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Hope all who attended enjoyed the event!

NCJW OPENING EVENT

September 20, 2023

At the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe,
in two Story Building
1012 N. Orange Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236
at 1:00 p.m.

*Speaker and Entertainment
by the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe*

A Great Opening Event!

...committees with literature
sign-ups for members and prospective
members to get involved

Join us for a Delightful *No-Charge* Event
Snacks and Cold Beverages Served
A behind the scenes tour is also available.
Please indicate if interested.

RSVP to the email address below.

Questions? Contact Brenda Gimán
at brendanamig@gmail.com or 480-370-5340

**Save this
issue!**

This issue of **News and Views** contains contact information, calendars and events for the 2023-2024 program year. Watch for eblasts and emails during the year to keep you up to date on Section news. Stay in touch by visiting our website: www.ncjwsarasota-manatee.org

President's Message

We are excited to enter the 2023-2024 season of Sarasota-Manatee section of NCJW with enthusiasm, eagerness, commitment, and positive energy. With COVID restrictions behind us, many opportunities to meet in person at meetings, programs, discussion groups, and volunteer activities await us. We are thrilled to connect with old friends while meeting new ones as our membership grows.

We thank you for the faith you have placed in us to lead our section this year as we strive to fulfill the mission of NCJW to improve the lives of women, children, and families.

L'Shana Tovah!

Lauren, Marion, and Cindy



Brag Page

Our Section, in the last year, has supported many community programs both in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. We donated over \$50,000 from September to June, 2022-2023. With your help, we hope to have another successful year and again donate to so many worthwhile causes.

Hurricane Ian Relief:

Children First
Hope Family Services
JFCS
Safe Children Coalition/HIPPY
Second Chance-First
Opportunity
Selah Freedom

Other Donations:

All Faiths Food Bank
Blankee Bee
(a warm hug for those going through chemo or just those needing a hug)
Camp Mariposa Camperships
Children First
Embracing Our Differences
HIPPY
(Home Instruction Program for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters)
Hope Family Services

Manatee Dive Into Reading
Maui Fire Relief
Meals on Wheels
Sarasota Patterson/Pay it Forward
Scholarships to 5 Non-traditional Students
Second Chance-First Opportunity
Take a Look/Buy a Book
Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe

With your help, in 2023-2024, Our Section will bring more comfort, support and joy to many of our neighbors.



WEBSITE: ncjwsarasota-manatee.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:
facebook.com/NCJWSarasotaManatee

Installation 2023

On May 2, 2023 over 60 NCJW Sarasota-Manatee section members gathered at Prestancia Country Club for a double celebration. This was our first face to face installation since COVID. Barbara Berkowitz and Myna Stoltz discharged the current board and installed our new Board of Directors for 2023-2024. We then presented the Hannah G. Solomon award to Geet Jacobson. This award is given to a member of our section who embodies the spirit of our founder Hannah G. Solomon, whose commitment to service was legendary.



Geet Jacobson

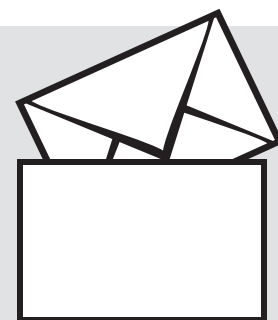


NEWS AND VIEWS

News and Views is the publication of the Sarasota-Manatee Section of NCJW. Check out our website at <https://ncjwsarasota-manatee.org>.

President: Lauren Brownstein, Marion Marshak, Cindy Solomon

Editor: Laurie Criden



Membership

By joining Sarasota-Manatee NCJW you are joining a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into actions. You will become a part of a group of like-minded people who share a long tradition of social activism and community service. We invite you to continue the journey with us as we make a difference one life at a time.

For information on membership, please contact **Nancy Bortinger** at NancyBortinger@gmail.com or visit our website at: ncjwsarasota-manatee.org

Our membership team participates in the “Hello Neighbor” program reaching out to our members to just chat and most importantly to listen to them. Many of our members take advantage of our

calls to chat. For anyone who may benefit from outside help, we have a list of outside agencies to provide them with assistance. We also make sure to wish all our members a happy holiday three times a year at Rosh Hashana, Chanukah, and Passover. The calls are well appreciated by all.

Our “members only” luncheon will be held on November 15, 2023, at the Prestancia Golf and Country Club with an enthralling speaker.

In addition several new and prospective members’ coffees are held through the year at the homes of our members providing an opportunity to meet new people and to learn more about our section and the many endeavors in which we participate.

Our NCJW Sarasota-Manatee section has flourished through our members participation and its leaders hard work. Our members are a group of liked minded women who share a rich tradition of social activism and community service. The members are a unified voice for advocacy on issues impacting the lives of women, children and families locally, statewide and nationally.

The 2023 Membership Committee is in full gear and ready for a fabulous year. We look forward to your continued participation to fulfill our mission of social justice while we enhance our own social, educational and community lives here in Sarasota. Please save the dates below for our annual events .

Annual: 2023 Paid Membership Luncheon

Date: Wednesday November 15th

Place: Prestancia Golf Club/Palmer Ranch

Time: Noon

Cost: \$30

Three Course Luncheon

Speaker: Dr. Rachel Zohar Dulin will captivate us with her presentation on “ Women’s Role in Ancient Times... Mirroring our Modern Day Issues”.

Our new and prospective members get together will be **Tuesday, October 3rd** at 10:00am. Myra Caldarelli (a new member!!!) will host this enjoyable event at her home in Del Webb, LWR. Invite to follow.

NEW MEMBERS!

