



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

Bulletin

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

March/April 2022

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN  
NEW ORLEANS SECTION

**SALUTE TO  
ANGEL BALL**  
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF  
NCJW NEW ORLEANS

*Looking Back and Leading Forward*

Patron Party with Signature Drink, Seated Dinner & Dancing!

Musical entertainment  
provided by



**SATURDAY, APRIL 9**



National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater New Orleans Section

**HIGGINS HOTEL**

Patron Party 6pm

Seated Dinner and Dancing 7pm

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



# Presidential MESSAGE



*Gail Fenton Pesses*

Everyday, as I walk from my living room down the short hall to my bedroom, I am greeted by a wall of framed pictures. You know the type of display – pictures of my son and daughter (one of whom is now on the NCJW-GNO board) as babies, little kids and more recently as adults; my parents, impeccably dressed, at a past Angel Ball; my sister in a photo taken by our father when she was a toddler; my grandparents after they fled Austria and settled in Panama; nieces, a nephew and even a picture of our last dog, Cookie. Seeing their smiling faces several times a day brings me a quiet happiness and joy.

Of course, there are some days when I am rushing around to get things completed. Whether it is answering emails, attending Zoom meetings, making phone calls, readying a part of the house to be repaired or taking the dog to the (other) veterinarian, I, like many of you, spend many of my days focused on what comes next in a seemingly endless list of things to be done. The days slip into weeks, weeks slip into months especially during the last 2 years with the pandemic.

But every now and then, whether in response to a calendar that reminds me of a special day, a friend who is finally able to come visit inside my home or my own yearnings, I stop at the gallery wall and really look at these pictures of people that have given so much meaning to my life. In that moment I reach beyond my “to-do” list and recall the moments captured

in film – my children’s graduations from college and for my daughter, from Vet School; my maternal grandfather, who I never got to meet; standing with friends, old and new, at the Makhtesh in Israel; the look of pride on my father’s face as he held his baby grandson on his lap and my parents love for all of us. At this time, my role as a bridge between old and new is clearly visible to me.

As you know by now, this year NCJW-GNO is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary by throwing ourselves a big, elegant, fun birthday party on April 9, 2022, at the Higgins Hotel. Co-Chairs Loel Samuel and Jody Braunig, Vice President Barbara Greenberg and the Gala Committee have been working hard to make this a phenomenal evening. Of course, there will be delicious food, a variety of live music, corks popping on champagne bottles and magnificent decorations. The

*“But this year’s Homage to Angel Ball will be something more. It will offer all of us, and our guests, the chance to pause, admire and reflect on our Section’s family gallery of pictures and writings from those who came before us.”*

– Gail Pesses

money raised will be used to further our programs and services for our community.

But this year’s Homage to Angel Ball will be something more. It will offer all of us, and our guests, the chance to pause, admire and reflect on our Section’s family gallery of pictures and writings from those who came before us. We will have the

unique opportunity to fully appreciate who NCJW-GNO was then and is now. And after the celebration is over and the last guest goes home, our pride in our section’s history of service and strong leadership will continue to provide inspiration and guidance to meet new challenges in our ever-changing world and

community.

I look forward to greeting each of you on April 9, 2022, at the Higgins Hotel. We will have to make sure we take a picture together that night.



**Co-chairs Kathy Buckman, Jan Yellin & their husbands Richard & Dr Steven at the Sensational Ball**



**Barbara and Mark Greenberg at the Starlight Ball**

## NCJW<sup>®</sup>

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater New Orleans Section

**President**  
Gail Pesses

**Editor**  
Barbara Kaplinsky

**VP of Administration**  
Judge Robin Giarrusso



**Nini Bodenheimer, Dottie Nathan, Donald Meyer, & Joan Mimeles at the Bicentennial Ball**



**Karen Soll, Lisa Solomon, Sue Singer and Sue Tilis at the Under the Big Top Ball**

# 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

## Co-Chairs

Loel Weil Samuel  
Jody Portnoff Braunig

## President

Gail Fenton Pesses

## Vice President

### Development

Barbara Greenberg

## Committee

Bonnie Aronson  
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Samantha Guichet  
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Sherri Tarr  
Tana Velen  
Miriam Waltzer

