

# GLEF NEWSLETTER



## Welcome!

NEALE STEINIGER  
GLEF PRESIDENT 2021-2023

### SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT'S INSIDE:

#### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### 2022 AWARDEES

#### DEADLINE FOR 2023 GRANTS

#### SPECIAL GRANT INFORMATION

Congratulations on the 2nd edition of the GLEF Newsletter. We look forward to exploring creative ways to fundraise so we can continue to support women in reaching their educational goals.

When last we heard from the Awardees of 2021, Kimberly Corrie was planning to graduate in May 2021 with a Masters in Social Work, Cassandra Rampino was planning to work at a Mental health clinic in NYC and provide support to adolescents (Oh, do we need her in NYC), Shannon Poulouse was a 3rd year medical student accepted in the prestigious Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Program at the CUNY School of Medicine, and Jamilia Thompson was on track to graduate in December 2021 from the Construction Administration Master of Science Program at Columbia.

It was wonderful to meet Cassandra, Jamila, and Shannon at our Zoom Annual Meeting in May of 2021 and Aylah Loewenstein, Viviana Najera, Kate Meltzer, and Wilmary Rodriguez at our Annual Meeting in May 2022.

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# President's Message (continued)

We thought about having an in-person at this year's Annual Meeting but considered the advantages of a virtual meeting and decided that Zoom makes it possible for us to meet past and current awardees. We have switched to zoom for our two board meetings each year - weighing the cost, time, and organizational efficiencies. Traveling up to 4 hours (each way) for a 2-hour board meeting lost out to sitting comfortably (with a cup of coffee) and clicking on a link. But we do miss seeing each other so we are also planning to meet in June at the in-person Annual Conference of New York State Women, inc. (a partnership organization of which many of us are members) and hopefully our new awardees will be able to come.

So, please save the date - - May 20th, 2023, 10am GLEF Zoom Annual Meeting - - we look forward to seeing our board members, our friends and partners, our new awardees, and many of our past awardees.

Neale Steiniger  
GLEF President 2021-23

## 2023 Graduate Fellowships available for NYS Women

The NY Grace Le Gendre Endowment Fund, Inc. (GLEF), announces the availability of fellowships. The application form for the 2023 (GLEF) awards, is now available for viewing and download at the website ([www.gracelegendre.org/fellowships](http://www.gracelegendre.org/fellowships)).

Fellowships are awarded annually for graduate study to qualified women. In the spring of 2023, four fellowships will be awarded in the amount of one at \$2000 and three at \$1500.

Applications are welcomed from women who are United States citizens, residents in New York State, have a bachelor's degree, are currently enrolled, and have already completed at least one semester in an advanced graduate degree program at an accredited New York State college or university.

Applicants must show evidence of scholastic ability and a need for financial assistance and will complete their studies no later than 2025.

Completed applications and supplemental material must be submitted by February 28, 2023. Address questions about the fellowship program to Eugenia Barnaba, Chair, NY Grace Le Gendre Endowment Fellowship Committee, email [emb6@cornell.edu](mailto:emb6@cornell.edu).

## Update from Special Grants

The NY Grace Legendre Endowment Fund, Inc. announces the availability of the Special Grants Packet. The application form for the 2023 Award is now available for viewing and downloading at their website. ([www.gracelegendre.org/grants](http://www.gracelegendre.org/grants))

Special Grants are awarded to organizations that sponsor educational or research opportunities which would further the advancement of women. Requests range from \$100.00 but not to exceed \$500.00. The program for which the grant is awarded must be completed in one year.

Complete application, written plan, budget, publicity, and evaluation process should be submitted by March 31, 2023. Questions about the Special Grants program can be addressed with Mary Ellen Morgan, Chair of the Special Grants Committee, email [dmmea@aol.com](mailto:dmmea@aol.com) or phone at 315-536-8440.



