

NCJW MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 7

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 by Joanne Sininsky-President

Those in attendance were: Karen Asofsky, Laurie Alexander, Helene Askinazi, Merle Bassin, Sophie Berkner, Janet Fabricant, Sarajane Feinsilver, Linda Finkelstein, Rona Goldstein, Marlene Gropman, Fredi Grove, Sharon Hotchkiss, Linda Kaber, Joyce Kantrowitz, Nadine Kaplan, Fran Levine, Amy Lieberman, Carol Lubin, Debbie Mendelson, Phyllis Millman, Ann Mitchell, Sarah Rothchild, Linda Geller-Schwartz, Susan Schwartz, Gail Siegel, JoAnne Sininsky, Rona Sterling, Judy Traub, Phyllis Weinstein, Diane Wortman, Rita Young, and Ruth Zalaznick.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – CAROL LUBIN

Since we had the pleasure of Ms. Munoz from the Homeless Coalition to speak, we began with hearing what they do for Palm Beach County. This organization was started in 1986 to be the voice of the homeless. Their main goal is to raise funds to build partners in the field. Before the Homeless Coalition, this population had to go from agency to agency to receive help. Now it's like a one stop door. Once they enter and are evaluated, their needs are then met by an umbrella of services. 3 ½ years ago, they purchased property on 45th street and the Lewis Center was born. Using an Information Management System every homeless person walking through their door is followed from start to finish so they don't fall through any cracks. There is a 30 page intake assessment which becomes the tool to decide who becomes a candidate for the program.

Under this umbrella of services:

- The Coalition - Housing

- The Lord's Place – Training and Job Preparation

- Breaking Barriers – Meals which usually come from the prison

- Donation Center – Has everything one needs to start a new life

The Homeless Coalition also works with the chronically homeless of which there are about 200. 4-6 times a year they provide medical help, free haircuts, feet washing, and other services which help this population sort their life.

From this population, the Coalition has an 85% rate that stay in their apartments. And of those, 17 to be exact, 100% are still living in theirs.

Most of their funding comes from the Mayors Ball = \$200,000, Lewis Luncheon = \$125,000, Foundation's = \$100,000, Individual donors and the State of Florida = \$150,000/\$180,000 which is earmarked for personnel and training. There are no federal or county grants. Their overhead costs are 20% or less. Palm Beach pays the salary for two personnel and gives them the building for free.

Right now there is a need for more jobs and housing. Just isn't enough housing that passes inspection.

If anyone would like to visit the Lewis Center, on December 21st a brick laying celebration will be taking place.

Several concerns were brought up by members of our board. Main concern is getting recognition for whatever fundraising we do. Ms. Munoz assured us this would happen through newspaper stories, articles and social media. Some discussion ensued and Carol Lubin agreed to oversee this committee with Karen Asofsky and Debbie Mendelson being Co-Chairs.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – JOANNE SININSKY

Our opening event, Dr. Watson, was EXCELLENT and the feedback told the same story. Please don't forget a program evaluation is needed.

Joanne is asking again for board members to please commit to Personal Giving. Many responded that it usually happens this month.

After the Election Joanne was on a conference call with National. CEO, Nancy Kaufman updated the participants about post- election work. Nancy is working with CEO's of national women's health organizations. Strategies are being worked out. Her take away is that many of our programs may be in jeopardy and are being closely looked at. Our work at NCJW may get harder. More information will be forthcoming.

The Women's Million March in DC – To date- has no permit which means there may not be facilities available. NY state and Florida are holding their own.

The National Conference has been moved to Atlanta. Let Joanne know if you're interested in attending and arrangements will be made.

There will be a subcommittee for the budget. Joanne will put out an email to those that volunteered to work on it.

The panel discussion from the recent Gun Violence event was both informative and depressing. At our next meeting we will hear more about it.

Joanne wanted to remind us that it is the responsibility of the VP of each program to receive all committee reports and send to VP of Communications, Rona Sterling, for distribution. Each VP's agenda time includes committee chairs.

TREASURER'S REPORT – SOPHIE BERKNER

Sophie told us about a serious computer scam that is going around and we almost fell victim to transferring \$8,000. Asking anyone who needs a check or money to follow up with an email as well as a phone call to her.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION – MARLENE GROPMAN

There is still no date for the installation.

"Just One" Campaign –There were 3 card tables filled with Holiday goodies. Very well received!

Fredi Grove was thanked for volunteering to be the archivist. She has mostly finished the 2014 Scrap Book and asked if anyone has any old documents. Helene said they were in a box in the storage unit.

Rita Young has minutes from the last 5 years. Fran Levine has them electronically. Joann wants these so whoever has the best set please send them on.

The Liz Murray event got in the Post in the Calendar of Events.

