

Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

May 2025

131 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

A REFLECTION ON PASSOVER IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

At our Passover Seders, we celebrate the liberation of Jews when our freedoms were in peril. We are again at an inflection point. Anti-semitism is on the rise fueled by responses to the October 7 brutalization of Israelis by Hamas and the subsequent toll on non-Hamas Gazans.

University campuses have become a fertile, yet unsurprising ground to launch protests by supporters of Gazans to express outrage and despair over the humanitarian crises. In a survey, conducted by Hillel International, a majority of Jewish students reported feeling unsafe on campus, having been targeted with threatening and derogatory speech. Universities have responded with security measures and protest guidelines.



Alarmed by the administration's recent efforts, under the guise of fighting antisemitism, to justify stripping students of due process rights when they face arrest and/or deportation, as well as to threaten billions in academic research and education funding, last week, NCJW was proud to join a group of ten Jewish organizations representing a broad swath of mainstream American Jewry – including three of the four denominations – to issue a **joint statement** rejecting the false choice between confronting antisemitism and upholding democracy.

This year, my husband and I had the pleasure of attending a "Freedom" Seder. It was a unique Seder with a strong social justice tilt. A diverse group of participants, Jewish and non-Jewish, came together to celebrate with a variation on the closing words of the traditional Seder. It is traditional to end a Seder with "L'shanah ha-ba'ah b'Yerushalayim Habnuyah"—Next year in Jerusalem!

The Freedom Seder version? Next year in harmony. The seder began by recognizing the brokenness of the world. At the close, a proposal, a hope, to commit to working together, to advance the vision of a rebuilt world, where all people connect with neighbors, and share sustainably, in the bounty of this planet.

Harriet Gran, Editor



GREATER PHILADELPHIA SECTION

Afternoon Tea and Talk

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

2-4 p.m.

Beth Sholom Congregation
8231 Old York Rd
Elkins Park, PA 19027

Please join us and bring friends!

PA Voters Want Fair Districts

NOT RED. NOT BLUE. JUST FAIR.

What is the plan? How can we all help?

Our featured speaker will be

Laura Richlin

Leader, Northwest Philadelphia Working Group
Fair Districts PA

Laura Richlin leads the Northwest Philadelphia Working Group and co-leads the Philadelphia County chapter of FairDistrictsPA, a statewide, all-volunteer non-profit organization founded by the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, with 60,000 subscribers.

Laura is a human relations and education consultant, teacher, hypnotherapist, activist, and artist. She has been involved in non-profit organizational leadership for most of her career. With her husband, a dog, and a cat, Laura lives in an 1880's carriage house in Germantown that they have been renovating as a green model home.

Come enjoy tea and pastries. \$10 for members and guests.

[Click here to register by May 6.](#)

Please bring supplies for Dawn's Place (paper products) and No More Secrets (period products)

Questions? Call Lynne Jacobs, Advocacy VP 215-248-3333

COMING SOON: THE MAY 20, 2025 PRIMARY ELECTION

WHAT OFFICES ARE ON THE BALLOT and WHY THEY ARE VITAL TO OUR COMMUNITIES!

CANDIDATES for Municipal and Judicial Offices who will preside over issues and cases.

Municipal Branch-handles cases such as contract disputes, small claims, traffic violations, municipal ordinance violations, landlord/tenant issues.

Judicial Branch-provides: a neutral forum for resolving disagreements between individuals, businesses, or the government; safeguards individual rights and ensuring fairness and justice within the legal system; provides judicial review, allowing it to review laws and actions of the executive and legislative branches to determine if they are consistent with the Constitution.

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 5-VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

MAY 13-Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot

QUESTIONS?

For information on voting in Pennsylvania, registering to vote, applying for mail-in ballot, checking registration status, go to <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/vote.html>

Bucks County-for information about candidates and recommendations from the local bar associates for judicial candidates, go to <https://www.buckscounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21441/2025---Unofficial-Candidate-Listing--Updated-4-7-25?bidId=>

For Montgomery County, you can go to: <https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/49550/2025-Unofficial-Candidate-List?bidId=>

Also, Committee of Seventy provides an Interactive Voter Guide at:

https://ballot.seventy.org/?utm_campaign=general&utm_medium=website&utm_source=ElectionsandVoting

You can also go to vote411 (www.vote411.org) and Ballotpedia [Ballotpedia.org] to get recommendations from the local bar associations for judicial candidates.

Need a rehearsal?

With the sheer number of judicial vacancies as well as candidates at the municipal, county and district levels this election can seem overwhelming. Just focus on your own location. You can fill out a mock ballot at the various websites ([Committee of 70](#), [VOTE411](#) or [Ballotpedia](#)) so you have all the information at your fingertips when either going to the polls or filling out your mail-in ballot.

Barbara Hoffman



TOGETHER WE RISE WASHINGTON, DC MAY 18-20

National Council of Jewish Women

In just one month, we will gather in Washington, DC, for **National Council of Jewish Women's most important event of the year — Washington Institute 2025: Together We Rise**. At this critical moment for our nation, our community, and our movement, we must **come together** — to define our purpose, celebrate NCJW's achievements, and amplify our collective voice on Capitol Hill. **Your presence is essential.**

An Unforgettable Experience

Get ready for a **powerful and action-packed agenda** designed to **inform, inspire, and connect**.


✓ **Engage** in bold conversations about our work.


✓ **Deepen** your advocacy skills and meet with your lawmakers on issues impacting women, children, and families.

✓ **Celebrate** the incredible leaders, advocates, and allies who make our work possible.

