



**National Council of Jewish Women**  
Greater New Orleans Section

Bulletin

[www.NCJWneworleans.org](http://www.NCJWneworleans.org)

April 2020

Here's hoping that we will all be together for this as planned!

NATIONAL COUNCIL  
OF JEWISH WOMEN  
(NCJW)  
NEW ORLEANS

SUNDAY 5. 17. 20  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

HAROLD SALMON AWARD  
&  
VOTING ON THE ADOPTION  
OF THE 2020 - 2021  
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3311 STATE STREET DR. N.O. LA 70125 OR ONLINE AT [NCJWNEWORLEANS.ORG](http://NCJWNEWORLEANS.ORG)

# Presidential MESSAGE

## Surprise! Surprise!



**My column for this bulletin has completely changed due to the Coronavirus, and all the unknowns associated with it. I**

**am writing this in March and you will not see it until April. Unfortunately, we have no crystal ball, and do not know what the future holds for any of us.**

At the National level, the convention planned for April, will not be taking place. Locally we have also made some substantive alterations. We have postponed our Gala, which was scheduled for March 28th. We have also decided that the NCJW Board and Executive Committees will meet remotely for the upcoming time. Again, we do not really know how long that will be necessary.

It is hard to fathom at this time how much of our usual business will be able to go forward. For example, we will not be registering new voters for the foreseeable future. We will be suspending visits to our legislators. Each of our Community Service organizations must decide for themselves whether to continue operations.

Interestingly, one thing that has not changed is a project we are working on jointly with the Chicago Section of NCJW.

# NCJW®

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater New Orleans Section

**President**  
Susan Hess

**Editor**  
Vivian Cahn

**Photo Editor**  
Barbara Kaplinsky

Originally this project was to have been debuted during our National Convention. It is a joint effort between our two Sections and the National Park Service to create the "Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park," featuring Mr. Rosenwald and the over 5000 schools in 15 states in the rural South he funded in the early part of the 20th century for poor African-American children who had no other schools to attend.

The New Orleans Section has a very long history with the Rosenwald family, which many of you know. Edith Rosenwald Stern, a lifelong member of NCJW, who lived in New Orleans and was herself the most noted philanthropist in our city, was Julius Rosenwald's daughter. Longue Vue House and Gardens was her home. She received the Hannah Solomon Award in 1971, and when she died in 1980, the New Orleans Section commissioned a biography of her life and works. The biography, called "A Passion for Sharing", was published in 1984.

Julius Rosenwald, whose home was in Chicago, was an inspiring man. He came from immigrant roots and, without having completed high school, took Sears-Roebuck from a small back-room operation to the foremost retailing giant of its day. He became fabulously successful and spread his wealth widely to promote the education and well-being of at-risk communities. Yet, very few people actually know much about him.

As of now, the National Park Service has NO park designations among all its 400 existing park units that tell the story of contributions to our country made by an American Jew. The National Park Service is making a strong effort to correct this omission by working bills through Congress to recognize Julius Rosenwald and his schools.

Beginning last fall, our Section embarked on activities in conjunction with members of the National Parks Conservation Association to preserve and interpret the Rosenwald legacy.

Dillard University, an historically Black College in New Orleans, has several buildings on its campus donated by the Rosenwald and Stern families. Last September Dillard, along with the Jewish Federation and NCJW, hosted a program

to introduce the National Park Service effort to the community. It was followed the next day by a luncheon at Longue Vue with the same aim.

Our project's goal is to promote the creation of this Jewish Historical Park, in hopes of finally getting the National Park Service to recognize our Jewish community's very meaningful contribution to the advancement of beleaguered minorities at a time when no one else was doing it.

We also plan to raise awareness of this project with other Sections around the country, especially those in whose states Rosenwald Schools were built, hoping that they will value the importance of recognizing the contributions of Jews to our country by the National Park Service, and possibly join with us in this effort.

