

National Council of Jewish Women

Greater New Orleans Section

Bulletin

www.NCJWneworleans.org

November 2019

Jewish Issues on College Campuses

NCJW GNO is delighted and honored to have Sheila Katz, NCJW's national chief executive officer, as the keynote speaker at our Jan. 23 meeting. Sheila will be joined by Tulane Hillel Executive Director Yonah Schiller. They will speak on "What is happening on college campuses around the country." They will share their views on issues facing Jewish students on college campuses



CEO, NCJW

around the country as well as here at Tulane University.

Sheila Katz, who spent 12 years as Hillel's international vice president for student engagement and leadership, is also an alumna of the Wexner Foundation Fellowship and Teach for America. Additionally, she will discuss the impact of today's campus challenges on the future of NCJW and Jewish organizations in general.

Yonah Schiller became the executive director of Tulane Hillel in 2008. Yonah created and implemented the process of an



RabbiYonahSchiller Exec. Dir. Hillel organizational re-imagining and re-structuring of Tulane Hillel. In 2017, *The Forward* named Yonah one of the 50 most accomplished American Jews.

Yonah and Sheila know each other from their work with Hillel. "Hearing from two such knowledgeable and insightful leaders will provide an engaging discussion of what is occurring on campuses and how our

Jewish students can deal with rising anti-Semitism and anti-Israel factions that are so pervasive today," said NCJW GNO President Susan Hess.

The meeting will take place on Jan. 23, 2020 at Tulane Hillel, 912 Broadway, from from 7 to 9 p.m. Dinner will be served. The cost of the event is \$36. It promises to be an important and thought-provoking evening on a topic of great concern for all of us. Please save the date. Invitations will go out in early January.



Alysse Fuchs has been selected as the NCJW GNO 2020 Emerging Leader. Pictured are Alysse Fuchs after learning from President Susan Hess that she will receive the coveted award.

An Emerging Leader – Alysse Fuchs

Alysse first appeared on the NOLA scene to participate in Avodah's Jewish Service Corp. When the program was completed, the California native decided she would stay. The year she spent in Avodah's service program, 2013-2014, had been a pivotal experience for the young, enthusiastic woman with the amazing smile and endless energy.

Alysse determined that "New Orleans is one of the best cities in the world!" Working as a religious school teacher, waitress, and babysitter, she bicycled across town, maintaining many close friendships and making new and impressive connections with New Orleans folk. In 2016, Alysse returned to Avodah as program director.

She was selected to be part of the NCJW Way program and reveled in that leadership training process. Since then she has accepted responsibilities joyfully. She approaches every 'ask' as an exciting opportunity. She got to know NCJW – our history and our projects – and embraced our mission. Alysse says, "I feel fortunate to engage in a vibrant Jewish community with those who similarly prioritize social justice."

Alysse helped organize and mentor the next NCJW Way class, and she was a Tri (continued on page 2)

Presidential MESSAGE



You may be wondering why I am wearing this hat in the photograph above. Well, I was "channeling" Hannah Solomon for our recent Hannah G. Solomon Luncheon.

The National Council of Jewish Women was founded by Hannah Solomon in 1893, with her intention to bring Jewish women to the table, where they had never been before, to engage in activities for the betterment of society as a whole. Her idea was to have NCJW volunteers promote specific priorities such as advancing the well-being and status of women, children and families and ensuring individual and civil rights, while at the same time enhancing the quality of Jewish life in our country.

Our own Greater New Orleans Section was created in 1897, just five years later with the same goals in mind. Through the years NCJW GNO has engaged in many activities for the improvement of our community. Some of the earliest and most memorable included meeting immigrants at the Port of New Orleans beginning in the 1920's and escalating after World War II with aid to Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust; Let's Tell a Story, a precursor to Sesame Street, shown on WDSU-TV; Magic Land, a pilot program for Head Start; and Teen Town, a forerunner to NORD, the New Orleans Recreation Department.

