

NCJW Opening Meeting

Where Do We Stand: The Status of Women in Pennsylvania and the Region

featuring

Leslie Stiles

Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission for Women

and

Esther Barazzone

President of Chatham College

Regional Women's Initiative



**September 7, 6:30 p.m.
Concordia Club
Boutique 6 p.m.
Program 7 p.m.**



Where Do We Stand: The Status of Women in Pennsylvania and the Region

Did you know that:

1. Pennsylvania ranks 47th of 50 states in women's political participation.
2. In Southwestern Pennsylvania, women account for only 22% of elected county commissioners; five counties have no women on their county commission/ council.
3. Pennsylvania is the only state in which women are less likely than men to register to vote.
4. Women in Pennsylvania earn 74.4% annually of what men earn and own only 24% of businesses; in Southwestern Pennsylvania, women earn 70% annually of what men earn and own 24% of businesses.
5. Women comprise only 16% of board members of 21 major employers in the Pittsburgh region.

"**WHERE DO WE STAND: THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION**" features two key note speakers, **Leslie Stiles**, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission for Women, and **Dr. Esther Barazzone**, President of Chatham College and head of the Regional Women's Initiative.

Leslie Stiles, appointed by Governor Rendell, acts as Pennsylvania state government's advocate for all issues as they impact on women and girls. The 26-woman Commission educates, advises and advocates for their constituencies, providing opportunities for women and girls to reach their highest potential, free from

discrimination. Under her leadership, the PCW has promoted the priority issues of healthcare, economic stability and education for women. Prior to her appointment as Executive Director, Leslie served as Director of Marketing for the National Constitution Center. Throughout her career, Leslie has been active in the realm of public outreach, serving as a founding board member of the Philadelphia Marion Anderson Award, on the board of the Susan G. Komen Philadelphia Affiliate, and as a member of the Forum of Executive Women.

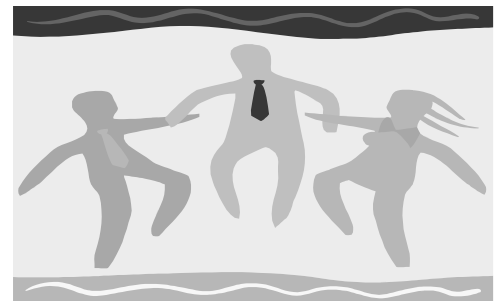
The Regional Women's Initiative (RWI), focusing on the 10-county region of southwestern Pennsylvania, is the latest project of Chatham College's PA Center for Women, Politics, and Public Policy. Esther Barazzone, Ph.D., president of Chatham College since 1992, spearheaded the launch of the RWI in 2005 to advance the status of women through its mission of increasing public awareness of gender disparity and empowering women to change the status quo regarding equity in political representation, economic status, and health and well-being. Among her numerous local and national distinctions, honors, and services, Dr. Barazzone is one of only four women sitting on the 49 member board of the Allegheny Conference for Economic Development and has served on the Mayor's Commission on Public Education. In 2001, Governor Mark Schweiker recognized her as a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania

The program will be preceded by a boutique, opening at 6:00 p.m. Dessert will be served.

Thriftique needs:

furniture, housewares, linens,
furs, designer clothing
all must be in good condition

For pick-up of furniture call Debbie at Thriftique
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President's Message: Award from League of Women Voters by Judy Cohen



We are delighted to announce that the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh will award the 2005 Good Government Award to NCJW Pittsburgh Section and past president **Lynette**

Lederman at their annual awards dinner on October 20, 2005, at the Sheraton Station Square. Lynette and Pittsburgh Section are being honored for their community projects, including the "Election Year 2004: Civil Liberties Issues" series of forums which took place last fall and two ongoing projects in which Lynette played an instrumental role, the Children's Playrooms at the Courts and Pic A Bag.

Our Children's Playrooms at the Courts have been serving the citizens, lawyers, and judges of Allegheny County since 1980. With three Playrooms, directed by **Ellen**

Siegel and staffed with seven professionals and a rotating group of 35 volunteers, our impact in the community has been considerable. At the request of the courts, we will be opening a fourth playroom next year specifically for the children of jurors to help diversify the jury pool in the district.

Our Pic-A-Bag program works with the Allegheny County Department of Children, Youth and Families to supply duffel bags stuffed with necessities and comfort items to children removed from their homes or in other dire straits. We have been expanding our outreach to homeless children, working closely with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, and are exploring reaching beyond Allegheny County.

In making this award, the League particularly cited last fall's well-attended "Election Year 2004" public forums offered by NCJW, underwritten by a grant from

United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, as an example of a good government project. NCJW presented two programs on reproductive choice, hosted by WQED TV and Shady Ave magazine editor **Nancy Polinsky Johnson** and WPTT FM's **Lynn Cullen**, respectively, and one panel on the USA PATRIOT Act hosted by KDKA TV's **Jon Delano**.