Continue to stay safe and healthy,

*Susan Hess*



## Birthday Dollars Donors

- ◆ Sue Daube
- ◆ Shellye Farber
- ◆ Sandra Chass Goldsmith, her birthday & in memory of her sister, Irene Chass Haber
- ◆ Susan Good
- ◆ Betty Kohn
- ◆ Maline Levy
- ◆ Ellen Manshel, her birthday and Dr. Jay Shames' 84<sup>th</sup> birthday & Dr. Tom Oelsner's birthday
- ◆ Andree Moss
- ◆ Cynthia Rittenberg
- ◆ Carol Rosen
- ◆ Eileen Wallen
- ◆ Rita Warren, celebrating her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday
- ◆ Lorraine Lake Williams

## January General Meeting When things were still normal!



**NCJW National CEO Sheila Katz (I) with Section members Cole Trosclair, Alanna Rosenberg, Sarah Covert, Alysse Fuchs (the 2020 Emerging Leader Award recipient), Jessica Frankel, Dana Keren**



**NCJW GNO President Susan Hess surrounded by Tulane Hillel students attending our January General Meeting**

Our January General Meeting, held at Tulane Hillel, was a great success. The new CEO of NCJW National, Sheila Katz, was our special guest.

Sheila faced off with Executive Director of Hillel, Yonah Schiller, to discuss the impact of the BDS movement on campuses, as well as sexual assault experienced by female students, among other topics.

In addition, the NCJW GNO Emerging Leader Award was presented to former "NCJW Way" Woman and Section Board member Alysse Fuchs. Congratulations Alysse!



**Jewish Federation CEO Arnie Fielkow, dropped by to check out our General Member program. He is shown along with Vivian Cahn, Ina Davis, Marsha Halteman and Marc Behar.**

## Lunch at Susan's

NCJW GNO leaders met with NCJW CEO Sheila Katz to talk about the changing times and the future of our 125-year-old organization. Concerns about education, women's security and autonomy, and engaging new members, were among the issues discussed. Thank you, Sheila, for visiting with the Greater New Orleans Section, and thank you to GNO President Susan for hosting the delicious lunch.



**L-R: Kathy Shepard, Ina Davis, Gail Pesses, Flo Schornstein, NCJW CEO Sheila Katz, Barbara Kaplinsky, Judge Miriam Waltzer, Gail Chalew, Susan Kierr, Maddie Fireman. Standing L-R: Dana Shepard, Susan Hess.**

# 2020 Gala

### THANK YOU TO OUR GALA SUPPORTERS!!!

Even though our Gala has been postponed, we would still like to thank your loyal supporters, both Sponsors and Patrons. NCJW GNO is truly blessed to have such wonderful and generous donors!

Special Thank You to our Sponsors

#### **Diva Queen**

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Susan & Bill Hess

#### **Diva Celebrity**

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### SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS

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Beverly Katz

#### **Dolly Diva**

Amy Gainsburgh Haspel  
Barbara & Mark Kaplinsky  
Dana & Louis Shepard  
Kathy & Hal Shepard

#### **Lady Gaga Diva**

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Diane K. Africk  
Patty Barnett  
Cathy & Buddy Bart  
David Curley  
Sylvia & Israel Finger  
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Lis & Hugo Kahn  
Celia Katz  
Susan Kierr  
Baty Landis  
Martin Goldstein & June Leopold

Carole Cukell Neff  
Carol & Dale Newman  
Gail Pesses  
Loel & Larry Samuel  
Florence & Richard Schornstein  
Rabbi Deborah Silver  
Sue & Harold Singer  
Joanna Sternberg  
Ann Thompson  
Eileen Wallen  
Judge Miriam & Bruce Waltzer

### **Special thanks to our Gala Committee**

Barbara Greenberg, V.P. Development  
Tana Valen, Gala Chair  
Cathy Glaser, Patron Chair  
Joyce Pulitzer, Patron Chair

Patty Barnett, Tiffany Carter, Phyllis Feran, Ana Gershanik, Carole Jacobson, Barbara Kaplinsky, Beverly Katz, Susan Kierr, Sara Lewis, Pam Lyles, Loel Samuel, Flo Schornstein, Dana Shepard, Kathy Shepard & Hannah Udell.

## OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATE ART



**Artist Joan Zaslow discussing her sculpture techniques**

As the second in our artist series, on Wednesday, March 11th, members were treated to a private showing and talk by sculptress Joan Zaslow, at her lovely, art-filled Old Metairie home. Joan took us through the process of how sculptures are made and finished, using her own works to illustrate how this is done. We

all walked away with a new appreciation of sculpting, especially the beautiful pieces Joan has created. Our thanks go to Joan Zaslow and to Patty Barnett who organized this event.

We are planning a third presentation in our member artist series. This special art series will continue with a private tour of the new addition of the Besthoff



**Avid attendees enjoy Ms. Zaslow's hospitality**

Sculpture Garden in City Park. The tour will be conducted by none other than Valerie Besthoff.

It should be quite a treat! More details to follow.



### NCJW Scholarship Donation- as of 3/2/2020

The Irma M. Isaacson Memorial Scholarship Fund enables The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans Section, to provide needed financial assistance to Jewish students in New Orleans pursuing academic or vocational goals.

The Bissinger-Timm Family  
In memory of Sandy Heller



### NCJW and GiveNOLA Day • Tuesday, May 5, 2020

#### One Day to Give As One

NCJW participates again in GiveNOLA Day\*

Hosted by the  
Greater New Orleans Foundation  
Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Visit [www.GiveNOLA.org](http://www.GiveNOLA.org) and search for NCJW from midnight to midnight on Tuesday, May 5. Or go directly to our page at <https://www.givenola.org/ncjwgo>

Every gift will receive a little lagniappe thanks to the generous GiveNOLA Day sponsors and the Greater New Orleans

Foundation. (Minimum gift is \$10).

Make your **annual Personal Giving gift**. If you would like your gift to be credited to Personal Giving, please let Kathy Shepard (our Treasurer) know by emailing her at [hms55@aol.com](mailto:hms55@aol.com).

Not available on May 5, or just don't want to forget to donate? Preschedule your donation beginning April 29, 2020 through May 4, 2020. Go to the [GiveNOLA.org](http://GiveNOLA.org) website, search for NCJW, create a login and you can schedule your gift to be recorded on

May 5.

For more information or help making your donation on May 5, please call our office at 504.861.7788. Thanks for your continued support of NCJW and our community!

\*GiveNOLA Day is the community's annual, 24-hour online charitable giving event to inspire people to give generously to nonprofit organizations that are making our region stronger, creating a vibrant community for all. It's our day to come together as one!

# Past, “President” and Future

One of the highlights of the NCJW Way program is the opportunity for future leaders to interview past presidents of the Greater New Orleans Section. This year, the Way members were paired with Barbara Bresler 1984-86, Beth Hershberg 1992-94, Dana Shepard 1994-96, Mimi Schlesinger 1998-2000 and Loel Samuel 2000-02.

Each Way member’s mission was to discover why her past president said “Yes” when asked to be president, what she wanted to accomplish and what she actually achieved.

Although the subject matter sounds a bit heavy, the actual experience was fun, which is usually the outcome of volunteering: you always seem to get back more than you give.



**Lilli Geltman:** “I met with past president Barbara Bresler. Not only were we nearly wearing the same outfit, we had so much in common. It was a great match! In the spirit of Thanksgiving, one of my biggest takeaways

from my conversation with Barbara was that she truly put in time and effort to becoming friends with the people she worked with. That way each and every member felt seen and understood.”

**Barbara Bresler:** “The power of a group of women banded together with such passion is a force to be reckoned with!”

**Tamra Olin:** “Meeting with Beth really opened my eyes to how powerful



NCJW is to its members, New Orleans and the US in creating community and inspiring change!”

**Beth Hershberg:** “NCJW was a great way to be involved and to impact the New Orleans community!”



**Alice Kallman:** “I really enjoyed learning about the history of NCJW New Orleans and how it has changed over the years. Hearing from Dana about her involvement was incredibly interesting and showed me

how fulfilling this organization can be.”

**Dana Shepard:** “The connections I made with the other women in NCJW have been one of the best parts of being in the section. There also used to be a chapter called Moonlighters that was specifically for women who worked during the day and had to meet at night, but obviously things have changed a lot since then!”

