

From: NCJW Communications
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 9:27 AM
Subject: NCJW Convention Highlights
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Dear NCJW Member,

Thank you for making the NCJW 44th National Convention a huge success!

During Convention over 300 NCJW members from 63 sections and affinity groups across the country came together to set the course for NCJW's next triennium. Participants learned how to further their work in workshops on subjects as varied as domestic violence, leadership training, advocacy, and Israel, and by attending programs on Plan A: NCJW's Campaign for Contraceptive Access and Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote. Delegates voted on NCJW's resolutions and bylaws, and elected a new roster of NCJW leaders.

Information about the 44th National Convention has been shared with national press. Articles have already appeared online and in national publications including the Chicago Jewish News.

Now it's your turn! Share information about Convention with your local newspapers and members.

1. Learn more through the press release posted on www.ncjw.org. Read about the 44th National Convention at: <http://www.ncjw.org/html/News/PressReleases/080314/>

2. Reach out to local newspapers. The attached template with embedded instructions enables you to customize a Convention press release for your section in order to maximize the potential for local press coverage. Send the completed press release to the News or National editor at your local secular and Jewish newspapers.

3. See photos of the event. The photos attached to this email are jpeg files intended for use in print materials. For all of these, please be sure to credit as indicated below

- a. NCJW 44th National Convention Installation Banquet: Florida State Senator Nan Rich installs Nancy Ratzan as president of the National Council of Jewish Women. Senator Rich is a past NCJW president and an NCJW life member. Photo: Steve Mateo (Note L to R: Senator Nan Rich, former NCJW president; Nancy Ratzan, NCJW president).
- b. NCJW 44th National Convention Women Who Dared Award Luncheon: Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards makes remarks as she accepts NCJW's Woman Who Dared Award. Photo: Steve Matteo.

4. Be inspired by the remarks of NCJW Immediate Past President, Phyllis Snyder, NCJW Executive Director, Stacy Kass, and NCJW President, Nancy Ratzan.

Excerpts from Outgoing NCJW President, Phyllis Snyder, from her keynote address, March 9, 2008:

"The scope of our work over the past three years has gone far beyond reproductive rights – in our communities and on the national stage – whether responding to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, divesting from Darfur and calling for an end to the genocide, rapidly responding to assist those caught in harm's way during Israel's war with Lebanon, or calling for an end to the war in Iraq. NCJW is not afraid to face the challenges of our day or to challenge the status quo.

It means supporting affirmative action, same-sex marriage, and comprehensive immigration reform. It means speaking out against torture and un-warranted wiretapping. It means standing up for civil liberties and fighting to protect the wall that separates religion and state.

Through it all, we've made sure our vision of a just society has been the driving force behind our efforts to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families."

Excerpts from NCJW Executive Director, Stacy Kass, from her keynote address, March 10, 2008:

"We've been working to strengthen the NCJW program by creating strong new community-based campaigns like Plan A. Already members around the nation are working to secure and protect access to contraceptive information and options through this proactive campaign. They're gaining members, dollars, and visibility....

Our next major campaign will work to stem the tide of violence against women. But before launching a new campaign, we need to find our special niche. A place where we can put our unique brand of activism to work. As always, sections and our grassroots will play a vital role in making this campaign successful....

We find our greatest strength when all of our energies are focused on the same goal. As we set forth on this new triennium, we're set on a course from good to great. By working together, we are promoting social change. Together, this is our reality – and NCJW's future."

Excerpts from Incoming NCJW President, Nancy Ratzan, from her installation address, March 11, 2008:

"We must lead around issues that would not be on the table but for us. We must lead the Jewish community, here and in Israel, to prioritize women's rights, because women's rights are human rights, and human rights are a core Jewish value!...

As the voice of progressive Jewish women, we must ensure that NCJW is at every table in the Jewish community where progressive reform is needed... When NCJW is present, change happens, social justice is delivered, we make the difference.

In the larger social justice world ... we must deliver our distinct, faith-inspired voice for justice and freedom. We must expose each threat to religious freedom that comes from corrupting public policy for all by imposing the religious doctrine of a few.... At so many tables -- on so many issues -- our distinct voice is vital. It is for us to deliver the potent and essential voice of progressive Jewish women."

5. Tell us your story!

At the 44th National Convention, the Section Showcase and Idea Exchanges were just two of the many opportunities to highlight the great work of your section and its members. Let's continue to share these success stories. NCJW wants to hear how you have taken action in support of NCJW's mission and programs – individually, as a section, or even as a state. Your voice is important to NCJW and we know that these action efforts can be powerful and inspirational models for others.