Do you have what it takes to be an  
**ANGEL BALL Hostess?**

We want you to be one of our Table Hostesses for our  
amazing Salute to Angel Ball Gala Celebration  
on Saturday, April 9th at the Higgins Hotel

**H--HAPPY AND HOSPITABLE  
O--ORIGINAL AND ORGANIZED  
S--SAVVY, SILLY AND SERIOUS (SOMETIMES)  
T--TERRIFIC AND TALANTED  
E--ELEGANT, EAGER AND ENTHUSIASTIC  
S--SPECIAL AND SOMEONE EVERYONE ADORES  
S--SENSIBLE, SMILES AND SPREADS SUNSHINE**

Create a table to celebrate and make memories with you!

Please reach out to your Table Hostess Committee:



**KAREN SHER  
TRICIA KIRSCHMAN  
JESSICA BACH**

**NCJW**

[WWW.NCJWNEWORLEANS.ORG](http://WWW.NCJWNEWORLEANS.ORG)

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater New Orleans Section

## “The Generosity of NCJW GNO Women”

By Carole Cukell Neff

President Gail Pesses has initiated a ‘Legacy Giving Committee’ for our Section, Co-Chaired by Susan Hess and Carole Neff. In the course of gathering information to determine what legacy giving has already occurred, we were delighted to be reminded of the generous philanthropy of those who showed their love for our Section of NCJW by providing for us in their Wills. Several women also made significant lifetime gifts to us and have shown their continuing generosity through their donations of time and energy to our projects.

We were reminded of Martha Graf Israel, who created the “Meyer Israel Memorial Trust” that provides a source of income to NCJW for “programs deemed necessary by the organization’s leadership.” We recalled that in 1973, our beloved Sara Stone created the “Irma Isaacson Scholarship Fund” in memory of her dear friend. This fund has significantly grown since then and has allowed NCJW to distribute tens of thousands of scholarship dollars to needy and deserving students. Much of its growth is due to the substantial contributions Marjorie Bissinger made over decades. This also brought to mind the legacy from Margery Stich who provided funding for



leadership development and the legacy from Vera Klein for scholarship funds for women who, like Vera, have returned to their schooling after their education was interrupted. We also gratefully acknowledge that Joan S. Berenson directed funds to us from the “Joan S. & Gerald S. Berenson Donor Advised Fund” at Jewish Endowment Foundation to be added to our own Endowment Funds at JEF. Other bequests were made by Margot Garon and Phyllis Nitzkin. Ina Davis, Flo Schornstein, Sara Stone and Joan Berenson made generous lifetime gifts.

All of these amazing women have enabled our Section, through their generosity, to carry forward the programming that exemplifies the values they demonstrated to us during their lifetimes.

It is with these wonderful women as our role models that we commence on our Legacy Giving Campaign.

Many of you who love NCJW and what it accomplishes have already included us in your estate plans, either through legacies in your Wills or through beneficiary designations of life insurance and retirement plans. For those of you who are willing to share this information, we ask that you let us know what you have done so that we can acknowledge you in an appropriate fashion. We are hopeful that through this Legacy Giving Campaign, we are able to generate even more endowment funding for the future of our productive organization. Your support will help NCJW continue to provide to its members the leadership skills it has taught us as we carry on the values we have learned over these past 125 years. Please join these exceptional women whom we honor with our gratitude.

Please advise us if you have included our Section of NCJW in your estate plan. If you would like to speak to someone about leaving a planned gift or to learn more, please contact us: Susan Hess - [carliesue@aol.com](mailto:carliesue@aol.com) or Carole Neff - [cneff@sessions-law.com](mailto:cneff@sessions-law.com).



