



COUNCIL BULLETIN

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia Ltd.

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President's Message



Di Hirsh OAM

2013 marks 90 years since Dr Fanny Reading founded the Council of Jewish Women in Sydney. Celebrations will take place in June when the National leadership meets in Brisbane for our mid-term Plenary and in August in Sydney when I will join the women of NSW Division in a celebration where it all began. We invite the community to join us in marking this significant milestone.

This is always such a busy time of year. Having just celebrated Purim and the courageous actions of Queen Esther on behalf of her Jewish community, in standing up for their rights to live free of oppression, we begin our preparations for Pesach, when once again we remind ourselves of our ancestors' difficult journey from slavery in Egypt to living in freedom in the land of Israel.

Living free from oppression and standing up for the rights of women are key themes of International Women's Day, which is celebrated on 8 March. On this day we celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. It is even a national holiday in China, Russia, Vietnam and Bulgaria. There are still so many women throughout the world living under oppression, whose basic human rights are denied and we must not forget them. While we celebrate women's achievements, there is still much work to do.

Soon the participants of the 2013 NCJWA Tour of Israel Projects will be

assembling in Tel Aviv to begin our tour. We look forward to meeting the Australian Ambassador to Israel, visiting our projects at ILAN, the Haifa Rape Crisis Centre and Haifa University as well as MICHA and dedicating plaques in memory of Dr Geulah Solomon OAM z"l (at Haifa University) and Diana Gelfand z"l (at ILAN). We will take part in an Anzac Day ceremony at Golda Park, which is part of the Anzac Trail, when we dedicate our most recent JNF project. In Jerusalem we will take part in interfaith dialogue organised with expat Peta Pellach at the Elijah Interfaith Institute. On our return we look forward to recounting to our members, tales of the many people that we will meet at our projects and the other fascinating places we will be visiting.

While we are busy preparing for the Festival of Pesach I wish you a Pesach kasher v'sameach. May you enjoy the festivities with your families and friends.

Di Hirsh OAM

International Women's Day



The occasion of the International Women's Day, 8 March, is an opportunity for all of us to both look at how far we have come, and how far we have yet to travel. The goal, of course, has been from the earliest establishment of this special day, to assess our progress toward several

significant "markers" for women all over the world. Among these are:

- Absence of violence, both sexual and physical, foisted upon women and girls
- Equal opportunity for women to seek employment and recognition for their work
- Compensation equal to men for similar work performed in similar conditions
- Religious equality – total absence of discrimination based on religious practice or belief

- Equal legal recourse for any and all acts of discrimination – civil and religious
- Access to education equal to that offered to boys and men

Without question these are but a few of the examples of the problems women and girls have faced historically in countries around the world and in religious communities in those countries. And just as the problems faced throughout the years are not limited to "Third World" countries nor to non-Jewish communities, the struggle to address these inequities is the responsibility of ALL of us.

Without question, women have achieved notable success in many fields over the past several years. Whether the "field" is politics, medicine, education or religion, women have contributed enormously to local and world communities. But there remains much to be done!

If we find ourselves in a country or community where the problem is less egregious, or the issues less compelling, we should celebrate this day by turning our attention to sisters who are less fortunate. For we are indeed part of a world-wide sisterhood – a sisterhood of women and girls around the world and from faith communities which range from Jewish to Muslim to Christian to Hindu. And on behalf of the International Council of Jewish Women, I urge us to celebrate the International Day of the Woman by praising our achievements while rededicating ourselves to eliminating the barriers our sisters continue to face. We can do it --- we must do it --- and we must renew our commitment to this unfinished task today.

**Sharon Gustafson, President
International Council of Jewish Women**

Editorial



Editorial Committee

With Pesach in the wings it is time we all begin to go through our dirty washing – cleaning out every corner, every handbag, every pocket. At the same time we are remembering – this year again – that we were slaves in Egypt. This is a reminder that we know what it is like to suffer, to be oppressed, to be beaten and down-trodden. As I look out on another glorious Melbourne day it is easy to forget that the injunction is not about remembering the past but KNOWING that slavery and oppression are ever-present. In this issue, as we have tried to do over the last few issues of the Bulletin, we celebrate the achievements of women and acknowledge how far we still have to go. Pesach is a time for thought, for talking and for action. As always, I am proud of the work of NCJWA and proud to be an Australian Jewish woman working with other women to help reduce the number of slaves in the world.

Melinda Jones

Contact us

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Deadline

Deadline for Rosh Hashanah Bulletin - 12th August 2013

ERRATUM

In the Chanukah 5773 Issue of the Bulletin, the wrong captions (names) were attributed to the photos of Anat Hoffman and Naomi Chazan on page 9; and Susie Balint's OAM was not acknowledged in the photo on page 14. The wrong JNF ad was placed on the back page of the Chanukah Bulletin – which resulted in our failing to pass on JNF's Chanukah sema'ach

Melinda Jones & the Editorial Board.

NCJWA(Vic) says Thank you Nestlé



l-r Susie Ivany, Susan Feldman, Annette Sweet, Vivien Brass

As a STOP THE TRAFFIK coalition member NCJWA(Vic) welcomes the announcement that Nestlé's entire chocolate range in Australia and New Zealand is now UTZ certified.

Nestlé's commitment means more than 3,000 tonnes of UTZ certified cocoa will now be used annually to produce iconic favourites.

Susan Feldman NCJWA(Vic) Status of Women Chair National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Vic) describes the recent decision by Nestlé confectionary manufacturer, to adopt UTZ ethical certification in the manufacturing of their Australian and New Zealand range of

confectionary, as "a landmark decision for campaigners such as ourselves" particularly because certification acknowledges the basic worker rights including a ban on child labour and people trafficking.

Since 2006 STOP THE TRAFFIK activists made the chocolate industry the focus of international campaigns with progress steadily improving as customer pressure has led to certification announcements from major chocolate companies including Cadbury and Mars.

We were part of a campaign that saw over 100,000 postcards being sent to Nestlé by the community including our members encouraging them to adopt ethical certification as part of a STOP THE TRAFFIK campaign.

UTZ certified products are independently verified as respecting basic worker rights standards such as a ban on child labour. The standard also requires sustainable agricultural practices to better support cocoa farmers and the environment.

Annette Sweet

NCJWA

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Women in Israeli Elections



Dr Elana Sztokman

When new Knesset Member Dr Ruth Calderon got up at the Knesset podium in February and taught a page of Talmud, she heralded in a whole new era in Israeli politics.

The sight of a brilliant secular woman teaching advanced Torah to Israel's legislative branch – including ultra-Orthodox men, Arab Israelis, and women and men from every social sector in Israel – sent shockwaves throughout Israel and the Jewish world. The rules are changing, codes about identity, culture, social groupings, and expected acts of conformity. MK Calderon threw a wrench – an eloquent, inspiring, beautifully articulated wrench – not only into meanings of religious

and secular Jewish identity in Israel but also into gender norms. MK Calderon, like many of the women currently sitting in the 19th Knesset, is part of a new generation of women shaping Israeli political life, emerging with some exciting new feminist voices, all braced and ready to fight for real social change.

The first signs that this election might be different came during the campaign season. Nearly every major political party related to gender issues in their campaigns, some more seriously and some more disingenuously.

Tzippi Livni's party Hatnua, Labor, Meretz and Yesh Atid all related in some form or another to gender inequality, although only Meretz has a fully developed platform to effectively advocate for gender. Even right wing parties Likud and Habayit Hayehudi came around to addressing gender and tried to promote themselves as the most gender-friendly parties, notoriously trading accusations about who is more or less anti-women. The fact that the parties even cared about being perceived as pro-women was certainly new.