The League of Women Voters established the Good Government Award in 1997 to call attention to and honor individuals, businesses, governmental agencies and others whose public activities have served to make democracy work and exemplify the best in civic leadership. The other 2005 Awardees are David L. Donahoe, Grace Ann Geibel, RSM, PhD, and the Citizens Bank Job Bank Program. We hope that you will join us on October 20th for this great honor to Pittsburgh Section and Lynette!

Executive Director's Message:

The National Agenda: NCJW Speaks Out On The Supreme Court Vacancy by Cindy Busis



At the top of the National Council of Jewish Women list of priority issues is BenchMark, the Campaign to Save Roe. NCJW leaders, volunteers, and professionals are working in our

Washington D.C. office, New York City headquarters, and in Sections around the country to mobilize support and join in coalition to ensure a judiciary that will respect our fundamental freedoms and constitutional liberties.

The issue heated up in early July with the impending Supreme Court vacancy due to the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Justice O'Connor, appointed by President Ronald Regan in 1981, is considered a moderate and, to many, the "fifth vote" protecting 32 years of

reproductive freedom through the Roe decision. As of this writing, President Bush has not yet offered his nominee and a Senate hearing has not been scheduled.

Below we have reprinted NCJW President **Phyllis Snyder's** statement, made on July 5, in which she vigorously reaffirms our organization's position on an independent judiciary and a Supreme Court that respects the right to privacy in reproductive decisions based on Roe v. Wade. Please read the NCJW press release and letter that follows to further understand the deep concern of NCJW and the work we have been doing to reach out to rabbis from across the country. We asked that they tell the Senate, in strong and direct language, that the highest court in the land should remain free of individual religious bias as the critical constitutional cases come before it. Please consider participating in the BenchMark campaign;

go to www.ncjw.org, follow the site to BenchMark, and sign on!

NCJW Releases Supreme Court Letter from Rabbis to Senate

July 5, 2005, Washington, DC -- In response to the vacancy created in the Supreme Court by the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) has released a letter to the Senate signed by nearly 300 rabbis from across the country (letter below). In regard to the letter, which calls upon the Senate to support a federal judiciary that protects religious freedom, NCJW President Phyllis Snyder released the following statement:

"NCJW has gathered the signatures of 270 rabbis from 32 states and the District of Columbia on a letter that speaks out on the importance of securing our fundamental freedoms when considering lifetime appointments to the federal

Message from the Executive Director: (continued from page 3)

bench. These rabbis are among the many leaders in our nation who understand the importance of judicial nominations. And they are appealing to the Senate to ensure that nominees to these important posts -- particularly the recently announced vacancy on the Supreme Court -- are willing to protect our religious liberty, including basic constitutional rights such as reproductive choice.

"The hallmark of democracy is religious freedom. And no single religion should define our rights. In the words of the letter: 'As rabbis, we are especially interested in the protection of religious freedom -- one of the most cherished and important foundations upon which our nation was built. Religious freedom speaks to the right of individuals to be respected as moral decision-makers, able to make choices based on their religious beliefs and traditions, as well as their consciences.'

"NCJW concurs. As Jews we know what it means to have rights and liberties stripped away. The next nominee to the Supreme Court could shift its precarious balance and jeopardize many of our rights and liberties -- including reproductive freedom -- for generations to come. Just as we are calling on Senators to fulfill their duty in the confirmation process, we urge the President to engage in meaningful consultation to identify a consensus nominee who will uphold our rights."

AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM RABBIS AROUND THE COUNTRY: SUPPORT A FEDERAL JUDICIARY THAT PROTECTS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Dear Senator:

We are writing to urge you to take special care in voting on judicial nominees selected to fill vacancies in the federal appellate and US Supreme Courts. We are particularly concerned about nominees whose records display an inconsistent commitment to upholding basic constitutional rights, including reproductive choice.

As rabbis, we are especially interested in the protection of religious freedom -- one of the most cherished and important foundations upon which our nation was built. Religious freedom speaks to the right of individuals to be respected as moral decision-makers, able to make choices based on their religious beliefs and traditions as well as their consciences. The federal courts are key to maintaining this basic democratic tenet.

The debate surrounding reproductive choice is closely tied to the right of religious freedom. Views on reproductive issues vary between religions and even within religions, depending on a woman's circumstances. Imposing a single belief on all of us compromises our freedom to

abide by our own religious teachings on this important personal issue.

