NCJ ≥ 125

MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN SINCE 1893

NCJW Chicago North Shore Fall 2019 Newsletter







2019 Hannah G Solomon Award Dinner

Monday, September 23, 2019 6:00 pm East Bank Club 500 North Kingsbury, Chicago

Join NCJW Chicago North Shore for the 2019 Hannah G Solomon Award Dinner honoring Donna Gutman, a trailblazer in leadership and equal rights for women and girls. The event features keynote speaker Heather Booth, activist and founder of the Jane Collective. The Hannah G. Solomon Award is NCJW's highest honor and is presented to an individual who has changed the lives of others through his or her leadership efforts and service.

Individual Tickets are \$150. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Proceeds go to continuing the social policy and activism work of National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore.

Host Committee (in formation)

Marilyn Cohen
Bev Copeland
Karen Coplan
Barbara Dolinger
Donna Fishman
Merle Gross
Lauren Harper
Sarah Hirsen
Carole Levine
Jill Lexier
Tracy Loewenthal
Janet Lunsik

Maria Medina
Beth Najberg
Elaine Nekritz
Sherry Petlin
Robbie Schreiber
Jan Schwartz
Kim Sterling
Rhea Swider
Joan Zahnle
Debbie Vietinghoff
Cindy Wolfson

Sponsors and donors of \$360 or above receive a ticket to the Hannah G Solomon Award Dinner on September 23, 2019 as well as admission to a VIP pre-event film screening of Heather Booth: Changing the World and a private reception with Donna Gutman and Heather Booth. for more information, email HGSAwards@ncjwcns.org.

Visit https://ncjwcns.org/hgs for more information and to register

Save the Date

September 4Suburban Salon

September 20 Creating Sanctuary from Violence

September 23 Hannah G Solomon Awards

October 6
Her Story Theatre Outing: Invisible

October 14 City Salon

October 15Suburban Salon

October 22 Nosh and Knowledge

October 27 Luggage for Freedom Pack and Delivery Day

> **November 3** You Be The Judge - City

November 10 Sex Trafficking Awareness Program



NCJW CNS Board of Directors

Officers

Debbie Vietinghoff, President Robbie Schreiber, Secretary Rhea Swider, Recording Treasurer

Directors

Bev Copeland Barbara Dolinger Merle Gross Donna Gutman Lauren Harper Sarah Hirsen Jill Lexier **Janet Lunsik** Maria Medina

Beth Najberg Sherry Petlin

Ian Schwartz Kim Sterling

Joan Zahnle

Immediate Past President

Tina Cantrell

Contact Information NCJW Chicago North Shore

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NCJW, Inc.

2055 L St, NW, Suite 650 Washington, DC 20036 202 296 2588 * action@ncjw.org

From the President's Desk

Three years ago I hadn't even heard of the National Council of Jewish Women, so to say that I am surprised to find myself the President of the Chicago North Shore section would be an understatement. Looking back, it was a combination of disillusionment, fear, and optimism that brought me to this moment. I, like so many other American women, was disillusioned the day after the November 2016 Presidential election. I feared that the new administration would take our nation backward instead of forward. However, the optimistic part of me would not let me accept that going backwards was the only way to go; it would not let me sit on the sidelines, it forced me to take

In NCJW. I have found like-minded women who also cannot simply sit and watch the dismantling of our reproductive rights, dehumanizing of our immigrants, and the disturbing rise of antisemitism. I have found women who are driven and take action. Together we have marched, attended rallies, and lobbied our legislators in Washington. We have advocated for those women and children who do not have a voice and for our sisters, daughters, and granddaughters.

To be honest, I was also looking for something else in 2016. You see, in a few short months I would be turning 65 years old, a milestone and a crossroads. For me it was more than a time to simply reflect on the past, it was a time of transition. Lucky for me, it was also when I crossed paths with NCJW CNS, and its progressive and passionate women. Over the past few years, I've often explained to family and friends that my involvement in NCJW has helped me to reinvent myself. However, as I am writing this I realize this description isn't exactly true. Rather than reinventing myself, NCJW has allowed me to be true to myself and my Jewish values. And for 125 years NCJW has been a place for all women to be true to themselves - a place to advocate, a place to help educate others, and a place to give back to their communities.

