

ADVOCACY IN ACTION - JEWISH VOICE FOR CHOICE

NCJW, Louisville Section hosted a sold out Advocacy in Action - Jewish Voice for Choice event on March 29th in support of protecting and advancing women's reproductive rights and healthcare justice in the commonwealth of Kentucky.

We were delighted to have Mayor Craig Greenberg, First Lady Rachel Greenberg, Dr. Karen Abrams, and Dr. Anna Feitelson as our featured speakers, and to have Cantor Lauren Adesnik deliver a beautiful blessing.

It was a privilege to present the inaugural *Sonia and Dr. Ronald Levine Jewish Voice for Choice Award*, in recognition of Sonia and Ronald Levine - long-standing members of NCJW, Louisville Section for their efforts to support women's reproductive healthcare.

Congratulations again to the recipients of this award, Jessica Kalb, Sarah Baron, and Lisa Sobel. "The Kentucky Three", as they are known, filed a lawsuit in October 2022 against Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron and Jefferson County Attorney Thomas Wine, stating that Kentucky's abortion laws infringe on the freedom to practice their religion since, in accordance with Jewish law, they do not believe human life begins at conception.

Thank you to our members, special guests, sponsors, and community partners for joining our efforts to inform and mobilize individuals about reproductive freedoms!



*served for partial of year

BOARD MEMBERS

Joyce Bridge (*President*), Ellen Shapira (*Treasurer*), Beth Salamon (*State Policy Advocate*), Sharon Bensinger*, Jane Emke, Linda Engle, Diane Graeter, Mindy Klein, Surekha Kulkarni, Sonia Levine, Sue Paul*, Phyllis Present, Ellen Rosenbloom, Judy Shapira, Leni Sweet*, Helen Wahba, Elaine Weinberg, and Laura Weinstein

NCJW STAFF

Nancy Chazen (*Executive Director*) and Connie Beams (*Administrative Coordinator*)

FROM THE PRESIDENT



It was wonderful seeing the collaborative efforts of our members to defeat Amendment #2 last Fall and seeing so many of you at the reproductive rights breakfast gathering! We hope you will join us again as we move forward with our advocacy on behalf of the women and children in Kentucky. We look forward to seeing you and getting more input from you as we work toward making Louisville the city we want for our families and children. We need all your ideas and energy to reach our goals. Have a wonderful Summer and we hope to see you again at an event in the Fall. Together we can accomplish so much. We are the village to make things happen. Am honored to be a part of you! -Joyce

✉ joyce.bridge@gmail.com

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We had an incredible 127th year filled with meaningful work and time spent with our members – including so many new members! – and community partners! Some of these highlights were:

- Working collaboratively to vote no on Kentucky's Amendment #2!
- Hosting the Advocacy in Action – Jewish Voice for Choice event to mobilize the community.
- Attending the Advocacy in Action - Leading Through Uncertainty conference in St. Louis, hosted by NCJW, St. Louis and NCJW, Inc.
- Working with our grant consultant to expand our reach for grant funding.
- Creating new alliances and relationships both within the Jewish community and at large.
- Contributing input to NCJW, Inc.'s updated bylaws, policies, and enhanced branding kit.
- Welcoming two new Board Members!
- Discussing the findings from the Jewish Louisville Community Study with other Jewish leaders to determine how we can best interact with people who identify as Jewish.
- Attending the Trager Family JCC's Wall of Honor reception in September and seeing our NCJW plaque proudly supporting the Jewish community!
- Serving on the SAFE Louisville/Secure Community Network committee and implementing security enhancements in our office and in the Nearly New Shop.
- Attending the unveiling ceremony of the Nettie Depp Statue in the Capitol in November - which was the first statue of a woman in the State Capitol!
- All the great changes to the Nearly New Shop led by the store's Manager, Rose Snyder and the wonderful staff!



