discourse; Senator Robert Torricelli and the Washington Scene; Sammie Moshenberg, NCJW Advocate, Tells the NCJW Story; Alternative Medicine; The World After the Cold War; Judith Miller, author, journalist; Brian Lehrer, radio talk show host; Governor Christine Todd Whitman Comes To Teaneck; The Middle East; Medieval and Renaissance Jewry.*

NCJW women are active, productive and interesting. I can go just about anywhere – to a movie, show, ballet, lecture or a bridge club and find fellow members. Often there are so many of us, we could hold a meeting.

—Fran Butensky



I co-chaired Holley for several years. One day a young girl came up to me to complain that she lost her glasses. When I consoled her, she asked if she could come home to live with me.

—Edie Kaplan

2000 TO 2018 THE NEW MILLENNIUM

As we moved into the third millennium, the first decade seemed fraught with mind-altering happenings. George W. Bush became president by edict of the Supreme Court and the

Electoral College. The September 11, 2001 catastrophic event (9/11) resulted in President Bush declaring his campaign against terrorism. The Indonesian tsunami killed an estimated 230,000. Hurricane Katrina's destruction left 1,500 dead and billions of dollars in destruction. Certainly a defining moment in our history was the election of our first black president, Barack Obama. China rose to become an economic power. Mapping of the human genome gave us new insights into medical treatments. We used computers, iPhones, emailed daily, tweeted and kept our virus check on full time alert. Google was the "go to" search engine. The rate of horrific mass shootings in schools, churches and shopping centers increased.

Advocacy action alerts became the order of the day. In 2004, we joined the March for Reproductive Choice in Washington. To our horror, 45 years after the decision, the assault on Roe still continues. A committee worked in coalition with the League of Women Voters to Promote and Protect the Vote. Loretta Weinberg, our State Senator and an NCJW life member, sponsored a bill to recognize January 14th as Hannah G. Solomon Day in the State of NJ. The LGBTQ community finally achieved the right to marriage equality.

With the 2016 election and a new administration in DC we became addicted to cable news. Facts became "fake news." Our government overturned the way we were viewed by the world. Chaos reigned in the White house. In some parts of the country an influx of new immigrants gave rise to social and ethnic tensions. An ever-growing conservative movement widened the political divide in the US. Because severe government cutbacks were becoming the norm, the needs of our community services erupted with a vengeance. Unprecedented levels of gun violence became one of the country's major concerns.

The tangible and praiseworthy results of our **Community Service** programs have been in evidence throughout the county. In addition to those programs highlighted in past decades we participated in the following in the new millennium. The Adler Aphasia Center, a place where people touched by aphasia, the loss of power to use words, can comfortably communicate; Bergen Family Center added Seniors/Shining Lights, a social day care center for visually-impaired adults and other seniors; Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative (BVMI) is staffed by volunteer medical professionals who provide free primary medical care to low income Bergen County working residents; Center For Hope and Safety provides counseling, support services, community outreach and transitional housing to women and children who are victims of domestic violence; Family Promise Walk-In Center provides meals in a kitchen/dining center for the hungry in Bergen County; Project S.A.R.A.H. (Stop Abusive Relationships at Home) provides domestic violence and sexual abuse counseling and education to the Orthodox Jewish community; the Bergen County Summer Campership Fund is a unique, public-private collaboration. Monies raised go directly to send children to camp. The Waiting Room is a joint

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*Pre computers,
Connie Hochberg and
I would go to Senator
Loretta Weinberg's
office to get copies
of Senate bills so
that we could extract
information for our
Action Alerts.*

—Bea Podorefsky



*My favorite NCJW
job was working on
the Bulletin with
Judy Weinstein. We
searched for the right
headline, argued
about what to include
but always had time
for lunch breaks
with meaningful
conversations.*

—Joyce Kalman

THE NEW MILLENIUM

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Following Super Storm Sandy, we remember seeing little fish in the water on the floor of the ruined Children's Court Care Center. What dispute required Mr. & Mrs. Fish to have to go to court, leaving their little fishes for us to take care of?

—Phyllis Becker & Evelyn Masheb



When I was working, I recall being excited about advocacy forums and upset at not being able to take time off to attend. Happily I can now come to everything.