I still find myself disillusioned and fearful at times, but I remain hopeful. I remain hopeful because "without hope there cannot be change". I remain hopeful because I know there are NCJW women who work every day to make change in their communities and nationally that will help create a world where everyone is fully valued and supported. I remain hopeful because I know that many of you share this vision. And my hope for the coming year is that together we take action to make this vision a reality.

Debbie Vietinghoff, NCJW CNS President



From the Executive Director

Wow! It's been a crazy busy summer. For the first time in a long time, we have planned an entire programming year in advance. Not only that, but we've put it on a handy page in this newsletter which you can cut out and put on your fridge so you don't miss a thing!

There are so many highlights but make sure to include these dates on your calendar: September 23 (Hannah G Solomon Awards Dinner honoring Donna Gutman, January 22 (Production of Roe at the Goodman Theater) and April 23-25 (NCJW National Convention, conveniently hosted in Chicago!)

I am so exicited to work with our new board. We

have a fabulous group - some new, some veterans. These wonder women have amazing passion, drive and ideas and will be key to shaping the next 125 years of NCJW. Speaking of 125 years, NCJW will be celebrating the end of our 125th year at Convention 2020 in Chicago from April 23-25. As you may know, NCJW, Inc. has a new CEO, Sheila Katz, who has a bright vision for the future of NCJW. Convention is a great opportunity to meet Sheila and learn more about her plans.

In addition, there will be a variety of opportunities to participate from full Convention registration to Shabbat only attendance to stopping by and grabbing coffee or a drink with the many Chicago North Shore members who will be attending.

There are a variety of ways you can get involved

before Convention. In addition to our upcoming programs and events, NCJW CNS will hold leadership training for any of our members who want to attend. We are also looking for volunteers to help us compile and write our weekly Take Action Tuesdays as well as volunteers to join a few of our committees:

- * Membership Committee
- * Investment Committee
- * Fundraising Committee

There is no better time to get involved with NCJW and with NCJW Chicago North Shore. I hope to see you soon!

Melissa Prober. Executive Director, NCJW CNS

NCJW CNS 2019-2020 Programming Calendar

** dates are subject to change

September

- 4 Suburban Salon
- 11 NCJW CNS Board Meeting
- 20 Creating Sanctuary from Violence
- 23 Hannah G Solomon Award Dinner
- 24 Policy Committee Call

October

- 2 NCJW CNS Board Meeting
- 6 Her Story Theatre Outing: Invisible
- 14 City Salon
- 15 Suburban Salon
- 22 Nosh and Knowledge
- 27 Luggage for Freedom Packing and Delivery Day

November

- 3 You Be The Judge City
- 6 NCJW CNS Board Meeting
- 10 Sex Trafficking Awareness Western Suburbs
- 14 Suburban Salon
- 18 City Salon
- TBD Leadership Training Lunch

December

- 4 NCJW CNS Board Meeting
- 8 Cookie Bake and Exchange
- 9 City Salon
- 17 Suburban Salon
- 18 Soup Kitchen

January

- 8 NCJW CNS Board Meeting
- 15 Suburban Salon
- 20 MLK volunteer day
- 22 Goodman Theatre: Roe

TBD - City Salon

February

February 5 - NCJW CNS Board Meeting
February TBD - Tu B'Shevat Event
February TBD - You Be The Judge Northern Suburbs
February 12 - Suburban Salon
February TBD - City Salon

March

March 4 - NCJW CNS Board Meeting
March 10 - Suburban Salon
March 15 - Screening of Period. The End at
Northbrook Library
March TBD - City Salon
March TBD - Leadership Training

April

April I - Suburban Salon
April 6 - NCJW CNS Board Meeting
April TBD - Shanghai Ghetto Lunch & Learn
April 23-25 - NCJW Convention 2020 Chicago
April TBD - City Salon

May

May 6 - NCJW CNS Board Meeting
May TBD - American Summer - One book/
One NCJW (fundraiser)
May TBD - City Salon

June

Date TBA - Annual Luncheon June 10 - Suburban Salon June TBD - City Salon

Detailed events on all of our events are available on our website: https://ncjwcns.org/category/events.

