## NCJŠ

National Council of Jewish Women Greater Philadelphia Section

# Bulletin

### A FAITH IN THE FUTURE A BELIEF IN ACTION<sup>®</sup>

November 2017

We're Connected Call us at 215-302-3586 Visit us at ncjwphiladelphia.org

#### THE ASSAULT ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

3 FLYERS INSIDE

OUR NCJW GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION SET THE STAGE FOR OUR 2017-2018 YEAR WITH PROGRAMS THAT INSPIRE MEMBERS' INTEREST AND COMMITMENT FOR POLITICAL ACTIVISM THAT ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE!

We've seen

WOMEN IN POLITICS (panel discussion)

The MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. (tour) YOU BE THE JUDGE. (audience participation)

## Don't miss

ALICE PAUL AND THE AMERICAN SUFFRAGETTE MOVEMENT on November 21

NOTE: League of Women Voters information relevant to judgeships and to a ballot question, a referendum on an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution that would affect property taxes, can be found on page 5 along with notes from our Legislative Chair, Linda Lempert.



### **GO** EMPOWER THE MISSION OF NCJW: A FAITH IN THE FUTURE: A BELIEF IN ACTION.

#### **VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7!**

#### WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

Given that all elections are referendums on representative government, the stakes are especially high. According to FairDistricts PA, a non-partisan citizen-led group, our state has the most egregious gerrymandering in the country. Voices of voters have been nullified by the redistricting created by our state legislatures. (Go to <u>fairdistrictspa.com</u> for more information). FairDistrictsPA's goal hinges on a change to the state constitution before the next redistricting to take place after the 2020 census. That means action is needed now! A substantial voter turnout will send a strong message to our legislators.

Courts matter in this election. To illustrate, it was the Vermont State Supreme Court which ruled that the state's prohibition on same-sex marriage violated that state's constitution. In North Carolina a lower court ruled in 2013 that the voter ID law was unconstitutional and discriminated against blacks. The state legislators' response was a plan to take up redistricting in January and end judicial elections altogether giving the assembly the power to appoint judges, in effect politicizing judges.

#### President's Message

As we conclude the month of our Jewish Holidays, we now start anew. Sitting in the Sukkah which represents the harvest, I reflected about what it is that I will be harvesting this coming year and what we, in NCJW, will be harvesting. I feel so grateful to harvest my family, my NCJW sisters, and now new relationships with so many of you.

Each day, I see how hard our volunteers and advocates work to reach out to all of you and to our coalition partners, as they work to educate, advocate, plan and offer community service to those in need. Our Board of Directors did not hesitate to send funds to help the victims of both hurricanes and now we will be helping the people of Puerto Rico. Along with many of you, we put together school back packs for the children of our adopted Philadelphia

Ben Franklin Elementary School. I am proud to say that the number of volunteers tutoring in that school has increased due to the hard work of our PACS Vice Presidents: Susan Horwitz and Charlotte Schwartz.

Harvesting the growth of our monthly programs are our Program Vice Presidents: Joyce Eveloff, Char Kurland and Margie Zukerman, who organized an incredible opening program about WOMEN IN POLITICS. How empowering that was and judging by the turnout and reaction of so many of you, we can look forward to many more exciting programs.

A newly harvested project, one of its kind, was brought to our community by volunteers and advocates who put their time, energy and soul into providing our community a FREE outreach/educational program entitled, "You Be the Judge," with keynote speaker, the Honorable Marjorie O. Rendell. This **evening** program offered everyone an opportunity to understand how our federal judiciary works and how and why it is so vital to our lives. Once again, NCJW took the lead, and recruited like-minded coalition partners and sponsors who joined in creating this important project. All of us are grateful to the committee, Chaired by Eleanor Levy. Each member of this committee played an essential role in making this event successful. They are: Linda Lempert, our Legislative Chair, Lynne Jacobs, our State Policy Advocate and member of the NCJW National Board of Directors, Charlotte Schwartz, VP and Harriet Winokur, our Financial Secretary. We also thank coalition partners, Kadida Kenner from Why Courts Matter-PA and Kathy Beveridge, representing the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition for their work on this committee. We always are grateful to Zelda Stern, who for seven years now, has been harvesting our Ronald McDonald Guest Chef Breakfasts at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.What a Mitzvah this is to support and meet the families whose children are hospitalized.

Joan Sax and Lee Tonik, worked so hard to bring so many of you to the Museum of the American Revolution as part of our Taste of Culture programs. We thank them and Patti First, Fund Raising VP, for everything they do to keep our section strong.

Before long, we will be celebrating American Thanksgiving. Again, we will sit around tables with families and friends and be grateful for all we have. Let us continue to do what we can to see the results of our NCJW harvest, as we continue to provide for our communities. Thank YOU and I wish you a lovely Thanksgiving Holiday

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#### Barbara Nussbaum

#### Barbara Nussbaum President

Patti First Fundraising Vice President

Judy Fried Wendy Rader Membership Vice Presidents OFFICERS 2017-2018

Joyce Eveloff Charlene Kurland Margie Zukerman Program Vice Presidents

Susan Horwitz Charlotte Schwartz Public Affairs/Community Services Vice Presidents Pearl Tragash Treasurer

Harriet Winokur Financial Secretary

Cindi Pasceri Recording Secretary

Bobbie Berman Corresponding Secretary





Membership Dues: Annual \$40 (Be an Angel \$50) Lifetime \$350

As membership vice-presidents, we welcome our new members to call us regarding any questions you may have. Do You Know a Prospective Member? Please contact:

Wendy Rader at WRBarbieGirl50@gmail.com 215 657-9347 or Judy Fried at judyfried38@gmail.com 215 245-1309

We will be delighted to send out membership packets.

Please LIKE us on our Facebook page Search our full name "National Council Of Jewish Women Greater Philadelphia Section"

#### **VOLUNTEER and/or CONTRIBUTE**



Prepare breakfast for patients and their families as part of our NCJW Guest Chef Program at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House Four more Sunday mornings this year November 12 December 3 March 4 April 8

Please give me at least 2 weeks notice on date(s) you can participate. Thank you. Zelda Stern 215 947 2348

## Support Holocaust survivors and rescuers as they continue to educate school children throughout the Delaware Valley.



NCJW is asking anyone with a few hours to spare to sign up to The Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center. The center will be happy to train anyone who is willing to help whether it means driving and/or facilitating. Please contact me. I will be happy to share details with you. Thank you,

Susan Horwitz <u>horwitzsusan@yahoo.com</u>

#### Bring supplies for Dawn's Place

Household cleaners, laundry soap, dish liquid, paper napkins, paper towels, toilet paper (single-ply only!), personal grooming products... also NEW single bed sheets and non-perishable food coffee creamer.

#### Condolences:

To the Segal family on the passing of our member, Gussie Segal

To the Blumberg family on the passing of Life Member, member, Ellen Blumberg

To our members, Helen Feinberg and Susan Teich on the passing of husband and father, Sid Feinberg

Speedy recovery wishes to our member, Sheila Katz

Check out the NCJW Action Center at

http://action.ncjw.org/site/PageServer?pagename=NCJW\_homepage

For over a century, NCJW has been at the forefront of social change. NCJW members and supporters are outspoken champions for progressive policies at the federal, state, and local levels. Over the years, NCJW's collective voice has changed the world for the better -- impacting the lives of women, children, and families in the US and Israel.

Learn more. Speak out. And make your mark on history.

