

# Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

March, 2024

## 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)

### NATIONAL NCJW CEO, SHEILA KATZ'S RESPONSE TO TWO MAJOR CRISES FACING WOMEN



On February 14, Sheila Katz spoke at a congressional roundtable highlighting the "sexual and gender-based violence perpetuated by Hamas on October 7, and that continues with hostages who remain in captivity". Katz described "rape as a violation of humanity". NCJW endorsed the passage of a nearly unanimous vote "to condemn Hamas' acts of sexual violence as a tool of war." Going forward, Katz said she will continue to call out sexual violence wherever it happens.

On February 20, in a press release, Sheila Katz responded to the Alabama Supreme Court's ruling classifying embryos as children and that discarding them constitutes the wrongful death of a minor. NCJW called the ruling an "affront to religious freedom" necessary to protect religious minorities. In Jewish tradition an embryo is not considered as having the same legal status as a person. The ruling can remove the opportunity for Jews, LGBTQ couples and others who rely on in vitro fertilization (IVF) to start families. Seventeen percent of Jewish women utilize IVF to become pregnant.

As Sean Tipton, the Chief Advocacy and Policy Officer at the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, surmises, "the abortion debate is about controlling women's bodies." He reasons that no medical treatment is more pro-life than IVF.

### HOPEFUL NEWS PENNSYLVANIANS!

Noteworthy news for our NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section which embraces our mission to advocate for justice and community support. Governor Josh Shapiro's proposed state budget was applauded by CHILDREN FIRST, an agency dedicated to the welfare of children (formerly Public Citizens for Children and Youth) "as a win for nearly every aspect of child development from birth to young adulthood." Budget hearings are underway with the outcome to be decided by June 30. The proposed budget incurs no raise in taxes and a state budget surplus between 10 and 11 billion dollars.

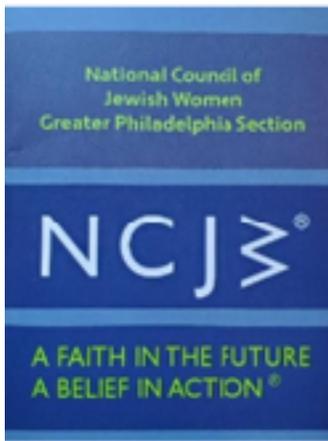


#### Impacts for Children

- Nearly 900 million dollars to benefit poor rural, suburban, and urban schools and an extra 200 million for public schools statewide.
- 522 million for student support e.g.school-based mental health services, college/career readiness, school facilities.
- Substantial added funding for pre-K and for raising the rate of the state's reimbursement for child care providers.

#### AND THERE'S MORE!

- Proposals to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour (small business owners can be given tax credits to offset the cost to them, according to State Rep, Justin Fleming.)
- Bolstering the chances for financial stability among thousands of Pennsylvania families by wiping our medical debt, the largest reason for debt collection.

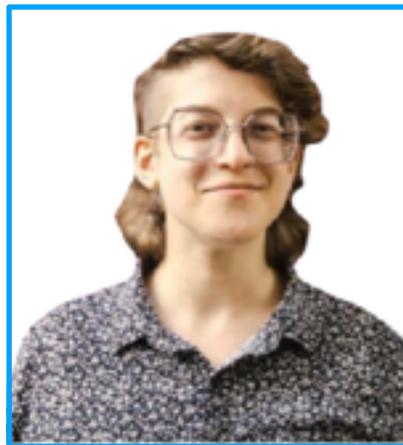


Join us for an informative program!

**LGBTQ+ History and Future**  
**Creating Connected Communities**

**March 19th 1:00**

Keneseth Israel Synagogue  
8339 Old York Rd, Elkins Park, PA 19027  
Enjoy Tea- Coffee and Desserts  
\$10 for members and guests



You should know..... Galia Godel!  
Program Manager of the LGBTQ initiative at Jewish Family  
and Children's Services of Greater Philadelphia.  
Featured in the Jewish Exponent - June 2023

RSVP By March 14th

***[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)***

Or mail check to:

Margie Zukerman  
5106 Meridian Blvd  
Warrington PA 18976

Questions: Call Program/Education VP's  
Anita Shomer 215-880-9992  
Rosalie Marcus 215-512-5110

We will have donation tables for Dawn's Place, No More  
Secrets and Ben Franklin Elementary School.



