



Greater
New Orleans
Section

National Council of Jewish Women

Bulletin

www.NCJWneworleans.org

December 2023



When New Orleans Thrives, We All Thrive

NCJW's January General Meeting

Monday, January 29, 2024 - 6-8 pm

14 Audubon Place, New Orleans

Light dinner will be served - \$25 per person

*Featuring the dynamic President & CEO of
Greater New Orleans, Inc.*

MICHAEL HECHT

*And the presentation of
the Emerging Leader Award to Sara Lewis*

**Save the date and join us as we learn the direct correlation
between "a thriving economy" and an excellent quality of life
for women, children and families.**

Recognizing Emerging Leadership

NCJW GNO is proud to recognize Sara Lewis with the NCJW Emerging Leader Award, established at the National level for each Section to pay tribute to a member, new to the NCJW scene, who shows great promise for future leadership.

Sara has been a board member of NCJW since 2021. After volunteering on the development/fundraiser and membership committees, she spent two years chairing the Community Needs Committee which evaluates services for our section and determines the funding for each service. Last year, she chaired the Hannah G. Solomon Selection Committee and



led the planning for the community celebration luncheon.

According to former NCJW President Gail Pesses, "Lewis is known to express concern for others and how they are doing, bringing policy down to a person-to-person level."

Sara is an attorney, practicing in the areas of oil and gas, environmental and commercial litigation and is a partner with Wall, Cook & Lewis, LLC. She earned her law degree and mediation certificate at Tulane University, magna cum laude, receiving the Dean's Scholarship. She also completed an externship with Judge Fredericka Wicker of the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal as well as an externship on domestic violence at Southeast Louisiana Legal Services

with Judge Bernadette D'Souza.

Sara is currently the NCJW Vice President of Advocacy and is spearheading efforts on behalf of repro and LGBTQ rights.

Save the date!

A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America. Lecture and slide presentation by Susan Hess & Tour led by Kenneth Hoffman, MSJE Executive Director.

**Museum of the Southern
Jewish Experience**

Sunday, March 3, 10:00 am

Presidential MESSAGE



Since the horrific attacks on October 7, the Jewish people has been transformed into a global shiva house of support and presence as we mourn the tragic loss of life in Israel and in Gaza.

Many of us have families and friends in Israel, yet all of us have been affected in some way by this violence. The uncertainty and fear about what will come next and the anxiety about rising anti-Semitism here are causing many of us to feel a bit off kilter, unbalanced. Our hearts are broken into many pieces.

But we are also a people of action and through NCJW, nationally and in New Orleans, we are responding in ways to support both the people in Israel and ourselves.

The Board on November 7 voted unanimously to donate, from the section, \$1,800 to the NCJW Israel Emergency Fund. There are many gendered aspects to this war, from the use of rape as an act of terror to the

**HUNDREDS OF KIDNAPPED
CIVILIANS ARE BEING HELD
HOSTAGE BY HAMAS IN
UNFATHOMABLE CIRCUMSTANCES.**

#VoicesForHostages

hostage taking of babies and children. NCJW funds are being used to support organizations on the ground addressing the needs of women and children, such as the group Women Wage Peace and women in Bedouin communities.

On Giving Tuesday, all contributions to the Israel Fund were triple matched, and our members generously responded, making individual contributions of chai (\$18) or higher.

Our section continues to pursue justice here in New Orleans, most notably in the area of repro rights. Given that we have no hope of securing legislative reforms and we do not have the right to have a referendum in this state, we are going the judicial route. A committee was set up, under the leadership of Advocacy VP Sara Lewis, to explore filing a lawsuit against the abortion ban on the basis that it is restricting our

NCJW's Voices for Hostages Campaign

Voices for Hostages is urging all governments, international organizations, and civil society groups to demand the immediate release of all hostages, and to, at the very least, intervene to ensure all hostages are provided with humanitarian aid.

Sign the Global Women Leader's Letter
<https://www.ncjw.org>

religious rights as Jews who believe that life begins at birth, not conception.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this effort, please contact Sara at smarasmewis@gmail.com.

I look forward to working with you to help heal the world.

Kol tuv, Gail Naron Chalew

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

August 20 - November 6, 2023

Aleeza Adelman

Cantor Rebecca Garfein

Lesley Lucas ★ Ali Perez

Kim Sport ★ Evette Ungar

Rachel Zoller

NCJW® | Greater
New Orleans
Section
National Council of Jewish Women

President
Gail Naron Chalew

Editor Ina Davis **CoEditor** Killian Philipson

VP of Administration
Susan Constant Greenberg

Contributors:
Barbara Kaplinsky, Tricia Kirschman,
Sara Lewis, Carol Newman,
Nancy Pesses, Karen Sher, Nancy B. Timm,
Sheryl Title, Lynne Wasserman

“I joined NCJW because the mission was easy to believe in, but I've stayed for this many years because of the incredible women I've met. Some are my peers and some paved the way, but all made me believe in the work.”



