

Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

September, 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

Be part of an important and timely discussion.

Enjoy lunch with friends and NCJW members.

Congregation Beth Or

239 E Welsh Road, Maple Glen 19002

Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:30-2:30



Keynote speaker: Will Bunch

**Topic: How to Save American Democracy
(and How Did We Get Here?)**

Will Bunch is the national opinion columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer. He is the recipient of numerous journalism awards, including sharing a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting for New York Newsday on a deadly subway crash at Union Square in Manhattan. Bunch has written several books on politics, including *"Tear Down This Myth: The Right-Wing Distortion of the Reagan Legacy"* and *"The Backlash: Right-Wing Radicals, High-Def Hucksters and Paranoid Politics in the Age of Obama."* His 2022 book, *"After the Ivory Tower Falls: How College Broke the American Dream and Blew Up Our Politics—and How to Fix It,"* asks and answers questions about the nature of the university in the U.S. today and how it can move forward.

Boxed Luncheon Fee:

\$30 Members

\$35 Guests

Register your lunch choice and pay online before September 11.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

**To Register and pay by mail, complete the form below
and submit by September 11**

**To Register and pay by mail, complete this form
and submit by September 11 to:**

Margie Zukerman
5106 Meridian Blvd
Warrington, PA 18976

Lunch Selection: Sandwich or salad with side and dessert.

NCJW Member Name _____

Email _____

Please put a check next to your lunch preference.

_____ Chicken Salad Sandwich on Challah Roll with side salad & cookie

_____ Tuna Salad Sandwich on Challah Roll with side salad & cookie

_____ House Roasted Turkey Sandwich on Challah Roll with side salad & cookie

_____ Mary Ellen Salad: grilled chicken, chopped romaine, tomato, honey goat cheese,
sugar toasted almonds & cookie

_____ Vegetarian Mary Ellen Salad: Same as above minus the chicken with the addition of
apple slices & cookie

Guest Name _____

Email _____

There will be donation tables for Dawn's Place, No More Secrets, Benjamin Franklin
Elementary School and Universal Creighton School

Questions: Call Program Education VPs Rosalie Marcus (215-512-5110) or
Anita Shomer (215-880-9992)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin a new year, it is rewarding to see so many new members joining our mission to help families and children in need, and to fight for the principles we embrace. In these perilous times it is important, more than ever, that we continue our advocacy activities and financial assistance that advance the goals of our NCJW mission.

The breadth of the agencies and programs we support include the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society, Food Banks, Mitzvah Circle, Ronald McDonald House, No More Secrets and the Student Holocaust Essay Contest. Our advocacy efforts include participation in rallies for women's reproductive rights and voters' rights, calls and visits to legislative offices, providing information to our members such as a presentation by Fair Districts, PA to impart ways to redress barriers to fair elections. Our outreach this past year has included grants to the World Central Kitchen, Israeli Defense Fund, Ukraine, and donations for victims of fires in California and floods in Texas.

I see membership in our NCJW Section as a commitment to our present and future generations, one that can be fulfilled in so many various ways: your yearly dues; presence at our fund-raising events; donations to the causes we serve; participating in rallies for women's rights, voting rights; advocacy calls to local and federal legislators and on site volunteering at agencies\programs we have partnered with.

It is my honor to serve as your President again for this year. I look forward to meeting you and hope to see you at our upcoming events.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year.
Aileen Salus

SAVE THE DATES:

Sept 17, Opening Luncheon, Speaker Will Bunch, Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen, PA

Oct 21, Membership Luncheon, Speaker Karen Geld Sanchez, Esq., Flourtown Country Club

Dec. 3, Game Day, Maggios, Southampton, PA

January 20, Zoom Book Review, *The Next Ship Home* by Heather Webb

March 17, Addressing Gun Violence in Pennsylvania. Temple Beth Sholom.

April 21, Visit to Weitzman Museum and Lunch

June 2, Closing Luncheon, Flourtown Country Club

Following are essays from our Section's Holocaust Essay Programs by two of our middle school student participants.

