



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

NCJW Chicago North Shore Fall 2021 Newsletter



NCJW Chicago North Shore & NCJW South Cook Present a Special
3-Part Zoom Salon Series: Let's Talk: Fact or Fiction

My Truth Your Truth: Propoganda through History
Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 7pm central
Featuring Steven Luckert and Chuck Meyers

Truth or Consequences: Artificial Intelligence and Social Media
Thursday, October 21, 2021, 7pm central
Featuring David Goldenberg

My Rights Your Rights: Free Speech and Regulation
Monday, October 25, 2021, 7pm central
Featuring Ian Rosenberg, Jacqueline Carroll and Bret Schafer

Closed Captioning will be available
Register at <https://ncjwcns.org/actions/lets-talk>

Save the Date

For information about these and all our upcoming events, visit <https://ncjwcns.org/events>.

September 23

A Sukkot Inspired Conversation on Home

October 13

Let's Talk: My Truth Your Truth

October 21

Let's Talk: Truth or Consequences

October 24

Luggage for Freedom Pack & Delivery Day

October 25

Let's Talk: My Rights Your Rights

November 4

E.A.S.E Homelessness Panel Discussion

November 16

Suburban Salon

November 29

Spotlight on Voting Rights and Laws

December 2

Legislative Meet and Greet

December 8

NCJW Soup Kitchen Evening

December 27

Spotlight on Advocacy



Contact Information

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NCJW CNS Board of Directors

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Debbie Vietinghoff, President
Kim Sterling, President Elect
Robbie Schreiber, Secretary
Rhea Swider, Treasurer

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Jill Lexier
Jan Schwartz

I've been thinking a lot about hope lately. There are many hopeful phrases that I say to others going through a challenging time or who are faced with a difficult decision. Things like "don't give-up, there's always a glimmer of hope" or "do what you can and hope for the best". Recently, I was reading Kelly Rimmer's novel *The Things We Cannot Say*, and in the midst of the Nazi occupation of Poland, a Jewish couple in hiding have a child and name her Tikvah which in Hebrew means hope. This led me to learn more about the word "tikvah". I found that the root of tikvah is kavah which means waiting and suggests that when we hope we are literally waiting for something better to happen. Kavah also means to twist or to weave as in making a rope - an actual tool to hold a heavy load. For me it means that hope gives us strength to go on even in the most challenging of times. And the weaving of many strands together creates an image that we do not have to face these challenges alone. And here at NCJW Chicago North Shore, the strands are the women who work together to fulfill our sometimes daunting mission "to strive for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms". Tikvah is at the heart of our work and gives us the strength we need

From the President's Desk

to continue our work.

It's hope that motivates our advocates, volunteers, and leadership. However, we do not sit back and simply wait; we act so our hopes for equitable, just and safe communities are realized. This year, as we have for more than 125 years, our section will lobby for legislation that includes ensuring equitable access to both the ballot box and health care, breaking the cycle of gun violence, and protecting women and children from domestic violence and human trafficking. We will continue to work for systemic changes in our institutions and against anti-semitic and gender-based hate speech and violence. And we will work to restore hope to families in Chicagoland who live with food insecurity and homelessness.

Every Rosh Hashanah, we wish each other a good and sweet new year - "shanah tovah u'metukah". And I do wish this for each and every one of you, but I also urge you to join the dedicated women of NCJW and become a strand in our rope and strengthen our efforts to make our goal for a kinder and more equitable world for all a reality.

Shanah Tova,

Debbie Vietinghoff,
President, NCJW CNS

DID YOU KNOW?

200,000 advocates across the USA and Israel

57 local Sections

1893 NCJW is founded

50 states with NCJW advocates

From the Executive Director

We can all use a bit of *shmita*!

For those who may not know, with Rosh Hashanah we begin a *shmita* year. The Torah calls for us to work the land for six years and then let it rest in the seventh in order to let the land heal and even strengthen before the next period of planting. That seventh year is the *shmita* year - also known as the sabbatical year. A sabbatical is a time to take leave of your traditional job and instead rest, travel, learn and renew. And after the trials and tribulations of the past year. I think it's time for a sabbatical!

So I am taking a (figurative) sabbatical and suggest you do as well. I am going to rest, renew, and recharge. And in the process, become a stronger leader and advocate.

Rest - time for some down time.
Naps? Yes, please! Netflix? You bet!

Renewal - time to seek out classes and programs that speak to my passions. Time to remember that I can be (and I am) both an NCJW leader and an NCJW member. And I can learn from and enjoy our programming while I am also planing and executing it!