These are the new members since April 1, 2023:

Lynn Aronson

Myra Caldarelli

Ellen DiZio

Lori Feierman

Sharon Garson

Alice Golub

Liz Harmon

MAJOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS 2023-2024

Rosh Hashanah

September 15-17, 2023

Yom Kippur

September 24-25, 2023

Sukkot

September 29 – October 1, 2023

Simchat Torah

October 6 – 8, 2023

Chanukah

December 7-15, 2023

Purim

March 23- 24, 2024

Passover

April 22 – 30, 2024

Holocaust Remembrance Day

May 5 – 6, 2024

Israel Independence Day

May 12 – 14, 2024

Lag B’Omer

May 25, 2024

Shavuot

June 11 – 13, 2024

Tisha B’Av

August 12, 2024

NCJW SARASOTA-MANATEE

NCJW History

The National Council of Jewish Women was established in 1893 by social activist, Hannah G. Solomon. The Sarasota-Manatee Section was chartered in 1979; and today, with almost 400 members, we are following our founder's vision. We are proud of our Section's impact and positive image in the community.

SECTION HISTORY

- 1979** Formation of the Sarasota-Manatee Section
- 1982** First Women In Power begins as a Brown Bag Lunch
- 1985** Herald Tribune Community Service Award for Preschool Eye Screening
- 1986** Interviewed Survivors for Holocaust Oral History Project. Interviews acquired by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum April 1992
- 1992** Start of HIPPIY in Sarasota
- 1992** Declared "National Council of Jewish Women Week" by the City of Sarasota
March 15-22
- 1994** "Someone To Talk To" first performed
- 1997** Start of Preschool Hearing & Vision Testing
- 2000** First year of scholarships for nontraditional students
- 2004** Declared "National Council of Jewish Women Week" by the City of Sarasota
November 3-10
- 2004** Hope House – Supports Women and Children
- 2008** Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program
- 2013** Puppet Program for Preschoolers "Being Different is OK"
- 2014** Blanke Bee
- 2015** Human Trafficking Awareness Program
- 2016** The JANET PROJECT for tweens & teens in abusive situations
- 2016** Take a Look Buy A Book
- 2017** Hate Crime Program
Amazon Smile Program
Gun Violence Prevention Program
- 2018** Children First Program – Supports vulnerable children
- 2019** Upgraded our computer technology
- 2020** Website update for Online Payment
Zoom Meetings
Hello Neighbor calls
- 2021** Second Chance Last Opportunity (SCLO)
High school mentoring
Sandwich Making Brigade for SCLO
- 2022** Rainbow Ribbon Project – supports LGBTQ
- 2022** All Faiths Food Bank

Advocacy 2022-2023

Legislation

In February 2023, the annual NCJW Florida meeting to prepare for the Tallahassee Lobbying Days was held in Pompano Beach and on Zoom. **Pam Gordon** attended in person to be able to interact with the other sections Advocacy committees. 6 of our members attended online.

Lonny Wilk, Deputy Regional Director of ADL Florida spoke to us about antisemitism and hate crimes in Florida. **Laura Goodhue**, VP of Public Policy for Planned Parenthood of South, East and North Florida and Executive Director of the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates informed us of laws affecting us in Florida regarding abortion. **Sammie Moshenberg**, now an independent consultant working with progressive organizations to help strengthen grassroots capacity and engagement and a former NCJW director, spoke to us about federal courts and their importance.

In April 2023, **Pam Gordon** and **Eileen Kozloff** represented our NCJW section for our Tallahassee Lobbying Days. This year something new and exciting was in place. A coalition of seven faith based organizations was formed to lobby for abortion rights together. The organizations were: Catholics for Choice, Faith in Public Life, Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida, American Atheists, Florida Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Florida Interfaith Coalition for Reproductive Health & justice and NCJW Florida. This was the most powerful way to approach our legislators and become aware of what other organizations are doing. We also were lobbying for gun reform, voting rights, stopping hate crimes and human trafficking. We are

continuing our alliance with these groups to fight for our beliefs.

Voting Rights

Our Voting Rights committee worked hard this past year to make sure people were registered to vote and knew where and when they could vote. In September we had a guest speaker from Equality Florida inform us about a variety of voting law changes voted in by our legislature and plans for more to make voting more difficult. Out of that program we decided to make rainbow ribbons for our members to show support for the LGBTQ+ community. Those ribbons were pinned on many of our members at our November paid up membership luncheon.

Jews for Abortion Access

This has become a very serious cause, especially in Florida. We have been fighting to expose the Fake Abortion Clinics that Florida has the second largest number of in the U.S. Our National organization started a fund this year to help women seeking abortion help in states that have made it difficult. They reached over \$1 million in donations. We have been fighting

the newest law in Florida that will limit abortions to 6 weeks, if it gets through the courts. Abortion bans are against the Jewish religion and are denying us our religious freedom.

In February 2023, we celebrated our annual Repro Shabbat with three west coast congregations participating with us this year. Temple Beth-el in St. Petersburg had **Laura Rodriguez** as their key note speaker. Temple Beth Israel in Long Boat Key had **Rabbi Jennifer Singer** as their key note speaker and Temple Beth El of Bradenton had **Rabbi Tuvia** speaking using the NCJW toolkit. We were very pleased that all three of these congregations chose to participate in this event to inform the community of the importance of this issue.

Gun Violence Protection

We have two new co-chairs for our Gun Safety committee. **Rabbi Jennifer Singer** and **Cheryl Rubin** are working with a coalition of other groups to help in this effort. This year the Florida Legislature passed a bill to allow Open Carry of firearms without registration,



permits or training. Cheryl is now on the Board of Directors of a local gun safety coalition, representing NCJW Sarasota-Manatee. We will be participating in all of their efforts to protect the community against gun violence and accidents.

Hate Crime Prevention

This past spring a new organization was formed “Stand Up to Jewish Hate”. Hopefully you have seen several of our Board Members wearing the blue square lapel pin with a #. This represents that Jews are 2.4% of the U.S. population but receive 55% of all religious based hate crimes. They are fighting antisemitism and trying to educate people. Go to www.standuptojewishhate.org to request your pin and find out what this organization is doing nationwide.

