



Pictured above: State Senator Mark Leno and NCJW-SF Board members Robin Brasso and Linda Kurtz.

Celebrating 40 years of Roe v Wade

SF women's rights advocates joined forces on January 26, 2013 for an inspiring morning on Justin Herman Plaza celebrating women, life and liberty! NCJW San Francisco, along with Contra Costa section members, showed support in honor of 40 years of the right to choose.

The bad news: This is no time to rest on any laurels. The opponents of reproductive choice are working harder than ever at restricting access to safe, affordable abortion and family planning options.

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NCJW President Antonia Lavine's Report on the 2013 Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign

Over the last seven years, through excellent leadership and collaboration with the partners from the Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking (JCEHT), our section's anti-trafficking team became an important liaison to the local government and non-governmental field committed to ending human trafficking and exploitation. Together with our partners from JCEHT, our team has once again played a significant role in the 3rd annual Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign held by the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCaHT) during the officially recognized by the San Francisco lawmakers Human Trafficking Awareness Month. The month of special events highlighting Anti – Trafficking educational programs and advocacy efforts begins on January 11 (National Human Trafficking Awareness Day) and concludes February 12th (Abraham Lincoln's Birthday).

As part of the preparation for the city-hosted event on January 15, the Jewish Coalition organized the nomination and selection process for the SFCaHT 2013 Modern Day Abolitionist. The 2013 recipients of the awards, Cindy Liou, staff attorney at Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, and Jaida Im, Founder and Executive Director of Freedom House, were presented the award by Mayor Ed Lee at this kick-off event for the SFCaHT Awareness campaign at City Hall. In attendance were a number of NCJW-SF members and Board members. Nancy Goldberg, in her capacity of SFCaHT Co-Chair, opened the ceremony, highlighting the Jewish Coalition's role in the creation of the Collaborative. Nancy is currently the President of Jewish Family and Children's Services and has served for many years (including this year) on the NCJW-SF Nominating Committee.

On January 23, the Jewish Coalition presented a screening of "Not My Life," a documentary showing human trafficking, particularly against children, as a global phenomenon in modern times. More than 50 community members and Jewish Coalition's fellows attended the film screening and learned about modern day slavery from this global-scale depiction of the human trafficking horrifying practices. After the screening, the audience was addressed by the event's featured speakers, Jason Fox, Commanding Officer of the San Francisco Police Department's Special Victims Unit and Jaida Im, the Founder and Executive director of Freedom House. Our respected member and JCRC's current President, Jerilyn Gelt was the event moderator. Nancy Goldberg spoke about the Jewish Coalition's creation and role in the local anti-trafficking community. The screening was held in partnership with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and the attending UNICEF representative was impressed with our community's commitment to spreading the accurate, alarming information to the broader community in hopes of eradicating trafficking here and abroad.

I am proud to report also that this year the reach of our anti-trafficking work has been expanded to the Peninsula through the effort of another committed and passionate NCJW SF member, Marlene Levenson. Through her networks, Marlene has been tireless in reaching out to the congregations and communities on the Peninsula to promote our anti-trafficking program. Stay tuned for upcoming anti-trafficking events in Los Altos Hills and San Mateo.

Learn more about the JCEHT's mission and work from our newly published brochure, or at the NCJWSF and JCRC websites. Full credit goes to Candice Gold and Jerilyn Gelt for the creation of the brochure, and to Nancy Goldberg and JFCS for the print sponsored by all four liaisons of the JCEHT's founding organizations. Contact info@ncjwsf.org to request a copy or stop by the office during business hours on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW NCJW MEMBERS

Julie Bernstein

Linda Janourova-Tang

Tessa Wells

AND THANK MEMBERS

Michelle Patterson

Valentine Thaler

for becoming NCJW LIFE MEMBERS

How to contact the NCJW-SF Section

Our office is located at 2000 Van Ness Ave, Ste 411, San Francisco, CA 94109. **Tel:** 415-346-4600, **Email:** info@ncjwsf.org.

Please visit our website www.ncjwsf.org for updates. You can also 'Like' our Facebook Page, **National Council of Jewish Women San Francisco Section** or follow us on Twitter **@NCJW_SF**. Janice Prudhomme is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am-5pm, and can be reached at jprudhomme@ncjwsf.org. If you have any questions, please contact us!

News or *naches* to share? Our next newsletter submission deadline is May 3, 2013

By Next Generations Chair and Board Member, Laura Rumpf

Next Generations is excited to be kicking off its first month of meeting as a group during an action-packed month for women’s rights advocacy. We plan to be a visible presence at the upcoming One Billion Rising event on February 14 at San Francisco City Hall to honor V-Day's 15th Anniversary. We hope to join a large crowd in advocating for ending violence against women worldwide through dance!

