

# Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

January, 2023

## 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)



MLK Day of Service 2023  
Monday January 16th



**This year we are going to help out at National Giving Alliance. We will be sorting and boxing new clothing for families in need. We partnered with this wonderful organization in the past and we planned to go there again... and then came Covid!**

**So this year we will be back. It is a great volunteer opportunity. Please consider joining us on this day. It is also a great occasion to bring your children and grandchildren to assist at this event.**

**National Giving Alliance is located at  
822 Veterans Way  
Warminster Pa  
We will be there from 10 AM-12:30 p.m.**

**It is very close to Costco and there is a good place for lunch (other than Costco hot dogs) near by.**

**Please call or text Sherry Kohn 215-208-0550 and sign up.**

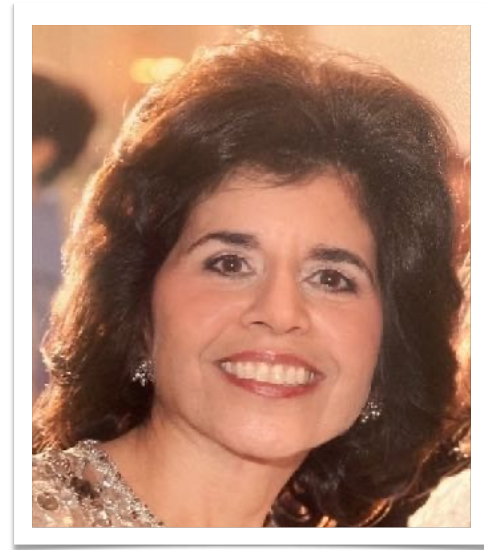
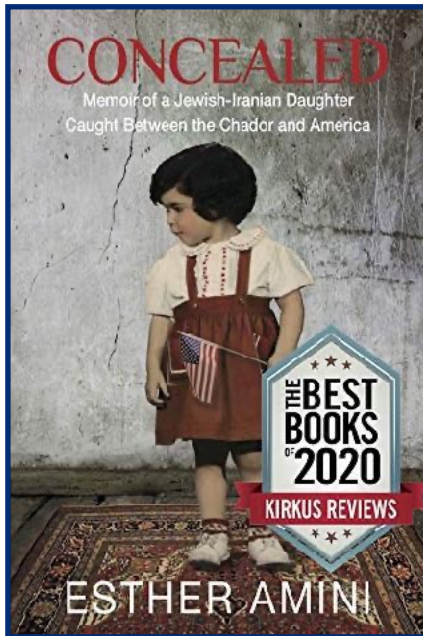
**I am so excited to know we will be able to physically be together doing a great Mitzvah!**

**We are also collecting period products for NO MORE SECRETS in the parking lot when you arrive. This worthy organization assists young girls and women who suffer from menstrual product insecurity. Please look for NCJW member Gerri Greene.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Meet the Author  
Tuesday, January 24, 2023  
7:00 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

Our guest speaker will be Esther Amini, author of the critically acclaimed book *CONCEALED*. She'll share what it was like to grow up in a traditional Persian-Jewish household in the free-wheeling 1960's and her quest for self-determination. This is a compelling book and a great speaker.



Esther Amini grew up in Queens, NY, the American-born daughter of parents who had fled Mashhad, Iran. In *Concealed*, she tells the story of being caught between these two worlds: the dutiful daughter of tradition-bound parents who hungers for more self-determination than tradition allows.

### **About Esther**

Esther Amini is a writer, painter, and psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice. Her short stories have appeared in *Elle*, *Lilith*, *Tablet*, *The Jewish Week*, *Barnard Magazine*, *Washburn University's Inscape Literary Journal*, and *Proximity*. She was named one of Aspen Words' two best emerging memoirists and awarded its Emerging Writer Fellowship in 2016 based on her memoir entitled *Concealed* and was chosen by JWT as their Artist-in-Residence in 2019. Her pieces have been performed by Jewish Women's Theatre in Los Angeles and in Manhattan.

[Click here to purchase  
\*CONCEALED\* on Amazon](#)

[Click here to register for Zoom link](#)



# Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Cindi Pasceri represents our NCJW Section on the Holocaust Education and Remembrance Committee.

