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A NOTE FROM PHYLLIS GLINK

This Work Is Now Ours to Do

Last month, the Foundation had the honor of joining one of our grantee partners, **National Council of Jewish Women**, for the 60th anniversary of “Bloody Sunday.”

That day—March 7, 1965—marked a turning point in the civil rights movement, when peaceful demonstrators were violently attacked by Alabama state troopers as they attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma to protest racial discrimination in voting rights.

Retracing the steps of those courageous marchers—who advanced in the face of batons and brutality—was a profoundly moving and timely experience. As I crossed the bridge, a realization settled in: **This work is now ours to do. This is our time to carry the fight for justice forward—together, as allies and partners.**

At a moment when basic human rights and dignity are under attack, the Foundation remains steadfast in the work we’ve pursued for decades alongside our partners: building a world where every baby, family, and community can thrive—where all people are free to live fully in their bodies, cultures, and identities, without fear.

Our work continues to be deeply grounded in our founder Irving Harris’s commitment to the Jewish values of *tzedek* (justice) and *tzedakah* (the moral obligation to pursue justice). In this issue of *On the Horizon*, we’re spotlighting our Jewish Values priority area—a funding area that brings a Jewish lens to an array of social justice issues by building bridges, fighting antisemitism and bigotry, and supporting more vibrant and inclusive communities in the U.S. and Israel.

A few examples of the organizations supported by our Jewish Values priority are **National Council of Jewish Women** (featured below), the **Jews of Color Initiative**, **Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice**, and the **New Israel Fund**.

In Selma, we had the privilege of hearing from Heather Booth, founder of the Jane Collective—an underground abortion network that helped more than 10,000 women access care in the decade before Roe v. Wade. Her inspiring words continue to resonate with me: **“When we organize with love at the center, we have changed this world—and we will change this world.”**

In these uncertain times, resistance becomes an act of love: love for one another, love for the communities we serve, and love for humanity. We’re committed to walking forward in that spirit—together with you.

Phyllis Glink
Executive Director



“Imagine you’re walking across this bridge, dressed in your Sunday best, and straight into threats’ way. The marchers’ lives were on the line, yet they pressed forward together. That’s what the pursuit of justice demands of us: to keep moving, to walk together, and to bring others along with us.”

Jawania Williams
IHF Director of Finance and Operations



Jawania and Phyllis at the 60th anniversary commemoration of Bloody Sunday in Selma.

OUR NEXT CHAPTER

Possibilities on the Horizon

This spring and summer, IHF will continue to work with our consulting partner, **Frontline Solutions**, to align sunseting strategies across our funding priorities.

We’re already seeing valuable insights and new possibilities take shape through this process, and we can’t wait to share more with you in the months ahead.

