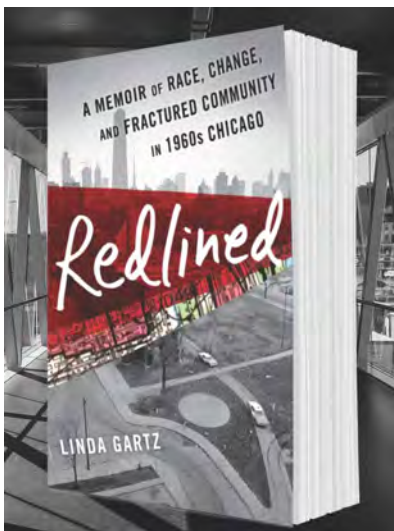




A FAITH IN THE FUTURE.
A BELIEF IN ACTION.®

NCJW Chicago North Shore Fall 2020 Newsletter



Thursday, October 29, 2020

7:00 pm * Zoom

Join author, educator, and archivist, Linda Gartz, for a discussion of her award-winning book *Redlined: A Memoir of Race, Change, and Fractured Community in 1960s Chicago*. She connects the dots between today's racial profiling and inequities to the government policy of redlining.

Most recently we've seen Black Americans die at double the rates of whites from Covid-19, and George Floyd's murder aroused world-wide protests against systemic racism, like redlining.

In this live Zoom talk and discussion, Linda will speak, read short excerpts from *Redlined*, and talk about the federal government's redlining policies that separated America into Black and White. She'll also share digitized versions of original 1940s redlining maps. There will be plenty of time for Q&A.

Visit <https://ncjwcns.org/events/redlined> to register.

Six-time Emmy-honored Linda Gartz is a documentary producer & author of the award-winning book, *Redlined*. Her TV work has aired on all the major networks and Investigation Discovery. To learn more, go to www.LindaGartz.com.

Save the Date

September 16
NCJW Virtual Salon

September 21
NCJW Virtual Salon

October 19
NCJW Virtual Salon

October 21
NCJW Virtual Salon

October 29
Redlined: Author Discussion

November 3
Election Day

November 16
NCJW Virtual Salon

November 19
NCJW Virtual Salon

December 3
What's Cooking with NCJW

January 6
Unpack the Challenge



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From the President's Desk

I'm one of the lucky ones. I get to sit on my patio with my steaming cup of coffee each morning this summer. I get to take long walks with my golden retriever. And I've had the time to hone my cooking skills and master flavorful Greek recipes. This is not the summer I envisioned, but compared to so many living in and around Chicago, it has been idyllic. And I feel guilty. The uncomfortable truth is that I am able to live a relatively normal life even in the middle of a pandemic and as unemployment soars in our country due in large part to being white and to the benefits that brings me.

After the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests across the nation, our Section made a commitment to create racial justice programming that would provide opportunities for our members and their friends and families to learn the roots of racism, to examine personal biases, to advocate for policy change, and to give back and lift-up Black communities.

On August 21st, we launched our ANTI-RACISM IS A VERB initiative with our 18 Week Challenge which provides weekly resources in the form of readings or podcasts to guide our journey to a better understanding of racism. If you didn't join the challenge the first week, you can still join and "catch-up" by visiting <https://ncjwcns.org/actions/antiracism>. Though the Challenge takes you on a personal journey, we'll come together as a community via Zoom in January to unpack

what we have learned and discovered about ourselves and racism.

We have selected the book, *Redlined: A Memoir of Race, Change, and Fractured Community in 1960s Chicago* by Linda Gartz to read as a community. Her memoir illuminates how Chicago became one the most segregated cities in the U.S. The author will lead us in a discussion of her memoir on October 29th at 7:00PM. Visit <https://ncjwcns.org/events/redlined> for more information.

If Anti-Racism is to be a verb, we must do more than learn about racism, we must act. In November and December, we will provide you with information and links to Black-owned businesses. Please act by purchasing their products.

In 2021, we will expand our racial and social justice programming to include community service projects, panel discussions of community organizers and civic leaders, and a second book selection. If you are interested in helping with this year long initiative, email me at president@ncjwcns.org.

We cannot be passive spectators in the fight for racial and social equity, we must be active participants, join us and make Anti-Racism a Verb in your life.

I wish you and your families a meaningful and peaceful Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Be well and stay safe.

Debbie Vietinghoff, President/NCJWCNS

From the Executive Director

It was March 13 when I learned that my son would be finishing up his sophomore year of high school online and just a few days later when I learned my daughter would not be returning to college until the fall. Even now, I still don't know when either of my children will return to in-person classes.

