National Council of Jewish Women Greater Philadelphia Section

Bulletin A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

A BELIEF IN ACTION[®] June, 2020

126 YEARS OF POWERFUL JEWISH WOMEN

NCJW confronts today's most urgent social and economic challenges facing women, children and families. Powered by the Jewish imperative to ensure dignity for all, we impact policy, advocate for justice, and support the community. Your voice has never been more essential and our voices together make a meaningful difference in the world.

Become A Member

Call us at 215-302-3586

Visit us at ncjwphiladelphia.org

SAVE THE DATES THERE'S MORE INFORMATION AND MORE DATES INSIDE

WEBINAR Tuesday May 26

The Jewish Case For Abortion Access: Discussion, Study, and the Launch of NCJW's Abortion and Jewish Values Toolkit

Join us on **May 26 at 4:30 pm EST** to hear from a panel of experts as they discuss the Toolkit and explain how YOU can effectively convey Jewish values and traditions in your reproductive health, rights, and justice advocacy work.

Sign up at <u>ncjw.org/ncjwebinars/</u>.

A REMINDER OF THE DEADLINES TO VOTE BY MAIL FOR THE JUNE 2 PRIMARY May 26:

Last day to apply for a mail in ballot June 2: ELECTION DAY

YOUR COMPLETED MAIL-IN BALLOT MUST BE RECEIVED BY 8:00P.M. ON JUNE 2

HOWEVER...KNOW THIS!

THESE DEADLINES ARE UNREALISTIC

The Postal Service has advised that it could take anywhere from 4-6 days for completed ballots to reach the county election board from the time it is mailed.

GIVEN THE HUGE AMOUNT OF REQUESTS FOR MAIL IN BALLOTS, IF YOU HAVEN'T APPLIED FOR A MAIL IN BALLOT ALREADY, DO SO AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THIS EMAIL!!!



IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR MAIL-IN BALLOT, FILL IT OUT AND GET IT INTO THE MAIL QUICKLY. (more information inside)

Co-President's Message

Dear friends,

This message comes to you while I am on the mend from back surgery. Our NCJW Section can look forward to a smooth transition from our traditional leadership with a president at the helm to an executive council. The transition to our new presidium will begin July 1 to coincide with the new fiscal and program year.

We are hoping to have a formal installation of officers when it's safe for everyone. Otherwise, we may do an installation using Zoom. Thank you Diane Steinbrink for doing such a wonderful job with the Nominating Committee.



It may be summer but we have maintained a beehive of activity. Our Presidium members are immersed with decisions on how they will work with our Publicity Chair, Website Manager who also does the email blasts, our Bulletin Editor, and how we will communicate with the outside community. We are also pursuing our own ZOOM account so meetings can be held during this Covid time where we still have work to do with you, our members and in the community.

The Program VP's have already planned webinar programs for several months which you will hear about. Advocacy is and has been busy at work with their committee working alongside Lynne Jacobs, our SPA. Our wonderful Grants Committee, under the able chairmanship of Wendy Rader, has approved funding for various agencies and organizations that give directly to help food insecurity. (as was requested by the Board). Our Publicity Chair Kay Skloff, has submitted an article to the various press telling them of our work to help feed people. The National office has received our contribution for the Israel Projects and is most appreciative. Membership is gearing up for the next phase of recruitment and retention.

Our section was asked by National to be a Pilot Section for tracking members to ensure accuracy in a new data base system. Harriet Winokur, our Financial Secretary, is our liaison for this.

As you can see, we are doing everything we can to keep our section viable , and to prepare for the next phase of leadership.I want to also add, that the feedback we have received as we all reached out to our members to check in with them, was met with great appreciation. Thanks to all of you who participated in this. Thank you Sandy Fryer for coordinating.

I especially want to thank Cindi Pasceri, my Co-President this past year. I truly needed a Co-President this year in order for me to continue a third year and I could not have asked for a better, more trustworthy and capable person to work with. Cindi and I will be available to our new leadership to offer suggestions and advice when needed. Along with Lynne Jacobs, our SPA, I will be a liaison with National NCJW.

Please, all of you stay healthy and don't let down your guard with this Covid 19!!! I hope to see you at some point later this summer when I am up and about!

Lots of hugs (from a distance!) Barbara Nussbaum

Barbard

NCJWebinars

Grab your beverage or snack of choice and join National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) advocates and allies from around the country for NCJWebinar, an online series to educate, inspire, and build a virtual sisterhood. All are welcome.