In terms of actual numbers of women, this Knesset has some historic milestones. **There are now 27 women in the 19th Knesset, a record number and a nearly 30% increase over the 21 women in the previous Knesset. Still, 27 out**

of 120 members, or 22.5% female representation, leaves much room for improvement. As a measure of comparison, in the Australian Commonwealth Parliament, 38.2% of parliamentarians in the Senate are women and 24.7% in the House of Representatives. On the other hand, Israel is doing better than the United States on this score: the US Senate has 19% female representation and the House of Representatives has 18% female representation, with a grand total of 98 women in Congress. These are all record numbers in all countries and great achievements, but still not enough.

There are some interesting changes in individual party lists as well, with fresh faces and new energies scattered throughout the house. **For the first time in Israel's history, no less than six parties running for office were headed by women**, including one Arab party – Asma Agbarieh-Zahalka, the only Israeli Arab woman to head a political party, who heads the Organization for Democratic Action (Da'am) party, although she did not make the electoral threshold. Meretz, headed by Zahava Galon, is currently the only party to have 50% women on the list (three men and three women), but other parties seem to be making an effort. At Yesh Atid, although the top two spots are men, eight out of the nineteen seats are held by women,

Continued





latecomer to the feminist world, spent a good deal of time during her campaign talking about gender. (When she headed Kadima during the last Knesset, some of her female MKs were the best feminist advocates in the Knesset – especially former MK Orit Zuaretz, whose feminist legislative activism will be missed).

Even before the election, women from across the political spectrum were having joint appearances and joint conferences to advance common feminist agendas. **Feminist women were coming together, even from different parties, advancing gender equity with a united voice.**

This is really quite remarkable, not only because feminist issues are suddenly becoming mainstream, but because the feminist women of the Knesset seem to be changing the rules. The ideologies that connect women from different lists create different battle lines in traditional Israeli politics.



Feminist legislators seem to be expressing a sentiment that what unites them is greater than what divides them. If Israeli politics are typically drawn along the fault-line of right-left ideologies regarding the Palestinian conflict, feminist legislators from diverse parties are saying that there is more to governance in Israel than this one issue. If Muslim women and Jewish women from such diverse parties can sit together on a panel or committee outlining a broad vision for Israeli society, it is possible that they are saying that it's time to rethink everything.

including four in the top ten. In terms of actual numbers of women, Yesh Atid currently has an even better record than the somewhat disappointing Labor party, with only four out of fifteen women MKs, despite the fact that Labor is headed by a woman, Shelly Yachimovich. Another disappointment is Tsipi Livni, whose party Hatnua has six members – and only one woman, at the number one spot.

This raises a difficult question: Which is better for women, to have a mostly-male party headed by a woman (Hatnua) or a fairly balanced party led by a man (Yesh Atid)? During the campaign, Yair Lapid had offered Livni a merger in which he would be number one and she would be number two – unless they won, in which case she would take the position as Prime Minister. She refused, since she did not want to be second to an inexperienced (male) maverick. But one can't help wonder if she made a mistake, if it would have been better for her personally and for women in general had she taken the number two seat in Lapid's party.

Meanwhile, interesting shifts are happening on the right as well as on the left. Although one might expect a secular party (Likud) to be more easily pro-women than a religious party (Habayit Hayehudi), especially since every single other religious party – Jewish and Arab – has zero women on its list, this is not necessarily the case. Of Habayit Hayehudi's 12

members, three are women – slightly more than the national average – while the first woman to appear on the Likud list is at number ten. Likud has had an appalling record on gender in the past, with Netanyahu's 39-member cabinet in the last Knesset containing only three women. Whether Habayit Hayehudi is pro-women or anti-women is yet to be seen. They campaigned on being the only religious party with women on the list, and the proportion of three women out of twelve seats, is slightly higher than the current Knesset average. But at least one of the women, Shuli Mualem, has declared that the advancement of women is going to be a key focus of her legislative efforts, making them a party to watch on women's issues.

Indeed, what is especially fascinating about these developments is that in almost every major party list, women are becoming increasingly outspoken on feminist issues.

MK Calderon wasn't the only new MK to invoke feminism in her inaugural talk. Labor MK Merav Michaeli's inaugural speech to the Knesset set forth a phenomenal feminist platform that uses feminist ideology to advance a beautifully complex array of social changes. Yesh Atid MK Aliza Lavie is the very first Orthodox feminist in the Knesset, and has no qualms about using that identity as a platform to advance a broad legislative platform. Even Hatnua's Livni, who was a

Celebrating Israel 2012 “The Partition Plan –The Great Divide”



Ruth Ross, Prof. Natalie Klein, Dalia Ayalon Sinclair, Martin Yafe.

On 29 November 2012, whilst over 200 members and guests attended NCJWA Celebrating Israel event, to mark the 65th Anniversary of the 1947 UN partition resolution 181, the world was anxiously awaiting the vote of yet another significant UN resolution, to grant the Palestinian Authority a non - member observer status. These two events, 65 years apart, are a reminder of what has been the true point of contention in the Middle East. UN resolution 181 called for the establishment of a Jewish State alongside an Arab State in British Mandate Palestine. The acceptance of the resolution by the Jewish people of, which led to the establishment of Israel, is a testament to their willingness to seek peace and co existence with their Arab neighbours.

A key feature of the event was the debate and Q&A titled “The Partition Plan – The Great Divide”. Led by Moderator Eleanor Hall, ABC's presenter of The World Today, Israel Advocacy and Human Rights experts analysed the historical accounts relating to the Partition Plan and its relevance today.

Dr. Ron Weiser AM, Hon. Life President ZCNSW, was concerned that Palestinians gain recognition without negotiation. “In the later conflict the moral majority of many countries stood behind Israel's right to defend itself understanding that Israel's action is a matter of survival. The same moral majority should apply to the Palestinians to accept resolution 181 which recognises the right of a Jewish state to exist. One of the major obstacles to peace was the right of return to Palestinian people.” said Weiser

Prof Klein, Dean of School of Law at Macquarie University and international expert on dispute resolutions spoke on the complex process of accepting statehood and although the Palestinians received limited recognition at the UN it may take some time to achieve statehood.

Vic Alhadeff, CEO, NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, stipulated that throughout the history of the UN there were over 400 resolutions recorded against Israel which served as a barrier to finding solutions and expressed concern that the increased status of the Palestinians will distance us from a solution.

“I believe that the psychological and structural barriers that have been there for 65 years could be overcome by a strong leadership working together” said Dr. Patricia Jenkins.

The panellists unanimously agreed that if more women were engaged in negotiations relating to the Middle East conflict we would have reached a successful solution by now.

“Historically smart women were not given the same opportunities as men. Several structural biases need to be changed and this can be done through education.” said Prof. Klein.

At the conclusion of the debate guests enjoyed a medley of Israeli songs by Sarit Michael and Martin Yafe which were followed by continued discussions over supper.



Celebrating Israel 2012 marked the 65th Anniversary of The Partition Plan with a timely debate on The Great Divide and its relevance today. Left to right - Eleanor Hall, Vic Alhadeff, Dr Patricia Jenkins, Dr Ron Weiser, Prof Natalie Klein.

NCJWA Celebrating Israel was initiated in 2005 by Dalia Ayalon Sinclair, then NCJWA Israel PR and Information Chair, to give prominence to the defining moment in the Jewish history, UN resolution 181. Celebrating Israel acknowledges Australia's significant involvement in the establishment of the State of Israel.

Since 2005 NCJWA Celebrating Israel events were co hosted by many Jewish organisations. The latest was organised by NSW Division and co hosted by ZCNSW and NSW Jewish Board of Deputies.

Dalia Ayalon Sinclair

Alcohol, a Jewish Women's Perspective



One focus of NCJWA in the area of women's health has been the role alcohol plays in the lives of Jewish women. Alcohol was identified as an important factor for consideration in relation to women and their general health at the NCJWA Quadrennial Conference 2011.

The NCJWA has since initiated the "Alcohol, a Jewish Women's Perspective" project. The main aims of the project are to:

1. Identify, record and analyse data relating to alcohol and women in Australia
2. Assess what the NCJWA can do to assist its members and community in relation to this issue.