✓ **Recommit** to advancing justice and equity, inspired by extraordinary changemakers.

Key Highlights

 **Sunday, May 18** – Hear from inspirational speakers who will challenge us to think deeper, ground us in our purpose, and reignite our passion for the work ahead.

 **Monday, May 19** – Experience a full day of learning, strategizing, and connecting — culminating in our can't-miss evening celebration, Rise Up! Celebrating Extraordinary Leaders, at the stunning National Museum of Women in the Arts.

 **Tuesday, May 20** – Raise your voice on Capitol Hill, advocating for policies to advance the lives of women, children, and families.

Secure Your Spot Now

Whether this is your first Washington Institute or you're a seasoned advocate, your participation matters. When we come together, we amplify our impact and drive meaningful change.

Join us. Raise your voice. And together, we rise!

REGISTER NOW

If you plan to register, email Lynne Jacobs at ljacobs816@gmail.com.

On April 8, 2025, NCJW members Beth Rubin and Judy Heath joined CeaseFirePA at the State Capitol in Harrisburg for the annual End Gun Violence Advocacy Day. Participants from all over the state continued the push for life-saving legislation. They advocated for universal background checks, measures to address ghost guns and 3D-printed firearms, extreme risk protection orders, a ban on machine gun conversion devices and \$100 million in the PA budget for important community violence intervention programs.



NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section representatives at the Rally for Patients' Rights in front of the Supreme Court in Washington.

L to R: Rona Elias, Judy Heath and Lynne Jacobs.

Congrats to Aileen Salus on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter.

Through your continued support these are some of the donations we have made since January, 2025:

NCJW LA Disaster Relief	\$3000
World Central Kitchen LA Disaster Relief	\$2000
World Central Kitchen Ukraine	\$2500

"The NCJW Grants Committee and Board approved a \$500 grant request from the Maternity Care Coalition (MCC). MCC provides a variety of programs to improve the health and well-being of pregnant women, babies, and families from pregnancy to a child's third birthday.

We are pleased to support the work of this wonderful organization.

Gerrie Greene
Chair, Grants Committee

BOOK CLUBS

"Book clubs: where women come for the literature, stay for the desserts, and linger for the company of good friends."



Suburban Book Club

Thursday, May 29 at 1:00 p.m.
The Secret Life of Sunflowers
by Marta Molnar
Hostess is Rebecca Landau.
Facilitator is Harriet Gran.
RSVP to Rebecca at 215-885-7950 or
reb9575@gmail.com

Center City Book Group

Wednesday, May 14th at 4 p.m.
Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult
Home of Ettie Davis
The Philadelphian

Center City residents interested in a
book group, call Audrey Block.
215-688-0094.
ablock1919@comcast.net

SAVE THE DATES

May 7 - Afternoon Tea

Beth Sholom Congregation

Because you care about and want to see the fair representation of voters in Pennsylvania, save this date: Wednesday, May 7, 2-4 p.m. Our Section's Advocacy Committee will host an Afternoon Tea featuring Laura Richlin, head of Philadelphia's chapter of Fair Districts, PA. Fair Districts, PA. is a nonpartisan group of citizens dedicated to creating a transparent and fair redistricting process. Questions? Call Lynne Jacobs, Advocacy VP 215-248-3333

June 4 - Installation and Fashion Show

Featuring Scarlet Begonias at Spring Mill Country Club

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](#)

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Shelly Rosen

As Membership Vice-President, I welcome all to call with any questions.

Please contact Patti First at patal16@verizon.net.

I am 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 \$55 (Be an Angel \$65 🙇)*

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



NCJW Section Officers and Voting Board Members for 2024-2025

President

Aileen Salus

Vice Presidents

Membership – Patti First

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

Honorary Founding Member

Diane Steinbrink

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

To Our NCJW Members

Here is the board approved slate for the membership's election of the officers and directors serving for our 2025-2026 fiscal year. You may recall from a previous email dated April 21 that you have until April 30 to cast your electronic vote. If you have not already cast your vote, you can email asalus1945@gmail.com with a note saying you vote to approve this ballot.

BALLOT SLATE

PRESIDENT

Aileen Salus

VICE PRESIDENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Membership | Cindi Pasceri / Joyce Gometz |
| • Programs /Edu | Anita Shomer / Rosalie Marcus |
| • Advocacy | Lynne Jacobs / Judy Heath |
| • Community Service | Faye Benshetler |
| • Fundraising | Robin London / Patti First |

ADDITIONAL OFFICERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| • Treasurer | Pearl Tragash |
| • Assistant Treasurer | Margie Zukerman |
| • Corresponding Sec | Bobbie Berman |
| • Recording Sec | Susan Chace |
| • Financial Sec | Harriet Winoker |

HONORARY FOUNDING DIRECTOR

Diane Steinbrink

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Joan Sax
Diane Plotnick
Harriet Gran
Jackee Swartz
Ann Pollock
Beth Rubin
Shirley Kahn
Betsy Parziale

OTHER BOARD MEETING ATTENDEES

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Grants | Gerrie Greene |
| • State Advocacy Reps | Barbara Hoffman / Rhonda Mandel |

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**



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215.646.6381



Patricia Tagliolini

Real Estate Salesperson

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MAY

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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**Afternoon Tea at
Beth Shalom.**

**Featuring Laura
Richlin, Fair
Districts PA
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

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**VOLUNTEER
TODAY**



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**CENTER CITY
BOOK CLUB
4:00 p.m.**

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**SUBURBAN
BOOK CLUB
1:00 p.m.**

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