Below are some short bios of a few of our 2019-2020 Board of Directors. If you are interested in learning how you can join the NCJW CNS Board, email *info@ncjwcns.org* and let us know!

NCJW CNS Board at a Glance

- **Bev Copeland**: Hi, I'm excited to be serving on the NCJW Board. I am very interested in Keeping Children Safe, Improving Women's Lives, and Feeing our Communities and our Country from Gun Violence. I'm proud that NCJW works towards ALL these issues, and MORE!
- **Barbara Dolinger**: Barbara was originally an NCJW member in Columbus, Ohio where she lived and raised her family. Barbara is/has been a social worker, educator, sales representative, school administrator, and a volunteer coordinator for Bravo Waukegan, a non profit music program in the Waukegan Schools. She also takes an abstract painting, and is in an Artists Playing Card exchange with collage artists from the US and many other countries and volunteers with the Lake County Family Services Nuestro Center after school Homework Club program.
- **Donna Gutman**: Serving on the Board of NCJWCNS. Former National Board member NCJW Inc. Currently serving on the Board of Chicago Women Take Action & regional Leadership Council of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.
- Sarah Hirsen: I retired in 2016 after practicing law in Chicago for 35 years in both law firms and in-house positions. Although relatively new to NCJW, I have been involved for a long time in the Chicago Jewish community and have served on the Board of Trustees of Anshe Emet Synagogue where I am an active member, and have also served on the board of Camp Young Judaea Midwest. I am also a literacy tutor at the Howard Area Community Center.
- Jill Lexier: Jill Lexier became involved in NCJW upon moving to Naperville in 2004, serving as treasurer and then president of the Tri-County (IL) section. In 2016 she joined the board of Chicago North Shore section. She is the co-State Policy Advocacy Chair for Illinois and loves creating engagement opportunities for member. An engineer by training, Jill spent 30 years in the energy industry before retiring. She enjoys hiking, traveling, theatre and reading.
- **Janet Lunsik**: Janet Lunsik here. Thanks to Marliss Levin, I've been a Council member since we moved to Skokie in the early '70's. My favorite project is Luggage for Freedom.
- Maria Medina: Maria G. Medina, has been active in social justice activities in both the Latino and Jewish communities for the past 25+ years. She participated in the Sar-El Program (Israel) annually for ten years, and did volunteer work in various IDF bases. After retiring from the corporate sector (banking industry), she joined HIAS Chicago where she dedicated four years to educating/servicing the immigrant communities (focusing on the Latino communities) in the north and northwest suburbs providing important information on immigrant rights and citizenship Maria has been a NCJW CNS Section member for the last six years and currently a Board Director.
- **Beth Najberg**: Beth, who lives in Chicago, is co-SPA (State Policy Advocate) in Illinois and has been a board member of Chicago North Shore for 4 years. In previous lives, she developed corporate training programs, and was an elementary school librarian.
- Sherry Petlin: Sherry serves o the JCAST Chicago Steering Committee and is an active Court Watcher mentor and volunteer. A former Synagogue Administrator for 25 years and past president of the Chicago Association of Synagogue Administrators, Sherry possesses a unique understanding of management and fund raising in the Jewish Community. She served as Chair of the JCARES Synagogue Outreach Task Force which created and implemented the Partnership for Safer Synagogues program. Her passion as an advocate for victims of domestic abuse through education and community involvement has been fueled by the many JCFS Chicago Community Services Professional Training Institute (formerly JCARES) training sessions she has completed.
- **Robbie Schreiber**: Hi, I'm Robbie Hoffman Schreiber, live in Northbrook with my husband Scott and have two kids ages 21 and 27. I've been involved with NCJW since November 9, 2016. I'm proud to serve currently as Secretary and co-chair of the Suburban Salon educational forum.
- Jan Schwartz: I am relatively new to Chicago, and new to the Chicago North Shore section, but I am not new to NCJW. I joined the Minneapolis section in the late 1980s. I am a retired psychologist with 40 years of experience, and I write novels on the side. My daughter is the next generation of NCJW and is a member in Columbus, Ohio.
- **Kim Sterling**: Kim Sterling has 25+ years of marketing experience in not-for-profits and publishing. She is a district co-chair for Sister District, a progressive organization working on state legislative races, and is looking forward to making a difference through NCJW. She lives in Wilmette with her husband and is a soon-to-be empty nester with their son heading to college in August 2019.
- **Rhea Swider**: Rhea is a graduate of University of Illinois in Champaign. Both Rhea and her husband Howie grew up in Skokie. They have been married for 42 years and have 2 boys, 1 daughter-in-law and a grandchild on the way. Rhea worked at Merrill Lynch for 28 years as an Operations Manager and the Chicago District Service Manager. After retiring from Merrill Lynch, she worked part-time with the consulting firm of Medvec and Associates for 11 years, retiring from there in 2017. She also volunteers her time working at PAWS.
- **Debbie Vietinghoff:** In the past, among other jobs, I have taught English in the classroom and online for Rosetta Stone, prepared financial statements for a property management company, and sold clay roof tile. Now, I am an ACT/SAT test prep tutor. I am also a yogi, a knitter, and an avid hockey fan. My Dad taught me that I could do or be whatever I wanted I am definitely my father's daughter.

