

# Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

October, 2023

## 130 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)

## Where in the World is NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section's Reach?



Lynne Jacobs, Rhonda Mandel and Nan Myers represented NCJW at the 60th Anniversary March on Washington, August 26, 2023.



We donated to World Central Kitchen to help provide services to the people of Maui.

## Our Section Members Are Dedicated To The Causes Impacting Us, Our Families And Communities.



### In Israel

supporting women's advocacy in the face of judicial reform efforts threatening their equality and reproductive rights.



### Food Insecurity

In our local communities donations to lessen food insecurity in Philadelphia, Bucks County, Penn Ridge, Quakertown and Warminster.

## GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION

# Afternoon Tea and Talk

Tuesday October 24, 2023

1-3 p.m.

Beth Sholom Congregation  
8231 Old York Rd  
Elkins Park, PA 19027

Please join us and bring friends!

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## ELECTIONS MATTER!

### Our Voices-->Our Votes

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Our featured speaker will be

Lauren Cristella

President and CEO of Committee of Seventy

Lauren Cristella joined the Committee of Seventy in 2018. She became President-CEO in June and is the first woman to lead the 119-year-old organization.

Lauren has dedicated her career to promoting active citizenship, and she is proud to lead an organization that has promoted, supported, and facilitated election integrity for more than a century.

Prior to Committee of Seventy, she spent seven years at the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania. Before that, she led education efforts for the National Constitution Center

Lauren served as President of the League of Women Voters of Philadelphia from 2018-2023. She is also a mom and former foster mom who lives in South Philadelphia with her family.



Come enjoy tea and pastries. \$10 for members and guests

Please send your check paid to NCJW for \$10/person to:  
Margie Zukerman, 5106 Meridian Blvd, Warrington, PA 18976  
by October 19.

Please bring supplies for Dawn's Place (paper products) and No More Secrets (period products)

Questions? Call Lynne Jacobs, Advocacy VP 215-248-3333

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**

**Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**SPRING MILL COUNTRY CLUB**  
80 Jacksonville Road  
Ivyland, PA 18974

**Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH**

Secretary

Pennsylvania Department of  
Human Services

Sharing her thoughts on *Women's Health*



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

featuring



Scarlet Begonias Boutique

**MEMBERS \$60**

**GUESTS \$65**

[Click Here to Register Online](#)

Please mail your check made out to NCJW by October 25  
In order to guarantee your seating request to:  
Margie Zukerman, 5106 Meridian Blvd., Warrington, PA 18976

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ENTREES FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR GUESTS

- © Chicken Piccata  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_
- © Salmon with Champagne Mustard Sauce  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_
- © Penne Pasta Primavera  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEAT ME WITH: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions: Call Membership Vice Presidents:  
Linda Abrams – 215-266-2566 or Patti First – 215-470-1560

## **Election in Pennsylvania November 7th, 2023 Issues Important to NCJW are on the Line!**

State and local elections impact our lives, playing a major role in voting rights, access to reproductive health care for women, gun safety, environmental laws, policing, and school curriculum, among a host of other issues that are important to us. This election will determine who controls the State courts and at the local level, the Common Pleas Court and Magisterial District judges as well as who will run local governments and school boards.



The state courts are often the only place to take action to stop harmful laws after they are passed by lawmakers. Many policy disputes between the governor and legislature end up being litigated by the lower appellate courts, often ending up in the state Supreme Court. Access to the ballot, and determining districts for representation locally, statewide and nationally is determined at the state level, and the PA Supreme Court has often been the final arbiter.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court currently has four Democrat and two Republican Justices, and the seventh Justice will be chosen in November. Daniel McCaffery, a Democrat, who has vowed to protect “women’s reproductive rights”, is running against Carolyn Carluccio, a Republican who’s promised to defend “all life under the law.”

To get more information on the candidates for the State Supreme Court go to: Pa. election 2023: A complete guide to the candidates for the state Supreme Court  
<https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2023/09/pennsylvania-election-2023-supreme-court-candidates/> and/or [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) and/or [ballotopedia.org](http://ballotopedia.org)

In addition to filling one seat on the Supreme Court, there are two vacancies on the Superior Court and one vacancy on the Commonwealth Court. Two Justices on the Superior Court are running for retention, one Republican and One Democrat.