Since those early days there have been so many amazing projects, some ongoing such as Fox 8 Defenders (formerly Six on Your Side), and some short-lived just to get services going like the Battered Women's Shelter. We NCJW GNO members are so proud of our Section and the many accomplishments we have had.

In 2017, the National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans Section recognized its 120th year of service to the community of New Orleans. In commemoration of that historic event, the Board voted to do something special for our city. After much discussion, it was decided that \$5,000 be allotted for a bench at the Louisiana Children's Museum's new campus being constructed in City Park.

In the following two years, we determined that the Children's Museum would not be having any benches. A new plan was needed!

It turns out that Storyland, also in City Park, was just being remodeled and benches were available there. The Board considered this alternative and decided to go for it. Now there is a lovely bench in Storyland, just across from the Spaceship display, which has been gifted by NCJW

Save the Date

WHY I WANT TO WRITE MY WILL A Joint Program of NCJW and Hadassah

Another kind of Family Planning

With an outstanding panel to consider your family's future: Rose S. Sher, Estate Planning Specialist Rabbi Daniel Sherman,Temple Sinai Nancy Timm, LCSW, BACS Melissa Pennebaker, Palliative Support Care,Touro Infirmary

9:30-11:30 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020 Temple Sinai ~ 6227 St. Charles Ave. ~ New Orleans, LA GNO to the city in celebration of the 120th anniversary of the founding of our Section. Our parameters were that the bench be permanent and easily visible. Both needs have been met with this bench.

The inscription on the bench is as follows:

In Celebration of the National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans Section, Established in 1897, for more than 120 Years of Service to the Women, Children and Families of our Community.

Here is a picture of the bench with two adorable children occupying it. They are (my grandchildren, of course) Dario and Edith Miranda. Hopefully you will make a journey to Storyland yourself in the near future to sit on our bench in the sun and watch the children run by.

Susan Hess



The National Council of Jewish Women, GNO commissioned a permanent bench in CityPark's Storylandin"Celebration of 120 Years of Service to the Women, Children and Families of our Community." Featured sitting on The NCJW Bench are two of the grandchildren of Susan and Bill Hess-- Dario and Edith Miranda.

EMERGING LEADER – CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

Chair for a three generational NCJW Gala at the Stage Door Canteen at the WWII Museum. She also was an organizer of the NCJW GNO Board Retreat in 2019. Considering her skills in nonprofit organization, volunteer management and public speaking, it is clear that she is at the intersection of people, software and systems.

Alysse has a degree in sociology from Colorado College. A few months ago, when she was ready to pursue graduate study, she was accepted to academic doctoral programs across the country. However, she decided to stay here, in New Orleans. Alysse bought a home in the Treme neighborhood and entered the Tulane School of Social Work, where she is now excelling.

Alysse Fuchs, welcome home!

Madeleine Landrieu receives Hannah G. Solomon Award by Ana Ester Gershanik, *Chair*



Chairperson NCJW Hannah G. Solomon CommitteeAnaGershanik;2019HGSAward RecipientMadeleineLandrieu and husband PaigeSensenbrenner;NCJWPresidentSusan Hess

The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans Section, honored Madeleine Landrieu, Dean of Loyola School of Law, with the Hannah G. Solomon Award at a luncheon Oct. 17 at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel.

Joining a large group of NCJW members and past recipients of the award, were members of the Landrieu family, including Verna Landrieu, Madeleine's mother; husband Paige Sensenbrenner; daughter Erika Sensenbrenner; brother and former Mayor of the City of New Orleans Mitch Landrieu with wife Cheryl; and other siblings.

In addition, there was a good representation from Loyola University, led by President Tania Tetlow celebrating Landrieu's award, as well as from Covenant House, where Landrieu serves on the board.

