



National Council of Jewish Women
Saddleback section present



Friday December 10, 2021
9:30am, Clubhouse 5
(In person meeting)



Chanukah celebration.

BOGART & BOYD International Music Duo

When Betsy Bogart and Wayne Boyd sing and play, audiences are immediately captivated by the talent, good looks, and sparkling personalities of these two delightful artists!

Betsy's vocal style brings out the best in classic tunes from Stevie Nicks to Carole King, Ella to Billie Holiday.

Wayne's vocals range from classic 50s rock to country favorites, and his playing infuses their arrangements with energy and drive.

Questions about the program: Sharon Beck 949-380-1018

Members Free

Guests \$3.00 donation

9:30 am - jelly donuts, coffee and conversation

10:00 am program.

Laura's House continues to be the only state-approved comprehensive domestic violence agency in South Orange County. We, the women of NCJW, are supporting those who find themselves living in safe houses. The residents are in need of socks, hats, toys for kids, and toiletries, including brushes and combs and safe razors. **Please bring items to the December meeting and we will deliver them.**

For Laguna Woods residents and their guests only.

NCJW Officers 2021-2022

President	Sharon Beck
Vice President	Julie Neilson
Recording Secretary	Ilene Oller
Corresponding Secretary	Barbara Landsman
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Advocacy Chair Emeritus	Harriet Himmelstein
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Israel Affairs	Diane Levin
Program Flyers	Judy Mandel
Hospitality	Judy Mandel
Program	Board
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Tributes	Rhona Ginsberg
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National Council of Jewish Women.

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Proofreader	Arline Spindell

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
morshar2@yahoo.com



I hope you have all had a good Thanksgiving celebration. With things a little more open, I hope you are able to get out more.

Your board has been busy planning activities for the rest of the year.

We decided that it was time to celebrate Hanukkah this year with entertainment; we are fortunate to have Bogart and Boyd. Some may remember they performed for us six years ago at the December meeting, and we were enthralled with their entertainment. See the flyer for details.

Last night, some of us watched *Songs for Change* presented by NCJW National. The program highlighted both Broadway songs and important information about what NCJW is doing. Even though we get reports of all this information, it was still inspiring to watch.

Remember to go to the NCJW national site and click on the **Action** button. It's easy to do and it allows you to tell your representatives what's important to you.

We are gaining men in our membership! Please encourage your husband, significant other or male friend to join. The meetings are important for all.

We are still in need of some help. If you would be willing to be on the Board, please let me know. We need an alternate secretary, and a program chairperson. We also need volunteers to help with our Game Day and Fashion Show.

The more people we have working together, the more we can accomplish. Make a resolution this year to become more involved.

Happy Hanukkah to all and remember,
"Nothing that is worthwhile is ever easy"
(Nicholas Sparks).

Advocacy

Now for some good news!!!

by Harriet Himmelstein Advocacy Emeritus

Congress passed a bipartisan Infrastructure Bill that will mean California, the largest state, should expect:

- \$25 billion for bridge replacements and repairs over five years.
- \$945 billion for public transportation.
- \$384 million for electric charging stations statewide.
- At least \$100 million to expand broadband access.
- \$124 million for protection from wildfires and cyber attacks.
- Three billion dollars to replace gas fueled heavy vehicles with electric vehicles making the air around the ports in Los Angeles and Long Beach cleaner, and the families who live nearby safer. The Environmental Protection Agency will be able to make sure corporations follow the laws.
- Oil and Gas drilling in sensitive areas canceled, including Federal waters off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.
- \$1.95 billion for National Science Foundation research grants.
- Heavy penalties for businesses engaging in unfair labor practices such as interfering with union organizing or negotiating.
- Health Care
 - Out of pocket cost for a 30 day supply of insulin capped at \$35.
 - Mothers receiving medicaid cannot be denied benefits for one year after giving birth.
 - \$90 million for training professionals in palliative and hospice care, so necessary for our aging population.
 - \$1.4 billion to modernize public health agencies.
 - \$1.3 billion for pandemic preparedness, including production and stockpiling of tests, vaccines, syringes and personal protective equipment for healthcare professionals and first responders.
 - \$2 million for national health service corps and \$500 million for nurse corps for services in low income and rural communities.

This is not a done deal yet. The President has to sign it and pass it on to the Senate, hopefully, without interference from those who want to gain public attention for the next election. Our job is to write letters, send emails, and make phone calls to our Senators so we can move to the next part of this momentous '**Build Back Better Act**' already passed in the House. This bill contains the major healthcare reforms we all want and need for our women, children and families. It will deliver health care coverage through affordable care act premium tax credits to up to four million uninsured people in states that have locked them out of medicaid. The framework provides individuals \$0 premiums, finally making health care affordable and accessible.

As an aside, I have taken to responding to requests for donations for people I have never heard of running for office in other states in a new way: I will donate to “what’s his name” if I am reassured, **in writing signed by the candidate**, that he/she will promise to vote for the ‘**Build Back Better Act.**’ I have never had my bluff called, and I seem to no longer be on the mailing list.

Working Together to save Abortion Rights

by Harriet Himmelstein Advocacy Emeritus

It has been a year since I last wrote for the Tidings and much has happened to all of us. Fortunately, Linda Mendelson was able to step in as Advocacy Chair and is doing a fantastic job. National has also been very busy. On September 29, 2021, National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), along with our partners, Catholics for Choice, UltraViolet, NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation, MoveOn, and Moms Rising, delivered a joint petition urging the Senate to pass the Women’s Health Protection Act (WHPA, S 1975). The petition received more than 400,000 signatures from advocates and allies in all 50 states urging our lawmakers to safeguard the right to abortion care. While WHPA passed in the House of Representatives on September 24, 2021, it is still awaiting a vote on the Senate floor which made the delivery of these signatures crucial for protecting abortion rights across the country.

