

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
PALM BEACH
February 2, 2022

Administration

Submitted by Merle Bassin

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Gail Siegel and Sophie Berkner

Being sent under separate cover

Membership Financial

Submitted by Lynne Eisman

Board Reports January 2022

Total members – 735

Life members – 277 (19 of which are associate)

Annual members – 458 (12 of which are associate)

We still have approximately 70 members who have not paid their dues and will be deleted by year end

Membership Retention

Submitted by Rita Young

February is bringing new excitement to NCJW with the forming of our new Martin/Port St Lucie Branch. Susan Wolf-Schwartz and Roni Beshears are doing a wonderful job establishing goals and objectives. As they say, it's all in the timing- Linda Finkelstein will be moving to Port St Lucie when her new home is built. She has agreed to work with Roni and Susan in the planning of this new endeavor. Since things are happening daily, I will give you an updated account of their progress at the board meeting. I have asked Roni and Susan to attend the board meeting. Susan will be there (on Zoom), but Roni has other obligations. Section wise, Karen and I are continuing to reach out to our Membership with a friendly

phone call. The response has been very gratifying. In order to accomplish our goals, we are asking all VPs and chairs to please send us an email when their services are again live and well. Let us know how many volunteers you will be needing, and we will try to fill your request.

Fundraising/Grants

Submitted by Nadine Kaplan

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Submitted by Dianne Goldin

This past weekend, NCJW celebrated #ReproShabbat, a program that highlights the importance of reproductive health access and freedom and Judaism's approach to these issues. On Friday, January 28 at 4:00 pm, NCJW Palm Beach partnered with SE Atlantic and Valencia Shores Sections to provide a program for our membership. About 175 people registered and almost 90 attended. The following are the talking points from National that speak to the purpose of the program. I am grateful to the Palm Beach members who attended.

Repro Shabbat Speech

- Thank you for joining our #ReproShabbat program.
- Around the country this weekend, about 900 other congregations, organizations, and Jewish communities are also celebrating the critical importance of reproductive health, rights, and justice, and learning more about Judaism's approach to these issues as part of Repro Shabbat.
- We hold Repro Shabbat each year during the week that we read the parsha *Mishpatim*, the Torah portion with the verses that form the basis of the Jewish approach to reproductive freedom —the story of an accidental miscarriage that teaches us much about how Judaism does, and doesn't, regard the status of a fetus.
- This story – and the teachings built on it – remind us that our Jewish tradition views abortion as essential health care: not only permitted but in some cases commanded when a life is at risk.
- That is why National Council of Jewish Women advocates for increasing abortion access.
- Our organizations work for reproductive freedom *because* of our tradition. Not in spite of it.
- However, a small but loud group from the religious right has dominated the public conversation about abortion. They have created the perception that faith and reproductive freedom are mutually exclusive.

- As we learn from the teachings that evolved from the parsha this week, that is simply not the case for the Jewish community.
- The reality is that the majority of people in religious communities, including Jews, support access to abortion and see abortion as essential healthcare
- We must not allow one small religious group to continue to control the conversation about abortion and faith. It's time we reclaim it.
- And we must do so now. Because this is a critical time for abortion access in the United States — reproductive freedom in the United States is more vulnerable now than it has been in the past 50 years.
- The Supreme Court is currently considering a case that could completely overturn Roe v. Wade. In Texas, abortions are effectively illegal. Last year, state legislatures passed a record number – over 100 – laws restricting abortion access. And abortion clinics remain too distant or too costly for many people seeking their care.
- That is why NCJW launched 73Forward, a Jewish movement for abortion justice, last October.
- The goal of the campaign is to create a collective framework for Jewish action to increase on-the-ground access to abortion care by removing educational, financial and legislative roadblocks for people experiencing pregnancy to abortion care, including medication and self-managed abortions.
- Safe and effective abortions can happen by taking misoprostol and mifepristone, both FDA-approved medications, at home and on one's own terms. When provided accurate medical information, people can safely and effectively manage their own abortions with medication. Now is the time to educate people about their options.
- But for this campaign to be successful we need you. We need rabbis teaching about abortion access from the bimah. We need the community to show up for rallies and protests for abortion justice. We need individuals to contribute financially so all people can afford abortion care. We need groups of friends and families across generations to have courageous conversations about their reproductive journeys.
- This Repro Shabbat, let's learn, advocate and act. To ensure that every person has the right to make their own decisions about their own bodies and futures.

