

Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

December, 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

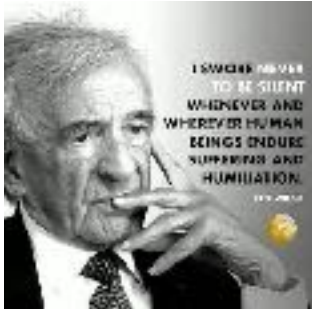
Visit us at
ncjwphiladelphia.org

NCJW and Global Women Leaders Demand Immediate Release of Israeli Hostages in Gaza

NCJW CEO Sheila Katz joined with a diverse group of women leaders in a letter calling on international governments and human rights' groups to demand the release of all hostages now being held by Hamas in Gaza. NCJW National put out a statement condemning the violence from Hamas and urgently called for a peaceful resolution, allowing Israelis, Palestinians and all in the region to live in safety.

TAKE ACTION

You can reach out to your lawmakers in Congress to urge swift action to support the hostages, providing them medical care and negotiating their release. Visit voicesforhostages.org/congress to email your elected officials.



A CLEAN SWEEP

This past Nov 7th election bodes well for the Central Bucks County School District. Voters elected school board directors, now in the majority, who took positions "against harmful policies" as one new electee put it. The reference was to book bans, anti-LGBT actions and mistreatment of students and staff. In the last few years, school board meetings were the scenes of anti-semitic and culture war rhetoric. A high school librarian was directed to remove a poster that quoted the late Holocaust survivor and writer, Elie Wiesel: "I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides". The community did just that and the order was rescinded.

Our NCJW Section followed this story in our Bulletin, thanks to our member, Liz Downing, who engaged with the Central Bucks School Community as a resident of that community and her involvement with advocacy with our Section. It is heartening to see this outcome.

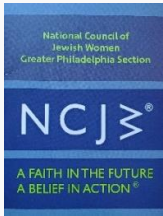
Harriet Gran



ATTENTION: ALL NCJW SECTION BOOK CLUB MEMBERS AND BOOK LOVERS IN GENERAL!

Check out the inside flyer inviting you to a free program on zoom with award winning author Talia Carner.

Tuesday, January 16 at 2 p.m.



National Council of Jewish Women-Greater Philadelphia Section

Game Day Fundraiser

Our Program/Education and Sponsorship/Fundraising

Committees Invite you to

Play It Forward. Help Us Help Those in Need.

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

10:30 to 2:30

Keneseth Israel Synagogue -- 8339 Old York Rd, Elkins Park, PA 19027



Canasta, Bridge, Mahjongg, Scrabble

Bring your chosen game materials

Invite your group or we can match you up with other players



BOX BRUNCH/ FEE: \$40.00 for MEMBERS \$45.00 for GUESTS

Snacks provided during play

ADVANCE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT REQUIRED BY NOVEMBER 29th – NO WALK-INS

REGISTER & PAY ONLINE BY CLICKING HERE

YOU WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL RECEIPT

Questions: Call Program-Ed VPs- Anita Shomer 215-880-9992 or Rosalie Marcus 215-512-5110

TO REGISTER BY MAIL - COMPLETE THIS REGISTRATION FORM BELOW.
MAIL WITH CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO NCJW GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION TO:

Margie Zukerman

5106 Meridian Blvd. Warrington, PA 18976-1102

THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY November 29, 2023

Name: _____

I am registering to play: _____ Mahjongg, _____ Canasta, _____ Bridge, _____ Scrabble

I am coming alone. Please put me in with an open group. _____ Yes _____ No

I plan to play with the following people who are registering separately:

My group is complete. _____ Yes _____ No

NCJW MEMBER NAME: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your Email Address: _____

Please indicate your entrée choice. Selections from Curds n Whey Catering

1. Challah roll sandwiches with fruit cup and cookie. Please choose

_____ Tuna salad _____ Egg salad _____ Chicken salad

2. _____ Mini bagels with nova lox and cream cheese, fruit cup and cookie

3. _____ Mary Ellen Salad (Copped romaine, tomato, honey goat cheese & sugar toasted almonds with grilled chicken.) with fruit cup and cookie

I am paying for myself and or the following guests and have enclosed a check for \$ _____

GUEST NAME: _____

Please indicate your entrée choice. Selections from Curds n Whey.

4. Challah roll sandwiches with fruit cup and cookie. Please choose

_____ Tuna salad _____ egg salad _____ chicken salad

5. _____ Mini bagels with nova lox and cream cheese, fruit cup and cookie

6. _____ Mary Ellen Salad (Copped romaine, tomato, honey goat cheese & sugar toasted almonds with grilled chicken.) and fruit cup and cookie

GUEST NAME: _____

Please indicate your entrée choice. Selections from Curds n Whey.

7. Challah roll sandwiches with fruit cup and cookie. Please choose

_____ Tuna salad _____ egg salad _____ chicken salad

8. _____ Mini bagels with nova lox and cream cheese, fruit cup and cookie.

9. _____ Mary Ellen Salad (Copped romaine, tomato, honey goat cheese & sugar toasted almonds with grilled chicken.) with fruit cup and cookie.

This program will have donation tables for No More Secrets, Dawn's Place, and Benjamin Franklin Elementary School.

SAVE THE DATE

January 16th at 2:00 PM on Zoom

**NCJW Greater Philadelphia will present a Zoom program with
award-winning author Talia Carner**

Don't miss this exciting event!



Novelist Talia Carner is formerly the publisher of *Savvy Woman* magazine, a marketing consultant, and a lecturer at international women's economic forums. An award-winning author of six novels, including *The Third Daughter* and numerous stories, essays, and articles, she is also a committed supporter of global human rights. Carner has spearheaded ground-breaking projects centered on female plight and women's activism. Her sixth novel, *The Boy with the Star Tattoo* will be released on January 30th.