We've had theater and concert tickets cancelled and postponed and my own tap dance class has moved online (yes, I tap). To minimize my own exposure (I was elected the family canary), I started using grocery pickup and planning meals a week in advance. Carrying out instead of dining out; virtual get togethers; lots of

Facetime and Zoom. And then worry. Worry about my parents, in-laws and friends. Worry about my kids. And worry about when we will get back to normal and what that normal will even look like.

But despite all that, there was so much to be thankful for; grateful for. Almost everyday, my daughter and I would go for long walks - something we never really had much time for when she was younger when homework and extracurriculars took up so much time - and we talked about everything from school to politics to bad TV shows. My son and daughter started spending time together in a way they never had before - more as peers than

siblings. My husband, working from home, had time to sit down for lunch and be present in a way his job had never before allowed him the time. Instead of dance classes and band practice, there were family dinners and time to slow down and reflect and just be together. I even kept sourdough starter alive and baked a few delicious loaves.

So while I can't wait for the pandemic to end, and while I will never stop worrying about my family and friends, I have to recognize that I have really been blessed and those blessings can't be stopped by COVID. I encourage you to take the time to count your blessings as well.

Melissa Prober, Executive Director

Count Your Blessings

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR – 5781

This has been a challenging year. There is so much worry and anxiety between COVID, civil unrest, and the uncertainty of what the future holds. But Rosh Hashana give us a chance to take a step back and reflect about all that we have and all for which we are grateful. As we enter a new year, 5781, what better time to reflect on our freedom, our many blessings and the things we take for granted. Please share your good fortune with those who need our help, with a gift to NCJW. May you be forever blessed with food and drink, rest for your body, laughter, hope and love for your soul.

<i>BLESSINGS</i>	<i>SUGGESTED AMOUNT</i>	<i>YOUR GIFT</i>
My own good health	\$2.00	
The health of all of my loved ones	\$2.00	
Virtual visits with friends and family	\$2.00	
Sharing a laugh with a good friend	\$2.00	
Finishing a 1,000 piece puzzle	\$2.00	
Virtual visits with friends and family	\$2.00	
Reading a good book	\$2.00	
Learning how to bake sourdough bread during COVID	\$2.00	
The sweetness of a ripe piece of summer fruit	\$2.00	
Freedom to fight for Women's Rights	\$2.00	
Blessed to be a member of NCJW	\$2.00	
Finding new ways to do Mitzvot	\$2.00	
Feeling that first cool breeze in the Fall	\$2.00	
Not having to fix dinner every night	\$2.00	
Having good neighbors	\$2.00	
Having fond family memories	\$2.00	
Feeling peace & contentment in every day	\$2.00	
Your own special blessing	\$2.00	
TOTAL		

Your donation will go directly to support NCJW Chicago North Shore Section programs and is tax deductible as allowed by law. All gifts are welcome and appreciated.

NAME _____ TOTAL GIFT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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Donate online at <https://ncjwcns.org/cyb/>

Please make checks payable to NCJW CNS and send to:
NCJW, 5 Revere Drive, Suite 200, Northbrook, IL 60062



Debbie Vietinghoff



Kim Sterling



Rhea Swider



Robbie Schreiber



Bev Copeland



Barbara Dolinger



Sarah Hirszen



Beth Najberg



Sherry Petlin

Help us welcome the National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore Section 2020-2021 Board of Directors.

Bev Copeland: Moving into the role of co-Director of Advocacy, Bev is very interested in keeping children safe, improving women's lives, and freeing our communities from gun violence. Bev lives in Morton Grove with her husband and is a proud mother and grandmother.

Barbara Dolinger: This year, Barbara is stepping into the role of Director of Outreach. She is/has been an artist, social worker, educator, sales representative, school administrator, and avid volunteer. As Director of Outreach, Barbara will expand our presence in the Chicagoland area.

Donna Gutman: After many years as an officer and as a director of NCJWCNS, Donna is stepping into the role of advisory director. She is a former NCJW, Inc. National Board Member and currently works with Chicago Women Take Action and the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

Sarah Hirszen: This term, Sarah will help streamline our section as Director of Administration. Sarah is a retired attorney and has been active for many years in the Chicago Jewish community, including serving on the Board of Trustees of Anshe Emet Synagogue where she is an active member, and have also served on the board of Camp Young Judaea Midwest. She is also a literacy tutor at the Howard Area Community Center.

Vicki Meilach: A longtime NCJW member of South Cook section, Vicki looks forward to supporting Chicago North Shore as a Board-Member-at-Large and is serving as a member of the Community Service Committee. Vicki is a certified domestic violence professional and worked in the field of domestic violence for 25 years. She has been a substitute teacher at Montessori schools for the past several years. The most amazing experience Vicki has had recently is becoming a first-time grandma to Romy, who lives in Denver.