I am especially excited that we are beginning the process to expand the Section's leadership staff to hire a Director of Engagement and Advocacy to help us create more growth, impact, and success! - Nancy

✉ nancychazen@ncjwlou.org

FROM THE STATE POLICY ADVOCATE

In addition to participating in the Section's various committees, over the past year I have assisted with and coordinated the following advocacy efforts:

- Testified before the KY Senate Education committee against a bill that permits teachers to pass out religious materials to students in public school during non instructional time.
- Attended the NCJW's Advocacy in Action - Leading Through Uncertainty conference in St. Louis.
- Judicial Nominations
 - Signed on to a letter of support for Julie Rikelman to the First Circuit Court of Appeals on 9/20.
 - Co-sponsored two judicial forums with the Louisville Bar Association on 9/22 and 10/6.
 - On 10/31, signed on to a letter to the Senate Democratic Caucus to prioritize the continued confirmation of all judicial nominees who are or will be awaiting full Senate action by the end of the 117th Congress.
- Judicial Ethics Legislation
 - Signed on to a letter responding to the Ethics Crisis at the Supreme Court on 12/12.
 - The sign-on letter offered by Alliance for Justice, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Women's Law Center, and People For the American Way recommends the Senate initiate a formal investigation and also urges Senate passage of judicial ethics legislation that applies to the Court, and the continued confirmation of more ethical and fair-minded judicial nominees who will respect and uphold the rights of all people
- Jewish Disability Awareness Acceptance
 - Signed on to a letter to Congress for Jewish Disability Awareness Acceptance on 1/30.
 - Every February, during Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month, the Jewish community comes together for Jewish Disability Advocacy Day (JDAD) to raise awareness and advocate for policies that promote independence and inclusion of people with disabilities and mental health conditions. In honor of JDAD 2023, the Religious Action Center, the Jewish Federations of North America, and the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies are collecting signatures for a letter to members of Congress, urging them to prioritize policies in the 118th Congress that promote inclusion and accessibility while empowering people with disabilities to lead lives of greater independence and economic stability.
- Advocacy Alerts to the General Membership
 - Sent out advocacy alerts to the general membership for:
 - Special election State Senate District 19
 - Support of: House Bill 21
 - Opposition of: House Bill 30, House Bill 58, House Bill 118, House Bill 120, and House Bill 150
 - Voter information for the May 16th Primary election

- Beth



CONGRATULATIONS

*Congratulations to Beth
on being appointed to
NCJW, Inc.'s 2023-2026
Board of Directors!
We are glad to have
Kentucky representation
at the national level!*



salamonba@aol.com

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS COMMITTEE

- We were a coalition partner of Protect Kentucky Access which successfully helped mobilize voters to vote no and defeat the Kentucky Amendment #2 in November which would have removed abortion access and funding from the Kentucky State Constitution. Some of the key action items were:
 - Co-sponsored an event in September: Vote No on #2: Amendment 2: What You Need to Know
 - Amplified the Vote No on #2 messaging campaign in the community (including at the synagogues' High Holiday services!)
 - Participated in phone banked and canvassing/door knocking to inform individuals of the reasons to vote no
 - Hosted a table at the Nearly New Shop's Fashion Encore sale in October to provide information and sign up PKA advocates
- Participated in the monthly Repro Roundtables, hosted by the ACLU and attended by various reproductive rights groups.
- Coordinated NCJW's Rabbis for Repro campaign with local Jewish clergy.
- Coordinated NCJW's Repro Shabbat in February among Jewish leaders and synagogues in Louisville and statewide.
- Joined the Plan C coalition to inform people of the safety, effectiveness, and legality of abortion bills by mail.
- Closely followed the Kentucky legislative bills and a lawsuit for abortion access in Kentucky, as well as the federal court lawsuit challenging the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s approval of mifepristone,
- Held the successful Advocacy in Action - Jewish Voice for Choice breakfast community event.
- Participated in the Trager Family JCC's Israeli Street Fair to share information about NCJW's efforts towards reproductive rights both in Kentucky and in Israel.
- Co-hosted the Reproductive Justice - Why it Matters for People of Faith education and community service event (assembled and shipped abortion and miscarriage aftercare supplies) in early June.