Recharge - time to use the joy and excitement from my NCJW work - whether it's a well-crafted newsletter or joining in a peace walk or leading a Chanukah cocktail demonstration - to bring me the energy and enthusiasm I need for the next task.

Shanah Tovah and happy *shmita*!

Melissa Prober, Executive Director

Living a Legacy; Leaving a Legacy

The NCJW CNS Faith in the Future Giving Society

NCJW Chicago North Shore has a robust future. Our daughters, nieces, and granddaughters are next in line to advocate for women's issues. There is much work to still be done and we need the continued support of those who want to make sure that our NCJW Chicago North Shore voices heard will continue to be heard and enact change. Create your NCJW legacy by arranging for a planned gift to NCJW Chicago North Shore. We thank those who have already joined the Faith in the Future Giving Society. There is no better day than today to add your name!

A planned gift to NCJW has potential for personal as well as organizational benefits. It allows you to perpetuate your own name or memorialize a loved one. Several types of planned gifts are available that may offer significant tax savings and other advantages to you and your family. Tax laws may change, and tax ramifications may vary depending on the individual. We encourage you to consult your own estate attorney and/or tax advisor regarding your specific situation.

We invite you to join us by completing the Declaration of Intent below or email info@ncjwcns.org and we will send you a copy. Your investment in the future of the National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore Section will help ensure that women, children, and families live better lives, with their freedom protected.

A Faith in the Future Giving Society *Declaration of Intent*



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

A Faith in the Future Giving Society

As a proud supporter of National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore, I am pleased to make this Declaration of Intent to help NCJW Chicago North Shore to further its mission into the future, and enable NCJW to continue to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families and to continue safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

- ☐ I/we intend to make a commitment and will formalize my/our gift within ____ months.
- ☐ I/we have already done so but haven't shared the information with NCJW Chicago North Shore.
- ☐ I/we have already done so and previously shared the information with NCJW Chicago North Shore.

My/Our legacy gift in the approximate amount of \$ _____ was completed through (check one):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Bequest/Will | <input type="radio"/> Charitable Gift Annuity |
| <input type="radio"/> Life Insurance | <input type="radio"/> Real Estate or Business Interest |
| <input type="radio"/> Retirement Plan Assets (IRA) | <input type="radio"/> Donor Advised Fund |
| <input type="radio"/> Charitable Remainder Trust | <input type="radio"/> Other _____ |

PRINT NAME

DATE

SIGNATURE

NAME(S) FOR FORMAL RECOGNITION

- ☐ I/we would like my/our gift to remain anonymous at this time.
- ☐ You have my/our permission to share my/our commitment with NCJW Chicago North Shore

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

Interested in other ways to support NCJW CNS?

With progressive ideals facing their greatest challenge in a generation, it is more important than ever that courageous, compassionate women find a place to come together and take action. Your support makes that action possible.

Donate online at <https://ncjwcns.org/donate> or mail your check payable to: "NCJW CNS" and mail to: NCJW, 5 Revere Drive, Suite 200, Northbrook, IL 60062. Looking for a different way to support NCJW? Visit <https://ncjwcns.org/about/philanthropy-necklaces> to purchase a lovely star necklace or hanger charm for yourself or as a gift! To discuss donation vehicles such as endowments, planned giving, appreciated securities, and corporation and foundation gifts, contact NCJW Chicago North Shore at 847-853-8889 or info@ncjwcns.org.

NCJW CNS Board at a Glance

Bonnie Braverman: Bonnie is a life long Chicagoan who lives in Logan Square. She is an attorney and works for a multinational insurance company handling complex professional liability claims. She is an avid reader of fiction and loves to collect art and other interesting pieces at flea markets, second hand shops and antique stores.

Bev Copeland: 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. This is Bev's third year on the board and her second year as Director of Advocacy. Bev received the NCJW CNS Advocate of the Year Award in 2019.

Barbara Dolinger: This is Barbara's third year on the NCJW CNS Board of Directors and uses her creativity to improve our programming. 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 Fishman: Donna Fishman, MPH is a public health professional and has served in many capacities for NCJW Chicago North Shore including president, vice president for community service, co-chair for suburban salon, and staff for Next Generation. Nationally, she served as IL State Policy Advocacy chair, and on the nominating, program support, and resolutions committee. Donna is excited to provide strategic direction to community services and link our "on the ground" work with our advocacy work.

