



National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans Section

Bulletin

www.NCJWneworleans.org

Spring 2021



Greater
New Orleans
Section

Closing Event and Installation Reception

Sunday, May 23rd 2 pm

Hybrid Event

(In-person and Virtual Options Available)

Gates of Prayer Congregation
4000 W. Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA

The program features:
Report on the Year -
Outgoing President Susan Hess

Election of Proposed Slate -
Nominating Committee Chair
Susan Kierr

Installation of Officers -
Kathy Shepard



Remarks -
Incoming President Gail Pesses



Presentation of the 2021 President's Award -
Dana Shepard & Kathy Shepard

Nominated as Officers:

Gail Fenton Pesses President 2021-2023
Barbara Greenberg VP 2021-2022
Gail Chalew VP 2021-2023
Dana Keren VP 2021-2023
Carol Newman VP 2021-2023
Al Page VP 2021-2023
Alanna Rosenberg Financial Secretary 2021-2023
Patty Barnett Corresponding Secretary 2021-2023
Jody Braunig Recording Secretary 2021-2023
Kathy Shepard Treasurer 2021-2023
Tricia Kirschman Assist. Treasurer 2021-2023
Susan Hess Ex-Officio Past President 2021-2023

Nominated as Elected Board Members:

2021-2022 Elected Board 1 year term

Susie Jernigan 2021-2022
Sara Lewis 2021-2022
Carole Neff 2021-2022

2021-2023 Elected Board 2 year term

Vivian Cahn 2021-2023
Fran Dinehart 2021-2023
Lisa Heller 2021-2023
Tiffany Cotlar 2021-2023
Lilli Geltman 2021-2023
Ronda Kottle 2021-2023

Nominated for the 2021-2022

Nominating Comm

Chair - Loel Weil Samuel
Ex Officio Chair - Susan Kierr
Ex Officio Past President - Susan Hess
From the Board: Maddie Fireman, Dana Keren,
Jody Braunig, Kathy
Shepard From the Membership: Rollie Rabin,
Julie Finger, Laurie
Diamond, Susan Fielkow

CONTINUING IN OFFICE

Vice-Presidents Continuing in Office 2020-2022

Robin Giarrusso and Karen Sher

Ex-Officio Past President Continuing for 2021 - 2023

Barbara Kaplinsky

Honorary Vice Presidents

Julanne Isaacson, Celia Katz, Florence
Schornstein

2020-2022 Elected Board Members continuing in 2020-2022

Benay Bernstein, Tana Velen

If attending by Zoom, please register at ncjwneworleans.org.

If attending in person, please RSVP by May 14
by sending a check for \$10 payable to NCJW
c/o Kathy Shepard, 3311 State Street Drive NOLA 70125
or registering online at ncjwneworleans.org.

All COVID protocols will be followed. To-go goodies will be provided.

Presidential MESSAGE



Dear Members,

As I conclude my two-year Presidency, I would like to reflect a bit about some of the goals I originally laid out when I came

into office, and how I have done with fulfilling those goals.

One thing I really hoped to accomplish was to address the foundational aspects of the Greater New Orleans Section, including boosting our membership and involving more women in volunteering for various jobs including service, advocacy and administration.

Over the last two years we have had a lot of losses in our Life Membership category due to members passing away. Since Life Members have always been the backbone of our Section, this was alarming. As the National office no longer provides for a Life Member category, we decided to initiate our own Local Life Member category. Doing this has several advantages. We can again enroll Life Members, who will always be connected to our Section no matter where they live. We can also mark major events in our children's, grandchildren's and friends lives with gifts of Local Life Memberships. This new member category will be launched July 1st, and we fully expect it to be very popular.

We have additionally recruited a fabulous Vice President of Membership in Karen Sher. She and her dedicated team are

constantly out there beating the proverbial bushes for prospective new members, and to great success. We are now on a roll. Over the last two years we have brought in over 100 new members, adding 10% to our membership, with more coming all the time!

