

**MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN SINCE 1893**

## NCJW Chicago North Shore Spring 2019 Newsletter

### Annual Installation and Awards Celebration



Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 11:30 am

Wildfire Restaurant

1300 Patriot Blvd, Glenview, IL 60026

Celebrate...

National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore  
2019 Installation & Awards Celebration

#### Featuring:

Installation of our 2019-2020 Board of Directors

Elaine Soloway, Keynote Speaker

Beverly Copeland, Advocate of the Year Award

Nora Zuckerman & Pam Zlotnik, Volunteers of the  
Year Award

For full details and RSVP information, see page 7.

### *Save the Date*

**May 22**

Aging with Style: Resources for  
Making and Implementing Your  
Choices

**June 3**

Let's Talk: City Salon

**June 11**

Installation and Awards Lunch

**June 12**

Suburban Womens Salon

**June 19**

Aging with Style: Death Over Tea

**Mid-Summer**

Ravinia Festival Pot Luck

**Aug 14**

Soup Kitchen at Beth Emet

**Sept 20**

JCAST Chicago at DePaul

**Sept 23**

Hannah G Solomon Awards



## NCJW Chicago North Shore Board of Directors

### Officers

Tina Cantrell, President  
Merle K Gross, Secretary  
Ellen Hall, Treasurer

### Directors

Lorna Cohen  
Barbara Dolinger  
Deb Kadin  
Jill Lexier  
Maria G. Medina  
Beth Najberg  
Robbie Schreiber  
Debbie Vietinghoff  
Joan Zahnle

### Immediate Past President

Donna Gutman

## Contact Information

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Washington, DC 20036  
202 296 2588  
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## From the President's Desk

Although all members of NCJW may feel a connection to the organization, in the Chicago area we have the longest and proudest history. After all, our founder, Hannah G. Solomon, was a Chicagoan, one of the foremost Jewish women of her era, a woman who devoted her life to helping in the causes of humanity and justice. Emulating Hannah's unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the underprivileged, our work echoes her efforts.

In our role as advocates for positive change for those less fortunate than ourselves, we have accepted the obligation of the Jewish value of Tikum Olam. This concept dates back to the Mishnaic period (10-220 CE), the idea that Jews bear responsibility not only for their own moral spiritual, and material welfare, but also for the welfare of society at large.

I have always been sensitive to the idea of white privilege. I know I am both fortunate and blessed. But I cannot escape the understanding that there is a widening divide between health, wealth and education, disparities which must be addressed if we hope to maintain our

democracy. We are volunteers who make our voices heard, and who turn our ideas into action. As such, we are able to address issues that face our nation's most vulnerable residents. Our work gives us the opportunity to change the negativism of the current environment, making it more inclusive and responsive to the needs of women, children and families.

I want to thank our members for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president. Our work feeds my soul and I have never felt more of a commitment to our values and mission. Although the current political climate does not support our positions, as NCJW members, we understand the urgency to stand up against racism and intolerance. Whether your fervency lies with working toward a fair judiciary, voter rights, immigration, gun control, reproductive justice, or any of the plethora of issues that threaten our democracy, we must oppose hurtful policies that interfere with the richness of our society. As we celebrate the strength and beauty of our diversity, we will continue the fight to keep our democracy safe and true to our values.

~Tina Cantrell, NCJW CNS President



## From the Executive Director

Recently, a delegation from NCJW Chicago North Shore returned from NCJW Washington Institute where we lobbied on judicial nominations, voting rights, gun violence prevention and abortion access. I was fortunate enough to be among this group of amazing advocates for social change

I have an 18 year old daughter heading off to the University of Virginia this fall where she will make her own decisions as to her major, her classes, and her activities. But I am filled with fear at the thought that she might, at any time, find that she is unable to make her own choice about when or whether to become a parent.

I worry that a federal court system stacked with unqualified ideologs will chip away at the rights so many have fought to preserve - rights that allow all our children to pursue their dreams without fear of discrimination.

I worry that in the 20 years since Columbine, the 12 years since Virginia Tech, and the year since Parkland, our country has done nothing to protect our children from gun violence.

I worry whether voter suppression laws and actions such as strict voter ID requirements, limits to early voting, and voter roll purges will silence the voices of communities of color, minority-language speakers, low-income voters, elderly and young voters, women, and transgender individuals.

I am worried, but I am thankful each and every day that I have the opportunity to work for NCJW and to work with amazing, powerful women in the Chicago area and all over this country who raise their voices against injustice and work tirelessly to create change and to ensure individual rights, freedom and dignity for all.