The "Whys" Of The World

The Holocaust. The Holocaust was not just a war that lasted 6 years. It was a tragedy that affected families for an endless amount of time. Not only did 6 million innocent Jews lose their lives, but generations of traditions were broken. Not only did people have to hide from what they knew. But hearts were broken, people, just like you and me, were forced to feel like they were not human. Kristalnacht, the night of broken glass, when thousands of Jewish-owned homes, shops, and synagogues were destroyed. Not just broken glass, but broken spirits.

Auschwitz, the place where roughly 1.1 million Jews were killed. Sometimes this number is too much to fathom, but I like to imagine that on top of all of these people, there were individuals with hope. Fathers are hoping that their children will pass down family traditions. Mothers told their children everything would be okay, but deep down, they were worried. Children were being told everything was okay, but deep down, they were worried.

Today in class, my teacher showed us currency that the Jews used in the ghettos, this truly showed how the Nazis wanted the Jews to be completely divided. The world, on the outside, could be divided by nationality, by race, or even by religion, but when it's all said and done, we are all human. We all have a heart pumping blood, we all have lungs breathing air, we all have brains doing everything for us, and most of all, we all have feelings. We all get stressed, we all get sad, we all get happy, we all get worried, we are all human.

This year in social studies, one of our vocabulary words was cultural diffusion, "the spread of cultural elements, like ideas, technologies, and practices, from one society or group to another." This was during a lesson about cultural hearths almost 6000 years ago. But when you look around, you can see it every day. Look outside your window, someone from Europe could be talking to someone from Asia, talking about their family traditions, and maybe one of them will include that at their next Thanksgiving, cultural diffusion. Even in Nazi Germany, Catholics gave bread to hiding Jews. Christians protesting against Nazis, cultural diffusion.

When our E.L.A. class started this unit, I had a general understanding of the Holocaust. I knew who Hitler was, I knew about the concentration camps, I knew about the propaganda, I knew how awful it was, and I knew how it truly affected families. What I didn't know was Kristallnacht, not just the night of broken glass, but the start of broken tradition. I didn't know how the Jews' hopes got obliterated with one train ride. Auschwitz, the place where people came expecting to have to work, but they were killed, sometimes physically, sometimes mentally. From the Holocaust, you can learn that there are awful people in this world, but the only thing more awful than them is the grief that people have to experience because of them. An initial reaction to the Holocaust for me was Why. Why did Hitler want to kill the Jews? Why did people believe in Hitler? That is the reason why we know so much about the Holocaust. "Why" is the reason we study this. This is for everything. If there were no "why" the world would not be studied the way it is. The Holocaust can display this; if there was no why, we wouldn't know nearly as much about this tragedy, just like everything else in life.

Brendan Dougherty

HOLOCAUST ESSAY PROGRAM

Our NCJW Section's annual Holocaust Essay Program came to a close with the reading and selection of this year's sixth grade winners from Sandy Run Middle School, Upper Dublin School District. Many of the 400+ essays displayed a high level of imagery, empathy and thoughtfulness at such a young age, especially remarkable when, as adults, many of us have difficulty processing the history of the Holocaust.

Thank you to Cindy Pasceri for her leadership in this very worthy project and to our member participants: Joan Sax, Charlotte Schwartz, Rebecca Landau, Lee Tonik, Susan Horwitz, and Harriet Gran.



Ziva Giang

"Freedom"

Trapped in an unlit chamber like a snow white dove imprisoned and concealed, in a pitch black cage.

The stillness took over the murmurs and whimpers.

The haunting echoes of their screams and pleas,

The cries and eerie overture

fell on deaf ears.

The odor of sweat and fear fills my nose.

One

by

one

They vanish.

Still fresh in my thoughts

The striking images of the synagogues ablaze, crushed by gravity.

Resembled the burning wood in a fireplace.

The painful image of shards of crystal clear glass hurt me like a dagger.

The feeling of being in the camps is like old rubbish crushed into a box.

