

Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

April, 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.

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215-302-3586

Visit us at
ncjwphiladelphia.org

Addressing Antisemitism Across Borders



Much has been chronicled about the rise of antisemitic acts here and globally. We have witnessed more aggressive expressions such as the march in Charlottesville, Virginia where armed white nationalists, chanted "Jews will not replace us." The surge of antisemitism became a tsunami with the massacre of Israelis by Hamas on October 7 and its aftermath. The evidence abounds with the appearance of security guards at synagogues and Jewish day schools, and discord on college campuses. As members of the Jewish community, we are left to wonder what can be done?

There are some answers to be found! On March 8, on the occasion of International Women's Day, Sheila Katz, NCJW CEO interviewed Deborah Lipstadt, U.S. Ambassador, Special Envoy to Monitor & Combat Antisemitism and her Canadian counterpart, Deborah Lyons, Canadian Special Envoy on Holocaust Remembrance & Combatting Antisemitism. These women, in positions of power, shared their vision on the accountability of our leaders to address antisemitism. The fact that Deborah Lipstadt's position was elevated to an ambassadorship conveys the urgency with which she and our U.S. State Department view the problem of antisemitism. ([Watch the Recording](#))

At first, Stadt and Lyons were stunned by the failure of many leaders in politics, education, business and particularly leaders of organizations dedicated to civil and human rights, to speak up with compassion and resolve in the face of an onslaught of antisemitic events following October 7. What they experienced is that leaders lack the information and communication skills critical to standing in opposition to antisemitism. Some leaders felt that expressing compassion and outrage over the October 7 massacre might show a lack of concern for Palestinians. Working with Arab Countries such as Tunisia, Morocco and Saudi Arabia, Lyons learned that their citizens were unknowing that Jews were indigenous to their and other countries throughout the Middle East. In fact, Jews were present in the Middle East before the rise of Islam where they have a long history of persecution and expulsion. Stadt's and Lyons' understanding of that silence has been essential to their mission to combat antisemitism. Toward that goal, Lyons has been involved in training law enforcement officers on responding to hate crimes. Both engage with political leaders, media, local leaders such as mayors, school boards, and teachers. As Sheila Katz noted, Stadt and Lyons "jump into the fight every day" to keep antisemitism from being normalized.



And Here at Home... a letter by another strong advocate, NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section member, Sherry Blumenthal. Sherry has reached out to our U.S. Senators, Bob Casey and John Fetterman and U.S. Congresswoman, Madeline Dean, to enlist their support in advocating for Israel in its time of crisis and in opposition to antisemitism. Sherry, a retired OB/GYN Physician is known to many for her work for women's reproductive rights.

Her letter:

As a supporter and voter, I ask you to accept some facts about the Israeli/Hamas conflict, and the recent increase of antisemitism in our country. First, Israel feels very isolated by the international community. Without U.S. support and the Iron Dome, Israel would be destroyed by the continual bombardment of Hamas and Hezbollah rockets. Israel is suffering from post-traumatic stress from Oct. 7. In the words of Dr. Michael Oren, U.S. born, now Israeli citizen, and Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. under 3 presidents, "every day in Israel is October 7th". Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, and Hamas was elected by the Gazan people to govern them after the Palestinian Authority proved to be corrupt and ineffective. Hamas has since taken funds given to them by the international community to build miles of tunnels under Gaza, including under Hospitals and Civilian living spaces, to amass weapons, and to further their Charter, to kill "the Jews" and spread Islam across the entire world to form a Caliphate. Please read the charter.

This is not a blanket criticism of Islam, Muslims, or the people of Gaza, just extremists. Gazans are victims of their own government. Yes, Israel is definitely bombing, and it is a humanitarian crisis. If Hamas would release the remaining 100+ hostages (some of whom have died), Israel would stop bombing, according to Dr. Oren, destroy the tunnels (not the Gazan people), and hopefully the international community would figure out how to support a more stable Gaza instead of blaming Israel for it all. Hamas invaded Israel. The International community knows this, but Hamas keeps the hostages, without concern for the Gazan people, or Israeli children. As Golda Meir said, and I paraphrase; If (Hamas) loved their children as much as they hate us, the war would end.

Hamas uses this crisis to influence media coverage against Israel. A cease fire helps only Hamas to regroup. Helping the Gazans is admirable, as long as they get the supplies, many of which Hamas is taking. But, the response to Israel by our press and our elected officials, including President Biden, is alarming to American Jews, and Israel. I quote Dr. Oren that "President Biden has been a.. friend of Israel", and that no one "knows what Donald Trump will do..., and neither does Donald Trump". How can the Hamas Health Ministry have an accurate count of the deaths in Gaza, and how many of the deaths are of terrorists? Yet so many Americans, our major press outlets and college students, believe them and deny that October 7th happened, when there is documentation from so many, including our Secretary of State.