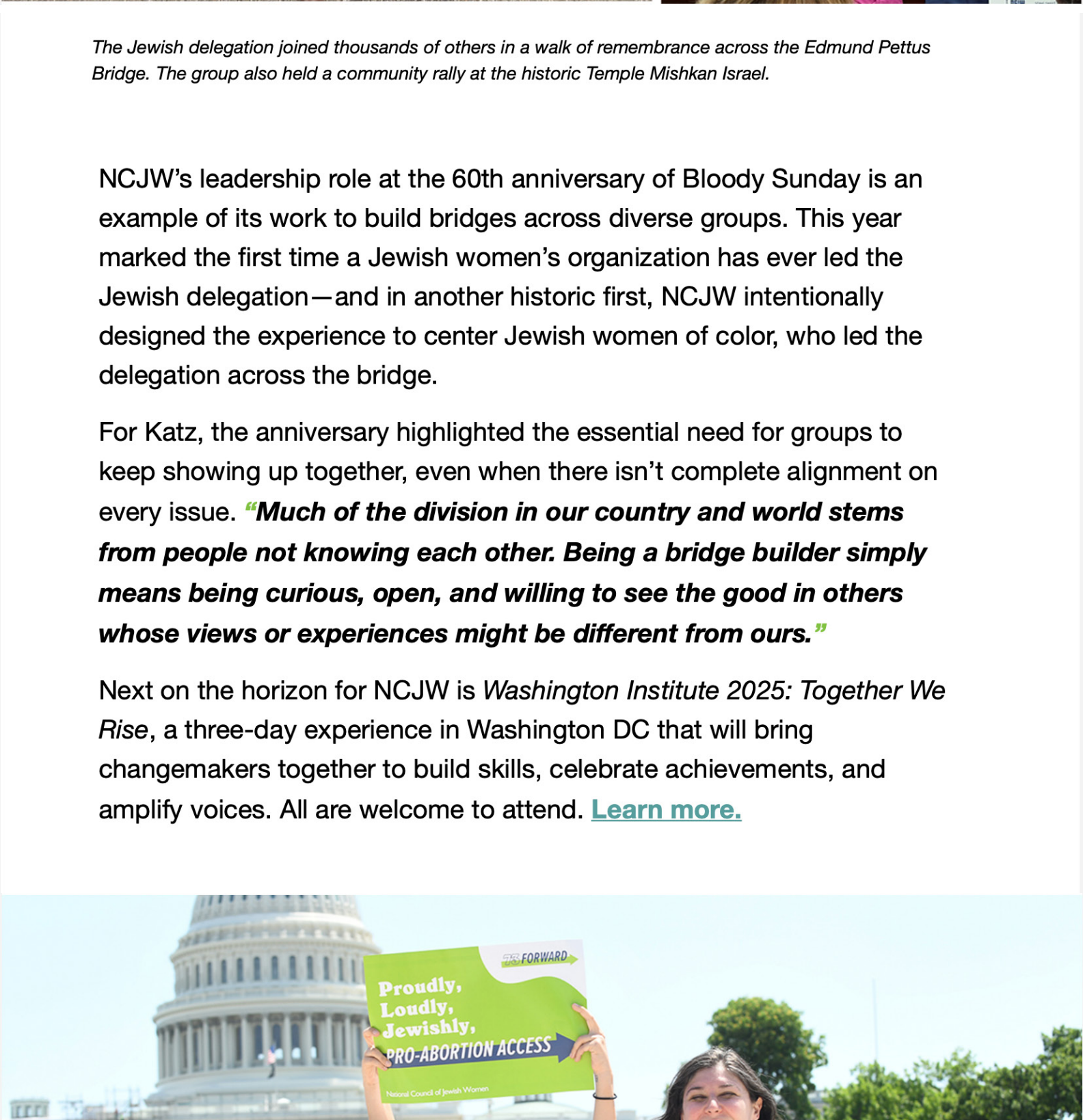
- 2023**
Prepare
Lay the foundation.
- 2024-2025**
Hold Space
Create space for processing, listening, and reflection while we work to build our sunseting strategy.
- 2026**
Amplify
Celebrate partners and share strategy.
- 2027-2031**
Catalyze
Advance strategy and amplify stories of collective impact.
- 2032**
Close
Finish spend-down and sunset operations.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

nejw National Council of Jewish Women

National Council of Jewish Women: Advancing Justice for All Through a Jewish Lens

For over 130 years, **National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)** has been a driving force for social change—guided by Jewish values and powered by grassroots advocacy. As the oldest Jewish feminist organization in the U.S., NCJW works to advance equity for women, children, and families through education, direct service, and policy change across the country and in Israel.



On the anniversary of Bloody Sunday, NCJW led a delegation of over 100 Jewish leaders—including many Jews of Color—and other supporters to honor a key moment in civil rights history.

“Our goal is to build the world we want to see—with and for as many people as possible,” says CEO Sheila Katz.

With nearly 250,000 advocates and 50 local sections, NCJW spurs local action while advancing a national agenda on issues like Reproductive Justice, voting rights, and judicial fairness. The work varies by region—Texas focuses heavily on immigration; Tennessee on fighting restrictive abortion laws—but the approach is consistent: community-rooted organizing, coalition-building, and elevating the voices of those most impacted.

“No one understands what’s needed better than those living in the community who are most affected,” says Katz. **“We educate through a Jewish lens, train our members to work in deep partnership with others, and aim to center dignity and equity across all our work.”**

Throughout its history, NCJW has achieved key milestones—from being the only group to fight the trafficking of women and girls at Ellis Island to helping launch the first U.S. birth control clinics, which later became Planned Parenthood. The organization has also shaped major policies supporting women and families, including helping to draft and pass the Violence Against Women Act.



