

Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

March, 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.

Become A Member

Call us at
215-302-3586

Visit us at
ncjwphiladelphia.org

VOTING UPDATE

The Pennsylvania 2022 General Election Primary will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

If you plan on voting by absentee or no excuse mail-in ballot, you must complete and return the Annual Mail Ballot Application. Doing this affirms that you want your county to send you a mail-in or absentee ballot for all 2022 elections.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT NO EXCUSE VOTING AND ACT 77

In October 2019, a bi-partisan compromise led to the passage of Act 77 and was hailed as the most significant improvement in PA elections in more than 80 years. No excuse mail-in ballots made voting more convenient and encouraged more voting-increasing voting in 2020 by 4% (250,000 voters). Following the 2020 election, some state legislators sought to overturn Act 77 as unconstitutional. On January 28, the Commonwealth Court struck down the Act. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court is expected to stay the decision for now. Act 77 may become a ballot referendum in 2023. If Pennsylvanians vote against Act 77, no excuse mail-ballots would be eliminated by constitutional amendment. A Governor would not have veto power. While the case proceeds, STAY TUNED!

THREE WINNERS

National Council of Jewish Women announced “three outstanding recipient organizations for their 2022 Israel Grants Program”. The grants will be awarded to: Al-Baqour for an early childhood education program for Bedouin women in the Negev; Physicians for Human Rights for providing sexual health and reproductive care to Palestinian women and women without permanent legal status in the Tel Aviv/Yafo area and Ishsa L’isha, a civic engagement effort in Haifa to encourage and train underrepresented women, including those with disabilities, to run for municipal office. As stated by NCJW CEO Sheila Katz, “Our connection to Israel and especially Israeli women, children and families, is deep and abiding. Our work to create change that empowers women and safeguards their democratic rights-regardless of ethnicity, religion or economic status-would be incomplete without investing in the Israeli organizations who do that work”.

JOIN US FOR A ZOOM PROGRAM

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 2 p.m.

Mark your calendar for a presentation by a lawyer and rabbi, entitled “Talking about Abortion: Affirming Shared Positive and Jewish Values”.



Getting To Know More About You

Can you guess

the identity of our

performance artist?



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Philadelphia Section

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022 - 2:00 PM- ZOOM EVENT

Please join us for our program entitled
**“Talking about Abortion:
Affirming Shared, Positive and Jewish Values”**

Our presenters are:

Jackii Wang
National
Women’s
Law Center



Rabbi Leah
Berkowitz
Congregation
Kol Ami

In this presentation, we will learn how to talk about abortion in ways that are consistent with our Jewish beliefs and with our beliefs in religious freedom and social justice.

NCJW has consistently been in the forefront of working for issues of health equity, reproductive freedom, and true moral autonomy. At present, all of that work is threatened by a minority that seeks to impose its religious values on others with different values and beliefs. We can and must make a difference!

**RSVP REQUIRED BY MARCH 20, 2022
TO JOIN US**

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

If the above link does not work for you, copy and paste the following into the URL section of your browser:

**[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/
1FAIpQLSfNfuwH8sK8NEkUw3EjcdRPWU2DcqMHhKmhfZLQiavv52d_Ow/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNfuwH8sK8NEkUw3EjcdRPWU2DcqMHhKmhfZLQiavv52d_Ow/viewform)**

AND -- IF YOU WANT TO INVITE A GUEST TO THIS PROGRAM-- YOU CAN SHARE THIS FLYER WITH THEM BY SENDING THEM THIS LINK:

Questions? Call Char Kurland (215) 805-3006 or Patti First (215)-470-1560



Getting To Know More About You

NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section member, Presidium Member, and Performance Artist, Char Kurland



Charlene (Char) Kurland, a.k.a. CHAKU the CHILDREN CHUCKLER, has clowned around for over 40 years. She has brought smiles to the faces of thousands of children and adults through her stage performances and guest appearances.

Just a few awards that CHAKU has received include her being named:

Best of Philly Clown (by Philadelphia Magazine)

A Family Favorite Entertainer (by Parents Express Magazine)

Char began her one hour show, filled with magic, music, juggling, a mouse puppet named Pepino and just plain silly antics when her children were 2 and 4 years old. Char says, “They were my test audience. Their laughter assured me that I would be able to share the fun of clowning around with other children.”

Over the years, CHAKU has performed at hundreds of schools, department stores, day care centers, and special events at the Philadelphia Zoo, the Ambler Symphony Orchestra and the Jerry Lewis Telethon. Now you know why she is such a natural as an emcee at our NCJW programs.



Raffles Will soon be on their way

Raffle booklets will be coming late April. The sale of these tickets will enable our NCJW section to continue and expand the support we give to women, children and families in our effort to improve their lives here and in Israel. Please join us in this, our biggest fundraising effort of the year. I thank you in advance for your participation.

Ann Pollock
VP Fundraising



An antique sled, a mother's fur coat (1970) and an antique couple enjoying a snow day!
Stay warm. Stay safe.

Love,
Cindi & Vincent Pasceri



We're wishing a speedy recovery to Patti First.

Condolences:

Our deepest sympathy to our Past President, Sandy Fryer and her family, on the loss of their husband, father and grandfather, Larry Fryer. May your memories of him bring you peace.

To the Boardman family on the passing of Nora Boardman. Nora was a member of NCJW for many years. She will be missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing her.

NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section launches our Holocaust Essay Contest Program for 2022

Section Member Rabbi Fredi Cooper is our new head of the Spring Holocaust Essay Contest. In her career she has immersed herself in Jewish education. She sees the Holocaust as a contemporary and commanding story in Jewish History with lessons for all humanity. For her, the Holocaust Contest takes on special meaning in the current atmosphere that we are living in today, because “we are asking middle school students to read, learn and reflect about a topic that is currently deemed “too difficult” to read and study about in some school districts in our country.”



