The Jewish Women’s Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago seeks to expand and improve opportunities and choices in all aspects of Jewish women and girls’ lives through strategic and effective grant-making. The Jewish Women’s Foundation empowers women as funders and decision makers.

Since 1997, the JWF has raised an endowment of over $8.7 million and awarded over $2.4 million in grants to projects that promote the health, status, and economic power of Jewish women and girls around the world.

Jewish Women’s Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
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Gender Index: Tracking the Status of Women and Girls in Israel: Naomi Chazan

In 2012, the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute launched an unprecedented effort to study and track rates of gender inequality in Israel. By examining a myriad of issues including women’s economic security, political representation, health outcomes, and rates of interpersonal violence, this new resource provides a snapshot of the status of women and girls throughout the country. This session will present some of the report’s key findings and recommendations for legislative, policy and programmatic reform.

Naomi Chazan was a Knesset Member for three terms, from 1992-2003 serving as Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, and member of the Economics, Foreign Affairs and Defense, Education, Immigration, and Status of Women committees. She was a founder of the Israel Women’s Network and member of the Israeli delegation to the UN Conferences on Women in Nairobi and Beijing. She is a past President of the New Israel Fund. Naomi is professor emerita of Political Science and African Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and Dean of the School of Government and Society at the Academic College of Tel-Aviv-Yaffo.

Empowering Jewish Teens: Deborah Meyer

We are familiar with many of the issues teen girls struggle with, but in today’s 24/7 plugged in culture they are becoming even more complicated. This session will provide an update on universal coming-of-age issues such as body image, friendships, sexuality and stress, and identify ways we as a concerned community can help our Jewish teens navigate their world.

Deborah Meyer is the Founder and Executive Director of Moving Traditions, a Jewish education organization dedicated to advocating for a more expansive view of gender in Jewish learning and practice. Meyer has over 25 years of experience building non-profits, primarily women’s and Jewish organizations. She helped launch Rosh Hodesh: It’s a Girl Thing!, a program previously funded by JWF Chicago, and began research that led to the development of Shvet Achim: The Brotherhood, Moving Traditions’ flagship programs. Meyer holds an M.A. in Communication from Emerson College.

Every Day is Election Day: Women, Leadership and Influence: Rebecca Sive

Studies show that women’s leadership is vital to advancing the status of women and girls and transforming institutions, policies, and communities. This session will present practical tips for any woman interested in achieving a leadership position, and will inspire us all to stand up, stand out and advance the issues we care about.

A public affairs strategist, University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy faculty member, and women’s political advocate, Rebecca Sive presents strategies for transforming institutions, politics and philanthropy through women’s leadership. In recognition of her leadership, she has received many awards, including distinguished achievement awards from her undergraduate and graduate alma mater, Carleton College and the University of Illinois, the United Negro College Fund, Jaycees and theYWCA. Rebecca is listed in Feminists Who Changed America, and is the author of Every Day Is Election Day.

Myths and Truths about Women and Money: Helanie Olen

What messages do we hear about women and money and what is the reality? This session will expand our understanding of financial literacy, explore the real impacts of continuing gender discrimination, and identify ways we can change the dialogue.

Helaine Olen is the author of Pound Foolish: Exposing the Dark Side of the Personal Finance Industry. A New York based journalist, she’s currently a regular contributor to the The Great Debate and Equals blogs at Reuters. Her work on personal finance, economics, feminism, politics, parenting and career advice have been published in numerous print and online publications including The New York Times, the Guardian, Slate, Salon and Pacific Standard. Business Insider calls her one of the “50 Women Who Are Changing the World.”

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