

Bulletin

A FAITH IN THE FUTURE

®

A BELIEF IN ACTION

May, 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

Your Vote, Your Future: PA Primary Election Guide ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, MAY 19

Your voting choices will determine all of our prospects for free and fair elections, health care, women's health choices, paid family leave, gun safety, well-funded schools, freedom of speech, an independent press and more.

Mark Your Calendar Key Deadlines

May 4: Last day to **Register to Vote**

May 12: Deadline to **Request** a Mail-in/Absentee Ballot

May 19: Deadline to **Return** your Mail-in Ballot

What's on the Ballot?

You will be voting for:

Governor and Lieutenant Governor

U.S. Congressional Representatives (All Districts)

PA State House (All Seats)

PA State Senate (Even-Numbered Districts)

Be an Informed Voter

Research your candidates using these nonpartisan resources:

- **Vote411.org:** Launched by the League of Women Voters to provide personalized ballot details.
- **Ballotpedia:** View comprehensive candidate questionnaires and profiles.

Ultimately, what has the most potential for free and fair elections, is an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC), composed of citizens with no vested interest in the way voting districts are formed, proposed in House Bill 31 and Senate Bill 131. The non-partisan group, **Fair Districts PA**, which spoke at a meeting last year, arranged by our NCJW Greater Philadelphia Section's Advocacy Committee, has been working, for the past ten years, toward the goals of: IRC independence, a transparent public process and prioritized mapping standards using clearly defined criteria. The outcome of efforts such as theirs, can impact our families, friends, communities, ourselves, the mission of NCJW.

Thank you to Barbara Hoffman, Advocacy Committee Member, for her contributions to this article!



**CLOSING LUNCHEON AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
FEATURING MUSIC BY LINDARELLA and ROY**♪ **Music Through the Years** ♪

You are warmly invited to a delicious luncheon filled with timeless favorites sure to delight and engage. Let the memories take you back!

Tuesday, June 2 at 11:00 a.m.

Flourtown Country Club
150 McCloskey Road
Flourtown, PA 1903



Linda and Roy are a dynamic performing duo whose warmth and natural chemistry light up every stage. With a shared love of music and theatre, they bring elegance, storytelling, and joy to each performance. Linda's expressive voice and Broadway-inspired style captivate audiences, while Roy's relaxed, charismatic presence creates the perfect balance. Together, they deliver music through the ages—from timeless classics to familiar favorites that audiences know and love. Their shows are more than performances— with recognizable songs and an inviting style, Linda and Roy turn every event into a celebration filled with connection, nostalgia, and fun.

Luncheon Fee: Members: \$60

Guests: \$65

Register and Pay Online by May 19

BY CLICKING HERE

*A contribution to Zeffy will be requested when you register. It is strictly voluntary.

A mini boutique will be set up by Scarlet Begonias. 15% of sales will be donated to NCJW Greater Philadelphia.

To register and pay by mail complete the form below and submit by May 19 to

Margie Zukerman

5106 Meridian Blvd.

Warrington, PA 18976

Luncheon Fee: Members \$60 Guests \$65

Choose your lunch selection and request a seating choice below.

Member Name _____

Guest Name _____

- Butternut squash, Spinach and Ricotta Lasagna Roll**
- Achiote Roasted Salmon**
- Tuscan Lemon Chicken**

Please seat me with the following people.

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

Questions: Please call Program/Education VPs Anita Shomer 215-880-9992 or Rosalie Marcus 215-512-5110



Gun Safety - Current Interventions for Victims and Families and Pending Legislation in Pennsylvania.

On March 17, 2026, our section had a luncheon featuring speakers from Network of Victim Assistance, Bucks County (NOVA) and CeaseFirePA. The speakers addressed the impact of gun violence on families who have lost loved ones and how to strengthen our advocacy around gun safety laws in Pennsylvania.

NOVA speakers were therapist Beth Haft and Stephanie Shantz, supervisor of victim advocates. NOVA provides comprehensive victim support services to people in Bucks County and provides prevention education services to all ages. On their website they state: NOVA is a place: where each survivor is believed, every identity is honored, and healing is accessible to all.

Beth and Stephanie shared examples of how they help children and adults who have lost a loved one to gun violence heal through intense therapy. They addressed the court process and how victims are supported every step of the way by NOVA advocates. NOVA relies on volunteers to support victims. If anyone is interested in volunteering, their website is novabucks.org.

Kate Lyden, Community Organizer from CeaseFirePA, addressed current gun safety legislation and what we can do to address gun violence in PA. While statistics may show a reduction in gun violence, it is not enough. One death is too many. CeaseFirePA's goal is simple:

"Everyone in the Commonwealth should live in safe communities. Gun violence, in any form, makes that an impossible reality".

Kate spoke about current legislation pending in PA. This includes Extreme Risk Protection Orders, Safe Storage, Bump Stock Conversion Devices, Ghost Guns and Universal Background Checks. Kate included information about suicide deaths in PA where over half the suicides in any year are the result of firearms. All attendees had an opportunity at the end of the discussion to write postcards to our state legislators regarding the current legislation that addresses gun safety laws.

To receive information from CeaseFirePA and what you can do to support their efforts, you can sign up at www.ceasefirepa.org.

Judy Heath,
Advocacy Vice-President

Our Section made a donation to the Temple that was destroyed in Jackson Mississippi.

Pearl Tragash,
Treasurer



Dear Pearl,

On behalf of Beth Israel Congregation, thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000.00 received in the aftermath of the fire at our synagogue. Your support has been a profound source of comfort and strength.

As assessments continue, we are learning that the damage to our building is more extensive than initially understood. The fire, smoke, and water impact reached far beyond the library itself, affecting spaces central to our prayer and learning, even affecting the structural integrity of the building itself. The road to recovery and rebuilding will be longer and more complex than we first hoped.

Your gift is a powerful expression of solidarity and hope, reminding us that we are not alone and that we will move forward together.

Your contribution will directly support our recovery and rebuilding efforts and help sustain our sacred work. We are deeply grateful that you choose to stand with us by bringing light in a moment of darkness and helping ensure our community remains strong, vibrant, and alive.

With heartfelt thanks and blessings for peace and wholeness,

Zach Shemper
President
Congregation Beth Israel

Benjamin Russell
Student Rabbi
Congregation Beth Israel

Sheila Hailey
Executive Director
Congregation Beth Israel

Suburban Book Club

Thank you to Joan Sax for leading our discussion and to Rebecca Landau for hosting our April meeting.

Wednesday, May 20 at 1:00 p.m.

The Lotus Shoes by Jane Yang

Hostess is Harriet Gran

Facilitator is Madelyn Greenberg

Please RSVP to Harriet Gran at
215-206-1026 or email to
hpgran68@gmail.com.



Center City Book Group

Wednesday, May 13 @ 4 p.m.

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Leader and host - Sharon Kestenbaum

Wednesday, June 10 @ 4:00 p.m.

The First Ladies by Marie Benedict &

Victoria Christopher Murray

Leader and host - Audrey Block

Interested in Center City Book Group

Contact Audrey Block - ablock1919@comcast.net

Cindi & Vincent Pasceri will be welcoming their first GREAT-Grandchild, courtesy of their grandson Julian and his wife Jenna. Gender known - name to be determined.



WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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](#)

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](#)

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

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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



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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





Jane Barr Horstman & Associates offers
 High-Level Personal Assistance
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MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	VOTE TODAY	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						