Judith Mayzel: Judith is one of NCJW CNS' new Board-Member-at-Large and has joined the Leadership and Development Committee. She feels blessed in her career as a reference librarian in an academic setting, and believes in family first...always, as well as addicted to the power of information. She believes we are witnessing that mindful women's leadership & impact philanthropy will continue to transform the world for the greater good. Her favorite quote is "If We Have No Peace, It Is Because We Have Forgotten That We Belong To Each Other". (Mother Teresa)."

Beth Najberg: Beth, after finishing up her term as co-NCJW State Policy Advocate for Illinois, is continuing on our section Board as co-Director of Advocacy. She has been a Board member of Chicago North Shore for several years but her history with NCJW goes back many years as a member of the Aurora section. In previous lives, she developed corporate training programs, and was an elementary school librarian.

Jill Perlman: Jill has joined the NCJW CNS board as a Board-Member-at-Large and is a member of the Community Service Committee. She is also a past president of South Cook Section and an avid volunteer - highlights include teaching ESL and volunteering with her labradoodle in a CPS reading program and a hospital rehab setting. She also "nannies" for her two granddaughters in Oak Park!

Sherry Petlin: This year, Sherry is stepping into our new position of Director of Anti-Violence Against Women Initiatives. In that role, she will act as the Board liaison to JCAST Chicago, Court Watch, Silent Witness and Luggage for Freedom. Sherry is a former synagogue administrator and past president of the Chicago Association of Synagogue Administrators. She is a passionate advocate for victims of domestic abuse.





NCJW CNS Board at a Glance



Robbie Schreiber: Robbie serves as Board Secretary as well as co-chair of Community Service. Robbie lives in Northbrook with her husband Scott and have two children. Although a life member for many years, Robbie became actively involved with NCJW on November 9, 2016.

Jan Schwartz: After great success chairing the 2019 Hannah G Solomon Awards Gala, Jan has stepped into the role of Director of Fundraising. Jan also serves as co-chair of NCJW's Promote the Vote initiative and is working tirelessly to make sure Illinois has a great turnout at the polls this year! Jan is a retired psychologist as well as a novelist! Her daughter is the next generation of NCJW and is a member in Columbus, Ohio.

Holly Smith: Holly has joined NCJW CNS as a Board-Member-at-Large and is a member of the Community Service Committee. In the fall of 2012, along with her husband, son, and dog, Holly moved to Evanston from Shorewood, WI, where she had been teaching English and linguistics and working on her PhD at UW-Milwaukee. A few years ago, she decided to leave academia and has never looked back. She started taking art classes, and has been pursuing more creative work, volunteering in her community, and gratefully savoring the everyday.

Kim Sterling: Kim, NCJW CNS Reporting Treasurer, 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 continues to make a difference through NCJW. She lives in Wilmette with her husband and is a semi-empty nester with a son in college

Rhea Swider: Currently in her second year as NCJW CNS Recording Treasurer, Rhea is a graduate of University of Illinois in Champaign. 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. Rhea lives in Highland Park with her husband, has two sons, one daughter-in-law and one grandchild.

Debbie Vietinghoff: Debbie is in her second year as NCJW CNS President. Her career has taken a number of paths over the years: from teaching English in the classroom and online for Rosetta Stone, preparing financial statements for a property management company, and selling clay roof tile. Now, she is an ACT/SAT test prep tutor. She is also a yogi, a knitter, and an avid hockey fan. She credits her father for encouraging her to do or be whatever she wanted and she says, "I am definitely my father's daughter."

UPDATE: Courts Matter Illinois

At this time, President Trump has nominated and the Senate has confirmed more than 200 judges to lifetime appointments on the federal courts. the overwhelming majority of these appointments are white, male, conservative in their ideology and very young (which means they will serve for a long time). Many of these appointees have questionable qualifications and limited experience in federal courts and judicial process. This push to "leave no vacancy behind" - a quote from Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell - has changed the face of the federal judiciary and tilted it toward the right and made it much less diverse.

Courts Matter Illinois has been working to raise public awareness about these nominees and the harm that their confirmations bring to a fair and unbiased court system. We have urged you to contact Senators Durbin and Duckworth to oppose the confirmation of egregious nominees. We are asking that no judicial vacancies be filled until after the November election and the inauguration of the next President.

To help inform the public about the importance of the federal judiciary to every aspect of our lives, Courts Matter Illinois has been holding a series of six webinars: Courts Matter to the 2020 Election. If you missed the first four, you can still view the tapes on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/courtsmatterillinois>). And join us for "Courts Matter to Education" at noon on September 15th and for "Courts Matter to Reproductive Rights" at noon on October 13th. NCJW will be sending out information about how to register. And be sure to VOTE! Because COURTS MATTER!!