NCJW 2019 Board Installation and Awards Celebration Recap

On June 11, NCJW members, friends and supporters packed the room at Wildfire Restaurant in Glenview to honor three amazing volunteers and advocates - Pam Zlotnik, Nora Zuckerman and Beverly Copeland, hear from the always fascinating Elaine Soloway and install Debbie Vietinghoff as our new president along with 17 other "Wonder Women" as NCJW Chicago North Shore Officers and Directors. For more photos from the event visit: www.facebook.com/pg/





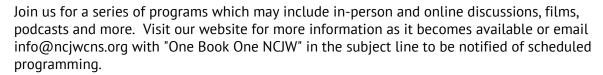


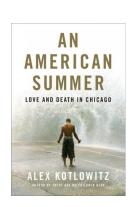




One Book One NCJW

Read along with NCJW this year as we discuss *An American Summer*, written by Alex Kotlowitz author of *There Are No Children Here*. "Kotlowitz spent the summer of 2013 researching how gun violence shapes the city. An American Summer is the result of that; a reporting mosaic that brings together the stories he encountered that summer. It is a painful chronicle about an extremely violent city based on the narratives of those who managed to survive its streets." (NPR Book Review).





Membership renewal

We've been so busy that our annual membership renewal letters are running late this year. All annual memberships run July 1 - June 30 - so if you are an annual member, it's time to renew! Annual Membership dues are still only \$50 per year.

New this year **"Double Chai" Memberships!** Are you 36 or under? Join NCJW Chicago North Shore at the special rate of only \$36!

Your membership donation supports our advocacy efforts and community service projects. As an NCJW member, you will impact your community and the world at large by becoming part of a growing grassroots network of courageous and compassionate individuals who improve the lives of women, children, and families every day.



Renew today at https://donorbox.org/ncjw-chicago-north-shore-annual-membership.

Rosh Hashanah Gift Baskets

Friends and relatives live far away? Kids heading off to college? Surprise them and support NCJW at the same time. From honey sticks produced by generationally poor women in Memphis seeking to move beyond the boundaries of poverty to consciously crafted confections, each Packed with Purpose gift creates meaningful impact in the lives of individuals and communities. Choose from two featured options: Petite: \$25 or Medium: \$44. The final day to place orders is September 9, and all gifts will be shipped out the week of September 23 to arrive before Rosh Hashanah. Visit http://info.packedwithpurpose.gifts/rh2019, select your item and enter "NCJW" in the 'discount' box at checkout.