I wish to emphasize that I am American and Jewish, the latter being a Religion, not a "Race". Is Israel perfect? Is the U.S.?

The U.S. does what is in the interest of the U.S., as we should, although some might question the ethics and morality of many of our actions. Maintaining the democratic country of Israel is in the interest of the U.S. and the entire Middle East, as the Arab nations who have signed peace and trade agreements with Israel realize. The danger and the enemy are religious fanatics, including the theocracy of Iran (who have passed the point of us stopping their nuclear capabilities), and terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah, which the Arab nations except Iran do not support. Arab nations have not helped the Gazans as Iran supports Hamas. Israel is not the oppressor.

And while we have some home-grown terrorists, we have nothing as powerful as those who killed over 3000 Americans on 9/11.

I urge you and all of my fellow Democrats to continue to support Israel, even if you try to do the correct thing for the crisis in Gaza. I certainly wish the Jewish community had the power and control Hamas and White supremacists attribute to us. However, I and most of my highly-educated Jewish friends, live in nice communities like Erdenheim, and support Tikun Olam (spreading good and goodwill). We support other minorities and their rights. We do not control much, except we are politically active and well-informed.

To many people of color, we are White and sometimes viewed as unsupportive, and to White supremacists we are not White. This is a pretty no-win dilemma. Right now, we are afraid for the 50% of the Jewish people in the world who live in Israel (who are all colors and nationalities) and for our children and grandchildren who live in the U.S. As a third Generation of Ukrainian origin, whose grandparents emigrated to the US as children in the early 1900's, I am pretty sensitized to the barbaric invasions.

I am willing to come to your offices to discuss this in further detail. I support your campaign for many other reasons, and the only lobby I support are those to do with women's health care and reproductive rights, since I am a retired OB/GYN Physician and a woman. But I work to elect Democrats and support the Jewish Community.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sherry L. Blumenthal, MD, FACOG, MSED



REGISTER TO VOTE!

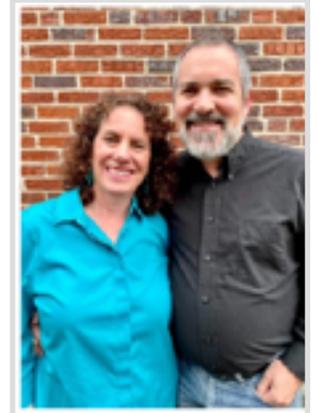
The primary election is April 23, 2024

Polls are open on election day from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

The last day to register to vote is April 8, 2024

The last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot is April 16, 2024

JOIN US FOR SONGS AND VIDEO CLIPS FROM



**April 16 at 11:30 a.m.
Keneseth Israel Synagogue
8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027**

Enjoy Lunch from Curds N' Whey

\$30 for members and \$35 for guests

Hidden is a musical by David & Jenny Heitler-Klevans based on the true story of Ruth Kapp Hartz (a member of our Philadelphia Section), who as a young Jewish girl was hidden in Southern France during World War II. Forced to change her name to Renée Caper in order to blend in, Ruth and her family rely on the kindness of strangers in a small French village. From a secret apartment to a basement hideout to a Catholic orphanage in a convent, Renée must hide her true identity and learn to survive through a series of harrowing events. Dealing with themes of identity, allies, anti-Semitism, fascism, resilience and resistance, this musical will resonate with audiences today.

David & Jenny, along with Linda Glazerman Roeder (who played Ruth and the Mother Superior in the May production of "Hidden") and pianist Roy Braverman, will perform a number of songs from the musical. They will also play a few video clips from the May production. After the presentation, Ruth, David, Jenny and Linda will answer questions.

When you click the registration link below, you will be able to pay with your credit card and choose your lunch.

Sandwiches will include a broccoli salad and a cookie.

Tuna Salad Sandwich on a Challah roll

Turkey n' Brie Sandwich on a Challah roll

Chicken Salad Sandwich on a Challah roll

Mary Ellen Salad (Chopped romaine, tomato, honey goat cheese & sugar toasted almonds with grilled chicken plus a pasta salad side.)

**TO REGISTER
AND PAY ONLINE BY APRIL 11**

CLICK HERE

**TO SEND A CHECK IN THE
MAIL**

CLICK HERE

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 Lynne with questions.

Lynne Jacobs
ljacobs816@gmail.com



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Bucks County Jewish Festival 2024



Jewish Federation
of Greater Philadelphia
Bucks County KaMinim



Sunday, June 9, 2024 | 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Bucks County Community College, Newtown

Join us for our FREE biennial Bucks County Jewish Festival! Bring your whole family, friends and neighbors for a day of fun, featuring food, music, kids activities, crafts, a silent auction and so much more. There will be something for everyone to enjoy. The festival will be largely outdoors (weather permitting) with some indoor activities.

