

Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

June, 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

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Visit us at
ncjwphiladelphia.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Another year is coming to an end. This has been an unusually successful year. Thanks to many, our membership has grown, our treasury is solvent, and we have been able to provide financial support to local, national, and international communities and organizations.

We recognize that we are a grassroots organization that operates at a local level. Our programs reflect the changing times. We support and defend Israel. We advocate for women's rights. We support the LGBTQ community. We bring awareness to anti-semitism. We attempt to help overcome food insecurity.

Going forward, we will focus on these issues as well as other things as they emerge.

With your support, we will continue to make a difference.

With my thanks,

Aileen Salus, President

NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section

NCJW GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION 2023 -2024 A YEAR IN PICTURES



Members of our NCJW Section's Holocaust Essay Program Committee with our stack of student essays



Volunteers pack supplies for post-abortion kits

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.



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



Lauren Cristella, CEO of the Committee of Seventy, found an enthusiastic audience for her presentation. Her message for all:
BE AN INFORMED VOTER!



Our NCJW Team at Jewish Community Lobby Day in Harrisburg



Novelist Talia Carner has spearheaded ground-breaking projects centered on female plight and women's activism. She spoke to us about her books and articles.

Our donations to Ben Franklin Elementary School.



Playing their cards right made for a challenging game at our Game Day.

Galia Godel spoke to our Section on the topic of *LGBTQ + History and Future, Creating Connected Communities*.





We heard music from *Hidden, The Musical* by David & Jenny Heitler-Klevans based on the true story of our member, Ruth Kapp Hartz.

Holocaust Essay Contest Underway



Our Section's Holocaust Essay Committee met for our annual contest on Monday, May 13. The middle school student essays from Upper Dublin's 6th grade and Philadelphia Charter Community Academy of Philadelphia's 7th and 8th graders were distributed to our Committee readers. Our readers are Joan Sax, Cindy Pasceri, Sherry Kohn-Eisman, Ruth Hartz, Charlotte Schwartz, Lee Tonik and Harriet Gran. Awards will be granted the first week of June and winning essays will be placed on our Section's Website.

A special thank you to Cindy Pasceri for her leadership on this important program.

A Salute to the Ronald McDonald House

Kudos to the Ronald McDonald House on their 50th anniversary supporting families of seriously ill children. It has been a privilege of our NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section to provide volunteer support and donations over 17 years to the St. Christopher Hospital's based Ronald McDonald House. Pre-pandemic, our volunteers provided and prepared breakfasts for guest families, who often come great distances to be with their children undergoing treatment for serious illnesses. Although the Covid pandemic halted the onsite program, our Section continues to donate funds for food and other needs identified by the McDonald House. Our relationship has been sustained thanks to the dedication of members Zelda Stern and Linda Brosgol which has forged close ties with Ronald McDonald House Staff. We will look forward to updates regarding our participation in the fall.

Ronald McDonald House was founded in 1974 in Philadelphia. There are now 350 Houses around the world that follow the same model. Following are links to support their mission.

To make a donation: www.RMHCphilly.org/donate
To donate a meal: E-mail: Lori-Anne@rmhcphilly.org
Shop from the Wish List: www.RMHCphilly.org/WishList
Volunteer: www.RMHCphilly.org/volunteer



Supreme Court Hears two Cases on Abortion Rights

Sherry Blumenthal MD

Two cases were recently heard by SCOTUS, and decisions should be announced in June. The first case involves a challenge by a group of Texas doctors who aver that the FDA improperly updated provisions to allow Mifepristone to be prescribed by Telehealth and mailed to the patient. The appeals court in District V (Texas), ruled for the Doctors for Hypocratic Medicine. The case then went to SCOTUS upon appeal. The plaintiff is the US Government in defense of FDA decisions and authority. It was argued by our highly competent Solicitor General, who was quite clear that the Court should not politically interfere with FDA decisions nor do the doctors have "standing".

Mifepristone is part of a 2 drug regimen which is extremely effective to induce abortion up to 10 weeks of gestation. 90% of abortions are performed in the first trimester, up to 14 weeks. Half of these abortions are performed medically (with Mifepristone and Misoprostol). Medical termination is much safer than the surgical approach, much cheaper, and can be done privately.

