

## ► A Message From Our President

*by Dr. Lisa Raufman, President*



In my previous President's message I mentioned that National NCJW, Inc was asking our Section to adapt to a "National New Business Model". We could be facing what we thought might be "disruptive" change. However, NCJW, Inc is looking to prepare us to become a stronger, unified National "Movement" for creating positive change in the lives of women, children, and families. I am representing us on a National "Section Working Group" (expect more details in the next Pillars), hoping to turn a challenging change into an innovative transition into the future!

Thus my theme in wishing you a happy productive new year: "Let's Mobilize Our Collective Light as We Face an Age of Disruption." In today's rapidly changing world, we find ourselves navigating a world undergoing constant transformation. With the rise of artificial intelligence and automation, disruption is now a defining characteristic of our lives. I often feel like I am constantly catching on and catching up! However, perspective matters: disruption can bring uncertainty, but also offer immense opportunities for growth, innovation, and change. Looking to both the past and our cultural values, we can find the light to guide us through these challenging times and to improve our personal lives and society at large.

The story of Chanukah offers a powerful metaphor for the challenges we face today. Over two thousand years ago, the Jewish people overcame oppression and reclaimed our sacred space, the Temple in Jerusalem, from foreign rulers. The miracle of the oil, which burned for eight days despite having only enough for one, symbolizes hope, resilience, and the power of light in a time of darkness. In the midst of overwhelming odds, the Jewish people found strength and unity, turning a moment of crisis into one of celebration and renewal!

My optimism is influenced by my faith and a diverse group of "influencers" discussing disruption as a defining theme of our age. These disruptions challenge traditional norms and demand adaptability. Yet, like the Maccabees who fought to preserve their traditions in the face of external forces, we can embrace these changes with purpose and innovation. The key is not to fear disruption, but to understand its potential and harness it to create a better future.

Ironically, astrological perspectives also align with this idea of transformative change. For example, the movements of planets such as Uranus in Taurus (2018-2026) are believed to herald shifts in financial systems, values, and material goods. Astrologers suggest that these are part of a cosmic cycle that opens the door for new ways of thinking and being.

All of this can be seen as an opportunity to rethink societal structures, focus on sustainability, and develop more compassionate, interconnected systems. Just as the Maccabees found new purpose in reclaiming their sacred space, we can use these disruptions to redefine what matters most—our values, relationships, and the world we wish to build.

Jewish values play a crucial role in guiding me and NCJW. The principles of *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world), *Tzedakah* (justice and charity), and *Ahavat Chesed* (loving-kindness) offer clear directives for how we should approach the challenges and opportunities.

## **A Message From Our President...continued** *by Dr. Lisa Raufman, President*

Rather than retreating into fear or competition, Jewish teachings urge us to act with empathy, to collaborate, and to contribute positively prioritizing human dignity, social equity, and collective well-being. The idea of *Tikkun Olam* encourages us to view our actions as part of a larger effort to repair the world. Through community engagement and social action we can channel the energy of disruption to build a world that reflects our highest ideals.

The teachings of *Tzedakah* remind us that justice should be at the heart of our responses to disruption where we work to ensure that these changes benefit everyone, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable. The value of *Ahavat Chesed* further calls on us to extend kindness and support to others, ensuring that no one is left behind in the face of transformation.

We have the opportunity to face change not as a threat, but as an invitation for growth and improvement. By living according to the Jewish values of justice, kindness, and collective responsibility, we can transform these disruptive times into a period of renewal, building a brighter, more compassionate future for ourselves and for the world. I especially thank our Board of Directors for their dedication to service to NCJW! And I hope you will appreciate how I learned to use AI (Chat GPT) to write the poem on the next page.

May We All Be the Light We Wish to See in the World.

### **Summary of New Initiatives**

Our Section has fortunately maintained much continuity between our 2023 and 2024 Board members. However, we are conducting business a bit differently with the influence of our National Board making changes in their 3 year plan for 2023-2026. We started in 2022 to raise funds for our special projects such as Comfort Kits and HugPacks by working with "Long Beach Gives". Now, we have a strong mailing list and are relying on loyal donors to fund these programs. We also were lucky enough to receive \$25,000 from Shir Chadash Foundation for the HugPacks project as you will read about on page 8 in this issue of Pillars.