It is my honor to be the President of the Greater Philadelphia Section of National Council of Jewish Women. I am fortunate to have Board members who support me and who have stepped up to meet the challenges we face following the worst pandemic in over one hundred years as well as the current state of our political environment. Due to your support of our functions and programs, as well as some very generous donations, we have provided help to the following organizations this year:

The Mitzvah Circle  
 World Central Kitchen Maui Relief  
 Jewish Federation of North America  
 Maui Relief  
 Ten Food Banks for Food Insecurity  
 Jewish Family and Children's Service  
 Female Hebrew Benevolent Society  
 NCJW Israel Emergency Fund  
 American Friends of Magen David Adom

Friends of the IDF  
 Dawn's Place Library Fund  
 HIAS  
 Abortion Kits Workshop  
 World Central Kitchen Ukraine  
 Michael Levin Lone Soldier Foundation  
 Benjamin Franklin Elementary School  
 National Giving Alliance

If we are to continue, we cannot rely on a few hard-working members to do it all, I encourage you to get involved. Please contact me or other Board members and find out where help is needed. We all bring a variety of skills with us. Your skills and talents are needed.

May 20 - May 22, 2024 there will be a Leadership Retreat in Minneapolis, MN. Please consider attending and learning how others are moving forward during these difficult times. Additional information will follow.

I look forward to meeting you and those members who have recently joined. I hope you will consider getting involved so that we can continue to help those who are less fortunate.

Aileen Salus

### Holocaust Essay Contest Readers

We need volunteers to read the entries for our annual Holocaust Contest. The essays are from Middle School students and will be submitted in early May.

To participate in reading, please contact either:

Cindi Pasceri  
 215-205-0133  
 vpasce@gmail.com

or

Sherry Kohn  
 215-322-04113  
 kohnsherry@gmail.com



**Save the Date for our:**

**Summer Theater Trip to People's Light in Malvern**

Wednesday June 26, 2024 at 2 PM

***Off By One***

World premiere, written by Emmy Award winner Joseph Dougherty,

A wrong-number text brings strangers together in a web of curiosity and memory, with magnetic poet Douglas Roote (multi-award winner David Strathairn), at the center. As two women bond over the late writer's work, this gentle narrative explores questions of fate, coincidence, and the profound impact of a seemingly small life.



*Off By One* grapples with the deeply human impulse to seek meaning and connection in the accidental and unknown.

Tickets are \$45.

We will arrange carpools to get there and plan to have lunch first at a nearby restaurant. Friends are welcome!

Please let Lynne Jacobs know by March 31 if you want a ticket, so she will know how many to reserve.

Feel free to contact her with questions.

Lynne Jacobs  
ljacobs816@gmail.com

**Meet the Author**

In mid-January, in the warmth of their homes, our Greater Philadelphia Section members were treated to a Zoom presentation with award winning novelist, Talia Carner. Many of our members had read her acclaimed book, *The Third Daughter*.



Carner's presentation centered on her new book, *The Boy with the Star Tattoo*, which was released this past January 30. This is the story of postwar France when Israeli agents sought to rescue hidden Jewish orphans. Thank you to Anita Shomer and Rosalie Marcus, our program chairwomen, for this wonderful opportunity!



On the third Monday of the month we volunteer at NGA 822 Veterans Way Warminster. National Giving Alliance 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 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.



Cindi Pasceri and her family are headed to DisneyWorld to celebrate Max and Blake's 10th birthdays! Family Fun times infinity!!!

## A BIT OF NCJW HISTORY

*Resolved that we, Jewish women, sincerely believing that a closer fellowship will be encouraged, a closer unity of thought and sympathy and purpose, and a nobler accomplishment will result from a widespread organization, do therefore band ourselves together in a union of workers to further the best and highest interests of Judaism and humanity, and do call ourselves the “National Council of Jewish Women.”*

When the National Council of Jewish Women was founded with these words in 1893, it was the first national organization in history to unite Jewish women to promote the Jewish religion. That its commitment to preserve Jewish heritage in a quickly modernizing America would be fraught with contradictions was not readily apparent in the optimistic surroundings of the World Parliament of Religions, convened as part of the Chicago World Exposition.