Human Trafficking

Submitted by Judy Traub

Our first presentation of Internet Safety Tweens and Teens-Tricked, Trapped and Trafficked was on January 19 at Temple Beth El. Good opportunity for first run-through in public. Apparently little promotion of the event and poor attendance. Robin Sambur did the presentation.



Judy Traub did an overview of the program, via Zoom, to the Palm Beach County Youth Services Division. A copy of our slide stack was requested to be sent to all participants (Maybe 60 or 70 agency representatives).

Elizabeth presented our program on January 27 at Ironhorse Country Club. Very well received.

Elizabeth Harrison and Judy Traub will be presenting our program live and on zoom to the Redemptive Life Church on February 23 and 24. Our contact, Everett Hamilton, Youth Pastor for the church, will be reaching out to other churches recommending our presentation. We will also be doing a zoom presentation to the FL Women's Foundation on March 2.

We will be participating in a community wide event Combatting Human Trafficking on Feb. 17 at 6 PM at Community of Hope, 2341 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach. We will have a table with information on our internet Safety presentation and Trafficked Teens. NCJW Members are welcome to attend and learn more about community effort

The Dignity Project

Submitted by Loe Goldwasser and Judy Traub

To date we have spent \$2400.00 for the Dignity Project in this fiscal year; that includes \$180 for Sanitary products that have been covered by the Quantum Grant. . We have had donations of about \$1,000 that I am aware of. in 2020-2021

We just received several hundred "kits" of personal care items from Federations' Jewish Volunteer Office. We will use the contents of those kits as much as possible for our Dignity Bags. The kits are currently in our second storage unit and we can take them as needed.

450 cinch backpacks were ordered from 4 Imprint at a total cost of \$506.04. 300 will be used for the Dignity Project, 50 for victims of Human Trafficking and 100 for Battered Women and young adults aging out of foster care

Advocacy

Submitted by Robin Sambur

We presented our Zoom Webinar - AntiSemitism Today. This presentation was brought and presented to us by JCRC. We had nearly 40 in attendance with a registration of more than twice that. This was a very professional, informative and inspiring presentation. Our Committee will remain focused on educating in this area and combating hate in all its forms.

We also remain dedicated to advocating in the area of Human Trafficking. Based on the strong work by Judy Traub and Elizabeth Harrison, we are working with our sister committee on Human Trafficking which will supply its own report.

Advocacy continues to struggle with appropriate programming and initiatives due to Covid. The pandemic continues to limit us in the type of work we are able to do.

Hopefully 2022 will see improvement.

Advocacy will have its first meeting in a few months and the first for the New Year just before this month's Board meeting. Robin will report on our meeting and anticipated direction for the year at the time.

Meals with a Cause (MAC)

Submitted by Debbie Mendelson

Breaking Bread at The Lewis Center

Due to the spreading of the Omicron variant, there were no volunteers serving dinners during the month of January. The two dinners we provided through Tuxedo Gourmet represented the ninth and tenth of the nineteen that were budgeted. Once we receive the all clear from Uwe, I will let volunteers know we need their smiling masked faces again!

Quantum House

Caren Feigenberg and her chefs added salads and desserts to Tuxedo's menu for the January 10 dinner. This was the sixth dinner of the budget year. Two lovely thank you notes were received from Quantum for the latest meal.

Holiday Bags

Nothing to report until Passover

Soup For the Soul–

Submitted by Laurie Alexander

We are continuing with our community volunteer efforts thru March 2022.

At the end of January all our Captains from Wycliffe, Riverwalk, Golden Lakes, Villaggio and Buena Vida will meet together over breakfast to discuss and get their requested bags and 3x5 cards for their community collection. Why not socialize , share information and have Laurie Alexander bring all the items needed to one place! We anticipate our 2nd year collection goal to exceed our first year of 5000. I believe, this year, Soup For The Soul will feed a total of 8000 Palm Beach County food insecure children and families! This act of kindness creates a “DO GOOD ...FEEL GOOD!!” feeling for all who participate!