Advocacy Update

After returning from Washington Institute we put our attention to the Illinois State Legislature where there was much activity. We're pleased to reports some success!

Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice:

In the final hours of the spring legislative session, the Illinois Senate passed the Reproductive Health Act (RHA), the most liberal health care measure in the country. Governor Pritzker signed it on June 12 2019. The RHA ensures that everyone in the state of Illinois has a fundamental right to make autonomous decisions about one's own reproductive health. It creates access to contraception, pregnancy benefits, diagnostic testing, abortion procedures and other related health care as a fundamental right, forbidding the state or local governing body from restricting access to those services. The RHA repeals both the state's Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act and the Illinois Abortion Act of 1975, removing provisions for spousal consent, waiting periods, criminal penalties and other restrictions, as well as expanding insurance coverage for abortions and other related medical benefits.

NCJW was a proud contributor to the advocacy effort, submitting written testimony, writing letters, educating and energizing our members. Thanks to all you who contacted their legislators. We CAN make a difference!

The Repeal of the Parental Notification Act did clear the Senate Committee but went no further this session. This will be taken up next session as SB 1594 Repeal the Forced Parental Involvement Law.

Gun Violence Prevention:

The tragic shooting in Aurora in February brought to light dangerous gaps in state law that allowed the shooter, who had a previous felony conviction, easy access to guns. The Fix the FOID Act would address many of these gaps, strengthen the Firearm Owners identification (FOID) card system and help ensure that people with violent criminal histories are not able to arm themselves. While SB 1966 Fix the FOID passed the House, disappointingly, it was not taken up in the Senate in this session. We will continue to work on this critical issue.

Immigration:

A number of Immigration bills passed both Illinois houses and were signed into law on June 21 2019. HB 2691 Retain Illinois Students and Equity (RISE) Act, makes it easier for marginalized students, including undocumented and transgender students, to get financial aid; HB2040 bans private/for profit detention facilities; and HB1637 Keep Illinois Families Together Act (KIFTA) prohibits state and law enforcement agencies from assisting ICE. The RISE Act is effective January 1 2020. The other two bills were effective upon signing.

Save the Date for Convention 2020: April 23 - 25, 2020 in Chicago!

It's time to start getting excited about our next national conference: Convention 2020. At Convention you will:

- 1 Connect with like-minded activists from across the country and build life-long relationships.
- 2 Listen to powerful speakers and hear about the accomplishments of your fellow activists.
- 3 Learn new skills and tools that strengthen your social justice efforts.
- 4 Shape the future direction of NCJW by making your voice heard on resolutions and bylaws that drive our work.
- 5 Feel empowered and invigorated to go back to your community and make change happen! Bonus: Celebrate our 125th anniversary in the city where Hannah G. Solomon founded NCJW Visit https://www.ncjw.org/convention2020 for more information.

NCJW Women's Salons

Both the downtown Chicago and the North Suburban Women's Salons are growing and thriving. Salon is a monthly, evening discussion group meeting at Salon members' homes and facilitated by Salon members and guest speakers. Every month a new topic is chosen by the group, and material links are then emailed to everyone to read. See below for Salon updates:



City Salon

Recently, City Salon had an informative evening as Paula Thornton Greear, Vice President, External Affairs for Planned Parenthood of Illinois, reviewed how the Reproductive Health Act was passed in Illinois and things that we can do to ensure that it stays intact. We also discussed how important PPIL's services are!

The full Salon calendar is on page 3, but be sure to save August 28 (Anti-Semitism) and October 28 (Voting and the Census). Email chicagosalon@ncjwcns.org for information.

Suburban Salon

Suburban Salon will meet on **Wednesday September 4 at 7:30 pm** at a home in the northern suburbs, to discuss Illinois' new Reproductive Health Act, passed and signed into law in June. Our presenter is Laura Welch, President of N.O.W. Will County, and active member of our NCJW Policy/Advocacy committee. She will share personal insights from her participation in the Illinois Reproductive Health Coalition and her advocacy efforts in Springfield to support this ground-breaking legislation. Email suburbansalon@ncjwcns.org for more information.