Human Trafficking Awareness

The NCJW Human Trafficking Committee is working to promote awareness about Human Trafficking in Sarasota-Manatee. They have distributed printed information with the QR code (can scan contact information to get assistance) in locations that are often used by human trafficking victims. During the past year many of the members were taken to the Selah Freedom safe house to gain a deeper understanding of human trafficking and its impact on our community.



During Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January, members did an informational exhibit and presentation with Selah Freedom at the Selby Library. There is continued effort to reach out to different local groups and organizations to do presentations. National NCJW has given permission for discussions with the Department of Homeland Security’s Blue Light Campaign regarding partnership opportunities.

Lunch and Learn

We had two exciting Lunch and Learn programs in 2023. In January we had a backstage tour of the Sarasota Opera House. Everyone enjoyed learning about the history and seeing the costume shops and being on stage as well as the part of the building that had once been a brothel!

In May we had a wonderful video and talk about the “Impact Theater” from Bette Zaret, the founder and head of this amazing project. The Impact Theater paired Jewish teens with elders from the African American community who lived through segregation. They also paired African American teens with Holocaust survivors. The teens interviewed the adults and learned about the struggle that each of them had to live through. It was a fascinating presentation with lots of questions and comments.

Israel Initiative

This past year our section participated in a new National project. NCJW national picked three worthy grassroots organizations in Israel to benefit women, children and families to support. They were from three different parts of Israel working on three different causes. We had a presentation by Zoom of all three of the programs and then voted on the one that we wanted our donations to go to. This was interesting as well as fun for those who attended the program.

This past Spring our Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee held a program to celebrate Israeli Independence Day. Our section of NCJW participated in this day of Israeli music, dancing and food by having a table at the event to show all that we do. We have several new members now that learned about us at this exciting event.

If you wish to get involved in any of our Advocacy initiatives, please contact **Pam Gordon** Gordon.pam7@gmail.com or **Deena Dell** deenaddell@gmail.com

Advocacy 2023-2024

Legislative

In February 2024, we will be presenting the General Meeting titled "Courts Matter" which is a program from our National NCJW. We have all learned this year just how courts and judges impact our lives. This will be a very important meeting teaching us about the different types of courts and judges in Florida and national.

We will be making visits to our representatives locally throughout the year and going back to Tallahassee again in early 2024 when the state legislature is in session. We welcome any member that is interested in our legislative activities to contact **Pam Gordon** at Gordon.pam7@gmail.com or **Deena Dell** deenaddell@gmail.com

Voting Rights

We will be working even harder starting in the Fall of 2023 to encourage people to register to vote, renew their vote by mail requests and keep them informed about any changes in voting laws. We need as many members as possible to join us as the November 2024 election will effect all of our lives!

Jews for Abortion Access

Currently we are working hard to get petitions signed to get an amendment on the 2024 ballot for abortion rights until the fetus is viable. If you and anyone in your household has not yet signed this petition, please contact us. We need your help getting as many petitions signed as possible in the next few months. Please go to www.floridiansprotectingfreedom.com to print the petitions and get more information on the coalition that we are part of for this important effort.

We will again be having a Repro Shabbat in early 2024 when the Torah portion talks about this issue.

Hate Crime Prevention

On October 18, 2023, Advocacy will be presenting the monthly meeting. It is called "Take a Walk in My Shoes". We are presenting this program in conjunction with the Unitarian Universalist Justice committee and the program will be held at their church in Sarasota. We will have representatives from 7 different minorities tell us what they do everyday before they leave their house or community to avoid hate because they are "different". We are hoping this will build bridges and understanding between the different communities. There will be a reception before the speakers and a Q & A afterwards. We hope that all of our members will attend and bring their friends, spouses and partners. Registration will be required and security will be there for our safety.

Human Trafficking Awareness

Over the summer, the committee reached out to over 20 local agencies sharing information about our program. The goal is to present to as many agencies as possible,

offering age appropriate materials.

Laurel Civic Center as well as the Anna Maria Island Republican Club are slated for October presentations.

If you know of agencies that would like our group to present, please contact **Laurie Criden** at Laurie725@gmail.com or 716-208-6233.

Meetings are held monthly at the Selby Library.

Lunch and Learn

This year **Joyce Hersh** will be our Chair of Lunch and Learn. She has 2 exciting programs planned for our members for our 2023-2024 season.

On January 31, 2024, we will have a private tour of the "Embracing Our Differences" exhibit at Bayfront Park. We will then go to lunch together at a local restaurant.

On April 3, 2024, we will have a presentation by NAAMAT, an Israeli human rights organization that for almost 100 years has been fighting for women and minority rights in Israel, amplifying women's voices and working towards achieving gender and pay equity.



Community Service

ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service is when you do something for someone else without the intention of getting a reward or money. This service should benefit someone other than yourself and it should be done because you would like to help and not because you are required to. Also, this service should involve you with members of your community in some way.

When you volunteer, you sign up willingly knowing that you will not receive any type of gift. However, you will feel good knowing that you helped others and made a change in people's lives. Some

of the benefits of participating in community service activities include getting the satisfaction of knowing that YOU were able to have some sort of effect in someone's life.

Please sign up for one of the many community service projects listed below. We guarantee you will feel good when you do. We are always interested in finding additional community service projects. If you have any ideas, please reach out to us.

We presently have service projects involving:

HIPPY, Blanket Bee, Second Chance Last Opportunity, Hope House Family Services (previously Hope House), The Janet Project, Scholarship, and Book drive

Someone to Talk To, Hearing and vision screening, as well as Being Different is OK, have been temporarily mothballed.

Joan Bour & Rachel Sesser
Co-Vice Presidents
Community Service

joanbour5@yahoo.com
rwsesser@gmail.com

NCJW SARASOTA – MANATEE SECTION PARTNERS WITH All Faiths Food Bank

All Faiths Food Bank is the only food bank and largest hunger relief organization in Sarasota and DeSoto counties. The Food Bank was founded in 1989 by a group of individuals who, through their respective organizations, were feeding the hungry.

