

Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

December, 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

FINALLY – A TIME WE CAN MEET IN PERSON!

Tuesday December 7, 2021 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

KI Synagogue

Seating Limited to Members Only

and the First 30 Who Sign Up!

You MUST Show Your Vaccination Card

and Be Masked Upon Arrival

We have a time, limited to the first 30 people who sign up, to meet in person. KI is allowing us to use their auditorium, but we must all be masked and show our vaccination cards. We will have limited seating at each table so that we can maintain some social distance as well, and we will only have prepackaged cookies and either water or ice tea bottles for each person. (You can take your mask off only to eat or drink.)

This will give us a chance to reconnect with others in our membership. So if you want to be on the limited attendee list...



CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP

Sign up on our website at <http://ncjwphiladelphia.org/>

Or copy and paste this link into your browser -- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdD-6VyMH4jmQNMzwnr6v2KHqGaY23iQNMi_dO3kf40DZsSpq/viewform

We will let you know if you are among the first 30 who will be able to attend our event at KI Synagogue (8339 Old York Rd, Elkins Park, PA 19027).

ADVOCACY

PENNSYLVANIA'S NEXT DECADE

— to be determined by January 24, 2022

In January, our State's bi-partisan Legislative Reapportionment Commission (LRC) will submit their redistricting maps for the next ten years. Their mission is to provide political equity. The resulting political maps will impact our representation on policies regarding Health Care, Jobs, the Environment, Education and more.

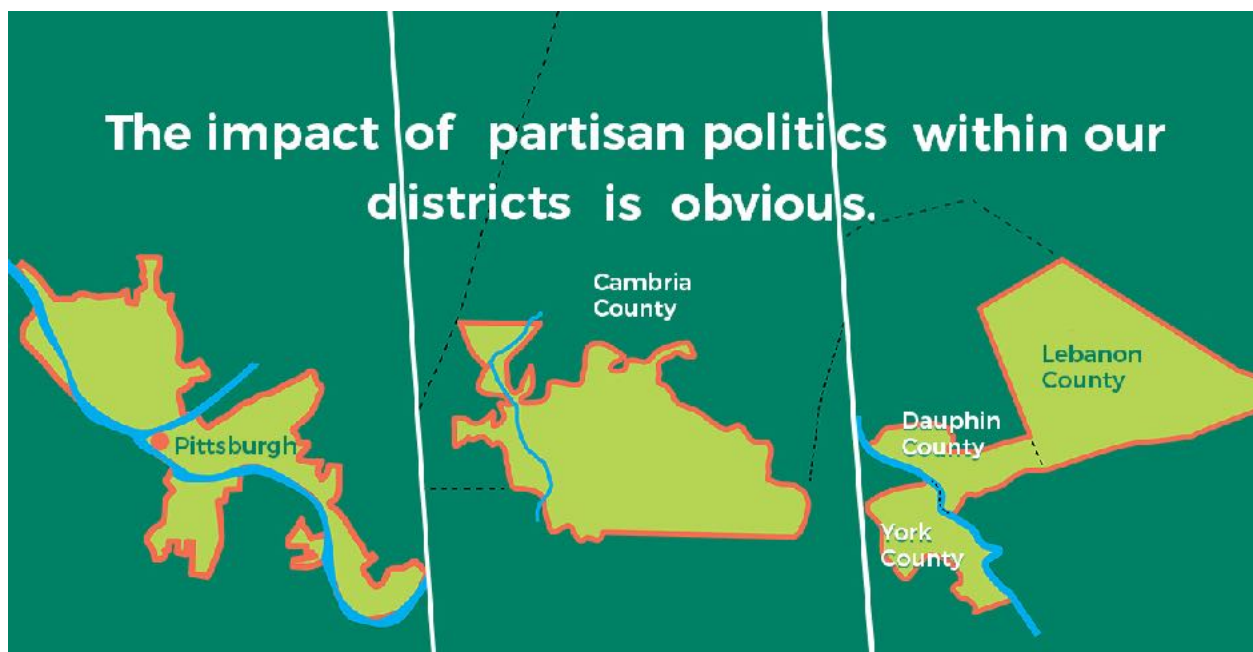
Much appreciation is owed to two organizations that have played leading roles on behalf of the public's interest, working against gerrymandering for political advantage: The League of Women Voters and Fair Votes, Pa. Their efforts have led to transparency with the LRC process and engagement of citizens to review and propose changes to map drafts. Testimony at LRC HEARINGS by Fair Districts Pa have shone a light on how gerrymandering has created underrepresentation of communities of color and barriers to reasonable physical access to elected representatives' offices.