NCJW at the Theatre

We know how much our members have enjoyed going to live theater with NCJW. This (programming) year we have group tickets for two amazing shows that you won't want to miss!

Invisible

Sunday, October 6, 3:00 pm Stage 773 225 W. Belmont, Chicago When Klan went mainstream and 'ISM's were weapons. A tale based on the modern rise of the 1920s Women's Ku Klux



Klan. A footnote in American history repeating itself.

\$36 per person Includes a post-show discussion.

Visit https://ncjwcns.org/invisible to reserve your spot.

Roe

Wednesday, January 22, 7:30 pm Goodman Theater 170 North Dearborn, Chicago 1973's Roe v. Wade legalized abortion—and is hotly debated still today. The complex young women



behind the trial—attorney Sarah Weddington and plaintiff Norma McCorvey ("Jane Roe")—embark upon separate journeys that mirror the current polarization over the landmark decision.

\$50 per person Includes a post-show discussion with wine.

Visit https://ncjwcns.org/roe to reserve your spot.

NCJW has New Tributes Cards Available for All Your Giving Needs	
Choose from "Celebration", "Thinking of You" or Traditional Tributes	(for images, please visit https://ncjwcns.org/donations/tributes)
would like to purchase a Tribute in the amount of \$(minimum donation is \$5.00) Tribute Style:
Please send the tribute to (please include recipient's complete addre	ess):
The Tribute is from (please include your complete address):	
Message:	
	Make checks payable to NCJW or order tributes online at https://ncjwcns.org/donations/tributes.

General Fund, Advocacy in Action Fund, Community Service Fund, JCAST Chicago

would like my Tribute donation allocated to the following fund (circle one):

Bulk Tributes are also available, 6 cards for \$25.00

Please mail your check and Tribute order form to:
Rachel Belkov, 2214 N Campbell, Apt 2B, Chicago, IL 60647
If you are ordering packages of Tribute Cards, please include \$1 for a single
package; add \$1 for each additional package



National Council of Jewish Women
Chicago North Shore Section

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info@ncjwcns.org www.ncjwcns.org

Don't miss our upcoming events and action alerts!

Sign up for our weekly Take Action Tuesday alerts and monthly enews at https://ncjwcns.org/alerts today!

Save the Date!

Luggage for Freedom Pack and Delivery Day

Volunteers are needed to sort items and pack suitcases and backpacks and then deliver these donations to local domestic violence shelters. Activities are available for ages 4 and up. Luggage for Freedom is a wonderful opportunity for families and friends to volunteers together.

Donations of new sheets, new towels and ziplock bags are accepted on that day at the event and monetary donations to offset Luggage for Freedom costs are always welcome and appreciated. If you have other items to donate, such as luggage, please email luggageforfreedom@ncjwcns.org for arrangements...

Where & When?
Sunday, October 27, 2019. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
West Ridge Center, 636 Ridge Rd, Highland Park, IL 60035

For more information, email *luggageforfreedom@ncjwcns.org* or visit *https://ncjwcns.org/lff-donate*.

You Be The Judge - Chicago

You Be The Judge is an interactive workshop on how the federal courts work where you'll be able to:

- Play the part of a federal judge on a panel.
- Deliberate & decide religious rights & voting rights cases.
- Discussions facilitated by local legal experts.

Where & When?

Sunday, November 3, 2019. 3:00-5:00 (Doors open at 2:30) KAMII (KAM Isaiah Israel) 1100 E. Hyde Park Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60615

Admission is free. Registration Required. Refreshments provided. Visit https://ncjwcns.org/you-be-the-judge to reserve your spot.

You Be The Judge is cosponsored by Courts Matter Illinois, a coalition of organizations and individuals working to ensure a federal judiciary committed to upholding core constitutional values.