As part of my outreach goal, we instituted a series of webinars geared toward a wide range of women's issues. This series, which has just concluded, was aimed at drawing in both long-standing and new members to encourage active engagement with our Section.

Another item high on my agenda when I came into office was to address, through education, the dark cloud building on our horizon — anti-Semitism. Two years ago we were at a point where we could no longer turn away from this serious problem. With an excellent team headed by Marsha Halteman, and taking advantage of the new ZOOM reality, we instituted a series of four webinars on anti-Semitism, beginning with a deep historical look at this ever-present problem, and progressing through examinations of blood libels, conspiracy theories, hate crimes, white supremacy, and concluding with a thoughtful look at Israel as the newest target of anti-Semitism.

So, have I fulfilled my goals for my Presidency? You, ultimately, must be the judge!

Of course, working together, we as a Section have accomplished lots of other important work as well. I would like to conclude this, my last bulletin column, with thanks to all our wonderful Board Members who have so conscientiously facilitated our dreams for the Section. You all know who you are! Nothing happens in a vacuum. We could not have brought to fruition any of the projects we have accomplished without your incredible input.

Congratulations to all our incoming Board Members and Officers - especially our new President, Gail Pesses - who will continue the work of the Section in their own special fashions.

And lastly, thank you to all our members for the life-changing opportunity you have afforded me by inviting me to lead this amazing organization. I now join the ranks of Past Presidents, every one of whom has made her mark on the NCJW Greater New Orleans Section and in our community in significant ways.

With loving regards,
Susan Hess

BODY AND SOUL



**Rabbi
Deborah Silver**



Susan Kierr

We're born with a body and soul, yet it is experiences like the one shared in a NCJW virtual classroom on April 13th that engages us in the care and maintenance of both. A onetime event, the session utilized the intersection of dance and yoga. Dance and yoga are modalities which share the potential to enhance the emotional regulation of our moods, our energy's ups and downs, and our sense of wellbeing. The two combined happily in this unique program.

In an hour experience, Rabbi Deborah Silver and Susan Kierr offered stepping stones on the path of body and soul wellness. The large group of attendees looked focused and challenged. Members of the class felt the immediate effects of being in the body, which Rabbi Silver framed as the Talmudic experience of *lightness and joy*.

Karen Sher, Vice President of Membership and chair of the event, called the pair of leaders "accomplished and talented." Karen has provided NCJW GNO with a series of learning and exploring sessions. Her goal has been to demonstrate the depth and breadth of membership, the value of engagement in our programs for both members and potential members.

Rabbi Silver led hatha yoga breath work and poses and Susan Kierr led dance with music and imagery. These two professional women, whose years of membership in NCJW GNO have been productive in many ways, are committed to supporting individuals who wish to explore the body mind connection. In addition to the dance and yoga class Karen Sher, who produced the program with the help of Dana Shepard, promises more enriching experiences will be coming soon to the NCJW GNO membership.

NCJW

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater New Orleans Section

President
Susan Hess

**Vice President for
Administration**
Robin Giarrusso

Editor
Vivian Cahn

Photo Editor
Barbara Kaplinsky



NCJW GALA



Susan Hess and Dana Shepard

The 2021 NCJW Gala had more twists and turns than Baby and Johnny's routine at the end of Dirty Dancing! Despite dealing with Covid restrictions and poor weather, this year's gala was a great success. We are deeply grateful to Congregation Gates of Prayer and their amazing staff, our NCJW Gala Committee, and the understanding and participation of you, the NCJW community.

After walking the red carpet and posing in front of our Hollywood photo station, patrons were treated

to live music by keyboardist Armand St. Martin. Guests started the evening with popcorn, candy, and delicious pre-packaged hors d'oeuvres from the New Orleans Culinary & Hospitality Institute (NOCHI) served on our special gift ---- a take-home NCJW Night Under the Stars serving tray. With the wine and mojitos flowing, guests were then served a delicious dinner, also from NOCHI and pre-packaged, before we rolled the film.