#### SAVE THE DATE

#### Wednesday, November 15 **Trivia Night- BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!** at Tavern on Pine

Tuesday, November 21 12:45 p.m. **Movie Day – "Iron Jawed Angels"** The Story of Alice Paul & the American Suffragette Movement **Free program Popcorn Included** Keneseth Israel

Tuesday, December 19 **Teresa Maebori A Japanese American Tells Her Story** Why It is Especially Important Today Keneseth Israel (Luncheon)

Program Details TO BE ANNOUNCED, But Save the Dates!

- Tuesday, January 16, 2018
- Tuesday, March 6, 2018
- Wednesday, April 11, 2018 (Evening Program)
- Thursday, May 3 2018 Painting with a Twist
- Tuesday, May 8, 2018
- Tuesday, June 5, 2018 (Closing Luncheon)

#### **Center City Book Club**

Wednesday, November 8, 7 p.m. Hillbilly Elegy by J.D.Vance Home of Laurie Lisa, the Warwick Discussion leader Joanne Stoloff

#### Afternoon Book Club

Thursday, November I 6 The Pearl That Broke Its Shell By Nadia Hashimi Thanks to Judy Wenzel and Roz Fudell for hosting recent meetings and Selma Tolin for facilitating.

#### **Evening Book Club**

Tuesday, November 14, 7:30 p.m. Norwegian by Night by Derek B. Miller RSVP to Evelyn at 215-884-8076 or goldhammer@comcast.net Thank you, Charlotte Schwartz for hosting the September meeting and to Faith Edelman for facilitating.

YOUR BOOKS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE ncjwphiladelphia.org With a couple of clicks, you can have books delivered from Amazon. Help our Section every time you shop Amazon Smile.



#### WE ARE ONLINE

~Photographs of member events supporting our goals ~An archive of NCJW Bulletins ~Legislative and Advocacy updates ~Notices and flyers for our fund-raising events

~Book Club links

~Volunteer Opportunities

~Options for Donations

We welcome your ideas to broaden our content! www.ncjwphiladelphia.org

If you have changed your address, phone number and/or email or if you hear of a member's passing, please contact Harriet Winokur via email at harrietwinokur@gmail.com

\$50 GIANT CASH CARDS GIANT cards are available to purchase. Please contact Roz Fudell. 267-419-8525 Celebrating a simcha or have one you would like the NCJW to recognize? What a great way to share by making a donation to our Section. Send your donation to: Pearl Tragash (215) 542 0595. We will make a note of it. An acknowledgement to you and the recipient is our pleasure.

#### A TUTORIAL FOR THE BALLOT BOX FROM OUR LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

## Nov. 7 Ballot Question, courtesy of the PA League of Women Voters with added comments and notes from Linda Lempert, NCJW legislative chair

"Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to permit the General Assembly to enact legislation authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation up to 100 percent of the assessed value of each homestead property with a local taxing jurisdiction, rather than limit the exclusion to one-half of the median assessed value of all homestead property, which is the existing law?" Yes or no.

## Note: Did you have trouble understanding the language of the ballot question, which is written for someone who has 18 years of education? Even if you have that much education, the legal jargon is overwhelming. Homestead? Why didn't they just say house?

This amendment modifies the constitutional requirement that all commercial property and homes be treated the same and it would be a first step in any effort to eliminate property taxation for homeowners altogether.

The amendment does not by itself eliminate property taxes, it merely authorizes the House of Representatives to enact implementing legislation giving local taxing authorities — county, municipal and/or school — the option to do so.

**Note:** Local governments have had the ability for two decades to exclude up to one half of the assessed value of their homes from the property tax. This ballot question would allow local authorities to eliminate up to 100% of the assessed value.

**Note:** Revenue from any property taxes eliminated in this manner must be made up through other means: i.e. state income taxes, sales taxes, sewer taxes....

Any alternative tax scheme requiring increases in income taxes and/or sales taxes would necessarily benefit senior citizens living on fixed incomes whose earning days are behind them while putting much more of the tax burden on young working families and in the case of a sales tax increase, on the poor.