In addition to our community collections, we have given, Chef Richard from Culinary Flair , enough funds from our donations to make 225 quarts of Lentil Vegetable Soup that will be distributed on Monday afternoon January 24th, by Deborah Morgan of Palm Beach Harvest and our NCJW volunteers. The “Boynton Angels” who have a food pantry that provides coordinated services for individuals and families in the heart of Boynton Beach, will be the recipients of this hearty, nutritious soup. One again, we are working with other organizations to meet the need to feed!

Now to our latest endeavor....Soup For Shabbat, a new program in partnership with Albert Jewish Family Services(JFS) to provide Matzo Vegetable Soup once a month to food and financially insecure Jewish families. These families currently receive monthly packages of grocery and household items from the JFS food pantry and now we can add a bag of ingredients to make Matzo Vegetable Soup, also delivered once a month , just in time for Shabbat. Our Board has approved this two month pilot program. A flyer introducing this program, asking for volunteers will be sent out shortly, to our membership. This program addresses the many requests, through the years, that our membership has raised...what does NCJW do for the Jewish community in Palm Beach County? Welcome “SOUP FOR SHABBAT!”

Pathways in Education

Submitted by Loe Goldwasser

Our Zoom Book Club continues meeting on the second Wednesday of the month from 4-5 p.m. With 9-12 participants, discussion is lively and informative. This past month we discussed the book *The Night Portrait* by Laura Morelli, which tells the story of a modest German woman art conservator who unwillingly becomes part of the Nazis stealing artwork and collectible items from Europeans during the war. Edith ,devastatingly, places one of Da Vinci's most famous portraits in the hands of The Butcher of Poland. Told in dual timelines, it's a riveting historical novel which enlightens us more about the role of The Monuments Men. This month, we'll venture into the heart of the Congo with a book *Out of Darkness/ Shining Light* by Petina Gappah. We'll be privy to the 1500 mile journey to carry the body of Dr. Livingstone to the coast to be buried in England. This book celebrates resilience, loyalty and love as

natives survive the hypocrisy of colonization. To join, I just need your name and email address. Notification of the zoom entry number is sent out the Monday before the discussion.

Heads Smart

Submitted by Marsha Rickles

Heads Smart is moving forward. We have two new volunteers and have developed lists of schools that we are targeting for our presentations. Thanks to Rita Young who sent us Fran Maher and JoAnne Bourne., who have already made calls on our behalf. As expected, the directors are not allowing programs for children or parents to be held in the schools, but they noted that we should touch base again at the end of February for possible March dates. We take this as very positive news!

By the time we are ready to activate our program, we will have new materials, including a Heads Smart banner, stickers, and brochures, printed in English and Spanish.

We are still waiting for our Helmet Fitter's certificates to arrive and will follow up with the appropriate administrator. Once we have our specific ID number, we will be able to order helmets and other resources from the state.

Ilene Leefer and I are still looking for other volunteers to set the stage before our opening night in the schools. Please contact us at

mrickles@gmail.com-Marsha

icleefer@aol.com-Ilene

Marsha Rickles-co-chair

LIFT

Submitted by Judy Traub

Lauren Corwin shopped for personal care items requested by Catholic Charities staff. Sanitary products were ordered from Amazon for delivery to Catholic Charities and Judy Traub delivered towels and cinch backpacks with our LIFT logo. Total spent this month: \$65.00 for personal care items and \$62.08 for sanitary items.

LIFT

Submitted by Sarajane Feinsilver

Ellen and myself have been to the storage facility 3 times to straighten up.. We had many items that were not really for the LIFT program. They were donated to Faith Farm.

Myself and Lesley went shopping for blankets and pillows.

As always we are looking for dishes ,pots and pans and suitcases.
Wanted to Thank all that have generously donated to Lift.Sarajane and Ellen.