The Jewish Case For Abortion Access: Discussion, Study, and the Launch of NCJW's Abortion and Jewish Values Toolkit

Tuesday, May 26 at 4:30 pm ET

Speakers: NCJW Board Vice President Rabbi Lori Koffman, ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal Executive Director SooJi Min-Maranda, Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg, Rabbi Rachel Timoner

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is proud to debut the **Abortion and Jewish Values Toolkit**, an extraordinary new resource designed to offer tremendous support and insight into our work to protect and expand abortion rights and access for all. For over 125 years, we have boldly imagined a world where every person can make their own moral and faith-informed decisions about their body, health, and future. Now, in the face of false narratives and appalling rhetoric concerning this critical issue, it is more important than ever to lift up the voices of people of faith who advocate for bodily autonomy because of our religion, not in spite of it. Join us on **May 26 at 4:30 pm EST** to hear from a panel of experts as they discuss the Toolkit and explain how YOU can effectively convey Jewish values and traditions in your reproductive health, rights, and justice advocacy work.

Click this Link and Sign up at <u>ncjw.org/ncjwebinars/</u>.

SAVE THE DATE

As more information about public meetings becomes available, we will contact members on locations and/or Zoom access.

MEETING & LUNCHEON (Just kidding....) The meeting is on Zoom and you're invited to join us as you enjoy your own refreshments.



Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 2 p.m. Managing Change the Resilient Way

Looking for a roadmap for managing unexpected change in your life? Good or bad, change can be stressful, overwhelming, and even leave you feeling lost. Whether you're struggling with a change in relationships, health, or lifestyle, learn how to manage change rather than allowing it to define you. In this interactive discussion, learn the remedy no one taught you in school. Discover the secrets of resilience and how to strengthen yours.

Jan M. Zacharjasz, MS, Certified Life Coach will be our Speaker

In these trying times it is important to stay in touch with our members. "Staying Resilient through the Coronavirus and Beyond," is the title of our first ever Zoom program, which will take place on Tuesday, June 23,2020 at 2:00 pm. Jan M.Zacharjasz, Certified Life Coach will be our speaker. As the stay-at -home phase of the pandemic lingers, now more than ever it is important to stay strong and connected. We are all in this together, and no one should go through it alone. But how do we do this? How do we adjust to all the change of the past few months? How do we move forward in the face of uncertainty? How do we prepare for the "new normal," whatever that looks like? Jan helps people discover a novel approach...uncover the power of resilience, and learn strategies for how to boost yours, and how to gain courage and confidence through significant life changes, so you can move forward and thrive again.

To register for this program and receive the Zoom link, click on the link below by June 19. <u>https://forms.gle/pH9DgyTZBrDZFAbC7</u>

Questions??? Call or email:

Char Kurland at 215-805-3006 Donna Bader at 856-303-9616 Patti First at 215-470-1560

chaky@aol.com DrBader@comcast.net patal16@verizon.net

SAVE THE DATES

As more information about public meetings becomes available, we will contact members on locations and/or Zoom access.

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Ira Spector Development of Drugs and Vaccines

Dr. Ira Spector is CEO of SFA Therapeutics, Inc., a development-stage bio-pharmaceutical startup company focused on a new advancement in the treatment of chronic inflammatory disease. Dr. Spector has over 25 years of experience in drug and medical device development. Dr. Spector managed one of the world's largest adult vaccine trials and helped develop over 34 approved drugs.

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Melissa R. Klapper Jewish Women and Suffrage

An Armchair Conversation With Sarah Hurwitz



Dr. Klapper is the author of Jewish Girls Coming of Age in America, 1860-1920 and Small Strangers: The Experiences of Immigrant Children in the United States, 1880-1925, as well as numerous articles and essays. She lectures widely in a variety of academic and community settings. She is currently the book review editor of the journal American Jewish History and the co-chair of the Association for Jewish Studies's Modern Jewish History-The Americas division.

Thursday, November 12, 2020



Sarah Hurwitz, author of *Here All Along: Finding meaning, Spirituality and a Deeper Connection to Life-in Judaism* was senior speechwriter for President Barack Obama and head speechwriter for Michelle Obama. After leaving the White House, she was appointed to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council by Barack Obama. Hurwitz will share how she reconnected with her Judaism after leaving the White House.

"Sarah Hurwitz was Michelle Obama's head speechwriter, and with this book she becomes Judaism's speechwriter. In a time when many people have lost faith, her timeless wisdom and graceful writing will delight even the most steadfast skeptics of organized religion."