NCJW GNO President Susan Hess welcomed the attendees, including Councilmen Jason Williams and Joe Giarrusso, who presented Landrieu with a proclamation from the City of New Orleans. Event chair Ana Ester Gershanik thanked the Selection Committee, introduced the honoree as "a woman of valor" and presented her with the award, a Hannah G. Solomon bust.



Ana Gershanik on presenting

the HGS award to Madeleine: "A woman of valor makes the world change Her strength is the content that guides

- through the days
- Defined by her actions that bring light to all dreams
- Valor is something that's defined by her deeds
- Her valor is golden, sparkled and gray She stands up to the challenge, no matter the way
- It can't be held back or defined by her age Yes, a woman of valor makes the world change."

Eric Kingston



Past HGS Award Recipients Seated, L to R; Norma Freiberg; Ana and Juan Gershanik; 2019 Recipient Madeleine Landrieu; Kim Sport; Susan Hess; Standing L to R; Madalyn Schenk; Mary Zervigon; Hugo Kahn; Eddy Rosen; Diana Lewis; Miriam Waltzer

In her acceptance speech, Madeleine talked about her admiration for Hannah Solomon's work and how much she identified with her. She credited her family for the precious legacy of values and paid special tribute to her mother, Verna Landrieu.

She recalled her journey from her high school days when she volunteered at an orphanage and was determined that one day she would do something to help those kids without parents. That is how she became an advocate for youngsters

The NCJW Advocacy Committee kicked off their 2019/20 Initiatives at the home of Susan Hess. Front row, (sittingltor)are VictoriaCoy, President SusanHess, AdvocacyCo-Chair Alanna RosenbergholdingAlizaValerieKanter, NCJW State Policy Advocate Maddie Fireman and Advocacy Co-Chair Jessica Frankel. Back row (standing I to r) Ana Gershanik, Ina Davis, Sylvia Finger, Judge Miriam Waltzer, Benay Bernstein, BarbaraKaplinsky, Steffani Bangel and Michelle Erenberg.



NCJWHannahG.SolomonAwardRecipient Madeleine Landrieu - HGS Committee member Madalyn Schenk

who are in Louisiana's foster care system, founding the Louisiana Institute for Children in Families. She described with deep emotion her pride when she sees the young people from the Foster Youth Intern Program serving in the Louisiana Legislature, working with members of the bipartisan Foster Care and Adoption Caucus and engaging them in policies related to children in foster care.

After the honoree's speech, there were other presentations. On behalf of State Rep. Walt Leger III, Alice Glenn read a proclamation from the Louisiana Legislature. Madalyn Schenk, a member of the Selection Committee, read a letter from Donna Edwards, Louisiana's First Lady, congratulating Landrieu for the award.

Thanks to the dedicated members of the HGS Committee for a very successful event.



National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans Section

President Susan Hess Vice President Sarah Covert Co-Editors Barri Bronston Vivian Cahn Photo Editor Barbara Kaplinsky

Be in the know – Send your email address to ncjwgno@gmail.com today!

More HOPE at New Orleans Family Justice Center

NCJW Greater New Orleans Section has been a community partner with the New Orleans Family Justice Center since its inception. Its mission aligns with ours: "ending family violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking through prevention and coordinated response by providing comprehensive client-centered, empowerment services in a single location." Now, with the opening of the HOPE Clinic, it is one step closer.

Our involvement began when it first opened with a handful of staff, limited space, scant resources and its determined director, Mary Claire Landry. NCJW members Vivian Cahn and then-president Ina Davis decorated the children's room before NOFJC even received its charter. When that was accomplished, NCJW was invited to have a seat on its founding Board of Directors, and we have held a seat on the Board and Executive Board ever since.

