



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Philadelphia Section

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE.
A BELIEF IN ACTION®

September, 2015

Bulletin

**Please respond promptly
to the flyers inside**



JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA CEO IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT NCJW’S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON AND VENDOR BOUTIQUE ON OCTOBER 20, 2015

“THE POWER OF THE VOLUNTEER (PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE)”

The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Philadelphia Section, is honored to present Naomi L. Adler, Esq. as the keynote speaker at its Annual Membership Luncheon and Vendor Boutique on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at Green Valley Country Club, Lafayette Hill.

Ms. Adler is the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia since May 2014.

Prior to this position, Ms. Adler was the President and CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam NY for six years. In her post at Federation she is focused on mobilizing financial and volunteer resources to successfully address the Jewish community’s most critical priorities in Philadelphia and Israel.

A native of Rochester, NY, in 1992 Ms. Adler joined the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office as an Assistant DA. She was a successful prosecutor in cases of violence against women and children. She eventually left the formal practice of law for a career in non-profit management, communal work and fundraising.

Throughout her career, Ms. Adler has been known as a community activist, particularly in the realm of Health, Human Services and Social Justice. She was recognized at President Obama’s 2013 State of the Union address and has testified as an expert in front of the US Congress and at many New York State legislative hearings. She gained national attention 15 years ago for her role in establishing a Hate Crime Task Force for the state of Ohio.

Ms. Adler is the recipient of numerous awards during her law career and has served on a number of local and national non-profit boards.

We can have an important voice in promoting social change. Go to www.NCJW.org and click on “Take Action” and follow the directions. 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/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you have had a relaxing summer and are ready for another fruitful year. In June we had a very productive board meeting at which we began laying the groundwork for what will be a very exhilarating coming season. The meeting was graciously hosted by Joan Sax who delighted us with a yummy lunch at her beautiful home.

Several board members have been busy with ongoing responsibilities and planning exciting events and advocacy initiatives. A special thanks to all of them: Judy Fried, Wendy Rader, and Rita Pruzan Membership Vice Presidents; Susan Horwitz and Barbara Nussbaum. Program Vice Presidents and their committee; Charlotte Schwartz, Fund Raising Vice President and her committee; Sherry Kohn, PACS Vice President; Pearl Tragash, Treasurer; Diane Morgan, Financial Secretary; Bobbi Berman, Corresponding Secretary; Lynne Jacobs, PA State Policy Advocate; Linda Lempert, Legislative Chair; Judy Wenzel, Personal Giving Chair; all the book club chairs; Eleanor Levie and Elaine Kline, HIPPY Chairs; and Harriet Gran, Bulletin Editor. Apologizes to anyone I may have missed.

We are approaching the High Holidays, a time of celebration, awe and solemnity; of repenting, forgiving and new beginnings. I would like to do something a bit different in this message — throw out a few ideas and invite you to email me sharing your own reflections and how they relate to the work we do — to be published in future bulletins.

Rosh Hashanah is the birthday of the world, the anniversary of God's creation of the world — how is renewal embedded in this idea?

We read that God made all of the universe, creating human beings last. There are two versions of the creation story: one is that God gave people dominion over all life; the other is that God gave us the responsibility to be the caretakers of all life. Do these versions conflict, must we choose one or the other by which to live, can the two versions be reconciled and how do they relate to the work we do?

The root of teshuvah is "turn" and embodies the concept of change and turning oneself in a new direction.

Finally, Rosh Hashanah is the holiday during which we read about the Akeidah—the (failed?) sacrifice of Isaac, a story with which many of us struggle. I always interpreted it as the renouncement of any human sacrifice to God. A young female Rabbi recently shared the following with me:

"The idea I like in this story is that on the surface it seems Abraham is willing to do anything for God, and this must prove his faithfulness...however, many scholars (including me) think Abraham failed the test: that in his zeal for God he failed to listen for what God was really wanting from him (NOT to sacrifice his son). This is the beginning of Abraham's denouement as a spiritual visionary. This text lends itself to questions about how we know what is right; how we know what is wanted of us; how we can be wrong; and how justice can be perverted."

I look forward to your responses and to seeing you in the fall.

Shana Tova,
Sandy

Officers for 2015-2016

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Sandy Fryer | Fund Raising VP | Charlotte Schwartz |
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| PACS VP | Sherry Kohn | Corresponding Secretary | Bobbie Berman |
| (Public Affairs Community Service) | | | |

BRIGHT IDEAS

Dear Members,

We are forming a fundraising committee to generate new ideas for trips, Taste of Culture, other trips and traditional fundraising initiatives

Charlotte Schwartz our new Fund Raising VP Chairwoman can be contacted at 215-643-7542 or by e-mail at charlotters6@comcast.net



SAVE THE DATES

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Wednesday, September 30 9:45 a.m | Taste of Culture | The Bryn Athyn Historic District Tour of Glencairn Museum and Mansion |
| Tuesday, October 20 10:30 a.m. | Annual Membership Luncheon with Vender Boutique | Green Valley Country Club |
| Tuesday, October 27 | Taste of Culture | Mural Arts Bus Tour and Lunch (look for invitation/flyer in October bulletin) |
| Tuesday, November 17 | Rela Mintz Geffen, Ph.D At the Core or At the Periphery? Evolving Roles of Contemporary Jewish American Grandparents” | Keneseth Israel |
| Tuesday, December 15 | Anti-Human Sex Trafficking, Featuring a speakers panel on this NCJW National priority | Keneseth Israel |
| Tuesday, February 16 | Rabbi Lance Sussman "Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean!" | Keneseth Israel |
| Tuesday, March 15. | Diane Steinbrink, a dramatic interpretation, TBA | Keneseth Israel |
| Thursday, April 14 | TBA | |
| Tuesday, May 3 | Interfaith Center of Philadelphia Topic:" Interfaith Cooperation" | Keneseth Israel |
| Tuesday, June 7 | Closing Luncheon | |

Board Meetings

September 8
October 13
November 10

December 1
January 5
February 2

March 8
April 5
May 3

May 10
June 14



Public Affairs Community Service (PACS)

It does not seem possible that summer is almost over but stores stocked with school supplies and synagogues gearing up for High Holy Days, tell us it is. I am looking forward to an exciting year with PACS.

I am finally able to start meeting with school principals. The cutbacks in the schools meant that the principals were denied access to both their buildings and school e-mails until this week so our literacy program as well as school supplies will finally get addressed. There are a million sales of school supplies so if you want to make a big impact on our schools, stock up and bring them to meetings.

Mitzvah Circle is always happy to have us come and volunteer as well as donate clothing, household supplies, as well as food. I try to get there once a week after Labor Day and you can always either drop donations off at my house or bring them to the next meeting.

We are still very much involved with The Ronald McDonald House and will be looking for volunteers to help make breakfast.

I am always looking for new projects to get involved in and more importantly, new ways to involve members. I will have more information about our school projects in the coming weeks. If you have any ideas, please contact me at kohnsherry@gmail.com or by phone (215) 322-0441.

Sherry Kohn

Holocaust Essay Contest

This year we read essays, poems and letters from four schools. Two of these schools, LaBrum and C.W. Henry, both city schools, were new to us this year. Pictured standing next to me is Gavin Craft who wrote a beautiful poem at the LaBrum school. Behind us are the other participants holding their certificates. We give every student who writes an essay a certificate of participation. The prize winners receive a framed certificate and a book about the holocaust.

A big thank you to all of the members (and a few husbands) who read essays and gave their opinions.

Good job everyone!

Evelyn Goldhammer



Liz Hirsh, my co-chair, took pictures at the Springfield Middle School Assembly and they were published in the Exponent.



NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section is on board with dates for our participation with the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) Guest Chef breakfast program. Our volunteers serve breakfast to families staying at RMH while their critically ill children are treated at St. Christopher's Hospital, many from out-of-state. While the dining area and kitchen are attractive, spacious, and well stocked, the most compelling experience may be the interaction between volunteers and the families

there. One parent expressed it best: when asked by one of our volunteers if she could put some food together for the parent who was in a hurry to return to her child, the parent looked at the volunteer and said, "You remind me of my mother. If she was here she would do that for me".

Volunteer dates, Sundays at 9a.m. are:

September 6

November 11

December 6

March 6

April 3

Please call Zelda Stern at 215-947-2348 to help continue this vital program.

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If you know of someone who would like to advertise with us...Contact: Pearl Tragash (215) 542 0595

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National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Philadelphia Section

TASTE OF CULTURE

THE BRYN ATHYN HISTORIC DISTRICT



1001 Cathedral Rd.
Bryn Athyn, PA 19009
Wednesday, September 30, 2015
meet at 9:45, tours begin at 10:00

GLENCAIRN MUSEUM including a Chagall
lithograph exhibit
and
CAIRNWOOD MANSION

OPTIONAL TOUR OF THE BRYN ATHYN
CATHEDRAL (after lunch)
(call Susan Horwitz for information regarding
handicap accessibility - 215-938-8569)

Members \$50, Guests \$55

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK, PAYABLE TO NCJW BY SEPTEMBER 20, 2015 to:

Lee Tonik
8708 Prospect Ave. D-12
Philadelphia, PA 19118
267-428-5195 or leetonik@comcast.net for questions

Lunch at Da Bistro. Mediterranean Grill
1918 County Line Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA

Name _____ Phone # _____

email _____

Guests _____

Lunch is roasted veggies, Greek salad, coffee or tea and dessert.
Please select your entree choice(s) of:

Vegetarian Lasagna _____

or

Chicken Kabobs _____

The National Council of Jewish Women

Greater Philadelphia Section

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON AND NOT TO BE MISSED VENDOR BOUTIQUE

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 10:30 a.m.

