

# Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

September, 2022

## 129 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)



## Opening Luncheon

**In-Person and Together Again**  
Please join us!

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**KENESETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE**

**Featured Speaker: Dick Polman**  
**The 2022 Midterm Elections and the Crisis of Democracy**

Introductory Presentation on PAVote Forward by Barbara Hoffman  
(Our Section's Co-State Policy Advocate for PA)

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Ronald McDonald House**

**Holocaust Essay Contest**



**REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

**Ben Franklin Elementary School**



*Getting to know more about our members.  
Wendy Rader enjoys a craft that has been  
around for 150,000 years!!*



# Opening Luncheon In-Person & Together Again

*Please join us!*

**Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**KENESETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE  
8339 Old York Rd, Elkins Park, PA 19027**

**Proof of Vaccination Required**

**Introductory Presentation on PAVote Forward  
by Barbara Hoffman (Our Section's Co-State Policy Advocate for PA)**

***Our Featured Speaker will be Dick Polman***  
**The 2022 Midterm Elections and the Crisis of Democracy**



Dick Polman's full immersion into political writing began in 1988, when, as a Philadelphia Inquirer reporter, he wrote a 13-part series called "The Making of an Image," about the GOP's pioneering TV attack ads. Subsequently, he covered Philadelphia politics; New Jersey Senate races; national elections in France, Italy, Denmark, and Sweden while he was a foreign correspondent based in London; the U.S. presidential races of 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008, mostly on the road, while writing for The Philadelphia Inquirer as a reporter and columnist; the 2012 and 2016 presidential races as the national columnist for WHYY, Philadelphia's leading public media outlet; and the 2000 race as a syndicated columnist based at dickpolman.net. Dick also teaches journalism at the University of Pennsylvania, where he has been the full-time Writer in Residence since 2006.

**BOXED LUNCHEON FEE: \$25 for MEMBERS - \$30 for Guests**  
**SIGN UP BEFORE SEPTEMBER 13**

**SIGNUP AND PAY ONLINE  
BY CLICKING HERE**

**TO SIGNUP AND PAY BY MAIL  
CLICK HERE**



**Please remember to bring school supplies & new/gently used books  
(appropriate for k-8) for our adopted school.**

Questions -- Call Program-Education VPs

Anita Shomer (215) 880-9992 or Rosalie Marcus (215) 512-5110



# Write letters to voters

Writing letters to voters is one of the most effective ways  
to help increase election turnout.

And we can do it together!

Below is a sample letter that can be sent to potential voters. Our Section member, Barbara Hoffman will be presenting at our September 20 Luncheon to explain how the Pittsburgh and Greater Philadelphia sections will be working together to get out the vote. Read Barbara's letter on the next page to see how you can help.

Hello *Isabel,*

I'm writing you today to urge you to vote.

*I vote for leaders who represent  
my interests such as having  
access to affordable health care.*

There's a critically important election  
coming up Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Will you please join me as a voter.

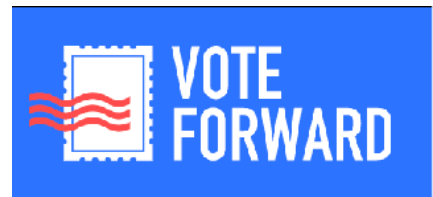
I'm not asking you to support specific  
candidates, only to vote, so our  
representatives are accountable to us all.

*Thank you.  
Barrieel Gran*



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Greater Philadelphia Section



National Council of Jewish Women  
Pittsburgh

## Vote Forward and the November 2022 Election

The 2022 midterm election is a crucial election. Pennsylvania will be choosing a new Governor and a US Senator, as well as representatives to the United States Congress and both chambers in Harrisburg. Our choices will determine how our state and country are governed. Fair elections, reproductive health, and addressing climate change are urgent issues that are all on the ballot this November! NCJW has always encouraged its members to not only vote, but to also reach out to our fellow citizens to make voting accessible for them. Among the many programs NCJW is engaged in is our partnership with Vote Forward.

