

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN/GREATER DETROIT SECTION

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

All of our bright tomorrows are built upon the firm foundation of our yesterdays. Today is but the stepping stone from major events that have shaped our tradition to greater achievements that will carry out our future.

- 1891 Rabbi Louis Grossman called a meeting of Jewish women of the community which resulted in the formation of the Jewish Women's Club of Temple Beth El, with Ida E. (Mrs. Bernard) Ginsburg as President. Three hundred women joined. Purpose: "To better the conditions of girls, and women, to promote friendly fellowship and mutual helpfulness among Jewish Women of Detroit, to elevate their mental, moral and social status, and to foster cultivating influences of Jewish women."
- 1892 A committee to visit the sick organized; classes formed in English, literature, physical culture, German and dress-making.
- 1893 A committee was appointed to represent the club at the Women's Congress at the World's Fair in Chicago. This was the major event which stimulated the organization of NCJW in Chicago.
- 1896 Organization name was changed to "Jewish Women's Club." A speaker from the National Council of Jewish addressed the group but no action was taken on Council affiliation. An employment service was created.
- 1898 Club joined the Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs.
- 1899 Rabbi Leo M. Franklin made his first address to the club – topic "Purim."
- 1900 Club cooperated with the Federation of Women's clubs in marking historical sites in Detroit.
- 1902 Following the death of Mrs. Ginsburg, the Ida E. Ginsburg Scholarship fund was established in her memory. Money was used for schooling of worthy girls. Beginning of our continuing Education Assistance Program. Club voted to support the Consumer's League.
- 1903 First scholarship granted by the Ida E. Ginsburg Scholarship Fund.
- 1905 Club added its name to a list of organizations protesting to Congress against inhumanities practiced in the Congo. Club cooperated with the Independent Women Voters Association in asking for the election of competent school inspectors in Detroit. Two traveling libraries, to serve institutions, were established.

- 1911 *Penny Lunches* were prepared and served to public school children in hardship areas by council volunteers. Project was later taken over by Detroit Board of Education, to become the start of the city-wide school lunch program.
- 1923 City ordinance passed prohibiting young children from peddling in the streets, through the efforts of Council women and others, over a ten year period.
- 1925 The Jewish Women's Club became the DETROIT SECTION NATION COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN Mildred (Mrs. Joseph M.) Welt was elected its first president.
- 1929 A demonstration Summer Play School was undertaken.
- 1930 Council House Project, a residence for young women was concluded.
- 1931 NATIONAL CONVENTION OF NCJW was held in Detroit.
- 1933 Young Women's Hebrew Association and Jewish Community Center merge into the Woodward-Holbrook building. Council Camp at Jeddo, Michigan (formerly Y.W.H.A Camp) was opened to continue to provide vacations for women.
- 1934 Council Resale Shop opened in clubhouse at 89 Rowena Street. Junior Council was organized. Josephine (Mrs. Leonard H.) Weiner was the first president.
- 1940 Rowena Street Council House was sold and offices were moved to the Jewish Community Center. Resale Shop moved to new location. Local work with refugee children began.
- 1941 "Franklin Hills Day" raised \$3500 for "Service to Foreign Born."
- 1942 Planning begun with the Jewish Community Center and Jewish Welfare Federation for the establishment of the Twelfth Street Council Center.
- 1944 The Twelfth Street Council Center was opened on December 3rd, a joint operation of Council and Jewish Community Center. The first cooperative venture of a social agency with a volunteer member organization. One hundred twenty-five volunteers served regularly 1,000 people a week, mostly children, participated in recreational and educational programs.
- 1945 Detroit Section voluntarily increased its quota to the National Overseas Program and Service to Foreign Born from \$6,000 to \$10,000, taking the lead in the country.
- 1946 Detroit Section, Jewish Welfare Federation and Resettlement Service coordinated to form "Service to New Americans."
- 1947 National Resolutions on Palestine were adopted supporting the United States Government in urging an open door policy for Jewish immigration and the abrogation

of laws restricting the rights of Jews to purchase land in Palestine.

