

# Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

January, 2026

## 132 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  
215-936-4836

Visit us at  
ncjwphiladelphia.org

## Join us for a Virtual Book Review

Meet us online for a lively book review and discussion!

### *The Next Ship Home by Heather Webb*

Enjoy an engaging and interactive review by acclaimed book reviewer,

Bev Rosen.

**Tuesday, January 20th at 2:00 on Zoom**



*The Next Ship Home* is a poignant historical novel set in 1902 that explores the immigrant experience through the intertwined lives of two women at Ellis Island.

**Beverly C. Rosen** is a noted leader in the cultural community. Bev shares book, film, and theater reviews with diverse audiences throughout the Delaware Valley. Bev was an adjunct lecturer in area colleges and universities including Drexel and University of the Arts. She also taught literature courses at Cheltenham Adult School. Today Bev facilitates book groups and shares cultural programs that provide opportunities for adults who are passionate about books, film, and theater to come together to discuss ideas and share insights.

**This is a FREE program for our members and their guests.**

**RSVP by January 16<sup>th</sup>. The Zoom link will be sent on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER WITH YOUR NAME & EMAIL](#)**

**Questions: Anita Shomer 215-880-9992 or Rosalie Marcus 215-512-5110**



**FEBRUARY 13-14, 2026**

Did you know that February 13-14, 2026 marks Repro Shabbat? Every year, thousands of participants across the country attend Shabbats big and small to mark NCJW's annual Jewish event for reproductive freedom.

Each year on Repro Shabbat, we read Parshat Mishpatim, the Torah portion containing the foundation of Judaism's approach to reproductive health, rights, and justice. And this year, we have numerous ways for you to get involved, whether you want to [attend a Repro Shabbat or even consider hosting one of your own at home.](#)

[Learn More](#)

We're gearing up for the biggest Repro Shabbat yet, anticipating hundreds of communities across the country hosting Shabbats with synagogues, Hillels and local NCJW sections. There's even the chance to register to host your own Repro Shabbat. As a host, you will gain access to resources including conversation guides, a prayer for reproductive freedom, recipes, and even a Shabbat Spotify playlist!

[I want to host](#)

[I want to attend a community celebration](#)

[I want more information](#)

We hope you will choose to be part of the largest Jewish community event dedicated to reproductive freedom this February!

The Repro Shabbat Team  
[National Council of Jewish Women](#)

PS: New this year! If you or someone you know is between the ages of 22 and 39, they can [participate in Repro Shabbat through our exclusive partnership with OneTable](#), where they'll receive additional tools and even gift cards to make hosting a Shabbat for their friends even easier!

Dear NCJW Advocates,

If you live in Montgomery County or know someone who does, please see the information below for a training offered by **CeaseFirePA**. Do not worry about the deadline, but if interested, please respond ASAP. Feel free to forward this to your friends, congregation members, etc. If you are interested and transportation is an issue, let me know as I have signed up. There are two days that are in-person.

Thank you,

Judy Heath, Advocacy Vice President

Gun violence is rising in Montgomery County—and too many lives have already been lost. But change is possible when communities come together to lead it.

We're inviting you to apply for the **Montgomery County Leadership Institute**, a four-session leadership and advocacy training designed to build a network of community members ready to take bold action for a safer, stronger Pennsylvania.

Through this program, you will:

- Explore how gun violence impacts our county—from firearm suicide to domestic violence and unintentional shootings
- Learn how to connect local stories to statewide policy solutions
- Develop strategies to hold elected officials accountable
- Build skills in storytelling, organizing, and volunteer recruitment

You'll join 30 local residents committed to making a difference—people like Dan from Ambler, who turned personal tragedy into purpose after losing his stepbrother to firearm suicide. [Click here to see Dan's story.](#)

**We need leaders like you. Will you step up?**

**[Apply now or forward this to someone who should.](#)**

There is no cost for the program except your time.

The trainings take place over four Saturdays in early 2026, each from 10 am - 1 pm. The dates are listed below, and all participants must be available for all 4 trainings. The two in person trainings will take place at the Community Partners Center in Colmar.

- January 10th (In person)

- January 31st (virtual)

- February 21st (virtual)

- March 21st (In person)

There are two very quick components to the application, and both are required.

1) Fill out this Mobilize link with your basic information: <https://www.mobilize.us/ceasefirepa/event/867768/>

2) Fill out this Google Form, answering a few brief questions: <https://forms.gle/9AAP2fHCbSfsab>

Together, we can build the community power we need to end gun violence in Montgomery County and across the Commonwealth.

