



## National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans Section

Bulletin

[www.NCJWneworleans.org](http://www.NCJWneworleans.org)

Jan. - Feb. 2012



**Mary Keller Zervigon  
Hannah G. Solomon  
2012 Award Recipient**

Hannah G. Solomon  
Award Luncheon  
Honoring  
Mary Keller Zervigon

February 27th, 2012

11:30 Cocktails

Noon Luncheon

Westin New Orleans  
Canal Place  
100 Rue Iberville  
New Orleans, LA  
70130

### NCJW, GNO Section's Hannah G. Solomon Award Recipient 2012

## MARY KELLER ZERVIGON

By Vivian Cahn & Ina Davis, 2012 HGS Co-Chairs

Mary Keller Zervigon is a woman who has been deeply involved for decades with the political and educational makeup of our city and state, and has changed the lives of others through her leadership and service. She has been steadfast in her fight to bring about change, and this determination continues to result in progress and enlightenment in our community.

"A turning point in my thinking occurred in 1954 when my eyes were opened to the Supreme Court decision that was handed down," Mary said. This refers to *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, the landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court that ended federally sanctioned racial segregation in public schools. Mary was just a teenager at the time. "Until then I believed all families thought like my own." In 1960, "My mother set up the school board integration headquarters in our back yard... our efforts were to keep the New Orleans schools open." Thus began a lifelong allegiance to political awareness and activism.

After Mayor "Moon" Landrieu's term ended in 1978, and while her children were still in school, Mary decided to finish college at Loyola University, and thereafter, received her Juris Doctor from the College of Law.

Mary speaks proudly of her parents Rosa and Charles Keller. She credits them for influencing her on how to live, think, and give back to the community. "They were a good team; my mother was all passion, and my father was more moderate and rational."

Mary's mother, Rosa Keller, and cousin Betty Wisdom, were also HGS honorees. As Mary said, "My mother received many awards, but the Hannah Solomon was particularly meaningful to her because of what NCJW stands for."

Mary's reach in the community is wide and strong, with involvement ranging from education to human rights to the arts. She presently serves as Chair on the Advocates for Science and Mathematics Education Board, and Xavier University Board of Trustees. Mary is also President of the Board of Liquidation, City Debt.

Mary Zervigon is open, visionary, and liberal in her thinking. She likes to constantly reassess the organizations and projects with which she is involved to make sure that they are on a successful path. When asked which project she is the most proud, Mary said, "Everything needs more, and is a work in progress."

Mary has served on many boards and committees including the following: the Newman

*(Continued on page 2)*

# President's MESSAGE



**A FAITH IN THE FUTURE.  
A BELIEF IN ACTION.**

Dear NCJW Member,

There are so many exciting things going on in NCJW – who has time for them all? In December our annual meeting was held at the new Hillel House. Thank you Hillel House for providing this meeting space. It was great to see the new building. Dan Cameron, curator of the Prospect. 2 art exhibit, was our guest speaker. He filled our heads with visions of contemporary art around New Orleans and the world. Now we all need to get out and see the exhibit before it

ends. Coming in February, is a new member/newcomers event where we will hear all about the Promote the Vote program and how it affects us. Also in February, is our annual Hannah G. Solomon Award Luncheon. Our award recipient, Mary Zervigon, is a community activist in the true legacy of Hannah Solomon and well deserving of this award. Before we know it, Passover will be here. We are planning a new and different Seder for this Passover. Stay tuned to hear all about it. By the time Passover is over, it will be time for our annual fund raiser – this year the theme is *April in Paris*. You can take a stroll down the avenue and shop to your heart's content as well as be entertained by Parisian artists.

In the middle of all this planning, WVUE reporter Jennifer Hale and our own Fox 8 Defenders were nominated for a Sun Coast Emmy for their reporting and investigation on a consumer

fraud issue. Fox 8 Defenders are not the only busy volunteers. Our ACE volunteers, our new domestic violence court program and our other service programs are all busy. All of them deserve thanks for the hard work and wonderful service that they provide. Coming in Spring is Adloyadah, Holocaust Memorial Day and Israel Independence Day – all of which receive support and volunteers from NCJW. Please give generously to our Personal Giving Campaign. All the money raised goes towards NCJW service programs. Thank you for your support of NCJW. We can't do it without your help.

Sincerely,



Phyllis Nitzkin

## Hannah Solomon Award (Continued from page 1)

Philanthropic Society, Girl Scouts of Louisiana, United Nations Association, Mayor's Tax Fairness Committee, Bureau of Governmental Research, and the Urban League, among others. She is an ardent supporter of human rights organizations as well.

There are so many ways that Mary Zervigon has served our community, but you will have to join us for the Hannah G. Solomon Award Luncheon at the Westin Hotel, Canal Place on February 27th to learn more! Please do encourage your friends and family to join us as we honor Mary Zervigon with our most prestigious award in 2012.