Later in the month, Next Generations will host its first “house meeting”, a spirited gathering in the home of one of our members, where all new participants will be invited to weigh in about the NCJW issues that most interest them. The meeting will help shape the advocacy agenda of the group for the coming year. We plan to host house meetings on a regular basis at which we would feature inspirational local female speakers who are engaged in the issues we identify as our top interests this year.

In other exciting news, two of the group’s new members, Julie Bernstein and Tessa Wells, were awarded full scholarships by NCJW, Inc. to attend the Washington Institute in Washington DC, from March 17-19th.

Says Wells “I am thrilled to be attending Washington Institute...and I am looking forward to meeting with other NCJW members to learn about issues facing our country and Israel. I am interested to learn about new ways to advocate for social justice interests affecting women, children and families throughout the United States and speaking to members of Congress.” Stay tuned for an update from Tessa and Julie about their experience there.

For more information about Next Generations, or to be involved in our upcoming planning meeting, please contact Laura Rumpf: lrumpf@jcrc.org

[Editors Note: Next Generations is a Section within the SF Section, with programming and advocacy initiatives led by and for younger NCJW-SF members. NCJW Inc. (aka “National”) offered financial aid scholarship opportunities to first time Washington Institute attendees under the age of 45. We are so excited and grateful that Julie Bernstein and Tessa Wells’ applications were chosen for full scholarship awards!]

DATES TO NOTE

<p>February Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month</p> <p>February 5 (20th) Anniversary of the Family Medical Leave Act</p> <p>February 6 International Day Against Female Genital Mutilation</p> <p>February 14 One Billion Rising V-DAY</p> <p>February 15 Susan B. Anthony Day</p>	<p>February 18 Presidents' Day</p> <p>February 24 Purim</p> <p>March Women's History Month</p> <p>March 8 International Women’s Day</p> <p>March 17-19 NCJW's Washington Institute</p>	<p>March 25 International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery</p> <p>March 26 -April 2 Passover <i>NCJW offices will be closed March 26</i></p> <p>May 9 (subject to change) Restorative Justice lunch program at the Women’s Resource Center</p> <p>June 30 Annual Meeting Luncheon</p>
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Stay tuned for news of NCW State Public Advocacy (SPA) Lobby Day in Sacramento, which will be happening in early May

by Leslie Levitas

Upcoming Programs: Women's Community Theater

The NCJW San Francisco Section has identified one of our areas of Social Justice programming for the current year as Restorative Justice. For the second consecutive year, NCJW's San Francisco section will support one such local alternative, "Rising Voices." "Rising Voices" is a program that utilizes RJ principles to help formerly incarcerated women re-build their lives.

What does Restorative Justice mean and how does it relate to the broader work of NCJW?

Restorative Justice (RJ) is not a single practice but, rather, it is a set of principles which provide alternatives to the more traditional forms of retributive justice as a response to crime and violence. RJ can be applied in many different ways and has been practiced differently in many cultures around the world for centuries. However, the common denominator is that all RJ approaches employ what Suffolk University, College of Arts & Science's Center for Restorative Justice in Boston describes as "peaceful approaches to harm, problem-solving and violations of legal and human rights." RJ applications range from the pre-colonial Maori system in [New Zealand](#), which protected individuals, social stability and the integrity of the group to the San Francisco County Jail's Resolve to Stop the Violence Project (RSVP) which has reduced recidivism for violent crimes since 1998. Regardless of the format or the culture where it is practiced, most restorative justice efforts have roots in religious means of settling disputes and bring to mind traditional Jewish principles of restitution and atonement.

At its core, RJ recognizes victims, offenders and communities as three distinct, yet interrelated, groups who are affected when a crime occurs. RJ practices bring together stakeholders from all three of these groups to resolve disputes with skillful mediation. Survivors who are thus empowered have a greater chance at overcoming these experiences and living self-determined lives. Offenders who are held accountable for the harm they've done and seek to repair that harm are less likely to reoffend. And communities that participate in effective communication toward collective conflict resolution become safer and healthier for all members.

Ideally, Restorative Justice is about creating alternatives to restoring all those affected by crime. The "Rising Voices" community theater program represents one such alternative. Many of the participants also have histories as victims of violence. Together they write their stories as dramatic scenes and perform them in a community theater setting. This process contributes to personal growth and healing from individual experiences while also educating the public about related social issues and solutions. Coordinated by Community Works West, a Berkeley-based non-profit organization, Rising Voices receives support from the San Francisco Sheriff's Department and the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) as well as NCJW-SF.