To view your political district as proposed by Fair Districts, Pa go to their website: fairdistrictspa.com.

To voice your concerns with gerrymandering, call your elected official.

To help sustain efforts for political equity, become a member of the League of Women Voters.

A very special thanks to Elizabeth Downing, our NCJW SECTION'S ADVOCACY VICE PRESIDENT, who is also on the Bucks County Board of the League of Women's Voters, for keeping us informed.





A BATTLEGROUND IN OUR BACKYARD

In Bucks County, a school district has become a flashpoint for culture wars. As such, the school district became the subject of a two-part podcast from The New York Times. Click the links to hear the podcasts.

PART 1

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/16/podcasts/the-daily/school-boards-mask-mandates-crt-bucks-county.html>

PART 2

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/17/podcasts/the-daily/school-board-bucks-county.html>

On November 9, the School Board meeting of the Central Bucks County School District was the scene of an anti-semitic tirade. To a round of applause, the speaker repeated the fiction that Jews see themselves as the Master Race, and cited Menachim Begin as describing “non-Jews as human excrement.” To hear the audio recording, go to the 1 hour, 50 second point of the recording at ...

<https://live.myvrspot.com/iframe?v=M2FmN2EwODA2MmIwNjZiMzYzZjIwZDZjMzA1MWRjNTE>

What had begun last year with parents getting together to look for ways to safely reopen schools mushroomed into a broader agenda. Some parents wanted to maintain a singular focus on school reopening. Other parents, after experiencing the power of making gains with their initial cause, started branching out. There were rails against transgender use of bathrooms and unfounded accusations and denunciations of Critical Race Theory. Arriving at meetings, were groups of people supporting extremist diatribes, many thought to be from outside the district.

As expected, the local Jewish Community is horrified. Rabbi Sigal of Temple Judea in Doylestown convened a meeting with the Pennsylvania Peace Center and other groups concerned with social justice. Our NCJW SECTION'S ADVOCACY VICE PRESIDENT, Liz Downing, a Central Bucks County resident, is representing our NCJW SECTION. Holding a well-attended meeting on Zoom (100 participants), this coalition began to strategize a response to these devastating events, preparing for the next School Board meeting to be held on Monday, December 6 at 7:30 pm.

ALL OF OUR NCJW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND IN SOLIDARITY TO SHOW SUPPORT BY OUR PRESENCE FOR THOSE TAKING A STAND AGAINST BIGOTRY.

**Bigotry is weakness.
Bigotry is a symptom of
giving in to the fear of those
who are different and
choosing to hide behind
false views of other people
rather than face the reality
of how others actually are.**

From Our Members



HAMEC welcomes volunteers to help in the museum anytime you have a little extra time. Docent Training is an exciting opportunity for anyone interested.

HAMEC is located in Elkins Park at Congregation Keneseth Israel.

Please call:

Dr. Ruth Almay

Director of Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center

(215) 464-4701

Judy Fried, Chair

215-266-0465

UPDATE FROM THE GRANTS COMMITTEE



Dear Members,

Our Section's Grants Committee awards small grants, not to exceed \$500, to organizations that assist, through their programs and initiatives, the needs of women, children and families. We are pleased to announce that during this past fiscal year we have provided grants to the Mitzvah Circle Foundation, Pegasus Therapeutic Riding Academy, National Giving Alliance and SOWN.

Please take a moment and think of organizations that you support or are familiar with and ask them to submit a grant request. They must qualify as a IRC 501(c) (3) organization.