Proponents say the amendment would the first step in changing the system so that an inability to pay property taxes could never again result in the loss of homes that people have worked their whole lives to pay for.

Opponents say that the amendment allows taxing authorities to replace a stable tax source (property) with unstable ones (income and sales taxes) that fluctuate with the economy and could be subject to legislative manipulation. Additionally, opponents fear that allowing districts to eliminate property taxation could lead to a loss of local control of education and to a significantly diminishing commitment to public education.

**Note**\* So, what does this actually mean? A yes vote would amend the PA Constitution clearing the way for legislators to totally eliminate the property tax for homeowners. Although this sounds good on the surface, it would totally strip funds that pay for teachers, police and firemen. As of now, the state funds a little over 40% of any given school district's budget. That leaves local communities to make-up for what the State doesn't provide. Without a way to levy taxes, local school districts will not be able to meet the educational needs of their communities. Providing a way for communities to eliminate property taxes without providing an alternative reliable source of funding for local schools in irresponsible. Our PA state legislature has yet to pass a responsible revenue source for the budget as of this date. Opening the door to totally eliminating property taxes does nothing more than destroy public education.

#### Why the Judges we vote for in Pennsylvania Courts matter

On September 28, 2017 the Supreme Court of PA issued a landmark decision. It ordered the PA Commonwealth Court\* to hold a full trial on Pennsylvania's school funding lawsuit. The Court agreed with the plaintiffs that education funding should be subject to judicial review. It ruled that the courts have a duty to ensure that the state's school funding system does not violate the state constitution or discriminate against students because of where they live or the wealth of their communities. This decision is a major help for public schools in PA. This trial will give families the opportunity to share their stories of how the deprivation in school caused by PA's grossly inadequate and discriminatory school funding system harms children throughout the commonwealth. This trial will shine a bright public light on the absolute failure of the Pennsylvania legislature to provide all school children with the resources they need in their classrooms.

To see the ratings for Judicial Candidates by the Pennsylvania Bar Association, read the full article on our website at: https://ncjwphiladelphia.org/?page\_id=505

Note: For a description of the PA court system, go to <u>www.pacourts.us/learn</u>.

Test your memory (once again) at



*Trívía Níght* Wednesday, November 15th, at 6:30 pm

## **Tavern on Pine**

2840 Pine Road Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006 (near Philmont CC)

Benefit NCJW by joining us for a fun-filled night of team competition, camaraderie and prizes. Bring your spouses and friends.

\$15 per person to play

Dinner on your own from open menu

### Mail your check payable to NCJW along with names of participants by **November 1st**

to:

Joan Sax 436 Kenwood Road Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

Questions...Joan Sax 215-947-9166 or e-mail to joansax@comcast.net

The National Council of Jewish Women Greater Philadelphia Section

Matinee Movie & Theater Snacks Tuesday, November 21, 2017 12:45 pm

## Iron Jawed Angels: The Story of Alice Paul and the American Suffragettes Movement

Starring Hilary Swank & Angelica Huston



Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel 8339 Old York Rd. Elkins Park, PA 19027 Main Auditorium

FREE --- FREE --- FREE Popcorn Included



## **RSVP** for Seating!

Mail to:

Margie Zukerman 5106 Meridian Blvd. Warrington, PA 18976

RSVP by Friday, November 17, 2017 – GUESTS WELCOME

Phone

Guests Names:

Questions? Call Margie Zukerman 267-261-7728

#### GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION of NCJW SPONSORS INTERACTIVE PROGRAM, "YOU BETHE JUDGE"

On October 17, 120 participants experienced first-hand what it is like to decide an important case that impacts our rights and way of life. Attendees served as panels of 'judges'', including a "Chief Justice''. Each panel examined and discussed the validity of a Wisconsin law requiring residents to present photo IDs in order to vote, and handed down a verdict. The panels were then apprised of the actual verdict handed down by the District Court and the Court of Appeals. By evening's end the crucial roles of the courts and their jurists were clear to all. "Judges who are appointed to the federal bench with their lifetime appointments will make decisions that will affect us, our children, and our grandchildren," noted Eleanor Levie, a volunteer advocate for the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). One of the program's featured speakers was Judge Marjorie O. Rendell of the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, which includes Pennsylvania., Judge Rendell differentiated the court's function as "a mouthpiece for the rule of law", from " the job of the legislative branch'," which is to do the will of the people". She addressed the importance of judges being empathetic and the benefit of diversity with regards to gender, race and past professional experience on the Bench.