Visit her website www.TaliaCarner.com for additional facts about the author and the issues she supports.

There is no cost for this program to NCJW members and their guests. Talia will be matching her honorarium and donating it to Israel.

Details to register and the Zoom link will follow.



A great turnout for our Annual Membership Luncheon. Our members were treated to a wealth of information by Valerie Arkoosh, Pennsylvania State Secretary of the Department of Human Services. Shown here with Secretary Arkoosh are Linda Abrams and Patti First, our Membership co-vice presidents.



Lauren Cristella, CEO of the Committee of Seventy, found an enthusiastic audience for her presentation, speaking about the November 7 Pennsylvania election. Not surprising for our membership, many of whom are election volunteers! Her message for all: **BE AN INFORMED VOTER!**



Abortion-kit Packing Event

NCJW volunteers joined friends from St. Martin in the Fields, to assemble after care kits for women who have had abortions.

L to R, Rhonda Mandel, NCJW; Lizbeth Rodriguez, The Women's Centers, Cary Nicholas, St. Martin in the Fields.



This is how we arranged the supplies before filling the tote bags.

Our Adopted School Update

Community Services Chair, Faye Benshetler will be delivering school supplies to Benjamin Franklin Elementary School.

Thanks to our members for their much appreciated donations.



A BIT OF NCJW HISTORY



Sadie American shaped the National Council of Jewish Women for more than twenty years before resigning and severing all ties with the organization. In 1891, American joined the organizing committee for the Jewish Women's Congress, where she called for the creation of the National Council of Jewish Women. First elected NCJW's corresponding secretary, she became executive secretary and eventually acted as executive director and national and international spokesperson. Under American, the NCJW greatly expanded its reach, focusing its mandate on social welfare and philanthropy. Over time, American's strong personality and controversial opinions created tensions, so she resigned in 1914 rather than have her authority severely limited. In addition to her NCJW work, American took on leadership roles for a number of local Jewish and civic organizations.

The early projects of the Council concentrated on offering Study Circles for religious study and religious classes to immigrant children in various city venues, including Randall's Island. Beginning with pioneering the opening of a Recreation Room on Orchard Street in 1899 to protect immigrant girls and women from the pull of dance halls and the white slave trade, the Council soon changed its main focus to social reform work. Sadie American, National Council secretary, moved from Chicago to New York City in 1901, where she became president of the New York Section. Her emphasis on social welfare, particularly immigrant aid, became evident in the New York Section as well as the National Council's activities. Because so many Jewish immigrants came through Ellis Island, the burden of immigrant aid work fell to the New York Section. As the National Council shifted its emphasis away from religious work to social welfare work, immigrant aid became the National Council's primary focus. That change enhanced the power of New York Section and its president, power that other Sections resented.

Administrative differences led to tension between New York Section, National Council, and other sections, particularly as a result of Sadie American's leadership style. She came under increasing criticism for her sometimes brusque manner and autocratic style. First attacked for her support of Sunday Sabbath observance, National Council members still reelected her as corresponding secretary at the 1900 triennial convention, then again in 1903 and 1905. But by 1914, no longer able to deflect criticism of her actions and her manner; she resigned as National Council secretary. New York Section promptly followed the pattern in vogue among dissatisfied Sections - it seceded. As the nation's largest Council Section, with membership dues constituting a seventh of National Council's entire budget, New York was instrumental in conducting Council's immigrant aid work. Under the experienced leadership of American, New York Section continued to maintain immigration work, and finally agreed to binding arbitration with National Council, resulting in New York Section's pledge of loyalty to the National Council. The Ellis Island programs remained under the jurisdiction of the National Council's Board. A year after its secession, New York Section returned to National Council membership, with a new President and a new Board.

<https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/americansadie>

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



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 or (215) 402-0887 with any questions.

Gerrie Greene

"Click here for grant information and an application"



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.

BOOK CLUBS

Afternoon Book Club

Thursday, November 30, at 1:30.

Remarkably Bright Creatures

by Shelby Van Pelt

Moderator: Anita Shomer

January 25, *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult

Moderator: Madelyn Greenberg

March 28, *Soul of an Octopus*

by Sy Montgomery

Moderator: Ellen Newman

May 30, *Heaven and Earth Grocery*

Store by James McBride

Moderator: Susan Brooks

The Afternoon Book Club is now meeting every other month on Zoom. For more information call Anita Shomer at 215-880-9992 or email at anitabeckershomer@gmail.com

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



Center City Book Group

December 13 at 7 p.m.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Grams

Leader Phyllis Barsky

Host Helene Sternberg

Thank you Sharon Kestenbaum for a superb job leading *Hello Beautiful* at our November meeting.

Center City residents interested in a book group, contact:

Audrey Block

ablock1919@comcast.net

215-688-0094

Suburban Book Club

Wednesday, December 13 at 1pm

Have You Seen Luis Velez? by Catherine

Ryan Hyde

Host: Barbara Auerbach

Facilitator: Rebecca Landau

Thank you to hostess, Charlotte Schwartz and to facilitator, Joan Sax for a wonderfully informative and engaging discussion of *Lessons in Chemistry* at our November meeting.

Thank you to hostess Joan Sax for your warm hospitality and to Charlotte Schwartz for a well-informed discussion of *The Personal Librarian* at our October meeting

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

Barbara G. Hoffman

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 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.

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:

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Assistant Treasurer:	Margie Zukerman
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Recording Secretary:	Susan Chace
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Janet Ecksel
Diane Plotnick
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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



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December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 PROGRAM at KI GAME DAY	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 SUBURBAN BOOK CLUB 1:00 p.m. CENTER CITY BOOK CLUB 7:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						