They provide millions of meals

each year through robust programs and partnerships with hundreds of charitable organizations throughout the community. Our section began partnering last year by filling back backs and will be doing it again this coming year. When you are asked to volunteer please sign up .

The our top priority of the All Faiths Food Bank is to feed the hungry. But our dream is to end the scourge of hunger, forever.



42ND ANNUAL
WOMEN IN POWER
Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

The National Council of Jewish Women, Sarasota-Manatee Section's 42nd Annual Women In Power luncheon will be held at Michael's on East on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. Networking begins at 11:30 am and lunch will be served at noon.

The event will honor four outstanding women whose accomplishments encompass the focus of the 2024 event - DIVERSITY, EQUITY and INCLUSION. Our honorees exemplify NCJW's mission to focus on social justice by improving the lives of women and children and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. Closed Captioning will be available at the event. Please contact the co-chairs, **Vivian Carasso** (*vivi6778@aol.com*), **Carole Shaw** (*cms1941@icloud.com*) or **Rookie Shifrin** (*rookies@me.com*) to inquire about Sponsorship.

**RENÉE
JAMES
GILMORE**

*Executive Producer/
ABC7 WWSB/
Empowering Voices*



Renée James Gilmore is the executive producer and host of ABC7's Empowering Voices. The public affairs television program explores diversity & inclusion, and issues of interest to communities of people who are underrepresented, marginalized, and whose concerns are nearly invisible to privileged Americans. Social justice and economic empowerment are frequent themes on her show and many of the guest panelists risk reprisals for speaking truth to power. She regularly guest-hosts Suncoast View and news editions of Empowering Voices. Renée is also a consultant. In 2010, she founded the Saja Group, LLC and is on a mission to help communities and businesses benefit from inclusion and cultural diversity. She serves on several boards, contributing her 30-years experience providing oversight of multibillion-dollar budgets and federal/state regulatory compliance.

A fourth generation Sarasotan, Renée began her career at ABC7-WWSB. She transitioned from production rooms to board rooms after earning an MBA at Clark Atlanta University.

She returned to ABC7 after leading national multibillion-dollar business initiatives in the public and private sectors. Collaborations she led on behalf of public policy makers operate today and are credited with expanding U.S. business growth, as well as employment and educational opportunities. The U.S. Department of Labor recognized her for achievements in capacity building and innovative programming. She holds White House accolades for changing the organizational culture at several government agencies. Under her direction, marketing teams have won Addy Awards for corporate messaging. Renée is a lifetime member of Leadership Florida (Class of XXIII), alum of Leadership Tampa, and lifetime member of Florida A&M University Alumni Association. She is a champion for creativity, human rights, women in business, and veterans.

**RABBI
ELAINE
ROSE
GLICKMAN**



Rabbi Elaine Rose Glickman serves on the clergy team at Temple Emanu-El and as assistant executive director of the Women's Rabbinic Network, a New York-based organization providing advocacy and support for 800 female

and nonbinary rabbis worldwide. She received her Master of Arts and ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1998, where she earned prizes for writing and academic excellence and graduated first in her class. Rabbi Glickman received the Hakarat Hatov award for outstanding service to the Central Conference of American Rabbis in 2022, and an honorary doctorate in 2023.

A past editor-in-chief of the CCAR Journal – the scholarly and professional journal for Reform Judaism – and originator of the popular blog “The Streets of Jerusalem” for the Jerusalem Post, Rabbi Glickman has written, edited, and contributed to a dozen books, including the National Jewish Book Award finalist Sacred Parenting, The Messiah and the Jews, Living Torah, and the Encyclopedia of Antisemitism. Her essays on Florida House Bill 1557, gun violence, sexual assault, abortion, and the plight of Iranian women have been published in local and national newspapers.

Rabbi Glickman is a past president of the Sarasota-Manatee Rabbinic Association, a board member of ALSO Youth, a digital counselor with The Trevor Project, Recording Secretary of the West Florida chapter of the Jewish National Fund, a past trustee of the Hershorin-

Schiff Community Day School, and an Affiliated Professor at the University of Haifa. She has provided testimony for one court case and two investigatory reports about gender-based discrimination in the national Reform movement.

JESSICA ROGERS

Vice President of Philanthropy, Children First



Jessica Rogers serves as Vice President of Philanthropy at Children First, advocating for the philanthropic support of early childhood education, family strengthening and breaking barriers of poverty. She has transformed fundraising and outreach efforts allowing the agency to impact thousands of children and families lives while garnering significant accolades including from the Nonprofit Times as a Top 50 Best Nonprofit to work for in the country, WEDU PBS Nonprofit of the Year, and a Best Place to Work in Sarasota-Manatee Counties five consecutive times. Jessica was nominated for the NHSA's BOLD Leadership Award recognizing individuals who "boldly faced challenges brought on by Covid-19, living up to an unprecedented level of extraordinary leadership."

Jessica's volunteer and philanthropic engagement is broad across our community. She is a past board director of the Junior League of Sarasota, a Sustainer Community Service Award recipient, and co-chair of their 2024 Legacy Luncheon.

Jessica is a member of NCJW Sarasota-Manatee, past non-traditional college scholarship committee chair and 2020 Women in Power Luncheon co-chair, bringing the national CEO of NCJW to our region as the keynote speaker.

Jessica is a former Troop Co-Leader for the Girl Scouts of Southwest Florida and current member of the Sarasota County NAACP's Freedom Awards Gala committee. She is a

graduate of Sarasota Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Program, serving as a member of their Leadership Alumni Committee and Leadership Alumni Council.

Following her departure from New College of Florida as Associate Vice President of Advancement, Jessica was named an Honorary Alumna, which honors individuals who are not graduates of New College, but have made significant contributions to its welfare, reputation, or prestige.

