



Greater  
New Orleans  
Section

## National Council of Jewish Women

Bulletin

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

Fall 2024



JOIN NCJW IN CELEBRATING  
THE NEW YEAR AND...



### THE FLAVORS OF THE SEASON



Join us for our opening event where we will enjoy the flavors of the season with friends. Light supper, seasonal cocktails, and mocktails will be provided. Please bring a fall dessert to share or a donation of toilet paper or copier paper for ricRACK, an organization that NCJW supports.



PLEASE RSVP  
BY OCT 17!

We will also be writing  
get-out-the-vote postcards  
to voters in swing states.

Monday, October 21, 2024, 6:30-8:00 PM  
At the Mann Home in Lake Vista  
Cost: \$18.00

RSVP Online at [www.NCJWNewOrleans.org](http://www.NCJWNewOrleans.org)  
or mail check to: Kathy Shepard, 3311 State Street Drive, NOLA 70125

### Be Election Ready!! (and have your I.D. handy)

VOTE



**EACH STATE administers elections differently.**

Register to vote and check your status at: <https://www.eac.gov/voters/register-and-vote-in-your-state>

**LOUISIANA:** Access 'quick links' for your personal voting information. It's so easy!  
<https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/Home/VoterLogin>

**LA EARLY VOTING runs October 18-29, 2024 - 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM, excluding Sundays.**  
It's so easy to early vote, check out your early vote options: <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/earlyvoting>

**VOTE Tuesday, NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>**

# Presidential MESSAGE



Dear Members,

Funny how we always say that the Jewish holidays are either early or late, as if they are never on time. But I like to think that whenever they occur, they are always at the right time!

This year they are definitely late, but this has several advantages. The kids will already be settled in school, the weather here may be a bit more fall-like, and let's hope we will be finished with hurricane season. I also have the opportunity in this bulletin to wish you all a healthy, joyful, and meaningful New Year.

The holidays are the time to assess the past year, to see where we missed the mark and what we can do this coming year to come closer to our aspirations.

And every section in NCJW is engaging in that exercise as we decide how to respond to National's New Business Model.

I wish I could provide an update from my last bulletin letter in May, but not much progress has been made in fleshing out the details of the new model and how it will affect us locally. The Section Working Group of section presidents from across the country, including me, has met several times and will continue to meet twice a month until December to provide input from the grassroots.

What I can tell you is that we will not be presented with the revised business model until the spring of 2025, and we will then be given time to evaluate it. So, this year we will keep operating full steam ahead.

I have also appointed a President's Committee to plan, as best we can with limited information, for changes to come. Please feel free to email me at [chalewzim@gmail.com](mailto:chalewzim@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

One assumption guiding those who devised the New Business Model is that volunteerism is dying locally. It is certainly true that women have less time to volunteer than in the past and that it is harder to get volunteers, particularly for major roles.

But let's prove that assumption wrong. If you agree with me that our local section is *the* place for social-justice-oriented Jewish women to engage together in acts of repairing the world, fill out the Engagement Survey, devised by Nancy Pesses, VP of Membership and Engagement ([www.ncjwneworleans.org/programs/](http://www.ncjwneworleans.org/programs/)), which you should have also received by email.

Together, we can make our section all it can be.

L'shana tova, Gail

*Kel tw, Gail Naron Chalew*





National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater New Orleans Section



## repro shabbat

*Save the date*

Friday, November 1  
Touro Synagogue  
Services, dinner, & performance  
**A celebration of the generations  
who've fought for repro rights**

Rosh Hashanah	October 3-4
Yom Kippur	October 12
Sukkot	October 17-23
Simchat Torah	October 24-25

**NCJW** <sup>®</sup> | Greater  
New Orleans  
Section  
National Council of Jewish Women

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Gail Naron Chalew

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Tana Velen

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR NCJW 2024-25 HANNAH G. SOLOMON AWARD

National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans Section is pleased to call for nominations for the 2024-25 Hannah G. Solomon Award. The award will be presented at a luncheon on Monday, January 27, 2025.