The Jewish delegation joined thousands of others in a walk of remembrance across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The group also held a community rally at the historic Temple Mishkan Israel.

NCJW’s leadership role at the 60th anniversary of Bloody Sunday is an example of its work to build bridges across diverse groups. This year marked the first time a Jewish women’s organization has ever led the Jewish delegation—and in another historic first, NCJW intentionally designed the experience to center Jewish women of color, who led the delegation across the bridge.

For Katz, the anniversary highlighted the essential need for groups to keep showing up together, even when there isn’t complete alignment on every issue. **“Much of the division in our country and world stems from people not knowing each other. Being a bridge builder simply means being curious, open, and willing to see the good in others whose views or experiences might be different from ours.”**

Next on the horizon for NCJW is *Washington Institute 2025: Together We Rise*, a three-day experience in Washington DC that will bring changemakers together to build skills, celebrate achievements, and amplify voices. All are welcome to attend. [Learn more.](#)



Since its founding, NCJW has been a leader in the reproductive health, rights, and justice movement.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Recent Conferences and Convenings We’ve Attended

Funders for Reproductive Equity Strategy Session – Funders convened for a dynamic discussion on strengthening democracy and advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice in 2025 and beyond.

Ausannette García-Goyette, Ileana López-Martínez

Racial Justice and Equity Fund Convening – The Funder and Grants Committee met to connect, strengthen relationships, celebrate the first cohort of grant partners, and plan for 2025.