We were also blessed with \$15,000 from Shir Chadash Foundation that are being earmarked for increasing the number of scholarships we will be able to provide to Jewish students going to trade schools, community colleges and universities. As you will read in another report, we hope to award at least 10 students by May 1st.

There are three big changes to how we functioned this year:

- Giving to Jewish Family and Children Services \$35,000 to help them purchase a van that provides various transportation needs, including airport pickups, to immigrant refugees arriving in Orange County, as well as provide rides to seniors to attend events at the Alpert JCC. As you can see from some photos in this Pillars, the new van has our Section name on it, and we are very proud that we can help with this ongoing need.
- This year we are not charging dues for membership due to a National recommendation. We hope that given our regular "Advocacy Eblasts" and Section News/Events Eblasts, more people will join and participate in our events. Did you know that over 50 people regularly pack AbortionComfort Kits and 24+ volunteers regularly pack for HugPacks? National is providing us with more templates for advocating for women and children's needs. Stay posted for our promotions. And thank you for supporting us!
- Instead of a regular Membership Luncheon with a speaker, we decided to recognize our long-time contributors through a L'Dor V'Dor Tribute Luncheon. We hope to continue to recognize and meet with our wonderful elders. Enjoy reading the article by Laurie Arroyo in this Pillars.

**Lisa**



## LIGHT IN THE AGE OF DISRUPTION

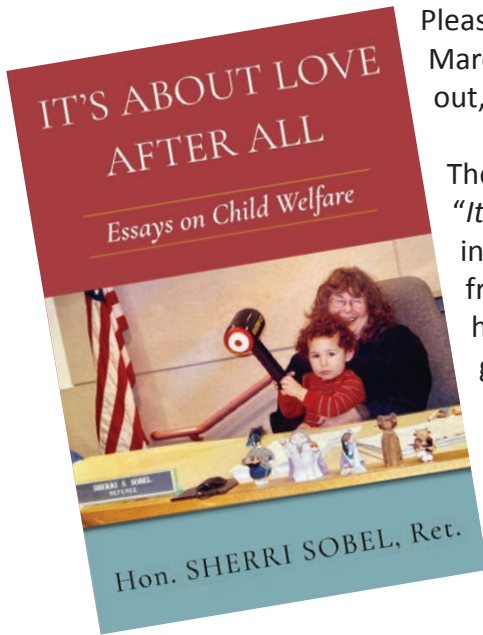
*by Dr. Lisa Raufman, President*

The question I posed for those who want to try ChatGPT: give me a positive poem about Light, Jewish Values, Unity, Interconnectedness and Social Consciousness during this “age of disruption”

In the age of chaos, when shadows fall,  
A flicker of light still answers the call.  
Through the noise, through the storm, we find  
The light of truth, the peace of mind.  
From ancient wisdom, our hearts are fed,  
Jewish values guide where others have fled.  
Tzedakah, justice, and love in stride,  
Together we walk, with hands open wide.  
In times of fracture, we still remain,  
Bound by a light that breaks the chain.  
Unity calls, a thread so strong,  
We rise together, where we belong.  
The world is changing, fast and deep,  
Yet the light we share is ours to keep.  
In every act, in every thought,  
We weave the change that we’ve been taught.  
Through Tikkun Olam, we heal the broken,  
Each act of kindness, a word unspoken.  
In each small gesture, a spark does grow,  
Igniting the world with the light we know.  
We are connected, each and all,  
In the dance of life, we rise, we fall.  
But through it all, we shine as one,  
In unity, the work’s never done.  
So let us be the light that shines,  
In this age of disruption, where darkness aligns.  
With courage, with love, let us stand tall,  
For we are the light that can heal us all.



► **SHIRLEY STEIN BOOK REVIEW:**  
***IT'S ABOUT LOVE AFTER ALL***  
*by Natalie Swit, Co-VP Programs*



Please join us for our annual Shirley Stein Book Review and luncheon on Sunday, March 2nd, from 11:30 am to 2 pm, at The Grand! Details are still being worked out, but watch for announcements so that you can register.

The Honorable Sherri Sobel, retired, wrote this about her wonderful book: “*It’s About Love After All: Essays on Child Welfare* is a book about my 35 years in child welfare. These stories about families run the gamut of emotions—from funny to sad to exasperating. In these pages, you will find out what happens behind courtroom doors as well as read about abuse, rehabilitation, generational cycles, and poverty.”