Welcome Aboard!

At the 11/7/23 Board Meeting, Tana Velen was nominated and sworn in as Recording Secretary. Congratulations Tana.

NCJW Past Presidents' Cabinet

NCJW Past Presidents' Cabinet annual meeting and luncheon was held at Rizzuto's Ristorante & Chop House on Nov. 3rd.

President Gail Chalew presented her *State of the Section* and was welcomed into the esteemed club. Brava to Gail as she leads an innovative and energetic Board and membership. More great events and programming to follow. 🍌🍌🍌

Thank you to June Leopold and Shellye Farber for chairing the event, Challah Creations by Nancy Pesses, and June Everett (Leopold) for sharing copies of her recently published memoir - *Treat Us Generously*.



L-R seated: Shellye Farber, June Leopold, Barbara Kaplinsky, Dana Shepard. L-R standing: Beth Hershberg (photoshop in mirror), Pamela Lyles, Gail Pesses, Ina Davis, Gail Chalew, Susan Hess.

Sharing Knowledge. Multiplying Power.



NCJW and community members listen to the JScreen genetic counselor's presentation on reproductive and cancer hereditary mutations.

'Give A Spit About Your Health; a community health fair', the third installment in NCJW's *Knowledge is Power* series focusing on cancer, genetics and mental health, took place on October 22nd at the Uptown JCC. Subsidized reproductive and cancer genetic mutation screening was available through JScreen due to multiple generous donations, with presenting sponsors The Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation and Mr. Bob Merrick. The event was well attended and organizations provided essential information about genetic testing, balance testing, a national bone marrow registry, and local services for those with cancer. Many lucky participants walked away with health-themed door prizes.

Going to Court on Behalf of Repro Rights

On the evening of November 1st at the Uptown JCC, NCJW hosted a screening of *Under G-d*, a documentary short film about the national Jewish response to the Dobbs decision - focusing on state lawsuits that argue this ruling violates the separation of church and state and infringes on religious freedom. The U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in this case on June 24, 2022, taking away the constitutional right to abortion.

Producer Darcy McKinnon, attorney Ellie Schilling, nationally-recognized expert on reproductive health and rights in Louisiana, and Rabbi Katie Bauman led a discussion after the screening regarding the film, the Louisiana legislative and legal landscape on abortion, and Jewish views on abortion access. More than 45 people attended the screening.

We will be forming a committee to discuss filing a similar lawsuit in Louisiana.



***Under G-d* - a documentary short film about the national Jewish response to the Dobbs decision was followed by a panel discussion featuring (L-R) Rabbi Katie Bauman, Sara Lewis, attorney Ellie Schilling, producer Darcy McKinnon, and Gail Chalew.**

NCJW Scholarship Donations

as of November 6, 2023

The Irma M. Isaacson Memorial Scholarship Fund

provides need based academic scholarships to local students.

In memory of Marjorie Bissinger:

Harry Blumenthal
Judy Barnes Cochran
Ina Davis
Peggy Demarest
Robin Levy and Bobby Garon
Susan and Lou Good
Barbara Greenberg
Susan Greenberg
Sharon Greene and Shellye Weinberg
Barbara Herman
Lee and Cynthia Isaacson
Walter and Cathy Isaacson
Lis and Hugo Kahn
Patricia and Richard Kirschman
Vicki Lazarus
Erin Ludwin
Carol Marx
Susan Norwood
Mimi Schlesinger
Lesley Smith
Judy Steinberg
Madalyn and Robert Schenk
Dana Shepard
Ann Thompson
Adele Wormser



The Sara B. Stone Educational Enrichment Fund

provides grants for additional educational expenses.

Judy Barasso - In honor of being the Hannah G. Solomon honoree:
Madalyn Schenk
Nancy B. Timm

In Honor of Nancy and Steve Timm

Madalyn Schenk

In memory of Barbara Bresler

Betty Moore

In honor of Elaine Haas's Birthday

June Leopold

There are many meaningful ways to give to NCJW GNO.

Please look for the NCJW Giving Guide in the blue pages of your new Membership Directory. (2023-2024 page 28)

NCJW Cares

as of November 13, 2023

In honor of the wedding of David Shepard and Lesley Lucas

◆ By Gail Chalew

In memory of Barbara Bresler

◆ By Ana Gershanik
◆ By Tricia Kirschman
◆ By Gail Pesses
◆ By Loel and Larry Samuel

In honor of the successful Presidency of Gail Pesses

◆ By Ana Gershanik
◆ By Nancy Hudson Kaplan

In memory of Grace Hudson

◆ By Nancy Hudson Kaplan

In memory of Lillian Opatowsky

◆ By Nancy Hudson Kaplan

In memory of Julianne Isaacson

◆ By Tricia Kirschman

In honor of Gail Chalew and her Presidency

◆ By Jill Ruskin

In memory of Dotty Jacobs

◆ By Dori Halpern Schulman

In honor of Anne Levy upon receiving the Hannah G. Solomon Award

◆ By Ellie and Bruce Wainer
◆ By Carol B. Wise



Awaken Your Inner Chef!



