

Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

January, 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

IN THESE PERILOUS AND PAINFUL TIMES, OUR NCJW GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION FINDS GRATITUDE WITHIN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

GOODIES FOR THE GOOD GUYS

A total of 49 packages of sweet treats were delivered by our Section members to essential service workers in Montgomery and Central and Lower Bucks Counties in appreciation of their dedication to our communities on the holiday season. The essential services included fire and police departments, ambulance corps, hospitals, post offices and a nursing home.

Pictured below are some of our members delivering the goodies to the delighted recipients.

Of SPECIAL NOTE is that five of the police and fire stations in Lower Bucks County, visited by member Michelle Utain-Doskow, plan to post this event on their websites.



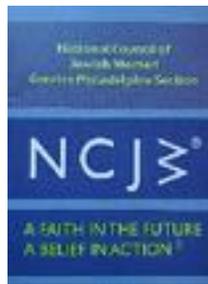
Look for acknowledgements for the work of our NCJW ESSENTIAL Volunteers to this program on an inside page of this Bulletin.



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.



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

January 16th at 2:00 PM on Zoom



Talia Carner is an award-winning author of six novels, including *The Third Daughter*, she is also a committed supporter of global human rights. Carner has spearheaded groundbreaking projects centered on female plight and women's activism.

Her sixth novel, *The Boy with the Star Tattoo* will be released on January 30th. Talia will talk about the story behind the story of ***THE BOY WITH THE STAR TATTOO***. Weaving of this novel's two yet-untold historical events into a textured emotional story has been one of author Talia Carner's most challenging literary feats to date.

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

This program is FREE to NCJW members and their guests. Talia will be matching her honorarium and donating it to Israel. *The author will be using her own Zoom account.* You will be registering at her Zoom account. Save the registration link. You will receive a reminder the day before as well. Registration is required by January 12th.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Questions: Contact Anita Shomer 215-643-0944

or Rosalie Marcus 215-512-5110



Earlier this week, National Council of Jewish Women had the distinct honor to help organize a [special session at the United Nations](#) — hosted by Ambassador Gilad Erdan, Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN — to shed light on the gravity of the rape and brutal sexual assault inflicted upon Israeli women by Hamas terrorists on October 7.

The event, titled “Hear Our Voices,” featured a keynote address from [LeanIn.org](#) founder Sheryl Sandberg, a video message from Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, and remarks from Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, activist Mandana Dayani, and Former Miss Universe Linor Abargil — as well as other women’s rights and human rights experts.

More than 700 people filled the room to bear witness to the horrors from that day and to be a voice for those who were silenced. They listened to testimony from Israeli first responder teams who shared firsthand accounts of the atrocities they encountered on October 7, clearly indicating that rape was used as a tool of war by Hamas in Israel.

A short recap video is available below and you can access [the full recording of the event here](#). Please note, these videos — the full event in particular — are hard to watch due to the details of the brutality perpetrated on Israeli women and girls.



As we approach Chanukah, we are reminded to be the light in the darkness. October 7th showed us the worst of humanity. It’s on us to be the best of humanity. We have a long way to go to repair this broken world, and we are grateful to be in this work together.

Warmly,
Sheila

Sheila Katz

CEO

[National Council of Jewish Women](#)

OUR DONATIONS TO BEN FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



The joy of giving and receiving are registered on the faces of our NCJW Section's Co-Chairperson of Community Services, Faye Benschetler, and Benjamin Franklin Elementary School Counselor, Lauren Koresko, who look thrilled knowing that many of our adopted school's students will be warmed with donated coats and supported with lots of school supplies.

Our NCJW GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION is GAME for GAME DAY!



Advocacy folks, Lynne Jacobs, Barbara Hoffman, Rhonda Mandel and Judy Heath, teamed up to complete a puzzle.

Canasta foursome from left, Lee Tonik, Sandy Hoffstein, Eileen Davis and Elva Davis know how to "play their cards right" to make for a challenging game! Looking on is Barb Auerbach, a future Canasta player?