The first stage of the project involved a number of meetings with stakeholders in this field of interest, to discuss potential future partnerships in a major research project. Di Hirsh, NCJWA President and Rimma Sverdlin, NCJWA Chair of Women's Health met with representatives from a variety of organisations including Debbie Zauder, the Jewish Community Council of Victoria's Youth Alcohol Project Manager, Professor Danielle Mazza, Head of Department of General Practice, Faculty of Medicine at Monash University, Bill Appelby CEO of Jewish Care and Sheiny New from the Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence.

The second stage of the project began with a series of focus groups with members of NCJWA Victoria, conducted by Mina Levy, a NCJWA Victoria member and an experienced facilitator. Mina directed participant discussion to identify the issues concerning alcohol that members considered important and relevant to their lives. Furthermore, members of the focus groups were asked which direction the NCJWA should focus their attention on and efforts towards.

Di Hirsh explains "it was fascinating to hear the variety and number of ideas members had about the issue of alcohol in the Jewish Community. Invited to the Focus Groups was a wide spectrum of NCJWA members, women of all different ages offering their experience, knowledge and opinions on alcohol."

The results of the focus groups are currently being analysed. The next step will be the formulation of a questionnaire which will be distributed to all NCJWA members to further investigate the important issues of alcohol from a Jewish women's perspective.

Rimma Sverdlin
NCJWA Chair of Women's Health

Tribute to Diana Gelfand 1923- 2012



I joined NCJWA Victoria in 1986, and was fortunate to meet Diana, who welcomed me warmly. Diana made Council her life and her family, she was a legend. We treated her as our dear friend, mentor and a role model.

Diana knew every detail about NCJWA History, Constitution, Projects, every Section, Leaders, most members, their families and activities. She often visited Gold Coast Section, where she donated money to start a library at Sinai College. Making a point to visit WA and other Sections, she was known and respected across Australia.

Israel was very dear to Diana. She visited many times and had a close relationship with her sister-in-law Batia. Through Diana's effort, NCJWA has been involved with raising money for Alma Village since 1960. In 1973, Diana visited a Kfar Hanassi Kibbutz, where a large proportion of residents were Australians and which became one of the first projects specifically adopted by NCJWA. They needed money to repair their swimming pool, damaged by the Syrian army.

In 1960, together with the late Annia Castan, the Ilan group was formed to raise funds for disabled children in Israel. ILAN, the Centre for Disabled children in Tel-Aviv, became a life-long passion for Diana. Under Annia and Diana's direction, women met every Monday at Council House, where they made silk flowers and Chuppa decorations. Diana's name is now displayed at the ILAN Centre in Tel-Aviv, and on many honour boards at Council House.

Diana was a hands on person. In the 1960s Diana was involved with the annual Red Cross Market fairs, at the basement of the Melbourne Town Hall. An army of volunteers would start at 2 am, purchasing fish at the Victoria market, frying 2,000 pieces of fish, made a roaring trade, most popular with general public. When they switched to selling jewellery and Israeli goods, Diana collected goods from Jewish factories for bazaars. Most factories knew her from Shepparton. Some of the funds were used to buy our first Council House in Westbury Street, East St.Kilda.

In 1953, together with the late Essie Wieselmann, Diana was instrumental in establishing Senior Citizens Clubs and Meals on Wheels, providing our seniors with a place to meet, make friends, share Yiddishkeit, play cards, schmooze or do craft work. This is still going strong today. Meals on Wheels provided good nutritious meals to house bound seniors.

NCJWA continues to serve Jewish community, looking after our seniors.

Diana left a legacy for us to follow. She has been recognised for her achievements, contribution and generosity over the years. Diana was a recipient of the NCJWA Honour Badge and made an Honorary Life Member of NCJWA for her contribution to ILAN, at the National Conference in 2011 in Melbourne.

Diana was a proud Jew, respected and loved by everyone. I feel privileged to have been her friend. We will all miss her.

May her memory be a blessing.

Rysia Rozen OAM
Immediate Past National President

JCMA Women's Conference – First Time Impressions

I recently had the opportunity to attend my first Jewish Christian Muslim Association (JCMA) Women's Conference, held over three days at the Amberley Conference Centre, Lower Plenty. The theme of the conference was "Demystifying Our Faiths – Debunking Stereotypes". I went with an open mind, no preconceptions and no thoughts as such.

I was immediately embraced by the warmth and friendliness of the organisers and the participants. Many had been before, but there were a few other 'first timers'.

There were over 30 participants, sitting in a big circle, not designated seating, encouraging everyone to meet and mingle. The first session was on "Celebrating Faith – Symbols of our Faith". I was asked to bring something that symbolizes Judaism. I knew immediately what I wanted to bring to share. My mother's Shabbat Candlesticks. I briefly explained the symbolism of lighting candles and the significance it meant to me. My mother passed away two years ago and the Rabbi said to me at the time, would I like to do something to honour my mother's memory. I immediately thought that I would like to light candles on Shabbat, which was something that I did not do every week. When I say the prayer and see the lights of the candles it signifies to me that her spirit lives on. In the evening there was a Christian meditation presented by Cheryl Camp, from the Sisters of Mercy, which continued the theme of the light of the candles.



Sitting around the room I was surrounded by women. I didn't know there were ministers or nuns present – what does that say, except that we have a preconception of how one has to dress if you are a person of the cloth. Most of the Muslim women that attended wore head coverings, so they were identifiable, but in the end we are all women here reaching out to understand each other's religion, to respect and understand each other's values.

I have come away with respect for both the Muslim and Christian faiths. I felt comfortable sitting at the same table, eating, talking and sharing stories from our religions. What happens in the future is up to us: to reach out to one another and respect and understand – there are always going to be extremists who seem to have a loud voice. We need more conferences like this to build the bridges between the religions.

Shirley Glance

Common myths about sexual violence, offenders and victims



Haifa Rape Crisis Center staff and volunteers attended a One Billion Rising event on February 14 2013, which was part of a global call for one billion women around the world to join together to dance in a show of collective strength in the fight against violence against women. Photo Credit: Avi Bloomberg

Myth: Victims provoke sexual violence by dressing and acting provocatively

Fact: Sexual offenders abuse without considering their victim's physical attractiveness or behavior. They seek out victims to whom they have access and whom they perceive to be vulnerable. Survivors of sexual violence include infants under one year of age, women over the age of 70, religiously observant boys/girls/women. The majority of survivors are under the age of 18 and about 35% are under the age of 12 (boys and girls).

This myth further victimizes the survivor and fails to hold the perpetrator accountable by justifying the use of violence as a result of sexual arousal. By blaming the victim the message is that they are responsible for the abuse and there is no point in reporting it and trying to get help.

Myth: It's not rape if the couple is dating or married

Fact: This myth perpetuates the mistaken belief that married women and girlfriends must consent to their husbands' and boyfriends' sexual demands, despite their wishes. It is as if once they are in a relationship they lose their right to make decisions about when they will engage in sexual activity.

Women involved in intimate relationships have the right to say NO to their husbands and boyfriends. One never loses the right to make decisions about engaging in sexual activity no matter what the circumstance or the nature of the relationship.

Myth: Rapes are committed by strangers at night in dark alleys

Fact: The idea that strangers are the typical sex offenders offers women a false sense of security and intensifies the feelings of self-blame. It establishes the accepted definition of a "rapist," and makes it difficult for a survivor to come forward, as she feels she will not be believed unless her rape followed this accepted definition.

The vast majority of sexually violent crimes are perpetrated by someone the survivor knows- such as a family member, a partner or ex-partner, a teacher, a camp counselor, a neighbour, etc. This is not to deny the existence or severity of stranger rape. However, statistics show that in over 80% of reported sexual assaults, the perpetrator was known to the survivor.