The sorrow of being torn away from loved ones

The fear haunted me like a determined soul.

The message was a threat waiting at the door.

That is,

Behind the falling curtains

Were the fall of the blameless.

The little string of hope

Thinning

each

coming

day

That is,

until the one fresh breath I had taken

The bright light was glistening down on us.

That string of hope had thickened

And no longer felt vulnerable.

The breath of air that I had longed for.

And like a free bird

We were liberated

The uproar of cheers was music to my ears.

The death that had waited at my door

Ceased

and left nothing

But a package

of memories in its wake.

NCJW SHOWS UP



April 5 Rally in Doylestown.
Lynne Jacobs and Rhonda Mandel.



June 14 "No Kings" Rally at Philadelphia Museum of Art.
Lynne Jacobs and Rhonda Mandel.



July 8
Norristown Rally in Support of Immigration.
Lynne Jacobs and Rabbi Elyse Wechterman.



July 17 Chestnut Hill Rally.
L to R: Merle Savedow, Carol Aronoff, Rhonda Mandel,
Barbara Hoffman and Lynne Jacobs.



June 11 Norristown Immigration Rally
L to R, Nan Myers, Lynne Jacobs and
Rona Elias.

3 YEARS POST-DOBBS

This past June 23, The Women's Centers presented a program reflecting on the state of abortion access three years after the Dobbs decision that overturned Roe vs. Wade. Advocates on the frontlines in Southeastern Pennsylvania spoke to the impact of that decision and their commitment to continue to show up to connect people with care, despite the odds.

GRIPPING

A POWERFUL OP-ED published in the *Inquirer* on August 22 by our NCJW SECTION member Rabbi Elyse Wechterman, details her eyewitness account of the recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid on the Gigante Market in Norristown. One heartbreaking event involves a man arrested and "disappeared" by ICE, leaving his distraught wife and children stranded. If you are an *Inquirer* subscriber look for the article entitled, "I was there when ICE stormed Gigante. I can attest to the raid's traumatic aftermath", on the *Inquirer's* op-ed page dated August 22.



June 23 Program
"Abortion Access in PA"
L to R Lynne Jacobs, Judy Heath,
Rhonda Mandel and Eleanor Levie.

Alabama Trip 2025

In March I was fortunate to join with NCJW leaders from around the country on a trip to the 60th anniversary of “bloody Sunday” in Selma Alabama. The NCJW contingent of 80 joined many other Jewish organizations to show support for the movement for Civil Rights. Our trip took us to several historic Civil Rights sites in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma.

Birmingham was a key battleground in the Civil Rights Movement. We stopped at the 16th St Baptist Church, where a tragic bombing occurred in 1963. Then we spent time at Temple Beth El, a congregation that dates to the late 19th century. Beth El houses an exhibit that explores the intersection of Jewish and Civil Rights history in Alabama. To aid our understanding of that earlier era, we participated in an interactive program to examine the roles of both activists and those who did not speak out.

Montgomery is famous for its bus boycott in 1955-56, which aimed to end segregation on buses throughout the South. Today Montgomery is filled with impressive sites that tell the story of racial injustice in the U.S. We visited The Lynching Memorial, The Legacy Museum, and the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park. Later we were welcomed by Congregation Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem. We heard from several speakers including members of Congress from Alabama.

On Sunday we travelled to Selma, where our “home base” was the Mishkan Israel synagogue, built in 1900. We joined many other groups to walk peacefully over the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

After the march, we heard from speakers, including the Mayor of Selma and some of the few Jews who still live there. There is an effort underway to preserve the synagogue for educational activities and events.

It was a very intense experience, and I am glad I could be part of it. I’ve learned from the National staff that they intend to offer this trip again next year.

Lynne Jacobs,
Advocacy Committee Co-Chair



March 9, 2025
Crossing the Edmund Pettus
Bridge with the NCJW group.



This was my group of NCJW members
from around the country.
We traveled together during the trip.

THIS IS WORTHWHILE!