**Apply Now!**

Adam Garber  
Executive Director  
CeaseFirePA

***From Awareness to Action:******Strengthening Our Impact on Gun Violence Prevention***

Please join us for an informative and empowering presentation!

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 11:30

Congregation Beth Shalom

8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park

**Featured Speakers:****NOVA Trauma Therapists – The Emotional & Psychological Cost of Gun Violence**

Learn how trauma affects individuals, families and communities- and how we can support healing.

**CeasefirePA- Gun Safety Legislation and How We Can Advocate.**

Hear what's happening now, what's at stake and practical ways we can raise our voices to make our communities safer.

All members, spouses, and guests are welcome. Your presence helps build a safer, stronger future for everyone.

A dairy buffet lunch will be provided including, salads, kugel, fruit and bagels.

Members-\$30 Guests \$35      RSVP by March 12<sup>th</sup>

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

There will be donation tables for No More Secrets and Dawn's Place.

Questions: Call Rosalie Marcus at 215-512-5110 or Anita Shomer at 215-880-9992

# GAME DAY

## A GREAT FUND RAISER AND A GREAT FUN RAISER!

A LARGE turnout by our NCJW Section members and their guests!



Games people play!  
Canasta, Scrabble,  
Mah Jong, Rummikub....  
and more.



KUDOS to our expert event planning team:  
standing left to right: Anita Shomer, Rosalie  
Marcus, Robin London, Margie Zuckerman, Pearl  
Tragash, and Patti First. Seated is Aileen Salus.

**"There's nothing like a homemade treat to say 'thank you' to the people who help and protect us.** Our team recently hand-delivered cookie and candy trays to local first responders and ER staff to show our gratitude for their year-round service. The broad smiles we received at every station made this project a true highlight for our members. It's a simple, sweet way to honor those who take such good care of our community!"



Sherry Kohn Eisman at the Upper Southhampton Police Department.



Aileen Salus and Sherry Kohn Eisman basking in the good feeling from delivering many bags to police stations, hospitals and post offices

Photos from our October Annual Membership Luncheon



## Suburban Book Club

Thank you to Nancy Fagan for leading our discussion and to Rosalie Marcus for hosting our December meeting.

We are having a Section Zoom Meeting with Beverly Rosen in January and we decided to skip February.

All future Meetings are on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

March 11

*Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Facilitator is Rebecca Landau

Hostess is Lee Tonik

April 15

*Red Clay* by Charles B. Fancher

Facilitator is Eileen Davis

Hostess is Rebecca Landau

May 20

*The Lotus Shoes* by Jane Yang

Hostess is Harriet Gran

Facilitator is Madelyn Greenberg

## Center City Book Group

*Beautiful Country* by Qian Julie Wang

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 4 p.m.

Home of Ettie Davis, The Philadelphian

Leader is Ettie Davis

Center City residents interested in a book group,

Call Audrey Block. 215-688-0094.

Ablock1919@comcast.net

## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As Membership Vice-Presidents, we welcome all to call with any questions.

Please contact Cindi Pasceri, [vpasce@gmail.com](mailto:vpasce@gmail.com) or Joyce Gometz, [Bubbe1942@verizon.net](mailto: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](http://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 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](#)**

### Condolences:

To the Benshetler family on the passing of Faye Benshetler's husband, Eric Benshetler.

PRESIDENT

Aileen Salus

VICE PRESIDENTS

- Membership
- Programs /Edu
- Advocacy
- Community Service
- Fundraising

Cindi Pasceri / Joyce Gometz  
Anita Shomer / Rosalie Marcus  
Lynne Jacobs / Judy Heath  
Faye Benshetler  
Robin London / Patti First

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- Assistant Treasurer
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- Recording Sec
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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

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](http://www.NCJW.org)



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 philadelphia@vfi-usa.org

**BEVERLY COHEN**  
 Regional Director  
 610.584.0468

**CAROL STEIN**  
 Regional Director  
 215.846.8381

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.**

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





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## JANUARY 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue  | Wed   | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|--|---|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |  |   | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 4   | 5   | 6  | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 11  | 12  | 13   | 14<br>CENTER CITY<br>BOOK CLUB<br>4:00 p.m. | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 18  | 19  | 20<br>ZOOM EVENT<br>THE NEXT<br>SHIP HOME<br>BOOK REVIEW | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25  | 26  | 27   | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |