

# Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

A BELIEF IN ACTION<sup>®</sup>

APRIL, 2021

## 127 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](http://ncjwphiladelphia.org)

## JUST AROUND THE CORNER A MATTER OF PRIMARY CONCERN FOR ALL OF US

Three measures will be on the May 18 ballot. The outcome of voters' decisions will impact us all. Two of the ballot measures are a concern as they arose from contention around Governor Wolf's use of emergency powers to deal with the pandemic. One question gives the General Assembly the ability to end or extend a declared emergency without involvement of the Governor. The other would end a declared emergency after 21 days unless extended by the General Assembly. Both ballot measures give more power to the Legislature and limit that of the Governor.



**Noteworthy: Since 1998, 17 ballot initiatives were presented to voters and all were approved. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT MANY VOTERS THINK ALL BALLOT MEASURES ARE IN THEIR BEST INTEREST?**

The need to be well informed on these ballot initiatives is urgent! Democracy requires well-informed and committed voters who see the importance of checks and balances between our branches of government. Our primary election turnout is critical. If you are opting to vote by mail-in ballot, the DEADLINE to APPLY for a MAIL-IN BALLOT is May 11. Your application must be RECEIVED by the County Board of Elections by that deadline.

### SAVE THE DATE

We have suffered through 4 years of seeing democratic institutions and processes dismantled. Our NCJW GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION offers us opportunities to educate ourselves and maintain a vigilance over policies that impact our values and reflect the mission of our National Council of Jewish Women.

On Thursday, April 15, our NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section, with our voting advocacy coalition partners, will present a program on Zoom.

### The Power of the May 2021 Primary Election

This is a not to be missed opportunity to learn what is at stake in the May election.

SEE THE FLYER ON PAGE 2 TO SIGN UP FOR THIS ZOOM PROGRAM

**PLEASE JOIN US**

**Thursday April 15 at 2:00 PM**

for our special April Advocacy Zoom program  
entitled

***The Power of The May 18, 2021 Primary Election***

Remember, our loudest voice is our vote! And primaries are critical ... especially local and statewide ones. In this election, there are judges, referendums and more on the ballot. We need everyone to understand what is at stake and how to best evaluate and make your ballot selections.

At the primary election on May 18, voters will decide many things including constitutional amendments on the governor's emergency powers, which have been a point of conflict between the Republican-controlled Legislature and Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf during the coronavirus pandemic.

Speakers will help us understand:

- The proposed PA Constitutional Emergency Declarations Amendment (limiting a governor's emergency powers by requiring legislative approval to continue beyond 21 days)
- A Legislative Resolution to Extend or Terminate Emergency Declaration Amendment (empowering the legislature to extend or terminate an emergency declaration by resolution)
- An Equal Rights Regardless of Race or Ethnicity Amendment
- Why judges matter and how to evaluate a judicial candidate
- What your ballot may look like and how to navigate through it

**RSVP REQUIRED BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021**

**CLICK HERE TO RSVP**

Or if the link does not work for you, copy and paste this into your browser to rsvp

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1EOEoIW37U2HOtuGIGNxIB11coEJEGPIQSKSNeif1qeI/edit>

Questions? Call Char Kurland (215) 805-3006, Patti First (215)-470-1560, Donna Bader (856) 303-9616

If you want to stay aware and participate in our vital Advocacy work,  
please **CLICK HERE** to opt in to our Alerts!

National Council of Jewish Women

*Greater Philadelphia Section*

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021– 2:00 PM –ZOOM EVENT

*The Untold Story of How The Stories Were Told*

**with Louis Schmidt**



Louis Schmidt interviewed Holocaust survivors for the USC Shoah Foundation which was created after Steven Spielberg's Oscar win for *Schindler's List*. More than 55,000 testimonies bring the lessons of the Holocaust and a message of tolerance for future generations. Mr. Schmidt will discuss his intensive training and his profoundly meaningful personal experience as an interviewer for the project. Mr. Schmidt is a winner of three Emmy and four ACE awards as well as the Silver Metal from the International and Television Festival of New York. He was formerly a reporter for LOOK Magazine and a Senior Producer for NFL Films.

**RSVP REQUIRED BY [WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021.](#)**

**[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)**

Or if the link does not work for you, copy and paste this into your browser to rsvp- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxHpiCVfya4bWYituscPCnLV1jOriNKh173tk0Z0gpmW0pQA/viewform>

Questions? Call Char Kurland (215) 805-3006, Patti First (215)-470-1560, Donna Bader (856) 303-9616



Save the Date June 15 Closing Program  
Installation of Officers  
Speaker. Cantor David F. Tilman  
A return to Anatevka: A Look Back at 50 Years of Fiddler on the Roof.