If Gala attendees weren't comfortable joining us indoors, we gave them the option to simply pick up their meals and gifts to-go. All leftover meals were



Gail Pesses, Sara Lewis, and Kathy Shepard

donated to New Orleans Avodah corps members.

Thank you again to our sponsors, patrons, and the NCJW 2021 Gala Committee, listed below.

Susan Hess (President), Barbara Greenberg (VP of Development), Tana Velen (Gala Chair), Loel Samuel (Patron Chair), Patty Barnett, Tiffany Cotlar, Barbara Kaplinsky, Beverly Katz, Susan Kierr, Sara Lewis, Gail Pesses, Joyce Pulitzer, Florence Schornstein, Dana Shepard and Kathy Shepard.



Tana Velen, Loel Samuel, Barbara Greenberg, and Barbara Kaplinsky

NCJW Mugs



Laura Adelman-Cannon enjoying her new favorite mug.

Last fall, the idea of a Welcome Gift to new members was launched! A unique NCJW white ceramic mug (lovingly designed by Sheryl Title and Karen Sher) sports a Barbara Greenberg original streetcar drawing on one side, and an inspirational RBG quote, on the other. Due to the wide popularity of the mug, mugs are now available for purchase to the entire membership, at a cost of \$12 each plus shipping and handling of \$5 if mugs need to be sent out of town. New members,

of course, will continue to receive the mugs as Welcome Gifts! The mugs come filled with a few goodies such as hot chocolate, tea, and honey. You can order a mug by sending a check payable to NCJW to either Karen Sher at 5500 Marcia Avenue, N.O. 70124 or Sheryl Title at 515 Hillary Street, N.O. 70118. The best part: The money raised for mug sales will be used to support and benefit NCJW programs.

A WONDERFUL GIFT

Every once in a while, a story in our bulletin inspires a profoundly generous act.

The recent coverage of how the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR) rescued a young boy ensnared in juvenile delinquency and guided him into a safe and productive homelife, renewed his interest in school, and supported his connection to a caring extended family, touched the heart of a generous reader who, anonymously, donated significant funds directly to LCCR.

Keep reading. Keep being inspired. Keep participating in any way you can to enhance the lives of women, children and families.

Birthday Dollars and Fund

BIRTHDAY DOLLARS
Cynthia Rittenberg

**SARA STONE EDUCATIONAL
ENRICHMENT FUND**

June Leopold & Martin Goldstein, in
honor of Dana & Louis Shepard

FOOD DRIVE



Barbara Kaplinsky

Thank you to those who participated in the NCJW Food Drive!

Did you know: Many people in America struggle to meet their basic needs. Job loss and unexpected expenses can suddenly force

a family to choose between buying food and paying bills. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Louisiana faced some of the highest rates of hunger in the country, particularly among children and seniors. More than 750,000 Louisianians experienced food insecurity, meaning they did not always know where their next meal might come from or what it may consist of.

With the first stay-at-home order, thousands of Louisiana families were suddenly affected by school closures, job loss and cut hours, and began to experience food insecurity as a result. Feeding America, the nation's largest anti-hunger relief organization estimates that Louisiana is home to the highest rates of pandemic food insecurity in the country, affecting 1-in-5 Louisianians and nearly 1-in-3 Louisiana children. And a 2020 survey of LA food banks revealed an 80% rise in utilization above typical levels, with nearly 40% of those clients brand new to emergency food systems.

We asked members to drop off donations of food and personal items at chair Dana Keren's

front porch to help with this growing issue. We partnered with new NCJW member Janie Glade and her organization Gladewaves. Gladewaves has set up the Big Red Box Food Pantry Program, which works with churches to set up and fill food pantries in demographically diverse communities. With the help of NCJW members, Gladewaves was able to make additional weekday fills for two full weeks to all eight of their barrier-free food pantries. This means that many single parents, children, senior citizens and families who need a meal or two to make ends meet will benefit as a result of NCJW's generosity. In addition, our section raised over \$400 that went directly to Gladewaves to support their mission and operations.