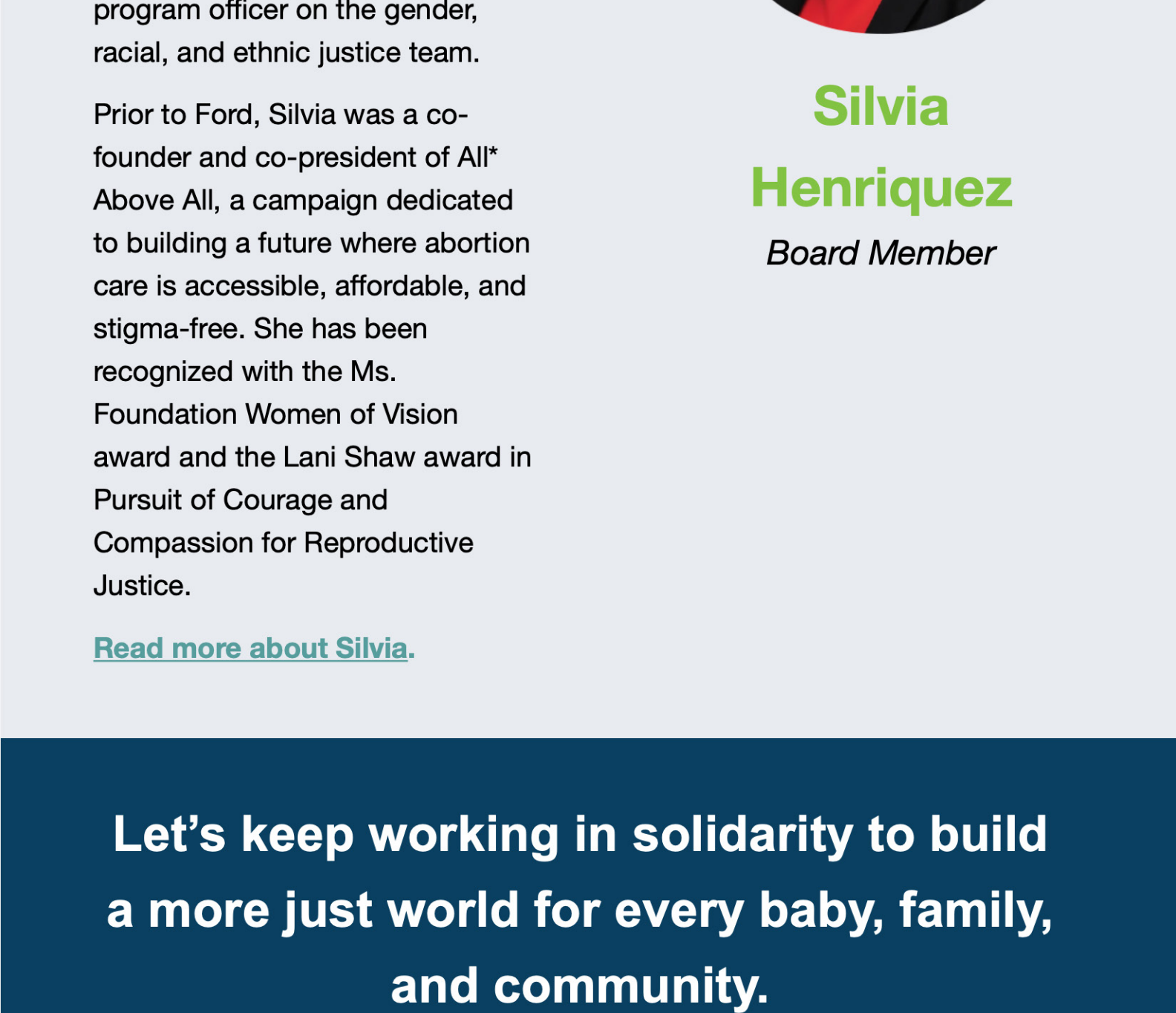
Denise Castillo Dell Isla

HealthConnect One Winter Convening – This inspiring event created space for community-based doula organizations, funders, and legislators to make meaningful connections, learn about the doula organizations’ innovative approaches, and discuss next steps towards implementing doula competencies in various states.

Kirbi Range

ZERO TO THREE Financing Policy Project Convening – Multi-disciplinary state teams and content experts from 40 states came together to problem-solve, share successes and challenges, test innovative IECMH financing policy strategies, and advance state policy that better meets the mental and relational health needs of very young children, their families, and caregivers.

Iveree Brown Donnell, Denise Castillo Dell Isla



First Five Years Fund’s Child Care Means Business Reception L to R: Melissa Edwards, Amanda Guarino, Christy Felling, Sarah Pittling, Denise Castillo Dell Isla (IHF), Abbie Lieberman, Holly Evans



Illinois Action for Children’s Maria Whelan Leadership Institute Leaders Luncheon L to R: Neoma Nagahawatte, Jacqueline Zanders, Denise Castillo Dell Isla (IHF), Shauna Ejeh, Sari Rubin

Day of Service - In March, our team participated in a service day at Anti-Cruelty! We spent an afternoon learning about their work in the community, crafting enrichment toys, and getting to meet some adoptable animals! L to R: Jacqueline Saldana-Reffor, Tobii Ponnle, Kipa Davis, Ileana López-Martínez

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

5 Questions with Gregory Tate

Grants and Data Manager

A member of our team since 2015, Gregory recently transitioned into a new role that blends his expertise in technology and data with oversight of the Foundation’s grant processes.

1. What value or commitment is central for you?

It’s challenging to name just one. But when I was in my senior year of college, it became clear to me that I was motivated by the need to do good in the world as opposed to the need to make money.

2. What’s your favorite part about working at IHF?

The people, by which I mean both the Foundation staff as well as our grant partners.

3. Tell us about your new role!

I’m stepping into the role of grants manager, which means I’ll be charged with overseeing all the various components of a grant lifecycle. I’m looking forward to the growth and development opportunities that will come with this new chapter.

4. What opportunities do you see on the horizon for grants management?

There are definitely opportunities to continue building on efforts to streamline the grantmaking process to ease the burden on grantee partners.

5. What’s something people might not know about you?

Thanks to an amazing professor I had in college, I can still recite the General Prologue to Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*—in Middle English!

WELCOME

The Irving Harris Foundation is delighted to welcome Silvia Henriquez, the newest member of our board of directors!

A champion for reproductive rights and justice, Silvia brings over two decades of experience as an advocate, coalition-builder, and organizer. She is currently applying her expertise at the Ford Foundation, where she serves as a program officer on the gender, racial, and ethnic justice team.

Prior to Ford, Silvia was a co-founder and co-president of All* Above All, a future dedicated to building a culture where abortion care is accessible, affordable, and stigma-free. She has been recognized with the Ms. Foundation Women of Vision award and the Lani Shaw award in Pursuit of Courage and Compassion for Reproductive Justice.

[Read more about Silvia.](#)

Silvia Henriquez
Board Member

Let’s keep working in solidarity to build a more just world for every baby, family, and community.