**Join these events sponsored by Philadelphia JCRC.**

## **Addressing Antisemitism: The Current Crisis and What We Can Do Wednesday January 11th, 2023 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Join Andrea Heymann, Associate Regional Director of ADL Philadelphia, to discuss the current state of Antisemitism and how to combat hate in our communities.

Register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DsNGwafuQpS8d\\_cGajWsdA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DsNGwafuQpS8d_cGajWsdA)

## **Web Series with David Horovitz, Times of Israel Monday, January 23, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.**

JCRC is pleased to welcome back David Horovitz, Founding Editor of the online newspaper, *The Times of Israel* for another series of online briefings. In the briefings, Horovitz will provide updates about the latest events happening in Israel and the Middle East.

Register here:

[https://jewishphilly.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0d6qzt4JSMGHmJeMcv8Ew](https://jewishphilly.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0d6qzt4JSMGHmJeMcv8Ew)

### **UPDATE FROM THE GRANTS COMMITTEE**

Our Section's Grants Committee awards small grants, not to exceed \$500, to organizations that assist women, children and families through their programs and initiatives.

Please take a moment and think of a worthy nonprofit organization – 501(c)(3) – that our section might support... and where a small grant would make a difference. Ask them to submit a grant request.

A link to a copy of our Grant 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.



## Goodies For the Good Guys

Our NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section carrying out our annual tradition to SWEETEN the time our firefighters, police and health workers give on the winter holidays which benefits the communities they serve.



Denise Kahn delivered Goodies to the Good Guys at the Southampton Fire Department.



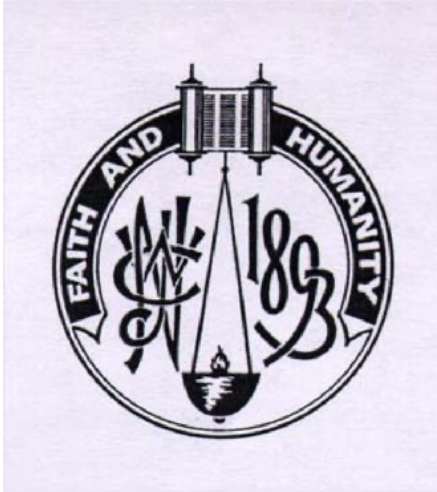
Amy Beitman and her daughter, Mollie, delivered Goodies to the Good Guys at Doylestown Hospital.



Susan Horwitz and Harriet Gran delivered goodies to the good guys in the Springfield Township Police Department.



## A BIT OF NCJW HISTORY



National Council of Jewish Women's original badge.

Courtesy of the National Council of Jewish Women.

### **Jewish women's advocate Esther Ruskay is featured speaker at NCJW New York launch**

May 9, 1894

When New York City's section of the National Council of Jewish Women met for the first time, on May 9, 1894, the evening's speaker was Esther Ruskay. Born in 1857, Ruskay had been a member of the first graduating class of Normal College (now Hunter College) in 1875. She became known as a leading advocate for Jewish traditionalism, but was widely respected throughout the Jewish community, even becoming the first woman to speak from the pulpit of Temple Emanu-El, New York's flagship Reform synagogue.

In her 1894 speech, Ruskay castigated those who saw Judaism as out of step with modernity and particularly those who looked to deracinated movements like the Ethical Culture Society for spiritual and ethical guidance. At a time when many Jews were criticizing Judaism as increasingly irrelevant and seeking to Americanize Jewish practice, Ruskay held firmly to tradition. In the same speech, she urged that Hebrew be taught regularly to Jewish children "in the same spirit of educational fervor" as was given to training in Latin and Greek.

Ruskay pushed the early National Council of Jewish Women (founded in 1893) to focus its efforts on strengthening Judaism. She successfully urged the Council to commit to protecting the Jewish Sabbath and respectfully but firmly challenged the NCJW leaders from Chicago who believed that Judaism could be sustained with a Sabbath observed on Sunday. A frequent contributor to the English-language American Jewish press and the *New York Sun*, Esther Ruskay believed that adherence to traditional Jewish observance could vitally enrich life lived amid modern societal demands. A collection of her writing was published by the Jewish Publication Society in 1902 under the title *Hearth and Home Essays*.