## Girls on the Run Needs Volunteers!


The spring season of Girls on the Run (GOTR) kicks off this month – on March 21<sup>st</sup>. **GOTR, one of NCJW's community services**, aims to boost the self-esteem of girls and empower them to be healthy, happy, and successful in life. It inspires girls using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. The lessons encourage positive emotional, social, mental, and physical development.

Physical activity is woven into the program to inspire an appreciation of fitness and to build habits that lead to a lifetime of health. Evidence shows that Girls on the Run makes a stronger impact than both organized sports and physical education in teaching life skills that benefit girls at home, at school, and with their friends. There are programs for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders and 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Completing the 5K at the end of the season gives the girls a tangible understanding of the confidence that comes through accomplishment and a framework for setting and achieving life goals.

**Volunteers are needed to help with their 5K on May 21<sup>st</sup>.** They would love to have a group of NCJW members joining them!!

If you'd like to help with the 5K, call Karen Sher at 504-723-5492 or Carol Newman at 504-416-5011.






## NCJW, Greater New Orleans Section and Hadassah present

# SOLO COOKING

**March 31 at 7:00 pm via zoom**

**featuring Chef Abry Crosby and Nutritionist Kathrine M. Ruyle**



There's nothing in my house to eat!

Every week I throw out more than I eat!

I get overwhelmed at the grocery store!

I don't have time to cook!

I don't know how to cook!

Is this stuff really healthy?

Cooking's okay, but how often?

Singles of all ages have the exact same problem - navigating a culinary arena that is not designed for them. Solo Cooking will address these problems for anyone stepping into a kitchen - young, old, a family of one, or a family of many. Our presenters will answer your questions, give you healthy eating tips, demonstrate food prep ideas, and show you how to create simple, new meals from leftovers. Handouts of what to have on hand in your pantry and fridge will be waiting for you in the chat. Chef Crosby will end the session by demonstrating a few easy things to prepare that will tempt your palate and reignite your desire to cook and eat well at home. Submit questions for Abry and Kat in advance of the meeting to [chalewzim@gmail.com](mailto:chalewzim@gmail.com).

This program is cosponsored by National Council of Jewish Women GNO, Hadassah of Greater New Orleans and New Orleans Council on Aging and has a fee of \$10. Please register here:

<https://www.ncjwneworleans.org/programs/programming-events/>

For further information or questions, contact Benay Bernstein at [benayb@gmail.com](mailto:benayb@gmail.com) or Laurie Frank at [lauriesfrank@gmail.com](mailto:lauriesfrank@gmail.com)



## P5 is a Memorable Experience

After sipping champagne, indulging in chocolate, and listening to artist Anastasia Pelia describe the inspiration for her Prospect.5 installation in the Fairgrounds neighborhood, 30 NCJW art lovers boarded a luxury bus for a tour of the international contemporary art triennial, Prospect.5: "Yesterday we said tomorrow". The December afternoon tour was led by Vivian Cahn, who organized the event, and a Prospect curator, who shared her extensive knowledge of the artworks. The group viewed the Prospect exhibits at the Ogden Museum of

Southern Art and the Contemporary Art Center, all created by Black, Indigenous, and people of color artists.

Attending the P5 tour were Cathy Bart, Benay Bernstein, Vivian Cahn, Gail Chalew, Hannah Chalew, Naomi Chalew, Ina Davis, Sheila Fenton, Maddie Fireman, Marlana Fireman, Laurie Frank, Deena Gerber, Robin Goldblum, Audrey Hess, Susan Hess, Susan Kierr, Michelle Landry, Ellen Manshel, Carole Neff, Roxanne Newman, Gail Pesses, Karen Sher, Susan Slater, Susan Bishop-Wrabel, and Miriam Waltzer.