Green Valley Country Club 201 Ridge Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA

BOUTIQUE SHOPPING and HORS D'OEUVRES

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER
NAOMI L. ADLER, ESQ.**

Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

THE POWER OF THE VOLUNTEER (Past, Present and Future)

Member \$50 Guests \$55

Please mail checks, made out to NCJW to:

Rita Pruzan, 23 Sweet William Way, Langhorne, PA 19047

Checks must be received by October 9 to guarantee your seating request

Any questions, call Membership Vice-Presidents

Judy Fried at 215 245-1309 or Wendy Rader at 215 657-9347

Please bring school supplies to be donated to Philadelphia elementary schools

NAME _____ PHONE _____

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOR YOURSELF AND EACH OF YOUR GUESTS.

NAMES _____

Chicken Santa Anna with Spinach, Portobello Mushrooms, Sun-Dried Tomatoes and Rosemary Demi-glace

NAMES _____

Filet of Salmon with Cucumber Dill Crème fraîche

If you have any special food requirements please call Judy or Wendy

PLEASE SEAT ME WITH:

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all of you who participated in our Personal Giving campaign this year. Your contributions make a vital difference in the work of our Section as we move forward into our next season of projects to make our community a better place for families, women and children.

Judy Wenzel, Personal Giving Chair

To our Newest Members:

NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section welcomes you, our new members, who joined this summer. Being a member of our section means you are someone who is caring, intelligent, sharing and interesting. We are a group that supports women, children and families through our advocacy, hands-on activities and philanthropic support via PACS, our Public Affairs Community Service, some of which are described in Sherry Kohn's article in this Bulletin.

We would love to have you involved in any way you feel comfortable and to join us at our many cultural trips and program meetings.

Wendy and I invite you to attend our Annual Membership Luncheon, Tuesday October 20, at Green Valley Country Club. Your friends and family are welcome.

Here's to a great 2015-16 year!

Let us know if you have any questions..we are membership VPs

Judy Fried 215-245-1309 judyfried38@gmail.com

Wendy Rader 215-657-9347 wrbarbiegirl50@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

Claire Magill

Lynn Gold-Benjamin

Sherry Blumenthal.

Tobe Amsterdam

Rosalie Marcus

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Barbara Nussbaum

Hal Tragash

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

Celebrating a simcha or have one you would like the NCJW to recognize?

Think of us.

What a great way to share by making a donation to our Section

Send your donation to our Treasurer,
Pearl Tragash
4331 Meridian Blvd.
Warrington, PA

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



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HIPPY Program to Launch this Fall

The Home Instruction for Parents of PreSchool Youngsters (HIPPY) program will begin in early October, teaching parents how to be their child's first and most influential teacher, and instilling a life-long love of learning. What better project for our NCJW to support, right? After all, HIPPY was developed in Israel in 1969 thanks to NCJW-sponsorship and funding, and NCJW brought HIPPY to the US in 1984. Since 1988, it has been its own agency—HIPPY USA, headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas, always with NCJW members at the helm of its Board.

Our strong NCJW presence is adding value and oversight, promising a smooth beginning to the program starting in Philly under the aegis of the sponsoring agency, Diversified Community Services in Point Breeze (South Philadelphia), and with funding from the William Penn Foundation. As co-chairs of the HIPPY Advisory Committee, Elaine Kline and I (Eleanor Levie) have met repeatedly with DCS staff. We have assembled a powerful committee with some of the brightest and the best veterans and advocates in Philly's early childhood community. Allison Acevedo, Director of Education at United Way, has recently joined us as a third co-chair.

In July, two trainers sent by HIPPY USA spent three days here with HIPPY staff, the DCS leadership, and also us as the co-chairs. The senior trainer who has decades of experience expressed her confidence that our program would be a success, due to 3 key factors:

~~Our established and functioning Advisory Committee, which is already providing support, communication, and checks and balances. (Many HIPPY programs go for months or years without such guidance.)

