



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Philadelphia Section

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE. A BELIEF IN ACTION®

March, 2015

Bulletin

GET INVOLVED WITH OUR NCJW GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION'S NEW Public Affairs Community Service (PACS) PROJECT

DID YOU KNOW THAT SEX TRAFFICKERS (THE MODERN TERM FOR THE WORD “PIMP”) REGULARLY TROLL LOCAL MALLS LOOKING FOR VULNERABLE TEENS TO LURE THEM INTO PROSTITUTION?

Sex trafficking of women and children is not just a global problem affecting millions, it is a disturbing reality in the U.S. In fact, sex trafficking is the number one criminal money-maker in the United States. And the rate of sex trafficking in Philadelphia is high.

This modern-day slavery is growing. Today, there are more slaves in the world than at any other time in history.

Taking to heart our history as slaves in Egypt and our belief that no one should be exploited as we once were, NCJW aims to expose and address the aspects of this hidden and complex issue — sex trafficking in the US — with a focus on women and children through a powerful program of public awareness, education, and advocacy. This initiative is aptly named “Exodus”.

As we have experienced liberation and freedom, it is our mandate to ensure our communities and laws respond to those trapped in our midst. Every woman and child deserves a life of freedom from coercion, violence, and sexual exploitation.

Beginning this spring, NCJW Greater Philadelphia will take an active role in this initiative. Our efforts will include the three national components, plus we will support a safe house for trafficked women located in the Philadelphia area. Our plans include:

PUBLIC AWARENESS: Section members will travel to synagogues, local malls, teachers’, and school nurses’ conventions, etc. with life-sized cardboard cutouts of 4 teenage victims of sex trafficking, each with the true story of the victim. We also plan to show documentary films about sex trafficking at community gatherings.

EDUCATION OF OUR MEMBERS ABOUT THIS ISSUE

SUPPORT OF A LOCAL SAFE HOUSE FOR TRAFFICKED WOMEN: donate household items, funds to purchase Septa tokens, perhaps tutor some of the women to pass their G.E.D. exam.

ADVOCACY: examine the PA anti-trafficking law as it now exists and advocate for improvements. In particular, we want to ensure that the PA state legislature’s newly passed Act 105 thoroughly protects young victims by giving them “safe harbor” and placing them in special safe houses for a year -long program to attend to their mental, emotional and physical wounds. At this time, no such safe house for teen victims of sex trafficking exists in Pennsylvania

Send information, articles or photos that you would like printed in the Bulletin to the editor:
Harriet Gran hgranncjw@gmail.com 215-836-5993

THINGS YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW

TO HELP NCJW'S GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION START THIS WORTHWHILE PROJECT:

1. **Educate yourself** by reading one or more of these books:

Walking Prey. Holly Austin Smith. An autobiography by a young victim of sex trafficking. Linda Smith (2009). Based on interviews with former trafficking victims in the U.S.

Not in My Town: Exposing and Ending Human Trafficking and Modern Day slavery. Dillon Burroughs and Charles Powell (2011). This book offers discussion about the U.S. slave trade and how it extends internationally.

Bodies and Soul: The tragic plight of three Jewish women forced into prostitution in the Americas: Isabel Vincent tells the true story of three women, who, like so many others from Eastern Europe, were forced into prostitution by a criminal gang of Jewish mobsters.

Half the Sky: Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn guide us on an odyssey through Africa and Asia to meet some extraordinary women, including a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery.

2. **Attend any one of the upcoming book discussions. (Each will cover all the books.)**

March 4th – 9:30-11:30am at the home of Jill Zippin, Horsham

March 12th – 7:30 to 9:30pm at the home of Julie Savitch, Radnor

June 11th – 7:30 to 9pm at the home of BJ Strouss, Center City

To register, go to jewishphilly.org/wovbookclub

(These are homes of members of Women of Vision, our coalition partner in this effort. You'll learn the exact address when you register. Discussions will be led by Beverly C. Rosen.