LIFT - CHILD NET

Submitted by Anne Best and Sandi Winnick

We had prepared for a pick up for 8 children aging out of foster care. Two representatives came from CHILD NET for the pick up at the storage unit. They were so happy for this donation and extremely pleased with our organizational skills which enabled them to get everything into the 2 cars with ease. They could not thank us... praise us... and bless us... enough
It was a very rewarding experience.

Domestic Violence (Abused Women)

Aging Out and Vita Nova

KIDS Community Closet

Submitted by Susan Deitch

Socks and Underwear ordering was completed mid-January and shipments will be sent to the schools at the end of January and beginning of February.

Villaggio

Submitted by Susan Schwartz

CABARET NIGHT -

Joyce Kantrowitz - Chair

Communications and Social Media

Submitted by: Cathy Einhorn

Communications

Submitted by Helene Askinazi

Caridad Center

Submitted by Joyce Kantrowitz

ALK Scholarship

ALK Scholarship Fund

Many years ago, longer than anyone can remember, we were given a large sum of money from the Alk family to distribute \$300 per year to a nursing student. The

past few years we have been relying on South University to choose a deserving student to receive the gift from the Alk family. We are invited to their graduation or pinning ceremony (if either is live), have NCJW in their program and give us a few minutes to present the check as well as speak about NCJW.

Dr. Priscilla Bartolone, Program Director, College of Nursing & Public Health, with whom we have been relying on the past few years, has retired. Before she retired, she gave the task to her successor, Dr. Julia Canipe. Together they chose the next recipient, Ms. Marisella Readon. I will be contacting Ms. Readon and Dr. Canipe. d our commitment to distribute their funds will be fulfilled.

Rona Sterling

Minutes of NCJW Palm Beach Board Meeting – January 5, 2022

Attendees:

Susan Schwartz (facilitator), Linda Finkelstein, Rona Sterling, Helene Askinazi, Laurie Alexander, Sarajane Feinsilver, Ruth Resnek, Rita Young, Lynne Eisman, Sarah Rothschild, Sue Deitch, Sandi Winnick, Joanne Sininsky, Dianne Goldin, Sharon Hotchkiss, Loe Goldwasser, Debbie Mendelson, Gail Siegel, Sophie Berkner, Merle Bassin, Sandy Kaltman, Judy Traub, Carol Lubin, Cathy Einhorn, Robin Sambur, Stacy Tafeen, and Karen Asofsky

Meeting called to order at 9:33 am

Minutes of December, 2021 Board meeting approved with the addition of Ruth Resnek as an attendee

Debbie M. voted to approve

Gail Siegel seconded Motion passed

Treasurer's Report unavailable due to technical difficulties but we still have significant funds for operations.

The vote to accept the Treasurer's Report was tabled.

Susan S. thanked the treasurers for their hard work in sending out the refunds for our canceled events.

Presidents' reports:

Linda asked that we review the new norms we received in a previous email

Rona read a thank you from Loe G. regarding the support she received from Board members on the passing of her brother.

Meals With a Cause:

Debbie reported that although she has volunteers for our January meal service, the Covid outbreak makes this uncertain. She also mentioned that she needs servers for February, but this also depends on the Covid situation.

Laurie Alexander reviewed her proposal for *Soup for Shabbat*, an offshoot of our *Soup for the Soul* program which would be created in partnership with AJFCS. (Please see separate proposal emailed by Rona Sterling for details)

Discussion ensued regarding the viability of adding another program, the costs of the program, whether AJFCS would give us credit for the program, and the shrinking number of volunteers to draw from for our many meal programs. Debbie suggested we focus on non-gated communities, of which Laurie counted approximately 225 members.

Cost: would only include new bags and recipe cards which will be covered by a donation by The Bearman Foundation

Viability of another program:

- *Would meet the needs of the Jewish community, which our members have wanted for a very long time

- *Would be an opportunity to engage members who do not reside in gated communities

- *Only 50 bags would be needed per delivery, rather than an unlimited amount

- *Robin suggested that we look at this as an opportunity for coordination of programs rather than competition, as our goal to provide for the food insecure remains the same

- *Would need to design a communications tool

- *Perhaps send out a sign-up flyer to determine interest level

Sarah made a motion that the Board approve this program on a 2-month trial basis.

