

## PRESIDENT

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After just giving thanks for all that we are grateful for in our lives, and in anticipation of celebrating the Festival of Lights, the NCJW AZ board and I want to extend holiday wishes and our deep appreciation to all of you for supporting our fight for social justice. Whether through your generous donations or your boots on the ground involvement, we need you more than ever to help us build awareness and take action against a litany of injustices, including human trafficking, inhumane treatment of refugees, gun violence, gender and pay inequity, sexual and domestic violence, biased judges and voter suppression.

Under the weight of the daily news, it may seem as if we need a Maccabean Revolt to halt the unfolding onslaught. To paraphrase the age-old saying symbolized by the Hebrew letters on the Chanukah dreidel, the troubling times indeed call for “a great miracle to happen here.” We at NCJW AZ certainly are not miracle workers. But we do strive to improve the lives and safeguard the rights of women, children and families.

Many of you may be aware that we were on the ground floor establishing Jewish Family and Children’s Services, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program in Arizona and what is now the Child Crisis Center. Today, with gender-based violence against women and girls a global pandemic that affects 1 in 3 women in their lifetime, [Click Here](#) we are responding to urgent needs like the total absence of comprehensive rape crisis centers in this state. Together with Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, we are working to establish a prototype facility with a full range of medical, counseling and legal services for rape victims. Similarly, we hope to collaborate with JFCS to expand legal assistance within their Shelters Without Walls program for domestic violence victims.

To fully develop significant programs like these, we are building our ranks and our infrastructure. Not only do we continue to attract new members, but our monthly general meetings are drawing larger and larger crowds. After our recent program featuring Arizona’s Secretary of State Katie Hobbs, someone said, “You are the hottest game in town.” We urge you to join our social action task forces, our community service projects and contribute to our new fundraising campaign so we can continue to grow and evolve as major players in the progressive community. *Chag Sameach* and a healthy, productive, inspiring and transformative 2020.