Most people know little about what happens in dependency court. You’ll learn what happens behind the courtroom doors; sit on the bench with the judge as she shares the hard work involved in protecting the most vulnerable population. Be inspired to think about what you can do to help families that are part of the American village.

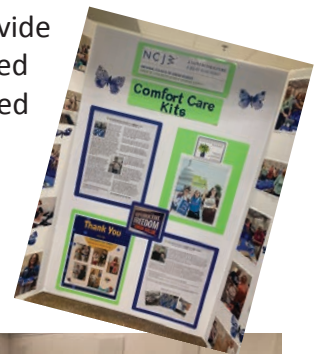


► **ABORTION COMFORT KITS**  
*by Andrea Friedenthal, Co-chair*

Imagine 70+ women of like mind and spirit, gathered in one place for one purpose: To provide abortion comfort kits to women traveling here from other states for an abortion. We packed 400 kits in less than an hour, wrote encouraging cards to harassed medical providers, shared wine and conversation and snacks (well, it WAS dinner time!)

We had a ‘Cope with the new political climate’ and ‘take care of yourself’ meditation where we practiced self-soothing. Our Courageous Conversation speaker was a woman who worked her way through medical school, had 3 children (and a husband!), and chose not to have a 4th child, way back in the 60’s. Planned Parenthood spoke on current efforts in the new political climate, and Resister Sisters shared upcoming events. We also had visitors from the League of Women Voters who want to join our efforts, and women educators from Kappa Epsilon who want to join forces. Feminist Rising closed the night with a rousing cheer and video with all of us shouting “Biden, sign the ERA!” which they sent to President Biden.

Now, aren’t you sorry you didn’t go? Come join the fun!  
 Next one is Tuesday, March 11, at Alpert JCC. Sign up by emailing [communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org).



## ► UNDER THE SUKKAH!

by Linda C. Fox, Community Service

On Sunday October 20, 2025, despite not assembling as advertised “under the sukkah” at the Alpert JCC (the sukkah space was too warm but held rather in the Senior Lounge) our event had its own warm and welcoming atmosphere, although our guest speakers were looking forward to experiencing time in the JCC sukkah!

Cosponsored by Membership and Community Service, members and guests got the opportunity to socialize and interact with our two very engaging speakers who joined us for lunch: Justin Mendez, Director of Long Beach City College’s Basic Needs Program (LBCC) and Devi Archarya, Director of Communications and Marketing for the agency Christian Outreach in Action (COA). Both presenters educated us about their agencies’ ongoing efforts to meet the needs of their respective populations.

COA has a variety of programs that serve all groups of people; we had designated our effort as a *Tikkun Olam* project revolving around the donation of diapers. COA has a diaper bank every Friday from 1-3 pm at their location of Linden and 3rd St. in Long Beach, where they hand out diapers to 125-150 mothers who line up with their young children. Diapers are also an important commodity for LBCC’s Basic Needs Program that serves student parents with small children. Both speakers were able to take the many donated boxes of diapers and wipes, due to the generosity

of attendees who brought many boxes of diapers of varying sizes and baby wipes. Community Service hopes to conduct a drive-through collection at the Alpert JCC parking lot in the spring to again contribute to these two organizations in our community that are experiencing such great and urgent need for diapers, the project so fitting for our mission of improving the quality of life for women, children and families. Look for future announcements!



Community Service would like you to know as well that through tikkun olam budget allocations, in September our Section was able to donate \$1400 worth of food and gas cards to LBCC’s Basic Needs Program so that homeless students who are permitted to sleep in a “safe space” parking lot on campus overnight might buy gas for their cars and some snacks at the neighborhood Von’s.

Section cosponsors Membership and Community Service so appreciate your support of “Under the Sukkah.” YOU made a difference for those who struggle in our community, and with your support NCJW will continue to help the most vulnerable women, children, and families to the extent of our capacity. Engaging in mitzvot is a Jewish value, and we are commanded to do no less.

Contact [communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org) if you would like to volunteer.