On October 2, 2019, our president Susan Hess assisted in the HOPE Community Health Center's ribbon-cutting ceremony, joined by Susie Jernigan, the NCJW representative on its board. HOPE Clinic is on site at NOFIC, located on the first floor at 701 Loyola Ave. It is open to all and adds one more invaluable service in furtherance of the NOFJC's mission. The medical team provides primary care, and importantly, they are qualified providers for forensic medical exams, evidence collecting, documentation of any injuries and preventative medications for STIs, pregnancy and HIV when applicable. The Medical Director is joined by an RN who is a specifically trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, and behavioral health clinicians for the delivery of traumainformed healthcare as part of the NOFIC's comprehensive services.

NOFJC depends upon volunteers in addition to its paid staff. It provides training for specific positions, and volunteers must agree to a background check. If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities for NCJW members, please go to <u>https://nofjc.org/volunteer-1</u> or contact Susie Jernigan at <u>suejern@gmail.com</u>.

Fox 8

Written by Michael Maples:

FOX 8 Defenders, a special volunteer service of FOX 8 News and the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans Section, is a strong consumer advocate group dedicated to assisting all people in the Greater New Orleans area and very dear to my heart.

In early 2010, having difficulty with a construction contractor, FOX 8 Defenders assisted me. Babs Isaacson, Hotline Director at the time, was so kind. Listening to the problem I was having, she stepped up and resolved my situation. From then on, FOX 8 and Babs became my friends for life. After Babs passed away, I kept assisting the National Council of Jewish Women out of love for Babs. New Orleans and the FOX 8 viewers need an organization such as the Defenders! But an organization such as this requires volunteers. So I guess that's why I do what I do. You can't find a stronger TEAM of professionals anywhere else willing to help others as do these people.



Pictured here is Michael Maples, recipient of and now volunteer for Fox 8 Defenders, supported in part by NCJW GNO.



Cutting the ribbon on the new New Orleans Family Justice Center Hope Clinic were (I to r) NCJW President Susan Hess, City Councilmember Jay Banks and Executive Director at New Orleans Family Justice Center Mary Claire Landry.

Anti-Semitism -What's Going On?

This spring the NCJW GNO Section and the New Orleans chapter of Hadassah are joining forces as co-sponsors of a series of programs to address the national and global rise of 21st century Anti-Semitism.

A moderated and expert panel will explore the many sides of Anti-Semitism, to include:

- The founding and ultimate goals of BDS
- The rise of Anti-Semitism in the academic world
- The politics of Anti-Semitism
- What is the difference between Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism? Is there one?
- Can one question Israel's politics and policies and still be pro-Israel?

Further information will be forthcoming regarding these important programs.

In accordance with our NCJW Greater New Orleans Section Bylaws, suggested amendments and revisions to the Bylaws which were approved at our Oct 2, 2019 Section Board Meeting, will be voted on by the membership at our Jan. 23, 2020 General Meeting. Copies of these proposed amendments and/or revisions are available for any member requesting them. Please contact our office at 861-7788 or ncjwgno@gmail.com for a copy of these recommendations.



On Sept. 8, the fifth class of NCJW Way attended an orientation meeting at the home of Ina and Rick Davis. We are thrilled to introduce the new group to the community.

Leslie Becker is a New Orleans native and an avid traveler. She has her own coaching company called Better with Becker, where she helps clients become more confident, better versions of themselves. When Leslie is not working, you may find her learning something new, exploring the world or practicing yoga.



Lilli Geltman moved to New Orleans in 2015 from Philadelphia. When she is not kayaking down the bayou or enjoying a festival, you can find Lilli working as a case manager at the ARC of Greater New Orleans, exercising at the JCC or teaching Sunday School at Touro Synagogue. Hilary Gold moved to New Orleans with her husband in 2011 from Portland, Oregon. She immediately felt this was "home" and has volunteered with several organizations across the city while taking a pause as an attorney. You can find Hilary at most festivals and events teaching her toddler son how to be a true New Orleanian, working out at the JCC, traveling and cheering on the Saints.