NCJW Women's Salons

Both the downtown Chicago and Suburban Women's Salons continue to grow and thrive. And, at least until the end of the pandemic, there are no longer any geographic barriers as both salons have gone virtual!

If you aren't yet familiar with the NCJW Woman's Salon, Salon is a monthly, evening discussion group which normally meets at Salon members' homes. Short readings or videos are sent in advance of the meeting and discussions are facilitated by Salon members and guest speakers. Every month brings a new fascinating and informative topic!



Wednesday, September 16, 7:30pm;

Zoom info given with RSVP

When Bad People Do Good Things: From Christopher Columbus to Woody Allen

What is our responsibility as good feminists and citizens of the world to live out our morals and ethics? Do we reject all of the creative works of people who act badly? Our September 16, 2020 Salon discussion will address such questions as: Are we "bad" if we still listen to music and watch films of people like Michael Jackson, Woody Allen, Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey (and the list goes on and on)? Do we need to justify our actions? What lessons have we learned from their "wrongs?"

Visit <https://ncjwcns.org/events/91620salon> for more information and to register.

Monday, September 21, 7:00pm;

Zoom info given with RSVP

Illinois' Fair Tax Amendment

The Allow for Graduated Income Tax Amendment is on the November 3, 2020 ballot in Illinois. A "yes" vote will support the repeal of the state's current constitutional requirement that the state personal income tax be a flat rate and will allow Illinois to adopt a graduated income tax. The actual tax rates that will result in a graduated income tax are not part of this amendment and will be done in separate legislation. Illinois is one of only nine states that currently has a flat rate personal income tax.

Visit <https://ncjwcns.org/events/92120salon> for more information and to register.

SAVE THE DATE: Future Salon Dates and Topics

October 19: 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage.

October 21: Reproductive Justice Spanning the Generations: Life Before Roe and Perspectives of Young Feminists Today

November 16: Moving Forward Post Election

November 18: Feeling Gratitude in Difficult Times: Pausing for a moment during this season of thanks

December 16 - Being Jewish During "The Holidays": Exclusion, Appropriation and Christmas, a "Most American" Holiday

NCJW Mother's Day Project

For over 125 years, NCJW, Inc has worked to develop and pass effective public policy to address domestic abuse. Locally, NCJW Chicago North Shore has worked to amplify our national advocacy as well as provide opportunities for community service to help area victims of gender-based violence. The NCJW Chicago North Shore Mother's Day Project specifically supports two area domestic violence shelters – the Downers Grove Domestic Violence Shelter run by the Family Shelter Service of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage and Mary Lou's Place run by the YWCA Evanston/North Shore. Co-chaired by Marsha Swetin and Barbara Dolinger, the Mother's Day Basket Project continues to be a huge success even during these uncertain times. Without the generosity of our NCJW members and supporters and the hard work and dedication from Marsha and Barbara, the project would not be the success it is!

Barbara and Marsha mailed out roughly 400 Mother's Day Cards and packed lovely totebags filled with wonderful gifts and gift cards for the women at these two shelters. We hope that in the years to come, we will be able to expand the project to include additional shelters.

In many ways, domestic violence and abuse during COVID is a pandemic within a pandemic. With quarantine and shelter in place rules being implemented, victims are even more isolated with their abusers. COVID gives perpetrators even more ability to control and isolate their victims. We hope you will continue to support the NCJW Mother's Day Project and our Luggage for Freedom Project (see page 9) as NCJW continues to assist victims of domestic violence and abuse start their lives anew.



NCJW Promote the Vote/Protect the Vote

It has never been more important to make voting safe, fair, and accessible for all than now in the midst of COVID-19. NCJW initiated a nationwide Promote the Vote program to increase voting in 2020. CNS has been doing this in multiple ways under the leadership of co-captains, Melanie Greenberg and Jan Schwartz. Through lobbying, education, and distribution of information, we have created printed and internet communication tools and utilized strategies to reach everyone, including the most disenfranchised members of our community.

Our first step was to build a coalition. Promote the Vote IL, a group of 501(c)(3) organizations, continues to grow. With our many voices, we have reached throughout the Chicago Metro Area. This growing coalition currently has nineteen participating organizations that provide input and help in many areas. In March, we began our work. Throughout the spring we lobbied the state legislature for vote by mail (VBM), and presented a City Salon on its safety and security. With the new voting regulations, we have presented five City Salons and Voting Seminars focusing on the safety of VBM, the impact of the regulations, and the emerging details of 3 Ways to Vote. Learn more at <https://ncjwcns.org/programs/advocacy/issues/ptv/vote-by-mail>.

Currently, our coalition is distributing printed cards with information on 3 Ways to Vote to neighborhoods without internet. We are promoting ongoing emails that provide easy to follow information on how to register online, request a ballot for VBM, and early voting. With our partners, we are designing social media that speak to new voters as well. Our coalition members are also actively engaging with clergy on the South and Westside to help with education.