This award is given annually to a volunteer community leader who exemplifies the qualities of Hannah G. Solomon, founder of the National Council of Jewish Women.

Recipients are individuals who have:

- Brought about important programs and services through their leadership in a volunteer capacity
- Been a catalyst for social change
- Are known for their interest, activity and stands on issues with which NCJW is in sympathy

Nominations are due by **Tuesday, October 8**, and should be sent to Leslie Fischman at 3724 Rue Emilion Street, New Orleans LA 70002 or emailed to [lesliecfischman@gmail.com](mailto:lesliecfischman@gmail.com). All nominations must be in writing and include a resume and the rationale for nominating the candidate.

Previous Hannah G. Solomon Award recipients include: Rena Wilson, Margery Stich, Myra Soboloff, Thomas Godchaux, Olga Jackson, Edith Rosenwald Stern, Helen Mervis, Sarah Davis, Edith Schulhofer, Jane K. Buchsbaum, Millie McClendon Charles, Sara Stone, Flo Schornstein, Rosalie Cohen, Roy Schwarz, Barbara Lemann, Rosa F. Keller, Mike Brenner, Norma Freiberg, Sunny Norman, The Honorable Joan B. Armstrong, Elizabeth Rack, The Honorable Miriam Waltzer, Diana Lewis, Grace Hudson, Donald Mintz, Sybil Morial, Julianne Isaacson, Pres Kabacoff, Shirley and Dr. Robert Haspel, Harry Blumenthal, Jr., Eddy Rosen, Hugo Kahn, Marjorie and Roger Bissinger, Barbara Herman, Madalyn Schenk, Babs Isaacson, Melba and Moise Steeg, Jr., Betty Wisdom, Inge Elsas, Carol Good, Phyllis M. Taylor, Carol B. Wise, Nancy Marsiglia, Joan Berenson, Mary Keller Zervigon, Ruth Kullman, Marjorie and Scott Cowen, Julie Schwam Harris, Ana and Juan Gershanik, Kim Sport, Susan Hess, Madeleine Landrieu, Ina Weber Davis, Judy Barrasso and Anne Skorecki Levy



## Board Workshop

NCJW GNO's Board of Directors is made up of an elected president, vice presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and elected board members. **But did you know** that those from the greater membership who lead special projects, programs, events, and advocacy issues are also board members? *Learn how you may become a board member in a way that's meaningful to you!* Contact President Gail Chalew to get involved and join the fun.



L-R: Corresponding Secretary Diana Mann, Recording Secretary Tana Velen, and VP of Development Jody Braunig, listen intently as President Gail Chalew elaborates on the serious business of NCJW at the **Annual Board Workshop** held August 18<sup>th</sup>.



A number of NCJW GNO Board members gathered to brainstorm future actions of the section, planning for the year ahead. Strategies for educational programs, community service, and advocacy issues were discussed. *"This is our idea of fun,"* avouched Killian Philipson, board member-at-large.

## Community Services that NCJW GNO is supporting 2024-2025.

Wish to learn more or get involved? Please contact the chairperson directly- information is in the bluebook/Membership Directory.

**ADL** - Elizabeth Herman

**Covenant House\***

**Familias Unidas en Accion** - Ana Gershanik

**Fox 8 Defenders** - Loel Samuel

**GEAUX Girl Media** -

Tammy Bressler

**Girls on the Run** - Lillian Gross

**JCC-ACE** - Leslie Fischman

**Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR)** - Dr. Diane Africk

**Ochsner Transplants** - Lis Kahn

**One Book One New Orleans (Literary Alliance)** - Robin Goldblum

**Prospect New Orleans** - Vivian Cahn

**RicRack \***

**Silence is Violence** - Baty Landis

**SisterHearts** - Lilli Geltman Vohs

**STAIR** (Start the Adventure in Reading) - Carol Newman

**Together N.O.** - Barbara Kaplinsky

**Training Grounds** - Robin Giarrusso

*\*Need Chair*

## Supporting Covenant House New Orleans

Since 1987, Covenant House New Orleans (CHNO) has served unhoused youths with immediate and intermediate needs to help them recover from homelessness and achieve stability to prevent future homelessness. CHNO's core principles are absolute respect, unconditional love, and relentless support. The only youth homeless shelter for unaccompanied minors in the Orleans/Jefferson homeless continuum of care, CHNO serves young people who are unhoused for a variety of reasons