- 1948 Clubs were formed at the Twelfth Street Center for Older Adults – the beginning of the Golden Age Program.
- 1950 A Placement Program for older people was undertaken with the Jewish Vocational Service. Community Workshop for people unable to be placed in regular employment was set up at the Jewish Community Center.
- 1951 Huntington Woods Branch of Detroit Section was formed.
- 1952 High school age girls formed the “Councilettes” and undertook a program of social activities, community service and support of the Hannah G. Solomon Scholarship Fund. Mrs. Fred Keidan was first president. Northwest Branch of the Detroit Section was organized.
- 1953 Mental Health, Housing and F.E.P.C. legislation fully studied.
- 1954 “Living With A Flair” series of workshops was designed for enrichment and enjoyment of contemporary life.
- 1955 English classes, Golden Age Program and Nursery School were transferred to D.W. Simons Building because of the closing of the Twelfth Street Council Center. Puritan Resale Shop and Depot opened. Detroit’s first Angel Ball was held on Thanksgiving eve at the Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel. Council’s Job Placement Project won first prize in the Detroit News city-wide contest for “Organizational Activities in Community Service.” The prize was \$250 and broad community recognition.
- 1956 Council house was purchased in July, remodeled, and opened for business in September. The Joseph Akers Lounge and Board Room was furnished and equipped through a gift of the Stanley Akers Family. Huntington Woods Branch embraced the surrounding communities and became the Suburban Branch. Councilettes added a Suburban Group.
- 1957 Senior Adult lounge program opened next door to Council House on McNichols Road. We recognized the social and recreational needs of senior adults in the area. In 1960, program moved to Jewish Community Center and has become one of their largest activities.
- 1959 At the Biennial Convention in Los Angeles, Sections undertook to raise their fair share of half million dollars, over a four year period, for building the Hebrew University High School in Israel – an experimental institution for teacher training.
- 1960 *Operation Friendship*, a lounge program for convalescing mental patients was started, as a result of a national and local community survey of needs. Council cooperated with other community groups to help form the Receiving Hospital Service League, and

furnished a lounge for the men's psychiatric ward. The MID-EASTERN REGIONAL CONVENTION was held in Detroit.

- 1962 *The Orchards*, a residential treatment home, owned and operated by the Detroit Section, for emotionally disturbed young boys was opened in Livonia. Purchase and furnishing of the house was made possible by the generosity of seventeen Council members and their families.
- 1963 Detroit over-subscribed its fair share for the Hebrew University High School in Israel, then gave an additional \$5,000 for The Detroit Room. Mrs. Regene Cohane, Mrs. Leonard Weiner and entire National board the White House Conference on Civil Rights, at invitation of President John F. Kennedy. Following, the Detroit Section invited local affiliates of the Nation Women's Groups represented on the steering committee to meet at Council House to establish friendly relations and exchange ideas. "Show and Sale" of contributed art, including fine paintings by Council members, was held at Great Lakes Club, for benefit of The Orchards.
- 1964 Custer Elementary School Project inaugurated at start of school year. One hundred volunteers began regular service as tutors, teacher's aides, enrichment trip assistants and drivers. Operation Friendship moved to its own beautifully and well-equipped lounge at 17100 Woodingham and expanded its program. Project won third prize in Federal Department Stores contest for service programs of Women's Club. Tenth Annual Angel Ball celebrated at Cobo Hall with Glen Miller Orchestra. Vera Parshall Shiffman Scholarship Fund was established by her family, with a large annual grant.
- 1965 Exhibit of Custer School Project won two first prizes at Annual Meeting of League of Jewish Women's Organizations. Detroit Section won prize for Membership Increase at National Biennial Convention in New York. WICS (Women in Community Service) project was started as part of President Johnson's War on Poverty. Detroit Section actively engaged in local phases of program. A citation was presented to the Detroit Section NCJW by the Round Table of Catholics, Jews and Protestants, in recognition of the Detroit Section's affiliation and cooperation.
- 1966 Operation Friendship received a Matching Fund Grant under Michigan State Mental Health Act #54. Section was awarded a USO citation for Outstanding Volunteer Services. Detroit Section hosted National Volunteer Fellowship Visitor, Mrs. Peggy Hart Leviton of London, England.
- 1967 Treasure Aisle, 16011 Hamilton, opened as a Resale Antique & Home Furnishing Shop. Operation Friendship expanded under the Federal Government "Older Americans Act." The program received special commendation and was suggested as a model program. Mrs. Fred H. Keidan was named "Outstanding Women of 1967" by Jaycees. "Education in Living" series was given by the Public Affairs Department.

