Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

A BELIEF IN ACTION

April, 2022

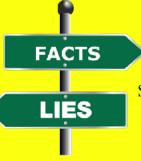
127 YEARS OF POWERFUL JEWISH WOMEN

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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Call us at 215-302-3586

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WATCH OUR ZOOM PROGRAM

MEDICAL ISSUES and ABORTION: FACTS and LIES

presented by our members, Sherry Blumenthal, and Rhonda Mandel.

Sherry is an 0B-GYN Physician and activist for Women's Reproductive Rights, Rhonda is leading the NCJW 73 Forward initiative for Pennsylvania.

ON ZOOM - APRIL 19 AT 7:30 p.m.



UPDATES

Read the latest from Liz Downing, our Advocacy Vice-President on the local book banning Culture War on page 4.

Voters can vote by mail-in ballot for this Pennsylvania May 17 Primary Election.



Click here for your Ballot Request Application

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court's ruling replaces unconstitutionally gerrymandered map.

Click here to read the INQUIRER article

Getting to know more about our members.

Color and Design

Susan Brooks has it all.



MEDICAL ISSUES AND ABORTION: FACTS AND LIES

Sherry L. Blumenthal MD, MSEd, FACOG

In this tumultuous year for women's reproductive rights, 73Forward was formed by National NCJW, and we, in the Greater Philadelphia Section, are actively participating. On April 19, 2022, I will be presenting the medical details about abortion, the procedures available (for now), and differentiating medical from surgical abortion.

The anti-abortion movement will stop at nothing to prevent safe, legal abortion. They lie, they misrepresent, and they manage to find "experts" to corroborate those lies. Unfortunately, some of the liars are physicians, however, they do not perform abortions, nor have they done OB/GYN residencies to learn how to perform them. In PA, the Legislature believes that the will of the citizens is to prohibit abortion, and are led to believe that this is for the safety of women and the sanctity of the fetus. This belief is strongly motivated by religious beliefs and stoked by ignorance of the issues involved.

I have the knowledge about the medical facts and have been in the "trenches" for years with all "racial" and ethnic groups. I know the history and was alive well before the Supreme Court decision in Roe v Wade in 1973. I was a resident in OB/GYN in 1985, when PA stopped Medicaid payment for abortion. I saw the self-induced attempts at pregnancy termination, the horrible complications for many women, the infections, hemorrhages, hospitalizations, and deaths of those women seeking illegal abortions, and the better outcomes for those women who could afford to have the procedure done by a medical professional, usually in another state where abortion was legal.

In fact, legal abortion by a trained professional is very safe, much safer than carrying a pregnancy to term. It is certainly less painful than labor! There is no increase in the risk of subsequent miscarriage (unless there have been multiple Surgical terminations), no greater risk of mental health complications, and no greater risk of breast cancer. Medical abortion, which involves taking 2 pills, Mifipristone (an anti-progesterone), and Misoprostol(to cause uterine contractions), is very safe, and now the pills can be obtained on-line by prescription. It is better to have counseling from a physician before taking the pills, to be aware of rare problems such as excessive bleeding and failure to expel the fetus, and to know what to do in those cases. Medical abortion is generally successful up to 11 weeks of gestation, weeks counted from the last menstrual period, (LMP), although conception occurs about 2 weeks later and the fetus is actually 2 weeks younger than the "dates" from the LMP. The probability of success is greater when performed earlier.

90% of abortions in the US are performed in the first trimester, up to 14 weeks. Second trimester abortions (up to about 23-24 weeks, "viability") are usually performed for fetal abnormalities, or danger to the mother. Occasionally, the pregnancy is not recognized or admitted to until the 2nd trimester. A procedure is required to accomplish these terminations, either a Dilatation and Evacuation (D&E), "induction" of labor by injection into the uterus, or medications to cause contractions. There is no such thing as a "partial birth abortion" and in the extremely rare case where a fetus is harmed after viability to allow delivery, the circumstances are usually extreme. I have never seen or know of any cases of this.

