

NCJW[®]

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Philadelphia Section

Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE
A BELIEF IN ACTION[®]

April 2017

Two flyers enclosed.
Please respond promptly.

Dear NCJW Members



Spring is the season of new beginnings and hope for the future. As we watch the earth show signs of renewal with the promise of new growth we too have the opportunity to renew our efforts and rededicate ourselves to the work of helping those in need in our community.

At Passover we feel humble as we remember that we were once slaves in Egypt and that our freedom from slavery comes with great responsibility, the responsibility of giving to those who often are unable to help themselves. Giving to others is a way to express our gratitude for all that we have.

Passover is a time to reflect on what we have achieved as an organization and what we can still accomplish with your continued support of the mission of NCJW, both locally and nationally.

How can you help? We donate money to JFCS to purchase supermarket gift cards for Jewish women who are victims of domestic violence.

Please make a check out to NCJW and send it to:

Pearl Tragash
4331 Meridian Blvd.
Warrington 18976

All that we have done, all the support to women, children and families, is because of you. Please continue to help those in need, especially during this Passover season of hope and renewal.

Charlotte Schwartz, Fundraising.VP

Laugh, Will and Testament

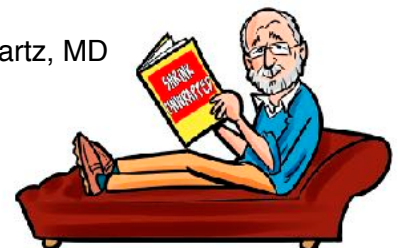
"I'm not afraid of death; I just don't want to be there when it happens."

Woody Allen

Laughter is often overlooked as a coping mechanism for surviving the most difficult time of a person's life. If you believe that humor can make it easier to talk about things that are hard to talk about you are right. If you believe that humor could be helpful in dealing with life and all that goes with it, you are right. If you are not sure, come with an open mind.

Joel Schwartz, MD

WEDNESDAY, April 19, 7:00 p.m.
Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel
Light Refreshments - Free admission
Spouses and significant others welcome.



President's Message

I receive several Jewish writings by email every week. As we approach Passover I would like to share a portion of one that I find especially meaningful.

Shira M. Zemel, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's assistant program director, began her writing with: "This week's Torah Portion, Ki Tisa, reminds us that our social justice mandate lies in more than direct commandments to pursue justice; our mandate lies embedded in the patterns of our story." I would like to share the following portion of Ms. Zemel's commentary on "In Faith Finding Meaning: A Theology of Judaism"

She goes on to share several poignant thoughts citing Byron Sherwin, about a story we all know well, of Moses on Mt. Sinai receiving the tablets containing the Ten Commandments from God while his people becoming impatient, lose hope and succumb to temptation and of what follows when God sends Moses back.

Byron Sherwin writes "*The first set of tablets, written by God...represented a perfected and redeemed world...the Torah as it really is.... In this view, Moses did not break the tablets out of anger; he broke them from his realization...that redemption could not yet come, that the world remained sinful, corrupt and unredeemed. Moses realized that the perfect Torah...the Torah written by the hand of God, had no place in such a world. It could not operate in the world as it is.*"

Later in *Ki Tisa*, we receive a second set of tablets, this time carved by Moses. Of these tablets, Sherwin writes: "*The first set was written by God, the second by a human being. The first...for a redeemed world. The second is a remolded Torah, shaped for an unredeemed world...in our world of falsehood, deception, and sin, of evil and absurdity, the Torah of absolute truth, perfection...could not endure, nor could be endured by the world.*"

"It is these tablets – this Torah – that Israel comes to possess. This Torah banishes us from the Garden, watches brother kill brother, and allows slavery at the hands of an evil Pharaoh. Sherwin writes: "the Torah that we have does not address a perfect world...it addresses both the hopeful and the ugly side of human nature and experience...it carries God's world, God's will, God's commandments for a messy world, not for a messianic world. As the Talmud reminds us, the Torah is given to human beings and not to angels."

"Our tablets remind us that it is our job to do God's work here on earth. No one is going to do it for us. Our work is to bring these tablets with us *always* – as a guidebook to overcome the golden calves in our lives. Although we know the world is far from redeemed, and we didn't inherit the tablets carved by the hand of God – the ones we *did* inherit nonetheless include glimpses of the divine, redeemed world: the Garden, the miracle at the Sea, the Promised Land.

We know the world as it is, and we know the world as it could be. This is the world we work toward every day with our tablets as our guide."