- 1968 Formal agreement was reached between the Orchards and JFCS for handling the admission of Jewish children to the Orchards.
- 1969 Detroit Section becomes Greater Detroit Section NCJW with it move to the suburbs. NCJW adopts a resolution to work for abortion rights and to eliminate obstacles that limit this right. NCJW was instrumental in forming RCAR, a coalition of religious organizations advocating pro-choice and the legalization of abortion.
- 1970 Oakland Operation Friendship was established, patterned after the Detroit model. Arlene Schendler received the Hannah G. Solomon Award.
- 1971 Orchards expanded its services to include camping, after school groups for boys and girls, nursery school and family counseling. The project changed its name to Orchards Children's Services. Council House moved to larger quarters in Southfield to permit greater flexibility in programming and increased membership participation. Operation Friendship became Operation Friendship Wayne an independent community agency, operated and supported by community and government grants. GDS hosted the NCJW NATIONAL CONVENTION. "Summit Conference" held in Jerusalem to recognize NCJW's Silver Anniversary of service in Israel. Mrs. Victor Shiffman, Mrs. Joseph Klein and Mrs. Fredrick Shevin were delegates. Mrs. Leonard Weiner was Chairwoman of the Conference.
- 1972 Hannah G. Solomon Award was given to Dr. Kenneth Bateman for his service to the Orchards.
- 1973 Greater Detroit Section NCJW funded a bus to take Federation Apartment residents grocery shopping. Hannah G. Solomon Awards were given to Mrs. Gerard Slattery, Mrs. Joseph H. Welt, Martha Wyle and Regen Freund Cohane for their volunteer efforts on behalf of the community. MEALS ON WHEELS was established to provide Kosher meals to shut-ins.
- 1974 Greater Detroit Section NCJW donated \$15,000 for staff housing to enable emotionally disturbed children to attend Silverman Village at Camp Tamarack.
- 1975 *Service to the Foreign Born* was established in conjunction with the Jewish Community Center to provide a series of Jewish cultural and social events for Russian immigrants. Josephine Weiner received the Hannah G. Solomon Award.
- 1976 Florence S. Kreger received the Hannah G. Solomon Award. NCJW helped initiate legislation to remove status offenses for juveniles and to divert children out of detention facilities. NCJW supported the HIPPI project in Israel with a gift of \$10,000. Freddy Shiffman received the Heart of Gold Award.
- 1977 A pilot project on burn prevention was approved to educate children in the public schools.

- 1978 A workshop for single parents, followed by the establishment of workshops and a newsletter called "Jewish Single Parent," started a community service later named SPACE. Orchards presented a plan for a summer camp for emotionally disturbed pre-school children. Burnie Bird, the burn prevention program, began presentations in the public schools. The Suzanne S. Hopp Memorial Library was established at the Orchards.
- 1979 Greater Detroit Section NCJW joined the Adopt-A-Family program to advocate for the right of Jewish families to emigrate. The first SPACE retreat was held at Camp Tamarack with 40 adults and children in attendance. Krona Grossman received the Hannah G. Solomon Award.
- 1980 CASA, an new GDS project began in Oakland County Juvenile Court. A new Orchards home was established in Oak Park to house referrals from Oakland County Mental Health Board for children making a transition from institutions. The Ted Schwartz Day Camp was dedicated. Orchards was honored by a joint legislative resolution commending NCJW for its work in the mental health field.
- 1981 First Fashion Spree held at the Southfield Civic Center. Oakland Operation Friendship was discontinued. A one-on-one tutorial project was established to aid children in the Southfield schools. A new Orchards residential home in Southfield was dedicated. The Business and Professional Branch, a new group of professional women was formed as part of NCJW/GDS.
- 1982 Orchards opened a residence for adolescent girls.
- 1983 The tutorial program was discontinued. Helen Shevin received the Hannah G. Solomon Award.
- 1984 Access Guide for the Handicapped was launched with a publication of 5,000 copies to be distributed free to any facility requesting it. A Juvenile Justice Survey was undertaken in Oakland County as part of a national NCJW program to find out how the system worked across the country. Our fundraising cookbook, *Fiddler in the Kitchen*, was published. Orchards celebrated its 20th Anniversary. The NCJW relocated to larger quarters in Southfield. Dor l'Dor, From Generation to Generation began by pairing students from Hillel Day School with seniors from Federation Apartments.
- 1985 Ann Zousmer received the first Emerging Leaders Award. Dorothy Kaufman and Freddy Shiffman received the Hannah G. Solomon Award for their work on the Access Guide. Call Police Banner was started as a fundraising project. The first Billie Barak Leadership Seminar was held at Butzel Center. *Up and Out*, a new community service for seniors was inaugurated. CASA volunteers, working through the Oakland County Courts, began the Legal Guardian Program for Adults.