National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater New Orleans Section

**President**  
Phyllis Nitzkin

**Vice President, Administration**  
Jill Zimmerman

**Editor**  
Mary Stein

**Photographs**  
Ina Davis



### Just a Reminder!

If you are a dues paying member and have not done so already, please mail your 2011-2012 NCJW membership dues in the amount of \$36.00 to

NCJW  
C/O Rachele Stein  
405 S. Gatehouse Dr. Apt. B  
Metairie, LA 70001

If you need a 2011-2012 dues statement envelope or have any other questions, please contact Rachele Stein at [racstein@bellsouth.net](mailto:racstein@bellsouth.net).

## Holiday Fun came to ACE

By Inge Elsas

Participants gathered with their family members, along with the program volunteers, the director, and friends to be led by Armand's great piano music. They sang, clapped hands, shoveled feet, yes, and danced to the generously provided music. It was a fun-filled afternoon, complete with lovely refreshments and much shared conversation.

Thanks to NCJWGNO and the JCC who made this holiday enrichment possible.

## Meet and Greet for New Members

We'd like to invite new members to get to know about NCJW's programs. We'll be focusing on HERVotes and Protect the Vote, Promote the Vote, two campaigns critical to getting out the vote this year.

February 2, 2012

6 pm - 8 pm

Home of Lisa Pulitzer

1015 Joseph Street

New Orleans, LA 70115

## Did You Know?

Did you know that NCJW and NCJW, Greater New Orleans Section was the subject of a recent research paper by a Tulane student? You can get a copy of the article by mail or email by calling the NCJW office at 861-7788.

## Help Secure the Future of NCJW- Greater New Orleans Section

Did you know that NCJW Greater New Orleans Section has an endowment fund? This fund was established to secure the future for the Greater New Orleans Section. It is held by the Jewish Endowment fund for NCJW's benefit. Donations can be made in any amount to honor, or memorialize, or just be donated on behalf of NCJW. Please send donations to

Kathy Shepard

3311 State St. Drive

New Orleans, LA 70125

Make a note on your check that it is for the NCJW Endowment Fund.

## General Meeting and Prospect. 2

December 14, 2011, NCJW met for its annual membership general meeting. Hadassah members joined us for a great discussion with Dan Cameron, curator of Prospect. 2. We learned what NCJW is doing in the next few months and how Prospect. 2 came to be and what we can expect to see at the exhibit. Thanks Dan, for an exciting evening.



The Annual General Meeting serves to enlighten our members of the Section's ongoing and new projects, advocacy, and events. Here, Sarah Hess and Lonnie Schaffer addressed the crowd of future fundraising goals.



Guest lecturer, Dan Cameron, devoted his last night as Director of Prospect.2 New Orleans to a full house of NCJW members and sisters from Hadassah. Many thanks to Dan for bringing world class artists to NOLA, and for the amazing support that it brings to our city.

Now is the time to VOLUNTEER  
for NCJW's newest program:

## O.P. Civil Court Protective Order Research Project

Our research will help determine how to streamline and speed up the process of getting a protective order from the Civil Courts in New Orleans.

Learn to interpret petitions and judges orders, and create an accurate record of what the outcome of each protective order case was and why. One training session is all you need to get started; the results of your research may greatly improve the system!

This is not a court watch program, but a research project that you will be able to do on your own time from the Civil Courts Records Room at Loyola Ave. and Perdido St.

The results will be supervised and calculated by the faculty and staff of the Tulane Domestic Violence Clinic and Loyola University. Join to make a difference.

Contact: Ina Davis to volunteer: InaNew@me.com; 504-919-2559

SAVE THE DATE

## April in Paris

When we will satchet down the Avenue  
for

### NCJW's FUNdraiser!



Great food, shopping, entertainment, and more  
all on a Parisian street in Spring.

April 15, 2012

6:30 pm

Parkview Terrace in City Park  
(formerly the Casino)

Interested in being on this committee?  
Contact

Sarah Hess sarakhkess@gmail.com or  
Lonnie Schaffer strikeitgreen@gmail.com

## Sip for Social Change

A gathering to commemorate the 39th anniversary of Roe v. Wade

Saturday, January 28, 2012

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Oak Wine Bar & Bistro  
8118 Oak Street, NOLA

Please join NCJW, GNO along with our coalition partners:



Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies

RSVP to ncjwgn@gmail.com or Ina Davis 504-919-2559

SAVE  
ROE

I AM  
THE FACE OF  
PRO ★ CHOICE  
AMERICA

KEEP  
ABORTION  
LEGAL

CHOICE

# Dedicated FUNDS

## Irma M. Isaacson Scholarship Fund...

Irma M. Isaacson Scholarship Fund enables the National Council of Jewish Women-New Orleans Section to provide needed financial assistance to local Jewish students pursuing an academic or vocational goal.