To get more detailed information on the Commonwealth and Superior courts, including the Pennsylvania Bar recommendations, go to the Spotlight PA article: Pa. election 2023: a complete guide to the candidates for Commonwealth and Superior Courts  
<https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2023/09/pennsylvania-election-2023-commonwealth-superior-court-candidates/> and/or [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) and/or [ballotopedia.org](http://ballotopedia.org)

What is retention?

Pennsylvania has a merit retention provision in its constitution that allows all judges except magisterial district judges to be retained with a simple “yes” or “no” vote with no reference to political affiliation on the ballot. The rationale for this provision was to remove judges from the pressure of politics once they begin their first term of office. However, we can access information about their performance and if they are recommended by the Pennsylvania Bar. The above cited Spotlight article as well as [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) and [ballotopedia.org](http://ballotopedia.org) can provide this important information.



Currently there are two sitting Superior Court judges seeking retention. Judge Victor P. Stabile, elected as a Republican in 2013, is seeking a second term. Judge Jack A. Panella, elected as a Democrat in 2003, is currently the president judge of the Superior Court and is seeking a third term. The Pennsylvania Bar Association recommends both Judge Stabile and Judge Panella for retention.

How to get information about county and municipal elections, including Court of Common Pleas candidates.

If you live in Philadelphia, go to [ballotpedia.org](https://ballotpedia.org), put in your address and be patient. Eventually your sample ballot will appear. I was able to click on the arrows to get information for each candidate. Ballotpedia provides information for all federal and state elections, but comprehensive coverage of local elections is available only for the 100 largest cities.

This year Ballotpedia is covering school board elections in Pennsylvania, but at this point there's only information about the May primaries. The links are below, and hopefully the information available will be updated.

Be sure to check your local papers for more information about who and what will be on your ballot.

Link for candidates running for all offices in Philadelphia, including 10 seats on Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

[https://ballotpedia.org/City\\_elections\\_in\\_Philadelphia,\\_Pennsylvania\\_\(2023\) - Judicial\\_offices](https://ballotpedia.org/City_elections_in_Philadelphia,_Pennsylvania_(2023)_-Judicial_offices)

Montgomery County School Boards: so far this link has candidates for the primary election; it is not updated for November 7 election.

[https://ballotpedia.org/Montgomery\\_County,\\_Pennsylvania,\\_elections,\\_2023](https://ballotpedia.org/Montgomery_County,_Pennsylvania,_elections,_2023)

Bucks County School Boards: so far this link has candidates for the primary election; it is not updated for November 7 election.

[https://ballotpedia.org/Montgomery\\_County,\\_Pennsylvania,\\_elections,\\_2023](https://ballotpedia.org/Montgomery_County,_Pennsylvania,_elections,_2023)

**Important Dates:**

Registration Deadline: October 23, 2023

Application for Mail-in ballot: October 31, 2023

**Covid is on the rise, so you may want to vote by mail.**

Contributed by Barbara Hoffman, co-Pennsylvania Policy Advocate

**PLAN YOUR  
VOTE**

## Community Services Has Had A Busy Start To The Year

We sent \$500 to the Jewish Federation of North America and \$500 to World Central Kitchen to help provide services to the people of Maui. We also donated \$250 worth of kitchen ware directly to HIAS to assist the 50 new families that are settling in the Philadelphia area. Addressing food insecurity continues to be a great need in our communities. To that end we donated \$350 to each of the following food pantries - BCHG-Doylestown, BCHG-Pennell, ERA Food Pantry-Bucks, JFCS Food Insecurity, Manna Center City, Manna on Main, Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard, Pennridge-FISH, Quakertown Food Pantry, and Warminster Food Bank. We will be dropping off copy paper and school supplies to Franklin Elementary School later this month.

Tzedakah is the primary word relating to the Jewish value of helping others. It is often translated as charity, but it comes from the word tzedek meaning justice. We are commanded to help others, both Jew and non-Jew, and to create a more just society. NCJW proudly continues its mission.