### What is Vote Forward?

NCJW is partnering with Vote Forward to connect us with voters throughout the country, encouraging them to vote. Pennsylvania is among the states that Vote Forward targets. Vote Forward is a nonprofit organization that enables volunteers to encourage our fellow citizens in underrepresented communities to vote by writing and sending them letters. These letters have been proven to boost voter turnout. NCJW successfully partnered with Vote Forward in 2020 to send out over 30,000 letters. The goal for the midterm election is at least 15,000 letters. Impact studies from the 2020 election showed that the efforts of the Vote Forward campaign had an impact on voter turnout.

### How does Vote Forward Actually Work?

The Pittsburgh and Greater Philadelphia sections will be working together to get out the vote in Pennsylvania. The link to access NCJW PA Vote Forward is <https://votefwd.org/ncjwpgh>

Once you create an account in the portal, you can adopt voters in multiples of five, download and print letter templates, and then add a personal message expressing your views on the importance of voting. Examples are:

- I vote for leaders who represent my interests –such as having access to affordable health care.
- I believe my vote is a way to have my voice heard about what is important for our country. I want leaders who represent my concerns. Don't you?

Envelopes are addressed, and completed letters are set aside until the mail date of the campaign. Each of us updates our progress on the Vote Forward dashboard. Vote Forward campaigns have a single mail date called The Big Send. Vote Forward asks volunteers to hold their letters until that date to ensure the letters have the greatest possible impact.

### How to get started? What if you need help?

If you need help, have questions, or want to engage with other members, our section will host zoom sessions. There will also be letter writing parties so we can chat, snack and do our work!

**Other ways to help in the 2022 election and to get Harrisburg to listen to us.** National Voter Registration Day is September 20th and High School Voter Registration Week is 9/19-9/23. You can also volunteer as a poll worker; August 16th is Poll Worker Recruitment Day; however, there will be many slots to fill until election day. NCJW is partnering with Power the Polls to recruit poll workers. Just click and sign up. Our Voting Committee in NCJW Greater Philadelphia will be engaged in many of these events, as well as providing information to our membership about governance in Pennsylvania. We anticipate partnering with our Pittsburgh sisters for various events and activities.

To do even more work for this upcoming election, in addition to Vote Forward, we can be more effective as a group. If you are interested, join the Voting Committee. Contact me at [hoffman@temple.edu](mailto:hoffman@temple.edu).

Barbara Hoffman  
Member of Greater Philadelphia Section  
co-State Policy Advocate for Pennsylvania

## **THE WORLD IS WATCHING**



**OUR CHILDREN'S  
AND GRANDCHILDREN'S  
FUTURE DEPEND  
ON OUR VOTES**

**Notes from our Reproductive Rights Committee**  
**Sherry L Blumenthal MD**



As part of the national NCJW “73 Forward” initiative, our chapter is actively discussing how to guarantee access to safe, legal abortion. We feel it is vital to share our strategies with our members as a call to action. Action is vital to achieving our goals.

First, we encourage contributions to our NCJW National Abortion Fund, to pay doctors for performing the procedure for those who do not have financial resources. <https://www.jewsforabortionaccess.org/fund>.

Another initiative is to inform our Rabbis about Rabbis for Repro, and enlist their help in educating their congregations about the issue, including the Jewish perspective.

We are hoping to encourage members to contact their elected officials at the state and federal levels. There are federal bills coming up that are pertinent. The PA Legislative continues their endless attempts to restrict our reproductive rights. We should thank those who support our position and explain our position to those who may not.

Next, we must VOTE and encourage our families and friends to do the same. There are elections November 8 for PA Governor, Senator and local representatives to the PA House and Senate. The results are crucial to our cause.

Of great concern is Senate Bill 106, a proposed Amendment to the PA constitution stating that PA women have no right to abortion nor a right for the government to pay for one. This will probably be on the ballot in May, 2023. It is important that we vote NO and explain the amendment to others. We plan to initiate a movement similar to the one in Kansas that defeated the attempt to pass a similar amendment!

While so many women are furious at the impact on our rights and our privacy, I am also angry at the lack of regard for the health and lives of women. Anti-abortion legislation is a violation of our religious rights and a lawsuit has been filed by a group of Rabbis and other religious leaders stating just that.

