

Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

January, 2022

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.

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ncjwphiladelphia.org

TWO IMPORTANT ARTICLES IN THIS BULLETIN

THE DEFENSE OF ABORTION ACCESS
FROM AN
“EXPLICITLY JEWISH PERSPECTIVE”

ANTI-SEMITISM IN OUR BACK YARD

plus a new feature highlighting our member's interests



Goodies for the Good Guys Delivers Again

Goodies delivery to the
Furlong Post Office by Pearl Tragash.



Barbara Rubin brought goodies
to Capital Health Hospital.



Judy Fried at the Bensalem Police Department



Amy Beitman providing some holiday
cheer to the Associates at Doylestown
Hospital with a donation of snack
baskets!



Patti First and Donna Spector delivered goodies to the Good Guys at the Abington Hospital ER and to the Abington Police Station.



That's Judy Fried bringing goodies to the Good Guys at Lower Bucks Hospital and the Trevose Fire Company.

Michele Utain-Doskow spearheaded the project in the Newtown Yardley area. She had assistance from the following volunteers: Madelynn Greenberg, Ellen Slepion, Judy Fried, Freddi Sperling, Diane Blum, Sue Weber and Randy Slutsky.

Amy Beitman, once again, headed the Goodies project for the Warrington Warminster area. With the help of Essie Cutler, Amy and Essie spent an entire afternoon filling and wrapping the baskets. The packages were delivered by Pearl Tragash, Denise Kahn, Linda Brosgol and Aileen Salus. And a special thank you to Amy's husband, Neal who helped with the distribution. We appreciate all our donors that made this possible.

Patty First, Diane Morgan, Linda Lempert, Arlene Diane Spector, Nancy Cox, Adrienne Feuer, Denise Kahn, Marcy Berlin-Burton, Linda Mosko, Jackee Swartz, Sandy Fryer, and Joan Kober delivered the goodies in Montgomery County.

We appreciate all of our donors that made this possible.



Diane Morgan delivered goodies to the Ambler police, to the Skippack Fire Company and to the Lower Gwynedd Police Department.

Sandy Fryer delivered goodies to the Upper Moreland and Upper Dublin Police Departments.



Lynne Jacobs taking donations to Dawn's Place with Sherry Kohn taking donations to Mitzvah Circle.

Did you know....

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Lemons contain more sugar than strawberries.

85% of plant life is found in the ocean.

Rabbits like licorice.

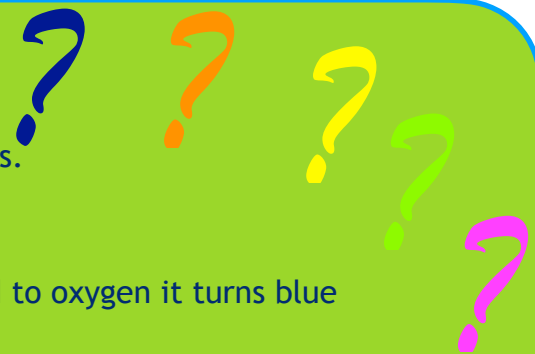
Lobsters blood is colorless but when exposed to oxygen it turns blue

Birds need gravity to swallow

Cats have 32 muscles in each ear

Goldfish can see both infrared and ultraviolet light

Cats spend 66% of their lives sleeping



Thanks to Patti First.



Getting To Know You

This past week, I visited my friend, Joan Sax and was “wowed” by a high chair that she had hand painted. This led to the birth of an idea that I shared with our Presidium member, Char Kurland. Char told me of the recent meeting at Temple KI where 30 members enjoyed sharing stories and thoughts with each other. Our members share so much of themselves: financial support of our NCJW Section, time and efforts to important causes and on the personal level, news of family milestones, etc.... Now, we invite you to share your interests and talents with us.

We are calling on our fine arts artists, photographers, potters, woodworkers, jewelry makers, weavers, quilters, chefs, bakers, poets, writers, etc..., for submissions to our monthly Bulletin and on our website. Our first featured work is a picture of Joan’s chair.