~~ Siria Rivera, the newly hired Director of Family Engagement who will coordinate the HIPPY program, under the able supervision of two amazing directors of high quality child care centers at Diversified. Siria Rivera, who holds a Masters in Educational Leadership, brings experience with start-ups, experience working directly with parents, and her own personal life story that endows her with a keen understanding of growing up and raising a child in low-income neighborhoods.

~~Dynamic systems already in place at DCS, including 2 quality child care centers, excellent data management and media expertise, evidenced by a commercial for HIPPY that should be up on their website. Check out DCSphila.org to see what's going on!

We are fortunate to have the kind of built-in administrative and PR muscle that other HIPPY sponsors do not have. This will enable us to frequently trumpet our ongoing news and successes to the DCS community, the families in the child care centers here, the larger community, other non-profits in early childhood, the media, and corporate and government leaders. And we know we can look to our NCJW section to spread the news.

We are so grateful to our sisters in NCJW—Greater Philadelphia Section. Board members and members of the NCJW Center City Book Club have recently made donations in honor of my birthday. We welcome your donations to HIPPY of gently used books, toys, games, and art supplies. We thank you for your continued support of this wonderful program that is so intertwined with NCJW and so aligned with our values, priorities, and mission of advancing the well-being of our future generations.

Eleanor Levie
National Council of Jewish Women
Co-chair, Advisory Committee for
Home Instruction for Parents of
Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
247 S. Hutchinson St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107
home: 267-519-8157
cell (when traveling): 215-313-6316



Eleanor Levie and Siria Rivera,
our HIPPY Coordinator

Right to left: Joselynn Jones, Director of Dixon Learning Academy, Elaine Kline, Allison Acevedo, Directors of Education at United Way, Qutina Watson and Teresa Booker, HIPPY trainers.



Book Clubs

Daytime Book Group

Aug. 27 *A Place at the Table*

by Susan White

Sept. 24 *The Boys in the Boat*

by Daniel Brown

Oct. 22 *All the Light We Cannot See*

by Anthony Doerr

Nov. 19 *The Interestings*

by Meg Wolitzer

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.

Thank you to our June, July and August Book Group facilitators, Sue Leon, Selma Tolins Kaufman and Judy Wenzel.

Welcome!

We ladies of the Daytime Book Club would like to invite you to become a member of our lively, book-loving group.

We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month, all year round, at the clubhouse at Dublin Terrace, Jennifer Dr. (off of Limekiln Pike) in Dresher. Our social time, with light refreshments, begins around 1:00 and our book discussion starts at 1:30.

Please consider checking us out as we welcome new members.

Call Joyce Avrach at 215-402-0287



Center City Book Group

Sept. 9 *All the Light We Cannot See*

by Anthony Doerr

Eleanor Levie, Host

Any questions, contact

Audrey Jaffe Block. 267-519-925

Evening Book Club

Thursday, September 17, 7:30 p.m.

Joshua: A Brooklyn Tale by Andrew Kane

Host- Tammy Hertzbach

Facilitator-Charlotte Schwartz

RSVP to Tammy Hertzbach

215-542-8790

batame.hsrtzbach@gmail.com

Thanks to Etta Nissman for her gracious hospitality and to Eileen Davis for leading an excellent book discussion at our July potluck swim party. It was a splash!



Congratulations to:

Edye Mazer on the birth of her great granddaughter.

Jackee Swartz on her 50th wedding anniversary

Best wishes to:

Isabel Kanefield and Sherry Zlotnikoff for speedy recovery from surgery.

Condolences: to

The family of our member, Sandee Silverstein, who has passed away.

Patti First on the loss of her mother, Selma Hoffman.

Diane Morgan on the loss of her son-in-law,

Dennis Howie.

Arlene Slobodzian on the loss of her mother.

Winners of our 2015 Raffle

At our closing meeting on June 9, 2015, the following were our raffle winners: Evlyn Bieber \$50.00, Barbara Nussbaum, \$100.00 and Lynne Kaye, \$200.00. Thank you to all those who supported our section by selling and purchasing raffles.

GIANT CASH CARDS

GIANT cards are now available to purchase, in increments of \$20.00. Please contact Joyce Eveloff---215-283-9277
jeveloff369@aol.com



Pictured here at our closing June 2015 luncheon are our dedicated NCJW section officers serving our membership for the 2015-2016 term.

Taste of Culture 9/11 Memorial Trip



The Freedom Tower



The Memorial Wall where each square represents a victim



The Picture Wall



South Tower Memorial Pool



National Council of Jewish Women

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printed in the Bulletin to the editor:

Harriet Gran hgranncjw@gmail.com
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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