Wishing you and your families a Happy, Healthy and Sweet New Year!  
Faye Benshetler & Wendy Rader  
Community Services Co-Vice Presidents



## Please Remember:

### Bring Supplies to Donate at the September and October Meetings

Please continue your generous donation of supplies for:

**Dawn's Place:** all paper products (*especially single-ply toilet paper*), full size cleaning products & wipes, large trash bags.

**No More Secrets** - period products

**Ben Franklin Elementary School:** School supplies (glue sticks, pencils, erasers, notebooks etc....) would be a much valued donation.

Note: At the parking-lot collection in July, folks suggested that - even at meetings - we enable members to put donations directly into our cars. This of course is much easier than carting them inside and bringing them out again. On September 19, we will experiment with this plan. *Gerrie and I will park near the entrance to KI - starting at 11 AM.* Anyone who has supplies to donate can drive up and give them to us **BEFORE** the meeting.

**We are suspending donations to Mitzvah Circle** at this time because they are now located too far away from our volunteer drivers. Please DO NOT bring any used clothing to donate until further notice.

We have started helping a different group, the National Giving Alliance. They distribute new clothing to families in need, and we've been volunteering to unpack and sort supplies they receive from manufacturers.



On the third Monday of the month we volunteer at NGA 822 Veterans Way Warminster. National Giving Association collects only new clothing and donates the clothing after getting a request from a social worker. It is a small building and quite nice to work in. We remove tickets from the clothing and place an NGA sticker on each item. We also take lists from social workers and pack boxes to be sent out.

Since the Pandemic, we have been trying to find organizations where we can physically volunteer. Our monetary donations are always welcome but having a members volunteer helps both the organizations and NCJW. We make our presence known in the community and we have a bonding experience that has been missing since the Pandemic.

I am always looking for other places to volunteer and would appreciate any suggestions.

An e-mail blast will be sent out the week before the event.

Please call Sherry Kohn Eisman at 215-208-0550 if you have any questions.

## NCJW's Israel Granting Program - 2023 Grantees

### 1. "Womansplaining"

Training hundreds of women--from different communities--as facilitators of discourse circles throughout the country. Participants in the circles will learn about the Knesset's recently-proposed judicial reforms and how these changes could particularly impact women.

### 2. Coalition for Reproductive Rights in Israel

Through policy advocacy and a public awareness campaign, the coalition aims to ensure that the State of Israel is a place where all can enjoy reproductive freedom and have equal access to abortion care and reproductive health.



Lynne Jacobs  
Vice President, Advocacy



## School Volunteer Opportunity

Our NCJW Section's adopted school, Benjamin Franklin Elementary School welcomes our volunteers as it has done in the past six years. Like schools across the country, especially in urban areas, Franklin School continues to face the challenges wrought by the pandemic in terms of helping students recoup and progress academically. Also importantly, the Principal, Roslyn Sample-Green has had a HVAC system installed to help reduce airborne contaminants, including viruses and has increased the level of janitorial service. The school is located at 5735 Rising Sun Avenue in the lower Northeast.

For more information you are welcome to contact Harriet Gran at 215-206-1026 or by email at [hpgran68@gmail.com](mailto:hpgran68@gmail.com).



**Dear Members,**

**I am proud to be taking on the role of Grants Committee Chair.**

**Our Section awards small grants, not to exceed \$500, to local organizations whose programs serve the needs of women, children and families.**

**If you know of a worthy organization in our area, you can suggest that they fill out a grant request.**

**Click the link below to get the application.**

**To be eligible, a group must qualify as an IRS 501(c)(3) organization.**

**Feel free to contact me at [gervert@verizon.net](mailto:gervert@verizon.net) or (215) 402-0887 with any questions.**

**"Click here for grant information and an application"**

**Gerrie Greene**



## A BIT OF NCJW HISTORY

**Rose Brenner**  
**April 3, 1884–1926**  
**by Peggy K. Pearlstein**



As president of the National Council of Jewish Women, Rose Brenner focused on inclusion of people who were often marginalized—the deaf, the blind, and those isolated in rural areas. Brenner began chairing the local Brooklyn section of NCJW in 1908 and was made president in 1912, expanding membership, sponsoring a home for Jewish girls, and designating an annual “Council Sabbath.” Brenner served as national president of NCJW from 1920 to 1926, doubling membership, creating a National Speakers Bureau and a Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and publishing the first Jewish prayer book in Braille. She also created a Department of Farm and Rural Work separate from the regular Immigrant Aid department, helping Jewish families on 3,000 farms.