 **L'DOR V'DOR**  
*by Laurie Arroyo, VP Membership*



What a wonderful afternoon of talking and listening, catching up with friends and making new ones at the Alpert JCC. As we settled into our places to the lilting songs and music of Second Wind, some NCJW members could be found dancing in the aisles.

Michelle Winterstein, Executive Director of For The Child, explained that for over 50 years FTC has been serving abused children and their families, providing both home- and school-based therapy to children with no insurance and no ability to pay. It currently provides services to around 150 families and 400 children. Our donations of over \$1100 from this event bought grocery gift cards and holiday meals for over 700 people.



Linda Waltzman told us stories of her mother Romi Temkin's (z"l) many NCJW activities. Sylvia Manheim, Ann Millman, and Miriam Carr told stories of the thrift shop and how it obviated the need for fundraising. Ann explained we finally closed the shop at 3rd and Long Beach Blvd. when the City needed our space to make room for redevelopment.



Sherri Sobel and Barbara Millman had stories of advocacy; Barbara remembered meeting CA Senator Barbara Boxer who was so busy that, rather than meet in her office, she invited them to take the Capitol Subway with her on her way to her next engagement. As an advocate for NCJW-supported causes, what she remembers most was the thrill of being with a group of women with the relatively same backgrounds and enthusiasm for their cause walking through the halls of the legislature – the rooms where it happens. Sue Milkes talked about enjoying the book group.



Linda Fox had stories about working with the Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force. Judy Leff mentioned the HIPPY program, which provided classes and support materials for parents to enable them to teach their own preschoolers. Judy added that the goal of much of our work is to identify unmet needs, start a program and then turn it over to others to run.



Stella Ungar and Dale Blessing remembered the Sunday Branch, which gave NCJW's working members an opportunity to get together to share their lives and their passions. Stella moved from Germany to Indiana in 1938 and then to Long Beach in 1982, finding NCJW's Sunday Branch to be, at last, a place to belong as a Jewish person.



Binnie Berro, who was not able to attend, wrote about when she and Corrine and Ted Van Boemel used to drive around picking up donations. Binnie and Corrine called themselves the "Mother Truckers." Quoting Binnie Berro from her written statement: " We are all heroes. And we owe a debt of gratitude to Council for giving us the opportunity to make the world a better place. And don't forget – there is work to be done, so let's get to it!"

*Thanks to Linda Fox, Natalie Swit, Judy Leff, Bobbi Horowitz, Michelle Sztraicher and Lisa Raufman for their help in developing the program plus Chana Ham-Rosebrock for helping to make it happen. Thanks to Paul Levitt and Riley Landrum for technical support.*

*And don't forget – There is work to be done, so let's get to it!*

## ▶ ANNUAL CHANUKAH PARTY *by Eve Perlman, Member*

Our NCJW sisters knocked it out of the park yet again this year with the annual Chanukah Party hosted by Judy Leff. Great attendance, great food and great camaraderie was had by all! Chanukah decorations, interesting conversations along with traditional holiday treats and delectable dishes welcomed all who partook.

No better way to celebrate this time of year than to make new connections and renew friendships in an atmosphere of Jewish ambience.



## ▶ HUGPACKS DOES IT AGAIN AMID MANY BLESSINGS

*by Linda Fox, Community Service*

On November 7th, two dozen volunteers came together to prepare 160 hugpacks, filled with personal items, hygiene items, socks, brushes and combs, school supplies, a book and a fuzzy toy to lift spirits, among other things, for grades Kindergarten through high school foster youth. This was the second packing of the current fiscal year. We are blessed to have enough remaining financial resources from the most generous gift of \$25,000 on November 7, 2023 from Congregation Shir Chadash to fund the project for this fiscal year. The HugPacks Project has completed four packings since the date of the gift, with two more yet to come, for a total of six events funded by the generosity of Shir Chadash.