Lisa Goldberg: Lisa Goldberg is looking forward to her first year on the Board, as a member-at-large. Having recently retired as Deputy General Counsel for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, she is enjoying more free time for fitness, French, and musical theater, and continues to sing as a cantorial soloist. Lisa lives with her husband Michael Cohen in Chicago (North Center). They are the proud parents of three adult children.

Sarah Hirszen: 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 has also served on the board of Camp Young Judaea Midwest. She is also a literacy tutor at the Howard Area Community Center. Sarah is serving her second year as Director of Administration.

Julie Newman: Julie Newman returns to serve NCJW, having previously been on staff as Membership and Programming Director, as well as Coordinator for Jewish Community Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago. Julie is passionate about many progressive causes. She volunteers with Tutoring Chicago and is involved with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She lives with her husband in Winnetka, where she's an avid cyclist and nature enthusiast.

Amy Rubin: Amy Rubin recently retired as JCFS Chicago's Senior Director of Jewish Community Services where she was responsible for programming focused on domestic violence, sexual abuse, harassment, addiction, and other issues that impact Jewish homes and families. Amy is a lifelong passionate advocate for the health, safety and well-being of women and girls. She lives in Old Town Chicago, escapes to her home in Arizona during the winter, is an avid reader, and enjoys spending time with her two granddaughters.

Robbie Schreiber: Robbie is serving her 2nd term as NCJW CNS Secretary, having joined NCJW after Election Day in November 2016. She is a volunteer teacher of Citizenship Education for immigrants preparing for their U.S. Citizenship interview. She tutored Beginner ESL for five years, and she's a past board member of Congregation BJBE where she also taught Hebrew classes for 10 years. Looking forward to another great year of leadership and learning with NCJW CNS!

Jan Schwartz: Jan is wearing two NCJW hats this year. She is the CNS Director of Fundraising and was recently appointed by the NCJW, Inc. Board President to be one of the NCJW Co-SPAs for Illinois. She is a retired psychologist from Minnesota with 40 years of experience. She and her husband moved to Chicago in 2016 to be closer their their children and grandchildren.



Holly Smith: This is Holly's second year on the board and first as Director of Communications. 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 Sterling is the vice president of professional services for the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, with responsibilities in marketing, communications, publications, and events. In addition to a career in not-for-profit management, she has been active in her community as a volunteer. She is a leader in Sister District Greater Chicago, a progressive organization focused on stage legislatures. She lives in Wilmette with her husband, enjoys time with her son when he is home from college, and always has a book loaded up on her kindle.

Rhea Swider: Rhea and her husband Howie have 2 boys, a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter. 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. Last year they adopted a rescue dog from PAWS and named him Brody as an homage to the final season of Homeland.

Debbie Vietinghoff: Debbie grew up in Skokie, graduated from Niles North and the University of Illinois, and spent time in California finding her way before marrying and settling down in the northern suburbs of Chicago. Though she held numerous positions in both education and business, she has found working with students one on one as a college test prep tutor for the past 14 years the most rewarding. She credits her Dad for instilling in her the importance of embracing our differences and giving back to her community. She feels NCJW has been the perfect organization for her to do both.

Spotlight on Social Justice Issues

Curious about social justice issues, legislation, and advocacy? Join us at one or more Spotlights to keep up to date on all manner of current issues. We've been exploring these topics at monthly gatherings, including summer, for the past three years.

Spotlight's mission is to provide a platform to examine and discuss current social justice issues. Engaged individuals then act to transform their communities.

Plan to attend these fall Spotlights via Zoom, 7PM CDT:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| October 10 | Let's Talk I. My Truth Your Truth. Propaganda through history. |
| October 21 | Let's Talk II. Truth or Consequences. AI & Social Media. Co-sponsored by ADL. |
| October 25 | Let's Talk III. My Rights Your Rights. Free speech & regulation. |
| November 29 | Does our vote still count? Update on voting rights and two bills currently in Congress, S1 and HR4 |
| December 27 | The challenge of advocacy: Where do I begin? All advocacy actions you can take from responding to an email to initiating changes in state law. |

Register via <https://ncjwcns.org/events/> then select the Spotlight/s you want. Look for announcements about our 2022 gatherings in fall.

We invite you to join the Steering Committee. Write to Beth Najberg at chicagosalon@ncjwcns.org to join and make program suggestions. Committee: Merle Gross, Elena Morone, Jan Schwartz.