The NCJW seemed well suited to embodying the values of the exposition, which was a showcase for the greatest hopes of modernity—especially science, technology, and democracy. The council consistently strove to apply the latest “scientific” methods in its work, whether it was improving religious school instruction or aiding new immigrants. It reflected the influence of democracy in its attempt to adopt a pluralistic approach to Judaism, insisting on active involvement in the religion but not on adherence to particular practices. This approach of Americanizing without giving up Jewish identity was quite popular. In its first five years, more than five thousand American Jewish women, mostly of German descent, joined the fledgling organization. By the time it reached its tenth anniversary, the council had more than doubled that number. In more recent decades, membership hovered around ninety thousand.

The excitement generated in the council’s early years, however, masked significant internal divisions. The organization’s mission to “save Judaism” from the internal threat of assimilation as well as the external threat of antisemitism attracted a variety of women with very different approaches to furthering “the best and highest interests of Judaism and humanity.”

<https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/national-council-of-jewish-women#pid-1296>  
(To be continued next month)



**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"**

## BOOK CLUBS

### Afternoon Book Club

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](mailto:anitabeckershomer@gmail.com)



### Center City Book Group

March 13th at 7 p.m.

*Writers and Lovers* by Lily King

Leader and Host: Faith Edelman

Thank you to Joanne Stoloff for leading our discussion of *Tomorrow, Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin, and for hosting as well. Much appreciated.

Interested in a Center City Book Group

Call Audrey Block. 215-688-0094

[Ablock1919@comcast.net](mailto:Ablock1919@comcast.net)

### Suburban Book Club

Wednesday, March 13 at 1:00 PM

*A Complicated Kindness*

by Miriam Toews

RSVP to Harriet Gran...[hpgran68@gmail.com](mailto:hpgran68@gmail.com)  
or 215-206-1026

Thank you to Lee Tonik for hosting and to Rosalie Marcus for facilitating the January meeting.

For more information about the Suburban Book Club, contact Joan Sax...215-740-7263  
or [joansax@comcast.net](mailto:joansax@comcast.net)

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)

## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Natalia Armoza   Rita Lynch   Barbara Samuels

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.

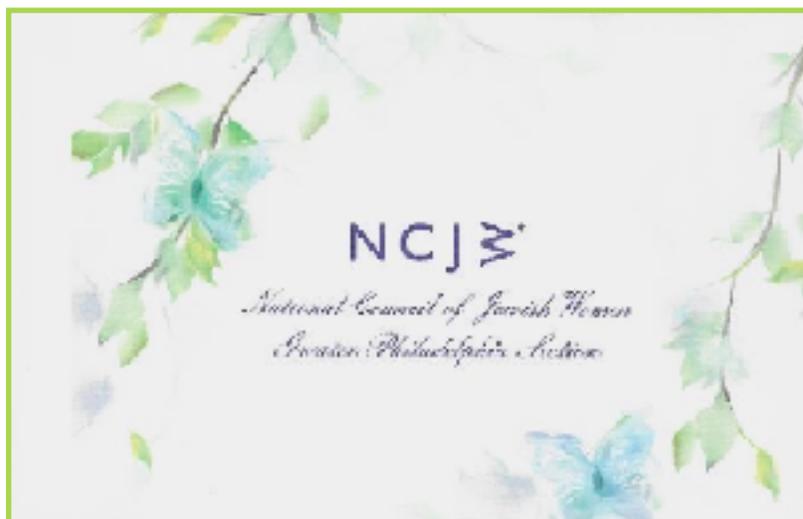
Please check out our website [ncjwphiladelphia.org](http://ncjwphiladelphia.org) for our Bulletins, past and present, for program information and registration.

**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 Anita Shomer, 215-880-9992 or Rosalie Marcus, 215-512-5110 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

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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Real Estate Salesperson

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Website: [susanlchace.com](http://susanlchace.com)



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## March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 SUBURBAN BOOK CLUB 1:00 p.m. CENTER CITY BOOK CLUB 7:30 p.m.	14	15	16
17	18 	19 PROGRAM Join us at Keneseth Israel. Galia Godel will present: <i>LGBTQ+ History and Future - Creating Connected Communities</i> <a href="#">CLICK HERE TO REGISTER</a>	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB 1:30 p.m.-5	29	30
31						