Sandy Fryer

SAVE THE DATE

Programs to be held at Congregation Keneseth Israel.
Please note, not all programs will be held on Tuesdays

Wednesday, April 19, Evening

Joel Schwartz, MD, "Laugh, Will, and Testament".

Tuesday, May 2. Luncheon

Paulette Rackow,
"Cezanne & Pissarro... a most unlikely pair!"

Tuesday, June 6 Closing Luncheon BlueStone Country Club (formerly, Meadowlands Country Club)

Speaker: David L. Cohen
"The influence of Social Media Communications in Society"

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
Joyce Eveloff---215-283-9277

Public Affairs Community Service (PACS)

Advocacy Day in Harrisburg - Tuesday May 9, 2017

Join our Greater Philadelphia Section, along with members of the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition, in Harrisburg. Speak to our legislators about issues of importance to us.

If you have never spent a day in Harrisburg advocating for women's issues and are curious and a little shy about what to say, we have you covered. A number of "seasoned" advocates (including Lynne Jacobs and Linda Lempert) are ready to include newbies on visits to our state Senators and Representatives. We will have all the materials, talking points, and support needed to make an impression. The experience is fun and worth it. If you'd like to join us, let Linda Lempert know. lindalempert@verizon.net

STOP THE PRESSES — A MUST READ CRITICAL BIPARTISAN ISSUE.

Linda Lempert, our Legislative Chair distributed the following letter within hours of this Bulletin going to the printer. As editor, I felt this so important that the Bulletin was modified to bring this to the attention of all of our members.

Harriet Gran, Editor

NCJW Members: Urge PA State Senators To Support A Bill To Eliminate Gerrymandering The Root Of All Evil In The Pennsylvania State Legislature

NCJW WOMEN: Before making this call regarding redistricting, please go on this website to educate yourselves about GERRYMANDERING: www.fairdistrictspa.com For those who would like a live "tutorial", on March 28 from 7-8pm, there is a Gerrymandering "teach-in" at the Quaker Meeting House, 65 North Main St., Yardley, PA 19067. This is only one of many gatherings to educate the voters about gerrymandering that are taking place throughout Pennsylvania. This is a non-partisan grass roots effort.

The recently listed SB22 has 11 senators who have co-sponsored it – two of whom are Republican (from the Allentown area) Senators Haywood, Leach, and Farnese have signed on as co-sponsors. Thank them. If you are a constituent of one of the senators mentioned below, please call. An added comment to Senator Greenleaf (remember we have over 30 women who are his constituents) would be that "perhaps the difficulty in getting SB85 -Safe Harbor for minor age victims of sex trafficking passed" - is that party leadership (both parties are guilty) has too much power. (see bold and underlined bulletin point below) Please e-mail me with any comments or feedback you get from your call.

To your PA State Senator from Bucks or Montgomery County: My name is _____ and I am a constituent and a member of the National Council of Jewish Women calling Senator (McIlhinney/Tomlinson/Greenleaf/Hughes about SB22 that addresses gerrymandering in Pennsylvania. We have a problem. Government is not working for the common good and I want my Senator _____ to support an independent citizens commission to redraw the district lines in 2021. To do that we need to change the Pennsylvania Constitution and we must start that process this session. Will I have my state Senator's support on this? These are the reasons I would like his support:

Background: (From www.fairdistrictspa.com)

- Pennsylvania is regularly cited as one of the most gerrymandered states in the nation.
- Gerrymandered districts create safe districts that deprive voters of choice at the polls.
- In the 2016 primary elections, 86.6% of incumbents ran unopposed in their party's primary (Ballotpedia).
- In the 2016 general election, 13 out of 25 PA Senate races and 97 out of 203 House races had no other-party challenger (tally from Department of State web site).
- Competitive elections are essential for government that is accountable to the voters.
- Politicians in safe districts have little incentive to work across party lines. This creates the gridlock that has made it impossible to collaborate effectively on many issues of critical importance to Pennsylvania
- Our current system undermines the principle of one person, one vote.

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- According to a Franklin & Marshall poll published in January 2016, more than four in five (82%) registered voters think the state government needs to be reformed. This sentiment is strongly held among voters of all parties (76% of Republicans, 86% of Democrats, and 88% of Independents). Only one in seven (14%) registered voters believes that the state legislature is doing an excellent or good job.

- The current process allows party leaders inappropriate influence over rank-and-file legislators. HB 153, a constitutional amendment to reduce the size of the PA House from 203 to 151 members won first-round passage in the 2015-2016 session. Reducing the legislature without also addressing the redistricting process would allow those leaders even more influence, possibly reducing lawmakers' independence to represent their own constituents.