GOODIES FOR THE GOOD GUYS

Many, many thanks to our own NCJW ESSENTIAL WORKERS who made this program possible. Following is a list of our participants who in their volunteerism act as “ambassadors” for our NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section.*

Montgomery County Goodies for the Good Guys Team

Ann Pollock, Nancy Cox, Lorie Lichtenfeld, Elaine Klein, Diane Morgan, Jackie Schwartz, Joan Kolber, Beth Rubin, Toby Grubman and Adrien Feuer.

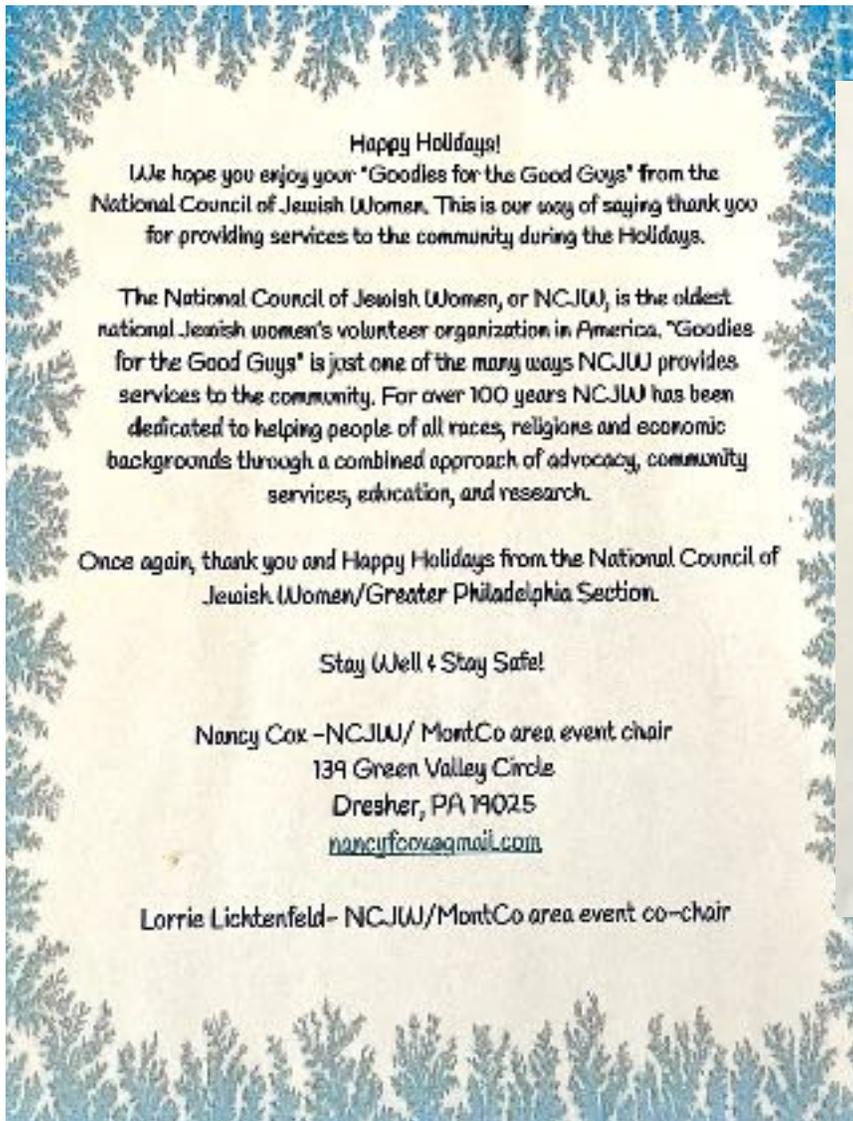
Bucks County Goodies for the Good Guys Team

Ellen Mirbach, Pearl and Alan Tragash, Margie Zuckerman, Rose Vosbikian, Aileen Salus, Linda Brosgol and Michelle Utain-Doskow

A special thanks to our Community Services Co-Chair, Faye Benshetler, for her leadership.

*Apologies to anyone who was inadvertently left out of the lists.

The notes below accompanied some of the Goodies packages.





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.