I have spoken to groups and written an [op-ed](#) printed in the Inquirer about the serious medical issues which result from making abortion illegal. I will be happy to speak to any group about the medical facts. Many voters form their opinions based on religious beliefs, or distaste, but it is important to understand the medical consequences of a ban on safe, legal abortion. Eleanor Levie wrote an [editorial](#) which was printed in the Jewish Exponent, giving the Jewish perspective.

We must turn our righteous anger into action. As women, as Jews, we have an obligation to protect each other from incursions into our beliefs, rights, and health.

For information or to volunteer, please email me at [Sherry.blumenthalmd@gmail.com](mailto:Sherry.blumenthalmd@gmail.com). I can pass your information on to our Committee Chair Rhonda Mandel. If you want me to speak at any meeting or event, please let me know. I have spoken at NCJW and synagogue events, as well as many hospitals and conferences. I charge no fee! I care greatly about my “sisters” and hope you will all join in the fight for our rights! Thank you.

Sherry

## OUR NCJW GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION MISSION UNDETERRED BY PANDEMIC

**Our Section Members maintained our commitments to our communities and to each other.**

### **School Belles were Ringing! Do you want to chime in?**

Our Section's "School Belles", Faith Benshetler and Nancy Cox nurtured our bonds with Benjamin Franklin Elementary School during the pandemic, calling the school and arranging donations of much needed winter jackets, uniforms and school supplies. School Principal, Roslyn Sample-Green, expressed deep appreciation of our NCJW-School partnership for the donations. She joyfully welcomes the receipt of books from Upper Dublin School District arranged by member, Wendy Rader and the prospect for setting up our volunteers for online tutoring this school term. Principal Sample-Green can provide an internet link for us to tutor. In the next few weeks, I will be meeting with members of the Community Service and Funding Committees to clarify what our tutoring and related commitments will entail and to plan a meeting with volunteers to share details and hear feedback.

**WE WELCOME BACK OUR FORMER AS WELL AS NEW SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS!** If you are interested in becoming a school tutor please contact me at 215-206-1026 or email me at [hpranncjw@gmail.com](mailto:hpranncjw@gmail.com). Looking forward to you "ringing me up"!

Harriet Gran



Nancy Cox and others 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 below 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.

We all look forward to the time when we can expand our in-person support

Our adopted school's principal, Roslyn Sample-Green poses with the school's namesake.



## “THIS IS WHAT WE DO”

The words, simply and resolutely stated by our member, Zelda Stern was made in reference to our NCJW Section’s long held commitment to the Ronald McDonald House. Our onsite presence at the McDonald House, located at Front and Erie, serving breakfasts on our appointed Sundays to families of very ill children, hospitalized at St. Christopher’s Hospital has been placed on hiatus due to the pandemic and the vast renovation of the kitchen there.



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Philadelphia Region

However, as Zelda points out, we have continued our role in the sustenance of the families with donations to meals prepared by Chef Anthony at the Ronald McDonald facility on Chestnut Street in Center City.

Our relationship with the Ronald McDonald House has endured over time. Under Zelda Stern’s direction, our Section members have made and served many breakfasts in the “Guest Chef Program”, now newly named the “Served With Love” Program. In addition our Section has donated coats, knowing that many families come to St. Christopher’s Hospital from states in our South. Also, we have made donations of toys and games to add to the enjoyment of children at the Ronald McDonald Summer Camp.

Another reason to support our NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section.

## HOLOCAUST ESSAY CONTEST

Thanks to the capable leadership of Rabbi Fredi Cooper and our volunteer readers, Fredi, Essie Cutler, Beryl Drexler, Paula Burstyn Goldberg, Evelyn Goldhammer, Susan Horwitz, Barbara Katz-Auerbach, Sandra Lewis, Joan Sax, Lee Tonik and Harriet Gran, we had a successful Holocaust Essay Program. You can read the winning Essays by

[CLICKING HERE.](#)

For those who would like to join out volunteer readers, contact me at [hgranncjw@gmail.com](mailto:hgranncjw@gmail.com) or you can indicate your interest on the survey sheet sent by co-Community Services Vice Presidents Wendy Rader and Faye Benshtetler. Simply add a line under HOLOCAUST ACTIVITIES on the Interest/Involvement Sheet.