# GLEF 2022 AWARDEES

## AYLA LOEWENSTEIN

My name is Aylah Loewenstein, and I will be walking at the May 2022 commencement ceremony as a graduate of the Mental Health Counseling Program at SUNY Oswego. While I have found the experience of graduate school to be deeply fulfilling as a whole, my clinical internship has been the most formative experience for me throughout. During my internship, I had the privilege of working with a variety of clinical populations, including individuals suffering from personality and substance use disorders, as well as anxiety and depression. To sit across from a client as they share their pain, their joy, and their dreams is an honor and the fulfillment of my vocational purpose.

In addition to working in a traditional one-on-one therapy role during my internship, I also founded a bi-monthly therapy group for young adults on the autism spectrum, which is still running today. This group functions as a rare safe space for members of an underserved population to socialize and share their feelings. In addition to working with adults and teens, I am also trained in child-centered play therapy, which uses the language of play to process trauma in children between the ages of three and 12.

It is my hope to be able to continue to offer care to a neurodiverse clientele in the upcoming limited permit residency stage of my career as well as in my further future as a private practitioner. Today, as mental healthcare is daily achieving greater recognition as an essential aspect of self-care, I am excited to be entering the field and am looking forward to a long career in service to my community. I would like to thank the NY Grace Legendre Endowment Fund for recognizing my potential and for their generous donation toward my development as a therapist.



# GLEF 2022 AWARDEES (CONTINUED)

## KATE MELTZER



Kate Meltzer is a graduate student at Fordham University studying clinical social work. She is the Director of Operations and a Care Advocate at Future Centered Care, a company that provides skill training and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Kate has a few clients in Westchester who she writes and implements care plans for, under the supervision of a licensed social worker. She also works part-time at Congregation Beth Elohim as the Mental Health Coordinator and Teen Leadership Program Supervisor.

Kate currently volunteers as a mentor for Kol Koleinu's Teen Feminist Fellowship, where she is helping teen girls develop a social justice project around sexual harassment and feminism. She keeps a full plate, with the trick being her enthusiasm for all of her projects. Kate received her Bachelor's Degree in sociology from Hunter College with a concentration in psychology. Kate is a certified Rape Crisis Counselor and spent a year volunteering with New York Presbyterian Methodist Hospital counseling patients in the emergency department prior to starting graduate school. Kate also interned at St. Vincent's Hospital on the Crisis Prevention and Response Team, where she assisted in evaluating patients with mental health challenges. She is a grateful fellowship recipient of the Grace LeGendre Endowment Fund.



# GLEF 2022 AWARDEES (CONTINUED)

## VIVIANA NAJERA

Viviana is a first-generation college student pursuing her Master of Social Work at Columbia University. She grew up in Compton, California, where her passion for serving underrepresented communities began. Viviana is passionate about creating equitable outcomes for underserved populations through social, economic, and political advocacy. She believes in the need for equity and has dedicated herself to uplifting and leveling out the playing field for minority groups through improved educational outcomes, increased access to mental health services, and advancing policies that help support marginalized communities.



Upon completing her degree, Viviana aims to become a Licensed Clinical Social worker (LCSW) where she will continue to increase the representation of Latinx women in the mental health field. As a LCSW, she will provide services that are culturally and linguistically tailored to communities of color, specifically Latinx individuals.

In her spare time, Viviana likes to immerse herself in the New York City culture and continues to work in the community providing therapy to children and families.

# GLEF 2022 AWARDEES (CONTINUED)

## WILMARY RODRIGUEZ

Wilmary Rodriguez is a NYC foster care alumnus with international experience in the child welfare system. After graduating from Bard College with a major in Psychology in 2018, she went on a year-long fellowship as a Watson Scholar. As a recipient of the Watson Fellowship, she worked with five different foster care systems in India, Uganda, Costa Rica, Perú, and the Philippines.



Since returning from the fellowship, Wilmary has been working in the NYC foster care system. She currently works full-time as a Socio-Therapist for children in foster care and is getting her Master's degree in Social Work and Public Policy from Columbia University. Her dream is to continue to work on the ground while also helping to write policies that are directly informed by children, families, and workers with direct experience in the child welfare system.