- ▶ In memory of Dorothy Wright  
**Julanne and Irwin Isaacson**
- ▶ In honor of the Bissinger Family  
for the JEF Tzedakah Award  
**Leone Marks  
Ann & Shaw Thompson**
- ▶ In memory of Leone Simon Marks  
▶ In honor of the Bissinger Family  
**Sandy and Edward Heller**
- ▶ In memory of Leone Simon Marks  
**Celia Katz  
Sara Stone**
- ▶ In honor of Sara Stone  
**Dana and Louis Shepard**

- ▶ In memory of Hannah Betty  
Blumenthal Stich  
**Harry Blumenthal**

## H.I.P.P.Y. Fund...

Home Instruction Program for  
Parents of Preschool Youngsters

- ▶ **Ferber Family of Houma  
Foundation**

## Clara and Roy Schwarz Book Fund...

The Clara and Roy Schwarz Book Fund provides each Irma M. Isaacson Scholarship Fund recipient with supplementary funds for the purchase of books.

- ▶ In honor of Sara Stone for receiving  
the Torch of Liberty award.  
**Lynn Skelding**

## NCJW Endowment Fund...

**Mimi Schlesinger**

## NCJW Cares...

- ▶ Wishing Joan Berenson a speedy  
recovery  
**Anita and Arthur Kotlen**
- ▶ In honor of Sandra Chass Gold-  
smith's grandson  
**Rachel Bergman**
- ▶ In honor of the Bissinger Family  
upon receiving the JEF Tzedakah  
Award  
**Tricia Kirschman**
- ▶ In memory of Leah Deutch,  
mother of Carol Katz  
**Barbara Herman**
- ▶ In honor of Rachelle Stein  
**Joan Berenson**
- ▶ In honor of Shellye Farber upon  
receiving the 2011 Harold Salmon  
Award  
**Eddy Rosen  
Bertha and Nathan Kern  
Carol Wise  
Sue Singer  
Jill Zimmerman  
Amy Gainsburgh Haspel  
Barbara Herman  
Sue Robin Weinbauer  
Julanne and Irwin Isaacson  
Deena Gerber  
Saundra Levy  
Cynthia and Stuart Farber  
Tricia Kirschman**

## BLUE BOOK CORRECTIONS

Roslyn F Morris  
36 Boimare Ave  
Kenner LA 70065  
Phone: 441-8683

Roan Hausmann  
150 Broadway Apt. 915  
New Orleans La 70118

## There are many ways you can donate to NCJW!

Don't forget us when you want to honor or memorialize  
your friends and family.

- NCJW Endowment Fund
- Personal Giving
- Create a Jewish Legacy  
(leave funds directed to NCJW in your will)
- NCJW Cares
- Irma Isaacson Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Clara and Roy Schwarz Memorial Book Fund
- Birthday Dollars



National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater New Orleans Section

6221 S. Claiborne Ave., Suite 208  
New Orleans, LA 70125

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 608  
New Orleans, LA

### Have You Changed Your Address?

If so, please contact the office

Phone (504) 861-7788

Fax (504) 861-0044

Email [ncjwgn@gmail.com](mailto:ncjwgn@gmail.com)

## Calendar of EVENTS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Jan. 24 Executive Committee Meeting<br/>Noon, Uptown JCC</li> <li>▶ Jan. 28 Sip for Social Change<br/>5 p.m. - 7 p.m., Oak Wine Bar &amp; Bistro<br/>8118 Oak St., NOLA</li> <li>▶ Feb. 2 Prospective Member Event<br/>6 p.m., Home of Lisa Pulitzer</li> <li>▶ Feb. 7 Board Meeting<br/>7 p.m., Metairie JCC</li> <li>▶ Feb. 14 Executive Committee Meeting<br/>Noon, Uptown JCC</li> <li>▶ Feb. 27 Hannah Solomon Award Luncheon<br/>11:30 a.m., Westin Hotel</li> <li>▶ Mar. 6 Board Meeting<br/>Noon, Uptown JCC</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Mar. 27 Executive Committee Meeting<br/>7 p.m., Metairie JCC</li> <li>▶ Apr. 3 Board Meeting<br/>7 p.m., Metairie JCC</li> <li>▶ Apr. 15 April in Paris NCJW Fundraiser<br/>Eiffel Society<br/>6:30 p.m., Parkview Terrace, City Park</li> <li>▶ Apr. 24 Executive Committee Meeting<br/>Noon, Uptown JCC</li> <li>▶ May 1 Board Meeting<br/>Noon, Uptown JCC</li> <li>▶ May 21 Closing Luncheon and Installation</li> </ul> |
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