Under Brenner’s stewardship, the NCJW initiated and broadened efforts to Americanize immigrants while encouraging their continued religious and ethnic identity. Its work on resettlement, citizenship, and peace efforts brought national and international recognition to the organization. Rose Brenner’s leadership is also significant, since she was the sole unmarried woman to attain the presidency of the NCJW, an organization that had championed traditional Jewish motherhood alongside its commitment to public service.

<https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/brenner-rose>

### **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



## BOOK CLUBS

### Afternoon Book Club

Sept 28 *Mother, Daughter, Traitor, Spy*  
by: Susan Elia MacNeal  
Moderator: Stephanie Fenlon

Oct 26 *This Is How It Always Is*  
by: Laurie Frankel  
Moderator: Eileen Davis

Nov 23 *Remarkably Bright Creatures*  
by: Shelby Van Pelt  
Moderator: Anita Shomer

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

With a couple of clicks, you can have books delivered from Amazon to your Kindle.



### Center City Book Group

Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m.

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano  
Leader: Sharon Kestenbaum  
Home of Audrey Block  
1919 Chestnut St., Apt. 2314

Center City residents interested in a book club, call:

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

### Suburban Book Club

Our next book is "The Personal Librarian", written by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, Due to travel schedules and upcoming Jewish Holidays, the date, in consultation with our members, will be determined and notifications sent.

For more information... contact Joan Sax at 215- 740- 7263 or joansax@ comcast.net.

[Click Here for our Website Book Page](#)

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

## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Karen Krieger   Diane Polsky   Merryl Pelberg   Marjorie Krug

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 \$50 (Be an Angel \$60 🙇)\*

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.

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**

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. We would be happy to meet you and deliver your cards. You can also call us to send a card for you at a cost of \$5.00.

Ann Pollock  
215-806-4068

Linda Mosko  
215-233-0184



## 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



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.



## NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section 2023-2024

President - Aileen Salus

### Vice Presidents:

Advocacy:	Lynne Jacobs
Membership:	Patti First, Linda Abrams
Programs & Education:	Rosalie Marcus & Anita Shomer
Community Services:	Faye Benshetler & Wendy Rader
Fund Raising:	Cindi Pasceri & 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:

Nancy Cox  
Sherry Kohn Eisman  
Janet Ecksel  
Diane Plotnick  
Ann Pollock  
Joan Sax  
Jackee Swartz

### Honorary Founding Director

Diane Steinbrink

### Immediate Past Presidium

Linda Brosgol

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
Char Kurland	Margie Zukerman

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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Patricia Tagliolini  
Real Estate Salesperson

o 215.348.4848 m 215.882.1202  
[pat.tagliolini@compass.com](mailto:pat.tagliolini@compass.com)

# Shiva

## Made Easy, LLC

Deborah Cohen  
215-783-6154

[www.shivamadeeasy.com](http://www.shivamadeeasy.com)

Debra Miller  
215-205-1405

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Email: [ssnellenburg@rvacations.com](mailto:ssnellenburg@rvacations.com)

## SUSAN CHACE, MSW, LCSW

### Geriatric Care Manager

8005 Rodgers Road  
Elkins Park, PA 19027-1325

Phone: 215-782-8088  
Email: [slchace@comcast.net](mailto:slchace@comcast.net)  
Website: [susanlchace.com](http://susanlchace.com)



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## OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Board Meeting 1:00p.m.	26 Center City Book Club 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Afternoon Tea and Talk at Beth Shalom Lauren Cristella CEO Committe of Seventy The Upcoming Election	25	26 Afternoon Book Club 1:30 p.m.	27	28
29	30	31				

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**DECEMBER 5 at 10:30 a.m.**  
**GAME DAY & BRUNCH at KI**  
Details to follow.