Dr Shira Sanders
Resource Coordinator Haifa Rape Crisis Center

Anne Lehmann 1923 – 2013

Anne Lehmann was an exceptional woman. Born Anne Zinner in Germany in 1923 she arrived in Australia in 1938 with her parents and sister Ursula. Anne married Harold Lehmann in 1943.

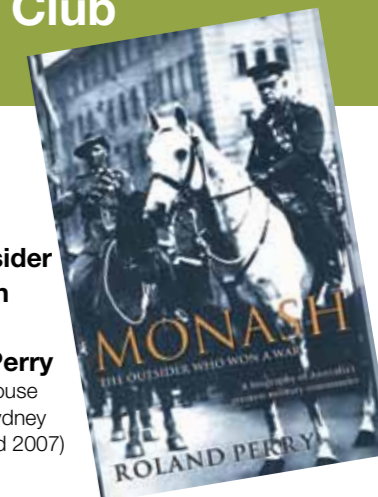
Anne joined the Young Married Group (now Progressive Group) of NCJW NSW in the 1950's. She was chair of the group for many years. Opening her beautiful home again and again for fundraising functions particularly for our Israel Projects.

Anne volunteered in the Thrift Shop and Meals on Wheels for many years. When she was diagnosed with macular degeneration she had a friend drive and she was the passenger and so continued delivering meals, despite her disability. Anne was a Life Member of NCJWA NSW Div. She received awards for her community work from both Waverley and South Sydney Councils.

Anne was a strong courageous woman, an inspiration to us all. She will be sadly missed by her many friends and colleagues

Zara Young OAM
Life Vice President NCJWA

Book Club



Monash: The Outsider Who Won a War by Roland Perry
(Random House Australia, Sydney 2004 revised 2007)

Next Anzac Day, spare a thought for the late General Sir John Monash, who originated the concept of Anzac Day, commemorating the Gallipoli landing with his soldiers in Egypt a year later. He himself fought at Gallipoli and was lucky to survive a sniper's bullet. Without him there would be no War Memorial in its present format in Melbourne. Next time you commemorate Remembrance Day on November 11, take note that World War I probably came to an end much sooner than it otherwise would have, thanks to the brilliance of Monash. If these facts are not well known today in Australia, it is no coincidence. With our obsession with Gallipoli and the miseries and mass deaths of the trench warfare badly mismanaged by British generals, our anti-war media neglect the brilliant and successful battles planned and directed by Monash with Australian soldiers as heroes. Although we have a Monash University and Monash Freeway, the political establishment under Prime Minister Billy Hughes and Governor General Munro Ferguson did its best to shun this most popular hero who was knighted on the battlefield by King George V of England, and whose funeral procession in 1931 was attended by no less than 300,000 people.

Read about all this and much more in Roland Perry's fascinating book, Monash: *The Outsider Who Won a War*. Many of the facts described in this book were also depicted in the television movie directed by Malcolm McDonald, *The Forgotten Anzac*, which showed on the ABC a while ago. It's amazing that Monash should fall into the category of "forgotten", as his achievements should be as well known today as those of Captain James Cook.

In addition to the failures and struggles of Gallipoli, all Australians should be aware of Monash's unique contribution to the Allied victory at the Battles of Hamel, Amiens, Mont St Quentin and Peronne, and the Hindenburg Line as the first Commander of the Australian Corps. These were the battles that defeated the German army. Monash was not only a great Australian, but a great Jewish Australian, of whom we can all be immensely proud.

Ruth Rosenberg
Ruth Rosenberg is a teacher, and a former journalist at the Australian Jewish News

MATTERS OF THE BODY: THE SEXUAL OBJECTIFICATION OF WOMEN

1.. Does the image suggest that sexual availability is the defining characteristic of the person?

This American Apparel ad, with the words "now open," sends the message that this woman is open for sex. She presumably can be had by anyone.



2. Does the image show the sexualised person as a commodity (something that can be bought and sold)?

In this ad for men's shoes the man chooses a woman who is one of several who are literally for sale and consumption, "served chilled":

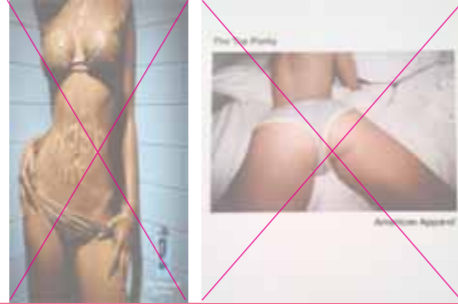


By definition, objects can be bought and sold, and some images portray women as everyday commodities. Viewing women as meat is also common. This PETA ad, for example, shows Pamela Anderson's sexualized body divided into pieces of meat: we find it disturbing that PETA is an animal rights movement



3. Does the image show only part(s) of a sexualised person's body?

Images involving headless women, for example, make it easy to see them as only a body by erasing the individuality communicated through faces, eyes and eye contact. Covering up a woman's face works in this fashion as well. The same effect is achieved when showing women from behind, which adds another layer of sexual violation



As women's rights are progressively recognised around the world and gender equality is seen by governments and societies as a positive and achievable goal, the foundations for these are being undermined by a growing trend - the sexual objectification of women. This is escalating in our media, advertising and popular culture and has become an increasingly accepted part of our culture and way of life in Australia, as in many parts of the developed world. In Sydney on 6 March, NCJWA NSW commemorated International Women's Day with a presentation on this topic by social worker Laurel Ginges and representative of Collective Shout, Deb Malcolm.

As a Social Worker working with young people and families Laurel encounters many gender-related issues such as domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse, prostitution and teenage pregnancy. While many factors contribute to these problems, there is no doubt that the "drip-drip" exposure to sexually objectifying messages is one significant

element, distorting people's perceptions of themselves and others.

The last ten years have seen a steep rise of sexual objectification in advertising, in magazines and news, in music videos, video games, sport and on the internet. These are all funded by multi-billion global industries. Whether we are conscious of it or not, their objectifying messages affect us, often below our conscious awareness. Through these influences sexual objectification has become pervasive - it's everywhere, it affects us, and we don't even notice it.

We now have more than ten years of research demonstrating that living in an objectifying society is highly toxic and increasingly dangerous for girls and women, and not good for boys and men either.

The sexualised and one-dimensional representation of women and girls has little or no parallel for men or boys. There has been little discussion of these

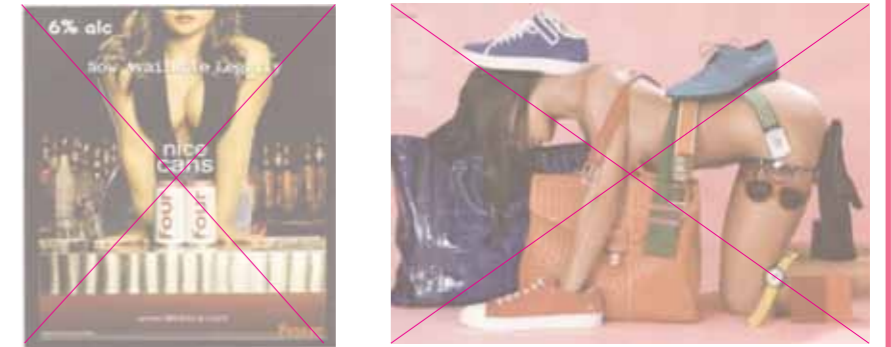
4. Does the image show a sexualised person as interchangeable?

Interchangeability is a common advertising theme that reinforces the idea that women, like objects, are replaceable and lack individuality or uniqueness. And like objects, "more is better," a market sentiment that erases the worth of individual women. Mercedes-Benz, presents just part of a woman's body (breasts) as interchangeable and additive - that is, more is better.



5. Does the image present a sexualised person as a stand in for an object

Likewise the woman in this fashion spreads becomes an object upon which things are perched. She is reduced to an object, a useful tool for the assumed heterosexual male viewer.



issues because individuals who feel concerned also feel silenced.