**I hope you will join me as NCJW celebrates 125 years of social change and we look to build an even more vibrant NCJW for the future and for future generations.**

L'Dor V'Dor

Melissa Prober,  
Executive Director, NCJW CNS



## NCJW Illinois Advocacy 2019

Below are just a few of the bills NCJW is working on in Illinois in 2019

### **HB2495, the Illinois Reproductive Health Act**

NCJW Illinois is a proponent of HB 2495 which establishes the fundamental right to reproductive health which includes the right to use/refuse contraception and the right to continue a pregnancy and give birth or have an abortion. It modernizes Illinois reproductive rights laws by repealing outdated and unconstitutional prohibitions on reproductive healthcare and enacting the new Illinois Reproductive Health Act that regulates abortion like any other form of health care.

### **SB 1594 the Repeal the Parental Notice of Abortion Act (PNA Act)**

NCJW Illinois is a proponent of SB 1594 which repeals the PNA Act which requires a healthcare provider to notify an adult family member (parent, legal guardian, grandparent, of step-parent living in the household) at least 48 hours prior to performing an abortion for a patient under

18. This Act allows for a judicial bypass for those who cannot notify an adult family member. Decades of research and experience demonstrate that laws like this hurt young people and serve no valid purpose.

### **HB 3550: Sex Education Consent Act**

NCJW Illinois is a proponent of HB 3550 which would require information on consent to be included in sex education courses. A recent report from the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. found that approximately 29% of female high school students in Illinois and 30% of male students reported being sexually active. In Illinois, sex education curriculums are not required to include information on what consent is and isn't and how to set and respect personal boundaries. HB 3550 corrects this omission by amending the current School Code by requiring course material and instruction in grades 6 through 12 to include age-appropriate discussion on the meaning of consent into sex education. Giving students information and a safe place to discuss consent is an essential step in sexual

violence prevention.

### **HB 2254 the Safe Gun Storage Act**

NCJW Illinois is a proponent of HB 2254 which provides that a firearm must be stored in a locked container so that it is inaccessible or unusable to anyone other than the owner or other lawfully authorized user. The goal of HB 2254 is to keep firearms out of the reach of children, an at-risk person, or a person legally prohibited from using a firearm. Violations of this law will be subject to fines, and the legislation provides that any funds collected shall be deposited in the state's Mental Health Fund.

### **SB 107 Illinois Assault Weapons Ban**

NCJW Illinois is a proponent of SB107 which bars anyone from owning certain semiautomatic rifles, pistols and shotguns, including AR 15's. In the spirit of compromise, the SB107 has a provision allowing gun owners to keep their weapons if they register them with Illinois State Police within 300 days of the bill passing, but future sales of those guns would be prohibited.

### **HB 185 Equal Parenting Time bill**

NCJW Illinois opposes HB 185 which creates a presumption in favor of equal parenting time rather than the current standard of shared parenting. HB 185 would undo the best interests of the child standard by presuming a 50/50 parenting time split. It elevates the needs of parents above the best interest of the children and is harmful to domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Judges already have the authority to order equal parenting time if it is in the best interests of the children, but abusers can and will exercise further control over victims, use the court process for intimidation.

### **HB 2040 Banning for-profit prisons and immigrant detention centers in Illinois**

NCJW Illinois supports HB 2040 which protect immigrants by preventing privately owned detention centers in Illinois. Private detention centers profit from human misery by putting profits over the well-being and care of people. Four Illinois municipalities - Crete, Joliet, Hopkins Park and Dwight - have attempted to approve new for-profit and privately operated detention centers that would target immigrants. This bill would prohibit Illinois or any unit of local government from operating private detention facilities. The legislation would not prevent ICE from operating in Illinois, but it would bar state and local agencies from making or receiving payments from private prison companies.

## Summer Advocacy Opportunities

Jill Lexier and Beth Najberg, NCJW Co-SPA (State Policy Advocacy) Chairs keep our section up to date on relevant issues at both the state and national level. We would love to schedule a number of legislative visits over the summer when our elected officials are in district. If you would be interested in participating in a visit or in helping us reach out to your elected official, email [advocacy@ncjwcns.org](mailto:advocacy@ncjwcns.org) with your name, contact information and legislative district. Don't know your legislative district? Visit <https://ncjwcns.org/advocacy/contacting-elected-officials> for information.

# NCJW Washington Institute 2019

My first Washington Institute did not disappoint! If you need motivation to continue your advocacy, Washington Institute is definitely the answer. Saying that Washington Institute is inspiring is an understatement. After listening to powerful women like the charismatic Heather Booth, the passionate Senator Heidi Heitkamp, the dedicated Attorney General Sally Yates, the dynamic Cecile Richards, and the galvanizing Representative Terri Sewell of Alabama, it's impossible not to be hopeful that social change is possible. These women made me proud to be a woman and a member of NCJW and reinforced the idea that our work is imperative to shaping the future of America.

We certainly built more than a moment. We built relationships that will be the foundation for NCJW's movement.