To learn more about food insecurity and local food pantries, check out the following websites:

www.feedinglouisiana.org
www.gladewaves.org
www.nolacommunityfridges.org/
www.no-hunger.org/

CROSS-GENERATIONAL ISSUES SERIES

Subjects of interest to a wide range of our members have been explored this spring in a three-part series entitled "Cross-Generational Issues for Women".

Areas of concern included feminism as seen through a historical lens, the recent pandemic-related mental health roller coaster, and the unraveling of women's employment due to COVID.

The series was co-sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans Section, Hadassah New Orleans, and the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana. It was generously underwritten by a grant from the Linda and Jack Zoller Designated Fund at the Jewish Endowment Foundation.

The first program in the series, "From the Second Wave to the Tidal Wave", began with a documentary film about the feminist movement by the filmmaker and program moderator Pam Maus, followed by a lively panel discussion by Ms. Maus and three women from the documentary.

Second in the series was a seminar entitled "Emotional Well-Being in the Age of COVID", which was presented by Dr. Robin Gurwitsch, a psychologist and professor at Duke University Medical Center specializing in child and family health and trauma. Dr. Gurwitsch focused on the connection between the pandemic and mental health issues impacting women such as depression, isolation and thoughts of suicide in both themselves and their family members.

The final program in the series, called "Work/Life Imbalance", is scheduled to be held May

13th and will focus on the fact that women's employment is in chaos right now, with women having been thrown out of their jobs or withdrawing from their jobs due to COVID. The presentation will be moderated by former state Representative and political consultant Julie Stokes, who will direct a panel of three women experts in workforce development,

employment policy, and human resources. They will examine COVID-related issues such as the first female employment recession, loss of seniority, and long-term outcomes for women in the labor market. Other non-COVID related issues of women's employment such as wage disparities and the Imposter Syndrome will also be touched on.

*The final program in our series on
Cross-Generational Issues for Women*

WORK/LIFE IMBALANCE IN THE AGE OF COVID

Thursday, May 13, 7:00 PM

A panel on the effect of COVID on Women and Employment
What does the future hold for women?

Expert panelists in workforce development, employment policy and human resources:

Libbie Sonnier
Executive Director of Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

Ava Dejoie Cates
Secretary of Louisiana Workforce commission

Tracey T. Schiro
Executive Vice President, Chief Risk and
Human Resources Officer, Ochsner Health System

Moderated by former State Rep. **Julie Stokes, CPA,**
CEO Flame Consulting,
LLC CFO, Stokes and Associates, Inc.
Founder, Elevate Louisiana

*This series has been funded by a grant from the
Linda and Jack Zoller Designated Fund at Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana.*

HADASSAH the power of women who DO

NCJW
National Council of Jewish Women
Greater New Orleans Section

JEWISH ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION OF LOUISIANA



Shellie Jacobson and her granddaughters with their beautiful tambourines.

Miriam's Tambourine Creative Art Project

NCJW GNO partnered with the Bubbe Club and JCDS (Jewish Community Day School) for a Zoom pre-Passover creative art activity. JCDS's wonderful art teacher, Abby Wetsman, taught participants how to make "Miriam's Tambourine of Hope." Abby also explained how to adapt the project to different ages and skill levels. The project highlighted the role of Miriam and her tambourine in the Passover story. Art supplies, including wooden embroidery hoops, fabric, bells, and plastic needles, were provided by the Bubbe Club. The bubbes and special friends loved the project and the collaboration, and look forward to additional collaborations between NCJW GNO, the Bubbe Club, and JCDS in the future! Later the bubbes sent in pictures of their grandchildren's wonderful tambourine creations. The project was co-chaired by Cathy Bart and Carol Newman.

New Orleans Family Justice Center



As part of our commitment to improve the lives of our most vulnerable women, children and families, NCJW-GNO has provided funds to the New Orleans Family Justice Center for several years. NOFJC is a partnership of agencies dedicated to ending family violence, child abuse, sexual assault and stalking through prevention as well as a coordinated response in a single location. Their comprehensive, on-site, free services include legal, law enforcement, healthcare and social services for survivors and family members.