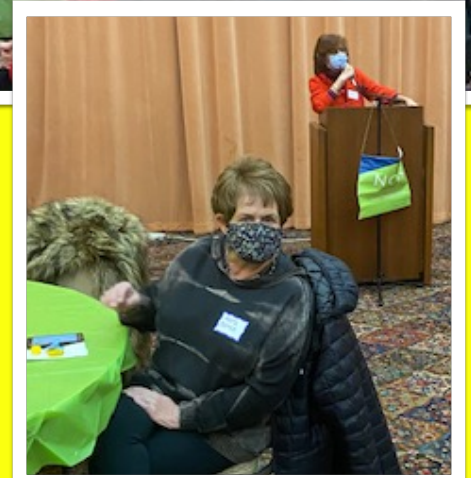
Harriet Gran

This beautifully hand-painted high chair in the style of folk art is done in shades of blue, aqua, copper and green. Our artist and member: Joan Sax.



All submissions should be sent to:
Harriet Gran, Editor.
hgranncjw@gmail.com
215-206-1026

Together at KI



THE DEFENSE OF ABORTION ACCESS FROM AN “EXPLICITLY JEWISH PERSPECTIVE”.

A *New York Times* November 23 editorial by Sarah Seltzer addressed the peril women face to their “religious and bodily freedom” should abortion access be weakened and/or *Roe vs. Wade* be overturned. Seltzer is a former employee of NCJW and current editor of *Lilith*, an independent Jewish-American feminist, non-profit publication. In this editorial she cites NCJW’s new campaign 73FORWARD and NCJW CEO Sheila Katz for the defense of abortion access from an “explicitly Jewish perspective.” Seltzer sees at stake the preservation of opportunities to “create families, and individual futures, that are wanted, cherished and loved—a treasured Jewish value.”



Daniel Rolider for *The New York Times*

You can click the link [here](#) to read the full editorial which looks at Judaism’s roots of its nuanced stance on abortion.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN OUR BACK YARD



A woman stood sobbing at the monthly Central Bucks School Board meeting in November. She had just heard applause for an anti-Semitic tirade by a local community member. She listened as other community members railed against mask mandates and curriculum that included diversity, equity, and inclusion. She expressed despair that she had moved her family to a community that held values that caused her pain.

She bravely returned to the December Board meeting where she encountered our NCJW section member and Advocacy Chair, Elizabeth Downing. Liz was representing NCJW as a member of a coalition attending the School District Meeting in response to the events of the November meeting. The coalition included Temple Judea of Doylestown, Women’s Advocacy of Bucks County, the Bucks County League of Women Voters, Rise up Doylestown, the Peace Center and other social justice groups. One hundred members of the coalition had joined a zoom meeting to strategize. They showed up in large numbers carrying signs. Co-President of the Bucks County League of Women Voters,

Sandy Kerr, prepared a speech to the Board and school community. The turnout was so large that the School Board allowed only 70 people to be admitted to the building. Those outside, were provided a livestream of the meeting. Liz, who had stood out in the cold for three hours to ensure a seat, ceded hers to Sandy Kerr, so that her speech could be delivered. You can find her speech below and on the Advocacy page of our NCJW Philadelphia Section website.

Unfortunately the School Board has opted to not discourage offensive speeches, and is against masking. The coalition will have their representatives in attendance at future Board meetings and curriculum committee meetings to support diversity, equity and inclusion. Stay tuned.

With permission obtained for its use by NCJW Advocacy Chair, Liz Downing, following is the appeal for respectful dialogue to address diversity, equity and inclusion that Sandra Kerr made to the Central Bucks School District Board and Community.