Participants also heard from Kadida Kenner of WHY COURTS MATTER-PA., who addressed the process for federal judicial nominations whereby a president names his nominees and the senate is obligated to advise and consent-or dissent. She expressed an urgency for vigilance in wake of the recent nomination of judges based in Minnesota and Michigan without the consultation of their senators, which serves to undercut bi-partisanship and support extremism. This successful and remarkable event was due to the combined efforts of NCJW-Greater Philadelphia Section with Why Courts Matter-PA and the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition. Other co-sponsors included the Women's Law Project; the League of Women Voters of Abington, Cheltenham and Jenkintown; Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel; Salem Baptist Church of Jenkintown; American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, Philadelphia Lawyer Chapter; NAACP--PA State Conference; the Women's Center of Montgomery County; and the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Jewish Community Relations Council. It earned this tribute by Betsy Levinson: "This evening of learning was A#1 in every way. It underscored my many reasons for having joined NCJW". Through BenchMark NCJW's Judicial Nominations Campaign, grassroots volunteers and advocates have been a leading voice in the progressive community's fight to put its mark on the bench, ensuring a fair and independent judiciary with an unwavering commitment to constitutional rights.

Eleanor Levie



You Be The Judge Committee From left to right, Barbara Nussbaum President, NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section, Linda Lempert, Section Legislative Chairperson, Harriet Winokur, Section Financial Secretary, Charlotte Schwartz, Section Public Affairs/Community Services Vice President, Kathy Beveridge, representing the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition, Eleanor Levie, You Be The Judge Committee Chair, Kadida Kenner from Why Courts Matter-PA and Lynne Jacobs, Pennsylvania Policy Advocate and NCJW National board member



Committee members greeting keynote speaker, the Honorable Marjorie O. Rendell.



Participants form panels of jurists to discuss and examine a federal case and hand down their verdict-a great learning experience to deepen one's understanding of the need for a fair and independent judiciary.The event was held at Beth Sholom Synagogue.

Photos of the event by Holden Blanco available upon request. Contact Eleanor Levie, EleanorLevie@gmail.com.







Group pictures of the many beneficiaries of the tireless work of our You Be The Judge Committee.

#### NCJW of Greater Philadelphia Israel Advocacy Report to the Board June 13, 2017

While in Israel during May, 2017, I visited two organizations supported by NCJW. Following is a summary of these encounters.

Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance, http://www.joh.org.il/, 2 Hasoreq St., Jerusalem, May 29, 2017. This is the LGBT activist organization which is supported by NCJW. The House is in an office building in a very attractive section of the center of Jerusalem, not far from the Old City, City Hall, and Yaffo Street. I was received by Nadar Schwartz, the Coordinator for Education and Community. He gave me a tour of the House and described the kind of outreach work being done in schools, both secular and religious, and in the community in general. The organization also provides social, educational, crisis intervention, counseling, and housing services (very short term) on the premises. At the time of my visit, there were two people in the "Living Room" just relaxing. Nadar was aware of the support being provided by NCJW and expressed his and the organization's appreciation for it.