Bucks County Community College

275 Swamp Rd, Newtown, PA 18940

[Register Here](#)

*Register by Friday, June 7,
2024 at noon.*

Our section will once again have a table at this wonderful event. If you'd like to volunteer at our table for a 2-hour shift, contact Lynne Jacobs, ljacobs816@gmail.com
No time to volunteer? Just come and enjoy! But all attendees (including volunteers) must register.

Slate of NCJW Nominated Officers and Voting Board Members for 2024-2025

President

Aileen Salus

Vice Presidents

Membership– Patti First/ Linda Abrams

Programs/Education – Rosalie Marcus/ Anita Shomer

Advocacy – Lynne Jacobs/ Judy Heath

Community Service – Faye Benshetler

Fundraising - Robin London

Additional Officers

Corresponding Secretary - Bobbie Berman

Recording Secretary – Susan Chace

Treasurer – Pearl Tragash

Assistant Treasurer – Margie Zukerman

Financial Secretary -Harriet Winokur

Directors at Large

Nancy Cox

Jackie Swartz

Sherry Kohn-Eisman

Cindi Pasceri

Diane Plotnick

Harriet Gran

Ann Pollock

Merryl Pelberg

Joan Sax

Linda Brosgol

The membership will vote for the Board slate at the April, 2024 program, The membership approved 2024-2025 Officers and Board will be inducted at our Section's closing luncheon in June.

Other Board Meeting Attendees

Honorary Founding Director – Diane Steinbrink

Holocaust Essay - Cindi Pasceri/ Joan Sax

Grants – Gerrie Greene

State Advocacy Rep. – Barbara Hoffman/Rhonda Mandel

MESSAGES FROM MEMBERS



No More Secrets Special Request

Patti First's granddaughter, Morgan, is collecting supplies for No More Secrets as her Bat Mitzvah project. Please help her in this worthy cause. Bring menstrual supplies or money contributions to our Tuesday, April 16 Program at Keneseth Israel. Thank you.

On our way to our grandson, Julian's wedding to Jenna in San Juan, April 28!!!
The girls loved the shower!!!

Cindi Pasceri



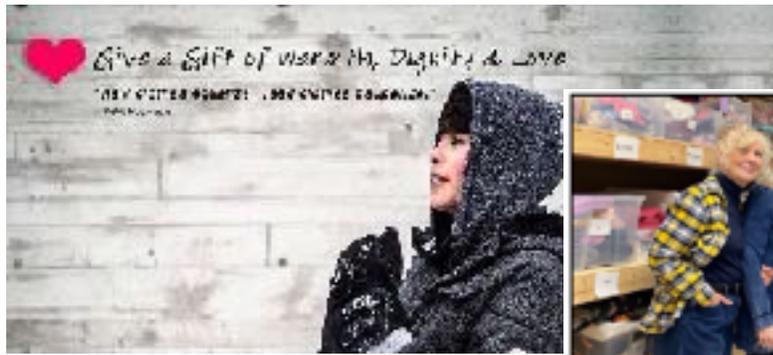
Galia Godel spoke to our Section on the topic of *LGBTQ + History and Future, Creating Connected Communities*. We all learned much and there were many thought-provoking questions from our members.

Rosalie Marcus

Condolences:

To the family of Judith Ginsberg, former President of our Section.

To the family of Bruce and Barbara Nussbaum on the passing of Bruce's mother, Gloria Nussbaum.



Volunteer Updates

NGA, where we volunteer the third Monday of the month (April 15) , was under the impression that we would only volunteer to work with clothing. We were cancelled this month because they are in a slow period but need help with mailings and other paperwork. I told Lisa that we were there to help in any way so I doubt there will be any cancellations in the future. I hope to see all of you at our next scheduled day.

I was also made aware of a dire need for new underwear. When you come to volunteer, see if you can donate some new underwear. It is needed for all sizes, for both adults and children. I am also going to start collecting new clothes at our events.

Mitzvah Circle is moving closer to Doylestown soon. As soon as they complete their move, we will restart collecting used clothing as well as opening volunteer opportunities.

Manna is another organization I am exploring for volunteering.

If you have any suggestions for other places, please contact me.

The world has become a difficult place and we can help make a small difference by volunteering.