Please contact Beth Kuhn or Linda Engle, co-chairs, if you'd like more information on how to get involved in policy, outreach and/or project activities, or how you can support NCJW's work.



✉ ncjwloureprorights@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OUTREACH & VOTING COMMITTEE

- Coordinated two co-sponsored judicial forums in September and October featuring candidates running for District Court, Circuit Court, the Kentucky Court of Appeals and the Kentucky Supreme Court.
- Mailed introduction letters to thirty-one newly elected officials in the Fall to ensure they are aware of NCJW and our work.
- Sent out advocacy alerts to the membership for voter information for the May 16th Primary election
- The committee is currently making plans in collaboration with the Reproductive Rights committee to help voters understand where the candidates stand on abortion healthcare, justice, and freedom.
- More information will follow as we prepare for the November elections, so please let us know if you're interested in being part of these projects!

Make sure your voter registration information is correct! Go to: [GoVoteKY.com](https://www.GoVoteKY.com)



office@ncjwlou.org

DAVID RICHART COMMITTEE (childrens)

- Hosted the David Richart Award dinner in October to honor Terry Brooks, Executive Director of Kentucky Youth Advocates (guests donated over \$3,000 to Kentucky Youth Advocates in honor of Terry Brooks).
- Co-sponsored the 2023 Kentucky Youth Advocates Children's Advocacy Week and attended the Rally for Kentucky Kids in the Capitol.
- Honored by Seven Counties Services/Bellwood & Brooklawn in September in receiving the inaugural Bruce W. Furguson - Healer of Hearts & Minds Award on behalf of the Richart Committee.
- The Nearly New Shop continues to be a proud employer of the Family Recovery Court graduates and these employees have been a valued asset to our team!
- The co-chairs of the Richart Committee are working on the plans to resume the Court Watch volunteers program and more information will follow in the coming months!

✉ joyce.bridge@gmail.com, sharonvips@gmail.com, dianegraeter6709@hotmail.com



OPTIMAL AGING ADVOCATES COMMITTEE (seniors)

- Held the Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia event in September, and an Effective Communication Strategies and Alzheimer's Disease event in May with the Trager Family JCC, JFCS, and Chavurat Shalom!
- Began a partnership with the Louisville Metro Retired Senior Volunteer Program in February to provide volunteer opportunities for seniors in the Nearly New Shop.
- The committee will be collaborating with the Reproductive Rights committee to amplify their efforts from generation to generation, *L'Dor V'Dor*, and with the GOV committee to assist seniors with voter registration and voting needs.
- The committee is also looking for a new chairperson to take over the lead for this work, so please let us know if you're interested!

✉ office@ncjwlou.org

HOMELESS YOUTH COMMITTEE

- Assisted with enhancements to the "stopmyeviction.org" website with the Coalition for the Homeless.
- Partnered with UP for Women and Children for Nearly New Shop voucher program, assistance with housing set up (items), and assembled snack and personal hygiene bags for its clients in the Fall and Spring.
- The committee will be collaborating with the Reproductive Rights committee to help ensure women with unstable housing have information about reproductive healthcare and rights, and with the GOV committee to assist these individuals with voter registration and voting needs.



✉ marleneogordon@gmail.com
flormanphyllis@yahoo.com

GILDA'S CLUB COMMITTEE

- Participated in another fun Camp Gilda in July by serving breakfast-on-the-go and warm lunches to the campers, and a family night dinner; in Gilda's Club Back to School event in August to provide school supplies; and hosted a booth at their NoogieFest to celebrate Halloween!
- In March we hosted a dinner for 35 members of a support group to ensure that dinner was one last worry for them to think about!
- The committee is looking for a new chairperson to take over the lead for these amazing projects, so please let us know if you're interested!