Imagine a world in which we hold people accountable by providing educational opportunities to enable a change in the behavior that brought them to prison. Imagine courtrooms where victim impact statements and offender restitution are part of "business as usual." By changing the way we think about and respond to crime, we can increase public safety, reduce costs, and ultimately enhance our civilization. Supporting programs such as Rising Voices reflects NCJW's commitment to improving the quality of life for women children and families - to *tikkun olam*, that is, restoring the world. And, in doing so, we can breathe new life into historical traditions which invest both in individual success and in our collective well-being.

Leslie Levitas is a Principal Analyst for the City and County of San Francisco and a member of NCJW-SF's Board of Directors.

Congratulations to our friend Claire Lipschultz of NCJW Sacramento, NCJW Outstanding Advocate for Social Change Awardee!



STUDY GROUP PROGRAMS FOR WINTER 2013



Concert Series at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music
50 Oak Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 - Between Market & Franklin Streets

The following programs will be available at the Conservatory of Music during February, March and April of 2013.

Select from the list below and make a reservation with Sara Keyak, Study Group Chair, 415-731-0348, or with Janice Prudhomme at 415-346-4600 or jprudhomme@ncjwsf.org. These concerts are available at no cost with a maximum of 2 tickets per party per concert.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2013 - 2:00 PM
Conservatory Concert Hall
Musical Theater performance of Stephen Sondheim's INTO THE WOODS

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013 - 7:30 PM
PIANO CONCERTO COMPETITION FINALE

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2013 - 5:00 PM
FACULTY ARTIST SERIES
David Conte composition with Keisuke Nakagoshi piano; Kevin Rogers violin; Brenden Guy Clarinet, Emil Miland cello; International Orange Chorale
Piano Trio; Sextet; Whitman Trip

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2013 - 8:00 PM
Faculty Artist Series with Yoshikazu Nagi, piano
Works of Scarlatti, Haydn, Liszt and Prokofiev

NCJW is READING THE BLUE ORCHARD



National has launched the first-ever, NCJW "Choice Words" book group at the upcoming Washington Institute in March with the selection *The Blue Orchard* by Jackson Taylor. A novel based on the life of the author's own grandmother, *The Blue Orchard* chronicles a time before *Roe v. Wade* became the law of the land.

We want to bring the discussion home to San Francisco. Please let Janice know if you are interested in reading the *Blue Orchard* and participating in an informal discussion group with other readers. (You can check out sample pages of the book for free on Amazon or B&N.com. We have tentatively set the date of Sunday, April 7, 2013 at from 3:00—5:00 pm to meet and discuss the book. At this book group meeting we would also provide a briefing on the Washington Institute, from which several members will have recently returned.

NCJW-SF BOOK GROUP

Date: Sunday, April 7, 2013. 3:00—5:00 pm * Where: Private home TBA.
RSVP to Janice Prudhomme at (415) 346-4600 or jprudhomme@ncjwsf.org.
Address of meeting location will be provided to those who register for the Book Group, prior to the meeting date. This is a free event.



A Voice for Reproductive Choice:

COMMITTED TO THE LIVING

By LINDA KURTZ



It was inspiring and daunting to join fellow NCJW members from San Francisco and Contra Costa Sections on January 26th to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Roe v Wade: Inspiring to be in the presence of community activists, politicians, and caring citizens of all ages and backgrounds in our struggle to retain women's reproductive rights, yet daunting to confront the tens of thousands of anti-choice marchers who also mobilized that day to show their commitment to reversing those rights and endanger women's health.

In talking to people in the crowd, I confirmed that this was a very diverse group of people unified not only by wanting to protect reproductive rights, but in working tirelessly for the ALREADY BORN, both with hands-on volunteering and advocacy. The term "pro-choice" does not adequately reflect the care and attention our organization and partners give to those in need of economic and social justice. During my several decades serving as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the State of California, I turned to our own NCJW and partners at WICS (Women in Community Service) for direct services for my clients. Some of the services we provided to support the success of working mothers included interview and back to work clothing from the Bargain Mart, haircuts before job interviews, mentoring and other support for Job Corps, and coordination with early education programs Head Start and HIPPIY.

I also turned to groups calling themselves "pro-life." The state required that its counselors solicit aid requests from every available "similar benefit" before turning to the taxpayers to fund special client needs. The answer I consistently got from the groups who picketed Planned Parenthood to dissuade women from obtaining abortions was that this sort of hands on support was provided by "other people." That was other organizations. Not them. Not without some growing combativeness, I did ask for referral names for the other agencies they referred to that provide money for safe, reliable childcare so a single unsupported mother could continue vocational training at odd hours. They were not able to name any of these "other organizations" since they did not have a referral service for mothers in need. In other words, they were not so very interested in the quality of life of the people affected by their activism, neither for the parents or the children. The experience of these conversations has stayed with me all this while, and has led to much contemplation as well as frustration over the divide that seems at times to be unbridgeable.