Feel free to contact Wendy Rader, Grants Committee Chairperson, at wrbarbiegirl50@gmail.com or 215 657-9347 with any questions.

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Our NCJW Philadelphia Section donated \$200 to each of the following Food Banks:

Martha's Choice Marketplace, Norristown, PA
Somerton Interfaith Food Bank, Philadelphia, PA
Warminster Food Bank, Warminster, PA
Upper Darby Food Bank, Upper Darby, PA
Community Cupboard, Ambler, PA





Next side-by-side collections for both Dawn's Place and Mitzvah Circle:
Thursday 12/16, noon-1 at Ben & Irv's Parking Lot in Huntingdon Valley, 19006
(1962 County Line Road, intersection W. Shoemaker Road)

Requested items for Dawn's Place: toilet paper (single ply only, especially Scott), paper towels, napkins, sanitary pads, Lysol/disinfectant wipes, regular-size cleaning products, dish soap, laundry detergent (especially pods), dishwasher detergent, full size shampoo/conditioner.
Also, hotel-size toiletries. (Please put these in a separate bag.)
--Collected by Lynne Jacobs

Requested items for Mitzvah Circle: New or gently used: clothing, shoes, books, toys. New socks.
--Collected by Sherry Kohn-Eisman

Lynne and Sherry will be parked at the back of the lot. Lynne has a bright blue KIA Soul, and Sherry's car is a blue Nissan Rogue.

Note: You are always welcome to drop supplies off in Chestnut Hill at Lynne's or in Southampton at Sherry's prior to the collection date.

Questions? Call Lynne at 215-868-7742 or email ljacobs816@gmail.com
Call Sherry at 215-208-0550 or email kohnsherry@gmail.com

Thanks so much for your continued support of these efforts!

Wishing Sandy Fryer speedy recovery from knee surgery.



Condolences:
Helene Rosenfeld, sister of our member
Joan Shore passed away.

UPDATE ON OUR ADOPTED SCHOOL

Nancy Cox and I delivered 10 girls' and 10 boys' winter jackets, 29 uniform shirts, 8 pairs of pants and assorted school supplies to the Franklin Elementary School. Pictured above are Nancy Cox, School Counsellors Lauren Koresko and Laura McKenna and Faye Benshetler.

Although we could not go into the school due to Covid restrictions, we were welcomed most warmly. The school is most grateful for NCJW's support.

Faye Benshetler.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

As Membership Vice-President, I welcome our new members to call with any questions you may have.

Ellen Mirbach

Please contact: semirbach@gmail.com
215-771-5311

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.

DO YOU WANT TO BE IN PICTURES?

When you are at an event, send a picture to Harriet (hgranncjw@gmail.com) who will publish it in the Bulletin.



A Spotlight On Our NCJW Section

Membership

While the pandemic does not allow us to have face-to-face events, we are still continuing our commitment to our membership by:

- Zoom programs for entire membership
- Ongoing Advocacy
- Board Meetings
- Book Club discussions by Zoom
- Monthly Bulletins to keep everyone informed
- Grants to organizations which help those suffering financial insecurity and the lack of other basic needs

- Donations to Dawn's Place helping sex trafficked survivors and abused women
- Donations of warm winter clothing to our adopted Ben Franklin Elementary School
- Donations to help the Ronald McDonald House
- Goodies for the Good Guys delivered to front line workers

Please check out our website ncjwphiladelphia.org for our Bulletins, past and present, for program information and registration.

If you haven't done so, please consider paying your annual dues, \$45 or Angel 🙏 \$55, enabling us to continue our important work.

If you need a dues envelope email Ellen Mirbach at semirbach@gmail.com or remit your check to Harriet Winokur, 732 Johns Lane, Ambler, PA 19002

Center City Book Club (on Zoom)

Wednesday, December 8, at 7 p.m.

The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See

Leader - Judy Podwil

Thank you to Phyllis Barsky for a superb job leading *Next Year in Havana* by Chanel Cleeton at our November meeting

Center City residents interested in a book group, contact Audrey Block.
215-688-0094
ablock1919@comcast.net

Afternoon Book Club

Thursday, December 23, at 1:30 p.m.