SARAH WERTHEIMER

Executive Director, Embracing Our Differences



Sarah Wertheimer has spent the past 10 years working with Embracing Our Differences, a local nonprofit organization that uses the transformative power of the arts to educate and inspire to create a better world. Sarah oversees the creation and implementation of all programming and fiscal planning which impacts more than 400,000 adults and children annually. She is also responsible for the development of EOD's fundraising and community relations campaigns, program growth, and sustainability goals.

Sarah has extensive experience in the local nonprofit community, previously holding development positions at The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee and Children First. She currently serves on the advisory board of the Boxser Diversity Initiative, the DEI Committee for EDC of Sarasota County, the School District of Manatee County's Diversity Committee, and as Community Research Chair for the Junior League of Sarasota. She participated in Leadership Florida Connect Class VIII and in 2017 was selected by SRQ Magazine as one of Sarasota's "30 Under 30." Sarah is passionate about celebrating diversity and inclusion in our community and inspiring others to stand up against hatred and discrimination.

SPONSORSHIP Opportunities

Diversity Premier Sponsor \$5,000

Table for 10, recognition on program, website, honoree video, VIP seating, sponsor reception

Equity Patron Sponsor \$2,500

Table for 8, recognition on program, website, honoree video, VIP seating, sponsor reception

Inclusion Patron Sponsor \$1,000

4 seats, recognition on program, website, honoree video, sponsor reception

Supporter Sponsor \$500

2 seats, recognition on program, honoree video, sponsor reception

Advocator Sponsor \$250

1 seat, recognition on program, honoree video

Influencer Individual Ticket* \$150

*\$125 for NCJW member if paid by 12/17/23 after this date, ticket price is \$150

BEE VOLK ANGEL PATRONS

APRIL 17, 2024

The Bee Volk Angel Patrons event has been a tradition for NCJW in Sarasota since 1992 when Bernice Volk was president. Bee saw the need for additional funds to guarantee the support of NCJW projects. When she reached out to members, they responded generously, and Bee wanted to reward them. She decided to dub all the special contributors “Angels,” a term she knew was used for the “angels” who supported Broadway productions. The “angels” were feted with an afternoon tea and entertainment in a member’s home at the first Angel Patrons gathering. The event was so well received that it has become an annual event when Board and committee members prepare a gathering in appreciation of members who give beyond annual dues.

We are proud to announce that **Vickie Oldham**, President and CEO of the Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition, Inc. will be the featured speaker

on April 17, 2024. Oldham is the driving force behind the Coalition’s landmark museum celebrating the cultural, artistic, and historical heritage of Sarasota’s African American community. The museum collection will be housed in the historic Leonard Reid House when it opens later this year. The house has already been moved to its permanent location in the heart of Sarasota’s historically Black neighborhood of Newtown.

Oldham, a native Sarasotan, is foremost a journalist. She holds a degree in telecommunications from the University of Florida and a Master of Fine Arts from Florida State University’s Conservatory of Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts. She served as a reporter and TV host at the local ABC affiliate and hosted the TV show “Common Ground.” Oldham spearheaded the historic preservation project “Newtown Alive.” She will speak about her own roots here and of the history

of the black community in Sarasota as well as describe the progress of the new Sarasota African American Cultural Arts Center and History Museum.

We very much look forward to your becoming an Angel Patron in support of the missions and activities of NCJW. If you would like to have the honor of hosting the 2024 Angel Patrons event in your home, please contact **Vivian Carasso**: vivi6778@aol.com or 917-365-5238. Please contact us if you would like to be part of the event committee.

Co-Chairs Bee Volk Angel Patrons

Marge Ellin
margellin@verizon.net

Marilyn Shapo
marilyn.shapo@gmail.com

NCJW AND The All American Read - In

For the past few years our section has participated in the All American Read-In at Alta-Vista Elementary School during February which is black history month.

The National All American Read-In is a groundbreaking effort to encourage communities to read together, centering on African American books and authors. It was established in 1990 by the

Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month. This initiative has reached more than 6 million participants around the world.

We would love to have you participate! Whether you are a seasoned Read-In reader or a first-time reader, we welcome you and appreciate you supporting

our Read-In, spending time with students, and encouraging a love of reading!

If this interests you please contact **Joan Bour** (joanbour5@yahoo.com) or **Rachel Sesser** (rwsesser@gmail.com). Look for further information is an elblast in January.

Continued on page 13

Blankee Bee

The Blankee Bee Project, which consists of making no sew fleece blankets, was very active last year. We made Blankets for Cancer Patients and completed 57 blankets for the children at the Selby Preschool which is located on the campus of The Haven.

This year we will be making Blankets for the campers at Camp Mariposa. These blankets are partially completed by us and then completed by the campers.

Join us for this heartwarming project. No skills required. We meet on the second Tuesday of

the month at Temple Emanuel-El from 1:00 PM – 3:00PM starting November 14, 2023.

If you are interested in this fun activity, please contact **Gail Klein:** GailKlein7@gmail.com or **Joan Bour:** joanbour5@yahoo.com

Children First Book Drive

We are excited to partner with Children First for our Annual book drive to promote literacy. This event will be coordinated by **Sheila Birnbaum**. More information will be provided by **Barbara Aferiat** barbara@afariat.com as we get closer to the dates for the book drive.



HIPPY

HIPPY, the acronym for The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters is a program developed in Israel and brought to the United States by NCJW in the early 1980's. HIPPY is a home-based, early intervention program to help parents create experiences that lay the foundation for success in school.

we were able to provide a 5 day supply of socks and underwear for all the children enrolled in Sarasota and Manatee HIPPY.

Human Trafficking committee presented their program to 70 parents in English and Spanish with Selah Freedom.

Another important way in which we have been able to support HIPPY was presenting a Human Trafficking program as requested by the HIPPY parents. The NCJW

Please contact **Barbara Aferiat:** barbara@afariat.com if you would like more information about how you can help with HIPPY.