The defendants claim that many women having medical abortions end up in the Emergency Room due to complications (untrue) and their consciences prevent them from performing an abortion, even in an emergency. This argument is invalid since only 2 of the doctors do OB/GYN in this group, and there is "conscience provision" that protects them. The general legal feeling is they have "no standing" to bring this case because they really experience no harm.

It is noteworthy that the judges, especially Justice Alito, demonstrated his lack of medical knowledge and patients' right to sue Pharma. In my opinion, mentioned by several justices, is that SCOTUS overturning FDA research and policy will open a "can of worms" in future similar situations.

In addition, Justice Alito criticized the FDA for not considering the Comstock Act from 1874 which prohibits mailing pornography, birth control, and abortifacients. The act has not been enforced in 100 years and Congress has never bothered to repeal it. The Solicitor General appropriately said that is not the job of the FDA!

Many commentators, such as Ruth Marcus of the Washington Post, believe that the case will be denied due to lack of standing.

Another interesting case involves applying EMTALA in cases where there is a complication of abortion or a pregnancy complication which would require emptying the uterus of a live fetus if the situation endangers the mother's life or health. EMTALA is a federal law requiring Emergency Rooms (ERs) to accept all patients in Emergencies, no matter their ability to pay. Hospitals in states where abortion is essentially banned argue that federal law does not dictate what they have to do in cases where there is a fetal heartbeat. Physicians who are pro-choice are confused about their risk of arrest if they perform a needed termination. This is unacceptable to reasonable, ethical physicians. There are women suing because they presented to ERs with premature rupture of membranes, some already infected, and were sent home to wait out the inevitable loss of the fetus and potential death of the women. This is an outrageous practice of medicine and certainly a violation of the Hippocratic oath.

A third case, ruled by an Indiana State appellate court, relates specifically to Jewish women. A group of Texas rabbis challenged abortion bans, claiming correctly that this violates our religious freedom. Judaism requires choosing the life of the mother over that of the fetus. Judaism believes that the fetus is a person only when they are born. Hello First Amendment! The case was ruled for the plaintiff rabbis by the lower court, and has not made it to the Supreme Court.

The latter is pretty hard to argue against! Let's hope it stands.

There are several states with restrictive abortion laws in which voters are collecting or have collected signatures to get a referendum on the November ballot in their state, codifying the right to abortion. Two conservative states have already had these and the Pro-Choice group prevailed, even in Kansas.

We should have the SCOTUS decisions next month. Let us pray!

It is vital that women vote this November and our responsibility is to do everything we can to get out the vote. The political situation is pretty clear: President Biden will protect access to abortion and former President Trump went from a 15 week ban to "leave it to the states."

As a physician my opinions are based upon preserving the health of women, both physical and mental. It is well established that an abortion is much safer than an ongoing pregnancy, especially in women with underlying health issues. Birth control can fail, abnormalities can occur or develop during pregnancy, and physicians must have the right to make a medically sound decision with the patient, without interference by lawmakers who know little about medicine.

I am happy to clarify the medical and legal issues if they are unclear. References available on request!!

Closing Luncheon and Installation

Broadway Comes To NCJW

**Enjoy lunch & listen to live performances of
The Music of Steven Sondheim & Andrew Lloyd Weber
by the always-entertaining Steven Pollack**



Spring Mill Country Club

80 Jacksonville Road, Ivyland, PA. 18974

June 4, 2024 at 11:00



Fashions by Sweater Mill, Hatboro. A mini boutique will be set up at the event. 15% of sales that day will be donated to NCJW.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

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 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

Diane Plotnick

Joan Sax

Cindi Pasceri

Merryl Pelberg

Sherry Kohn-Eisman

Ann Pollock

Jackie Swartz

Harriet Gran

Linda Brosgol

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

Thank you to those members whose help with the publication of the Bulletin is so appreciated:

Harriet and Mal Gran

Char Kurland

Carol Stein

Margie Zukerman

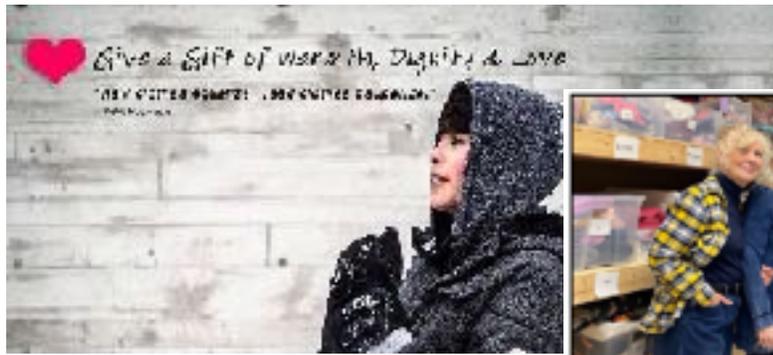
Harriet Gran, Bulletin Editor.

