

NCJΣ[®]

National Council of Jewish Women

**Friday, February 12, 2021 ZOOM meeting
10:00am**

(The Zoom link will be sent to all members. If you are not a member, contact Sharon Beck by email with your name and email address)

**Women and the Law:
Women and the Proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**

Thoughts to be discussed:

- Seeks to end the legal distinctions between men and women in matters of divorce, property, and employment.
- Where are we now? The latest political activity.
- Why hasn't the ERA been updated to include women in all these years?
- Why are several states opposed to amending the Constitution?

Moderator: Judge Lynne Riddle (ret)

Skilled progressive community activist, who is strong on issues of women's equality.

Formerly a Federal Judge.

Currently is an Instructor of Law, UCI, School of Law;

Lecturer on Reproductive Justice. Is also on the board of Planned Parenthood, Orange and San Bernardino Counties, Community Action Fund.



For ZOOM access: Sharon Beck morshar2@yahoo.com
Questions about the program: Lisa Michaels (949) 472-1102

NCJW Officers 2020-2021

President- Sharon Beck
First Vice President- Julie Neilson
Recording Secretary- Ilene Oller with an alternate
Corresponding Secretary- Barbara Landsman
Treasurer- Carol Sandusky
Advocacy Chairs and Community Service
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Linda Mendelsohn
Chris Schecter
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Mission Statement

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

President's Message

By *Sharon Beck, President*



I hope you are all doing well and staying safe. Staying at home gives us time to reflect on how we can make a difference for this New Year.

On behalf of the NCJW movement, Sheila Katz, CEO of NCJW recently met with the Biden-Harris Transition team

to discuss COVID relief. She shared our collective priorities: the need for paid leave, child care, additional SNAP benefits, extended eviction moratoriums, increased minimum wage, advancements for racial justice, and more.

President Biden announced an historic emergency legislation package which included:

- A national vaccination program to contain Covid-19 and safely reopen school
- Immediate relief to working families
- Support for communities that are struggling in the wake of Covid 19

This is why we need to not just belong to NCJW, but to do our part as advocates. We will be sending you ways in which you can participate by making calls, signing petitions, etc.

On Saturday, several of our board members attended an Orange County Women's March on Zoom. A number of women mayors spoke. It felt good to see the enthusiasm and determination that these women have toward helping better the lives of women, children, families and immigrants

In February there will be two programs of interest (see flyer). On our usual meeting day, February 12, we will have our general meeting on Zoom. It will feature Judge Lynne Riddle on the topic of the Equal Rights Amendment, which incredibly has not yet been ratified by all 50 states. See flyer.

In addition, on February 13 we will participate in a national NCJW event in which Rabbis all over the country will be discussing the Jewish view of abortion. One of our members, Rabbi Mendelsohn, will lead a study group discussion at 2:00 on Saturday afternoon. More information will be forthcoming

So as you can see, while we can't go out and do the things we normally do, we are staying active and involved. Please let me know if you are interested in helping us.

Feel free to call or email me at any time with questions or ways you can help.

949-380-1018

Morshar2@yahoo.com



Presents

What is the Jewish View on Abortion?

A Zoom Teaching Session
By Rabbi Joe Mendelsohn

2:00pm February 13, 2021

Repro Shabbat – Parshat Mishpatim

Why is this conversation necessary now?

What do Jews Believe About the Right to Choose?

How does this Compare to “Pro-life” Advocates?

All members will receive a Zoom link. Non- members may register for this free session by contacting our **President, Sharon Beck.**

E-mail: Morshar2@yahoo.com; Phone (949) 380-1018

Advocacy

By Linda Mendelsohn, V.P. Advocacy Chair

As we enter a new era in our country we look forward, with hope in our hearts, to years of advocacy successes for many groups who have been sidelined in this country. Women are looking for their needs to be met through:

- * passing the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment)
- * advocating for quality, comprehensive, affordable, and accessible child care, early childhood education (including universal pre-K and full-day kindergarten), and school-age programs.
- * passing the EACH Woman Act (Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance).
- * Fighting to be sure every person has access to affordable health care and to live a healthy life, regardless of how long they have been in the U.S. or the status they have been granted.

Even without in-person meetings much is going on. The women and men of NCJW-Saddleback Section have been attending monthly meetings with great programs. In January, we watched the movie of the play *Why I Love*

the Constitution and broke into “break rooms” to discuss what we had just seen.

Coming up: February - we will have Judge Riddle lead us in a discussion about the ERA; March - we have asked Rima Nashashibi to bring us up to date on her work with raising the age for marriage in CA and the related subject of human trafficking, and Vivian Clecak will talk to us about domestic violence; April - a program on Reproductive Rights; May - we will tie in with the Women’s Caucus in Sacramento to focus on issues affecting us in CA.

Outside of our regular meetings we are also keeping busy. We joined the National program of “Repro Shabbat” resulting in the Saddleback Section sponsoring a teaching session led by Rabbi Joe Mendelsohn on the Jewish View of Abortion, Saturday, February 13 at 2:00. Please come and learn.

The Saddleback Section was also part of the Virtual Women’s March and the virtual celebration of Martin Luther King’s Day.



Israel Reports

By *Diane Levin, Israel Affairs Chair*

The Abrahamic Family The Arab delegation from the UAE and Bahrain in Israel this month visited historical and cultural sites in Israel. It was chaperoned by a new Israeli organization Sharaka (Arabic for “cooperation” or “partnership”). The delegation expressed its thanks for making them “feel like family members at home”.

Pollard returns December 2020 Jonathan Pollard was a controversial figure, but most Israelis were pleased to see him come home. Together with Israel’s Prime Minister, he recited the Shehechyanu blessing for auspicious events.

More Ethiopian immigrants As part of Operation Rock of Israel another flight has brought 219 Ethiopian immigrants to the Jewish State. Thanks to the support of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ) it has united many Ethiopian families who had previously made Aliyah.

20,000 make Aliyah despite pandemic Some 20,000 olim (new immigrants) arrived in Israel during 2020. They came from 70 different countries despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Over half of the new citizens emigrated from the former Soviet Union, 2,550 from the US and 2,220 from France.

Ethiopian Israeli golfer wins Israel Masters Iso Asher immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia in 1991 and has been working at the Caesarea Golf Club for 27 years. He decided to enter the Israel Men’s Masters tournament at the club for the first time. And at the age of 50, he won, after two rounds and a sudden-death playoff.

Birth of the Phoenix The America-Israel Friendship League has released a video featuring the modern Israeli Dance Troup Vertigo’s breathtaking performance in Jerusalem: *Birth of the Phoenix*. Vertigo has been streaming its works free as part of its December virtual festival.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxViVRX_d9k
<https://www.festival.vertigo.org.il/> <https://aifl.org/>

Get trained in hi-tech skills Israel’s Innovation Authority (IIA) is investing NIS New Israeli Shekel, 139 million in two new programs: the Human Capital Fund and the Emergency Training Program, to help the unemployed enter the Israeli tech ecosystem. It has selected 62 organizations to place 9,000 citizens in available hi-tech positions.

Cooperation with Croatia Israel and Croatia signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a strategic partnership between the Foreign Affairs ministries, aiming to promote political and economic cooperation and strengthen relations in areas of mutual interest.

Innovation award for accessibility. Israel’s Orcam has won a CES 2021 “Best of Innovation” award in the accessibility category by the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), for its handheld digital device that reads full pages or screens of text aloud from any printed or digital surface.

Israel Innovation lab Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Merck, and Teva are to establish an Innovation Lab at Rehovot Science Park to research digital health and computational biology. The Israeli government has allocated the lab an NIS 32 million budget.

Bringing life to Africa during a pandemic In 2020 and despite COVID-19, Israeli NGO Innovation: Africa, brought water and light to over 200 villages across Africa. They used Israeli technologies to bring solar energy, clean water, healthcare, and food security to millions of the world’s most vulnerable people.

Top of their class A study by Stanford University identifies the top 2% of researchers in various disciplines worldwide. It includes 333 researchers from Tel Aviv University, with 74 of them in the top 0.5%.

\$1 million raised for social app Twenty-one-year-old Israeli May Piamenta has raised \$1 million for her social startup Vee. The platform connects companies and organizations interested in mobilizing their staff for the sake of the community with volunteer activities and allows all activities to be managed remotely – vital during a pandemic.

Ethiopian woman is top advocate for Israel Ethiopian Israeli Ashager Araro (reported here previously) is one of Jewish News Syndicate’s top 40 global advocates for Israel. Born on the roadside on the way to Israel, she became a top IDF paratrooper, graduate of IDC Herzilya and ambassador at Stand With Us.

Proud female Christian Israeli IDF officer Hadeel reveals what life is really like for minorities in the Jewish State. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpxoabjWOZE>

One million vaccinations Over a million Israelis have now had their first dose of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine. More than 150,000 vaccinations are being administered each day – the highest per capita in the world. The number of vaccinated Israelis is now double the total number that have ever been infected with Covid-19.

President Joseph Biden	Phone 202-456-2461 Website President.whitehouse.gov
U.S. Senator Alex Padilla	Phone 202-224-3553 Phone Website
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein	Phone 202-224-3841 Phone 310-914-7300 L.A. Website Feinstein.senate.gov
U.S. Rep Katie Porter 45th District	Phone 202-225-5611 Phone Website porter.house.gov
Governor Gavin Newsom	Phone 916-445-2841 Website Gov.ca.gov
State Senate John Moorlach 37th District	Phone 916-651-4037 Phone 714-662-6050 Website moorlach.cssrc.us
State Assembly Cottie Petrie-Norris 74th District	Phone 916-319-2074 Phone 949-251-0074 Website a74.asmdc.org

Tribute Cards

Tribute cards can be purchased through Judy Levy-

otnj@aol.com; 201-446-4378

ACT

Please take the time to go to ncjw.org. The importance of the ACT (Action) button on the ncjw.org web site cannot be stressed enough. When clicking on the orange rectangular box it will bring you to "Take Action" and if you scroll down you can find at least a dozen things you can do to help in areas that are part of our mission statement. You may sign petitions and send messages to our Senate and House members from California. Counts are taken to see how strongly their constituents feel about a particular topic or bill. Since we are 90,000 members strong all across the USA, our voices will be heard loud and clear.

Community Services

Reminder: please don't bring clothing to the meetings. Call the chairpeople to make arrangements.

Friendship Shelter

Chair: **Bobby Rosenfeld** 583-1895
Bed linens, towels, blankets and unopened toiletries.

South County Outreach

Chair: **Fran Baum** 457-2556
Clothing and household items.

Laura's House (for abused women and children)

Chair: **Linda Berkowitz** 859-2775
Gently used clothing and household goods
Laura's House Resale Store

Meals On Wheels

Chair: **Chris Schecter**
Drivers needed for one and a half hours each month
to deliver meals within Laguna Woods Village.

S O S

Chair: **Diane Levin** 380-1179
Unopened toiletries,
baby clothes, and children's books and games.

MOMS Orange County

Chair: **Ginny Frogel** 858-220-4617