✉ office@ncjwlou.org

MEMBERSHIP

- In an attempt to increase engagement and recruit more advocates/supporters of NCJW, Louisville Section, we are shifting our membership fee model to be inclusive of all personal giving.
- We want to reframe our membership model to serve a community, rather than a set membership base - and to reframe the relationship as philanthropic rather than transactional based on dues and event access.
- Therefore, beginning July 1, 2023 all of our Local Life Members and "regular" members will still retain their status and you'll hear us referring to you as "sustaining members".
- **We are moving away from annual membership renewal dues and instead we are concentrating on giving campaigns throughout the year to provide you with various opportunities to support the Section.**



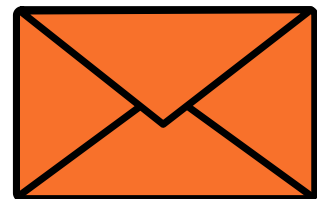
● \$18 ● \$25 ● \$50 ● \$100 ● \$200 ● \$500 ● \$1,000
● or any amount

- **We welcome your personal giving to support our advocacy efforts, community projects, and the general operations of the Section.**
- Remember, your gift of support also makes a wonderful gift for a Bat/Bar Mitzvah, birthday, graduation, wedding, holiday gifts, etc.
- National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your financial contributions are tax deductible.



- **Please use the attached return envelope for your convenience in mailing a financial gift of support now, or as you are able (checks made payable to: NCJW, Louisville Section).**
- **Or, at any time, donate online or contact the NCJW Office:**

 ncjwlou.org  502-458-5566  office@ncjwlou.org



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY



*Please make sure
we have your
current:*

**EMAIL
ADDRESS
PHONE #**

- In an effort to save on expenses and to be environmentally conscious, we will **NOT** be mailing a printed Membership Directory this Fall.
 - We realize that some of our sustaining members appreciate the printed Directory, so we will be happy to mail a copy of the Directory upon request, and we thank you for your understanding.
- **We will continue updating the Membership Directory at ncjwlou.org so please refer to this online version as you need.**
 - This online version of the Directory is password protected for our member's privacy. Please let us know if you need the password again!

MAH JONGG EVENT & CARDS

- Mah Jongg is another great way for our members to connect and socialize - and our sale of the 2023 Mah Jongg cards continued to be a good fundraising source for the Section! The 2024 MJ cards will be available for purchase in November.
- We hosted a successful playing event in early December with more than 25 attendees (and offered three lessons in November, which were very well received)!
- Save the date for Sunday, December 3rd when we plan on offering another fun playing event with the community (and offering lessons again in November)! We'd love your help, so please let us know if you'd like to get involved!



✉ office@ncjwlou.org

BEYOND VAN GOGH LOUISVILLE EXHIBIT



- We had a great time in August at the Beyond Van Gogh Louisville exhibit with our friends from the Jewish Federation of Louisville's Women's Philanthropy group!



SHOPPING SPREE PROGRAM



- The Shopping Spree program is an enjoyable way for you to support our general operations and your shopping pleasure at the same time!
- Thanks to the participating merchants for the special shopping events last August and February, and to those offering year-round discounts!
- Keep an eye out for the 2023-2024 information and 20/20 weeks to purchase your NCJW Shopping Spree Card!

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

- We were proud to continue being a sponsor of the 25th Annual Jewish Film Festival in February and to help enrich and inspire the community through the arts, new ideas, and speaking engagements.



ARCHIVES & HISTORICAL ITEMS FOR THE FILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- In February, we donated much of our archival collection of records and photographs to the Filson Historical Society for cataloging, preservation, and access. At the Filson, they will join other important collections documenting local Jewish, women's, and service organizations and provide an incredible learning resource for the present and the future. We anticipate the public viewing of this collection to launch in 2025.
- A special shout out of thanks to Abby Glogower (*Curator of Jewish Collections and Jewish Community Archives, The Filson Historical Society*) and Elaine Weinberg for their help with this project!
- If you have items from years past, we'd love to have them to help ensure our historical record is as rich and complete as possible! In particular we seek:
 - Records, documents, meeting minutes, bulletins, correspondence, and photographs especially pertaining to the earliest decades of the Section.
 - Unique items created by and for the Section including skits, speeches, scripts, uniforms, aprons, needlework etc.