NCJW Salon: A Sukkot Inspired Discussion of Home Thursday, September 23, 6:30pm, Northbrook Location

Sukkot is a time of thanksgiving for the harvests and milestones in a person's life. It reminds us to not take such things for granted. The sukkah also strips down the "material" world and helps to keep us "grounded" in what is most important. This is more relevant than ever today. As we ceased many of our normal activities during the pandemic, we learned what we had been taking for granted, and lived without some of our "material" comforts. Sukkot reminds us that our dwellings can be temporary or permanent and makes us think about what is home?



For our September Salon discussion, we will meet in Melissa Prober's beautiful backyard Sukkah and discuss the concept of home. Home can be a physical place, like the home we grew up in. It can be defined by relationships we have—as in, "I feel at home with the people I love." It can denote experiences, as in "I feel at home when I'm reading my favorite author," or "Making a Jewish home." We will also explore homelessness, segregation in housing, and housing as social and economic justice.

Register at <https://ncjwcns.org/events/ss092321> and enjoy the resources below.

- Read:** What is a Jewish Home? — GESHER (ourjewishhome.org): <https://bit.ly/3g2tT0u>
The Psychology of Home: Why Where You Live Means So Much – The Atlantic: <https://bit.ly/3xG2mrz>
- Listen:** Rich Benjamin: My road trip through the whitest towns in America | TED Talk: <https://bit.ly/3m3kkCq>

NCJW 2020-2021: A Year in Review

This has certainly been an unprecedented year. When we finished up our 2019-20 year with an online celebration, we had no idea what this year would bring. But we made a promise to never stop bringing you opportunities for education, advocacy and service! And we hope you feel that we kept our promise!

And what a great year of programming it was. We had 46 virtual programs with topics such as: voting during a pandemic, Black maternal health, immigration, police accountability, the shared civil right history of Black and Jewish Americans, sex trafficking, the Fair Tax Amendment, and racial justice. We celebrated Repro Shabbat and continued our participation in the North Shore Jewish Candidate Forum. We challenged ourselves to strengthen our relationship with Black community partners, lift up Black voices in our community, support Black businesses and artists, advocate for policy change and work side by side through our Anti-Racism is a Verb Challenge. We gathered virtually to write letters to voters and complete Mother's Day cards. We watched and listened to theatrical performances from the comfort of our homes and enjoyed post-performance discussions with the playwrights. We even baked cookies and had a holiday sing-a-long! Thank you to those who planned and executed these events and thank you to those who attended! We hope you enjoyed them as much as we did!

We found ways to give back and perform *tikkun olam* even when we couldn't be together in person. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to continue our evenings of service at the Beth Emet and First United Methodist Church Soup Kitchens. Through our NCJW Gives Back Initiative, we were able to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse, aid those suffering from food insecurity, provide toys and clothing to children during the holidays and brighten up Shabbat for seniors living at the Selfhelp Home. We participated in a drive-through day of service for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and even were able to pack suitcases and backpacks for our modified Luggage for Freedom Delivery Day. Thank you to our generous and dedicated volunteers and donors. None of this would have happened without you!

In addition, even a global pandemic didn't stop us from a few in person (masked and virtually distant) gatherings. We honored the memory of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg with a walk around the Skokie Courthouse to mark the end of *shiva* and celebrated the life of a champion for women, children, and families and the first Jewish woman to serve on the US Supreme Court. We "marched" with our cars and participated in the John Lewis Voting Rights Day of Action VoterCade and we marched with our feet and joined Mothers Against Community Gun Violence for a Peace Walk in the West Garfield community where we were joined by Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown.

If you missed or want to rewatch any of our virtual programs from 2020-2021, you will find most of them on our YouTube Channel at <https://bit.ly/37Evcyb>. Below, enjoy some photos from the past year.



NCJW Tributes Cards are Available for all your Giving Needs!

Order Tributes online at <https://ncjwcns.org/donations/tributes> or complete and mail the form below.

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

"LOOKING FORWARD"

Anti-Violence Against Women initiatives are going strong on all fronts of NCJW CNS.

Luggage for Freedom will hold their annual packing and delivery day on October 24 in Highland Park. Volunteers are needed to sort items, pack suitcases and backpacks, and deliver donations to local domestic violence shelters. Ages 4 and up are welcome - this is a great day to volunteer as a family! *Please note: at this time, we are unable to accept donations of luggage, but hope to resume collection after October 2021. You can also help by purchasing items from our Amazon Wish List by using this link <https://a.co/9MKPSkp>. It's an easy and efficient way to donate to this remarkable event. Thanks to Chairs, Nora Zuckerman and Pam Zlotnik, for their dedication to Luggage for Freedom.