Dianne seconded the motion

Merle dissented

The motion passed

Rita introduced Karen Asofsky who will work with her and call new members to ascertain their interest level

Marsha Rickles reported through Rona that she desperately needs volunteers and that the program is not being supported as much as she had hoped

Laurie announced the nominations for the Slate of Officers for the 2021-2022 Executive Board

- *Rona will forward the slate to the current voting Board members to vote on passage

- *Following passage, it will be sent to the membership for approval

Sarajane F. announced that we serviced 17 women and 3 children through our LIFT program from January-December, 2021

Loe G. indicated that funds for the Dignity Project are running low

Linda F. spoke for Nadine and indicated that the in-person Literary Luncheon on February 17 was cancelled and that Susan S. would speak with the author to see whether she would do a Zoom event.

Also...a March 23rd Fashion Show has been tentatively scheduled at Seasons 52. However, she hesitates to go forward with a deposit considering the current Covid situation.

Robin S. announced that over 50 people have signed up for the January 13th Antisemitism event. Also, that she has been looking into an MLK Day of Service partner in the African American Community but has received no responses.

Communications:

- *There will be no January newsletter

- *Articles for the upcoming January/February newsletter are due **by January 19**

- *Please join our Facebook page by going to facebook.com/ncjwpalmbeach – you will see all the wonderful things we are doing for our community

- *Cathy will become a co-administrator for our Facebook and Instagram accounts as well as our website

- *Look for a new tab on our website, *Section Resources*, which will contain important documents from our Section (see Board report on this)

National Initiatives:

- *Dianne announced the cancellation of the Tallahassee abortion access rally

- *Dianne announced a virtual Repro Shabbat program for January 28 in partnership with Valencia Shores. This is part of our National 73Forward

campaign.

Administration:

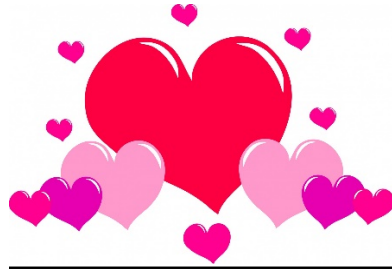
Merle announced that the tentative date for Installation is April 13 at Ironhorse, but hesitates to sign the contract due to Covid and financial issues. The presidents will discuss it further.

Sarah R. suggested that we should recreate an Evaluation Committee to outline criteria by which to judge the efficacy and finances of our programs. Susan suggested an email for sign-up for such a committee.

Judy announced that she helped organize a new member event at Wycliffe and showed our new video, which was well received. She purchased a projector to be used by our Section to create a movable program.

Laurie suggested we try to replicate this idea in the various communities. Rita agreed and will work to do this once Covid is no longer a major issue.

Judy moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00, with Sarajane seconding.



AGENDA for February 2, 2022 Board Meeting

- Call meeting to order
- Approve minutes from January 5, 2022
- Approve treasurers' report- Gail and Sophie
 - Explanation of donations from Board members
- Presidents' reports
 - Thank you notes and donation from Debbie
 - Mazel tov to our new board-elect
 - Evaluation forms deadline
- Membership-Rita- Introduce Susan Wolf Schwartz
- Membership- Lynne
- Administration- Merle/Sandi
 - Installation
- National Initiatives- Dianne
- Advocacy- Robin
- Human Trafficking- Judy
- Dignity Project- Judy and Loe
- Meals with a Cause- Debbie- Lewis Center and Quantum House
 - Let's Do Lunch- Merle

- Soup for the Soul and Soup for Shabbat- Laurie
- KCC- Sarah & Sue
- Heads Smart- Marsha and Ilene
- Communications- Helene
- Social Media- Cathy
- Corresponding Secretary- Lori
- LIFT- Sarajane, Sandi
- Grants- Linda
- Special Events- Nadine
- Birthday Project- Joanne
- Villaggio- Susan
- Old Business
- New Business
- Good and Welfare
- Adjournment