Alice Kallman works as an investigator at the Capital Appeals Project in New Orleans representing indigent clients facing the death penalty. In her free time, she does pottery, takes dance classes and creates art. Miriam Lorbert is originally from Brooklyn, New York and moved down to New Orleans after college. She is currently working as a cybersecurity engineer with GE and pursuing her Master's in Cybersecurity as well. In her free time, Miriam loves exploring New Orleans and other cities by way of [new] food experiences. She is a recent graduate of the ADL's Glass Leadership program and is excited for this endeavor with NCJW! Tamra Olin is originally from Central California. She moved to New Orleans about a year ago with the Venture For America fellowship. Tamra really enjoys hiking and biking and generally being outside, but she is still learning to adjust to the humid summers down here!



Morethan 250 peopleparticipated in the 2ndWomen's Mega Challah Bake held recently at Congregation Gates of Prayer Synagogue. The beautiful and fun event united a coalition of Jewish women's organizations, including NCJW GNO, and was led by the ladies of Chabad and Hadassah. Everyone sang, joined in prayer and, of course, made 2 loaves of braided Challah. Pictured here are (I to r) Jennette Ginsburg, Beth Hershberg, N'ann Glade and Deena Gerber.



Pictured here are Audrey Hess Miranda and daughter Edith.



Enjoying the Challah Bake were Ana Gershanik, Edith Miranda and Dr. Audrey Hess Miranda.

NCJW and LCCR Help Change Young Lives by Susan Kierr, LCCR liaison

When the team at LCCR (Louisiana Center for Children's Rights) first met Kendrick in 2017, he was 15 and had just been sentenced to two years in juvenile prison for a robbery. During monthly visits with his LCCR youth advocate, Jarrett, Kendrick liked to sketch portraits and talk about his favorite Marvel movies. But he also confided in Jarrett about his emotional struggles, which prison only exacerbated.

When Kendrick was finally released on parole, his reentry was rocky. He struggled in class, having missed half the school year, and he lashed out at his teachers because of it. Rather than helping him work through his emotional issues, the school expelled him. He was then placed into an alternative school, which he hated. This left him primed to spiral downward... and possibly back into prison.

But that's where Jarrett, in his role as a mentor, really came into play. He talked with Kendrick. He helped him see how toughing it out at his alternative school was a means to an end, and that he could switch schools when his time there was complete.

Kendrick hunkered down and finished out the school year strong. Jarrett helped him find a summer job, enroll in a new school, and connect with supportive services for the fall. Almost three months into the new school year, Kendrick is doing amazingly well. He didn't give up on himself. And neither did we.



Jarrett Brinson, Youth Advocate for the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR), and Susan Kierr, NCJW Liaison, congratulateoneanotheronsharedworkto change young lives.

Jarrett continues to check in on Kendrick regularly. He notes that Kendrick is "truly exercising self-discipline and persistence. Things are looking promising for his future."

Progress with children like Kendrick may not always be linear, especially given the many roadblocks that can easily derail their efforts. But oh, doesn't it feel good to see a kid like Kendrick turn a corner! NCJW GNO believes in these kids and supports the work of LCCR.

NCJW at the We the People March



NCJW members joined in community with the ADL, theACLU, Grannies Respond, and hundreds of other organizations in the We the **People March on September** 21st in New Orleans. The eventwasone of 65 solidarity marches around the country, in support of the National March in Washington, D.C. and to remind officials that they work for the people. Participants journeyed from Armstrong Park to City Hall, bedeckedinfestivecostumes, and accompanied by a brass band. NCJW members pictured (I to r) are Susan Hess, AlPage, Susan Kierrand **Benay Bernstein.**

NCJW Directory updates and welcome to our newest members! May 1, 2019 – October 25, 2019

Bridget Berins (M/M Leonard) 3944 Uri Street Metairie LA 70002 C: 259-5858 lplenny@aol.com

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Dr Tere Vives 5526 S. Miro St New Orleans LA 70125 H: 864-0315

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Maggie Glaser Wolfson 3219 State Street Dr New Orleans LA 70125 C: 228-1570 mng2388@gmail.com

Members!