## Community Service Committee

Members of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Greater Philadelphia Section recently participated in a collection of household items to support Dawn's Place. Since 2009, Dawn's Place has been a pioneer in offering a safe and caring residential setting for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) or sex trafficking. Nearly every month for more than five YEARS, NCJW member Lynne Jacobs has shuttled the donations gathered from across the Philadelphia area and brought them to Dawn's Place.

NCJW is a leading voice for justice in the United States. They are dedicated to improving the quality of life for women, children and families.

Pictured left to right: Lynne Jacobs, who coordinates this project; Linda Lempert, Aileen Salus, Linda Brosgol, Pearl Tragash, Carol Stein, Faye Benschetler, Betsy Parziale and Ann Pollock.



**Following is a letter we received from the Executive Director of Dawn's Place.**



Dear Lynne,

In the name of our residents and staff, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for all you and the members of the National Council of Jewish Women contribute to Dawn's Place. I was overwhelmed when I saw all paper products and other household items you recently brought to us. We are so grateful for your tremendous out-pouring of support.

Because of your thoughtful generosity, you are partnering with us in our mission to respond to the physical and emotional needs of the traumatized women who come to us for healing. Dawn's Place provides housing, trauma-informed counseling and other services to survivors of sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation. As we continue to impact the lives of woman wounded by violence, abuse and exploitation, we are most grateful for your concern.

Again, many thanks for your on-going contributions to Dawn's Place. We sincerely appreciate your kindness and support. On behalf of our residents and staff, we wish you many blessings and good health.

Gratefully,

*Sister Kathleen Coll, S.S.J.*

Sr. Kathleen Coll  
Executive Director

Judith Ginsberg, in addition to her involvement with the NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section, sits on the Board of Managers of the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society.

The cover letter below and accompanying case studies explain how FHBS has utilized the funds NCJW donated this fall.



March 26, 2021  
13 Nissan 5781

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Philadelphia Section  
Attn: Linda Brosgol and Aileen Salus  
Vice Presidents of Community Service

Dear Ms. Brosgol and Ms. Salus:

This letter serves as a follow up from my acknowledgement of the \$1,200.00 grant from the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Philadelphia Section, to the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society in October 2020. Enclosed please find a compilation of case studies of clients who have benefited from the grant that you so generously provided. These women have been assisted between the months of November 2020 and March 2021.

Please share these documents with other members of NCJW and reiterate my appreciation for enabling and empowering our work. Should you have questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me.

Hope you are staying safe and well. Chag Sameach!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Sztul'.

Suzanne Sztul  
President

### Female Hebrew Benevolent Society

P.O. Box 36806 Philadelphia, PA 19107 • 215-821-9845 • FHBS.org

#### Board of Managers

Wendi Barish	Tamara Chasan Pomeranz
Wilma Bass	Judy Richards
Phyllis Cohen	Susan Sandler
Tamar Fox	Carol B. Shore
Judith Ginsberg	Pam Stein
Alicia Ludwig	Suzanne Sztul
Meryl Tucker	

## **FEMALE HEBREW BENEVOLENT SOCIETY**

### **Emergency Aid Case Studies**

Hayley is a 45-year-old married mother of two who had to stop working due to the COVID-19 pandemic as she has an autoimmune disease, along with other medical issues, that made it unsafe for her to work at the medical office where she was employed. Being on unemployment was unpredictable and the family has been falling behind on bills. FHBS paid \$600 for a monthly car payment to help the family stay afloat during this challenging time.

Beth is a 65-year-old single woman receiving \$665 SSI monthly that is supplemented by \$194 in SNAP benefits. She was signed up for virtual socialization through Uniper (JFCS and KleinLIFE partner with this agency) that works by hooking up a device to a television and placing a web camera on top so that one can see and be seen by other participants. Beth was interested in the social aspect as well as the exercise classes offered as she has not been able to get out to move around much during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her TV that was over a decade old had been a barrier to her beginning the program so FHBS paid \$300 for a new TV that is slightly larger to accommodate her declining eyesight. With our help, Beth was able to participate in virtual socialization and exercise once more.

Alice is a 94-year-old widowed, Holocaust survivor living in Northeast Philadelphia. She is low income and suffers from extreme tremors with no known cause. This condition has advanced to the point that she cannot hold a cup in her hand without it breaking. FHBS paid \$64 for a set of very durable Corelle dinnerware to alleviate this issue that has permeated into the most basic aspects of Alice's life.

