

Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

December, 2022

129 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

Play It Forward. Help Us Help Those in Need

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Keneseth Israel Synagogue



Join us for lunch and a time to play your favorite games.
Bring your chosen game materials
Invite your group or we can match you up with other players



SAVE THE DATE

Meet the Author
Tuesday, January 24, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

**Your vote made things possible. Now we need to learn the need for rules reform in the Pennsylvania Legislature.
See the link for the video inside.**

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Philadelphia Section
Game Day Fundraiser

**DON'T MISS OUR FIRST
GAME DAY FUNDRAISER!**

Tuesday, December 6, 2022
11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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



Canasta, Bridge, Mahjongg, Scrabble, Trivial Pursuit

Bring your chosen game materials

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

BOX LUNCHEON FEE: MEMBERS \$30 GUESTS \$35
Snacks And Refreshments Provided During Play

REGISTER AND PAY BY NOVEMBER 28
NO WALK-INS

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW
& CHOOSE YOUR GAME AND LUNCH CHOICE**

YOU WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL RECEIPT

Questions: Call Program-Ed VPs

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

If you'll be at the Dec 6 program, please continue your generous donation of supplies for:

1. Franklin Elementary School - copy paper!
2. Mitzvah Circle: **gently used:** clothing, shoes, toys; **new:** socks, underwear
3. Dawn's Place: all paper products (*especially single-ply toilet paper*), full size cleaning products & wipes, large trash bags.

We plan to continue collecting supplies at future in-person events.

Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE

Meet the Author
Tuesday, January 24, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting



Our guest speaker will be Esther Amini, author of the critically acclaimed book *CONCEALED*. She'll share what it was like to grow up in a traditional Persian-Jewish household in the free-wheeling 1960's and her quest for self-determination. This is a compelling book and a great speaker.

Esther Amini grew up in Queens, New York, during the freewheeling 1960s. She also grew up in a Persian-Jewish household, the American-born daughter of parents who had fled Mashhad, Iran. In *Concealed*, she tells the story of being caught between these two worlds: the dutiful daughter of tradition-bound parents who hungers for more self-determination than tradition allows.

About Esther

Esther Amini is a writer, painter, and psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice. Her short stories have appeared in *Elle*, *Lilith*, *Tablet*, *The Jewish Week*, *Barnard Magazine*, *Washburn University's Inscape Literary Journal*, and *Proximity*. She was named one of Aspen Words' two best emerging memoirists and awarded its Emerging Writer Fellowship in 2016 based on her memoir entitled *Concealed* and was chosen by JWT as their Artist-in-Residence in 2019. Her pieces have been performed by Jewish Women's Theatre in Los Angeles and in Manhattan.

Esther Amini lives in New York City with her husband.

Concealed is her debut memoir.

EstherAmini.com

[Click here to purchase *CONCEALED* on Amazon](#)

GOODIES FOR THE GOOD GUYS



It's time again to thank those folks who keep us and our community safe. We are collecting items to be distributed to those Good Guys & Gals throughout our area during December. If you want to contribute items or help deliver the packages, please contact one of the area chairs below.

Ellen Mirbach - Lower Bucks 215-771-5311 semirbach@gmail.com

Ellen will be at Wegman's parking lot in Warrington **Wednesday, November 30** by the outdoor café seating from 1:00 - 2:00 to collect donations. Wrapped packages will be available for pick up in the lobby of the Meridian Condos Building 6000, behind Wegman's from 11:00-12:00 on **Friday, December 9**. Come to the back entrance of Bldg. 6000 to pick up the packages. Please contact Ellen for more information

Michelle Utain-Doskow - Langhorn/Yardley 267-664-0431

Please contact her directly for additional information by November 30.

Nancy Cox - Montgomery County 215-793-4983 nancycoxon@gmail.com

Nancy will be collecting donations at the back parking lot at the Willow Grove Giant at 315 York Rd on **Tuesday November 29** from 1:00-2:00 pm. Nancy drives a gold Subaru Outback.

Faye Benshetler will be at the far end of George's Market parking lot at 1650 Limekiln Pike Dresher, PA (Dreshertown Shopping Center) on **Friday December 2** from 1:00-2:00. Faye drives a silver Toyota RAV4. Packages will be available for pick-up at Faye's home, 501 Ironwood Way, Dresher on **Friday, December 9** between 10:30-12 and 1-2:00 pm

Thank you for all your kindness-Stay Well
Faye & Wendy

From Our Members



Katie Lowe and Cindi Pasceri representing HAMEC on October 23 at the ADL Walk Against Hate at the Navy Yard. Chilly, windy but well attended.

Katie Lowe is the Program and Collections Director at HAMEC!