Due to the Covid pandemic and the double-pronged challenge of having to remain in their often-unsafe homes as well as losing their jobs, survivors have needed even more assistance to remain safe. NOFJC stepped up to the challenge. Between March 2020 and November 2020, NOFJC served 1,539 clients, and provided over 7,105 hours of services while also providing emergency shelter, rental and utility assistance and personal clothing/items.

This year (2021) NCJW's funds will be used to provide 7 scholarships for children to attend Camp HOPE America - Louisiana in Mississippi in June 2021. Camp HOPE is the first camping and mentoring initiative in the United States

to focus on children and teens exposed to domestic violence. While having fun, the campers learn how to believe in themselves, in others and in their dreams with the help of evidence-based and values-based curriculum. NCJW-GNO is proud to be able to support the campers as well as NOFJC.

Volunteers are important to the NOFJC. If you would like to volunteer or learn more about this important organization, contact chair Susie Jernigan at suejern@gmail.com, (504)251-8152 or Vice President of Community Services Gail Fenton Pesses at GPesses@aol.com, (504) 220-3455.

Scholarship Donations

The Irma M. Isaacson Memorial Scholarship Fund

In memory of Myra Soboloff:

Celia Katz
Diane Africk
Amy and John Haspel

In honor of Ina Davis:

Nancy Timm
Sue Singer

In memory of Jon Thompson:

Ann and Shaw Thompson

In memory of Herb Barton:

Paula Picker

The Sara B. Stone Educational Enrichment Fund

In honor of Ina Davis:

Madalyn and Robert Schenk

In honor of Louis and Dana Shepard's new grandchild:

Martin Goldstein and June Leopold

NCJW Cares

◆ In honor of Ina Davis upon receiving the Hannah G. Solomon Award (names since last bulletin)

By Susanne Jernigan
By Helen and Andy Polmer
By Eddy K. Rosen
By Edith and Paul Rosenblum
By Mimi Schlesinger
By Cathy Bart
By Ms. Clayton Latimer
By Lillian Opotowsky
By Lee Blotner
By Cathy Glaser
By LaVondra Dobbs
By Murray Valene
By Rachelle Stein and Stacey Stein
By Yvonne Mitchell-Grubb
By Lisa Pulitzer Zoller
By Ashley Kirschman
By Cynthia Bailey
By Janet Ruben
By Bette Cole
By Patty Barnett
By Annie Zipkin
By Jenifer Wirtshafte
By Hillar Kaplan-New
By Louise Glickman
By Jill Montaigne
By Pamela Lyles
By Cathy Bailey
By Lisa Herman
By Amy Gainsburgh Haspel
By the Give Back Foundation, Christine McGinley and Rose G. Gendelman
By Michal Fishman and David Sheon
By Carol Wise
By Julie Wise Oreck
By Margaret Jane Jensen
By Miriam G. Waltzer
By Meryl Rosenbloom
By Anne LaRoch
By Paula Samuels
By Donna Davis
By Susan and Paul Rubin
By Gail Chalew
By Ivy Kushner
By Joanna Sternberg
By Deborah Schlackman
By Trisha Kirschman

◆ In memory of Myra Soboloff

By Ana and Juan Gershanik

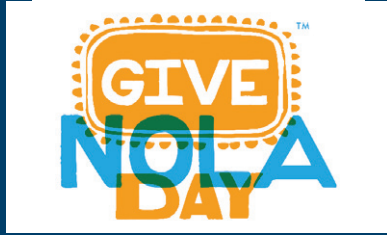
◆ In memory of Herbert Barton

By Ina Davis
By Sheryl and Peter Title

◆ In memory of Sandy Schwarcz

By Ina Davis
By Loel Samuel

*Donations received as of 4/19/2021



NCJW was proud to participate in the 2021 GiveNOLA Day held on Tuesday, May 4.