**Hilary Gold:** “Mimi is such a wonderful and witty person; she was a perfect match! I learned even more about NCJW from her and how the organization has evolved over the years. Mimi was the first and only president to serve as co-president. She firmly believes in the mission of NCJW and that the services the organization provides make for strong women. She founded the President’s Council so that new presidents had a way to navigate any questions and find support with those women who already had the wealth of knowledge of being past presidents of the organization.”



**Mimi Schlesinger:** “NCJW can always be seen as sensing a need in the community and reacting appropriately to ensure that the need is met because of the strength of its members.”

**Leslie Becker:** “Loel and I had a lovely lunch meeting. I really enjoyed our time together! We were able to



bond on a personal level as we discussed commonalities in our lives. I learned how important the Fox 8 Defenders Program is to her and how it impacts so many people. They help approximately 1,900 people a year.”

**Loel Samuel:** “I became a different person. The experience broadened my horizons. I gained the self-confidence to speak in front of large groups of people. It exposed me to the many wonderful people who are involved in different civic, government, business and non-profit activities in the community.”

## 2019-20 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

On March 2, 2020, and in accordance with the bylaws of NCJW GNO, the 2019-20 Nominating Committee presented the following recommendations for the Officers, Board of Directors and Nominating Committee for 2020-21. A vote by the membership on these recommendations will be held at our closing meeting in May.

### NCJW Slate of New Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee Officers

#### Vice Presidents

Barbara Greenberg 2020-2021

Robin Giarrusso 2020-2022

Karen Sher 2020-2022

#### Elected Board Members Term 2020-2022

Benay Bernstein, Alysse Fuchs, Marsha Halteman, Carol Newman, Allison “Al” Page, Tana Velen

#### Nominating Committee 2020-21

Chair – Susan Kierr, Ex-Officio Chair – Dana Shepard, Ex-Officio Past President – Barbara Kaplinsky

#### Committee Members

From the Board – Barri Bronston, Loel Samuel, Jenny Nathan Simoneaux, Sue Singer

From the Membership – Cathy Bart, Michelle Erenberg, Carole Neff, Cathy Glaser

#### Submitted by the 2019-20

##### Nominating Committee:

Chair – Dana Shepard, Ex-Officio Chair – Florence Schornstein, Ex-Officio Past President – Barbara Kaplinsky

#### Committee Members

Benay Bernstein, Sarah Covert, Ina Weber Davis, Sandy Levy, Betty Moore, Gail Pesses, Kathy Shepard, Karen Sher

#### Continuing in Office:

**President** Susan Hess 2019-21

**Executive Vice President** Gail Pesses 2019-21

**Vice President** Dana Keren 2019-21

**Treasurer** Kathy Shepard 2019-21

**Assistant Treasurer** Tricia Kirschman 2019-21

**Corresponding Secretary** Vivian Cahn 2019-21

**Financial Secretary** Fran Dinehart 2019-21

**Recording Secretary** Gail Chalew 2019-21

**Ex-Officio Past Presidents** Barbara Kaplinsky 2019-21, Susan Kierr 2019-21

**Honorary Vice Presidents** Julianne Isaacson, Celia Katz, Florence Schornstein

#### Elected Board Members 2019-21

Patty Barnett, Ina Weber Davis, Susie Jernigan, Rollie Rabin, Alanna Rosenberg, and Jenny Nathan Simoneaux

In addition, the following members were selected by the Nominating Committee as Voting Delegates for the 2020 National Convention to be held in April in Chicago.

Jessica Frankel, Robin Giarrusso, Susan Hess, Barbara Kaplinsky, Dana Keren, Allison “Al” Page, Gail Pesses, Madalyn Schenk, Miriam Waltzer

## LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH



**NCJW members and LAW (Legislative Agenda for Women) coalition members met with La. State Sen. Jimmy Harris.**

The NCJW Advocacy Committee coordinated meetings with Louisiana State Representatives and State Senators to discuss our policy priorities ahead of the 2020 Legislative Session. Members organized and led sessions with Senator Jimmy Harris, Representative Polly Thomas, Representative Stephanie Hilferty, Representative Mandie Landry and Representative Matthew Willard. Members also participated in meetings in partnership with the Legislative Agenda

for Women Coalition (LAW), of which NCJW GNO is a part, with Representative Amy Adatto Freeman and Representative Candice Newell.