including abuse, neglect, exploitation, and rejection. Last year, they served over 650 young people, including 115 children between 0 and 6.

CHNO asked for funding and volunteers for a Peace Room. The purpose of the room is to add to their holistic Wellness Program with a small, easily accessible, semi-private space for mental health, family reunification, curfew support, and other therapeutic purposes. Young people living on the CHNO campus do not have private

rooms. Sometimes, they need space for sensitive and confidential conversations with family members, clinicians, and other service providers. **Volunteers are needed** to maintain the small library, stock the refrigerator, water plants, complete supply inventories, and generally maintain the room.

**If you are interested in volunteering for this worthy project,** contact NCJW VP of Community Services Robin Giarrusso at 504-400-7011 or [rmggiarrusso@gmail.com](mailto:rmggiarrusso@gmail.com).



# Salutations!

## Salutations! Marking our 127<sup>th</sup> year as NCJW GNO

NCJW GNO held its annual Closing Event and Board Installation on June 30 at the Metairie Country Club. Highlights included a keynote address by New Orleans Superintendent of Police Anne Kirkpatrick, the presentation of the Harold Salmon, Sr. Award to NCJW advocate Barbara Kaplinsky and a Presidential update on the Section's accomplishments by Gail Chalew. Nominating Committee Chair Barbara Kaplinsky presented the new slate, and a vote by the general membership was approved and recorded by Recording Secretary Tana Velen. Judge Robin Giarrusso (ret.) installed members stepping up to new elected positions and recognized and thanked those who completed terms of service.

"We are honored to have as our guest speaker Anne Kirkpatrick, the first woman to hold a permanent appointment as Superintendent of Police in New Orleans." *Susan Greenberg, VP Administration*



**Police Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick was introduced by past president Mimi Schlesinger.**

"...the national reputation of the Superintendent has not gone unnoticed as she is also an instructor at the FBI's Law Enforcement Mimi Schlesinger Executive Association's Training Program." *Mimi Schlesinger, Past President NCJW GNO*



**Police Superintendent Kirkpatrick generously interacted while answering a multitude of questions from the membership. Nearly 100 people were in attendance.**

"The Harold Salmon award is not given every year... only when a leader rises to the top, like the bread Harold [Salmon, Sr.] so lovingly baked, do we choose to recognize that

individual... Barbara is the go-to person for all things media and has continued to flex her advocacy muscles as chair of the community service, Together New Orleans. She is currently helping to lead the TNO Listening Campaign and its 'Pledge to Vote' effort. Her involvement extended statewide where she participated in a media push to successfully defeat the Corporate Welfare Amendment."

*Gail Chalew, President NCJW GNO*



**Barbara Kaplinsky upon receiving the Harold Salmon, Sr. Award**

"NCJW membership is diverse, embracing Jews and Gentiles, people of all genders and all ages. I, however, compare NCJW more closely to a sisterhood. Having people who understand and support you... and mak[ing] sure that you are not alone is very empowering... NCJW GNO is embarking on a Together Louisiana Pledge to Vote Campaign along with hundreds of organizations throughout the State. When we reach out to you, please participate."