Women Wage Peace, http://womenwagepeace.org.il/en/, May 30, 2017. This is an NCJW-supported Israeli social action group advocating for a peace settlement. Frequent events and demonstrations are held at various locations throughout the country. I attended an Erev Shavuot study night (http://womenwagepeace.org.il/en/study-evening-tikun-leil-shavuot/,



held in a lovely and hospitable home in Jerusalem. The topics selected for study, from Torah, stories, and song, related to parts played by women that made a positive difference in the world. The organizers (Hamutal Guri - Pres. and event leader, Ahuva Tamar Batz - hostess and singer, Roni Yavin - officer, story teller and my gracious chauffeur) and all who contributed to the program were very knowledgeable and expert in the areas of which they spoke. The evening was most impressive, the discussions lively, the attendance great, and it ended reluctantly at around 4:00 a.m. Expressions of appreciation for NCJW's support were numerous.

Dr. Paula Bursztyn Goldberg

#### National Council of Jewish Women Greater Philadelphia Section

#### MEETING AND LUNCHEON Tuesday, December 19,2017 11:30 a.m. Teresa Maebori

"Uprooted" Born in an internment camp for Japanese Americans, she fears Muslims face a similar fate.



Teresa Maebori's parents spent a year imprisoned at the Tule Lake concentration camp in California, with 19,000 other Japanese Americans, before they were sent to a farm labor camp in Idaho. Their daughter, Teresa, was born there in 1945. Teresa, a teacher for 36 years at Germantown Friends School, never forgot what her family endured and sees a similar situation of hate being experienced, in the anti-Muslim sentiment today.

REFORM CONGREGATION KENESETH ISRAEL 8339 OLD YORK ROAD ELKINS PARK, PA 19027 MAIN AUDITORIUM

LUNCHEON – MEMBERS \$20.00 GUESTS - \$25.00

(Want to skip lunch? Join us at 1:00 pm for the program. Non members pay \$5.00)

Questions? Call Margie Zukerman 215-862-5114

Please Mail Checks Made Payable to NCJW to: Margie Zukerman 5106 Meridian Blvd, Warrington, PA 18976

Checks must be received by Friday, Dec. 15th

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

eMail

Guests

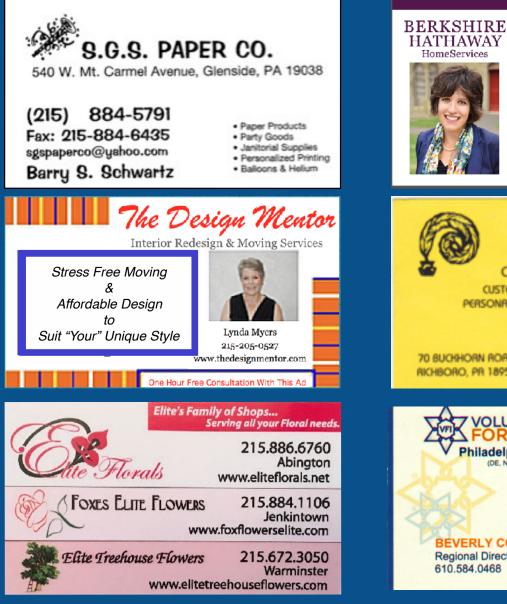
REMINDER: BRING HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES FOR DAWNS PLACE AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR OUR ADOPTED PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL.

#### Tribute cards for special occasions and memorials

Call Gladys Greenfield 215 635 4244 or Sue Leon 215 653 0773. Our new section card is selling 6 for \$25 or \$5 each. You may purchase the cards at a meeting or call Gladys or Sue and they will send a card for you.

#### We need ads for the Bulletin.

If you know of someone who would like to advertise with us... Contact: Pearl Tragash (215) 542 0595. Business size cards are \$50 for 10 issues of our Bulletin. **Members: Please support our advertisers** 



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# NCJ≷

### National Council of Jewish Women

Harriet Winokur 732 Johns Lane Ambler, PA 19002-2616



National Council of Jewish Women is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children and families and by safeguarding individual rights.

We are a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization. Our web site is <a href="http://www.NCJW.org">www.NCJW.org</a>