

Dr. Joan Lurie Goldberg
Introduction by Fran Butensky, NCJW BCS Past-President

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to introduce my friend and long-time colleague Dr. Joan Lurie Goldberg. We go back over fifteen years when we co-chaired a committee at the 2005 NCJW National Convention and now as the International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW) NGO representatives to the UN.

For those of you who are not familiar with ICJW: It was established in 1912 as an umbrella organization with 35 affiliates on 5 continents. It is dedicated to global issues that promote human rights and Jewish values.

ICJW's involvement includes representation in New York, Geneva, Paris and Vienna. NCJW US is the largest affiliate and our issues reflect the ICJW mission locally through service and advocacy. These issues include: combatting anti-Semitism, gender equality, children's rights, trafficking, air pollution and Holocaust education.

And now about our speaker---

Dr. Joan Lurie Goldberg's background is quite impressive. She has her doctorate and is a physicist who spent her professional career in the business of observing the earth from satellite cameras.

-This expertise included spying on the Soviet Union and charting climate change.

-She suggested that one think of her job as what was done before there was "Google Earth."

I don't quite understand all that but I do know about Joan's passion and commitment to today's topic and why she is here. She is a life-long Zionist and has always been a staunch supporter of Israel. She is someone who doesn't just take on a cause casually; she's passionate about the need for peace in the Middle East.

Through her UN involvement and being an active leader in the Informal Caucus of Jewish NGOs, she has learned about UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestinians) and its impact and the controversy it created. By establishing and co-chairing UNRWA: Stop Hate, Joan is determined to create awareness and to make a difference.

There certainly are no easy answers to the problems and the prospects for peace in the Middle East but let's listen to what Joan has to share with us and get a little more educated.

Joan, as they say at the UN, the floor is yours.