The Essay Readers group will resume in January.

Harriet Gran







**We are pleased to announce our new Community Service Team.**

Grants	Lynne Jacobs
Holocaust Essay Contest	Fredi Cooper
Goodies for the Good Guys	Bucks County: Ellen Mirbach Montgomery County: Nancy Cox Newtown: Michele Utain
Ronald McDonald House:	Zelda Stern
Holocaust Education Center:	Cindi Pasceri
MLK Day and Mitzvah Circle:	Sherry Kohn
Philadelphia Schools	Tutors: Harriet Gran Kids Kloset and School Supplies: Faye Benshetler and Nancy Cox Book Program: Wendy Rader
Dawn's Place:	Lynne Jacobs
Cultural Kids Program:	Diane Steinbrink
Israel Grants:	Jackee Swartz

Looking forward to a great year.  
Wendy Rader and Faye Benshetler





## *Getting To Know More About You*



When I retired I had a bucket list of activities I wanted to try. They included a knitting group, learning to play Mah Jongg and joining a book club.

While I was at the library knitting group working on my 50th scarf, I noticed they were advertising a beading group. I joined, learned the basics of stringing from the members and began making earrings, bracelets and necklaces. I started with beads from local craft stores and then got hooked going to every Bead Show I could find to buy my supplies. I like to mix rustic looking stones with beads such as pearls and Swarovski crystals.

This is a hobby that I truly enjoy!

Wendy Rader

## FROM OUR MEMBERS



Installation of Officers at our June Luncheon



With Barb Nussbaum moving to Arizona, she wanted Mitzvah Circle to have clothing and household items.

Lisa Koelewyn, both an NCJW volunteer and Mitzvah Circle volunteer, packed everything up at Barb's. Thank you, Lisa!



Leaders of our programs gathered for business and pleasure at a luncheon hosted by Aileen Salus.

**Like the Old Days...Bring Supply Donations to Lunch!**

Those attending the luncheon on September 20 are welcome to bring items for Dawn's Place (paper goods, cleaning products) and Mitzvah Circle (clothing, shoes, toys).  
If you will not be there, stay tuned for news of future collections.  
Thanks!



Smiles from Sherry Kohn, Pearl Tragash, Lynne Jacobs, Linda Brosgol and Mal Gran at the July collection for Dawn's Place and Mitzvah Circle.



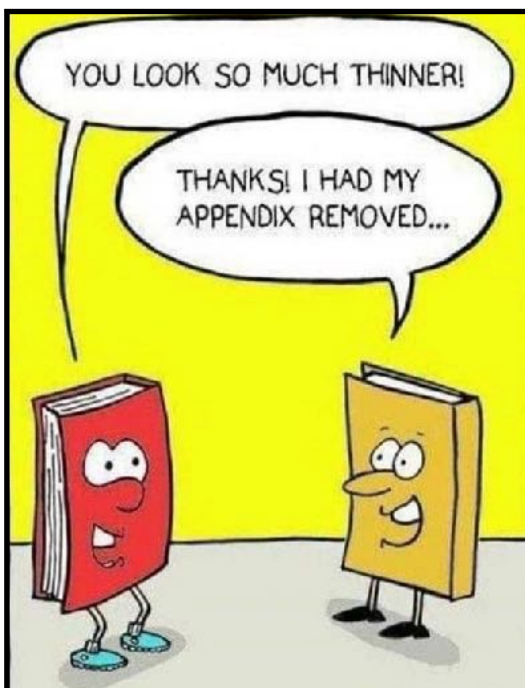
Hello HAMEC Volunteers!

The Holocaust Awareness Museum and Educational Center is looking for volunteers to help in the office and as docents.

Contact

Cindi Pasceri

vpasce@gmail.com or (215) 205-0133



Patti First

**Condolences to:**

Rhena Kelsen on the loss of her son, Michael.

The Surkin family on their loss of Natalie Surkin, a member of our Section for many years.