**The NCJW P5 group gathered at the sculpture with the artist Anastasia Pelias, who spoke about her creative process.**



**Organizing this special P5 bus tour were NCJW Board Members Gail Chalew, NCJW Programming Vice President, and Vivian Cahn, Prospect New Orleans board member.**

# Environmental Racism and Justice Program Takes Deep Dive

NCJW, Greater New Orleans Section presented an interactive panel discussion 'Becoming Good Stewards: Environmental Justice in 2022' on January 26, 2022, via Zoom. Organized by Alysse Fuchs, the program featured Ali Ruttenberg from *Healthy Gulf* who spoke on environmental racism and justice. Breakout group case studies and discussion took place on Gordon Plaza, Cancer Alley, Lead, and Heat. Attendees were (top row l-r) Alysse Fuchs, Barbara Kaplinsky, Gail Pesses and Gail Chalew; (middle row, l-r) Alison Ruttenberg, Patty Riddleberg, Harry Lowenburg, and Susan Hess; (bottom row, l to r) Hannah Chalew and Sam Langberg, Susan Kierr, Alanna Rosenberg and Kathy Shepard.



**Becoming Good Stewards: Environmental Justice in 2022**  
Wednesday, January 26th, 7 pm on Zoom

In this interactive program, learn and discuss how all these phenomena intersect in New Orleans and how we can get involved

Ali Ruttenberg and Michael Esealuka  
environmental activists working with *Healthy Gulf*, will share their experiences, answer questions, and discuss a call to action

For more information, contact Alysse Fuchs at [aafuchs@gmail.com](mailto:aafuchs@gmail.com)

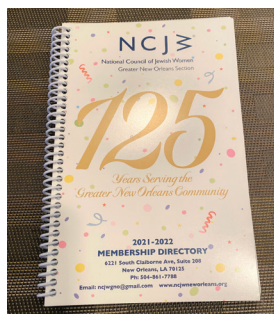
## Thank You to our Volunteers and Advertisers!

*From Barbara Greenberg, Bluebook Directory Chair*

To our volunteers who solicited and proofed, thank you, thank you, thank you. And hats off to Dana Shepard who compiled our office database as well as aided and supported me throughout this undertaking.

We also thank our advertisers for their participation in helping make possible our vital community programs and services.

To show appreciation, **we encourage our NCJW membership to patronize these advertisers and thank them. Let the advertisers know we saw them in our Blue Book Directory!**



### Solicitors

Patty Barnett, Sue Barton, Barbara Greenberg, Carole Jacobson, Kathy Shepard, Karen Sher and Sue Singer

### Proofreaders

Barbara Greenberg, Tricia Kirschman, Betty Moore, Loel Weil Samuel, Dana Shepard and Kathy Shepard

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Karen Sher, Membership Committee  
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Joan Soboloff & Family – In Memory of Myra M Soboloff  
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Windsor Court Hotel

*Be in the know – Send your email address to [ncjwngo@gmail.com](mailto:ncjwngo@gmail.com) today!*



# Welcome to our Newest Members!

October 15, 2021 to February 10, 2022

Eliza Ashkin-Baker  
Marc Behar  
Meredith Cunningham  
Virginia Cunningham  
Laurie Frank  
Lindsay Friedmann  
Michele Gelman  
Elizabeth Gottfried  
Amelia Halstead  
Susan Kappelman  
Sharon Katz  
Laurie Klein  
Alli Maney  
Melanie Melasky  
Lynn Plotkin  
Michelle Soll  
Anna Tucker

## Member Changes and Additions since Publication of the 2021-22 Directory

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Martha P Weil  
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Joel Weinstock  
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New Orleans LA 70118

## New Members – Reach out and touch someone!

by Karen Sher, Membership Chair

As Spring arrives with its burst of colorful flowers of all hues and sweet fragrances, it is the perfect time to reach out to a friend or an acquaintance and ask, "Would you like to join NCJW?" We are such an amazing organization, we do such terrific community service programs, and we are there at the frontline with our advocacy work. There are so many interesting and exciting people in our Greater New Orleans Section. We all meet new people all of the time through networking, our jobs, our children and our friends. Be friendly, be kind, and take the initiative to brighten another person's life with the joy of membership in NCJW, GNO. You will be doing a good deed! Call or email me (*my contact information is in the Directory*).