-Adam Grant



The Female Hebrew Benevolent Society has been providing immediate financial assistance to local Jewish women in financial crisis since 1819. NCJW has been honored to contribute to the FHBS as part of our mission.

Cindi Pasceri



Our Grant to FHBS

A \$1200 grant has been provided to FHBS to support this deserving young mother.

Kelly is a 23-year-old, single mother with a four-year-old son. She works full time to support the household. In 2015, Kelly attended a medical assistant program at Star Career Academy. Upon the completion of her coursework, and just prior to her final exams, the school closed without warning, leaving Kelly with hefty student loans and no certification. She was hired by St. Mary's Medical Center and worked there until January 2020 when she was let go for calling in sick when she had to pick up her son from daycare due to illness. The job at St. Mary's provided no provision for personal time out, and each absence from work was treated as a recordable offense.

Immediately upon being fired, Kelly reapplied for SNAP and Medical Assistance for herself and her son. She spent each day submitting applications and attending interviews. In mid-February 2020, she was offered a job as a receptionist in a medical imaging office for \$16/hour, less than she had been making. She took the job but will once again lose her SNAP benefits and her state funded medical insurance. Although she will be able to obtain medical insurance through her new employer, the coverage will cost her more than at St. Mary's. Kelly's son will remain covered by Medical Assistance through the state due to his age.

Kelly is looking forward to taking the exam to become a certified phlebotomist, which will open the door for better career opportunities.

Coronavirus Addendum: Kelly is up to date on rent for March, but concerned about April. Her office is currently still open, but she believes they may close Friday, March 20, since they provide nonessential medical services. Meanwhile, her son's daycare facility is closed, and she has been paying a sitter. She is playing the waiting game now with work to see if they will remain open. She will most likely file for UEC if that happens.

FHBS will pay Kelly's entire rent for the month of April. Hopefully, this will help her get through a time that is challenging for all of us but even more so for a young mother whose resources – financial and familial – are extremely limited.

Eileen S. Sklaroff

NCJW Grant of \$1200

It was decided to use the generous \$1,200 grant from the National Council of Jewish Women Greater Philadelphia Section to assist Kelly further. Beginning on November 1, 2019, her rent stipend increased to \$375/month. This will continue until October 1, 2020. Kelly's work ethic, her strong determination to turn her life around and her drive to provide the best for her son give us confidence that she will continue to achieve success in reaching her goals. NCJW's funding will play a large part in making that possible.

PROTECT from gun violence PROTECT equal and fair pay



Here are the links to the new locations of polling places for Montgomery, Bucks and Counties. Most of the polling places have been consolidated to larger locations such as schools.

Montgomery County

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Lpk6PT75q3HPsjxiMHwnfueBC12t_oFuyiUkpVG5XLo/ edit#gid=2067492777

Scroll along the bottom of the page. Each township is listed alphabetically.

Montgomery County has announced that five secure ballot Drop-Off Box locations for June 2 Primary Election are available. Click on the link below for information.

https://www.montcopa.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/5174

Bucks County

http://www.buckscounty.org/government/CommunityServices/BoardofElections/PollingPlaces

Philadelphia County

https://www.philadelphiavotes.com/en/home/item/1810-primary-2020-zones-and-polling-places

All voters in 19118 who wish to vote in person will do so at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy. All voters in 19119 who wish to vote in person will do so at Lutheran Theological Seminary. City workers have been recruited to staff all polling places so that election board workers who do not wish to work on Election Day need not put themselves at risk.

The City Commissioners Office will provide masks and gloves to all workers and any voters who don't already have them on site.



VOTING IS THE KEY TO PROTECTING ALL OF OUR RIGHTS !!! VOTING IS ACTIVISM !!!

A few little known regulations that you should be aware of:

- Your completed ballot must be received in the county office by 8:00pm on Election day. A late ballot will not be accepted, even if it is postmarked before the deadline.
- There is a warning on the mail in ballot application that once you are approved for a mail in ballot you are not permitted to vote in person on June 2.