- 1986 Executive Director of the Orchards Children Services Gerald Levin received the Hannah G. Solomon Award. Orchards Children Services licensed by the State to become an adoption agency. Orchards severed its connection to NCJW by becoming a non-profit corporation with its own bylaws and board of directors. GDS with the B&P branch participated in a national survey of Women in the Workplace. An Assisted Listening Device project was begun to provide fifty hearing aids for impaired patients at Sinai Hospital.
- 1987 Adopt-a-School was launched with the Continuing Education for Girls School in Detroit, helping pregnant girls. Lois Granader received the Emerging Leader Award.
- 1988 B&P Branch discontinues LAW Project.
- 1989 CASA expands its Adult Legal Guardian program to include children. In response to the great demand, 15,000 copies of a revised Access Guide was printed. Family To Family, cosponsored with the Jewish Welfare Federation was established to match Russian immigrants with families in our community. The Archive Committee was established. Hakol, a branch for young women who wished to do volunteer work became part of our section. Sylvia Druckman received the Hannah G. Solomon Award.
- 1990 **Hope Silverman?** A project to distribute school supplies to Pontiac school students was started at the Baldwin Human Services Center. A new Council Thrift Shop was opened in Berkley. *Jewish News on Tape* became a service for the sight impaired and the blind. Judy Rosenberg received the Emerging Leader Award.
- 1991 The Baldwin Human Services project was extended to provide parties and dinners for low income seniors. Crossroads Productions, LTD, a professional acting company, was sponsored by SPACE and the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation to give performances in high schools dealing with substance abuse and AIDS. Ann Daniels and Sandy Nathan received the Hannah G. Solomon award. Rose Lynn Schlusel was presented the Heart of Gold Award by First Lady Barbara Bush.
- 1992 CASA expanded its program to include Legal Guardians for Minors to implement new laws for cases of children under six years old. A second cookbook, *Still Fiddling in the Kitchen*, was published. Passport to Israel was launched to teach children in the metro area about Israel.
- 1993 A Day of the Working Parent, a seminar featuring noted speakers, publicized the problems of working parents. The program was done in conjunction with National NCJW. We funded a second shopping bus for the new Federation Apartments. Safe Place, a kosher shelter for abused women was opened as a joint project with Jewish Family Service.
- 1994 The Archives Committee completed an archival center to house Greater Detroit Section's first 100 years.