—Jane Abraham

community service/advocacy initiative which provides a designated waiting room – a safe haven – at the Bergen County Courthouse for domestic violence victims awaiting court appearances; Women's Rights Information Center (WRIC) offers job training and placement services for single parent families; YCS Kilbarchan is a residential treatment home for adolescent boys offering a safe environment where each teen's developmental needs are met.

An array of timely monthly **General Meetings** attested to the broad range of interests of our membership: We initiated our first panel program, *The Environment*, in 2011. Other programs included Ernestine Bradley, wife of former NJ Senator Bill Bradley, *West German Literature and the Holocaust*; Jim Axelrod, *Fresh From the Front Lines*; Rikki Klieman, *Politics, the Media and The Law*; Leon Charney, *Post-Arafat Israel*; Irshad Manji, *The Muslim Voice of Reform*; Eric Goldman, *The American Jewish Experience on Film*; Gloria Feldt, *The War on Choice*; Reverend Barry W. Lynn, *Separation of Church and State*; Madeleine Brecher, *An Inside Look at the UN*; Donna Brazile, *Inspiring Civility in American Politics*; Liz Abzug, *Women, Power and Politics*. The November 2013 *Human Trafficking* program became the model for our annual November Community Forum, with a listing of coalition partners. Following years featured *Immigration Reform*; *Affluence and Poverty in Bergen County*; *the LGBTQ Community*; and this year, *Sexual Violence: Changing the Culture*; *Diversity in Bergen County*; and our January event when NCJW members and guests packed 1,000 Snack Packs for distribution by Center for Food Action.

Showcased among the many well-organized and stimulating **Study Groups** were the following: Annice Benamy – *Women of the Wall*; Tom Meyers – *History of the Film Industry in Fort Lee*; Oscar White, *Photographer to the White House*; Janice Schindler, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood – *Reproductive Choice*; Arnie Wechter – *Hiding in Plain Sight: An Overview of Jewish Actors and Actresses in American Films*; Philip Murphy – *From America to Germany: An Ambassador's Story*; Ruth Seitelman and Joan Joachim – *A Life Re-Imagined*; Lunch and Learn – *Nourishing Hearts and Minds*; Lindsay Morris and Leanne Gale – *The Federal Court System*; Joshua Cohen, Director of ADL – *Global Anti-Semitism*; Fraidy Reiss – *Unchained At Last*; Elaine Adler, *Adler Aphasia Center*; *The Affordable Care Act Explained*; *Brain Fitness*; *Mindfulness: Help in Our Daily Lives*; Lunch and Learn – *Redefining the Jewish Advocacy Agenda*; *The Plight of LGBTQ Older Adults in Society Today*.

Membership was enhanced by the 1991 merger of Mid-Bergen Section with ours and, now drawing members from the entire county, our name reverted back to Bergen County Section. The "Gifting" Member Program provided us with a healthy increase in new members who brought innovation, energy and leadership skills to the Section. Our unique, always oversubscribed day trip programs, Thursday at NJ Symphony and our Book Groups continued to attract many members who might not otherwise have been involved.



HONORING THE PAST . . . MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

at the end of two months the shop reported a handsome profit.

Devising ingenious methods for the acquisition of a continuous supply of merchandise became the charge of a zealous committee. Luncheons, theater parties and “bundle parties” were held with donations as admission. Raffle tickets were given for donations, and volunteers were rewarded with theater tickets and luncheons. In 1953, clothing from the shop was donated to European flood victims. Included in the innovations that were attempted were sales of new merchandise, items made by seniors and sales of more expensive items on consignment.

In 1955 the shop was relocated and renamed Thrift Shop. Two more moves, both within Teaneck, occurred in 1960 and 1963. In 2003 the shop, now known as Council Thrift Shop, moved to its current location in Bergenfield where donations include jewelry, gently-used apparel, china, furs, accessories, bric-a-brac, posters and paintings. Merchandise from the shop has been donated to local charities and to clients of our community services and to victims of disasters.

FUND RAISING / PHILANTHOPY

Essential to any non-profit organization so heavily invested in social justice and advocacy is its funding. In addition to Council Thrift Shop, the most significant past fund raising efforts have included card games, tribute cards, raffles, Chic-Boutique, advertising, Art Shows, Installation, Game Day and the “Jewel In the Crown”, the Stay-at-Home personal giving campaign which has been our major source of funding for over 20 years.