Dear Friends and fellow voters:

Now that many of US have already received or will soon receive our mail-in ballots here are some bits of advice you should pay attention to:

- 1. The font for the list of delegates to the National Conventions is minuscule! Each delegate is committed to one particular presidential candidate. READ CAREFULLY OR YOU MIGHT SELECT A DELEGATE THAT YOU WOULD NOT WANT.
- 2. The instruction to the voter printed on the ballot says: "If you make a mistake, do not erase. Ask for a new ballot. (It would take a long time to get a new ballot by mail.) (The mail in ballots are no different from the ballot you would receive if you were to vote in person on June 2. In person you could simply ask for a another blank ballot, not so easy for a mail in.
- 3. Use only a black pen or marker Very important. (The yellow instruction sheet sent to Montgomery County voters says use a black or blue color pen to fill in the little circles. Ignore that. USE ONLY BLACK)

For those of you who have not yet applied for a mail in ballot online, ignore the questions that ask you for a reason you need a mail-in ballot. (Just answer "NO"). It was just last year that our state legislature passed the law to permit "no excuse needed" to obtain a mail-in ballot, so it looks like PA Department of State did not change the wording on the online application....

Linda Lempert



BREAKFAST IS STILL BEING SERVED AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE!!!



The Corona virus has not halted our NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section's support of the Guest Chef Program at the Ronald McDonald House. Although our members' physical presence and cooking talents are on hold for the time being, Zelda Stern, who leads the program reports that funds provided by our Section will continue to help to provide breakfast. Breakfast is provided to families staying at the Ronald McDonald House while their critically ill children receive treatment at St. Christopher's Hospital.

Under Zelda's leadership, our relationship with the Ronald McDonald House has grown. Our Section has been able to donate toys and games for their summer camp as well as warm clothing for family members coming from warm climates. Zelda is sent monthly updates on news and needs of the children and families served by the Ronald McDonald House.

Ronald McDonald House Update

The Ronald McDonald House has been closed to outside volunteers since the start of the pandemic. NCJW has decided to send a check for \$150 to help support the Ronald McDonald summer camp program. This camp is for children recovering from cancer, and is usually held in August. We will let you know when the House reopens to volunteers, and we can get back to providing and serving breakfast to the wonderful families of the children hospitalized at St Christopher's Hospital in Philadelphia.

Any questions about ways to help, please call, Zelda Stern at 215-394-8455.

Linda Brosgol

Condolences: to the families of long time members, Doris Pohl and Lois Boreen

INPUT FROM OUR INSIDERS

NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED

sunshine is not cancelled spring is not cancelled love is not cancelled relationships are not cancelled naps are not cancelled devotion is not cancelled music is not cancelled dancing is not cancelled imagination is not cancelled kindness is not cancelled conversations are not cancelled hope is not cancelled First time I heard about paraprosdokians, I liked them. Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (Sir Winston Churchill loved them).

Spread the Laughter, Share the Cheer and Let's be Happy, while we're here or there or somewhere.

Miss you all and wishing you good health. Always up to talk on the phone.

Keeping busy with Zoom classes, Trickster Bridge with family and friends, phone calls with and funny texts from family and friends, Face Time or distance in person meetings with family, and walks to stay healthy

Love to all from Sandy Fryer



Help! I'm stuck in the sitting room



I keep my ideals, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart.

Anne Frank





This year is 60 years that I am a member of NCJW. I am proud of the continued actions of National and our Section during this pandemic. I learned from three outstanding national webinars. I was proud to chair a zoom meeting of our Section's Nominating

Committee which resulted in a wonderful slate of officers for the coming year. I am proud to be a part of our Section's Grants Committee which provided grants for food banks in our community. I have enjoyed making phone calls to some of our members who were appreciative of hearing from us. As you can see, NCJW has filled some of my pandemic social distancing with meaningful activities. In the words of Anne Frank who still believed that people were good at heart, I am glad that we have been people "who are good at heart".

Diane Steinbrink

Where's Joan Sax?

I am still in Sarasota, staying indefinitely.



making sour dough bread



Celebrating my twin grandchildren's 20th birthday Corona style.

Walking on the beach



CHALLENGE MET!! Giving my husband a haircut



Linda Lempert has shared a digital recording of Nashirah, the Jewish Chorale of Greater Philadelphia of which she is founding member. It is a modern setting of the psalm "Tzadik Katamar".

"We just made the recording, each of us singing our alto, tenor, etc.,. line individually. All was synchronized by our Accompanist Soyeon Bin."

Click this link to watch the video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctJENMz0BZo&feature=youtu.be



Linda also shared this video of the Park Slope Food Coop in Brooklyn where her daughter is the meat buyer and is still going to work every day. https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=574188523479012 Because this time feels like an interminable itch, it's time for a tickle. Enjoy these YOUTUBE videos!!! Harriet Gran

Watch Zubin Mehta's grandson

https://vimeo.com/409600885



And where did you get that yiptick?