Flight Behavior

by: Barbara Kingsolver

Moderator: Anita Shomer

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

Evening Book Club (on Zoom)

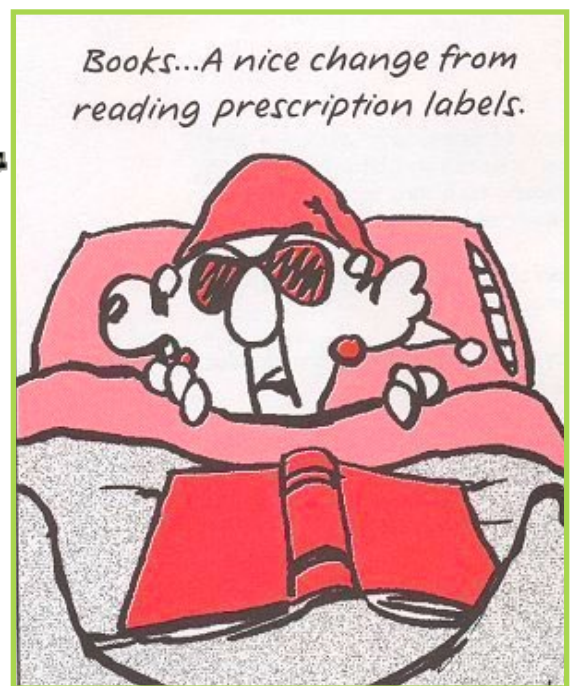
Tuesday, December 14, at 7:30 p.m.

The Book of Lost Names

by Kristen Harmel

Thanks to Nancy Kagan for her excellent and deft leadership of *The Third Daughter*, with its deeply disturbing revelations.

For more information about the Evening Book Club contact Joan Sax at 215-947-9166 or joansax@comcast.net



Book Club Members,

Did you know that you can purchase your books from Amazon with just a click on our web page. If you use Amazon Smile, then a contribution from Amazon will be made to our section.

Try it.



Click here

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.

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! Don't forget, you can sponsor an event or program as well. 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.

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.



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

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Liz Downing, Charlene Kurland, Ellen Mirbach

Vice Presidents:

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Community Service	Linda Brosgol, Aileen Salus
Membership	Ellen Mirbach
Fund Raising	Ann Pollock
Advocacy	Liz Downing

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Corresponding Secretary	Bobbie Berman
Financial Secretary	Harriet Winokur
PA State Advocacy Representatives:	Barbara Hoffman, Rhonda Mandel

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Janet Ecksel	Anita Shomer
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Evelyn Goldhammer	Diane Steinbrink
Linda Lempert	Jackee Swartz
Diane Plotnick	

Past Presidents:

Barbara Nussbaum, Cindi Pasceri

Harriet Gran, Bulletin Editor
hgranncjw@gmail.com

Mal Gran, Website Manager
Ellen Toplin, Technical Advisor

Thank you to those members whose help with the publication of the Bulletin is so appreciated:

Mal Gran, Carol Stein, Judy Fried, Char Kurland, Ellen Toplin and Liz Downing.

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

Our website is the place to check what's coming up on the calendar, read the monthly Bulletin, 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

This beautiful Tribute card is available in packages of 6 cards for \$25. Use for many occasions such as graduation, Get Well, In Memory, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or Just Thinking of you. Your donation will help support NCJW in many ways. I would be happy to meet you and deliver your cards. You can also call me to send a card for you at a cost of \$5.00.

Ann Pollock
VP Fundraising 215-806-4068



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apollock1229@yahoo.com

December

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

			1	2	3	
5	6	7 KI Get Together	8 Center City Book Club	9	Dawn's Place and Mitzvah Circle collections at the Ben & Irv's parking lot. noon-1	
12	13	14 Zoom Board Meeting	15	16 ★	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Afternoon Book Club	24	25
Evening Book Club		28	29	30	31	