*Barbara Kaplinsky, Harold Salmon, Sr. Award Recipient 2024*



**Barbara Kaplinsky with husband Mark, and son David, a rabbinical student, who led the HaMotzi.**

"We come together today to share in a very special ceremony to recognize our outgoing leadership and to install our new leadership. One of my heroines, Golda Meir, said this about leadership: 'It isn't enough to believe in something; you have to have the stamina to meet obstacles and overcome them.' Her remarks suggest that true progress and growth require a willingness to confront challenges head on and to persevere during difficult times. Through perseverance and determination, we, the women of NCJW, can achieve our goals and

make a meaningful impact on the lives of others and the world around us." *Judge Robin Giarrusso (ret.), Installing Officer*



**L-R Carole Neff & Lilli Geltman Vohs Elected Board Members; The Honorable Robin Giarrusso VP Community Services**



**L-R Sylvia Finger Voter Rights/Mobilization Chair; Kathy Shepard Treasurer; Dana Shepard Office Coordinator Chair**



**L-R Tricia Kirschman Assistant Treasurer; Carol Newman VP Programming; Tana Velen Recording Secretary**



**L-R Gail Chalew President; Susan Greenberg VP Administration; Sue Singer Hospitality Chair; Susan Hess Ex-Officio**



**L-R Diana Mann Corresponding Secretary; Amelia Halstead Elected Board; Loel Samuel Financial Secretary**

*Photos courtesy of Stout Photography*



# NCJW in Action: *Providing Bright Smiles*



Photo: Al Jones NOFJC

Three full bags of dental care items were collected by NCJW GNO members and delivered to the NOFJC by Susie Jernigan, project chair, and Ina Davis. Directors at the center were grateful, stating that survivors would be “stocked for months.”

Oodles of toothbrushes and toothpaste were collected for the New Orleans Family Justice Center (NOFJC) thanks to generous donations by members and friends who attended our Annual Closing Event on June 30th. If you were a contributor to this effort, thank you!

NOFJC is a partnership of agencies dedicated to 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.

If you or someone you know needs help, call the  
**24-HOUR CRISIS HOTLINE**  
**(504) 866-9554**

## *Sharing the Joy of Grandchildren*



Cathy Bart and her grandchildren



Gail Chalew and her granddaughter



Carol Newman, her grandchildren, and a friend





**Enchanted by secret gardens and waterfalls, members took a private tour with a Longue Vue Gardens horticulturist on September 15<sup>th</sup>.** They also discovered that Eleanor Roosevelt once dined on the property with Edith and Edgar Stern, owners and founders of the estate.

The gardens are the masterwork of 20th-century landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman: a visionary designer and dear friend of the Sterns.

Thank you to Baty Landis and Carol Newmen who arranged for a lovely luncheon afterwards.

*Edith Rosenwald Stern was H.G. Solomon Recipient 1971 and a longtime member of the section.*

## NCJW CARES

In honor of Barbara Kaplinsky upon receiving the Harold Salmon Award

By her Michigan siblings: Loretta and Tom Huizing, Deb and Fred Beckett, Paul and Patti Zyskowski, Alice and Kevin Wagenvelt, Tim and Jo Ann Zyskowski, and Cathy Zyskowski

In honor of Barbara Kaplinsky upon receiving the Harold Salmon Award

◆ By Ana Gershanik

◆ By Barbara Greenberg

◆ By Angela Hill

◆ By Ronda Kottle

◆ By Mark and Andrea Rubin

◆ By Sheryl and Peter Title

In honor of Barbara Kaplinsky for all of her efforts performed on behalf of NCJW

◆ By Mina and Allen Lebowitz and Joshua and Steven Lebowitz

Wishing Phyllis Feran a speedy recovery

Wishing Gail Pesses a speedy recovery

◆ By Barbara Greenberg

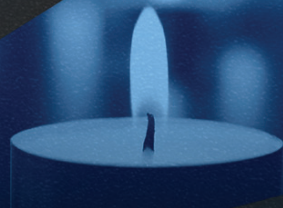
Donations received as of August 20, 2024. Sheryl Title, Chair

## COMMEMORATING OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup>

An Evening of Remembrance,  
Resilience, & HOPE

SUN, OCT 6 | 6 - 7 PM

Jefferson Performing Arts Center



*Welcome  
To our  
Newest Members!*

Amy Boles

Anita Sager

Gail Pianko Wall

Lillie Yalowitz

May 5 – August 28, 2024

## Thank YOU!

Our annual **Personal Giving** campaign provides the section with funds that are essential to fulfill our mission statement and support our community services and advocacy.