NCJW was well-represented at ADL's Walk Against Hate by Lynne Jacobs (L) and Barbara Hoffman.



Patti First and Linda Abrams, Membership Vice Presidents and chairs of our Membership Luncheon greeting our Keynote Speaker Madeleine Dean. Ms Dean is the US Representative for Pennsylvania's 4th Congressional District. She spoke on Women's Rights!



At a recent Dawn's Place fundraiser: L to R, Barbara Hoffman, Lynne Jacobs, Sister Meaghan Patterson (new Executive Director), Rhonda Mandel

December 8, 2003

Here's a bit of NCJW History

Empire State Building lights up to celebrate NCJW

The Empire State Building offered a special tribute to the 110th anniversary of the [National Council of Jewish Women \(NCJW\)](#), when it was illuminated by the organization's colors of blue and green, on the nights of December 8 and 9, 2003.

The illumination marked the founding of the Council at the Jewish Women's Congress held at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The New York section of NCJW took a strong role in its early years sending volunteers to Ellis Island to look after the welfare of single Jewish women who arrived alone in the New World. Today, with 90,000 members, NCJW continues to advance Jewish values by working for social change, acting nationally to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families, and to advance individual rights and freedoms.

<https://jwa.org/media/empire-state-building-tribute-to-ncjw>



GRANTS AVAILABLE

Our Section's Grants Committee awards small grants, not to exceed \$500, to organizations that assist women, children and families through their programs and initiatives.

Please take a moment and think of a worthy nonprofit organization – 501(c)(3) – that our section might support... and where a small grant would make a difference. Ask them to submit a grant request.

A link to a copy of our Grant Application can be found on our NCJW website. Feel free to contact Lynne Jacobs, Grants Committee Chairperson, at ljacobs816@gmail.com or 215-248-3333 with any questions.



Condolences to:
Our member, Evlyn Bieber, on the loss of her husband.

Click to see our updated
website calendar

NCJW Helps Fight Against Hunger

Heat or food. Electricity or dinner. Rent or a meal. What would you choose? Millions of people facing hunger make these difficult decisions every day. In 2020, an average of 10% of adults and 16% of children dealt with food insecurity every day across Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties, according to Philabundance.

We learn in the book of Deuteronomy that “There will always be poor in your midst.” We cannot eradicate the problem, but Jewish tradition nevertheless mandates that we do our part to help others. In this spirit, NCJW donated \$200 to each of the following food pantries: BCHG-Doylestown, BCHG-Pennel, Bethlehem Baptist Church, ERA Food Pantry, Manna Center City, Martha’s Choice Marketplace, North Light Community, Pennridge FISH, Quakertown Food Pantry and the Warminster Food Bank.

Our sages explain that feeding the hungry is one of our most important responsibilities on earth. Midrash Psalms 118:17 states: When you are asked in the world to come, “What was your work?” and you answer, “I fed the hungry,” you will be told, “This is the gate of Adonai, enter into it, you who have fed the hungry.”

Faye Benshetler & Wendy Rader, Co-Vice Presidents of Community Services



YOU VOTED. NOW WHAT??? **THE URGENCY OF RULES REFORM IN HARRISBURG**

#FIXING HARRISBURG

Working towards transparency and accountability!

If you were able to attend yesterday's talk, you know that Bill Gross gave an informed and engaging presentation. We all learned a lot, and the hour went by quickly. If you weren't able to attend, you can access the recording of it on our events archive page:

[Events Archive | NCJW Events \(ncjwpghevents.org\)](https://www.ncjwpghevents.org)

Scroll to the Fix Harrisburg tile and wait for the video to fade in (about 2 seconds).

If you haven't already or after you've watched the video, please complete the evaluation:

<https://forms.gle/wdXXTEWBVppywL8UA>

Thank you all for attending and participating. We hope we will see you again soon at our [upcoming events](#). Fixing Harrisburg will be part of our voting advocacy focus between elections, so stay tuned for our actions.

Kate
Kate Rothstein, JD (s/he/r)
Programming and Communications Manager
1620 Murray Ave.
PGH, PA 15217
office: 412-421-6118 ext.206
NCJW Pittsburgh



Pumpkin Bread

1 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp cinnamon
3 cups sugar
4 eggs
1 cup vegetable oil
1 ½ tsp salt
⅔ cup water
2 tsp baking soda
3 cups flour
1 cup fresh or canned pumpkin

Mix all ingredients in large mixing bowl, adding flour slowly while mixing.

Pour into medium loaf pans.

Do not flour or grease pans.

Fill pans only ¾ full as the bread will rise.

Bake at 350° 50 ~ 60 minutes

Serve the bread.

Say *thank you* to Cindi Pasceri



And also from Cindi....