Furthermore, funds from this gift also allowed NCJW to partner with the South County LA County DCFS to present in February 2024 “A Dinner With Love” for client families of the agency, held at the Alpert JCC, with the objective of family bonding. Over 100 family members were in attendance—half of the attendees were children who enjoyed games, a photo booth, and a chicken dinner—and the delicious cupcakes were a hit too! In July 2024, HugPacks funded a station at Dec My Dorm, an event for approximately 150 18-year-old foster youth headed to college. The event’s major sponsor was the organization Connecting a Caring Community. Truly this activity was right up our alley in support of these foster youth who made it through high school graduation. In a “fair” or “festival” atmosphere, many sponsored tables filled the room with new items to be chosen by these college bound graduates for their dorm rooms. Our table showcased beautiful, solid water bottles for the taking. Approximately 25 of these young people were headed to Cal State Long Beach, and so in August several NCJW volunteers got the opportunity to help with the students’ move onto campus. The amazing gift from Shir Chadash blessed the HugPacks Project for the better part of two fiscal years, and we are so very grateful for their generosity!



An additional blessing we have continued to receive for each of the last 5 years, including 2025, is a grant from the Long Beach Rotary Foundation and their Read By 9 program for nonprofits to buy the books for HugPacks for our infant/toddler/preschool and elementary grade students through 5th grade. This allows us to concentrate on funding books for our middle school and high school students, since recipients of all ages—even the infants and toddlers—get a book of their own placed in their hugpacks! And

let’s not forget the year-after-year donation of dental supplies by the Children’s Dental Health Clinic of Long Beach that go into every child’s hugpack as well!

One final acknowledgement: we are incredibly blessed by the amazing co-chair of this project, Sara Millman Silva, along with several of her staff members from Compton YouthBuild, who spend so many hours for each and every packing, acquiring, organizing, transporting and setting up all the materials at the JCC that go into making the project a true joy for all those who participate. We appreciate all the love and support you offer to NCJW on behalf of the foster youth community, just as we are very grateful for those who come to pack with us.

Two more packings round out the NCJW 2024-2025 fiscal year: Thursday March 13th, and Thursday April 24th at the Alpert JCC, 6 pm-7:30 pm, so mark your calendars! If you would like to volunteer, please email [communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org) two days in advance. Hope to see you there!



## ► RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

by Roberta Friedman, VP Resource Development



Happy New Year! The winter holidays have just ended and another year is just beginning. Hopefully you had a wonderful, relaxing holiday season, and are looking forward to a happy, healthy, and less stressful 2025.

You recently received (or will soon receive) a letter about our “Winter Holiday” Hanukkah campaign, requesting donations for our various funds and projects. The word “Hanukkah” means “dedication” and is known as the Festival of Lights. Having celebrated during the darkest time of the year, and with the holiday

extending into the new year, a time of new beginnings and hope, this is the perfect opportunity to dedicate ourselves to continued support for those who are still in darkness, and to advocacy for the rights of all.

Your donations to our various funds and projects make a difference! As we were celebrating, and preparing for the new year and the challenges that still face us, NCJW-GLB&WOC continued to care for the women, children and families in our community. With your support, we supplied financial support and toys for youth in foster care, packed Abortion Comfort Kits, engaged in Get Out the Vote activities, learned about human trafficking, and more.

And there will be numerous opportunities coming up in the next couple months to make a difference in our community, e.g. HugPacks, Abortion Comfort Kits, and Early Learning & Kindergarten Festivals. Know that we sincerely appreciate all your donations and participation that support these programs and events. As you read through this issue, you will learn more about how much we have accomplished in the last couple months.

Please continue to contribute to one or more of our funds to support all these ongoing projects and programs. These funds include:

- Abortion Comfort Kits Fund
- Abortion Justice & Reproductive Rights Advocacy Fund
- Addressing Anti-Semitism/Hate Advocacy Fund
- Barbara Shipnuck Women’s Advocacy Fund
- Chai Donation for Life Members
- College Student Health & Welfare Fund
- Denise Berro Kindergarten Festival Fund
- Domestic Violence Fund
- Homelessness Assistance Fund
- HugPack Fund
- Immigrant Services Fund
- Linda Calderón Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Senior Outreach Fund

To find out more about each fund, please go to our website, [ncjwlongbeach.org](http://ncjwlongbeach.org), click on “donate” or “tribute,” and then give what you can to support NCJW’s vital work on the issues that mean the most to you.

**Thank you so much for all your continued support.** Wishing everyone a wonderful, bright New Year.



## ► LBUSD 2025 EARLY LEARNING AND KINDERGARTEN FESTIVALS

by Lisa Robinson, NCJW Chair

NCJW will participate in the two Long Beach Early Childhood Education Committee and Long Beach Unified School District's Early Learning and Kindergarten Festivals (ELK) on January 11th at Barton Elementary and on March 8th at Alvarado Elementary in Long Beach. We provide volunteers and funds from NCJW's Denise Berro Kindergarten Festivals Fund toward the backpacks that families receive after attending 2 workshops.

