

RUTHIE KALAI, LCSW

It is with real pleasure and gratitude that we honor Ruthie Kalai, LCSW, the Chair of our Westchester chapter's Education Committee.

Ruthie has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 20 years of experience working with children, adolescents and adults. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Florida International University and also holds two Master's Degrees: one in Social Work from New York University, and one in Educational Leadership from Lehman College. She has been a member of the Westchester chapter since 2020.

Ruthie started her "virtual" private practice in 2017 when she needed to travel to Florida for weeks at a time to care for family members. She became an independent contractor for one of the bigger tele-mental health companies and was able to use their technology to offer video/phone sessions. Later, when working independently, she always used Zoom to hold her sessions. Her comfort and confidence in applying this modality in her work was very reassuring as we chapter members adjusted to providing Zoom-based service to our clients in this Covid environment.

Ruthie quickly stepped up to become Chair of our Education Committee when that position became available. Education Committee meets monthly and is our chapter's most active and enriching group of volunteers. Before Covid, we sponsored nine in-person CEU presentations per year, more than any other chapter. Currently, we sponsor four CEU presentations per year through NYSSCSW's Saturday Zoom events. In her position, Ruthie is liaison to

ACE staff to assure that the complex requirements for such presentations are satisfied.

Ruthie additionally is our chapter's Zoom host for monthly Board meetings and for other chapter events. And she does all this with grace and good humor!

We thank you Ruthie for your years of service to our chapter and to NYSSCSW, and we are proud to honor you today.

RUTHIE KALAI