~Debbie Vietinghoff, NCJW CNS Board



As a first time attendee, I was so excited to be a part of such a worthwhile delegation, but what I found most rewarding was the camaraderie and sharing of this experience with all of you. Special thanks to Jill Lexier, Beth Najberg, and Melissa Prober for all their hard work and planning. I so enjoyed meeting or reestablishing a connection with our North Shore sisters. You are awesome!



I hope we can continue to pool our talents and passion to do great things together.

~Sharon Johnson, NCJW South Cook President



Still wrapping my head around all that transpired at the Washington Institute. It was amazing, inspiring, disturbing, motivating. A big thank you to everyone from our Chicago delegation for doing us proud. You were all such polished advocates.

And of course, special thanks to NCJW Illinois SPAs Jill Lexier and Beth Najberg for helping us become so well prepared.

And now the real work begins....

~Tina Cantrell, NCJW CNS President



It's been an amazing few days at NCJW Washington Institute! Thanks to the Chicago chapters for inviting me and welcoming me into the fold.

I'm so grateful to have received an NCJW Emerging Leaders Scholarship so I got to meet amazing activists from around the country and speak with my legislators about keeping judicial appointments fair, preventing gun violence, protecting voting rights, and ensuring health care access for all women.

The highlight was meeting with Rep. Jan Schakowsky in the Rayburn Room of the Capitol Building and riding back to her office on the congressional trolley. It's going to be hard to top my first trip to DC!

~Lauren Harper, NCJW CNS



## More than 500 Feminists Convene in Washington, D.C. to Advocate for Reproductive Rights, Voting Protections, Background Checks for Gun Purchases, Independent Judiciary

*National Council of Jewish Women's triannual Washington Institute brings together activists from across the country for trainings, workshops and lobbying on Capitol Hill*



The gathering included workshops focused on workplace equity, gun violence prevention, voter engagement, protecting refugees and immigrants and LGBTQ rights. During a lobby day on Capitol Hill, advocates met with elected officials about the EACH Woman Act, Voting Rights Advancement Act, Background Checks Expansion Act and a number of judicial nominations.

Featured speakers included Vanita Gupta, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Alex Wind and Samantha Deitsch, Parkland shooting survivors and leaders of March for our Lives; and Heather Booth, women's rights activist who founded the underground abortion service JANE.

Sally Yates, former Deputy Attorney General, and Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, the first female senator elected from North Dakota, received "Women Who Dared" awards. Cecile Richards, former Planned Parenthood president, was named as the "Social Action Awardee" for her tireless work protecting women's access to reproductive healthcare.

"Washington Institute is a true testament to

the power of women in the NCJW network... This is our opportunity to come together to share our strategies, organizing tactics and experiences turning our progressive ideals into action to create lasting systematic change," said Beatrice Kahn, president of the NCJW Board of Directors. "As Heidi Heitkamp said when accepting the Woman Who Dared award, the secret to moral and political courage is to know that, as women, we are 'never alone.'"

During the closing gala on Monday, April 9, NCJW members, supporters and partners honored NCJW CEO Nancy K. Kaufman, who is ending her tenure with the organization this June. "I have been honored these past eight years to have my voice heard, not only by each of you, but by the women you represent in each of your communities. The work we are engaged in is truly holy and it takes courage, boldness and perseverance," Kaufman remarked. "I look forward to watching and supporting this wonderful organization to as it continues to grow and thrive as we take on the challenges that lie ahead. May you go from strength to strength."

In addition to U.S.-based activists, Washington Institute participants and panelists included a delegation of 17 women from Israel representing Palestinian, Ethiopian, Mizrahi, Russian, Haredi, and LGBTQ communities each of whom are working on issues of domestic violence, equal employment and equal pay, gender equality in political representation, peace and security and healthcare.

Throughout Washington Institute, guests celebrated NCJW's 125-year-history and its next chapter; this summer, Sheila Katz will join the organization as its new CEO. "This year's Washington Institute was an amazing example of the incredible change NCJW's members have the power to create," said Sheila Katz, who was named the new CEO last month. "Now more than ever, we need a Jewish feminist movement that begins with grassroots organizing and will move our country forward. I am so inspired by the hundreds of women I met at Washington Institute whose advocacy work is having a real and lasting impact in their local communities. I can't wait to partner with them."



# National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore Slate of Officers & Directors 2019-20

## Officers:

President: Debbie Vietinghoff  
Treasurer: Open  
Secretary: Tina Cantrell  
Immediate Past President: Tina Cantrell

## Directors:

Barbara Dolinger  
Donna Gutman  
Lauren Harper  
Jill Lexier  
Beth Najberg  
Sherry Petlin  
Robbie Schreiber  
Joan Zahnle

## Directors at Large:

Merle Gross  
Sara Hirszen  
Janet Lunsik  
Ellyn Mayer  
Maria Medina  
Jan Schwartz  
Kim Sterling  
Rhea Swider

*Thank You!*

NCJW CNS sends a huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers who served on the nominating committee and put together this marvelous slate: Julie Newman, Barbara Dolinger, Donna Gutman and Joan Zahnle! Thank you for your time and dedication to this important task!