Vivian is a 65-year-old single woman receiving \$700/month social security payment supplemented by \$141 in SNAP benefits. The oven in her house no longer worked and she needed a new one. She was not able to afford the cost due to her limited income but JFCS and Golden Slipper were able to purchase a new one for her with combined funding. Due to the specific type of oven needed for her home, the store where it was bought was not able to install it and the contracted company they suggested was very expensive. Vivian was able to find another company to install it for \$350, which FHBS covered. With the combined efforts of these three agencies, this client was able to use an oven in proper working order once again.





### RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

Due to the pandemic, our "guest chefs" have not been able to cook and serve breakfast to the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia adjacent to St. Christopher's Children's Hospital. We did not let that stop us! NCJW has sent two donations to help with the meal program that benefits these families.

Chris Callahan, Chief Development Officer Ronald McDonald Charities, responded with the following, "Because of generous partners like NCJW Philadelphia, meals continue to be prepared safely onsite and are ready for guests to enjoy together as a family". Ronald McDonald House co-founder Dr. Audrey Evans always said she wants to be remembered as a woman who cared. We thank you for following in Dr. Evans footsteps and showing that you care!

Zelda Stern  
215-394-8335

Donations may be sent to:  
Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Philadelphia Region  
3925 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104  
att: Accounting Dept. Meal Program.

#### CENTER CITY BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, April 14, 7 p.m. on Zoom  
*The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett  
Leader: Phyllis Barsky

Center City residents interested in a book group:  
Contact Audrey Block.  
[ablock1919@comcast.net](mailto:ablock1919@comcast.net)  
215-688-0094



#### Evening Book Club

Tuesday, April 20 at 7:30 pm  
*Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides  
Thank you to Nancy Fagan for leading the February discussion and to Joan Sax for facilitating our March meeting. Fantastic discussions!

For more information, contact Joan Sax at  
[joansax@comcast.net](mailto:joansax@comcast.net)

#### Afternoon Book Club

Thursday, April 22 at 1:30 p.m. on Zoom  
*The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel  
Moderator: Susan Brooks

Thank you to Sue Leon for moderating our February book discussion of *Red at the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson.

Thank you to Ellen Newman and Sue Leon for moderating our March book discussion of *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett.

For more information, contact Susan Brooks at 215-542-0712 or [seamcrazy@verizon.net](mailto:seamcrazy@verizon.net)



## HOLOCAUST AWARENESS MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER UPDATES FROM JUDY FRIED

HAMEC is looking for volunteer virtual facilitators for a Scranton Symposium (May 10-14). They are looking for facilitators who would be able to join webinars and introduce survivor speakers, act as an audience, and moderate the question-and-answer session.

**Facilitators in this capacity will not be responsible for setting up Zoom meetings or managing the technical aspects of the call.**

The training for facilitators will be held on Thursday, April 15th at 10am. If you would be interested, here is the zoom link for the training:

Topic: Scranton Youth Symposium Training

Time: Apr 15, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96527446383?pwd=bUNXTXBpRk9XVIRXMGFYU0I0eHICQT09>

If you would like more information, a recording of the virtual facilitator training that was done last year can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UC7KPq-whlpM5KSvFMZhuH3au0egrG\\_o/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UC7KPq-whlpM5KSvFMZhuH3au0egrG_o/view?usp=sharing)

You can also contact Judy at judyfried38@gmail.com or 215 266 0465.

### **DO YOU SPEAK GERMAN?**

The following message was sent in an email several weeks ago. If you missed it, know that this opportunity to help is still needed.

We wanted to reach out to you because we are currently working with a collection of personal letters from several concentration camps that were loaned to HAMEC.

These letters are in German and we are looking for volunteers that we could send scans of the letters to over email, to assist with some translation work remotely.

We are reaching out to our NCJW members to inquire if there are any potential volunteers who can read German and would be interested in assisting us?

If so, please contact Geoffrey Quinn at the information listed below.

Geoffrey Quinn

Education Director

Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center

Phone: 215-464-4701

Fax: 215-464-4703

[www.hamec.org](http://www.hamec.org)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Holocaust-Awareness-Museum-and-Education-Center/145620842164536>



# WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Merle Savedow Sandra Cohen 🤗

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

Please contact: Ellen Mirbach semirbach@gmail.com 215-771-5311 or Donna Spector queenaheartds@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.



© AUNTY ACID 2020

Patti First

aunty acid



We welcome our newest grand puppy, Honey, playmate of Poppy. 🤗🤗

Cindi Pasceri

## Condolences:

To our NCJW member, Esta Cutler, on the loss of her husband Rick.

## Get Better Soon:

Wishing Michelle Utain good health in the months to come.

Wishing Barb Nussbaum a speedy recovery.