Representatives from NCJW, GNO President Gail Pesses, Barbara Kaplinsky and Benay Bernstein attended the first Together New Orleans Delegates Assembly on December 14th at First Grace United Methodist Church. This historic assembly brought together TNO's founding member institutions to ratify its decision-making processes and leadership structure.

## Celebrating the Season of Giving... by Giving Back

NCJW, GNO Section joined United Way of Southeast Louisiana (UWSELA) for the Holiday Day of Action on December 10, 2021, to complete festive crafts and activities with young learners at Kingsley House.

A dozen NCJW volunteers, many of them brand new members to NCJW, joined forces with volunteers from UWSELA Women United, Retire United and Young Leaders United, as well as Junior League of New Orleans and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana.



Pictured here are (front row, l to r) Susan Constant, Susan Kierr, Sheryl Title and Ronda Kottle; (back row, l to r) Karen Sher, Laurie Frank, Gail Pesses, Hillary Rossman, Kimberly Crawford, Joy Willig and Barbara Kaplinsky.

## NCJW Scholarship Donations

### 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).*

- ◆ Amy and John Haspel
- ◆ Nancy Pesses
- ◆ Ann Thompson - in memory of Jon Thompson

### In memory of Shaw Thompson, husband of Ann Thompson:

- ◆ Tricia Kirschman
- ◆ Loel Samuel
- ◆ Dana and Louis Shepard
- ◆ Steve and Nancy Timm

### The Clara and Roy Schwarz Book Fund

*(Provides each Irma M. Isaacson Memorial Scholarship recipient with additional funds for the purchase of books).*

- ◆ Amy and John Haspel

### Sara B. Stone Education Fund

*(Provides grants for additional educational expenses).*

*Donations and requests for applications can be mailed to:*

*Nancy B. Timm, 5708 Garfield Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70115*

## Birthday Dollars

- ◆ Renee Goldstein
- ◆ Dr. Jarrett Johnson, in memory of Aida Johnson and Lucy Stone
- ◆ Lillian Opatowsky
- ◆ Paula Picker
- ◆ Carol Lise Rosen
- ◆ Jane Sizeler
- ◆ Karen Sher, in honor of her beloved daughter Rose's ½ birthday
- ◆ Marie Wolf

## NCJW Cares

Sheryl Title, Chairwoman

### In memory of Richard Schornstein

- ◆ Joan Bronk
- ◆ Loel and Larry Samuel

### In honor of NCJW

- ◆ Sherri Tarr

### In memory of Eve and John Herzfeld

- ◆ Loel and Larry Samuel

## Breast and Ovarian Cancer & Hereditary Genetics Panel

*Do you (or someone you love) have a family history or want to learn more about screening for breast and/or ovarian cancer?*

The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans Section will host a community-wide multi-disciplinary question-and-answer panel on these topics on Sunday, May 15, 2022, 4pm at Tulane Hillel. It will be in partnership with Sharsheret, and cosponsored by our local Jewish Federation, Jewish Family Service, and Hadassah.

Sharsheret educates and advocates for Jewish individuals and their families who have been touched by breast and ovarian cancers. According to Sharsheret, Ashkenazi Jews are at a higher risk for both cancers as well as 10x more likely than the average American to possess a genetic mutation that predisposes them to these cancers.

Expert speakers will inform us and provide resources relevant to us in the Greater New Orleans area. The panel will include a local breast surgical oncologist, a local gynecologic oncologist, a genetic counselor and a moderator from Sharsheret.