PO Box 975
Doylestown, PA 18901
215.230.9986

December 6, 2021

Central Bucks School Board
20 Welden Drive
Doylestown, PA 18901

To: Central Bucks Board of School Directors

The League of Women Voters of Bucks County is a non-partisan, century old grassroots organization that has a long tradition of championing the rights, abilities and confidence of women and all people to participate fully in our democracy. Our nonpartisan efforts work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

We are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principle and in practice. These ideals are central to our organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

As a nation, state, and collection of communities, public education is the bedrock of our democracy. It informs the values and perspectives that shape our ideologies, civic engagement, and priorities. At its best, education inspires us to broaden our view, challenge systems, and fulfill our promise of a truly representative democracy. Education that is narrowly focused or is exclusive stifles learning and robs students of the full benefit of their education as a resource for citizenship and productive lives.

The League of Women Voters of Bucks County supports approaches to education that embed diverse thoughts, perspectives, identities, cultures and ethnicities into the curriculum and discussions; provides a complete presentation and analytical examination of academic content that is grounded in facts, research and credible resources; invites open and civil dialogue, respectful debate and appreciation of the complexity of issues; and examines complete accounts of history and modern events. This approach to education prepares students to participate in shaping their lives, their communities and the future.

We support the Central Bucks School District and their work to establish goals, objectives, and action plans to infuse diversity, equity, and inclusion into their culture and practice – and applaud the communities and families who support them.

The League of Women Voters of Bucks County supports professional educators and public school leaders and their important role in our democracy. We support all nonpartisan efforts to restore honest discussion and civil dialogue intended to build deeper understanding and eventual consensus around the issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Sincerely,

Jean Weston and Sandra Kerr
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of Bucks County

Center City Book Club

Wednesday, Jan.12, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
News of the World by Paulette Giles
Leader - Michelle Rose

Thank you to Judy Podwil for leading our discussion of *Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. Wonderful job, amazing book.

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

Afternoon Book Club

Thank you to Anita Shomer for moderating our December book club review of *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver.

All of our upcoming book events in 2022 will be at 1:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month:

Jan 27 *Anxious People*
By: Fredrik Backman
Moderator: Sandy Fryer

Feb 24 *The Song of the Jade Lily*
By: Kirsty Manning
Moderator: Ellen Newman

Mar 24 *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell*
By: Robert Dugoni
Moderator: Eileen Davis

Apr 28 *The Mother-in-Law*
By: Sally Hepworth
Moderator: Patti First

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

Evening Book Club (On Zoom)

Tuesday, January 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

Thank you to Rebecca Landau for leading our December meeting discussion.

For more information about the Evening Book Club contact Joan Sax at 215-740-7349 or joansax@comcast.net



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



**January collections will be side-by-side on Thursday, January 20, noon-1:00 p.m.
at Wegman's in Warrington (weather permitting--we'll let you know of any change).
(In shopping center near the intersection of 611 and Street 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!

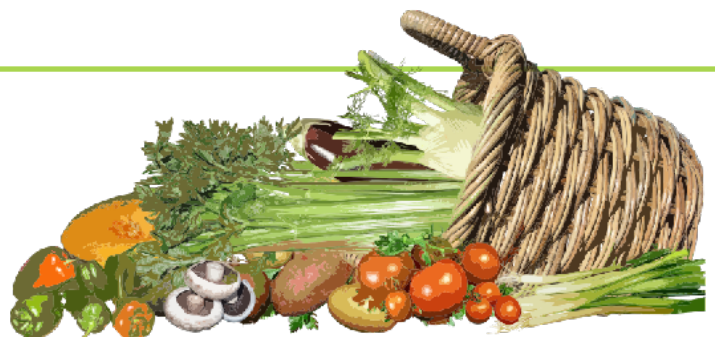
UPDATE FROM THE GRANTS COMMITTEE

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.



WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER

Leslie Schwartz

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

Please contact Ellen Mirbach
semirbach@gmail.com 215-771-5311

I 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.

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

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.



REMEMBER.... THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE.

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.



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.

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.

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

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



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

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

January

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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9	10	11 Evening Book Club	12 Center City Book Club	13	Dawn's Place and Mitzvah Circle collections at the Wegman's parking lot. Noon-1:00 p.m.	
16	17	18	19	20 ★	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Afternoon Book Club	28	29
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