As part of our NCJW mission, we help survivors of sex-trafficking. **Worthwhile**, an agency in Bucks County, supports survivors of sex-trafficking with housing, counseling, job opportunities, etc. They manage thrift stores in Doylestown and Collegeville and hire survivors of sex-trafficking to work in the store. All of the proceeds from the store go into services provided by Worthwhile. They are opening a new store in Horsham, PA (200 Blair Mill Road) and members of our section donated items on August 21st. It was great to donate to a thrift store where our contributions make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you! The managers of the store came out to greet us and expressed deep gratitude for all the donations. Thanks to Beth Rubin who enlisted her entire neighborhood to donate! Worthwhile accepts donations on Thursdays and will continue to accept donations throughout the year. Feel free to donate on your own.

Items that they **accept**: clothing, shoes, accessories, jewelry, housewares, toys, puzzles, games, tools, books, CDs, DVDs, lamps, tools, art and frames, rugs, decor, and office supplies (no computers, furniture, food, baby items)

Judy Heath

Pictured are members Beth Rubin, Judy Heath, and Daniel, a volunteer at Worthwhile.



Recent Dawn's Place drop-off.
Lynne Jacobs, Sister Meaghan
Patterson and Rhonda Mandel.



SUBURBAN BOOK CLUB

Thursday, September 11, 1:00 p.m.

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawson

Facilitator: Barbara Auerbach

Host: Harriet Gran

RSVP to Harriet at 215-206-1026

or hpgran68@gmail.com

Many thanks to Joan Sax for hosting our annual Pot Luck Lunch. Unlike the dismal weather, our members' dishes were delightful as was the very thoughtful discussion of *The Remarkable Creatures*, led by Eileen Davis.

Thanks also to Rebecca Landau for providing us with book lists from Ellen Tillman!

CLOSING LUNCHEON
JUNE 2025



BUSINESS.....



.....then PLEASURE



THANK YOU to our lovely models!!!

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.



Condolences:
To the family of our member, Rhoda Indictor

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

Ellen Satinsky Nancy Berger Barbara German Lisa Lifshin

As Membership Vice-Presidents, we welcome all to call with any questions. Please contact Cindi Pasceri, vpasce@gmail.com or Joyce Gometz, Bubbe1942@verizon.net. 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 \$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.

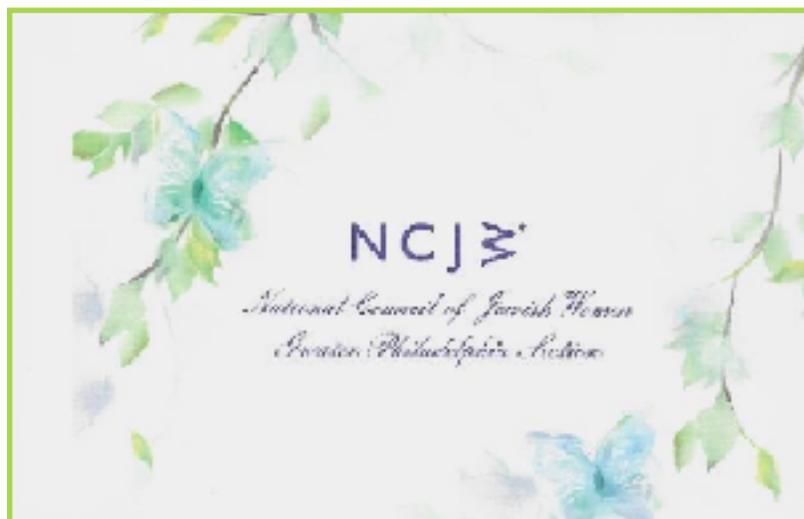
Please check out our website ncjwphiladelphia.org for our Bulletins, past and present, for program information and registration.

**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



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

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Joan Sax
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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

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

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

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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SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 VOLUNTEER TODAY 	12	13
14	15	16	17 PROGRAM Opening Luncheon Speaker: Will Bunch Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen, PA	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				