To date, Rabbi Fredi has engaged two suburban school districts, a Philadelphia Charter School, at least one Quaker School and is awaiting word from another Philadelphia public school. Rabbi Fredi’s hope is that “this diversity of schools should provide our readers with a panoply of reflections concerning the influence the Holocaust has had in human history.”

We have eight volunteer readers on board and welcome more. Interested in volunteering? You can email Rabbi Fredi at rabbifredi@comcast.net or Harriet Gran at hpgran68@gmail.com. Volunteer readers will be invited to meet (on zoom, if necessary) on Tuesday, April 12, (time to be determined) to discuss the format on how essays can be ranked and decisions made on winning entries. We will also review the timetable for receiving essays from schools and from our volunteer readers.

We can all look forward to commending students and encouraging them to use their learning to shape their own ideas about humanity and social justice.

and

A BIG THANK YOU to Evelyn Goldhammer for her six years of leadership of the Holocaust Essay Contest!!! We remember the pre-pandemic days of sitting around her dining room table with our piles of student papers, (amid tasty snacks), sharing the many creative and stirring student responses.

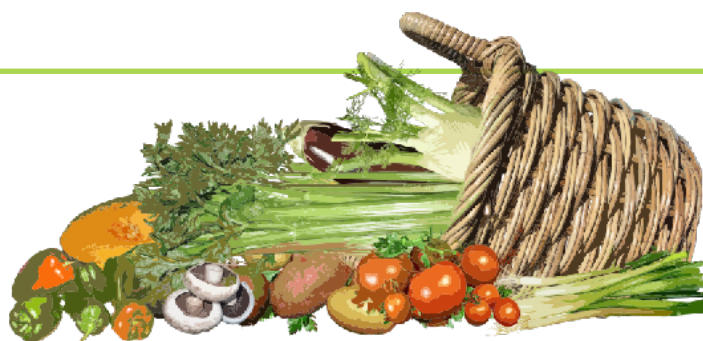
UPDATE FROM THE GRANTS COMMITTEE

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 215 692-0245 with any questions.





Supplies For Dawn's Place And Mitzvah Circle

March collections will be side-by-side on **Thursday, March 3, noon-1:00 p.m.** at Wegman's in Warrington (weather permitting--we'll let you know of any change). (In Valley Square shopping mall near the intersection of 611 and Street Road)

Ann Pollock will be there with our beautiful tribute cards while we fill up the cars with supplies.

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, dishwasher detergent. Also, hotel-size toiletries. (Please put these in a separate bag.)

Requested items for Mitzvah Circle: New or gently used: clothing, shoes, books, toys. New socks.

Our cars will be parked on the left side of the store as you face it (side with patio and tables).

Look for Lynne's bright blue KIA Soul.

For March we have new drivers for Mitzvah Circle: Jackee Swartz and Nancy Cox. We are very grateful that they have agreed to pitch in!

Note: You are always welcome to drop off supplies in Chestnut Hill at Lynne's or in Southampton at Sherry K'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. Our next scheduled collection will be Thursday April 7 at Giant in Willow Grove.

Dawn's Place is a unique program that helps both foreign born and American women who have been victimized by commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), commonly known as "sex trafficking" or slavery. Dawn's Place works to improve the lives of women trapped by, or at risk for, CSE by providing housing, trauma recovery services, vocational training and other services. We also raise awareness of CSE via education, prevention, public policy reform and community collaborations. Residents come with various backgrounds often including: incarceration, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, sexual abuse, childhood sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, insufficient medical care, poor nutrition, and separation or estrangement from family and country of origin. Through the residential program of Dawn's Place, women can receive the important social enhancement, life skills, therapeutic and educational services necessary for their recovery after escaping a dangerous life of exploitation or slavery. Women are referred by various agencies including: Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the FBI, the State Department, Criminal Justice System, and social services agencies. Women may also refer themselves directly.

Mitzvah Circle was created to fill the gaps, to provide items that are not covered by government assistance. Clothing, toothpaste, diapers, and deodorant are items that people need every single day, but not all can afford to buy. Mitzvah Circle is here so parents can go to work and kids can go to school or daycare.

Center City Book Group

March 9 at 7 p.m. on Zoom

The Leavers by Lisa Ko

Leader - Eleanor Levy

Thank you Michelle Rose for your thoughtful discussion of *News of the World* at our February meeting.

Center City residents interested in a book group

Call Audrey Block. 215-688-0094

ablock1919@comcast.net

Evening Book Club

Tuesday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Eternal by Lisa Scottoline

Facilitator: Harriet Gran

Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

News of the World by Paulette Jiles

Thank you to Etta Nissman for leading a great discussion at our February meeting.

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

Afternoon Book Club

Thursday, March 24

The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell

by Robert Dugoni

Moderator: Eileen Davis

Thursday, April 28

The Mother-in-Law by Sally Hepworth

Moderator: Patti First

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.

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

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER

Joy Stember

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

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 frontline 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.

Click here to join or renew online. If you would like 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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hgranncjw@gmail.com

Mal Gran, Website Manager
Ellen Toplin, Technical Advisor

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Barbara Nussbaum, Cindi Pasceri

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

Harriet and 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



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apollock1229@yahoo.com

March

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1 Evening Book Club	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.	9 Center City Book Club	10	Dawn's Place and Mitzvah Circle collections at the Wegman's parking lot. Noon-1:00 p.m.	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Zoom Program "Talking about Abortion" 2:00 p.m.		24 Afternoon Book Club	25	26
27	28			31		