If you'd like to be one of the best hosts in the New Orleans area, join us for a cooking demonstration!

We'll be meeting at Diana Mann's house. You'll learn how to create a main course, a salad, and a dessert with our two local chefs, Diana Mann and Gail Pesses! Mon., January 8, 6:30pm. Reserve your spot! Registration link is on our website.



Birthday Dollars

🥳 You may ask...

Birthday Dollars contributions allow NCJW GNO to support projects in Israel through the Israel Granting Program as well as our local community service projects.

- ◆ Amy Alexander
- ◆ Phyllis Bernstein
- ◆ Marilyn Alhadeff Bernstein
- ◆ Ana Gershanik
- ◆ Robin Giarrusso
- ◆ Jarrett Johnson, in memory of Aida Johnson and Lucy Stone
- ◆ Naomi Kornman
- ◆ Marilyn Oelsner
- ◆ Leslie Rau
- ◆ Karen Reitman
- ◆ Dori Schulman, in honor of Loel Samuel's Birthday
- ◆ Sue & Harold Singer, in honor of Amanda Herman; and in memory of Herbert Luria
- ◆ Lynne Hudson Singerman
- ◆ Jane Sizeler, in honor of Billy Sizeler's Birthday
- ◆ Sue Robin Weinbauer

Anne Skorecki Levy received the Hannah G. Solomon Award

On October 16th, 2023 at the Pavilion of the Two Sisters, City Park



HGS Event Chair Susan Hess presenting the Award to Anne

“Landing at the Poland Street Wharf... that was the luckiest day... Just imagine a strange place... and being met by the National Council of Jewish Women who drove us to the JCC where we were welcomed as guests, to a dining room with white table cloths... making us feel human, not different... they won my heart...

I believed that if I could speak to students and explain what hatred can inflict on a country, I would teach them what can happen if we did not speak up.

How unbelievable considering that Solomon established a program to help immigrants like me and my family. Thank you to everyone here today. I am forever grateful for all your support.”

Anne. S. Levy



Hannah G. Solomon Award Recipient 2023 Anne Skorecki Levy and Family



HGS Committee L-R: Sara Lewis, Kathy Shepard, Sue Singer, Barbara Greenberg, Gail Chalew, Susan Hess, Ana Gershanik, Susan C. Greenberg, Liz Yager, Dana Shepard; additionally: Jody P. Braunig, Ina Davis, Tana Velen

“The love and respect for Anne Levy filled the room. She is truly a social justice hero and a most fitting Hannah G. Solomon honoree.”

Gail Chalew

Photos: Jeff Strout Photography



L-R: Helena Moreno N.O. Councilmember-At-Large, Cantor Rebecca Garfein, Rabbi Katie Bauman, Meg Gatto WVUE

“An educator of children and a trainer of teachers about the Holocaust, Anne realized early on that she needed to become the person tasked with the responsibility of spreading the message...”

Susan Hess



A community wide celebration and packed house to celebrate Anne and NCJW GNO!

The JEF, Hadassah, NCJW 2023 Women's Event



Rabbi Jen Gubitz, founder of Modern Jewish Couples, engaged the sold-out audience in an interactive presentation, “Living a Meaningful and Ethical Life.”

Rabbi Jen used Jewish text, comments from the audience, and vignettes from everyday life to show how we can all live more meaningful lives and, by doing so, we will lead more fulfilling lives. The luncheon and lecture took place on Nov. 1st at Hotel St. Vincent and was underwritten by JEF's Linda & Jack Zoller Memorial Fund. It was chaired by Joan Cox.

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Tour de Force

Members gathered at NOMA on November 15th to view *Fashioning America: Grit to Glamour*. There were four docents to accommodate the big group! The exhibit highlighted historical garments, ready-to-wear classics, and iconic red carpet fashion moments from the 19th century to the present. Just prior, members had fun socializing while enjoying a delicious lunch at Café NOMA. Thanks to Vivian Cahn for organizing this fun program.



NCJW GNO's Administrative Assistant Carolina Gallop was trained as a Fashion Designer and her *Three Layer Satin Halter Gown* was featured at the exhibit. *Brava Carolina!* In her spare time Carolina teaches adult sewing classes at RicRACK.