Those who requested a ballot to VBM will receive it after September 24. Remember, drop off boxes independent of the USPS are available for your ballots as well as mailboxes. Early in-person voting begins October 14.

Your vote is your voice! Use it!

- **Register** – any time, but sooner is better than later.
- **Receive** the ballot – after September 24
- **Return** your ballot – be sure to sign it!

VBM = Vote By Mail In your home Starting September 25	Vote Early You choose place Starting October 14	Vote on Election Day Your polling place November 3
Follow RRR sequence		

Remember, it's not too late to register for VBM: <https://ova.elections.il.gov>. The deadline to request your ballot is October 29

Early Voting October 14-November 2

You can register and vote on the same day

To find Times, Voting Sites and Drop Off boxes near you

<https://ova.elections.il.gov/>

Election Day November 3: 6 am-7 pm

You can register and vote on the same day

To find Voting Sites and Drop Off boxes near you

<https://ova.elections.il.gov/>

Promote the Vote Illinois

Member Organizations

Access Community Health Network

Better Government Association

Chicago Women Take Action

Citizens Action IL

Congregation Hakafa

JCRC

LWV IL

LWV Chicago

LWV of Naperville

Mikva Challenge,

NCJW Chicago North Shore

NCJW South Cook

Protest to the Polls

RAC of IL

Rainbow PUSH

Reform for IL

South Suburban Links

The First Ladies Health Initiative

Participating Organizations

Planned Parenthood of IL

Westside NAACP

Independent Voters of Illinois

Election 2020

Follow the 3 Rs so you are ready to vote: Register, Request, Receive & Return!

- Register online now at <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>
- Receive your ballot. All ballots will be sent no earlier than September 24
- Return your Ballot in the mail or at a drop box on or before November 3, 2020

Questions? Email VOTE@ncjwcns.org or contact your local election authority.

- Chicago: <https://chicagoelections.gov/en/vote-by-mail.html>
- Cook: <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/elections>
- Lake: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/163/Elections>
- DuPage: <https://www.dupageco.org/election/>



NCJW Chicago North Shore Advocacy Year in Review 2019/2020

Our year of advocacy was one of successes and of challenges. We continued to focus primarily on our Core 4 Issues of Reproductive Health, Immigration, Gun Violence Prevention, and Voting and Civic Engagement and found ourselves responding to other issues as they arose as well. Each issue had an amazing Issue Lead(s) who followed the issue, provided updates and guidance, held relationships with partners and coalitions, attended relevant events, and alerted us when action was needed. Chicago North Shore Section advocates continued to work within the NCJW Illinois Policy Committee which met monthly to coordinate NCJW advocacy efforts, understand and respond to issues, and share best practices and information.

- This year we contributed to existing coalitions and sought out new relationships too. In particular, we partnered with League of Women Voters on two in-person *You be The Judge* programs and a number of webinars addressing elections (and likely more to come).
- With added confidence from our Washington Institute experience, we visited locally with some of our legislators, including Dan Didech, Brad Schneider, Sara Feigenholtz and Patrick Joyce. We introduced them to NCJW and urged their support for our pressing issues.
- Advocacy and education often go hand-in hand so we worked closely with the Salons and the CNS Board bringing resources and ideas for member education and engagement.
- Although extremely challenged in our work by COVID 19, we were proud of how quickly we pivoted to virtual education and digital advocacy, even as our State General Assembly only met for a few days this spring. Using virtual methods to engage our members and reach our legislators will continue to be critical in the months to come.
- COVID-19 highlighted many social and economic inequities in our country. Nationally we advocated for women, families and the most vulnerable to be included in the various federal COVID-19 relief packages.
- COVID-19 also highlighted the need to increase vote by mail and other safe methods for voting. In the next few months we will be concentrating on educating members and the public about safe and secure elections.
- As NCJW CNS stands in solidarity with the Black community, our efforts in the coming year on Voting Rights, Reproductive Health, the Courts and Fair Tax take on added urgency and importance since, through this work, we have the opportunity to impact systemic racism.