My response then and now is that it is neat and tidy to advocate for the unborn and scream hurtful slogans at women about to seek help at a family planning clinic. It is messy to work for the already born – you no sooner find a solution for childcare than an urgent need arises for special transportation needs or adequate food or housing or escaping violence or chronic illness or foster care issues. To have a commitment to the living is so much more complex and challenging than shutting down the conversation with an adherence to a definition that dismisses alternatives, exceptions and consequences that follow an organized anti-choice victory in thwarting a woman's access to a legal abortion.

We at NCJW will always take the role of those "other people" and we will do it proudly. We will show up both as volunteers and advocates for legislative change for justice. National has a comprehensive Action Toolkit on Reproductive Rights (<http://www.ncjw.org/content/5592.cfm>) and you can help by signing on to NCJW's Action Center for alerts and updates on how to add your name to a petition or contact your representative for key legislative initiatives.(see below.) I was a witness on January 26 that we were sorely outnumbered on the street, so we need everyone with a voice committed to reproductive choice to use it well.

Linda Kurtz is a member of NCJW-SF's Board of Directors and was the recipient of the 2012 Hannah G. Solomon Award.

Linda also notes that **February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.** On February 14th we will participate in V-Day's One Billion Rising event and we will demonstrate and dance to show solidarity across borders to end violence against women. On Tuesday, February 19th, from 1 to 2 p.m. there will be a lunch and learn session with Rabbi Elliot Dorf at the Jewish Community High School, 1835 Ellis Street, SF re "Current Rabbinic Thought on Domestic Violence." Coming this spring, the San Francisco Section will collaborate with Shalom Bayit staff to present a program to our members on the very effective workshops and teaching tools used to promote healthy relationships among teens and young adults.

TAKE ACTION: Join the NCJW Action Center

Sign up to to make it clear to Congress and the President that you support access to reproductive health services, including safe, legal abortion and family planning. Together, we can overcome attacks on women's health and rights. **GOTO:** action.ncjw.org

NCJW, Inc. CEO Nancy Kaufman paid an engaging and inspiring visit to the San Francisco Section on November 8, 2012. Wanting to meet NCJW-SF leadership and members as part of a 'listening tour' for the executive who has been in the newly created position of CEO for not quite two-years, Nancy was very generous with her time and beneficial ideas for the Section. Prior to joining NCJW, Inc. Nancy was Executive Director of the Boston Branch of the Jewish Community Relations Council for twenty years. A frequent contributor of opinion pieces to the Washington Post and the Huffington Post blog, Nancy spoke about social justice for women's issues to a group of about 30 NCJW members and soon-to-become members. Earlier in the day, Nancy met leaders of the San Francisco, Sacramento and Contra Costa sections at a lunch time meeting organized by San Francisco for the first of what we hope will become regular regional meetings with our nearest NCJW neighbors.

Excerpted from Nancy Kaufman's 11/8 speech: *I've outlined a daunting agenda on behalf of women. While we have historically – going back more than 100 years – been highly effective advocates for social change, we now must expand our numbers and amplify our voices to secure our gains and to advance progress...As NCJW, we make many contributions to this work – we provide direct services to vulnerable women and children in our own local communities; we advocate at the state and federal levels for more equitable and responsive social and economic policies; and we participate in philanthropic efforts designed to strengthen NCJW and advance our work here and in Israel.*



“A Faith in the Future and a Belief in Action” is not simply a slogan for us, but serves as an explicit and guiding statement, summarizing our motivations and our purpose. We, as Jews, do not accept the world as it is, but we envision it as it should be and strive to make that vision a reality...Without your grassroots energy and action we will not succeed in making our collective voices heard in Washington, in San Francisco, and in Sacramento. Let's be an example to our children and our grandchildren of what a democracy that values justice and equality for all is truly about. And let's never forget the words of Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

2012 Donations and Tributes (through January 2013)

Many thanks to those who provided financial support to NCJW-SF in 2012:

Lisa Akselrad
 Rosalie Annixter in memory Rose Schoenfeld
 Fae Asher
 Amy Bacharach
 Adele Corvin
 Rochelle Dorf
 Nancy Federman
 Linda Frank
 Ellen Friedman
 Faith Gobuty
 Candice Gold
 Nancy Goldberg
 Sandra Gordon
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 Sara Keyak * in honor of Linda Kurtz
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 Marlene Smith
 Debra Surkin * in honor of Pat Greenstein

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 Sarah Wolf
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 Diane S Wirtschafter
 Jean Yerman
 * in honor of Harriet Lloyd
 Eleanor L and Stanley Zuckerman
 Philanthropic Fund
 Lisa Zuckerman Gamshad Family
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We also thank all of our volunteers and program participants for the gift of their precious time in support of our ongoing work!