Sherry Kohn Eisman

215-208-0550

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 or
vpasce@gmail.com

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



A BIT OF NCJW HISTORY



The NCJW's dominant guiding force was represented by its founder, [Hannah G. Solomon](#). Solomon, who served as the organization's first president, was a quintessential American clubwoman. Married to a businessman, she was financially well off, leaving her with free time to serve in civic organizations. She believed that with status came the responsibility to serve and care for her community, from supporting the arts to serving the needy. Occasionally that meant engaging in activities that seemed to stretch the boundaries of "proper" womanhood such as entering politics. In fact, NCJW would prove to be an important political training ground for dozens of political appointees. The most famous was arguably [Belle Moskowitz](#), who served in the administration of New York governor Alfred Smith.

But such forays into politics were always justified as extensions of motherhood, an ideology now termed by scholars "domestic feminism." Clubwomen believed in a modest form of women's rights, including woman suffrage, but they justified those rights not as the logical outcome of equal citizenry but as necessary to carry out their traditional duties as wives and mothers.

Clubwomen were the greatest influence in the NCJW's early years, with some groups simply transforming themselves from literary or sewing circles into NCJW sections. However, also among the founders was a second group that formed an influential minority. Typified by the woman who made the call to organize at the founding convention, [Sadie American](#), and the woman who reportedly suggested the organization's name, Julia Felsenthal (daughter of renowned Reform rabbi Bernard Felsenthal), these women were somewhat younger than their clubwomen counterparts. They were also single, and many worked as social workers. Where clubwomen raised money for settlement houses and occasionally conducted programs there, these women staffed settlement houses. For the social workers, belonging to a sewing club or literary circle, even one that substituted Jewish topics for secular ones, was not enough. They steered the organization toward a more active role in the immigrant Jewish community, with emphasis on conducting programs for "clients" rather than on implementing programs for members.

Where the two factions came together was in their commitment to social justice, the preservation of Judaism and the Jewish community in the United States, and a vision of religion that combined the two. Together they made a formidable team—one group with the capacity to raise needed funds (including women from such wealthy and influential families as the deBeerses, the Sulzbergers, and the Harts), and the other with the experience and energy to design and implement the programs for immigrants that would come to be the core of NCJW's organizational identity.

<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

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



Center City Book Group

Wednesday April 10, 7 p.m.
The Lions of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis
Leader: Helene Sternberg
Host: Etta Nissman

Thank you to Faith Edelman for hosting and leading our March discussion of *Writers and Lovers* by Lily King. Faith did a superb job and we appreciate her talent and hard work.

Interested in Center City Book Group?
Contact Audrey Block 215-688-0094
ablock1919@comcast.net

Suburban Book Club

Wednesday, April 17 at 1:00 PM
The Mitford Affair
by Heather Terrell
RSVP to Susan Horwitz at
horwitzsusan@yahoo.com or 215-938-8569

Thank you to Harriet Gran for hosting and to Barb Auerbach for facilitating our March Meeting
For more information about the Suburban Book Club, contact Joan at 215-740-7263 or 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

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robin London

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.

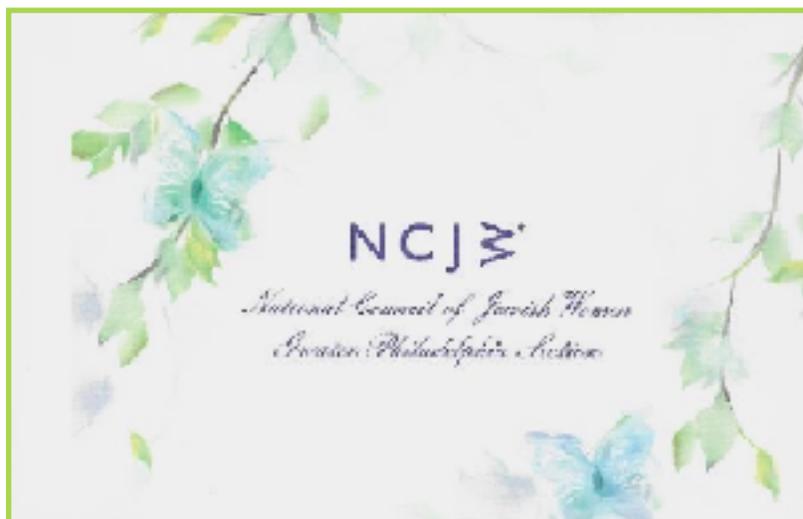
Please check out our website ncjwphiladelphia.org for our Bulletins, past and present, for program information and registration.

**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 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.

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

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

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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



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April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 CENTER CITY BOOK CLUB 7:30 p.m. <i>The Lions of Fifth Avenue</i> by Fiona Davis	11	12	13
14	15 Volunteer today. 	16 PROGRAM Luncheon at Keneseth Israel with songs and music from <i>HIDDEN...THE MUSICAL</i>	17 SUBURBAN BOOK CLUB 1:00 p.m. <i>A Complicated Kindness</i> by Miriam Toews	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				