Ruskay was instrumental in the founding of the New York Educational Alliance, the Young Women's Hebrew Association, and the Vacation Home for Girls. She died at age 53 in 1910.

**Sources:** *Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*, pp. 968-979, 1193-1194; Esther Ruskay, *Hearth and Home Essays* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1902); personal correspondence from John Ruskay to JWA, September 2004.



# REPRO SHABBAT

**FEBRUARY 17-18, 2023**

National Council of Jewish Women

## Advocacy Alert!!

This summer, the Supreme Court decision to reverse *Roe v. Wade* paved the way for states across the nation to pursue abortion bans and restrictions on birth control and fertility treatments.

**But reproductive freedom is a Jewish value, and we're not going to back down.**

Keep the momentum going with us, and bring Repro Shabbat to your community this February 17-18, 2023.

NCJW has launched a nationwide effort to raise the Jewish Community's awareness of reproductive justice issues. They have designated February 17-18, 2023 as *Repro Shabbat*, a time for rabbis to speak to their congregations in support of reproductive justice for all people.

We are asking for your help with this effort by contacting the rabbis you know and encouraging them to participate.

**For more information on this important initiative, go to:**

**<https://www.jewsforabortionaccess.org/reproshabbat>**

In addition, NCJW-PA is sponsoring a kick-off to the Repro Shabbat weekend with a short program on Zoom on Thursday evening **February 16, 2023**. This is an exciting joint venture with our section and the Pittsburgh Section. To make this a celebratory event, we are organizing people to get together to bake challah and watch the program together. We already have two people who will be opening up their homes for this baking get-together and are looking for other people who would be willing to offer their homes as baking centers.

We are also looking for rabbis who might be willing to provide us with a 30 second video that answers the question "Why is reproductive justice a Jewish issue?" These videos would be included in a montage that would be part of the February 16 Zoom presentation.

If you are willing and able to help with any of the above initiatives, please contact me at [rhondamandelncjw@gmail.com](mailto:rhondamandelncjw@gmail.com).

Thanks so much for following in NCJW's long tradition of advocacy by supporting reproductive rights and abortion access in Pennsylvania.

Rhonda Mandel

## Back to the Parking Lot!



Since there are no in-person meetings in January or February, we'll be collecting supplies for all of our great causes outside on Thursday, February 9 at noon.

Come to GIANT in Willow Grove, 315 York Road (weather permitting--we'll let you know of any change). Look for us at the back of the parking lot.

**No More Secrets** (period supplies for the new group we are supporting)

**Dawn's Place** (paper goods, cleaning products)

**Mitzvah Circle** (clothes, toys, NEW socks/underwear)

**Franklin Elementary** (copy paper and other school supplies)

Thanks so much for supporting this effort!

## Emergency Grant Issued



On September 28, 2022 Hurricane Ian hit the Southwest Coast of Florida. Mass devastation occurred everywhere in the area. The residents lost power for weeks, homes were destroyed and people were without food and the necessities of life.

In order to assist the affected communities, the board of our NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section approved an emergency grant of \$500 to the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.

These funds will help to provide relief to those who have lost so much.

Wendy Rader and Faye Benshetler  
Co - VPs of Community Service

# Food Bank Donations

Faye Benshetler sent me these thank you notes she received from food banks. NCJW sent them money to support their work with the food insecurity in our area. Faye and the Board thought it a good idea to publish these in the Bulletin so that our membership can become aware of our initiatives. Thanks again for your continued cooperation. We appreciate it so much!

Margie Zukerman



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[www.mannapa.org](http://www.mannapa.org)

November 9, 2022

National Council of Jewish Women  
Attn: Pearl Tragash  
501 Ironwood Way  
Dresher, PA 19025

Dear Pearl,

On behalf of MANNA's clients, volunteers, and staff, thank you for the recent donation of \$200 towards food security. Your contribution will help MANNA provide counseling and home-delivered nourishment to those who need it most, improving their health, wellbeing, and quality of life.

Your support of MANNA is more than support of a given number of meals. It is support of a program that provides hope in times of desperation, care in times of isolation, and strength and health in times of sickness. Your partnership helps MANNA prove, as we have done for more than a quarter of a century, that food is medicine, and that everyone deserves the nourishment they need to heal.