Thank you to all our donors who supported NCJW on this year's GiveNOLA Day sponsored by the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

Special thanks to our President, Susan Hess, who sponsored a Happy Hour in honor of our board and matched up to \$500 in donations in the 5PM hour.

Directory Changes and Additions

Below are changes to member contact information between January 1, 2021 and April 15, 2021. These changes are NOT reflected in the new directory. Please update your directory. Note: only information which is new or has changed is included in the list below.

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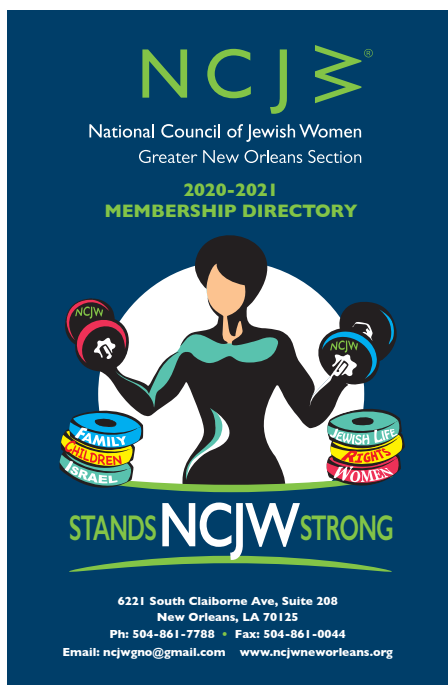
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We mourn the recent passing of Sandy Streiffer Schwartz.

Sandy joined NCJW when she got married. In 1998 – 2000 she was co-president, along with Mimi Schlesinger of NCJW GNO. Her goal as co-president was “To foster a strong membership and develop future leadership for the section.” She did an outstanding job in this by establishing the Past Presidents’ Council, now called the Past Presidents Cabinet. To this day, the Cabinet continues the solid engagement, support and advice of past leadership. Sandy treasured her role in fostering volunteerism in the service projects, and making certain that we were tied into National’s increased focus on advocacy. One of Sandy’s favorite memories from her term in office was the day noted sex therapist Dr. Ruth visited, which included taking her to a Mardi Gras parade. When Sandy moved to Nashville, she was able to continue her involvement with NCJW on a national level.

What a great legacy!

THANKS TO OUR DIRECTORY ADVERTISERS

Our 2020-21 Blue Book advertisers are our generous supporters. During this Covid time, they made the publication of our directory a successful venture.

Now that businesses are opening again, let’s show our appreciation. As an NCJW member, patronize and thank them for their support!!

Ambrose Garden, LLC
Morris Bart, LLC
Allan Berger & Associates, PLC Law Firm
Buffalo Trace Distillery
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Timothy J Delcambre, DDS, MHA/Douglas Delcambre, DDS
Dorignac’s Food Center
Exterior Designs, Inc by Beverly Katz
Fiber Seal/Fiber Clean
French Quarter Parking by Premium Parking
Friend & Company Fine Jewelers
Gesund & Paillet, LLC
Marc S Glovinsky DPM & Associates
Kim Glazer Goldberg
Law Offices of Matt Greenbaum
Judge Piper D Griffin
Haase’s Shoe Store and Young Folks Shop and Monogram
Hebrew Rest Cemetery Association, Inc
Fred Herman
Susan Hess
Home Care Solutions
Humana
Jewish Community Day School

Jewish Endowment Foundation of LA
Jewish Family Service
Keil’s Antiques
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Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home and Cemeteries
Charles (Rusty) Levy
Mid City Veterinary Hospital
Mike’s Golden Cleaners
Morgan Stanley, The Kennedy - Moran Group
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Perlis Clothing
Poydras Home
Riccobono’s Peppermill Restaurant
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Sessions Fishman Nathan Attorneys at Law
Karen Sher
Stein’s Market & Deli
Ventura Uniform Service, Inc
Vincent’s Italian Cuisine
Visiting Angels
Vivian Cahn Designs
Zuka Baby

PERSONAL GIVING

There is still time to support Personal Giving this year!