The women and men of NCJW are an integral part of the 2025 Kindergarten Festivals. Our volunteers work at a welcome table and the registration tables helping families register and pick up information. Early Learning and Kindergarten Festivals are for families with children ages birth to 5 years old. Families of all incoming 2025-2026 Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) students can learn about LBUSD enrollment and school readiness.

Parents learn about early childcare preschool and encouraging school readiness.

Our volunteers are so helpful, patient, and kind to the parents and children. Volunteers arrive between 8 and 8:30 am and leave by noon. You may be meeting Long Beach Police officers, who are very popular with the children because of their badge stickers, and meeting the members of the Long Beach Fire Department who bring a fire engine to the school for children to explore.

We so enjoy meeting the other volunteers, working with the families and staff. Hope you'll join us for any or all of the 2025 ELK Festivals on January 11th at Barton

Elementary and on March 8th at Alvarado Elementary in Long Beach.

Contact [communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org) if you would like to volunteer.



## ► JFCS VAN PURCHASE!

*An example of embracing the change, our Board has expanded both our giving and our writing for new monies and asking for specific donations instead of depending on membership dues. And we have been rewarded. We allocated \$35,000 for Jewish Family and Children's Services for a bigger cause: they were able to purchase a van that can transport newly arrived immigrants to their new homes.*



## ▶ ABORTION JUSTICE AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS WORKING GROUP

*by Cynthia Gordon and Sherri Sobel, Advocacy Co-Chairs*

As part of Advocacy, we have an active and dedicated Abortion Justice and Reproductive Rights Working Group. One of our priority issues concerns Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) and the misinformation they disseminate in Long Beach and the surrounding area.



We're working with our City Council toward developing a local ordinance, similar to one passed in Los Angeles in 2022. The thrust of the ordinance is to stop these CPCs, historically Christian and opposed to abortion, from falsely advertising that they are full-service pregnancy counseling centers. We see this as an important part of our mission for protection of women's health rights. Back in June we hosted a film and speaker presentation about CPCs for our membership. We hope to schedule additional film screenings with other groups, to spread the word and educate people about these "fake" clinics.

A second issue related to CPCs has to do with the individuals who perform ultrasounds on patients in these clinics. We'd like to see California require them to be certified or licensed, as they must be in four other states. Our committee is actively researching and planning how we might work with our local State representatives to pass the requisite legislation.

Our continuing action partner is the Abortion Comfort Kits project managed by Community Service, where needed items are provided to our partner abortion care providers, who then distribute them to women having abortions at their clinics. We're also in the program planning stage for the next NCJW-sponsored Repro Shabbat on February 21-22, 2025. We are working with the clergy at Temple Israel and local churches to identify potential speakers. Save the dates!

Lastly, at this time, we continue to try to facilitate "Courageous Conversations," and to talk honestly and openly about our choices, including abortion. **As you can see, we have a lot going on. We welcome interested members to join us! We meet monthly on Zoom, the second Wednesday at 1 pm.**



## ▶ NATIONAL NCJW HOSTING WASHINGTON INSTITUTE

*by Lisa Raufman, President*

**Sunday, May 18 to Tuesday, May 20**



Plan for an impactful few days, including lobby visits with members of Congress, a celebration, and opportunities to learn and lead.

NCJW-GLB & WOC will reimburse for travel and a hotel room if you are willing to share. We ask in return for a commitment to serve on the Board or to chair a committee/taskforce in the following year! If you'd like to learn more, contact us at [info@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:info@ncjwlongbeach.org).

## ► CALENDAR OF ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

No need to miss another event! Here is a calendar listing of upcoming events to ensure that everyone is well-informed of future events and you can mark any (or all!) upcoming events on your calendar. In addition, these events are usually posted on our [website](#) where you can easily RSVP. Please note that many of our events **require** an RSVP for security purposes. We look forward to a busy but fun three months ahead and hope to see you at one or more of the upcoming events.