Mal Gran, Website Manager

harrietandmal@gmail.com

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



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 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.

ADVOCACY

Last week, Senator Maria Colett posted that she had joined First Lady Lori Shapiro, Senator Amanda Cappelletti, Senator Judy Schwank and supporters from across PA to rally in support of Governor Shapiro's proposed \$3 million dollar investment to provide feminine products in public schools.

This investment – a fraction of a percentage of our total budget – will help ensure students remain safe, healthy, and focused in class. It's time we put our students first and get this proposal across the finish line.

Lynne Jacobs
Vice President, Advocacy
National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Philadelphia Section
ljacobs816@gmail.com

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.



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

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.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Maxine Dubin

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.

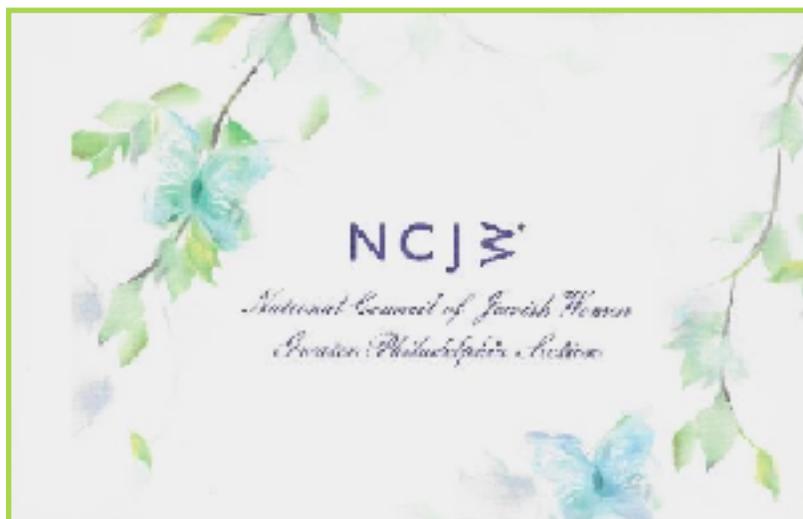
Please check out our website ncjwphiladelphia.org for our Bulletins, past and present, for program information and registration.

**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



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"

MESSAGES FROM MEMBERS

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for answering the call to help my granddaughter, Morgan, with her Bat Mitzvah project-collecting supplies for No More Secrets. When I brought the No More Secrets Box to our meetings, it was quickly filled with menstruation products. We truly appreciated your help and the people Morgan will help do too.

My granddaughter learned a lesson. She learned that not everyone is as fortunate as she is and that they don't have everything handed to them. She plans to continue collecting products even though her Bat Mitzvah Project is finished. We are proud of her.

Gerrie Green and I will take Morgan to the No More Secrets Office for her to deliver her collection once school is over.

Thank you,
Patti First

BOOK CLUBS

Afternoon Book Club

- May 30 *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*
by James McBride
Leader: Sue Brooks
- July 25 *The Berry Pickers*
by Amanda Peters.
Leader: Wendy Rader
- Sept. 26 *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett
Leader: Patti First
- Nov. 21 *The Boy with the Star Tattoo*
by Talia Carner
Leader: Betsy Parziale

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

Suburban Book Club

Wednesday, June 12 at 1:00 p.m.
The White Lady
by Jacqueline Winspear
RSVP to Rosalie at 215-512-5110 or rosemarcus26@gmail.com

Thank you to Rebecca Landau for hosting and to Harriet Gran for facilitating our May meeting.

For more information about the Suburban Book Club, contact Joan Sax at 215-740-7263 or joansax@comcast.net





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(DE, NJ, PA, PMA)

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philadelphia@vfi-usa.org

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June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 PROGRAM Closing Luncheon at Spring Mill Country Club	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 SUBURBAN BOOK CLUB 1:00 p.m.	13	14	15
16	17 Volunteer today. 	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						