

National Council of Jewish Women “Laugh Out Loud”

The National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section, celebrated its 120th anniversary with an unforgettable night of laughter featuring award-winning comedians Susie Essman and Judy Gold at the Ohio Theatre at Playhouse Square.

Some 280 guests attended a VIP pre-party at Bin 216 where they had the opportunity to meet and be photographed with Ms. Essman and Ms. Gold. Honorary event chairman was Bob Gries, whose grandfather, Rabbi Moses Jacob Gries, was the founder of and the first and only male president of NCJW in Cleveland. A man well ahead of his time, Rabbi Gries placed women on the board of Temple Tifereth Israel in 1914, six years before women had the right to vote, said his proud grandson.

A brief video of the history of NCJW highlighted the organization's egalitarian mission of community service, advocacy, social change and philanthropy. Nationally syndicated columnist Connie Schultz was emcee for the evening, introducing Ms. Essman, who starred in the HBO comedy series “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” and Ms. Gold, star of two Off Broadway shows and an Emmy award-winning writer and producer of “The Rosie O'Donnell Show.” No topic was off-limits, eliciting uproarious laughter from the nearly sold-out crowd. **STORY AND PHOTO-GRAPHS BY KATHRYN RIDDLE**



Bob Gries with Judy Gold (left) and Susie Essman (right)



Loramae Simkoff with her daughters Kathy Blackman (left) and Marcie Harrison (right)



Sally Gries and Linda Barnett



Wendie Forman with her mother Margie Sachs



Jill Braun and Faye Bass