COMMUNICATIONS

Our website, www.ncjwbcs.org, created in 2007 and updated daily, has been a valuable resource for Bergen County Section’s news and information. Visitors have found everything they need to know about programs, events, community services, volunteer opportunities, advocacy initiatives, online donating and more. We urged you to follow and “Like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ncjwbcs and asked you to stay informed with our occasional emails to your inbox.

We were delighted with the press releases, alerts and feature articles by reporters that have been increasingly published in the media these past

THE THRIFT SHOP

When the Teaneck Section opened its Resale Shop on Mercer Street in Hackensack in 1950, members never imagined that this operation would be a major source of funds to support our community services throughout the years.

A call went out immediately for donations and volunteers and

Receiving the Volunteer of the Month Award was a great honor for me. I am so happy to see when other women receive this award.

—Ruth Dinkes



Newly retired, I woke up one morning and went to an NCJW program and decided this is the place for me. Offered to create a website for the Section, was told “impossible, there is no money in the budget”, offered to do it for free and everyone agreed. End of story – or should I say the beginning!

—Carole Benson

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HONORING THE PAST . . . MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

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three years. Eblasts, flyers, action alerts and the Coming Events Sheet have all become the tools we use to get important information to our membership.

ISRAEL AFFAIRS

For more than 70 years we have supported women, children and families throughout Israeli society regardless of ethnicity, religion or economic status. We have been a leader of Israeli women's and gender rights. And our Section has participated for many years in the NCJW Israel Granting program.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

We are forever grateful to those of you who have understood the needs of the communities we serve. You have given your energy, time, and caring to the disenfranchised and supported requests for much-needed funding when asked to contribute to Stay-At-Home. You have always staffed our Thrift Shop, recruited new members, chaired our committees and supported our programs. Constantly "at the ready", you wrote and proofread articles, distributed school supplies, marched for causes and cooked and served whole meals for the destitute. You "stepped up" and provided birthday cakes, played with toddlers, offered companionship for seniors, and worked behind the scenes of our multi-faceted organization in innumerable ways. Thank you, all of you, for your unwavering commitment.

NCJW BCS IS A FAMILY WRIT LARGE

Like most families we share a vision, experiences, energy, affection, and an optimistic need to nurture future generations. This Section has always met the many challenges we face locally and globally with a strong sense of purpose and a determination to fulfill our social and civic responsibilities. As we write, we have a new reason for optimism – the young people of our country who have spoken – who have become activists and organized the **March for Our Lives**. This became the rallying cry for hundreds of thousands of young people, their parents, millennials, and NCJW women from every state in the country who gathered together to tackle the horror of gun violence. They said "NEVER AGAIN."

In this "Celebration Through History" commemorating our 95 years of advocacy, giving, healing and supporting the marginalized, we turned our attention to some of the major events of our 95 years. We hope we have provided you with a sense of the richness, diversity and uniqueness of our organization and the pride that accompanies our membership in NCJW Bergen County Section.

I remember several violence awareness programs at Englewood High School. A volunteer group of actors role-played with the students. All went well for the first hour and then it got out of hand! It became a challenge for all of us.

—Marcia Levy



Working on the Joy Behar fundraiser at BergenPAC was very inspiring. We worked together to create a wonderful evening and raised over \$35,000.

—Fran Einiger

Writer, Editor-in-Chief: Bea Podorefsky

Co-editor: Elaine Pollack

Production editors: Elizabeth Halverstam, Ann Levenstein

LOOKING BACK . . .



Susan Katz, Section President (1977-79), Past National President (1993-1996) and later Executive Director of National, celebrates The National Day of The Working Parent with Hillary Clinton.



In 1998, then Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg (left) presenting an award for NCJW's HIPPY program to Section President Lee Laddy (center) and Past Section President Nita Gottesman (right), one of the founders of our HIPPY program.



Past Chairs of the Section's Evening Branch celebrate at their reunion.

NCJW
Bergen County Section
75 South Washington Ave • Bergenfield, NJ 07621

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Past Section President Ann Levenstein at a Pro-Choice march in Washington D.C. in 1992.



Major donors to our Stay-at-Home personal giving campaign enjoy a beautiful "thank you" lunch in 2001.