With your support, MANNA is improving the health of the Philadelphia region. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission, and hope you will consider coming to visit us to see the impact of your contribution in action. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a time to visit, please do not hesitate to reach out at [sdaugherty@mannapa.org](mailto:sdaugherty@mannapa.org) or 215-496-2662 x101.

Thank you again.

Yours in Nourishment,

Sue Daugherty, RDN, LDN  
Chief Executive Officer

*Handwritten note:*  
1/11 2022  
with 25 years !!

*NOTICE: Please consider this correspondence as a receipt of your gift. In accordance with current Internal Revenue Service regulations, we affirm that you have received no goods or services in consideration for your contribution. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*



# Quakertown Food Pantry

101 N. Third Street  
P.O. Box 278  
Quakertown, PA 18951  
215-536-0240

quakertownfoodpantry@gmail.com

November 14, 2022



National Council of Jewish Women  
Faye Benshetler  
501 Ironwood Way  
Dresher, PA 19025

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our all-volunteer staff at the Quakertown Food Pantry, I want to thank you for your recent donation of \$200. We truly appreciate your generosity and have put this money to good use

This past month proved to be our busiest yet. We provided meals to approximately 20 to 30 families on a daily basis. With food shortages and rising food costs, our Pantry is working even harder to "reach out to those in need." Your financial support allows us to continue our mission.

Thanks for helping us provide this kind of support to our local communities. We couldn't do it without you.

With gratitude,

*Melissa Nevill*

Melissa Nevill  
Quakertown Food Pantry Representative

*"Our mission is to provide food to those who ask"*



October 14, 2022

Dear Ms. Benshelter,

I am reaching out to send our appreciation for the donation of lovely books. They will surely bring joy to many children.

Thank You So Much,

The Staff at Open Arms Adoption Network



# EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSOCIATION

FOOD PANTRY OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY

December 3, 2022

National Council of Jewish Women

c/o Faye Benshetler

501 Ironwood Way

Dresher, PA 19025

Dear Donor,

Thank you for your gift of \$200 during November 2022. Your generosity helps those in your community avoid hunger. Thank you so much.

Thank you,

Linda McGowan  
President  
Emergency Relief Association

Note: the IRS requires that the following statement be provided and maintained with your tax records. Emergency Relief Association of Lower Bucks County, Inc. (Tax Id #23-7296756) provided no goods or services in return for this contribution.

## Report from NCJW's Israel Grantees

Wednesday January 18, 2023, 12 noon  
on Zoom

Click the link below to register!

In 2022, NCJW Sections gave generously to our Israel Granting Program. Through these contributions, we enabled NCJW to grant almost \$100,000 to 3 chosen projects: **Isha L'Isha** for their training program for marginalized women to run for political office in Haifa, **Al Baquor** for their pioneering early childhood education work for Bedouin communities in the Negev, and **Physicians for Human Rights-Israel** for reproductive health services for status-less women in Tel Aviv.

These three programs not only span the geographic breadth of Israel, but also balance service, education, and advocacy to reach some of the most vulnerable women, children, and families from the diverse mosaic that makes up Israeli society.

We are delighted to invite you to join us for a Virtual Meet Up with representatives of our three 2022 grantees, to hear from them about the impact of our contributions. The event will include breakouts with each grantee so that those of you who donated for a specific project can focus on learning more about the ways your dollars were spent — or you can choose which organization you are most interested to hear from in depth.

While each organization has their own particular area of focus, this is a time of great concern and uncertainty for all, as members of the new government that is forming in Israel have pledged to advance policies that are alarming for the constituents at the heart of our IGP programs: women, LGBTQ+ individuals, Arab citizens, and Asylum Seekers in particular. We will also share more about these concerns and what they mean for our partners' work at the Meet Up.



## BOOK CLUBS

### Afternoon Book Club

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

Feb 23 *Dear Edward*  
By: Ann Napolitano  
Moderator: Anita Shomer

Mar 23 *Fresh Water for Flowers*  
By: Valerie Perrin  
Moderator: Maria Rosen

Apr 27 *Where the Children Take Us*  
By: Zain Asher  
Moderator: Susan Brooks

May 25 *Black Cake*  
By: Charmaine Wilkerson  
Moderator: Sandy Fryer

June 22 *How to Find Your Way in the Dark*  
By: Derek Miller  
Moderator: Patti First

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

### Center City Book Group

Wednesday, January 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



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Section.