The goal of these meetings was to introduce our members to their legislators, familiarize elected officials with NCJW, and to promote our policy priorities. These meetings were a huge success and will allow our members to have a direct contact in the future at the State Capitol.



**NCJW members Gail Chalew, Sara Lewis, and Jessica Frankel, residents of Louisiana House District 91, meet with their State Representative Mandie Landry**



**NCJW Members Ina Davis, Sue Singer and President Susan Hess chat with Representative Polly Thomas**

NCJW GNO's 2020 policy priorities are equal pay, economic security, anti-discrimination, reproductive rights and justice, and violence against women. The legislative session began on March 9 but is temporarily suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has further highlighted the need for many of the issues for which we advocate. We will continue to advocate for these important issues and coordinate virtual advocacy until we are able to resume in-person meetings.

## Roe v. Wade

Louisiana has become the epicenter of the abortion access battle. In the case, June Medical Services vs. Gee, originating in Shreveport, and accepted by the Supreme Court, the question of admitting privileges to hospitals for doctors performing abortions is being heard.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the day arguments were being presented, a rally was held on the steps of the Supreme Court in support of a woman's right to abortion access. At the same time here in New Orleans a rally was also held. Many NCJW members attended the event, and Susan Hess, our President, was one of the speakers.

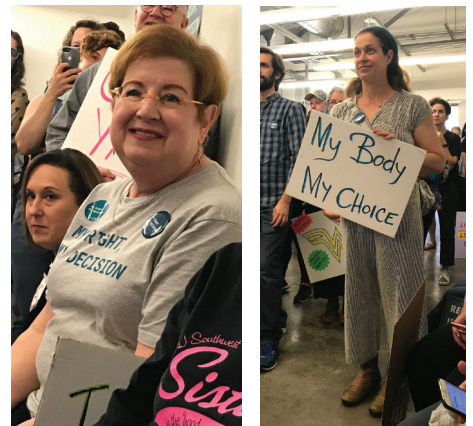


**Susan Hess, President of NCJW, addresses our local rally. Behind her is a screen showing the simultaneous rally being held on the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.**

NCJW National, along with a broad range of religious organizations, presented an amicus brief to the Supreme Court arguing that a woman has the moral right to make her own decisions about her pregnancy in accordance with her faith and conscience.

Why is NCJW so devotedly pro-choice? According to Jewish Law, life does not begin at conception. A fetus is considered part of the woman's body until birth. At that time, it takes its first breath and breathes in its soul, thus becoming a unique individual.

For Jews, reproductive freedoms are our religious freedoms, guaranteed in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



**Seen here, our members, Gail Pesses and Sarah Hess proudly participating in the rally**



**At a rally in March, NCJW-GNO members joined the many supporters of a woman's right to choose**

## So You Want To Volunteer, Part II

**NCJW guidelines require that any NCJW funded organization be supported by NCJW Section members who will serve as volunteers. Below we explore the second half the NCJW New Orleans community service projects; the first half of the NCJW supported organizations were explored in last month's bulletin. We encourage you to directly reach out to the group's associated contact persons listed below.**

- **Bikur Chaverim** – In cooperation with Jewish Family Services, this Visiting Friends program pairs volunteers with home bound members of the Community, providing companionship and assistance. For more information or to volunteer, contact Fran Dinehart at [fran@jfsneworleans.org](mailto:fran@jfsneworleans.org)

- **Civic Co-operation** – NCJW volunteers provide services that benefit the Jewish Community Center's Adloyadah, Jewish Federation's Community Relations Council, the Holocaust Memorial Program, Israel Independence Day and Jewish Family Service's Passover Baskets. To volunteer, contact the NCJW office at [ncjwgn@gmail.com](mailto:ncjwgn@gmail.com)

- **Literacy Alliance** – supports adult education by connecting education providers and adult students with literacy resources, support and volunteers. These resources help adult students enter waiting classrooms, workforce preparation, and job placement assistance. Volunteers are needed to update and consolidate databank resources, coordinate meetings and create surveys. For more information or to volunteer, contact Robin Goldblum at [robingoldblum@gmail.com](mailto:robingoldblum@gmail.com)