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- Legislators in gerrymandered districts find it difficult to represent populations spread across multiple jurisdictions, and people in those jurisdictions find it difficult to know where to go for assistance. Legislators report excessive time driving between offices and meeting with constituents, or even knowing which citizens are their own constituents.

- Unprecedented outside money in our Pennsylvania legislative districts will create an even more negative tone and will discourage good people from both parties from seeking public office.

- In the current legislative redistricting process, if the four legislative leaders can't agree on a fifth commission member, that member will be chosen by the state Supreme Court. With that court now dominated by judges who were elected as Democrats, Republican leaders should be more willing to consider redistricting reform than they have been in the past.

- Many citizen groups have identified redistricting as an essential reform. As voters educate themselves on the structures of our democracy, they see the conflict of interest in our current system, question the intent behind our tortured district lines and look for leaders willing to correct this.

- Any legislator considering statewide office should want to demonstrate an interest in a fair, transparent democracy that serves the needs of all Pennsylvania citizens, rather than a system that carves up communities for the benefit of one party.

Loss of confidence in our elections and leaders is detrimental to democracy. Reform is needed so that our government truly is of, by and for the people.

Linda Lempert, Legislative Chair

NCJW women and an FBI agent come through in a pinch!

Several weeks ago, Alexis Krieger, an F.B.I. agent who is a trafficking victim's assistant, contacted me to ask if NCJW women would be willing to help a 16 year old victim of sex trafficking by donating books for her to read. Well, it grew from donating books to getting her a gift card to Barnes and Noble, to a winter coat and other clothing from the Mitzvah Circle! I sent out a blast e-mail to all NCJW women and received responses from Susan Horwitz, Zelda Stern, Marilyn Lieberman, and Sherry Kohn to either give books or money for us to buy books. Alexis suggested a Barnes & Noble gift card so the girl could choose her own books. Somehow, Rachel Hurley of the Mitzvah Circle contacted me and asked if the girl needed anything else. I imagine that our president Sandy Fryer had contacted Rachel.

Anyway, Rachel delivered clothing to my house. I bought a gift card at Barnes & Noble with the donated money and Alexis came to my house to pick everything up. She later e-mailed me thanking NCJW and telling us that this was the first time in the girl's life that she had been to a bookstore. One of the books she selected was Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

Thank you to all who responded so quickly; and in February, when there are no meetings and everyone seems to be in Florida!



Linda Lempert

Save the Date Wednesday July 5, 2017 at 2 p.m. for a summer theater trip to see
PROJECT DAWN at People's Light in Malvern

A fundraiser on behalf of Dawn's Place.



This new play is based on the experiences of trafficked women in Philadelphia. Tickets are \$38, which includes a contribution of \$10 to Dawn's Place, residence for women survivors of trafficking. We will arrange car pools and plan to have lunch first at a nearby restaurant. Friends are welcome! Please let Lynne Jacobs know by April 30 if you want a ticket, so she will know how many to reserve. Feel free to contact her with questions. ljacobs816@gmail.com

PROJECT DAWN by Karen Hartman

Project Dawn is inspired by the work of Dawn's Court in Philadelphia, PA, an innovative court program designed to transform the lives of trafficked women repeatedly convicted and caught up in the criminal justice system. Based on extensive observation and research, the play follows the high-stakes lives of these victims/participants as well as the Court staff in and around the Court's proceedings over several months. Each of the 7 female actresses double as victims/participants and Court staff (judge, lawyers, parole officers, and support staff), making it clear that either character subset could have landed on the other side of our justice system. *Project Dawn* is in no way a political treatise. It is bursting with urgency, but is also full of deep empathy and humor. The play bridges the gap between what audiences might currently know about sexual exploitation and what they could know--what is actually happening in their own backyard. It doesn't matter if your politics are to the left or to the right. The material will gnaw at your heart and inspire you to action. This play is the first world premiere from our nationally renowned New Play Frontiers Residency & Commission program at People's Light.

FYI: AN NCJW UPDATE

Revised Executive Order is Merely a Renewed Muslim Ban

March 6, 2017 Washington, DC – The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) today denounced President Trump's revised anti-refugee executive order as simply last month's Muslim ban re-stated. NCJW CEO Nancy K. Kaufman released the following statement:

"The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) believes that President Trump's executive order, "Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States," is devastating to refugees, targets Muslims, and is without justification. The executive order reduces the number of refugees allowed in the United States to only 50,000, from the current 110,000. And given the world is experiencing its worst refugee crisis since the Second World War, it is unconscionable. Stopping refugee resettlement for 120 days will ultimately add years of waiting for refugee individuals and families, including those already in the process of being cleared to come to the United States.