ALSO: Luggage for Freedom is in need of a new storage facility in the Deerfield area! At our current storage facility, rental increases have become prohibitive. A Corporate or Business Sponsorship would be most appreciated, as would a less expensive rental. Please email luggageforfreedom@ncjwcns.org if you can help.

Jewish Community Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago – is holding needs assessment planning and reconfiguration discussions with members of the local Jewish community under the direction of JCAST Coordinator, Amy Rubin. JCAST is also looking forward to mentoring an Intern in the Fall. We continue to advocate for victims by educating the community about this particular problem of abuse. Watch for more information and programming news in the coming months.

CourtWatch is an NCJWCNS initiative that "watches" proceedings in the Domestic Violence Court of the Cook County 2nd Municipal District. Currently using Zoom, Courtwatchers observe, assess, and report on all personnel in the courtroom to ensure that DV Victims are respected and provided with fair treatment. By continuing to observe court sessions, assess the effectiveness of the court and the quality of its judges and personnel, and report our impressions, court personnel know the public is watching and cares about the outcomes of Domestic Violence cases. Thanks to Miriam Pollack and Anita Weinstein, NCJWCNS Courtwatch Coordinators, who also advocated to re-establish the 2nd Municipal District Domestic Violence Stakeholder's Group, part of the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council. These councils provide a forum to improve the institutional, professional, and community response to the full spectrum of family violence.

Leona Z Rosenberg Leadership Initiative Inaugural Cohort

We have an amazing history, but we must look to the future to instill strong leadership skills in every generation of our membership. NCJW Chicago North Shore is please to announce that applications are now open for our NCJW LIFTS (Leadership, Impact, Fellowship and Training) inaugural cohort!

NCJW LIFTS brings together an annual cohort of 8-10 advocates who seek professional growth, relationship-building opportunities, and a higher level of involvement within the NCJW and the progressive community. Topics include: developing personal leadership skills, telling your story, courageous conversations, centering other voices, setting goals and priorities, and team building. NCJW LIFTS participants will receive a subsidized registration to NCJW Washington Institute.

Applications will be accepted through October 30 with the cohort's initial meeting in early 2022. Visit <https://ncjwcns.org/leonas-leaders> for more specific information and to apply. Know someone who would be interested in applying, send us their name and email and we will reach out! Interested in supporting additional leadership training? Visit <https://ncjwcns.org/donate-2> and select Leona Z Rosenberg Leadership Initiative from the dropdown menu.



National Council of Jewish Women
Chicago North Shore Section

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"If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy." - Amanda Gorman

Luggage for Freedom Pack & Delivery Day

Volunteers are needed to sort items, pack suitcases and backpacks, and deliver donations to local domestic violence shelters. Ages 4 and up are welcome.

Luggage for Freedom is a wonderful opportunity for families and friends to volunteer together!

Donations of new sheets, new towels and ziplock bags are accepted on that day at the event. *Please note: at this time, we are unable to accept donations of luggage but hope to resume collections after October.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to Luggage for Freedom, please bring it on October 24, OR send your donation to: National Council of Jewish Women/Luggage for Freedom, 5 Revere Drive Suite 200, Northbrook, IL 60062 or go to <https://ncjwcns.org/donate-2> and select Luggage for Freedom Initiative from the dropdown menu. You can also help by purchasing items from our Amazon Wish List by using this link <https://a.co/9MKPSkp>.

Where and When?

Sunday, October 24, 11:30 - 1:30 pm
West Ridge Center, 636 Ridge Road, Highland Park

E.A.S.E. Homelessness Project

NCJW CNS launches its newest initiative The **EASE Homelessness Project** in 2021-22. The project's goal is to **E**ducate our community about Chicagoland's homeless population, to **A**dvocate for the homeless at both the local and state level, and to provide **S**ervice opportunities for NCJW members in partnership with organizations providing direct services to the homeless. Our belief that **E**ducation + **A**dvocacy + **S**ervice = **E**mpowerment is at the heart of this project. There is no single definition of homelessness, but the scope of the population includes youth, adults, and families. On November 4th, our community partners, *Deborah's Place* and *The Night Ministry*, will share their expertise and the stories and needs of this often-forgotten population via Zoom. Thanks to two NCJW members Paula Wallrich and Bev Frank – both tireless advocates for the homeless community – for helping to create this initiative. This project is still in development and seeks committee members to help create future programming and volunteer opportunities. For more information on the project, email president@ncjwcns.org. To register for the panel visit <https://ncjwcns.org/events/ease110421>



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