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215-805-8195

## **Nomination of Slate of Officers and Directors NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section 2021-2022**

### **Presidium :**

Liz Downing, Charlene Kurland, Ellen Mirbach

### **Vice Presidents:**

Programs And Education Patti First, Charlene Kurland  
Community Service Linda Brosgol, Aileen Salus  
Membership Ellen Mirbach  
Fund Raising Ann Pollack  
Advocacy Liz Downing

### **Officers:**

Treasurer Pearl Tragash  
Assistant Treasurer Margie Zukerman  
Recording Secretary Susan Chace  
Corresponding Secretary Bobbie Berman  
Financial Secretary Harriet Winokur  
PA State Advocacy Representatives: Barbara Hoffman, Rhonda Mandel

### **Directors At Large:**

Sherry Kohn Eisman	Wendy Rader
Janet Ecksel	Anita Shomer
Judy Fried	Kay Skloff
Evelyn Goldhammer	Diane Steinbrink
Linda Lempert	Jackee Swartz
Diane Plotnick	

### **Past Presidents**

Barbara Nussbaum, Cindi Pasceri

### **Submitted:**

Chair : Judith Ginsberg

#### **Committee:**

Lynne Jacobs, Rosalie Marcus, Barbara Nussbaum, Cindi Pasceri, Diane Steinbrink

Our website is the place to read the monthly Bulletin, check what's coming up on the calendar, pay Section dues, see what actions you can take locally, read important breaking news from the National website and so much more.

We welcome your ideas to broaden our content!

Questions or suggestions:  
contact Mal Gran at [hgranncjw@gmail.com](mailto:hgranncjw@gmail.com)

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



### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Join our wonderful NCJW group of volunteer tutors at our adopted Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, now in our sixth year. Until safety issues relevant to the pandemic are resolved we will pursue other means to support students as we await a safe return to school. Please call Harriet Gran at 215-206-1026 or email [hgranncjw@gmail.com](mailto:hgranncjw@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 Ann Pollock 215-806-4068  
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](mailto: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 activities.

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](mailto:harrietwinokur@gmail.com)



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## OFFICERS 2019-2020

This year, NCJW of Greater Philadelphia is being led by a Presidium. A Presidium is a council of executive officers that collectively administer the organization's business in place of one individual President. Our Presidium will be comprised of Vice Presidents, with the only or most senior member of their portfolio. Members of this year's Presidium are:

- Vice President of Advocacy, Liz Downing
- Co-Vice President of Membership, Ellen Mirbach
- Co-Vice President of Program/Education, Char Kurland
- Co-Vice President of Community Services, Linda Brosgol
- Vice President of Fund Raising, Ann Pollock

It has been collectively decided that each of the Presidium members will be taking on, in addition to the responsibilities in their own portfolio, the following:

- Executing one of the duties of a single president
- Presiding over an executive and full board meeting
- Writing a Presidium post for the Bulletin

We hope that you will not hesitate to contact any of the Presidium members\* with your questions.

<b>Fundraising VP</b>	Ann Pollock*	<a href="mailto:apollock1229@yahoo.com">apollock1229@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Membership Vice Presidents</b>	Donna Spector Ellen Mirbach*	<a href="mailto:queenahearteds@hotmail.com">queenahearteds@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:semirbach@gmail.com">semirbach@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Community Services Vice Presidents</b>	Aileen Salus Linda Brosgol*	<a href="mailto:asalus1945@gmail.com">asalus1945@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:lgbrosgol@gmail.com">lgbrosgol@gmail.com</a>
<b>Advocacy Vice President</b>	Liz Downing*	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.downing@msn.com">elizabeth.downing@msn.com</a>
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<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Susan Chace	
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Bobbie Berman	
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Harriet Winokur	
<b>Immediate Past Presidents</b>	Barbara Nussbaum Cindi Pasceri	

### Directors-at-large

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Paula Bursztyn Goldberg	Evelyn Goldhammer
Diane Piotnick	Wendy Rader
Linda Lempert	Kay Skloff
Diane Steinbrink	Gerri Green
Sherry Kohn Eisman	
Anita Shomer	

Harriet Gran, Bulletin Editor.  
[hgranncjw@gmail.com](mailto:hgranncjw@gmail.com)

Mal Gran, Website Manager  
Ellen Toplin, Technical Advisor



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Jane Barr Horstman  
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We have a limited supply.

Ann Pollock 215-806-4068 or apollock1229@yahoo.com

**April**

**Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday**

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Board Meeting	14	15 Program The Power of the May 18 Primary on Zoom	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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 National web site is [www.NCJW.org](http://www.NCJW.org)