Your story could be featured in NCJW, Inc. communication vehicles – including the new NCJW website when it launches later in 2008.

Read the [NCJW Spotlight on Action Handout](#) for more details, and then submit your story to the Action Line at action@ncjw.org.

In the next few days you will receive more information on the business conducted at Convention including information on NCJW's budget, the revamped NCJW mission statement, and news about our resolutions, bylaws, and policies and procedures.

Best regards,
NCJW Communications

National Council of Jewish Women
A faith in the future. A belief in action.

Tel 800 829 NCJW Fax 212 645 7466

Speak your mind online!

Visit www.ncjw.org and sign up for the NCJW Action Center





National Council of Jewish Women
[LOCAL ADDRESS]

National Council of Jewish Women

Contact: [SECTION CONTACT]
[PHONE NUMBER]; [EMAIL]

For release: [DATE]

NCJW [insert city or state] Leaders Commit to Voting Effort at Organization's National Convention

[Date], [CITY, STATE] – [Insert city or state] leaders of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) returned home from attending its 44th National Convention committed to NCJW's election year effort to "Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote." The convention, held in Chicago March 9-11, launched the project after a presentation by Theodore Shaw, immediate past director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund on voting rights and impediments to voting. Shaw also received NCJW's Faith and Humanity Award.

[Local leader's name] from the [name of section] said, "I am looking forward this election year to NCJW's effort to ensure full participation in the 2008 election, as well as to continuing our work on Plan A: NCJW's Campaign for Contraceptive Access. The opportunity to exchange ideas and hear inspiring speakers on key issues re-energized all in attendance."

Delegates attending Convention also selected new leadership for the next triennium. Upon her election, newly installed president Nancy Ratzan proclaimed that "NCJW has a distinct, essential role in the pursuit of social justice today. We deliver the voice and action of progressive Jewish women. We address the issues that change lives and empower women: reproductive choice, religious freedom, violence against women, safety nets for children, and contraceptive access."

Ratzan added that "I am thrilled to help strengthen NCJW's capacity to effect progressive social change and continue our great legacy of transforming the world to be a place where there is social justice for all."

Featured speakers and awardees at the convention included:

NCJW Woman Who Dared Award: Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood of America;

NCJW Woman Who Dared Award: Susan Weidman Schneider, founding editor of *Lilith*, the award-winning Jewish women's magazine;

Hannah Stein Lecture: Linda Wertheimer, senior national correspondent for National Public Radio;

Scholar in Residence: Rabbi Marla J. Feldman, director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism; and

Opening Session Speaker: Steve Trombley, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area.

NCJW is a volunteer organization, inspired by Jewish values, that works to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families and to ensure individual rights and freedoms for all through its network of 90,000 members, supporters, and volunteers nationwide.

NCJW SPOTLIGHT ON ACTION

Speak out and share your story!

Across the country, NCJW members and supporters take action to create progressive social change at the local and national level. Now it's time to tell us about it.

NCJW, Inc. wants to hear how you have taken action in support of NCJW's mission and programs. Your efforts can result in policy changes, press coverage, or – at the very least – spark passion and renew individuals' commitment to important social issues. All of these experiences are important, and each has "successes" worth sharing. Share the value of your actions, and inspire others today! Your story could be featured in NCJW, Inc. communication vehicles – including the new NCJW website when it launches later in 2008.

Consider these tips for crafting a compelling story:

NCJW is interested in any action taken in support of NCJW's mission, programs, and advocacy issues. Please limit your story to 250 words, and use the questions below to help guide your description:

- ▶ Who took action?
- ▶ What prompted you or the group to take action?
- ▶ What was your goal?
- ▶ How does this issue or effort connect to an NCJW program or mission?
- ▶ What was the outcome?
 - ▶ Personal impact
 - ▶ Community impact
 - ▶ Political/advocacy impact
- ▶ Was there any press coverage?
- ▶ Why are you proud of these efforts?

Everyone is encouraged to submit a story. Be sure to include your contact information and NCJW relationship or role (i.e. member, section president, SPA).

Send your story to the Action Line at action@ncjw.org

Please use the subject line "My Action Story" when sending your email. We encourage the inclusion of digital photographs – especially a headshot of the story's author. Please attach all images as high-resolution JPEG or GIF files.

Submission of any material authorizes NCJW to publish stories in online and offline communication vehicles in perpetuity.