**Center City Book Group**

Sept. 14 7 p.m. on Zoom

*The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

Moderator: Adrienne Jacoby

Oct 11 *Honor* by Thrity Umrigar

Moderator: Etta Nissman

Nov 9 *My Broken Language*

by Quiara Alegria Hudes

Moderator: Judy Podwil

Dec 14 *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Moderator: Joanne Stoloff

Jan 11 *The Dictionary of Lost Words*

by Pip Williams

Moderator: Eleanor Levie

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

**Evening Book Club**

Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 PM

*Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Hostess: Barb Auerbach

Etta Nissman: Facilitator

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM

*The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

Harriet Gran: Facilitator

Hostess: Nancy Fagan

For more information about the Evening Book Club contact Joan Sax at 215-740-7349 or [joansax@comcast.net](mailto:joansax@comcast.net)

A very heartfelt thank you to author Esther Amini for joining our July ZOOM discussion of her book, “Concealed”. Thank you to Barbara Auerbach for making this possible.

Happily, on January 24, Esther Amini has accepted our Program Committee’s invitation to present “Concealed” to our entire Section!

**Afternoon Book Club**

Thank you to Anita Shomer who was our moderator for July for *The First Wife* by Jill Childs and thank you to Susan Brooks for leading the discussion of *Hamnet* by Maggie O’Farrell in August.

Sept 22 *The Personal Librarian*  
By: Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher  
Moderator: Stephanie Fenlon

Oct 27 *People Love Dead Jews*  
By: Dara Horn  
Moderator: Madelyn Greenberg

Nov 17 *The Plot*  
Jean Kanff Korelitz  
Moderator: Eileen Davis

Dec 22 *Fresh Water for Flowers*  
By: Valerie Perrin  
Moderator: Maria Rosen

Jan 24 *Concealed*  
By: Esther Amini  
NCJW general meeting with author

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

With a couple of clicks, you can have books delivered from Amazon to your Kindle. Join Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate 0.5% of book purchases to our Greater Philadelphia NCJW Section.

CLICK HERE TO GO TO OUR WEBSITE  
BOOK PAGE

## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As Membership co-Vice-Presidents, we welcome all to call with any questions.

Please contact Patti First (patal16@verizon.net) or Linda Abrams (lr.abrams@gmail.com).

We are delighted to send out membership packets to those wishing to become members or dues envelopes for current members.

Dues envelopes should be returned to Harriet Winokur, 732 Johns Lane, Ambler, PA 19002

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

While the pandemic has limited our 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 to Mitzvah Circle to help needy families fill the gaps not covered by government assistance
- 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](http://ncjwphiladelphia.org) for our Bulletins, past and present, for program information and registration.

**CLICK HERE TO JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE**

### 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 fiscal year we have provided a grant to The National Giving Alliance.

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. A link to a copy of our Grants Application can be found on our NCJW website. Feel free to contact Lynne Jacobs, Grants Committee Chairperson, at [ljacobs816@gmail.com](mailto:ljacobs816@gmail.com) or 215-248-3333 with any questions.



## 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! 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. Click on the link below or call Aileen Salus 215-441-9339 or Linda Brosgol 215-672-2404 and tell us what event you'd like to sponsor.

**CLICK THIS LINK TO SPONSOR AN EVENT**

### 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 online tutoring and donation of warm jackets, school uniforms, and school supplies.

Please call Harriet Gran at 215-206-1026 or email [hgranncjw@gmail.com](mailto: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  
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](mailto: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](mailto:harrietwinokur@gmail.com)

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Linda Brosgol, Aileen Salus & Margie Zukerman

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Advocacy:	Elizabeth Downing
Membership:	Patti First & Linda Abrams
Programs & Education:	Rosalie Marcus & Anita Shomer
Community Services:	Faye Benshetler & Wendy Rader
Fund Raising:	Linda Brosgol & Aileen Salus

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### Immediate Past Presidium Officers:

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Ellen Mirbach  
Elizabeth Downing

### Honorary Founding Director:

Diane Steinbrink

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:  
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](http://www.NCJW.org)

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## September

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 BOARD MEETING	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 LUNCHEON PROGRAM at KI	21	22	23	24
25 ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS	26 ROSH HASHANAH	27 ROSH HASHANAH	28	29	30	31