On December 18, Ronda Mandel, Lynne Jacobs, Linda Brosgol, Barbara Hoffman, Judy Heath, Sherry Kohn Eisman, and our new member, Cathy Forman, volunteered at NGA and had a great time. Looking forward to returning on Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King Day.

A BIT OF NCJW HISTORY

Settlement Houses in the United States

by Sarah Henry Lederman



For the parents of city children, supervised recreation was a major service provided by settlement houses.

This 1924 photo was taken on the "roof playground" of the Irene Kaufman Settlement. Institution: American Jewish Historical Society

Founded beginning in 1886, settlement houses served residents of impoverished urban neighborhoods, largely immigrants, by providing recreation, education, and medical and social service programs. Jewish philanthropists and board members played large roles in the funding, leadership, and upkeep of these institutions. In 1914, Miriam Blaustein, widow of David Blaustein, renowned leader of Educational Alliance and then Chicago Hebrew Institute, praised the ideal Jewish settlement, a place that "breathes the Jewish spirit ... [and] brings home to the Hebrew an historic consciousness." She saw Jewish settlements as the place where Jewish girls could learn about the superiority of Jewish domesticity and about other Jewish women. Settlement worker Walter Solomon objected to Blaustein's remarks, insisting that there could be no such thing as a Jewish settlement because a settlement by definition must be nonsectarian. He argued that only a community center could be Jewish, and that the settlement's purpose was to prepare Jewish children for participation in American life rather than for the resurrection of a Jewish nation. The debate continued without resolution. Meanwhile, people moved. In 1926–1927, at eighteen representative settlements in New York City, 56 percent of program participants were Jewish. A few years later, the number dropped precipitously as the neighborhood changed.

The developments at Council House, founded in Manhattan by the New York Section of the NCJW in 1917, illustrate one group's response to the dilemma. Opened at 74 St. Marks Place, Council House offered a meeting space for mothers and children, and classes in English, dancing, and singing. As the Jewish population began to migrate from Lower Manhattan to the Bronx, Council House moved as well. In 1929, board members erected a three-story building with a gym and playground at 1122 Forest Avenue. Council House continued until the early 1940s, when African Americans began to outnumber Jewish children in the settlement programs. In response, the NCJW drafted a lengthy report concluding that the organization should be turned over to the African-American community, with its own board and programs. At a meeting in New York City, attended by Eleanor Roosevelt, NCJW members, and local leaders from the East Bronx, Council House was renamed Forest House, with a board of directors elected from the neighborhood. The decline in Jewish program participants had weakened the commitment of Jewish supporters, and the settlement's identity changed accordingly.

By World War II, with exceptions such as Educational Alliance in Manhattan and the Irene Kaufmann Settlement in Pittsburgh (which became a community center in 1988), most Jewish settlements had become community centers. At the same time, many Jewish women continued to work in nondenominational settlement houses as administrators, volunteers, and board members.

<https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/settlement-houses-in-united-states>

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

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

January 10, at 7 p.m.

Mother Daughter Traitor Spy by Susan Elia MacNeal

Leader - Audrey Block

Thank you to Phyllis Barsky for leading a wonderful discussion of *Lessons in Chemistry* and to Helene Sternberg for being our hostess for the December meeting

Center City residents interested in a book group, call Audrey Block 215-688-0094. Ablock1919@comcast.net

Suburban Book Club

Many thanks to Barb Auerbach for hosting our December meeting and to Rebecca Landau for leading an interesting discussion.

Wednesday, January 17, at 1:00 p.m.

Demon Copperhead

by Barbara Kingsolver.

Hostess will be Lee Tonik and our facilitator will be Rosalie Marcus.

For more information, contact Joan Sax 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

Carol Udis

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

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Financial Secretary:	Harriet Winokur
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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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January

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 CENTER CITY BOOK CLUB 7:30 p.m.	11	12	13
14	15	16 Zoom program with award-winning author Talia Carner.	17 SUBURBAN BOOK CLUB 7:30 p.m.	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Afternoon Book Club 1:30 p.m.	26	27
28	29	30	31			