Our Sarasota-Manatee section supports HIPPY in many ways.

We donate backpacks with school supplies for children graduating into kindergarten.

The directors of Sarasota and Manatee HIPPY informed us that the children were in critical need of socks and underwear. With generous donations from members,



The JANET Project

(Jewish Action For Non-Violent Expression Of Tweens/Teens)

In 2016, we created a new NCJW project that connected us with JFCS's Camp Mariposa. Since then, NCJW has provided camp scholarships for one or two campers per year and are thrilled that we were able to provide two scholarships last year and this year. Also, NCJW recently provided funding to JFCS to help with their purchase of a Silent Disco Headphone Bundle for the Tween campers.

Camp Mariposa has resumed monthly on-site weekend camp sessions—one for the Tweens, ages 9-12; and one for the Teens, ages

13-17. These local at-risk youth are affected by their guardians' abuses of drugs, alcohol, and, at times, incarcerations. At these camp sessions, the children are provided support for addiction and mentoring programs by professional counselors and therapists. Campers learn lifetime coping skills, and they participate in regular camp activities, which provide them with opportunities to "spread their wings" and just be kids!

In the past, our members have volunteered and conducted programs in music, crafts, art, dog

therapy, Blankee-Bee projects, and photography. We are taking a Blankee-Bee project to the Tween camp in January, 2024, and are exploring with the Camp Director other activity ideas.

We can use your help, too! Please contact one of our Co-Chairs to volunteer for a short camp session (1 to 3 hours) with your talent or skill. These 9-to-17-year-olds need you and your compassion!

Barbara Berkowitz
barbb707@gmail.com

Myna Stoltz
mynajeffrey@gmail.com



Barbara Berkowitz and Myna Stoltz, Co-Chairs, The JANET Project, presented to Helene Lotman, CEO and President, JFCS, and Scott Ruggieri, Director of Camp Mariposa, NCJW's 2023 check for two scholarships.

Continued on page 15

The Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee has had a very productive and fulfilling year. We provide needs based scholarships to Sarasota-Manatee residents who are at least 24 years of age and striving to earn a post high school non-graduate degree.

We were able to provide scholarships to 6 very deserving individuals. This year all our awardees were in the medical field and are overcoming many difficulties in order to meet their dreams.

Here are some quotes from the

thank you notes the awardees sent us:

“Your generous gift has changed my life and I will never forget it.”

“I will also pay your help forward.”

“I have had many highs and lows the past couple of years, but this moment surely feels like I am on top of Mt. Everest.”

The committee has been able to provide these scholarships due to the generous donations of NCJW members and the community.

As the keynote speaker (a 2020 scholarship winner) told us at this year’s awards ceremony, this scholarship helped her overcome addiction and homelessness to earn her counseling degree. Now she is helping others overcome these same obstacles.

Please join us as either a donor and/or committee member. Helping these individuals is a meaningful way to fulfill the NCJW goal of “improving the quality of life for women, children and families”.

Take a Look – Buy a Book

Won't you please help by donating a new book for a child? We are pleased to continue our partnership with JFCS in their initiative to end illiteracy in our community by providing new books to children.

You can do this by purchasing and donating books for children from Pre-K- Grade 5.

Sheila Birnbaum, our member and Project Manager who founded the program, “Take a Look-Buy

a Book’ continues to work with the Sarasota Manatee business community seeking donations and partnerships. This year there were over 4000 books donated to children served by the various programs of JFCS.

Can you imagine the smile on the faces of children receiving their very own book? Many for the first time! Watch for information coming in a January e-blast about making your

donation. Please know that we will accept new book donations at any time. Contact **Barbara Aferiat**: barbara@afariat.com for information on ways in which you can help.

Purchase a Tribute Card and Support NCJW

Support NCJW through the purchase of Tribute Cards. Sympathy, congratulations, honors, thank you notes, birthday wishes, get well, and other acknowledgments can be sent with a minimum contribution of \$12.00 for an individual card or \$60.00 for 6 cards. Please contact Debbie Silver Heller by email or phone and cards will be sent to you. They will also be available at all meetings and events. Thank you for supporting NCJW.

Debbie Silver Heller dsilver810@aol.com or 941-993-1334

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THE 2023 Special Events

WOMEN IN POWER

The 41st Women in Power luncheon was held at Michael's on East on January 18, 2023. The event was very well attended. Last year was the "Year of the Child." Our honorees, **Beth Duda, Amanda Horne, Janet Kahn, Dr. Wendy Katz, and Jone Williams** were thrilled to receive their awards for their outstanding work with children and families.

We were fortunate to have some generous sponsors for this event. The proceeds have enabled us to fund the various community and children's projects that NCJW supports, and some additional ones.

All the incredible table decorations were also donated

to Children First, "Take A Look Buy A Book," HIPPY and Second Chance-Last Opportunity.

Thank you to an incredible committee led by **Joan Bour** and **Joyce Hersh** and all who supported the event.

BEE VOLK ANGEL PATRONS

The 2023 Bee Volk Angel Patrons Sunday Brunch was held on April 2, at the beautiful home of **Joan Bour**.

Following a tradition since 1992, Board and committee members bake, cook, and create centerpieces for this intimate event to recognize members who have given beyond their annual dues. Members attending the brunch were treated to delicious home baked and savory foods.

After brunch, **Teresa Carson**, one of our guest speakers, talked about the evolution of "Art In Common Places," a concept that was founded in February 2020, by **Cynthia Burnell, Leslie Butterfield, and Teresa Carson**. Their mission was to put art in public places – such as laundromats, public housing, car washes, medical offices - so that all would have the ability to encounter art in their daily lives.

Thank you, **Lauren Brownstein** and **Cindy Solomon** and their incredible committee who helped make this event so successful and enjoyable and to all who supported the event.