How do you keep a bagel from getting away ?

You put lox on it!



And just to fill some space:

A FEW PUNS
MAKE ME NUMB
BUT MATH PUNS
MAKE ME
NUMBER

HAVE YOU NOTICED
"THE" & "IRS"
SPELLS THEIRS?

Thank you to Joel Schwartz.

(Charlotte's husband)



Center City Book Group

Thank you to Judy Podwil for leading *My Broken Language* by Quiana Algeria Hudes at our Nov. meeting. It was not an easy task and we appreciate your hard work, Judy.

December 14th at 7 p.m.

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro
Home of Joanne Stoloff, 619 Catherine St., C3

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

Suburban Book Club

(Note the name change from Evening Book Club)

Thank you to Nancy Fagan for leading our discussion and thank you to Evelyn Goldhammer for hosting our November Meeting.

Thursday, December 15 1:00 p.m. *Writers and Lovers* by Lily King

Facilitator... Faith Edelman
Hostess..... Charlotte Schwartz
RSVP to Charlotte Schwartz at

215-6437542 or charlotters6@comcast.net

Tuesday, February 21 *How to Find Your Way in the Dark*

by Derek Miller
Facilitator...Rebeca Landau
Zoom Meeting 7:30 PM

Tuesday, March 14 *The Nature of Fragile Things*
by Susan Meissner

For more information about the Evening Book Club contact Joan Sax at 215-740-7349 or joansax@comcast.net.



Afternoon Book Club

Thank you to Eileen Davis for moderating the November Thursday Afternoon Book Club Zoom discussion of *The Plot* by Jean Kanff Korelitz.

Our upcoming selection of books thru May is listed below:

December 22 *Fresh Water for Flowers*
by: Valerie Perrin
Moderator: Maria Rosen

January 24 *Concealed*
by: Esther Amini
NCJW ZOOM meeting with author

February 23 *Dear Edward*
by: Ann Napolitano
Moderator: Anita Shomer

March 23 *Where the Children Take Us*
by: Zain Asher
Moderator: Susan Brooks

April 27 *Black Cake*
by: Charmaine Wilkerson
Moderator: Sandy Fryer

May 25 *How to Find Your Way in the Dark*
by: Derek Miller
Moderator: Patti First

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.

Join Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate 0.5% of book purchases to our Greater Philadelphia NCJW Section.

CLICK HERE TO GO TO OUR WEBSITE BOOK PAGE

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Linda Roth Donna Levin

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 \$45 (Be an Angel \$55 🙇)*

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.

A Spotlight On Our NCJW Section

While the pandemic has limited our face-to-face events, we are still continuing our commitment to our membership by:

- Zoom programs for entire membership
- Ongoing Advocacy
- Board Meetings
- Book Club discussions by Zoom
- Monthly Bulletins to keep everyone informed
- Grants to organizations which help those suffering financial insecurity and the lack of other basic needs
- Donations to Dawn's Place helping sex trafficked survivors and abused women
- Donations to Mitzvah Circle to help needy families fill the gaps not covered by government assistance
- Donations of warm winter clothing to our adopted Ben Franklin Elementary School
- Donations to help the Ronald McDonald House
- Goodies for the Good Guys delivered to frontline workers

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](#)

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



Join our wonderful NCJW group of volunteer tutors at our adopted Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, now in our sixth year. Until safety issues relevant to the pandemic are resolved we will pursue online tutoring and donation of warm jackets, school uniforms, and school supplies.

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.

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



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

Ann Pollock
215-806-4068



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

NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section 2022-2023

Presidium :

Linda Brosgol, Aileen Salus & Margie Zukerman

Vice Presidents:

Advocacy:	Elizabeth Downing
Membership:	Patti First & Linda Abrams
Programs & Education:	Rosalie Marcus & Anita Shomer
Community Services:	Faye Benshetler & Wendy Rader
Fund Raising:	Linda Brosgol & Aileen Salus

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

Board Directors at Large:

Sherry Kohn Eisman
Nancy Cox
Diane Plotnick
Kay Skloff
Jackee Swartz

Immediate Past Presidium Officers:

Charlene Kurland
Ellen Mirbach
Elizabeth Downing

Honorary Founding Director:

Diane Steinbrink

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, Judy Fried, Char Kurland, Ellen Toplin and Liz Downing.

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

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1	2	3
4	5	6 GAME DAY FUNDRAISER AT K I	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 BOARD MEETING 1:00 p.m.	14 CENTER CITY BOOK CLUB	15 SUBURBAN BOOK CLUB 1:30 p.m.	16	17
18 1st NIGHT OF HANUKKAH	19	20	21	22 AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB 1:30 p.m.	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31