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WEBSITE BOOK PAGE](#)

### Suburban Book Club

Thank you to Charlotte Schwartz for hosting and Faith Edelman for leading our discussion of *Writers and Lovers*.

January 24 *Concealed* by: Esther Amini  
NCJW Zoom meeting with author

Tuesday, February 21 *How to Find Your Way in the Dark* by: Derek Miller  
Facilitator...Rebeca Landau  
Zoom Meeting 7:30 PM

Tuesday, March 14 *The Nature of Fragile Things* by: Susan Meissner

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



## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Lerman    Carol Cherson    Florence K. Leon    Ilene S. Karp  
Cyndi B. Silverman    Carolyn Crowe

As Membership co-Vice-Presidents, we welcome all to call with any questions. Please contact Patti First ([patal16@verizon.net](mailto:patal16@verizon.net)) or Linda Abrams ([lr.abrams@gmail.com](mailto: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
- Donations to NO MORE SECRETS to assist young girls and women who suffer from menstrual product insecurity.

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](#)**

## DO YOU WANT TO BE IN PICTURES?

When you are at an event, send a picture to Harriet (harrietandmal@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.

## Hello HAMEC Volunteers!

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

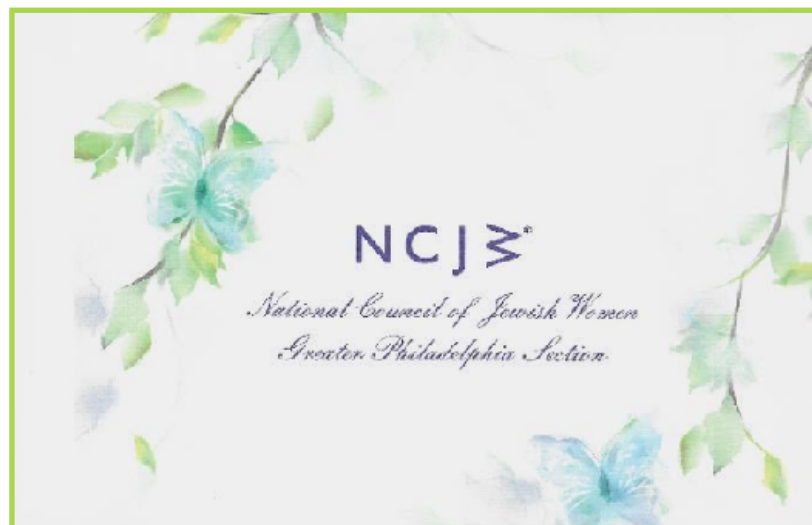
Contact Cindi Pasceri

[vpasce@gmail.com](mailto:vpasce@gmail.com) or (215) 205-0133



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



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)

## NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section 2022-2023

### Presidium :

Linda Brosgol, Aileen Salus & Margie Zukerman

### Vice Presidents:

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

### Officers:

Treasurer:	Pearl Tragash
Assistant Treasurer:	Margie Zukerman
Financial Secretary:	Harriet Winokur
Recording Secretary:	Susan Chace
Corresponding Secretary:	Bobbie Berman

### Board Directors at Large:

Sherry Kohn Eisman  
Nancy Cox  
Diane Plotnick  
Kay Skloff  
Jackee Swartz

### Immediate Past Presidium Officers:

Charlene Kurland  
Ellen Mirbach  
Elizabeth Downing

### Honorary Founding Director:

Diane Steinbrink

Harriet Gran, Bulletin Editor.  
Mal Gran, Website Manager  
harrietandmal@gmail.com  
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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### JANUARY

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 <b>BOARD MEETING</b> 1 p.m.	11 <b>CENTER CITY BOOK CLUB</b>	12	13	14
15	16 <b>MLK DAY OF SERVICE</b>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 <b>PROGRAM MEET THE AUTHOR</b> <b>Concealed</b> <b>By Ester Amini</b>	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; padding: 20px; display: inline-block;">           Click to see our updated website calendar         </div>			