## NCJW Womens Salon

Want to meet interesting women and explore progressive, feminist and social justice issues? Join one of NCJW Evening Salon discussion groups!

NCJW's Evening Salon is a monthly, evening discussion group which meets at a variety of locations - members' homes, restaurants, theatres and is facilitated by Salon members and outside speakers. Every month a new topic is chosen by the group, and links to source materials are then emailed to the group to review.

Topics include a wide variety of current progressive, feminist and social justice issues, such as immigration, reproductive health, rights and justice, anti-semitism, civic engagement and so much more!

Currently, NCJW offers two Salon groups - one in the northern Suburbs and one in Chicago. There is no fee to attend Salon but we do ask that regulars become NCJW members.

For more information on the suburban salon, email [salon@ncjwcns.org](mailto:salon@ncjwcns.org).  
For information on the Chicago Salon, email [action@ncjwcns.org](mailto:action@ncjwcns.org).



## NCJW Convention is Coming to Chicago

At Washington Institute 2019, NCJW Chicago North Shore and South Cook Sections put on our Blues Brother's hats and sunglasses and announced that NCJW's 48th Triennial Convention will be held on **April 24-26, 2020** at the Westin River North, Chicago.

We can't wait to host of NCJW friends and supporters from around the country and around the world as NCJW wraps up it's 125th anniversary celebration (and the first year of our new CEO, Sheila Katz) back where it all began in 1893!

Add the dates to your calendar because convention is **not to be missed!** Let's put together a great NCJW Illinois delegation and show NCJW that Chicago not only has the greatest pizza but also the greatest advocates and volunteers!

Keep an eye on your inbox and your mailbox for more information and join NCJW in **Sweet Home Chicago!**



NCJW Chicago North Shore  
2019 Installation and Awards Celebration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tickets at \$50 each \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation in honor of Beverly Copeland \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation in honor of Pam Zlotnik \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation in honor of Nora Zuckerman \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation to NCJW \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to NCJW or RSVP online at <https://ncjwcns.org/installation>

Mail your RSVP to: NCJW CNS, 5 Revere Drive, Suite 200, Northbrook, IL 60062

Questions? Email [info@ncjwcns.org](mailto:info@ncjwcns.org) or call 847-853-8889

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## NCJW Chicago North Shore 2019 Installation and Awards Celebration

Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 11:30 am

Wildfire Restaurant, 1300 Patriot Drive, Glenview

Dine on a delicious lunch with your NCJW friends and family while celebrating our incoming board, thanking our outgoing board and honoring three dedicated NCJW volunteers and advocates Bev Copeland, Pam Zlotnik and Nora Zuckerman. In addition, enjoy the fabulous Elaine Soloway as she shares with us how to reinvent ourselves (and our NCJW) at any age.

**Please bring new sheet sets (double or queen) and new towels to donate to the NCJW Luggage for Freedom Project**

**Elaine Soloway** is a Chicago-based writer, who shares her adventures of caregiving, widowhood, relocating, and moving forward, in her books, blogs, articles, public appearances, and on her social media pages.

**Beverly Levin Copeland**, has been concerned about the issue of gun-violence for over 30 years. After the massacre of innocent children and teachers at Sandy Hook, she became a founding member of People For A Safer Society, a grassroots anti gun-violence group based in Skokie, which works tirelessly to keep our children and communities Safe.

**Nora Zuckerman and Pam Zlotnik** have been involved with Luggage for Freedom since its inception in 2004 and have co-chaired the project for nearly 10 years. Their passion for community service and social justice is fueled by their past advocacy with victims of domestic violence. They both enjoy volunteering with NCJW, as well as other community based programs in the Chicagoland area.

## 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>)

I would like to purchase a Tribute in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (minimum donation is \$5.00)

Please send the tribute to (please include recipient's complete address):

The Tribute is from (please include your complete address):

Message: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my Tribute donation allocated to the following fund (circle one):  
General Fund, Advocacy in Action Fund, Community Service Fund, JCAST Chicago

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

Make checks payable to NCJW or order tributes online at  
<https://ncjwcns.org/donations/tributes>.  
**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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**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!

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# Save the Date!

Hannah G Solomon Award Dinner  
Honoring Donna Gutman

Monday, September 23, 2019  
East Bank Club, Chicago

We are honored to present this to Donna Gutman for her dedication as an advocate, volunteer and leader.

Watch your inbox for more information including opportunities to join the event host committee!



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Chicago North Shore Section

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