- **1/8/2025** – Advocacy Committee Meeting, 1 pm via Zoom.  
Email [advocacy@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:advocacy@ncjwlongbeach.org).
- **1/11/2025** – Early Learning & Kindergarten Festival, Barton Elementary School. Arrive between 8 and 8:30 am, leave by noon. [RSVP](#) on website or email [communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org).
- **1/16/2025** – Movie Night, “*Diane von Furstenberg: Woman in Charge*.” Arrive at 6:45 PM and movie will begin @7 PM at a member’s home. You will receive the address of the home after you RSVP. [RSVP](#) on website or email [programs@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:programs@ncjwlongbeach.org).
- **2/2/2025** – *Flowers Aren’t Enough*, a one-woman play by Naomi Ackerman. 2 pm at AJCC.  
RSVP on Alpert JCC’s [website](#).
- **2/21–2/22/2025** – Repro Shabbat. Temple Israel. Email [advocacy@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:advocacy@ncjwlongbeach.org) for more information.
- **2/27/2025** – Movie Night, “*PLAN C*.” Arrive at 6:45 PM and movie will begin @7 PM at a member’s home. You will receive the address of the home after you RSVP. [RSVP](#) on website or email [programs@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:programs@ncjwlongbeach.org).
- **3/2/2025** – Shirley Stein Book Review: *It’s About Love After All* by Sherri Sobel. 11:30 am at The Grand. Watch for more information on our website and in your emails!
- **3/8/2025** – Early Learning & Kindergarten Festival, Alvarado Elementary School. Arrive between 8 and 8:30 am, leave by noon. Email [communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org).
- **3/11/2025** – Abortion Comfort Kit Packing, AJCC, 6–7:30 pm. Email [communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:communityservice@ncjwlongbeach.org).



## ► WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

NCJW is always looking for new members! Many of our activities are opportunities to introduce new people to the programs of NCJW – Greater Long Beach and West Orange County. We can all be recruiters by encouraging our friends and family to attend our programs. Please welcome our newest members when you see them.



Please welcome our newest members!

*Ettie Councilman  
Lynne Katz  
Aostara Kaye  
Ann Mantel  
Rivkah Mirski*



National Council of Jewish Women

GREATER LONG BEACH &  
WEST ORANGE COUNTY

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### NCJW Executive Committee

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**Lisa Raufman**

Executive VP  
**Rochelle (Cookie) Sieger**

Immediate Past President  
**María Osorio**

VP Communications  
**Dale Strok**

Co-VP Resource Development  
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Co-VP Programs  
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VP Membership  
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**Dawn Haldane**  
**Joanne Levy**

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**Judith Leff**

Recording Secretary  
**Judith Leff**

Corresponding Secretary  
**Deborah Kaplan-Wyckoff**

## ▶ **TRIBUTES AND CONTRIBUTIONS** *by Joanne Levy, Treasurer*

We thank everyone who has made [donations](#) to NCJW projects! Your generosity helps us to do our good work in the community. A reminder: when making a donation to a specific project, you can designate that it be made as a [tribute](#) in honor or memory of a specific individual, who will then be notified of the donation made in their name. Below are donations received through November 30th.



### **ABORTION COMFORT KITS FUND**

*Sharon Eshett  
Sherie Winston  
Patrice Wong  
Katherine Karp  
Kathleen Thurmond*

### **FOR THE CHILD**

*Elyce Vander Broecke  
Kathryn McDermott  
Susan Fischback  
Gary Fields  
Linda Fox  
Dale Strok x2  
Joanne/Jerry Levy  
Michael Martin  
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### **SUSTAINING MEMBERS MONTHLY DONATIONS**

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### **TRIBUTES**

***From Barbara Millman to the Linda Calderón Scholarship Fund:***

*In Memory of her sister-in-law, Linda Sharff.*

***From Peggy Paddock and Mark Gates to the Abortion Comfort Kit Fund:***

*In memory of Sue Shapiro. She will be missed.*

***From Joanne and Jerry Levy to the General Fund:***

*In memory of Bill Millman. May his memory be a blessing always.*

### **TRIBUTE FUNDS**

|                                             |                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Addressing Anti-Semitism/Hate Advocacy Fund | Abortion Justice and Reproductive Rights Advocacy Fund |
| General Fund                                | Abortion Comfort Kits Fund                             |
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