What is Sexual Objectification?

The objectification of women involves disregarding personal abilities and capabilities and focusing instead on attributes such as physical attractiveness, sex appeal, and submissiveness. The term sexualisation originated in child protection work and refers to sexual behaviour imposed on someone, rather than coming from their own volition. (Steve Biddulph 26/02/2012, SMH Opinion)

The Sex Object Test (2012) was devised by Dr Heldman to measure the presence of sexual objectification in images. She proposes that sexual objectification is present if the answer to any of the following seven questions is "yes". The advertising images on the page illustrate each of Heldman's criteria for sexual objectification.

Sexual objectification feeds discrimination, sexual harassment, workplace inequality, and physical and sexual violence. It reinforces

prevailing notions of masculinity where men are in control, both economically and sexually, and women are secondary characters to be passed around for male sexual pleasure. (Caroline Heldman, 2012) Society Pages). Boys are taught to view their bodies as tools to master their environment. (Heldman, 2013). They tend to become fixated on being macho and dominant.

Girls are raised to regard their bodies as projects to be improved on for life. They tend to present themselves as sexually available and submissive and judge themselves using these criteria. They close down other possibilities for themselves as these have little value in popular culture.

If we are serious about ending violence against women, the issue of the sexual objectification of women must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Laurel Ginges and Dr Anne Morris

Laurel Ginges is a Social Worker & member of ICJW Status of Women Committee. Dr Anne Morris is Chair, NCJWA Status of Women.

6. Does the image show the sexualised person as a commodity (something that can be bought and sold)?

In this image, a woman's body is presented as a particular type of object: a canvas that is marked up and drawn upon



7. Does the image affirm the idea of violating the bodily integrity of a sexualised person that can't consent?



This tie ad shows an incapacitated woman in a sexualized position with a man holding her on a leash. It glamorizes the possibility that he has attacked and subdued her.

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The Rivky Holtzberg Chessed Centre Down Under



Photo courtesy of Pinni Flescher

Did you ever have a great idea blossoming in your head, but somehow let it wither away before it bore any fruit? Did you ever dream how you could help the whole community, only to have that dream fade away in the harsh light of day? Did you ever say: "If only.....then I would....." and then shrug your shoulders and give up? Did you ever think that you can't because: you don't have a lot of extra money, you don't have family to help you, you don't have the space, or you just don't have the time or the energy?

If the above sounds familiar, I am not surprised, and don't worry, you are not alone. But don't become complacent because it has been proven by some very special individuals that good ideas could and should be brought to fruition and that, with determination, dreams can come true.

Here in Melbourne, Australia, one woman had an idea which she planted and carefully nurtured and tended and the work of her

hands blossomed and grew many fruits. She may not have had tremendous resources to work with, except the help of many friends and blessings from the One Above.

Chana Meira Lerner wanted to do something in memory of her friend and mentor, Nechamie Greissman. Nechamie personified the quintessential Eishes Chayil to all those who knew her. Chana had met Nechamie while living in Yerushalayim, and had been inspired by her person as much as by her classes. Noting that Nechamie was always careful to fulfil the Rebbe's directive to wear a wig rather than a hat or tichel, Chana started a sheitel gemach in Melbourne in 1998 patterned after the various gemachim of Yerushalayim. With the help of local sheitel-machers, who donated some of their older stock, and encouraged their clients to donate their used wigs, the gemach began. At first the wigs were stored in large plastic bags which people could take home, and sort through at their leisure. When Chana moved to a unit with a garage, a generous friend donated shelves and the wigs now could be displayed in a nicer setting. Many women came, especially before Yomtov, and for a minimal donation would walk out with a perfect match.

The wigs left behind seemed a bit lonely, so Chana thought of a new gemach. Someone had mentioned how beneficial it is to read something Jewish when sitting down for a bite. That same week someone asked Chana if she would like a pile of N'shei Newsletters, and that is how the Sifria Freda v'Chana magazine gemach began. Soon lots of Jewish magazines followed and they are constantly being added to. From there

the ideas continued to blossom and the gemach branched out, each sector named in the merit of different worthy people.

Wigs and magazines led to accessories, like costume jewellery, scarves, and hats. These came under the name 'The Chaya Talia Accessory Exchange'. When Chana suggested that this gemach be named after this young woman who passed away, Chaya Talia's sister asked what the gemach was for. When Chana answered, the sister exclaimed: "How did you know? When my sister was ill, she kept herself occupied by making jewellery."

In her small garage, Chana has to date, set up eight gemachim, each with its own name. After the terrible tragedy in Mumbai, Chana decided to name the whole gemach centre 'The Rivky Holtzberg Chessed Centre', as a tribute to the tremendous amount of chessed that Rivky accomplished in her short lifetime.

When a woman walks into Chana's garage today, she can find an oasis in her busy life. Everything is set out with good taste, whether quality second-hand clothing, tzniusdig under-tops, evening bags, or Jewish children's books. Chana's project has truly born much fruit, is proof that with quiet determination a dream can come true.

The gemachs are available to all women who have a need - whether for religious reasons or because of chimo, because they have an occasion or would like to share. Please feel free to ring Chana on 9527 2703 or 0430453667.

Mina Gordon
Originally published in N'shei Chabad Newsletter

An interactive Wall in 'Onn' kindergarten



One day while we were standing in the yard staring at an empty boring wall, an idea occurred to us. As occupational therapists, we thought of creating sensory activities for the children, something attractive and accessible. So, the Interactive Wall was created.

Children naturally tend to touch and watch things. They learn the qualities of objects and relations between objects through their senses. This is at the basis of visual / motor development as well as emotional development. The reaction to touch creates a physical reaction. The sensory system influences cognitive skills, as well as emotional and social development.

For inspiration, we walked through the Carmel market in southern Tel Aviv, inhaling the colors and sounds, choosing materials. Onto the wall we placed boards, onto which we attached different materials

such as synthetic grass, colorful brushes, pebbles, bamboo, and Lego blocks all of which allowed for growth and stimulation. In addition we attached toy alligators to create curiosity and attract the children's attention.

The wall is intended to offer different textures to enrich the child's experience as part of the yard activities. Children can touch, build and experience different textures on their own without adult intervention.

As spontaneous opportunities for children with physical disabilities are not very common, a wall of this nature is particularly valuable to children attending our centre. The children have gained much by their interaction with the wall.

Carmit Koren Raviv & Shira Raz,
Occupational Therapists

The resources for the interactive wall were provided by Ilan Tel Aviv and personal donors

International Council of Jewish Women Report

NCJWA is an affiliate of ICJW and as such should be aware of the important international work done by our UN representatives at the United Nations in New York, Paris, Geneva and Vienna. These women work throughout each year lobbying as Non Government Organisations at the UN and also represent ICJW at various Jewish and non-Jewish forums.

Particularly the ICJW representatives at the UN in New York are a strong and capable team of women whose skills are very valuable to ICJW and its affiliates. In the past couple of months our ICJW representatives have reported on a number of events:

On January 25, marking the UN 2013 International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the victims of the Holocaust: 'Rescue during the Holocaust- the Courage to Care', was held in the UN New York and reported on by our UN representative. In his absence a video recorded by Ban Ki Moon and memorial speeches by other UN officials created a solemn day of remembrance.

On February 7, 2013 an observance of the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation, a session entitled 'Intensifying Global Efforts for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilations' was attended and reported on by two UN ICJW representatives.

On December 20, 2012, after years of work, the UN General Assembly had unanimously adopted Resolution 67/146 banning the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and called for intensified efforts to eliminate FGM by using all necessary measures.

Sometimes our ICJW representatives are proactive in setting up important events in ICJW's name. Ahead of the UN Commission on the Status of Women 57th Session to be held in New York in March 2013, ICJW's New York NGO UN representatives have set up two parallel sessions co-hosted by ICJW.