On November 1st, members of the partnership rallied on the steps of the Supreme Court while it was hearing arguments from two separate but similar cases. One case was ***Jackson Women’s Health Organization vs. Dobbs*** dealing with the constitutionality of a 2018 Mississippi state law that banned abortion operations after the first 15 weeks of pregnancy. The other was ***Texas’s Senate Bill 8*** that stopped abortions after six weeks of pregnancy.

Remember when the entire family sat down to dinner together and after the dishes were done sat in front of the single black and white TV to watch their favorite Westerns, “Have Gun Will Travel” and “The Bounty Hunter?” Well, the State of Texas has made them come to life. In its zeal to make abortions illegal after six weeks, when women rarely know they are pregnant, Texas has given permission to adults to sue anyone suspected of aiding or abetting an abortion. This means giving information, driving to, performing, assisting, working in a clinic and so on. If found guilty, the informer collects \$10,000 and court costs from the accused. This threat has all but stopped abortions in Texas. The results are devastating. The challenge to Senate Bill 8 is that Texans are breaking a federal law but not a state law. This could set a precedent where states would be able to override Federal constitutional rights, such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, or gun laws banning certain weapons. Not enough justices agreed to the challenge and voted not to stop the state.

NCJW.org has been addressing the rights of women to have an abortion for many years. 73Forward: Pathways to Expanding Abortion Access is a new project NCJW.org has initiated. Our section will be participating, and we will start our involvement in January. Meanwhile, go to NCJW.org and click on the **ACT** button to start your participation now by sending letters and emails to the people who matter.

The issue: Close to 500 abortion bans and restrictions have been passed by states since 2011.

The good news: According to the White House, “The Women’s Health Protection Act (WHPA)

would create a new tool for safeguarding access to high-quality care and securing constitutional rights by protecting patients and providers from dangerous political interference.” The bill passed the House in a historic vote on September 24, 2021, and now awaits Senate approval. **Our task:** Write and/or call your senators to pass WHPA. Even though the bill may not pass this year, it’s important to get Alex Padilla and Diane Feinstein on the record supporting access to abortion and asking them to try to influence other senators to help us.

Israel Report

by Diane Levin

Six surgeries. Two countries. Three lives saved. Politics and science combined this past summer to make a series of historic, life-saving organ donations possible, all due to work done by Stanford University Israeli professor Itai Ashlagi. Working with a graduate student from Thailand, they developed the software and algorithm instrumental in linking a chain of matches between kidney donors and recipients in Israel and the United Arab Emirates. The exchange was the first between Israel and an Arab nation and made possible because of the 2020 signing of the Abraham Accords.

Thirty years ago, there was a taboo against homosexuality in the Jewish state. Now, 250,000 people march in Tel Aviv’s annual Gay Pride parade. Though many of the estimated 750,000 LGBTQ individuals in Israel come from Orthodox Jewish and Arab-Israeli communities that shun homosexuality, the state of Israel accepts them.

More than 15,000 non-profit organizations are active in Israel, promoting universal moral values, religious pluralism and equality, human rights, democracy, civil society, and environmental protection.

Muhammed Darawshe, Director of Planning, Equality and Shared Society at Givat Haviva Educational Center, has been working with the Israeli government to help educate Arab-Israeli women and provide childcare for working mothers, lifting thousands of Arab-Israeli families out of poverty.

The Reform movement’s Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) advances religious freedom, the end of the Chief Rabbinate’s monopoly over religious life, and equal status for all streams of Judaism; an end to religious extremism, misogyny, and racism; and an equal and shared democratic society for Jews and Arabs alike.

On the grassroots level, many Arab and Jewish students are engaged in projects that are building mutual trust and compassion, despite the differences in their histories and national narratives. Hundreds of Arab and Jewish Israelis, for example, travel together to Auschwitz to better understand the depth of historic Jewish suffering that informs Israel’s national narrative.

Israel is among the leading nations working on clean environmental technologies and innovation. For example, the Reform movement’s Center for Creative Ecology (CFCE) on Kibbutz Lotan has pioneered waste-management, extreme desert organic food production, energy efficient construction techniques using natural materials, and other projects to build sustainable communities. Israel is also a world leader in the development of desalination technology, converting sea water for home and agricultural use. Israeli scientists have identified the virus proteins that are triggering strokes and heart attacks in COVID-19 patients, in a breakthrough they expect will pave the way for new drugs.

President Joe Biden	Phone 202-456-2461 Website President.whitehouse.gov
U.S. Senator Alex Padilla	Phone 202-224-3553 Website Padilla.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein	Phone 202-224-3841 310-914-7300 Website Feinstein.senate.gov
U.S. Representative Katie Porter 45th District	Phone 202-225-5611 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

If you need help with
**Elder Abuse or Domestic
Violence** call
The National Domestic
Violence Hotline
1 (800) 799-7233

ACT

Please take time to visit ncjw.org. The importance of the ACT (Action) button on the ncjw.org website cannot be stressed enough. When the orange rectangular box is clicked, you will be taken to “Take Action.” Scroll down to see 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 California Senate and House members. 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 U.S., our voices will be heard loud and clear.

Tribute Cards

Tribute cards can be purchased through
Rhona Ginsberg:
460-226-5495, rhonabridge@gmail.com

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: Rabbi Joseph Mendelsohn 309-1564
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: TBD
Drivers needed for one and a half hours each month
to deliver meals within Laguna Woods Village.

SOS

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

MOMS Orange County

Chair: Ginny Frogel 858-220-4617