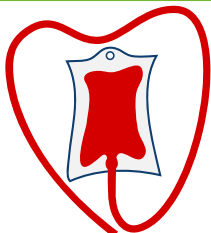


NCJW SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- We were honored to continue the awarding of the NCJW Scholarship Fund to a deserving student to assist them in their academic achievements.
- Our Scholarship Fund, administered through the Community Foundation of Louisville, helps offset college expenses of students who are of Jewish Faith. We are extremely proud of the over 100 years we have financially invested in these students and of the committed investment to the local Jewish community!
- Donations to the NCJW Scholarship Fund are always welcomed and appreciated - and are a tax-deductible contribution.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES



- Since July of 2022, we've held four successful blood drives with the American Red Cross and the Trager Family Jewish Community Center - collecting 90 units of life-saving blood achieving a 12% increase of our blood donation goal!
- More drives are planned through 2023-2024 with the next one being August 22nd so please save the date to help save a life!

AFGHAN REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

- In February we collaborated with the JCRC and Bellarmine University to gather toiletries supplies for asylum seekers on the Arizona border.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Thank you to the following partners for the gracious financial assistance and sponsorships throughout the year: **Jewish Heritage Fund, Kentucky Colonels, Republic Bank, Signarama, and Wilson & Muir Bank & Trust!**

SAFE LOUISVILLE/SCN

- NCJW, Louisville Section was proud to join the SAFE Louisville committee last year; comprised of representatives from Jewish organizations and agencies in Louisville to develop a community-wide safety and security plan to address the troubling trends associated with a rise in anti-semitism.
- Our Executive Director meets monthly with this committee to help ensure proactive, and reactive, measures are in place for both NCJW and the Nearly New Shop employees, members, and customers.

GRANT UPDATES

- **We are extremely grateful to have received grant funding from the Jewish Heritage Fund to support expanding our paid leadership staff and continuing working with our contracted grant consultant to strengthen the Section's sustainability.**
- **We also thank the Honorable Order Kentucky Colonels for their financial support last year to finish updating the Nearly New Shop interior signage!**
- We are actively seeking grant funding from foundations and grantors throughout the country – if you have a relationship with a grantor please let us know so we can make these connections in hopes they will consider supporting NCJW!

WAYS TO SUPPORT NCJW, LOUISVILLE SECTION

- Personal giving and fundraising activities are necessary every year to support the general operations of the Section and community and advocacy programs and projects.
- **We are grateful for your support and naming NCJW as a beneficiary in any of the following ways**
 - Direct Donations
 - Matching Gifts/Donations from any business, corporation, or employer
 - Wills and Bequests
 - Trusts and Retirement Accounts
 - Insurance Policy Surrenders
 - End of Year Contributions
 - Tribute Cards & Chai Cards
 - KROGER Community Rewards
 - Give for Good Louisville (September 14th)



If you're not receiving our emails, please contact the Office to give us your email!

NEARLY NEW SHOP

NEARLY NEW SHOP STAFF:

Rose Snyder (*Manager*), Lora Powers (*Assistant Manager*), Lee Lindsay (*Interim Assistant Manager*), Debbie Birkemeier, Jessie Boyd, Mercury Cougler, Barbara Ehrlich, Cheryl Farris, Josh Heim, Peggy Lucas, and Nicole Mitchell