Joy Rudy took pictures of the opening event

It was brought to the Board's attention that the \$5,000 for the homeless project is not a line item at this time. Discussion about how this becomes a line item started, but then was tabled till next month. But a motion was made by Carol Lubin to approve the \$5,000 from the budget for "Changing The Face Of The Homeless". Since it was a motion from the chairperson, it did not need a 2nd.

Sarajane informed us that Harmony House closets are empty and need restocking. Laurie Alexander said we raised money last year for this so dollars should be available. Joanne said she will take care of this.

ADVOCACY – LINDA GELLER SCHWARTZ

Donna Fishman is so passionate about the Sex Trafficking program that she has donated an additional \$5000 for a total of \$17,000.

NCJW cosponsored the Legislative Preview of the Florida session, where Senators and House representatives answered questions ranging from voting rights to criminal justice reform to LGBTQ rights.

Linda also attended an excellent panel discussion on “Guns & Domestic Violence: A Lethal Combination”. Participants included Rep. Lori Berman, Delray Police Chief Jeff Goldman, Dr. Tom Gabor and others. About 70 attended, and it appears some legislative and administrative action will be granted from this discussion.

NCJW is also participating in a new coalition in the state on Paid Family Leave.

On January 19th we are planning a legislative briefing for NCJW members in Palm Beach County on “Florida Advocacy: Getting ready for the Coming Deluge” Everyone is welcome. Contact Linda Geller-Schwartz more details.

SPECIAL EVENTS – LAURIE ALEXANDER

Secret Cinema is doing very well.

Opening Event was amazing and we made \$500

Our current event “Liz Murray” is probably close to 300 tables sold so far. Mariyn Alexander is doing a great job and keeping excellent donation records. A short discussion was about if there is there just an invite that can be used for the newsletter? No clear answer was given, but one can be used. Laurie wanted everyone to stress to those attending to fill out the donation cards and give a little more. Right now about \$4500 has been collected. A flow chart was distributed to show the organization of this event and the responsibilities of each volunteer. Laurie passed out a sheet asking for more volunteers.

COMMUNICATIONS – RONA STERLING

Everything is going along well with our new PR person Connie Christians although turnaround time is taking a bit longer. It seems that Karen Webster is turning over information slower than we had anticipated.

We have noticed press releases are not getting into the Jewish Journal. Rona brought to our attention that for \$475 we could hire Karen Lustgarten who knows our organization very well to help get us more publicity for our events. Much discussion ensued but in the end a motion was

delivered. A motion was put forward to hire Karen Lustgarten, multimedia work, specifically for the January 10th Liz Murray event not to exceed \$1000 out of the publicity line item.

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The motion carried with 6 opposing.

FUNDRAISING – LINDA FINKELSTEIN

all grants are in and the responses will be in after the new year.

Downtown At The Gardens – Running events for non- profits. For \$25 anyone can attend a fashion show and direct this amount to be given to NCJW.

Stay At Home – Raised \$7500. There were 56 donations, 12 were from nonmembers.

KCC – JUDY TRAUB No additional report

LIFT PROGRAM – PHYLLIS MILLMAN and LINDA KABER

Phyllis, Linda, Sarajane and Joanne met with Mary Cauthen to discuss Harmony House and the LIFT program. All agreed to follow procedures below.

Each woman leaving the shelter will receive a suitcase filled with needed items.

Harmony House will get gently used items.

LIFT Foster Care- Linda has spoken to the agency handling this program and a plan has been worked out.

A question was asked if Lift could be tied into the homeless warm welcome kits? Answer was no as these are two different programs.

MEMBERSHIP – LYNNE EISMAN- Not in attendance

Gift membership is being tabled till next month

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – MERLE BASSIN

Open to any name and a plea for new people was given.

It will probably take two more meetings to have a slate. Merle has given Ruth Zalaznick the responsibility to serve as Chairperson. The work will be finished by March as installation is in April.

VILLAGGIO – SUSAN SCHWARTZ & Joyce Kantrowitz

There are some very exciting events coming up:

12/15 Rabbi Janie Grackin speaks on “Judy in the Sky With Diamonds”

1/14 Rick St. James and the Rod Experience – Sold Out

1/19 Angelina Spenser speaks on “Sex Trafficking in South Florida”

2/16 Movie Mah Jongg: The Tiles That Bind

3/21 11th Annual Women’s Seder

4/2 Breakfast meeting with speaker Sarah Gold-Rafel topic is “Anti-Semitism On Campus”

OLD BUSINESS

By Laws meeting will be in January

ANNOUNCEMENTS – JOYCE KANTROWITZ

Janet thanked everyone for all the cards she received.

Esther Glassman passed away.

NEXT MEETING- JANUARY 4TH

Respectfully submitted by Nadine Kaplan