As an OB/GYN, most of the time when I take care of my patients, the choice to protect both mother and fetus does not come up. When it does, it is always difficult for the woman, there are usually regrets, but she ultimately must decide. Those who call themselves "pro-life" have a choice to continue a pregnancy based on religious beliefs or emotions. They wish to take away the "choice" for other women who do not share their beliefs. And most "pro-lifers" do not support adequate funding for care of the unwanted children, the impaired children, or giving women the ability to afford contraception. Of course, the most effective way to prevent abortion is to prevent unplanned or unwanted pregnancy.

Project73 Forward, the NCJW CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED in OCTOBER 2021 CONTINUES ITS WORK to GROW ITS MOVEMENT for REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AMID MOUNTING HEADWINDS by STATE LEGISLATURES to WEAKEN and/or OVERTURN ROE VS. WADE.

States are passing historic numbers of Anti-abortion bills. Texas's new abortion law, despite legal challenges, sees no change in sight. Most recently, Missouri legislators are promoting a law that would outlaw out of state abortions. Of note, as reported by CNN, the states with the most restrictive abortion bills are those which "produce the most unfavorable economic and health care outcomes for children".

NCJW GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION RALLIES FOR UKRAINE VICTIMS

On March 9, 2022, one hundred children from the Ukraine were airlifted to Israel on EL AL Airlines, removing them from danger. Members responded robustly to our Section's request for donations that will be sent to HIAS in Warsaw, Poland where their workers are working to help displaced Ukrainians. So far, funds raised were in the amount of \$2700.

In its earlier days, the acronym for HIAS referred to Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. Now, known simply as HIAS, this agency provides for the rescue of victims of all denominations in the wake of a humanitarian crisis. HIAS attributed their decision for inclusivity to "because we are Jewish".

If you wish to contribute by check, please make it out to NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section.

Send checks to:

Margie Zukerman

1506 Meridian Blvd.

Warrington, PA 18976

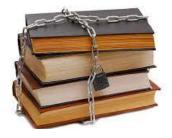
If you wish to donate on line, please visit our website at ncjwphiladelphia.org and click on the Crisis in Ukraine button.





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



Culture War Targets School Curriculum

Central Bucks County School District is the venue for a culture war waged in a battleground state, one of many such school districts targeted around the country. There, parents invested in implementing book bans successfully ran for seats on the School Board. Despite existing school policy that honors a

parent's right to deny access to a book that they deem inappropriate for their individual child, the Central Bucks County School Board is making efforts to ban books which would impact all students. Students' well-being is at risk when curricula including literature offerings fail to reflect their diversity in terms of ethnicity, race, gender identification, disability, etc. School librarians will likely have to cede much of their highly skilled roles in selecting books to the school board and administration. Embodying the values of our NCJW Section Advocacy Vice-President, Liz Downing has joined a "watch dog" group DEI which stands for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. To safeguard and promote these imperatives, members rotate attendance at School District Policy Committee meetings. Our Section can be proud of Liz's activism in the tradition of NCJW.

TUESDAY
JUNE
7

SAVE THE DAY

OUR CLOSING LUNCHEON
OUTSIDE AT THE
PHILMONT COUNTRY CLUB

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.



Getting To Know More About You

NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section member, Susan Brooks, walks us through her process in creating her exquisite quilts.

This quilt began as an exploration of a modern log cabin block technique using irregularly shaped strips to make the blocks. Look closely: there are 4 blocks across and 5 down. The color choice was blues, greens and rusts. The blocks were made in no particular order or way except using the preselected materials. Then I assembled the background based on color connections of rust between the blocks. The rust being the warmest color came forward while the blues and greens became the background. Next, I stitched the tree on the rust segments, occasionally stitching over a bit of the background. The last steps included adding the border to enhance the design and then extending the tree into the border.



Tree of Life 27.5" x 33" June 2003

The two challah covers for Shabbat were part of a very recent series. They start with a busy ground of batik fabric. The Hebrew letters, in David D font, were selected from other more single toned batiks to stand out on the ground. The fabric had fusible web applied to it. Then the letters were cut out and fused on the ground. After fusing, the letters were outlined in a satin stitch of one of the other background colors to help visually "pop" the letters. Next the ground fabric was quilted to emphasize the elements of the ground. In the case of the predominately blue and purple ground, the horizontal areas were emphasized with a variety of stitches and colored threads. In the green, yellow and red/rust piece, it was the swirl in the ground that was emphasized with a variegated thread of green, yellow and red/rust.