Perhaps you know of someone who is not a member of NCJW? We are looking to boost our membership and get even more dynamic, involved women to join us! Make it a goal to enroll a friend. If each of you recruits just one new member, our membership will have doubled!

Information for membership can be found on the website.

Scholarship Program Donations- November, 2019

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.

In memory of Allan Bissinger:

Ann and Shaw Thompson The Bissinger-Timm Family Shellye Farber

In memory of Joel Myers:

Sylvia Sterne John and Amy Gainsburgh Haspel Carol Marx

In memory of Michael Meyer: Paul and Edie Rosenblum

In memory of Hannah Blumenthal Stich:

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In honor of Susan Tramontana and The Fox 8 Defenders

A Donation: John and Amy Gainsburgh Haspel

The Sara B. Stone Educational Enrichment Fund enables The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans Section, to provide additional assistance to Jewish students in New Orleans pursuing academic or vocational goals.

In memory of Joel Myers

Madalyn Schenk

Please consider supporting The Scholarship Program with a donation in honor of or in memory of someone important to you. Mail your donations to: Nancy B.Timm

5708 Garfield Street

New Orleans, Louisiana 70115

OR

Feel free to use the tear out in your directory (Blue Book).

NCJW Cares

Sheryl Title, Chairwoman

In honor of NCJW

- by Norma Freiberg
- In memory of Mildred Pinter
- by Rita R.Warren

In memory and in celebration of Joel Myers

by Michal Fishman

In memory and in honor of Joel Grossman Myers

- by Sheila Katz
- In memory of Joel Grossman Myers
- + by John Charles Rosen and Ann Rosen
- by Esther P. Light, Ronald Light, and Simona Herring
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- by Pam Hitchcock
- by Carol and David Pointer
- by Ellen Meltzer
- by Irma Grossman
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- by Henry Heymann
- + by Edith Bender
- by Anthony J. Gagliano
- by Kay and David Caruthers

Corresponding Secretary Notes

It is a pleasure to be the Corresponding Secretary for our chapter. If you know of any member who should receive a note from us for any occasion – celebratory, congratulatory, or sympathy – please let me know at vcahn@cox.net or 504-722-1014.

– Vivian Cahn

Birthday Dollars

- Phyllis Bernstein
- + Jeannine Burk

•••••

- Ana Gershanik
- Cathy Glaser
- Amy Gainsburgh-Haspel
- Jarrett Johnson, in memory of her mother Aida Johnson
- Nancy Kaplan, in memory of Grace Hudson
- 🔶 Barbara Kaplinsky
- Beverly Katz
- Joel Picker
- Florence Scharff
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THANK YOU to the JEWISH ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION for its generous support of the NCJW Endowment Fund

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This legacy gift exemplifies Joan and Gerald's desire to ensure the future of our NCJW Section. It represents a part of their philanthropic plan to strengthen NCJW and our community.

Be in the know - Send your email address to ncjwgno@gmail.com today!

NCJ≷

National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans Section

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Have You Changed Your Address?

If so, please contact the office

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 (504)
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 Email
 ncjwgno@gmail.com





NCJW Past Presidents recently gathered at the President's Cabinet Annual Meeting, held at Ralph's on the Park, to celebrate all that NCJW has done and continues to do to make our community a better place to live. Seated is newly installed President Susan Hess. Pictured (I to r) are Past Presidents Ina Davis, Pam Lyles, June Leopold, Barbara Herman, Barbara Kaplinsky, Julanne Isaacson, BarbaraBresler, Shellye Farber, Celia Katz, Loel Samuel, Eddy Rosen and Dana Shepard.



Featured are photostaken at an early Angel Ball. Does any one remember what year? Does any one recognize the only NCJW volunteer dancer in both photos? Send your answers to Susan Hess.

If you have some "blasts from the past", please send to the NCJW bulletin with your description.

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