

2012 Hannah G. Solomon Awards Sunday, March 4, 2012

Named for the National Council of Jewish Women's Founder and highest honor, the Hannah G. Solomon Award is presented annually to individuals who have changed the lives of others through his or her leadership efforts and service.

The genesis of this award dates back to 1893 when Hannah G. Solomon of Chicago, was asked to organize the participation of Jewish women in the Chicago World's Fair. When Hannah and her recruits discovered that participation was not substantive, but would consist of pouring coffee and other hostess duties, they walked out. Hannah then took matters into her own hands, building on the courageous action and volunteer work she had been leading for years. By the end of the World's Fair, Hannah and the accompanying delegate body of women had founded the National Council of Jewish Women, changing forever the role of Jewish women and the nature of volunteerism



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This honor is given to those who have helped to change and expand the role of others in vital areas of community life, and whose leadership in areas of NCJW concern--improving the quality of life for women, children, and families--has motivated others to fight for change and resulted in progress and enlightenment in the community.

On March 4, 2012, this award will be presented to two such deserving community leaders: Karen Freedman and Maria Gabriella Hernandez.

Hannah G. Solomon, the founder of NCJW, wrote about her vision of women seeing a need in the community and moving forward to address that need. This year's honorees certainly fit in with her vision.



Karen Freedman, GHS Past President, NCJW past National Board Member had the vision to see NCJW needed to establish a branch that would attract younger women so the organization would continue to be a strong voice in Houston. She brought together a group of women in their 20s, and conceived, organized, and developed Concerned Young Women. Expanded our annual fundraiser to include an auction and for more than 25 years has been committed to this fundraiser and to raising large sums of money for NCJW's community service projects. Worked with HISD superintendent Dr. Frank Pertrazello to get HISD to install HIPPY programs into HISD schools.



Maria Gabriella (Gabby) Hernandez: Coordinator of Houston HIPPY (Home Instruction for the Parents of Preschool Youngsters), 2006-2011 was hired as Coordinator of HIPPY in 2006 with only 4 schools and 61 families participating in the program. Funding was \$8,000 for the school year. In 2011, the program served 282 families, 11 elementary schools and total funding exceeded \$100,000. She worked closely with community partners to bring training opportunities to home

instructors, educational programs for parents which developed parenting and advocacy skills, and increased representation of community agencies and schools on the HIPPY Advisory Board. Gabby was so successful that Houston HIPPY was used as a model program for the Annual IDRA La Semana del Nino Parent Institute Conference, home Instructors were invited to present on “Parent Leadership in Education”, 2 years in a row. Maria was selected by HIPPY USA National Office to represent Texas HIPPY as part of the Avima Lombard Award Committee. Carla Weir nominated Gabby in 2011 to become a HIPPY National Trainer.

We look forward to seeing all of you there.

Rhonda Glick, Deedee Ostfeld, Ede Weiner,
Co-chairs Hannah G Solomon Awards

Eileen Muslin,
GHS Special Events Chair