In December, you should have received your invitation to participate in the 2020-21 Personal Giving Campaign. Your annual Personal Giving donations directly support our section’s operations, enabling NCJW leaders to address the most pressing needs of women, children and families throughout our community. Thanks to the generous donations of nearly 100 members, we have already raised more than 95% of our goal! If you have not yet made your gift, there

is still time - the Personal Giving Year began on July 1, 2020 and ends on June 30, 2021. Please contact Jenny Nathan Simoneaux, jenny.nathan@gmail.com, with questions or to get involved! *Please note* As many of you are aware, the US Postal Service has experienced more delays and has been less reliable than usual over the past several months. If you did not receive a receipt for your 2020-2021 Personal Giving donation, please contact jenny.nathan@gmail.com ASAP and she will re-send it via mail or email.

Welcome to our Newest Members! January 1, 2021- April 15, 2021

Laura Adelman-Cannon
Miriam Arkin
Darrah Caplan
Walli Chefitz
Sarah Cohen
Allie Constant
Sarah Constant
Jenn Daley

Stacey Deitelzweig
Rachel Lazarus Erikson
Patricia Geltman
Caitrin Gladow
Kymberly Glazer
Irene Gurievsky
Jack Jernigan
Phyllis Levy

Jane Miller
Rebecca Pinhas
Zataia Richburg
Cara Romanik
Alexandra Simon
Ludmila Talley
Kym Valene



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater New Orleans Section

6221 S. Claiborne Ave., Suite 208
New Orleans, LA 70125
(504) 861-7788

Have You Changed Your Address?

If so, please contact the office

Phone (504) 861-7788

Fax (504) 861-0044

Email ncjwgn@gmail.com

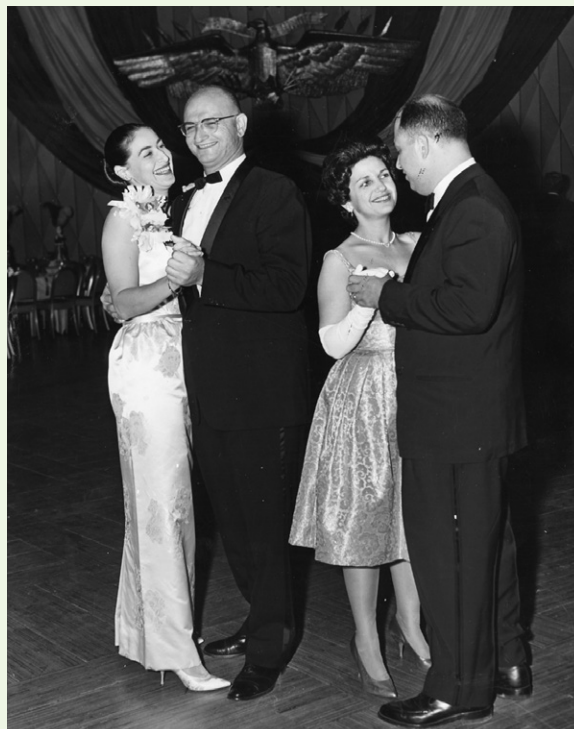
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We Need a Few (or Many) Good Women

We are always on the lookout for new members for our NCJW GNO Section. If you know of a likely prospective member, please contact our Vice President of Membership, Karen Sher. She will take it from there! Don't forget all our members receive our valuable Blue Book directory, which is NEVER published online. They will also receive the NCJW Bulletin you are now reading, as well as our bespoke ceramic mugs! And most importantly, they will have the opportunity to make positive contributions in our community through the many organizations with which NCJW partners.

To reach Karen, call 723-5492 or email karenandleopold@gmail.com.

Blast from the Past



1962 Angel Ball attendees (l to r) Celia and Sammy Katz
and Babs and J.E. Isaacson.