The priority theme of this year's CSW is 'The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls'. Among its statements, the 57th Commission will emphasize that the ending of violence against women and girls is not an option but must be a priority for the achievement of sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, economic growth and social cohesion.

The first ICJW NGO event was held on March 4, co-hosted by ICJW and UN Watch. Entitled 'Profiles in Courage: Human Rights Defenders in the Struggle to end Violence against Women', speakers discussed Women's Rights situation in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Syria.

The second ICJW event on March 7 was co-hosted by the Armenian Relief Society on the topic ' ST_P the Cycle: Strategies to Prevent Violence against Girls.' At this meeting the Vice President of Human Rights, Vital Voices engaged in conversation with the Executive Director, Grl

As one of ICJW's affiliates, NCJWA and its members are accorded a voice as well as an ear in world issues - a matter of pride to us as thinking and proactive women!

Robyn Lenn OAM
ICJW Vice President, Australia

ICJW Prize Recognizes Research on Agunot



Dr Nechama Hadari

The second International Council of Jewish Women's Academic Research Prize has been awarded to Dr. Nechama Hadari of the UK for her research on the issue of Get and Halakhic divorces. The ICJW Research Prize includes a \$1000 honorarium and is awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in original research on a topic that advances an understanding of the role of Jewish women, addresses a way to improve the situation of Jewish women, and/or evaluates the place of women within the predominantly male leadership structures in Jewish life.

The winner, Dr. Nechama Hadari, is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies, but wrote her PhD thesis while studying at the University of Manchester's Agunah Research Unit. The title of her thesis was: "Towards a definition of will in the context of the granting of a halakhic divorce," and it has also resulted in the publication of a book entitled "The Kosher Get - A Halakhic Story of Divorce."

Leah Aharonov, Immediate Past President of ICJW and Chairperson of the ICJW Research Prize Committee, explains the decision to award this prize to Dr. Hadari: "Helping Agunot - women who are denied a religious divorce by their husbands - has long been a campaign priority of the ICJW. The Prize Committee determined that Nechama Hadari's research offers a constructive and creative approach to finding new solutions within the Halakhic system, in order to help women who are trapped in failed marriages."

ICJW's International Jewish Women's Rights Project was launched in 1998 and is committed to restoring justice and fairness to the Jewish divorce process for women.

The prize will be presented at the Closing Ceremony of the ICJW quadrennial Herczeg Jerusalem Seminar for Jewish Education, which will take place at the Jerusalem Gardens Hotel on May 5-8, 2013.

ICJW press@icjw.org

News from the Sections

Brisbane



VP Gail Paratz presenting Dr Aafreedi with a JNF/NCJWA Tree Certificate

Our February meeting was very successful with special guest speaker Dr Navras Jaat Aafreedi. He is the Assistant Professor and Postgraduate Program Coordinator of the Department of History and Civilization at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Gautam Buddha University in India. His is also a researcher in Indo-Judaic Studies and a Jewish-Muslim Relations Activist.

Dr Aafreedi spoke about the influence of Jews on early Indian movies and literature and especially Bollywood. It was exciting that one of the film stars he named, Pramila, is a relation of one of our members. Born Esther Victoria Abraham in 1947 she was the first Miss India.

Dr Aafreedi is also the organiser of the first Holocaust Films Retrospective in South Asia. Held in Lucknow, showing 24 films on the Holocaust including such films as - She was There and She Told Me - The Story of Hannah Bar Yesha and Out of the Forest, a movie which used the diary of Pole Kazimierz Sakaowicz as a primary source of information.

Dr Aafreedi was in Australia on a speaking tour of Universities in Qld and NSW. We were very fortunate to have him available to speak at our meeting

In February, with so much rain in Brisbane we were concerned about how our Cocktail Party would go. We continued our planning and had a successful evening. The strawberry sorbet champagne cocktails we served were a great hit!

Our March meeting focused on MICHA with Lorraine Jacobs presenting some background and Mira Myler talking about her recent visit.

We are looking forward to our April meeting when we will host author Barry Levey. He will speak about his recently released book 'The Terrorist'. This is a dramatic look at the question of the West, Western liberalism and its creed of tolerance, being Jewish, the rise of Islam. It covers the consequences for a Jewish family who take in an Arab-Muslim student just as the 2006 Second Lebanon

War between Israel and Hezbollah breaks out.

For more information on:- Our April meeting contact Gail on 3878 7838.

Dr Aafreedi [https://sites.google.com/site/aafreedi/Jewish/Indian Actors](https://sites.google.com/site/aafreedi/Jewish/Indian%20Actors) at <http://b-net.com/sammy/indian-jewish-actors/>.

Carolyn Goldsmith

Canberra

On Sunday 2 December 2012, the ACT Jewish Community held a batmitzvah ceremony to celebrate the completion of the 2012 Matan Batmitzvah program. As a result of a NCJWA Canberra initiative all six girls undertook a small oral history project on notable NCJWA matriarchs. At the ceremony NCJWA Canberra steering committee member, Janet Frommer congratulated the girls on behalf of NCJWA. Our minutes secretary Yvette Goode presented each girl with a gift of a sterling silver and opal Magen David pendant. Our aim is to lift the profile of NCJWA and involve the girls and their mothers in our work.



Hostess Veronica Leydman (left) with Yasmin Ricci-Yahav and Rachel Cass (photo: Sarit Cohen)

Our special thanks go to former steering committee member and stalwart Pam Fein who ran two charity stalls in December 2012 at a local Canberra market with donated goods and raised a large sum for our Israel projects.

A demonstration of the Jewish rite on erev Shabbat was part of an all-day program held by the Canberra Interfaith Forum during Canberra's Multicultural Festival on Sunday 10 February 2013. Janet Frommer, representing both the ACT Jewish community and NCJWA Canberra, with help from Judith Eisner, set out a table for erev Shabbat, explained the significance of each item, and recited the blessing.

Our activities this year are particularly targeting younger women in the community. Our year started off with a challah-making demonstration and discussion at the home of Veronica Leydman on Sunday 17 February 2013. We were delighted that those present included four of last year's batmitzvah girls with their mothers. Veronica was presented with a Haifa University Ethiopian



NCJWA steering committee member Yael Cass presenting hostess Veronica Leydman with a Haifa University Ethiopian Women's Fund certificate (photo: Sarit Cohen)

Women's Fund certificate in appreciation and a NCJWA Canberra apron. Veronica commented afterwards: "I had so much fun hosting the challah making demonstration that I think I'll quit my job as a lawyer and start my own cooking channel!"

On Saturday 23 February we celebrated Council Shabbat, with Yvette Goode delivering the drosha in the Orthodox service. A Kiddush hosted by NCJWA Canberra followed the service.

Our membership function, a garden party, was held on Sunday 17 March 2013 at Sarit Cohen's home, with a panel of four young professional women talking about their working lives, followed by a Q&A session and a Council brunch.

Sylvia Deutsch

Gold Coast



President - Barbara Stewart-Kann OAM & husband Gary attending the dedication of the Kornhauser Sefer Torah.

We've had a busy summer. In early December we participated in the dedication of a Torah donated by the Kornhauser Family in memory of their father and uncle - Jack and Eddie Kornhauser.



Rayna Lewis with President Barbara Stewart-Kann OAM

Chanukah in the Park was held on the 13 December. Our stall was successful and we gave away over 20 sets of 'Wesley's World' Books to young families. The set of books are a parent/child guide to personal safety plus an additional one on bullying.

Queensland and the Gold Coast were well represented with 30 participants at the Maccabi Australia 31st Junior Carnival in Sydney during January. Our Ashleigh Lewis was Assistant Team Manager. Some of the sports that were played were Ten Pin Bowling, Futsal, Lawn Bowls & Ultimate Frisbee.

Sunday 3 February was Green Sunday, however unfortunately with most of the Gold Coast phone lines down due to the floods, so our Section could not participate in this year!