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=eZX19AUgxdE



Book Clubs

Evening Book Club

Thank you to Nancy Fagan for setting up our Zoom meetings.

We've had two great Zoom meetings with thanks to Joan Sax for jumping in to lead a great discussion of *The Girl from Berlin*. Thanks to Rebecca Landau for leading our discussion on The House on The Lake. We all appreciated her extensive research and work on the book.

Our next book is *The Daughters of the Samurai* by Janice P. Nimura. Our scheduled date is Tuesday, June 16. Susan Horwitz will be our discussion leader.

Center City Book Group

Thanks to Phyllis Barsky for moderating *The Ninth Hour* for our May meeting on Zoom. Our June meeting will also take place on Zoom, Wednesday, June 10th at 7:30 P.M. Joanne Stoloff will be leading a discussion of *Beneath the Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan

If you would like to join us, you can get a Zoom link by contacting Audrey Block, 215-688-0094 or <u>ablock1919@comcast.net</u>

Afternoon Book Club

During the pandemic, our group has continued to meet via Zoom. Thank you to Wendy Rader for moderating our book discussion on *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones.

Our next Zoom meeting is Thursday, June 25 at 1:30pm. *Our book is Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. Our moderator will be Anita Shomer.

For more information, contact Susan Brooks at 215-542-0712 or seamcrazy@verizon.net



MEMBERSHIP

As membership vice-presidents, we welcome our new members to call us regarding any questions you may have.

Please contact:

Ellen MirbachDonnsemirbach@gmail.comor215-771-5311215-8

Donna Spector or queenaheartsds@hotmail.com 215-886-0640

We will be delighted to send out membership packets. Membership Dues: Annual \$45 (Be an Angel \$55 😇)* Please LIKE us on our Facebook page Search our full name "National Council Of Jewish Women Greater Philadelphia Section"

*For an additional \$10, you can achieve "angel" 😇 status which increases the number of people we can assist.

REMEMBER.... THERE WILL BE MANY WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE.



NCJW volunteers at Ronald McDonald House at Front St. & Erie Ave. provide breakfast and more to families staying there from out-of-town while their critically ill children receive treatment at St. Christopher's Hospital. To all participants in this "nourishing" program, know that you make a meaningful difference. Unforgettable are the words of one parent who looked at our volunteer group and said, wistfully, "this is what my mother would do for me if she could be here." Interested in becoming a volunteer? We arrive at

8:15 so we can set up and have food ready by 9:00.

Call Zelda Stern at 215-394-8335



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Join our wonderful NCJW group of volunteers at our adopted Benjamin Franklin Elementary School now in our fifth year. Work with our first and second graders to help them accomplish pre-reading and higher reading skills with our one to one concentrated time and encouragement.

Please call Harriet Gran at 215-206-1026 or email hgranncjw@gmail.com.

Support Holocaust survivors and liberators as they continue to educate



school children throughout the Delaware Valley. NCJW is asking anyone with a few hours to spare to sign up for 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, Judy Fried (215) 245-1309 judyfried38@gmail.com

Sponsoring an event for a minimum of \$100.00 in honor of a special event or person in your life, or in memory of an important person is a great way to do a double mitzvah! You are honoring the person or event and helping NCJW. You can share this sponsorship between friends. Your name (or names) will be on the invitation flyer. This is a lovely and meaningful way to support our NCJW section!

Please consider sponsoring an upcoming event. Just call Patti First at 215 887-1888

and tell us what event you'd like to sponsor.

Tribute cards for special occasions and memorials

Our new section card is selling 6 for \$25 or \$5 each.Purchase the cards at a meeting or contact Fran Radel and she will send a card for you.

Contact Fran at 610-584-9234 (home) 610-304-3908 (cell) or Email: fran@markradel.com

INCLUDE NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section in your estate planning, You can help its important work continue for years to come.

Celebrating a simcha or have one you would like NCJW to recognize? We will make a note of it. An acknowledgement to you and the recipient is our pleasure. What a great way to share by making a donation to our Greater Philadelphia Section. For information, call 215-302-3586 and leave a message for Pearl Tragash, Treasurer.