July 2023 to June 2024

Diane Africk  
Joan Bain  
Jody Portnoff Braunig  
Gail Chalew  
Michal Fishman  
Diane Franco  
Laurie Frank  
Robin Giarrusso  
Jacqueline Gold  
Sandra Chass Goldsmith  
Susan Good  
Barbara Greenberg  
Byrde Haspel Fund  
Amy Haspel  
Lisa Heller  
Barbara Herman  
Susan Hess  
Harris Hyman  
Babs & J.E. Isaacson Fund  
Susie Jernigan  
Barbara Kaplinsky  
Tricia Kirschman  
Saundra Levy  
Melinda Mintz  
Betty Moore  
Jenny Nathan Simoneaux  
Carole Neff  
Carol Newman  
Kathy Shepard  
Michael Shlenker  
Sylvia Sterne  
Suzanne Stone  
Eileen Wallen  
Anonymous Donor



## Annual Scholarship Committee at work.

If you would like to contribute to the Irma M. Isaacson Memorial Scholarship Fund, Clara & Roy Schwarz Memorial Book Fund, or the Sara B. Stone Educational Enrichment Fund, contact Nancy B. Timm, Ann Thompson, or Hallie Timm Bonin. Or check out the blue pages in your NCJW Directory for funding forms.

**The Irma M. Isaacson Memorial 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:

Sue and Harold Singer  
In honor of Barbara Kaplinsky

Nancy and Steve Timm  
In honor of the births of Roger Louis Bonin and Ellie Marie Timm

Harry Blumenthal  
In memory of Hannah Blumenthal Stich

Amy and John Haspel  
A donation

Ina and Rick Davis  
In honor of Harold Salmon Sr. Award recipient, Barbara Kaplinsky

**The Clara and Roy Schwarz Book Fund** provides each Irma M. Isaacson Memorial Scholarship recipient with additional funds for the purchase of books:

John and Amy Haspel  
A donation

Mark your  
calendars

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 6 - 6PM

Commemorating October 7th, Jefferson Performing Arts Center

### MONDAY OCTOBER 21

The Flavors of the Season, Opening General Meeting, see front page

### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1

Repro Shabbat, Touro Synagogue

### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21

Moonlighter II Kickoff Party 6 pm

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 22

NCJW Bus Tour - Prospect New Orleans P.6

### MONDAY JANUARY 27, 2025 Save the date!

Hannah G. Solomon Award & Luncheon

**Engaging New Voices and Voters Coalition always needs volunteers.**

**Choose your own schedule:**

[www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c49afad2da5fd0-september#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c49afad2da5fd0-september#/)  
Contact Sylvia Finger to sign up new Voters: [isfinger@gmail.com](mailto:isfinger@gmail.com); 504-231-1398



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If so, let us know!

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☒ VOTE  
☒ YOUR  
☒ VALUES

**Our Vote is Our  
Voice.**

NCJ  <sup>®</sup>  
National Council of Jewish Women

Add your voice:  
**America has a gun violence problem.  
Congress has the power to do  
something about it.**

<https://www.ncjw.org/act/action/guns/>

Take action:

**Support access to  
child care for all!**

TELL CONGRESS TO PASS THE  
CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES ACT



National Council of Jewish Women

<https://www.ncjw.org/act/action/child-care-act/>

Take action:

**Demand more  
ethical courts**

TELL CONGRESS TO PASS  
THE JUDICIAL ETHICS AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT



National Council of Jewish Women

<https://www.ncjw.org/act/action/restore-public-trust-in-our-federal-courts/>