We are proud that the Shabbat before Purim, Parashat Zachor (23 February this year) was dedicated in the name of NCJWA Gold Coast.

On 3 March we held another of our regular Bunnings Sausage Sizzles. These are proving to be a great fund raiser for Council. As always a great team of members, working tirelessly throughout the day. Our thanks to Rayna & Scott Lewis, Felicia and Ken Godwin, Elaine and Keith Watson, Michael Shnukal, Luana Goriss and of course our President Barbara Stewart-Kann OAM and her husband Gary.

Our last event before Pesach was held on 10 March 2013. We hosted an Afternoon Tea at the lovely home of Ruth and Lionel Cohen. Our guest speaker Elizabeth Anne was a brilliant and very entertaining speaker. She spoke about 'Taking the Mystery Out Of All Things Psychic - a Light Insight in the Life of a Clairvoyant'. It's not about reading anyone's future!

With Council Greetings. Wishing all members a Kosher L' Pesach

Tammy Ota

News from the Sections

New South Wales



Packing birthing kits L-R Debbie Adler with daughter Natalie Adler packing birthing kits at Sydney University Nursing School.

In December, more than 200 people attended this year's Celebrating Israel. This was a Q&A presentation, with a panel of experts moderated by international journalist and ABC presenter, Eleanor Hall. The theme was 'The Great Divide' focusing on the 29 November 1947 Partition Plan and the situation over the 65 year since. The event was made even more relevant by the recent vote to grant the Palestinian Authority observer status at the UN.



Tu B'Shvat 2013 L-R Lee Hoffman, Zelene Bloom, Anne Lewinsky, Raveena Marks

How women of different faiths and backgrounds can bring about positive change was the focus of our 'Human Rights and Founders Day' event on December 10. The documentary screened, *Pray the Devil Back To Hell* dealt with the actions of Liberian women of all faiths influencing events that brought about negotiations ending the civil war in their country.

Also in December our volunteers took part in packing birthing kits for women in Third World countries at an event organised by the Sydney University Nursing School. It was pleasing to discover that a Fanny Reading



NCJWA NSW Tu B'shvat and Volunteer morning tea at Council House January 2013

Scholar, Rebekkah Bartlett was involved in the event organisation. We were all so impressed that we will be organising our own event to purchase and pack kits in July.

Our Tu B'shvat function was combined with a 'thank you' morning tea for our volunteers. Guest speaker Nutritionist Dr Anne Lewinsky inspired us with her address 'The Tree of Life- How to revitalise ourselves and the planet'. JNF CEO Dan Springer and JNF Jerusalem Emissary Ygal Shapir highlighted the long list of NCJWA/ JNF projects. JNF Tree Certificates were available for purchase.

On 13 February, we were delighted with the turn out for our first Status of Women event for 2013. This included the launch of our NCJWA NSW Jewish Women's Book Club. Solicitor, Jacquie Seeman addressed the topic 'With 51% of the Brain power, what are women doing with it?'. She related this to Jewish women and issues dipping into a selection of books from our Rebbetzin Gottshall Memorial Library. She also invited readings and discussion from the roomful of interested women.



NSW Jewish Women's Book Club L-R Jacquie Seemann, Gael Hammer (NCJWA NSW book club initiator and coordinator)

The last weekend in February was busy for NCJWA NSW. In addition to Council Shabbat at the Great Synagogue and Purim we held a fund raiser for our MUM for MUM program. The Sixties themed dinner /dance raiser- 'Peace, Love, Music' was a great success.

On 6 March we marked International Women's Day with a talk 'The Objectification of Women'. Speakers were social worker, Laurel Ginges and Deb Malcolm from Collective Shout.

Our final pre-Pesach event, on 13 March, was a Transcultural tour and lunch at the Gallipoli Mosque in Auburn.

Victoria Nadel President NCJWA NSW Division

News from the Sections

South Australia



NCJWA SA's Eva Tuckfield

We held our first meeting for the year in February which was a social morning and lunch.

Many of our members attended the Saturday morning service at Beit Shalom Synagogue on 23rd February to wish a very long time member of our Section, Eva Tuckfield, Mazel Tov on the occasion of her 94th birthday. Eva commemorated her Bat Mitzvah Anniversary by reading from the Torah.

This year Beit Shalom Synagogue is celebrating its 50th Anniversary and a number of members have taken up the Bat Mitzvahs as part of the celebrations.

Ruth Dunn

Victoria



Glen Eira Community Awards L-R Annette Sweet, Vivien Brass, Shirley Glance & Mayor Cr Jamie Hyams

Our 85th Anniversary celebrations concluded with a magnificent Gala Brunch sponsored by the Pratt Foundation with a record crowd in attendance. The guest speaker, Professor Caroline Taylor AM spoke about her childhood abuse. How this impacted on her life growing up and about her determination



L-R Rysia Rozen, Sandra Levinson, Joanne Gubieski & Debbie Strauch

to see that victims receive justice.

We thank all of our generous 85th sponsors for their support throughout our Anniversary year.

Diana Gelfand z'l (Hon Life Member, Victoria) passed away mid-December 2011. At her family's request two minyanim were held at Council House. Rysia Rozen OAM delivered a eulogy on behalf of her family and NCJWA. Diana will be sadly missed.

NCJWA(Vic) was a finalist in the City of Glen Eira Community Group of the Year Awards. At the Australia Day Breakfast, we were presented with a certificate in recognition for our valuable contribution to the local community.

We have commissioned a comprehensive strategic plan for NCJWA Victoria. This should be completed in the next few months. We are looking forward to the results to help plan our future directions in a responsible manner. We are also underway in the process of updating our Constitutions. Both a committee and a steering committee have been set up for this purpose.

Our regular Seniors programs have now re-commenced for the year. We have also begun a '10 weeks, 10 women 10 stories' writing group which is being facilitated by inspiring author and teacher Nancy Sugarman.

Our MUM for MUM volunteers are enjoying their involvement both in the on-going training and supporting their Mums. Work is steadily progressing towards the name change to Caring Mums.

We recently celebrated Council Shabbat at two synagogues. At both we were given an opportunity to speak to the assembled congregants about who we are and what we do. We also raised an awareness that Shabbat Zachor is designated as International Agunot Day and took the opportunity to inform the community about the plight of Agunah.

Fundraising is often at the forefront of our activities, not only for on-going funding of our programs but to fulfill our Israel Projects commitments. At the moment we have a number of exciting functions planned such as a Pesach cooking class, our Annual Brunch and much more.

This year our Interfaith Women's Model seder is being held in conjunction with Jewish Aid.

It is being led by educator Frances Prince .

As a Stop The Traffik coalition member NCJWA(Vic) welcomed the announcement that Nestle's entire chocolate range in Australia and New Zealand will now be UTZ certified.

After Pesach there are quite a few members from Victoria intending to participate in the NCJWA tour in Israel and some others attending the ICJW Herczeg Seminar in Jerusalem following the tour.

I would like to take the opportunity to extend a Mazal tov to Di & Don Hirsh on the recent marriage of their daughter Nicki to Jonathan, to Susie and Paul Ivany on the engagement of their son Michael to Mariann and Annette and Ronald Sweet on the marriage of their daughter Shari to Adam .

I wish all our members and friends Chag Sameach

Vivien Brass, President

Western Australia



Display of books on the Holocaust

In December our Natanya Group ended the year with a musical afternoon at the Levys. It's become our tradition to conclude the year with a BYO favourite Jewish music session and this one was as varied and enjoyable as ever.

In early January Natanya Group was active again with a small party for Gina Fraser's 60th birthday, with donations to Natanya in lieu of presents. Over \$300 was raised, which was spectacular for the small number of people she invited.

2013 International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the victims of the Holocaust was commemorated in Perth on Tuesday 29 January at the Jewish Community Centre. Co-hosted by the UN Association of Australia (WA), the NCJWA, The Holocaust Institute of WA and the Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society of WA. Almost 60 people attended, including representatives of numerous Jewish and other organisations and religious groups.