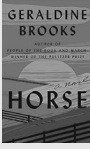

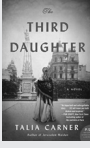
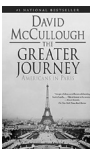



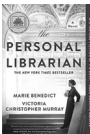
NCJW BOOK CLUB 2023/2024 Schedule

Gulf Gate Library | 7112 Curtiss Ave. | Sarasota, FL 34231
1:00 p.m.

Join us for lunch at KeKe's (3456 Clark Road, Sarasota, FL 34231) at 12:00 noon prior to the book discussion meetings.

Questions? Contact **Michelle Rosenthal:** oceanrose103@yahoo.com OR
Susan Horwitz sbhorwitz55@gmail.com

Please email **Susan** at bhorwitz55@gmail.com if joining the lunch.

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	FACILITATOR	
10/9/2023	Horse	Geraldine Brooks	Ellie Goldberg	
11/13/2023	The Lost Girls of Willowbrook	Ellen Marie Weisman	Risa Marlen	
12/11/2023	The Third Daughter	Talia Carner	Barbara Aferiat	
1/8/2024	The Great Journey: Americans In Paris	David Mccullough	Jeri Lipov	
2/12/2024	Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow	Gabrielle Zevin	Bonnie Polishuk	
3/11/2024	The Rose Code	Kate Quinn	Karen Pariser	
4/8/2024	Lessons In Chemistry	Bonnie Garmus	Michelle Rosenthal	
5/3/2024	The Personal Librarian	Maria Benedict	Adrienne Friedman	

National Council of Jewish Women
Sarasota-Manatee Section
BOARD ROSTER 2023-2024

OFFICERS

Position	Name	Phone	E-Mail
Co-Presidents	Lauren Brownstein	617-733-4773	laurenbrownstein@ymail.com
	Marion Marshak	631-834-0702	marjmar7@aol.com
	Cindy Solomon	203-253-9901	cindysolomon42@gmail.com
VP Administration	Ann Penn	540-314-8639	acpenn48@gmail.com
VP Advocacy	Deena Dell	215-740-1923	deenaddell@gmail.com
	Pam Gordon	248-770-7066	gordon.pam7@gmail.com
	Laurie Criden	716-208-6233	laurie725@gmail.com
VP Communications	Joan Bour	407-413-0058	joanbour5@yahoo.com
Co-VP Community Service	Rachel Sesser	973-953-3692	rwsesser@gmail.com
	Nancy Bortinger	201-805-5119	nancybortinger@gmail.com
Co-VP Membership	Brenda Gimán	480-370-5340	brendanamig@gmail.com
VP Programming	Vivian Carasso	917-365-5238	vivi6778@aol.com
VP Special Events	Ann Penn	540-314-8639	acpenn48@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary	Marilyn Frankel	315-413-9372	mfrankel13@verizon.net
Financial Secretary	Carole Shaw	248-770-1602	cms1941@icloud.com
Parliamentarian	Joan Goodis	916-223-8256	jgoodis@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Greta Roberts	941-893-5447	migdador@mac.com
	Evie Batten	330-421-9553	saramanatreasurer5119@gmail.com
Treasurer			

COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

Position	Name	Phone	E-Mail
VP Administration	Ann Penn	540-314-	acpenn48@gmail.com
Installation Chair	Brenda Gimán	480-370-5340	brendanamig@gmail.com
	Ann Penn	540-314-8639	acpenn48@gmail.com
	Rachel Sesser	973-953-3692	rwsesser@gmail.com
Nominating Committee-chair	Roz Hopp	941-350-9012	rhopp4@comcast.net
Nominating-General	Greta Roberts	941-893-5447	migdador@mac.com
	Meryl Taback	248-505-7488	taback@gmail.com
	Deena Dell	215-740-1923	deenaddell@gmail.com
Nominating-Board	Pam Gordon	248-770-7066	gordon.pam7@gmail.com
	Carole Shaw	248-770-1602	cms1941@icloud.com

ADVOCACY

Co-VP Advocacy	Deena Dell	215-740-1923	deenaddell@gmail.com
	Pam Gordon	248-770-7066	gordon.pam7@gmail.com
FL Legislative Chair			
Gun Violence Prevention	Cheryl Rudin	716-510-8707	cherneil49@gmail.com
	Rabbi Jennifer Singer	941-544-4189	srqrabbi@gmail.com
Hate Crimes Prevention			
Human Trafficking	Ilene Gelber	716-510-0113	igelber@verizon.net
Israel Granting Program			
Jews for Abortion Access			
Lunch & Learn	Joyce Hersh	941-260-8723	ahersh0406@gmail.com
Voter Engagement			

Web Site: <http://ncjwsarasota-manatee.org>

Hot Line: 941-342-1855

COMMUNICATIONS

VP Communications	Laurie Criden	716-208-6233	laurie725@gmail.com
Directory	Sandra Sosinski	609-575-3148	sandra.sosinski@gmail.com
Chai Chain of Life	Janet Moses	216-973-4029	homeofjlbm@aol.com
Hot Line	Barby Comins	941-921-4544	babs444@msn.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Co-VP Community Service	Joan Bour	407-413-0058	joanbour5@yahoo.com
	Rachel Sesser	973-953-3692	rwsesser@gmail.com
Blankee Bee	Gail Klein	941-360-2602	gailklein7@gmail.com
Book Drive			
Children First			
HIPPY	Barbara Aferiat	703-338-7112	barbara@aferiat.com
Hope Family Services			
Hope House	Rosalie Leon	941-356-1801	roboat52@gmail.com
	Sue Reiss	941-374-0219	sueartie@yahoo.com
JANET Project	Barbara Berkowitz	941-918-4332	barbb707@gmail.com
	Myna Stoltz	941-966-3532	mynajeffrey@gmail.com
Scholarship Chairs	Lois Lewis	518-441-5693	lois.lewis107@gmail.com
	Bonnie Polishuk	310-704-2283	bpolishuk@msn.com
	Rookie Shifrin	847-224-5010	rookies@me.com