- 1995 The Education Assistance Committee announced that GDS was responsible for one-third of all college loans and scholarships awarded in the 1994-1995 school year. HIPPY, Home Instruction for Pre-School Youngsters was presented to fifty representative of the Oakland School district and social service agencies. Baldwin Human Services Committee became the Human Resources Committee. NCJW archives from 1891-1941 were moved to the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University. Adopt-a-School, a reading program for kindergarten and first grade students started in the Ferndale schools.
- 1996 NCJW/GDS hosted the National Convention in March at the Westin Hotel in Detroit. Hillary Clinton was one of the many nationally known speakers. We partnered with the Jewish Community Council to sponsor the College Fair at the J.C.C. SPACE produced a curriculum manual for pre-schools to be distributed nationally.
- 1997 Just 4 Kids Committee was formed to sponsor a Bing for Books party. 300 books were collected for the Ferndale Schools. We joined with Kadima to host bi-monthly Sunday brunches for the mentally ill. In cooperation with Oakland Family Services, a HIPPY program began at Farmington Public Schools with funding provided by the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation. Irma Starr, Director of SPACE, was presented with the Hannah G. Solomon Award. More than 100 needy school children received backpacks filled with school supplies from the Human Resource Committee at a supper at the New Bethel Baptist Church in Pontiac. NCJW office moved to 26400 Lahser Road, Southfield. The 25th Anniversary celebration of Meals on Wheels was held at Temple Beth El. Dr. Ruth Westheimer was the speaker. The Josephine S. Weiner Award was established to honor individuals whose community service reflects the mission statement of NCJW. The first recipients were Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, Judge Edward Sosnick and Jeanette Shallal of Kadima.
- 1998 Kadima Outreach changes its name to Project Friendship. Adot-a-School changed its name to Adventures in Reading. Human Resources gave 200 Chanukah gifts to Yad Ezra families and 275 backpacks to area youngsters.
- 1999 Just for Kids sponsored a behind the scenes tour of the Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade. Ship-A-Box, a national and local program that sends educational materials and toys to Israel, changed its name to Yad B'Yad. The second *HIPPY Information Day* was held. At the HIPPY Holiday Party 30 preschoolers in the Farmington program received books. Carol Sue Coden received the Hannah G. Solomon Award. Josephine Weiner received the ADL Lifetime Achievement Award. Betty & Grant Silverfarb received the Josephine S. Weiner Award.
- 2000 Human Resources Committee packed 335 backpacks with school supplies for students in Ferndale's Wilson School. Sold small Domestic Violence Awareness pins for \$10 each.

- 2001 Mildred Jeffrey received the Josephine S. Weiner Award. Personal Protection Order training was offered for those volunteers interested in working with the courts to help victims of domestic violence obtain personal protection orders. Just 4 Kids Committee planted spring flowers at Kadima group homes. Began construction on the universally accessible playground in Waterford.
- 2002 Terran Leemis received the Hannah G. Solomon Award. Distributed 3000 copies of the Teen Yellow Pages (a pocket size resource guide to agencies offering services to teens) to 7th-9th graders in Oakland County. Official groundbreaking was held for the *All Kids Playground* sponsored by the Just 4 Kids Committee. Benchmark campaign was launched to save Roe v. Wade, latest information posted on the NCJW website. Andrea Stone received the Emerging Leader Award.
- 2003 NCJW/GDS hires its first Executive Director. Just 4 Kids Committee hosted grand opening for the All Kids Playground (barrier free playground). The celebration of the playground included recognition of several local child advocates and an address by Ted Kennedy, Jr. Human Resources was renamed *Community Outreach*. First Ann Rubin Volunteer Award given to Ruth Savage. NCJW joined a coalition formed by the Jewish Community Council which sponsored the Friends of Literacy Project. A used book sale, mentored by Brandeis University Women's Committee was the result. Doreen Hermelin received the Josephine S. Weiner Award.
- 2004 Myra Gross received the Governor's Honor Roll Award. The Teen Yellow Pages was updated and redistributed. 50,000 booklets were handed out to the Oakland County Schools. Sharon Lipton received the Emerging Leader Award.
- 2005 Kathleen Strauss received the Josephine S. Weiner Award. The Teen Dating Abuse Project was launched with a movie and discussion presentation. Co-sponsored a program at Shalom Street and the Jewish Community Center. Vivian Koblin received the Ann Rubin Award.
- 2006 Governors Honor Roll Award given to Fern Ettinger and Claire Kretchmer. Abby Brasch Nathan received the Emerging Leader Award.
- 2007 Ann Rubin Award given to Sheldon Schubiner. Ellen Labes received the Hannah G. Solomon Award. Bobbie Patt received the Governors Honor Roll Award.
- 2008 Sandi Matz received the Emerging Leader Award. Marilyn Levine received the Josephine S. Weiner Award.
- 2009 Barbara Mayer received the Ann Rubin Award. Judy Rosenberg received the Hannah G. Solomon Award.