

National Council of Jewish Women
[LOCAL ADDRESS]



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National Council of Jewish Women

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.

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