Second Chance/Sandwiches

MEMBERSHIP

VP Membership	Nancy Bortinger	201-805-5119	nancybortinger@gmail.com
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PROGRAMS

VP Programming	Brenda Gimán	480-370-5340	brendanamig@gmail.com
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SPECIAL EVENTS

VP Special Events	Vivian Carasso	917-365-5238	vivi6778@aol.com
Bee Volk Angel Patrons	Marge Ellin	941-957-6422	margellin@verizon.net
	Marilyn Shapo	786-256-3593	mariron@verizon.net
Book Club	Susan Horwitz	508-733-3250	sbhorwitz55@gmail.com
	Michelle Rosenthal	609-306-8383	oceanrose103@yahoo.com
Tribute Cards Chair	Debbie Silver-Heller	941-993-1334	dsilver810@aol.com
Women in Power	Vivian Carasso	917-365-5238	vivi6778@aol.com
	Carole Shaw	248-770-1602	cms1941@icloud.com
	Rookie Shifrin	847-224-5010	rookies@me.com

PAST PRESIDENTS

Ex-Officio	Rachel Sesser	973-953-3692	rwsesser@gmail.com
Ex-Officio	Cindy Solomon	203-253-9901	cindysolomon42@gmail.com
Ex-Officio	Joyce Hersh	941-260-8723	ahersh0406@gmail.com
Ex-Officio	Joan Bour	407-413-0058	joanbour5@yahoo.com
Ex-Officio	Lauren Brownstein	617-733-4773	laurenbrownstein@ymail.com
Ex-Officio	Marion Marshak	631-834-0702	marjmar7@aol.com
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Ex-Officio	Debbie Engleson		
Ex-Officio	Bonnie Sussman	941-242-0833	sussbon62@gmail.com
Ex-Officio	Cecile Alexander	941-926-7799	sdcalexander@verizon.net
Ex-Officio	Barbara Berkowitz	941-918-4332	barbb707@gmail.com
Ex-Officio	Marge Ellin	941-957-6422	margellin@verizon.net
Ex-Officio	Millie Fisher	941-349-4442	dearie303@gmail.com



National Council of Jewish Women
Sarasota-Manatee Section

**A FAITH IN THE FUTURE
A BELIEF IN ACTION**

PO Box 3641
Sarasota, FL 34230-3641

941-342-1855

<https://ncjwsarasota-manatee.org>



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NCJW SARASOTA-MANATEE SECTION CALENDAR 2023-2024

September 13, 2023	BOARD MEETING	10 a.m. on Zoom
September 20, 2023	NCJW OPENING MEETING	Entertainment and Speaker by the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe and Showcasing NCJW's Projects. At the WBT'T Tour of Theatre available after
1:00 p.m.		
October 11, 2023	BOARD MEETING	10 a.m. on Zoom
October 18, 2023	ADVOCACY MEETING SUBJECT: "TAKE A WALK IN MY SHOES"	Panel Discussion on stopping hate at Unitarian Universalist Church 3:30-5:30 p.m.
November 14, 2023	BLANKEE BEE	at Temple Emanu- El 1:00-3:00 p.m.
November 15, 2023	BOARD MEETING	10:00 a.m. in person at TPC Prestancia (Before Members Only Luncheon)
November 15, 2023	MEMBERS ONLY LUNCHEON	Dr. Rachel Zohar Dulin, Ph.D. Topic: The Relevance of Biblical Women Stories to Modern Time 12:00 p.m. at TPC Prestancia
December 12, 2023	BLANKEE BEE	at Temple Emanu-EL 1:00-3:00
December 13, 2023	BOARD MEETING	10:00 a.m. on Zoom
December 20, 2023	COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM	Speaker Kayla Terrel, Director of Development for Hope Hous on Zoom
January 9, 2024	BLANKEE BEE	at Temple Emanu-El 1:00-3:00 p.m.
January 10, 2024	BOARD MEETING	10 a.m. on Zoom
January 17, 2024	WIP HONOREES LUNCHEON	theme Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Michael's on East at 11:30 a.m.
January 31, 2024	LUNCH & LEARN	Tour of Embracing Our Differences Exhibit 10:30 a.m., lunch TBD
February 13, 2024	BLANKEE BEE	at Temple Emanu-El 1:00-3:00 p.m.
February 21, 2024	BOARD MEETING	In Person 10:00 a.m. Details to come
February 21, 2024	ADVOCACY PROGRAM "COURT MATTER"	Details to come
March 12, 2024	BLANKEE BEE	at Temple Emanu-El 1:00-3:00 p.m.
March 13, 2024	BOARD MEETING	on Zoom 10:00 a.m.
March 20, 2024	SCHOLARSHIP AWARD EVENT	6:00-8:00 p.m. at Lakehouse Cove Boathouse
April 3, 2024	LUNCH & LEARN	Presentation from NA'AMAT. Details to come
April 9, 2024	BLANKEE BEE	at Temple Emanu-El 1:00-3:00 p.m.
April 10, 2024	BOARD MEETING	on Zoom 10 a.m.
April 17, 2024	BEE VOLK ANGEL PATRONS PROGRAM	Details to come
May 1, 2024	INSTALLATION	TBD
May 14, 2024	BLANKEE BEE	at Temple Emanu-El 1:00-3:00 p.m.
June 11, 2024	BLANKEE BEE	at Temple Emanu-El 1:00-3:00 p.m.
	PB&j SANDWICH BRIGADE	10:00-12:00 p.m. delivered to Second Chance Last Opportunity done at various members' homes TBD.

Dates: Nov. 14, 2023, Dec. 12, 2023, Jan. 9, 2024, Feb. 13, 2024, Mar. 12, 2024, Apr. 9, 2024, May 14, 2024, Jun. 11, 2024