- **Lowernine** is a nonprofit organization focused exclusively on rebuilding homes lost in Hurricane Katrina in the Lower 9th Ward. Volunteers are needed to rebuild houses, help coordinate an annual mailing campaign, grant writing, social media and project management. For more information or to volunteer, contact Laura Shapiro at [laura.shapiro02@gmail.com](mailto:laura.shapiro02@gmail.com)



- **The Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR)** is a nonprofit law office that defends young people in Louisiana's justice system through both direct representation and policy advocacy. Volunteers can sign up to be on a committee to assist the kids with books, clothing, supplies and valentines. For more information or to volunteer, contact Susan Kier at [susankierr@gmail.com](mailto:susankierr@gmail.com)



- **Louisiana Judicial Bypass** is a project of Lift Louisiana. This project provides free legal representation to any minor seeking judicial bypass for abortion. It serves minors (ages 13-17), many of whom are low income and living with caregivers that are not their legal guardians. A small number of its clients live with parents that will not give parental consent. For more information or to volunteer, contact Michele Goldfarb at [michelegoldfarb@me.com](mailto:michelegoldfarb@me.com)

- **Oschner Israeli Patient Care-giver Assistance Fund** supports Israeli organ transfer patients and their family members/care givers while they are temporarily living in New Orleans. Volunteers meet and greet the patient and accompanying family member(s) and help make them feel welcome and more at ease in their new unknown and rather lengthy stay. For more information or to volunteer, contact Lis Kahn at [liskahn@gmail.com](mailto:liskahn@gmail.com)



- **Silence is Violence** provides direct victim services, creative youth engagement, and public advocacy, working with clients and partners from every sector to achieve safe, just and thriving communities. Silence is Violence works toward a safe and equitable New Orleans. Volunteers will help coordinate (make phone calls, attend tables) National CrimeVictimWeek, April 19-25. Volunteers are also needed to write grants. For more information or to volunteer, contact Simone Levine at [simone.levine@gmail.com](mailto:simone.levine@gmail.com)

- **Start the Adventure in Reading (STAIR)**'s overall mission is to improve the reading skills and self-esteem of lower elementary school students (usually 2<sup>nd</sup> graders). Volunteers tutor and work with individual students after school, one or two days a week, or on Saturday mornings using the user-friendly STAIR curriculum. For questions or to volunteer, contact Carol Newman at [caroln08@gmail.com](mailto:caroln08@gmail.com) or telephone 504 416-5011

### Blast from the Past



Looking gorgeous in their best finery, NCJW members Celia Katz, Leoni Marks, Janet Aschaffenburg, Barbara Edison and Byrdie Haspel are photographed sporting their special Committee medals at Angel Ball, 1963.



National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater New Orleans Section

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New Orleans, LA 70125  
(504) 861-7788

### Have You Changed Your Address?

If so, please contact the office

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### NCJW Directory Updates and Welcome to our Newest Members! January 1, 2020 – March 1, 2020

Below are changes and additions  
to membership information  
between January 1, 2020 and  
March 1, 2020. Please update your  
directory.



**New members Shelley  
Freed and Arielle Schwartz  
who joined NCJW GNO in  
December, 2019, are Hillel  
staff members**

### Welcome to our Newest Members!

**Sarah Gralnek**  
31 McAllister Dr #3221  
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C: 319-471-3863  
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**Rachel Ramos**  
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**Emily Schoenbaum**  
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**Joy Willig**  
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[joy.willig@gmail.com](mailto:joy.willig@gmail.com)

### Directory Updates and Changes:

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**Rabbi Alexis Berk**  
7162 Tern Place  
Carlsbad CA 92011

**Rachel Timm Bowron**  
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St. Louis Park MN 55426

**Emily Good**  
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**Marsha Halteman**  
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**Lisa S Santopadre**  
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Mandeville LA 70118

**Brenda Schneider**  
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Napa CA 94559

**Natalie Seltzer**  
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**Julie Silvers**  
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Metairie LA 70005

**Lynne Singerman**  
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Delray Beach FL 33484

**Mary Betz Stein**  
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Longboat Key FL 34228

**Maggie Glaser Wolfson**  
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Denver CO 80204