3. **DONATE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING HOUSEHOLD ITEMS TO DAWN'S PLACE, A LOCAL SHELTER FOR ADULT WOMEN VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING. You can bring them to the next general meeting on March 17**

- Large trash bags (30 Gallon)
- Powdered Coffee Creamer- Spaghetti Sauce- Canned Tuna Fish- Coffee- Sugar- Cereal- Cereal bars- Cooking Oil
- Office Supplies (Staples Gift Cards)
- Cat Food
- Twin Bed Sheets, Blankets, Comforters and Pillow Cases
- Blankets For Twin Beds
- Toilet paper- Kleenex- Paper Towels- Napkins- Laundry Detergent- Dish Washing Liquid- Ziploc bags/ gallon- Disinfecting Wipes- Swiffer Wet Jet Refills- Bathroom Cleaner Spray- Glass cleaner- Hand soap- Dryer sheets

Lynne Jacobs, PA Policy Advocate and Linda Lempert, Legislative Chair/Greater Phila. Section

**PLEASE BRING SUGGESTED 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....

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, March 17	11:30 a.m.	Keneseth Israel	Sherry L. Blumenthal, MD
Thursday, April 23	7:30 p.m.	Keneseth Israel	Philadelphia Sinfonia Concert
Tuesday, May 19	11:30 a.m.	Keneseth Israel	David Warren
Tuesday, June 9	11:30 a.m.		Meadowlands CC

Tuesday, March 17 11:30 A.M. ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH
 Dr. Sherry L. Blumenthal, M.D., M.S.Ed., F.A.C.O.G.

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 p.m. for the meeting and program.)



Tuesday March 24 TASTE OF CULTURE TRIP

Anne Nichol's Hilarious Comedy Classic *Abie's Irish Rose*

Contact Sherry Zlotnikoff 215-643-7876

TUESDAY APRIL 28 BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY'S 9/11 MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

Guided tour of the 9/11 Museum and a visit to the adjacent Memorial.
 Guided tour of a special exhibit for our group at the Skyscraper Museum
 A full course dinner at Mastoris Diner.
 Cost of \$115 includes transportation, tours, and dinner
 Departure: Regency Towers 8am and return 8pm.
 Snacks and water will be provided on the bus.



Officers for 2014 - 2015

President	Sandy Fryer	Fund Raising VP	Sherry Zlotnikoff
Program VP	Kay Skloff, Susan Horwitz	Treasurer	Pearl Tragash
Membership VP	Wendy Rader, Judy Fried	Financial Secretary	Diane Morgan
Membership- Retention VP	Rita Pruzan	Recording Secretary	Lynne Jacobs
PACS VP	Sherry Kohn, Maxine Stutman	Corresponding Secretary	Bobbie Berman
(Public Affairs Community Service)			

Celebrating a simcha or have one you would like the NCJW to recognise? Think of us. What a great way to share by making a donation to our Section.

Send your donation to our Treasurer, Pearl Tragash (After February 4)
 4331 Meridian Blvd.
 Warrington, PA 18976

We will make a note of it. Sending an acknowledgement to you and the recipient is our pleasure.

Public Affairs Community Service (PACS)

We can always do more together than we can alone! On Martin Luther King Day 20 members of our section of the National Council of Jewish women, husbands, children and grandchildren volunteered at the Mitzvah Circle Foundation, a nonprofit organization that meets the needs of people struggling with crisis, serious illness, homelessness and poverty - serving the most vulnerable in our community.

Several of us assembled **Food4Hope bags** - personalized bags of food that go directly to homeless shelters and to schools whose students come to school hungry. The group filled 106 bags! This was a great experience for our grandchildren who wrote personalized messages of encouragement and decorated the bags. They also decorated boxes that would be packed for families in need.

Several members of the group packed boxes of critical necessities including personal hygiene products, clothing and diapers for people living in our communities who are struggling. Others sorted clothing to ensure that Mitzvah Circle Foundation only sends high quality items that will help restore dignity and uplift the people who receive them, allowing them to move forward in their lives.

It was a rewarding and educational experience for all of us who participated. We enjoyed working together to make a difference and found it very meaningful to learn about the work of the Mitzvah Circle Foundation. We were glad we could be of help to a wonderful organization that helps so many vulnerable people in our community. We hope to organize more group volunteer projects at their warehouse.

A special thanks to Sherry Kohn, our PACS VP, to Rachel Hurley a new young member who works at the Mitzvah Circle for organizing the project, and to everyone who participated.

For more information about the Mitzvah Circle, go to www.mitzvahcircle.org or find Mitzvah Circle Foundation on Facebook for more information.

Warmly,

Rachel
Rachel Hurley
Director of Community Engagement
rachel@mitzvahcircle.org
Mitzvah Circle Foundation
mitzvahcircle.org



Eleanor Levie and Lynne Jacobs

A great turnout of NCJW members and their families as volunteers, including Lynne Jacobs and Eleanor Levie pictured on the right.

A New Law

On February 13th, Philadelphia City Council passed an earned sick days bill with a vote of 14-2. And that afternoon, Mayor Nutter signed it into law. Philadelphia is now the 17th city to pass earned sick days.

NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section was one of 106 member organizations of the Coalition for Healthy Families and Workplaces working on this issue. Special thanks to Linda Lempert who championed this cause and kept our membership updated. This earned health benefit will support 200,000 workers and their families as well as the health of the customers who use their services.



Linda Lempert and Eleanor Levie showing their NCJW signs of support for sick day benefits.



Eleanor Levie with Marianne Bellasorte, Vice-President of PathWays PA, wearing their "PASS SICK DAYS NOW" badges.

Holocaust Essay Contest

Hopefully, we will receive the essays from Springfield Township Middle School in late March or early April. Please let me know if you are interested in being a reader. Typically, 10 essays are distributed to each reader to be rated. We then get together and read the better essays aloud to achieve a consensus. At the end of the school year Liz and I will attend the awards assemblies. Each student who participated will receive a certificate, and each winner will also receive a book. You can reach me by email egoldhammer@comcast.net and I will include you on my list to contact.

Evelyn Goldhammer

Evelyn Goldhammer and Liz Hirsch, co-chairs



BRIGHT IDEAS

Dear Members,

We are forming a Taste of Culture Committee to generate new ideas to engage in the planning and execution of our upcoming adventures. We encourage our membership, long-standing and newer members, to participate. We are looking forward to a program that will broaden our scope of places to visit.

We trust our future trips will inspire you to invite spouses, friends and family to join in on the fun.

Please feel free to call Sherry Zlotnikoff at 215-643-7876 to join the committee for the year 2015-2016.

Thanking you in advance for your help.

Sherry Zlotnikoff, VP of Fundraising

We can have an important voice in promoting social change. Go to www.NCJW.org and click on "Take Action" and follow the directs. By signing up you will receive emails asking for Action from you.

Also, to find out what is happening in our fair city, go to JewishPhilly.org and <http://blog.pjvoice.com/>

Book Clubs



Center City Book Club

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 7 p.m.

3 Junes by Julia Glass

Hosted by Joyce Krasnoff

215-640-0280

mmkjkpk@verizon.net

Led by Eleanor Levie

Thanks to Laura Lisa for hosting the February meeting

Daytime Book Group

Feb. 26 *The Dinner* by Herman Koch

All meetings will be held at 1 p.m. in the Dublin Terrace clubhouse.

Any questions, contact Joyce Avrach, 215-402-0287 or Barryjoy@aol.com

You do not have to attend every meeting to be on our list.

Evening Book Club

Tuesday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m.

The All-Girls Filling Station Reunion by Fannie Flagg.

RSVP to Harriet Gran..215-836-5993 or

hpgran68@gmail.com

Thanks to Judy Miller for hosting the January Book Club Meeting.

Condolences:

Barbara Goldstein on the loss of her husband, Don.

Aviva Shigon Jaffe on the loss of her daughter, Miriam

Abby Segal on the loss of her father-in-law, Irv Segal

Thank you to Gladys Greenfield for graciously hosting the February board meeting.

Mazel Tov to Madelyn Greenberg on the birth of her grand-daughter Alexa



If you have changed your address, phone number and/or email or if you hear of a member's passing, please contact Diane Morgan via email at dianebmorgan@yahoo.com or by phone, (215) 646-9331

GIANT CASH CARDS

Please consider purchasing Giant Cash Cards. We sell them in \$50.00 denominations. Our section receives 5% of all we sell. It is a "win-win" for all. If you wish to purchase some, please call Rhena Kelsen. (215-576-5237)

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.

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National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Philadelphia Section

TASTE OF CULTURE
April 28, 2015

A NEW YORK DAY OF INSPIRATION

9/11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM
and
THE SKYSCRAPER MUSEUM
A dazzling work of contemporary architecture

We will meet at Regency Towers, 1001 Easton Road, Willow Grove, PA at 8:00 a.m.
Following the excursion to New York, we will stop for dinner at Mastoris Dinner, Bordentow, NJ
A full dinner with choices in all catagories will be provided
We expect to return to Regency Towers by 8:00 p.m.

Please mail your check made out to NCJW by **APRIL 13** to:

Sherry Zlotnikoff
286 Copper Beech Dr.
Blue Bell, PA 19422
(215-643-7876)

Cost: Members \$115.00

NON-MEMBERS \$120.00

Please feel free to bring husbands, friends, neighbors and relatives.

NAME _____ Phone # _____

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National Council of Jewish Women

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REGENCYTOWERS

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