Judith Parker AM DSJ hosted the event in the absence of the WA branch president of the UNAA, Carolyne Gatward who was in Geneva for a World UNAA Conference. She welcomed Bob Kucera, Chairman of



L to R Joan Motta (NCJWA WA), Judith Parker AM DSJ (UNAAWA), Rena Hesselson (SZC WA)

the Friends of Israel Association and his wife Sue, Tony Tate President of the Jewish Community Council (WA) and other heads of organisations.

It is customary to hear UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon's message at this occasion. This year's theme was 'Rescue During the Holocaust: the Courage to Care', a tribute to those who protected victims of the Holocaust at enormous personal risk. He observed that while certain individuals, such as Raoul Wallenberg, became widely known for their often brazen acts of humanity in rescuing thousands from certain death, the world must never forget those unsung heroes who rose above the evil of their times to save individuals.

The feature film 'Paper Clips' was shown, and all present were moved by the spectacular efforts of the children of a small southern American school to take a lesson about tolerance in 1998 and convert it to a Holocaust memorial project that became a monument in the Middle School of Whitwell, Tennessee. For those of us who were privileged to hear school Principal Linda Hooper speak at a UJA Women's Dinner in Perth a few years ago, the message was doubly reinforced that people can change their perceptions about others and drop their prejudices. Miss Hooper and her staff epitomised the twin virtues of caring and sharing. Caring enough about the project to envisage the acquisition of an authentic railcar from Germany and create a monument, and sharing the experience of being part of the project, with the entire population of her town.

In concluding the event, Judith Parker spoke briefly about the Yolande Frank Memorial Award for school children in WA. This competition involves illustrating a chosen clause from the UN Charter of Human Rights. The UNAA was a passion of the late Yolande Frank, a Holocaust survivor and longtime member of NCJWA. This competition will run for its 4th year in 2013.

Attendees of the function went away wearing paperclips – the anti-Nazi symbol of support and defiance worn by people in Norway where the humble object was invented.

Another recent event in WA was a well attended Movie Night on 18 February held by Yael Group. This was to a screening of the new movie, Anna Karenina. Natanya was also active again on 17 March with a musical afternoon.

Sue Levy

Talking Our Way Out Of Exile Into Redemption.



we can't be ourselves because we identify with something which denies our essential Jewish core.

Freedom is not only freedom FROM something such as exile, it is also freedom TO be able to do/be something.

The freedom we celebrate on Pesach is freedom FROM the restrictions of exile, which may prevent us from fully expressing our Jewish identity, TO be able to have the freedom to be who we truly are – the Jewish people.

So how can talking on Pesach help us to find our way to freedom? The Hagada is not just HISTORY. It is OURstory. Yet it is not just a thing of the past.

Every week when we read the parsha we are not just going over something from the past. The same applies to every Yom Tov, every Jewish festival – it is not just commemorating something that happened. The same energy that existed in the past at that time of year is once again available for us to draw on.

Because of the essential connection of women to their children, the women in Egypt felt the oppression more than the men. They could not tolerate what was happening to their children. How many suffered the loss or assimilation of their children to the surrounding culture? When materialism was valued over the lives of children, indeed over human life in general, it was time to say 'Enough!'

We are told that the Jewish people were redeemed in the merit of the righteous women of that generation and in recent times it has been said by the Lubavitcher Rebbe that the same female souls are present in our generation.

The stage is set. It is up to us.

When we celebrate Pesach this year, let us talk and let us listen to the message of Jewish identity, wholesome values and believe that we will be redeemed once again – this year?

Miriam Cowen

Mirim has been involved in Jewish women's education for over twenty years. She has a special interest in the Torah and Chassidic response to issues such as feminism and the holocaust.

What themes come to mind when we think of Pesach? Of course there is freedom, but also slavery. There is exile and redemption. There is talking. In fact it is a mitzvah to talk! The word 'Pesach' itself means 'the mouth speaks' ('peh' 'sach'). But what's the point of talking if no one is listening?

According to Aviva Zornberg this was the dilemma of Moses. He was unable to speak until he had an audience. The people needed to be ready to hear his message -that they were about to be redeemed from Egypt - before he was able to voice that message.

There are different types of exile. Egypt was the first and contained within it all the others. The particular nature of the Egyptian exile is evident in its Hebrew name –Mitzrayim – which means restrictions or limitations. Our freedom to express our true identity was restricted by this exile, as it has been in all subsequent exiles.

In Mitzrayim the challenge was materialism. The boys were to be trained in materialistic pursuits from birth. The plan was to 'drown' them in materialistic values. Then it was not only figuratively but a literal killing of boys in the Nile. The girls were to be kept alive in order to pursue the Egyptian culture. If the Egyptians were to have their way it was to be either death or assimilation for Jewish children.

There are various ways in which our freedom to be ourselves can be restricted. Sometimes we can't be ourselves because we are confused about who we are and at other times

Stop Press



NCJWA (WA) Was Inducted In The WA Women's Hall Of Fame!!!!

On 6th March 2013, NCJWA (WA) was inducted into the West Australian Women's Hall of Fame at a ceremony in the Government House Ballroom, Perth. The WA Women's Hall of Fame was initiated in 2011 to mark the centenary of International Women's Day when 100 women were honoured in recognition of their valuable contributions within the State in advocating for women's rights, being influential in their communities or being trailblazing women in public life.

In 2013, recognition was extended to women's groups and 83 groups were honoured for the part they have played in strengthening women's rights and supporting women in the community. This honour emanated from a research project, *Women's Business - Mapping Women's Groups in West Australia* that is being funded by the State Department for Communities, Women's Interests and Lotterywest. The ceremony was conducted by the Governor Malcolm McCusker and the Minister for Womens Interests, Robin McSweeney MLA.

We are proud to have been at the ceremony representing our Community. We are proud of the work NCJWA has done in WA for over 85 years. Congratulations to all who have been involved for so many years.

Congratulations to all our members and friends!
Mazal tov!



from left: Noreen Sher, Minister for Womens Interests Robin McSweeney MLA, Ester Steingjesser

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Upcoming Events and Activities

Brisbane

Monday 15 April

Author Barry Levey - The Terrorist

Saturday 27 July Tu B'Av function

Canberra

Sunday 12 May

Show and Tell at home of Karen Tatz

Saturday 29 June

Movie night at the National Jewish Memorial Centre

Sunday 21 July

AGM with a guest speaker at home of Sylvia Deutsch

NSW

Monday 20 May

Jewish Women's Book Club- (Status of Women)

Wednesday 5 June

Anti-Semitism talk – Julie Nathan

Monday 24 June

AGM

Wednesday 17 July

'Out of Cordoba' – Transcultural Movie

Thursday 25 July

Status of Women - Birthing Kit Packing Day at Council House

Sunday 11 Aug

City to Surf, Mum For Mum fundraiser.

Monday 12th Aug

Status of Women - Library event

Sunday 18th Aug

NCJWA 90th Anniversary

Victoria

Tuesday 9 April

Autumn Brunch with Audette Exel Founder ISIS Foundation, Winner of the 2012 NSW Telstra Businesswoman of the Year Award 'Dreams and Disasters: the ISIS Story' www.trybooking.com/CJTT or office 9523 0535

April

Empowering Single Women Program Gail 042 2817682 supported by Gandel Philanthropy

Beginner Computer Classes for Seniors

Learn how to email, surf the net and connect with family and friends 4 week group class commencing Monday 8 April to Mon 29 April, 1.30-3.30pm

Sunday 21 April

Caulfield Racecourse Fun Run and Community Day 10am start Caulfield Racecourse. <http://www.mycause.com.au/page/SupportNCJWAVIC>

Tuesday 2 July

AGM with guest speaker Carolyn Kitto, Coordinator Stop The Traffik Australia



Certificates can be purchased from the National Office president@ncjwa.org.au