"The attempt to tailor the order to conform to recent court rulings deeming the first ban unconstitutional does not mask the fact that it singles out Muslims by banning entry from six majority-Muslim nations. The attempt to justify this ban by citing national security is a smokescreen — the US Department of Homeland Security issued a report indicating that the ban does not make anyone safer, and in fact, that country of citizenship is "unlikely to be a reliable indicator" of terrorist activity in the United States. Given the facts, it's clear that the ban is simply a way to codify xenophobia and anti-Muslim bigotry.

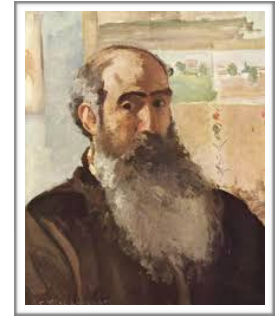
"Refugees deserve to live their lives with dignity and security. As Jews we are taught *va'ahavtem et ha-ger* — as we were once strangers, so must we love the stranger. It's imperative that we continue to open our communities to those fleeing violence and/or seeking better lives in the United States. It was not that long ago that those refugees were our own ancestors. And, we all remember what happened when the United States closed their doors to them."



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Philadelphia Section

MEETING AND LUNCHEON
Tuesday, May 2

Paulette Rackow presents:
"Cezanne & Pissarro... a most unlikely pair!"



Paul Cezanne and Camille Pissarro had a bond and friendship that lasted about 20 years from 1865-1885. Pissarro, being the older artist, became a mentor to Cezanne. They worked together and had a great influence on each other. This talk will explore their relationship and compare their works of art.

Paulette Rackow has completed over 15 years of study at the Barnes Foundation. She has been a docent at the Barnes for 8 years and has studied at the Clark Institute in Williamstown, Mass.

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

LUNCHEON - MEMBERS \$17.00 GUESTS - \$22.00
(Want to skip lunch? Join us at 1:00 p.m. for the meeting and program.)

Please mail check, made out to NCJW by April 28 to:

Margie Zukerman
5106 Meridian Blvd
Warrington, PA 18976

Please note: If a guest becomes a member of NCJW, \$5.00 will be deducted from membership dues.

REMINDER: PLEASE BRING SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO BE DONATED TO OUR ADOPTED PHILADELPHIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO ALL MEETINGS.

Reams of copy paper are a priority! Also, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, mini pencil sharpeners, large erasers, composition books (black marble cover), washable markers, rulers, tissues, hand sanitizers....

NAME _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL _____

OF GUESTS _____

The National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Philadelphia Section

ANNUAL CLOSING LUNCHEON AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



Tuesday, June 6, 2016 11:00am
BlueStone Country Club (formerly, Meadowlands Country Club)
711 Boehms Church Road, Blue Bell, Pa 19422

Couvert: \$55 Members \$60 Guests

Keynote Speaker: David L. Cohen

"The influence of Social Media Communications in Society"

David L. Cohen is Senior Executive Vice President of Comcast Corporation and is the Company's Chief Diversity Officer. He is responsible for corporate communications, government and regulatory affairs, public and legal affairs. David served as Chief of Staff to the Honorable Edward G. Rendell, the Mayor of Philadelphia. He serves as Chairman of the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania and its Executive Committee and as a member of the Trustee Board and the Executive Committee of Penn Medicine. In addition, David serves on a number of other Boards of organizations promoting community welfare and social action.

David has received numerous awards for his civic and charitable activities.

To guarantee seating requests, please mail check, made out to NCJW by May 30 to:
Margie Zukerman 5106 Meridian Blvd., Warrington, PA 18976

Any questions call Margie Zukerman- 267-261-7728 or Barbara Nussbaum- 215-280-0046

Name _____ Phone _____
email _____ Number of guests _____

PLEASE choose one of the following for yourself and each of your guests

- _____ Grilled chicken breast w/orange, chive Beurre blanc sauce;
- _____ Grilled salmon w/ Dijon lemon sauce. (All entrees lightly sauced w/ additional sauce on table)
- _____ Vegetarian penne primavera
- Salad and dessert

Please List Names Of Those With Whom You Would Like To Be Seated:

Just a reminder that I will ask for your generous giving donations at our luncheon. Remember that your contribution allows us to pay our commitment to National without having to use the money raised by our Section enabling us to help more people in need in our area. If you are planning to attend, please bring your checkbook with you. Many thanks.