Here are some advocacy highlights from the 2019/2020 and a bit of a glimpse ahead:

- **Reproductive Health:** The Illinois Reproductive Health Act, the most liberal health care measure in the country, was signed in June 2019 and ensures that everyone in the state of Illinois has a fundamental right to make autonomous decisions about one's own reproductive health. NCJW was a proud contributor to the Reproductive Health Access Coalition's advocacy effort. Our next advocacy goal in Illinois is The Repeal of the Parental Notification Act. We continue to advocate for The Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) which would invalidate onerous state restrictions blocking access to abortion and we will be promoting the national NCJW program "Rabbis for Reproductive Rights" to help shift the narrative around religion and abortion, specifying that Judaism permits abortion.
- **Immigration:** June 2019 saw the passage of three Illinois laws that will improve the lives of immigrants, particularly students. In March, we joined the Chicago Jews for Refugees Coalition which will work with HIAS National and several local partners, including Heartland Alliance and the Syrian Community Network, to identify ways to support the local refugee community as well as educate and advocate virtually.
- **Gun Violence Prevention:** The Illinois Fix the FOID (Firearm Owner's Identification) Act, which addresses loopholes in Illinois' existing gun licensing system passed the House but not the Senate and was not brought up for a vote in the shortened spring General Assembly despite gun purchases being at record high number during COVID-19. We continue to advocate for its passing, working with the recently merged Gun Violence Prevention Education Center (GPEC) and Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV). A glimmer of good news: In December 2019 The U.S. House of Representatives passed a spending package that includes \$25 million in funding for research to study gun violence. It's the first time Congress has provided funding in more than 20 years.
- **Voting:** Plans were already underway for a robust Promote the Vote/ Protect the Vote 2020 campaign when COVID-19 hit and we knew that the key to safe, secure and fair elections would be increased vote by mail. NCJW convened a meeting with the beginnings of an Illinois coalition: Reform for Illinois, League of Women Voters and Vote at Home. The coalition is up to eleven members and continues to grow. We are helped in that, during its very shortened spring General Assembly, the Illinois legislature passed SB 1863 which expands vote by mail, declares Election Day a state holiday and makes voting safer for all of us.
- **Courts:** We continue to educate people about the importance of the courts. We held two successful You Be The Judge participative sessions in partnership with Courts Matter Illinois, NCJW South Cook Section, League of Women Voters, KAMII and Am Shalom. Courts Matter is planning a series of educational webinars as a run up to the 2020 elections about the importance of courts. Some of the recent positive Supreme Court rulings: defended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), protected gay and transgender employees from workplace discrimination, and reaffirmed abortion rights in Louisiana.
- **Sexual Health Education:** We joined a new coalition to draft Healthy Youth Act legislation that would update sexual health education curriculum requirements in Illinois to be more inclusive and affirming of LGBTQI youth and healthy relationships. The coalition is developing surveys for parents and teachers to help inform advocacy and future implementation efforts.
- **Domestic Violence:** While not actively worked this year, we never lose sight of this issue. We are very concerned that during COVID-19 the need for support of victims of gender-based violence increases because people are likely to be sheltering at home with their abusers. We continue to educate and monitor legislation.
- **Fair Tax:** This initiative will be on the November ballot in Illinois. It could pave the way to fixing Illinois' inadequate tax system; it is a complicated issue and unlikely to be uniformly supported by the Jewish community. We will be providing educational information for our members on this issue so they can be informed voters.

NCJW Chicago North Shore Anti-Violence Against Women Initiatives Update

Hello NCJWCNS members. As the Director of Violence Against Women Initiatives for our chapter, I'd like to welcome you to join me as we endeavor to help women and children. Despite the dangers posed by COVID-19, we are proceeding with meaningful programs in the safest and most creative ways we can.

LUGGAGE FOR FREEDOM collects and distributes towels, bedding, and dignity bags for women in shelters. PLEASE go to the Amazon Wish List (see information below) to purchase your donation so that on October 18, 2020, we can deliver hope to many families. Thanks to Pam Zlotnik and Nora Zuckerman for continuing this event with modifications for safety.

COURTWATCH continues! On March 17, the Cook County courts were suspended; on July 6, Chief Judge Timothy Evans opened the courts. That meant 4 dangerous months during which most victims of Domestic Abuse were not served by our court system. In August, we were able to use ZOOM to resume our observations in Domestic Violence Court at the direct invitation of Judge Stephanie Saltouros. She has continued to value our program's important role in best practices for DV Court. We appreciate Judge Saltouros, the courtroom staff, and our NCJWCNS Courtwatch leaders, Anita Weinstein and Miriam Pollack, their Steering Committee, and our committed volunteers. With their dedication and use of technology, we hope to keep this program viable. We continue to ensure victims of domestic violence are heard, respected, and given access to advocates during the court proceedings.

JCAST – Jewish Community Against Sex Trafficking – is taking reservations for educational ZOOM programs in local synagogues, churches, schools, professional organizations, and neighborhood groups. If you know of any groups looking for a program, please let me know. Gayle Nelson and Cathy Carmody have an engaging presentation that can be tailored to any interested parties. Our goal is to inform the community about this pervasive, abusive problem. We have found that most of the audience is usually “gob-smacked” when confronted with the facts. If you'd like to be a part of this important work, please contact me. Training is available for new speakers!