Various tools will be introduced relating to knowing how to access their family pedigree

chart, basic information about mammograms and pap smears as well as other regular screenings for both women and men - no matter what age, life stage or gender.

According to panel organizer Nancy Pesses, "We want participants involved to feel comfortable asking questions they may not otherwise consider until they are personally impacted with cancer or a genetic mutation."

The plan is to offer this as a hybrid event - in-person and live streamed on Zoom. For those who attend in person, a social hour will follow the panel. Current COVID-19 guidelines will ultimately dictate how we gather. Those planning to attend in-person must show proof of vaccination and wear a mask.

The organizers and sponsors are excited to bring NCJW and the New Orleans community the first in a series of programs focused on cancer and genetics.

Contact Nancy Pesses, [npesses07@gmail.com](mailto:npesses07@gmail.com) or Lilli Geltman, [lhgeltman@gmail.com](mailto:lhgeltman@gmail.com) with any questions or comments, as well as to express interest in joining the committee for planning and organizing future events in this important series.

## Your Clicks, Hearts, & Comments Go A Long Way!

NCJW Social Media is a convenient way to meet you where you already are. Your engagement with our channels -- comments, shares, and 'likes' -- broadens our reach to those who otherwise might not know about NCJW, our mission and good works both nationally and locally. Connecting is an effortless way to let you know what the Section is doing, what we are looking forward to, and is a terrific way to hear your thoughts! Cut and paste these links into your URL and get involved! Thank you!

<https://www.facebook.com/ncjwgnoc>

<https://twitter.com/NCJWGNOC>

[https://www.instagram.com/ncjw\\_greater\\_new\\_orleans/](https://www.instagram.com/ncjw_greater_new_orleans/)

Be in the know – Send your email address to [ncjwgnoc@gmail.com](mailto:ncjwgnoc@gmail.com) today!



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

Phone (504) 861-7788  
Fax (504) 861-0044  
Email [ncjwgn@gmail.com](mailto:ncjwgn@gmail.com)

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**NCJW and GiveNOLA Day**  
**Tuesday, May 3, 2022**  
*One Day to Give as One*

NCJW Participates in GiveNOLA Day\*

Hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation

Thanks to all our prior GiveNOLA supporters! NCJW is once again participating in this year's GiveNOLA Day on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

Visit [www.GiveNOLA.org](http://www.GiveNOLA.org) and search for NCJW from midnight to midnight on Tuesday, May 3 or go directly to our page at <https://www.givenola.org/ncjwgn>. (Minimum gift is \$10).

You may make your **annual Personal Giving gift on GiveNOLA Day**, but you need to let us know separately! 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 3 or just don't want to forget to donate? [Preschedule your donation](#) - donors have the ability to make an online donation starting on April 19 at 12:01 am. To make an early donation between April 19 and May 2, go to the GiveNOLA.org website, search for NCJW, create a login and you can schedule your gift to be recorded on May 3.

For more information or help making your donation on May 3, 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!*

#### **Officers**

President: Gail Fenton Pesses

#### **Vice Presidents:**

Gail Chalew  
Robin Giarrusso  
Barbara Greenberg  
Carol Newman  
Al Page  
Karen Sher  
Financial Secretary: Alanna Rosenberg  
Corresponding Secretary: Patty Barnett  
Recording Secretary: Jody Braunig  
Treasurer: Kathy Shepard  
Asst. Treasurer: Tricia Kirschman

#### **Ex-Officio Past Presidents:**

Susan Hess  
Barbara Kaplinsky

#### **Honorary Vice Presidents:**

Julanne Isaacson, Celia Katz, Florence Schornstein

#### **Elected Board Members:**

Benay Bernstein  
Vivian Cahn  
Tiffany Cotlar  
Fran Dinehart  
Lilli Geltman  
Susie Jernigan  
Lisa Heller  
Ronda Kottle  
Sara Lewis  
Carole Neff  
Tana Velen