Judy Wenzel, Personal Giving Chair

PLEASE! Remember to bring toys for the Ronald MacDonald Oncology Camp
The drawing for the 2017 NCJW raffle will be held at the luncheon so don't forget to buy your Raffle Tickets.

VOLUNTEER and/or CONTRIBUTE

Reminder

Our last Ronald McDonald Guest Chef breakfast of this season is Sunday, April 2. Please join us. Call Zelda Stern to confirm at (215) 947-2348. Zelda always looks forward to sharing this worthwhile project with everyone.



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 horwitzsusan@yahoo.com

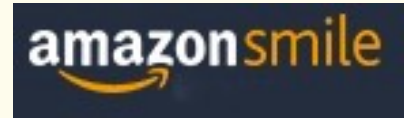
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Bulletin Editor

Harriet Gran

hgranncjw@gmail.com

215-836-5993

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 www.NCJW.org



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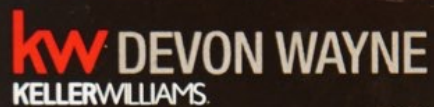


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Afternoon Book Club

April 27 *Gray Mountain* by John Grisham

May 25 *The Gilded Years* by Karin Tanabe
Roz Fudel will host.

Meeting at the Dublin Terrace community room.

All meetings are in the Dublin Terrace community room at 1:00 p.m. to socialize, 1:30 p.m. for discussion.

Please contact Joyce for further info. 215-402-0287 or Barryjoy@aol.com.

Thanks to

Betsy Parziale who facilitated in January
Sue Leon who hosted and Joyce Avrach who facilitated in February
Betsy Parziale who hosted and facilitated in March

*There is a Book Club page on our website.
Have your books delivered from Amazon with a couple of clicks.
Please use Amazon Smile to support our Section
ncjwphiladelphia.org*

Center City Book Club

Wednesday, April 12, 7 p.m.

My Name is Lucy Barton by Elizabeth Strout

Host: Gwen Freedman, Symphony House
440 South Broad St., #1601

Leader: Maryellen Bass

Thanks to Laurie Lisa for hosting our March meeting.

Good discussion of *The Nightingale* led by Audrey Block

Evening Book Club

Tuesday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m.

The Woman Who Heard Color by Kelly Jones.

RSVP to Charlotte Schwartz...215-643-7542 or charlotters6@comcast.net.

Thank You to Faith Edelman for hosting the March meeting and to Lee Tonik for facilitating the discussion.



We have arranged two visits to the Holocaust Museum and Education Center (HAMEC) on Friday, April 7 at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m. We will learn about the museum, view the artifacts, meet a survivor and, on April 7, watch a Skype presentation. Hopefully, we'll have that opportunity on both days.

We hope you will come to see this small treasure in our area.

Call or email Susan Horwitz 215-680-4569, horwitzsusan@yahoo.com

PLEASE JOIN US

Congratulations to:

Harriet and Mal Gran on the birth of their granddaughter, Isabel Sarah.

Sherry Kohn on the marriage of her son.

Elva Davis on the birth of her grandson.

Oops: A belated thank you to Ellen Slepion and her mother, Millie Stein, for providing treats for Goodies for the Good Guys.

Condolences to:

Wendy Rader on the loss of her mother-in-law.

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



Seated here after an enlightening presentation focused on Jewish traditions in the home and domestic violence in the Jewish Community are our presenters: Robin Axelrod Sabag from Jewish Family & Children's Service and Rabbi Richard Steinbrink. Standing left to right are NCJW members Linda Dzuba, Joyce Krasnoff, Barbara Nussbaum, and Sandy Fryer.

Adam Kessler, pictured with members Margie Zukerman, Barbara Nussbaum, Sandy Fryer and Linda Dzuba, spoke to our members on current issues for the Jewish community, both local and international.



Holocaust Essay Contest

I am happy to announce that Springfield Township Middle School is back on board participating in our Holocaust Essay Contest. We expect to receive the essays in early May.

Upper Dublin has expanded their number of classrooms involved in the contest. We are hoping that other schools will come on board.

We are in need of volunteers to read the essays when they arrive. Readers are asked to assign a grade to each essay.

We then discuss the best essays and choose the winners.

Please let me know if you are interested in reading the essays and if you would be available to attend the meetings. I try to set up meetings that are at convenient times for the committee.

Evelyn Goldhammer egoldhammer@comcast.net

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.

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.



National Council of Jewish Women

Harriet Winokur
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- Club rooms with large screen TV and new billiard table
- Comfortable living with heat, air, water and gas included

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 www.NCJW.org