Sherry Petlin, sherry@ncjwcns.org.

NCJW 2019-2020: A Year in Review

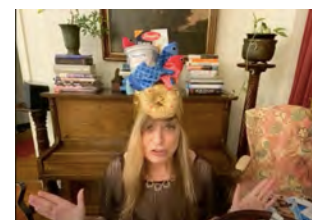
It is hard to believe that just one year ago, we were diving into a fabulous year of NCJW programming and, and we were putting the finishing touches on the 2019 Hannah G Solomon Awards Gala. Twelve months later and our programming is entirely online until at least the end of the calendar year! Despite these challenges, The 2019/2020 Programming Year was still amazing. Here are a few highlights.

We started the programming year honoring Donna Gutman with the Hannah G Solomon Award. If you missed that spectacular event (or want to relive it), you can watch the video at <https://youtu.be/Z2NflzVrstM>. We had two theatre outings: Invisible in October and Roe in January - both were amazing additions to our Advocacy and the Arts Series. We offered opportunities to volunteer in the community through Soup Kitchen, Luggage for Freedom and the MLK Day of Service. There were marches and vigils and opportunities for friendship and fellowship. Who would have thought that our trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum for a docent-led tour of the Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg Exhibit would be the last time we gathered together in person!

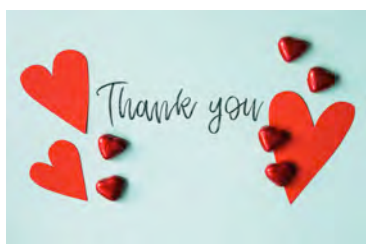


The onset of the pandemic caused us to rethink our programming and go virtual with an extended series of online programming - we cosponsored a three-part series on safe and secure Elections during COVID <https://ncjwcns.org/actions/summer-series> as well as educational programs on menstrual equity, immigration, Shanghai before the Ghetto, why courts matter, racial justice, An American Summer book discussion, how to be an NCJW virtual advocate, and even a Passover cooking demonstration!

We ended the year with our annual Installation Celebration - virtually - where we thanked our outgoing board members for their service and welcomed our new board members. We even had a little music and Mishegas with Yiddish singer/songwriter Lisa Fishman. If you missed the fun, you can find the video here: <https://youtu.be/-7lmCwC8hcQ>. And if you want to relive the entire



programming year over again, visit <https://youtu.be/ld7Gul3C8es> for our year in review video!



We don't know what the next year will bring but we promise to never stop bringing you opportunities for education, advocacy and service! Thank you for being a part of NCJW. Our organization is what it is because of you! Stay safe, be well, and *Yashar Koach*, may you go from strength to strength.

To Our Luggage for Freedom Volunteers,

We hope you and your loved ones are healthy and managing during this difficult time. After a lot of discussion, we have determined that we will not be able to proceed with our usual "Pack & Delivery" day this October. While we are saddened we cannot proceed as usual, we recognize that there are so many people in need during this time. Therefore, we are going to plan a modified Luggage for Freedom event that will allow donations to be safely delivered to shelters in October. The event will be on **Sunday, October 18, 2020**. Unfortunately we will only need a small fraction of the number of volunteers we usually have and will be in touch with further details in the coming weeks about those opportunities.



We know this is a difficult time for everyone and have heard from shelters that there is an even greater need for donations this year. If you are able to purchase an item from Luggage for Freedom's Amazon Wish List (<https://a.co/9MKPSkp>) we would be grateful. Luggage for Freedom needs donations of NEW full or queen sheet sets, NEW bath towels or towel sets, and NEW stuffed animals. We also can use donations of Dignity Bags and Fleece Blankets (see NCJW Gives Back below). No donation is too small but please note at this time **we cannot accept donations of any luggage**.

As always, thank you for your support of Luggage for Freedom.

Wishing you good health -

Nora and Pam

"NCJW Gives Back"

NCJW is launching a new community service initiative, **NCJW Gives Back**. We will be collecting items for people especially impacted by COVID-19. Each month we will be donating to different agencies. Since October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, our first collection drive will be in support of our Luggage for Freedom Project. We will be asking volunteers to gather and assemble dignity bags of personal care products for women and children in local domestic violence shelters. Preparation of the dignity bags will be in your own home. Another wonderful project for Luggage for Freedom that you can do with your families is creating single-layer, no-sew fleece blankets to include in the Luggage for Freedom Kids Backpacks. Please check the NCJWCNS website for more information on specifics and collection dates and times (<https://ncjwcns.org/programs/community-service/luggage-for-freedom>).



Questions: Email Robbie Schreiber and Rhea Swider at communityservice@ncjwcns.org.