- The Nearly New Shop has never looked better – or operated as efficiently – as it has this past year! Under the leadership of the store Manager, Rose Snyder, her fabulous staff, and dedicated volunteers we have implemented many changes to improve the daily operations of the Shop including: streamlined processing, updated pricing structures and tagging, signage, store merchandising, and social media activity.
- Donation procedures were enhanced as well with extended donation room days and hours to Tuesday - Saturday from 10am-4pm, and extending donation pick-up days to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (**for all information on donations, please go to: shopnearlynew.org**)
- Speaking of donations in 2022 the Nearly New Shop itemized over \$145,000 in donations and had an estimated \$87,035 in non-deductible donations totaling \$232,094!
- We were proud to expand our support to community organizations and agencies by providing in-kind donations and store vouchers to those individuals and families in need throughout the year.
- The Shop also continued being environmentally conscious and started working with a local organization to collect our unsalable merchandise for recycling (for which we make a small profit for this effort) and, thanks to the team at Louisville Climate Action Network (LCAN) we were able to consolidate our electric meter usage, which will save us a significant amount in electric bills!
- Sales remained steady and good throughout the year – especially during our annual Fashion Encore and Spring Fling/Derby sales! And we've implemented monthly sales so **make sure you sign up to receive the Shop's emails for the latest sales and happenings at shopnearlynew.org!**

We mourn the loss of our beloved employee, Willie Boyd, who passed on May 27.

Willie joined the Nearly New Shop in the 1980's and served over four decades ensuring the store was well-maintained, donations were picked up, and above all else - caring for the other employees, volunteers, and Board Members. He was a friend to all, with a kind heart, sweet smile, and the most wonderful laugh.

We thank him for all that he gave to the Nearly New Shop and NCJW. We are lucky to have shared in his life. May his memory be a blessing.



Please remember that we rely on NCJW members to support the Nearly New Shop by donating, volunteering, and shopping!



Volunteers are needed a few hours each week to a few hours a month to help with:

- *Sorting and hanging donated items*
- *Pricing and tagging items*
- *Sales floor upkeep and merchandising*
- *Customer service and sales associate assistance*



shopnearlynew.org



502-454-6633



nearlynewshop@ncjwlou.org

Keep up with all of NCJW, Inc.'s national initiatives, work, and resources by visiting ncjw.org



ncjwlou.org
shopnearlynew.org



[ncjwlouisvillesection](https://www.facebook.com/ncjwlouisvillesection)
[nearlynewshoplou](https://www.facebook.com/nearlynewshoplou)



[ncjwlouisville](https://www.instagram.com/ncjwlouisville)
[nearlynewshoplou](https://www.instagram.com/nearlynewshoplou)



[@ncjwlouisville](https://twitter.com/ncjwlouisville)
[@nearlynewlou](https://twitter.com/nearlynewlou)

SAVE THE DATES (more to follow!)

- 7/17-7/21: Camp Gilda @ Gilda's Club
- 8/6: Nearly New Shop Anniversary (opened 8/6/1956)
- 8/7-8/21: Shopping Spree Program (20/20 Week)
- 8/22/23: American Red Cross Blood Drive 12-5pm
- 9/14: Give for Good Louisville
- 9/15-9/17: Rosh Hashanah (NCJW & NNS CLOSED 9/15)
- 9/24: Erev Yom Kippur
- 9/25: Yom Kippur (NCJW & NNS CLOSED 9/25)
- 9/29-10/6: Sukkot (NCJW CLOSED 9/29)
- 10/16: Homeless Youth Committee/UP Bags
- 10/6: Shemini Atzeret (NCJW CLOSED)
- 10/8: Simchat Torah (NCJW CLOSED)
- 10/11: NCJW Annual Fundraising Event
- 10/21-10/22: Fashion Encore
- 10/28: Gilda's Club NoogieFest @ Gilda's Club
- 12/3: Mah Jongg Event 1:30-4:30pm
- 12/14: American Red Cross Blood Drive 12-5pm
- 12/7-12/15: Hanukkah



ncjwlou.org



502-458-5566



office@ncjwlou.org