

Biographies

Senator Mark Leno

Mark Leno was elected to the California Senate in 2008. He currently represents the 11th Senate District of California, which includes San Francisco, Broadmoor, Colma, Daly City and portions of South San Francisco. Senator Leno chairs the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee.

From 2002-2008, Senator Leno served in the California State Assembly, representing the 13th District, which encompasses the eastern portion of San Francisco. Prior to his election to the Assembly, he served for four and a half years on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

During his tenure in the Legislature, Senator Leno has fought for better schools and access to higher education, foster youth, a cleaner and sustainable environment, single-payer universal health care, improved transportation, renewable energy, safer streets and equal rights for all Californians.

A native of Wisconsin, Senator Leno attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, then went on to become valedictorian of his graduating class at the American College of Jerusalem, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree. He also spent two years in Rabbinical Studies at The Hebrew Union College in New York. Senator Leno is the owner of Budget Signs, Inc., a small business he founded in 1978 and operated with his life partner, Douglas Jackson. Together, the two entrepreneurs steadily grew their sign business until Jackson passed away from complications relating to HIV/AIDS in 1990. This deep loss would not deter Leno. Instead, he redoubled his efforts in community service.

Jerilyn Gelt

Jerilyn worked as a mediator and hearing officer for the State of California Public Employment Relations Board for 30 years. She retired in 2006 to indulge her interest in design (and her grandfather's spirit) by importing and wholesaling home accessories from the Philippines, a business which lasted several years. She has been a tutor since 2005 with the Jewish Coalition for Literacy, a program of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), which trains tutors and places them in under-served public schools. In 2007, she began serving as a member of the JCRC, the central public affairs arm of the organized Jewish community, where she chaired several committees before becoming Vice-President and President.

She continues to serve on the JCRC Board and is currently chairing its Strategic Planning Committee. For several years, Jerilyn has represented JCRC on the Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking and has also served on the Public Issues Committee of Jewish Family and Children Services. In 2013, Jerilyn became a Regional Board member of the New Israel Fund, an organization committed to equality and democracy for all Israelis. Also in 2013, she became a board member of Catholic Charities, a social services agency providing comprehensive care for people in need of all faiths. Last, but certainly not least, Jerilyn is a proud member of the National Council of Jewish Women.

Theresa Sparks

Theresa Sparks is the Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission; as such oversees the City department that administers all non-discrimination ordinances of San Francisco, provides mediation for the resolution of inter-group tensions within the City, and addresses allegations of discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations. She is the first, and currently only, transgender City department head in the history of San Francisco City government. Prior to her current position, Ms. Sparks was the president of the San Francisco Police Commission, whose responsibility included oversight of the San Francisco Police Department, the Office of Citizens Affairs and San Francisco Patrol Specials. She is the first transgender person ever to serve on such a high-profile position in the State of California.

Ms. Sparks has advocated for transgender people for more than a decade including the landmark legislation granting full health care benefits for transgender employees of the City of San Francisco, the recently passed universal transgender health care for all residents of San Francisco and SFPD Departmental General Orders on how transgender individuals are treated by law enforcement.

Ms. Sparks served on the Board of Directors of the Center for Sex and Culture, a San Francisco-based non-profit dedicated to education around the issues of human sexuality; the Horizons Foundation, the first LGBT-specific charitable foundation in the country; and, was the first transgender co-chair of the Board of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, the oldest LGBT political organization in the United States. She currently serves on the University of California Office of President's Task Force on LGBT Climate and Inclusion at all UC campuses, the Board of Directors of the California Association of Human Relations Organizations and as a Delegate to the International Association of Official Human Rights Organizations. Ms. Sparks was one of the creators of the original Transgender Days of Remembrance, a charter member of the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force, founded the Transgender Political Caucus and chosen as a California State Legislature's Woman of the Year. Ms. Sparks has been honored by dozens of national and local organizations including the Human Rights Campaign, Equality California, the San Francisco Order of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and was selected as one of OUT Magazines OUT 100 LGBT Leaders in the United States and GO! NYC Magazines 100 Women We Love. In 2008, Ms. Sparks was named the Lifetime Achievement Grand Marshal of the San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration and Parade.

National Council of Jewish Women San Francisco Section

2014 Awards Luncheon

&

Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 15, 2014

Presidio Golf Club

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2014 Award Recipients

Hannah G. Solomon Award

The most prestigious NCJW Award for exemplary leadership and service to the community.



Senator Mark Leno

Outstanding Volunteer Achievement Award



Jerilyn Gelt

Outstanding Advocate for Human Rights Award



Theresa Sparks

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In Memory of Sue Warburg

It is with great sadness that we think about the recent passing away of our dear colleague and friend Sue Warburg. Sue has come to mean so very much to us all during her time with the Council. Her energy and keen reasoning will be missed. The impact she made in our community will be remembered. Our sympathy goes to Felix Warburg and their family.

Program

11:30 am	No Host Bar
12:00 pm	Lunch Served
12:05 pm	Welcome and Blessing
12:15 pm	Presentation of Hannah G. Solomon Award to Senator Mark Leno
12:20 pm	Announcement of Congratulatory Note from Senator Daniel Steinberg, President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
12:30 pm	Keynote Speech by Senator Mark Leno
1:10 pm	Presentation of the Outstanding Advocate for Human Rights Award to Theresa
1:20 pm	Presentation of Outstanding Volunteer Achievement Award to Jerilyn Gelt
1:45 pm	President's Remarks
2:00 pm	Adjournment