Dignity Bag Items should be placed in gallon Ziploc storage bag

Dignity Bags

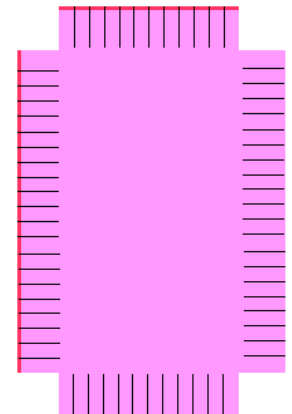
Small sizes of:

- soap
- shampoo
- conditioner
- lotion
- deodorant
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- dental floss

No-Sew Single Layer Fleece Blanket

Materials needed:

1. Purchase 2 yards of fleece (note: fleece should be 58" wide)
2. Cut selvages edges off sides and straighten edge cuts as needed
3. Lay fabric out on a flat surface
4. Cut a 4" square from each of the four corners of the fabric
5. Cut 4" lengths every inch along all the edges to make fringe
6. Tie each fringe into a knot



Sustaining Advocate Monthly Giving Program

Your ongoing support strengthens NCJW's impact in our pursuit of justice and progressive social change for women, children, and families. Thank you for taking part in NCJW's Sustaining Advocate Monthly Giving Program. Every gift makes a difference. Your scheduled monthly donation ensures the strength and impact of NCJW Chicago North Shore into the future.



New this year, become a sustaining advocate with a minimum donation of \$18 each month and we will send you a special **VOTE! Facemask!** Masks are adult-sized, 100% Cotton 3-Layer Masks. Use the form below or donate online at <https://ncjwcns.org/sustaining-advocate>.

Yes, I want to support the important work of NCJW Chicago North Shore with a monthly donation of \$_____.

Please bill my (circle one): VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

credit card number	expiration date	Security Code
signature	today's date	
name	email	
street address		
city/state/zip	mask preference (black or white)	

Membership Renewal

NCJW CNS Membership renewal season is underway!

All NCJW Chicago North Shore Memberships run from July 1 through June 30. If you haven't already made your membership donation, this is a great time to do so! All annual members should have received a renewal notice in your inbox or mailbox in late June or early July. Email info@ncjwcns.org if you need another renewal notice or invoice.

Visit <https://ncjwcns.org/membership> to renew your membership today or mail your check to NCJW, 5 Revere Drive, Suite 200, Northbrook, IL 60062. Questions? Email info@ncjwcns.org.

Renew or join today for \$50 and your membership will valid through June 30, 2021.

Your support makes it possible for NCJW to create meaningful social change for women, children, and families locally, nationally and internationally. Together with you, NCJW will empower women to educate their communities, mobilize the grassroots, and advocate for fundamental rights and freedoms.

NCJW Tributes Cards are 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) Tribute Style: _____

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

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

Message: _____

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

NCJW Chicago North Shore
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Don't miss our upcoming events and action alerts! Subscribe at [ncjwcns.org/alerts](https://www.ncjwcns.org/alerts) today!

NCJW Chicago North Shore Anti-racism is a Verb

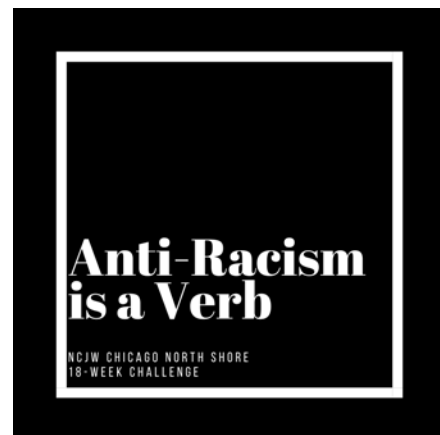
Join us to make Anti-Racism a Verb ! Learn, Do, and Act.

We are committed to educating ourselves, strengthening our relationship with Black community partners, lifting up Black voices in our community, supporting Black businesses and artists, advocating for policy change and working side by side in communities.

We want you and your families to join us on this journey. On August 21, we launched our 18-week Racial Justice Challenge. Each Friday, until the end of 2020, we will be sending out short reading, video, or other exercise. This is an exercise that is designed to be challenging -some of the pieces we share will be provocative and controversial. They are presented as conversation starters. We invite you to lean into the discomfort of learning long enough to grow.

Through this journey, we will offer several virtual opportunities to discuss the challenges. In addition, we have created a private Facebook group where we will post each challenge with an opportunity to discuss and engage with other NCJW supporters. You can find the Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/602463427350589>.

We all know that actions speak louder than words. As advocates, we will continue our policy work, informed by a heightened awareness of its racial justice implications. Policy work is where we can make real change to eliminate systemic racism. If you've missed any of the weeks of the Challenge, you will find them on our website at <https://ncjwcns.org/actions/antiracism>. Watch for action alerts and commit to adding your voice!



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