Thank you to our member, Carol Stein, for the following information. Carol edits the final copy of the Bulletin and edited the catalog for the following exhibition. Art Quilt Elements 2022 March 27 – April 30

Join the Art Quilt Elements Committee and the AQE 2022 artists at the Wayne Art Center, Sunday, March 27 from 3-5 p.m. for the exhibition reception.

Experience the world of contemporary art quilts and hear from the artists during Sunday's Meet the Artists presentation. This event is free to attend and open to the public. Docent tours for groups are available.

Contact Wayne Art Center at info@wayneart.org. https://www.wayneart.org/





Supplies For Dawn's Place And Mitzvah Circle

April collections will be side-by-side on **Thursday**, **April 7**, **noon-1:00 p.m**. at GIANT in Willow Grove, 315 York Road (weather permitting--we'll let you know of any change).

Our beautiful tribute cards will be available for purchase while we fill up the cars with supplies. 6 for \$25

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 at the back of the lot. Look for Lynne's bright blue KIA Soul.

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 <u>ljacobs816@gmail.com</u> Call Sherry at 215-208-0550 or email <u>kohnsherry@gmail.com</u>

Thanks so much for your continued support of these efforts. We will let you know about future collections.

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

Wednesday, April 13th, 7 P.M. on Zoom <u>The Book of Lost Names</u> by Kristin Hamel Leader: Audrey Block

Thank you to Eleanor Levie for her meaningful presentation of The Leavers by Lisa Ko at our March meeting

Center City residents interested in a book group

Call Audrey Block. 215-688-0094 ablock1919@comcast.net

Evening Book Club

Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles

Tuesday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. Book is *Montana 1948* by Larry Watson

Thank you to Harriet Gran for leading our March meeting
For more information about the Evening Book
Club contact Joan Sax at 215-740-7349 or joansax@comcast.net

Afternoon Book Club

Thursday, April 28

The Mother in Law by: Sally Hepworth

Moderator: Patti First

Thursday, May 26

Anxious People by: Fredrik Backman

Moderator: Sandy Fryer (rescheduled from January)

Thank you to Ellen Newman for moderating our February book club review of *The Song of the Jade Lily* by Kirsty Manning and to Eileen Davis for moderating our March book club review of *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni.

Our upcoming book events in 2022 will be at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth 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

Adrienne Jacoby Stephanie Fenlon
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 <u>nejwphiladelphia.org</u> 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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Mal Gran, Website Manager Ellen Toplin, Technical Advisor

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

The Nominating Committee has met and presented a slate of Officers and Board Directors for the 2022-23 year. The current Board (2021-22) has approved the following women:

Vice President of Advocacy: Elizabeth Downing

Vice President of Membership: Patti First & Linda Abrams

Vice President of Programs & Education: Rosalie Marcus & Anita Shomer Vice President of Community Services: Faye Benshetler & Wendy Rader Vice President of Fund Raising: Linda Brosgol & Aileen Salus

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Recording Secretary:

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Ellen Mirbach

Elizabeth Downing

Honorary Founding Director: Diane Steinbrink

Nominating Committee: Chair: Barbara Nussbaum

Faye Benshetler Judith Ginsberg Ellen Mirbach Diane Morgan Cindi Pasceri



- Home Management multi-premises maintenance, house sitting, cleaning, décor, landscaping, pool, scheduling of staff and vehicle maintenance
- Errands personal shopping, wardrobe, deliveries, scheduling vendors, dry-cleaning, repairs, etc.
- Help for the holidays and party planning (all sizes)
- Scheduling appointments and accompanying you to the appointments
- Bill payment

Jane Barr Horstman 215-399-9436 jane@barrhorstman.com www.janebarrhorstman.com



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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
3	4	5 Evening Book Club	6	7	Circle collecti	ce and Mitzvah ions at the Giant Noon-1:00 p.m.
10	11	12 Board Meet 1:00 p.m.	13		15 1st nigh Passove	16
17	18	_	Zoom Program MEDICAL ISSUES and		22	23
24	25	ABORTION FACTS and 7:30 p.m.	N:	28 Afternoon Book Clu		30