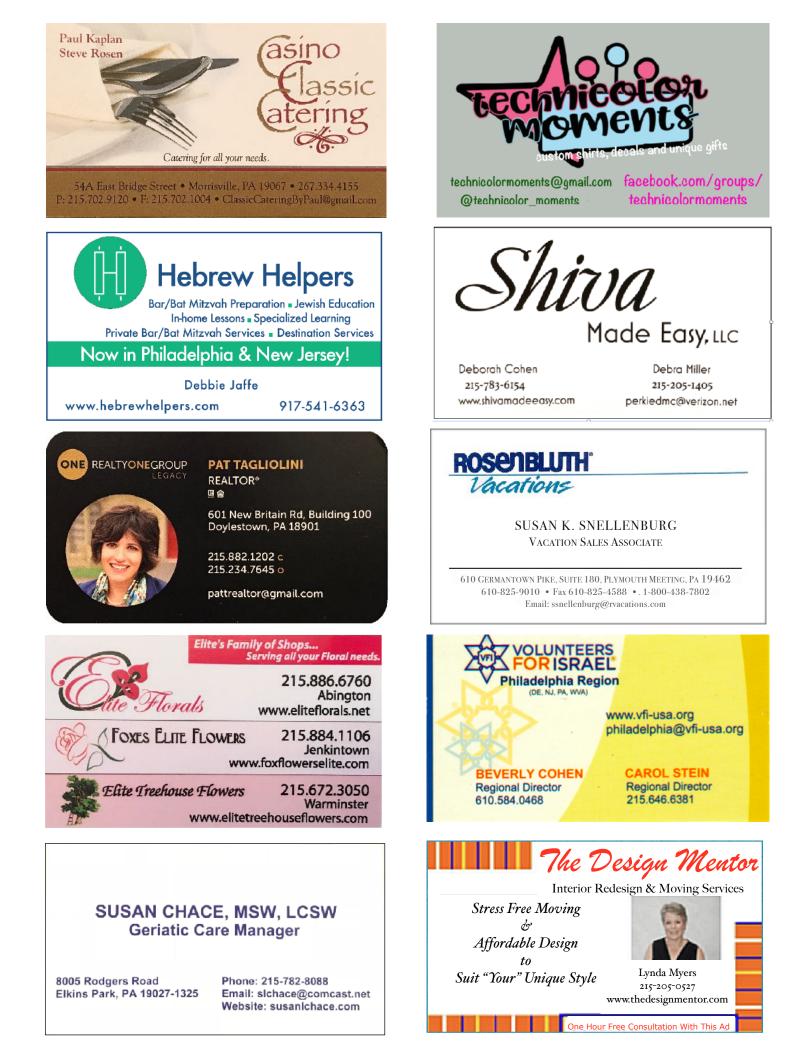


Supplies needed for Dawn's Place - Shelter for Survivors of Sex Trafficking Household cleaners, laundry soap, dish liquid, paper napkins, paper towels, toilet paper (single-ply only!),

personal grooming products.... also NEW single bed sheets and non-perishable food.



We look forward to the time when we resume all of our volunteer activites.



OFFICERS 2020-2021

There will be a presidium in place. The Vice Presidents will collectively administer the section in place of a president and vice-president.

Fundraising VP	Ann Pollock	apollock1229@yahoo.com	
Membership Vice Presidents	Donna Spector Ellen Mirbach	queenaheartsds@hotmail.com semirbach@gmail.com	
Program Vice Presidents	Donna Bader Patti First	DRBader@comcast.net	
	Charlene Kurland	chaky@aol.com	
Community Services Vice President	Aileen Salus Linda Brosgol	asalus1945@gmail.com Igbrosgol@gmail.com	
Advocacy Vice President	Liz Downing	elizabeth.downing@msn.com	
Treasurer	Pearl Tragash		
Assistant Treasurer	Margie Zukerman	Directors-at-large Janet Ecksel Judy Fried	
Recording Secretary	Susan Chace	Paula Bursztyn Goldberg Diane Piotnick	Evelyn Goldhammer Wendy Rader
Corresponding Secretary	Bobbie Berman	Linda Lempert Kay Skioff	Celia Rothkopf Diane Steinbrink
Financial Secretary	Harriet Winokur	Sherry Kohn Eisman Anita Shomer	Gerri Green
Immediate Past Presidents	Barbara Nussbaum Cindi Pasceri		

Lynne Jacobs NCJW National Board Director and State Policy Advocate

Harriet Gran, Editor.

hgranncjw@gmail.com

Mal Gran, Website Manager

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

\$50 GIANT CASH CARDS

GIANT cards are available for purchase. Please contact Roz Fudell. 267-939-4424