As rabbis, we are often called upon to counsel families facing difficult decisions concerning reproductive health choices, including abortion. Like other members of the clergy, we turn to religious law and teachings for guidance in providing such counsel. Judaism has laws governing the issue of abortion - laws and teachings that, like those of other religions, are subject to different interpretations. Therefore, each case is considered individually.

Simply put, this faith-based decision should not be circumscribed by government. The decision to have an abortion is a deeply personal choice to be made by women, perhaps in consultation with their clergy, families, and physicians, but not by politicians or judges.

It is imperative that nominees to the federal bench protect fundamental religious and personal freedoms, such as reproductive choice. Any infringement on these rights subverts the basis upon which our nation is built.

We hope that you will keep these issues in mind as you consider judicial nominees.

Signed,

[Names available upon request]

**Sign up for BENCHMARKCAMPAIGN.ORG
for Action Alerts, Information, and Advocacy
regarding crisis in Judicial nominations**

Only through activity in advocacy programs do our voices get heard

The National Council of Jewish Women is a volunteer organization that has been at the forefront of social change for over a century. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW courageously takes a progressive stance on issues such as child welfare, women's rights, and reproductive freedom.

A FAMILY CHECKLIST

Last Bulletin's article from the Services to the Elderly Committee focused on making health care decisions and creating a living will. This article highlights additional measures to review and organize important documents in an unhurried and critical manner so that they will be accessible to those who may need it. These steps are outlined by the editor of Caregiver Newsletter and can be used as a guide to establishing a file to be used in case of a medical emergency. This will be a loving gift to your family, indeed.

The following information and documentation should be prepared and stored together in a clearly labeled file:

1. All bank accounts, account numbers and types of accounts and their locations.
2. Insurance company names; policy numbers, beneficiary as stated on the policies, (health, life, long term care, automobile, etc.)
3. Deed and titles to ALL property.
4. Loan/lien information, who holds them and if there are any death provisions.
5. Social Security and Medicare numbers.
6. Military history, affiliations and papers (including discharge papers).
7. Up-to-date will in a safe place (inform family where the will is located).
8. Living Will or other Advance Directives.
9. Durable Power of Attorney.
10. Instructions for funeral services and burial. If pre-arrangements have been secured, include name and location of funeral home.

President

Judy Greenwald Cohen

Officers

Cheryl Braver
Phyllis Cohen
Karen Egorin
Robin Elson
Lynne Garfinkel
Laurie Gottlieb
Dorothy Grinberg
Amy Himmel
Dana Himmel
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Christine Stone
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Elaine London
Merrille Weissman
Carol Williams

Executive Director

Cynthia Busis



Age Well Pittsburgh's ElderLink information and referral line is a **FREE** resource for older adults, their family members and caregivers with questions about issues including, but not limited to: recreation, social or wellness activities; geriatric assessment; home care or home health services; assisted living, nursing or rehabilitation options; home-delivered meals; and more.

CALL
412-422-0400

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

For visitation to NCJW members in long-term care facilities. Visits one/two times a month.

For driving to grocery shop and doctor visits, through the Interfaith Volunteer Care program.

If interested, or you want more information, call NCJW's office, 412/421-6118, or Barbara Shore (412/612-6215) or Marion Damick (412/521-3075).

NCJW Thanks You...

In honor of:

Kate Lederman's marriage

Amy Himmel
Karen Egorin
Joan Weinbaum
Susie Jordan
Robin Elson
Phyllis Cohen
Lynne Garfinkel
Sharon Weisberg
Dana Himmel
Gene Dickman
Twyla Sable
Dottie Grinberg

Robin Elson's Mermelstein Award

Karen Egorin
Susie Jordan
Lynette Lederman
Phyllis Cohen
Lynne Garfinkel
Sharon Weisberg
Lynn Farber

Lynn Farber's Dawn Hirsch Memorial Award

Amy Himmel
Karen Egorin
Robin Elson
Lynette Lederman
Phyllis Cohen
Lynne Garfinkel

Deb Teese Ruth Garfinkel Staff Excellence Award

Abram, Philip & Mindy Recht

Lynn Farber's Dawn Hirsch award

Mr & Mrs. Jason Lichtenstein

Bernice & Marvin Herzog, 8 Over 80

Karen Egorin
Twyla Sable
Fran & Ivan Caplan

Ruth Lieber, 8 Over 80

Karen Egorin
Twyla Sable
Fran & Ivan Caplan

Dr. & Mrs. Stanley Marks 25th Anniversary

Fran & Ivan Caplan

Mr. & Mrs. A. Singer's daughter's Bat Mitzvah

Mr. & Mrs. David Rothman

Bert Kossis's special birthday

Lynn & Lance Farber
Lynne, David, Lori & Michael Siegel

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kline's new grandson

Fran & Ivan Caplan
Lynne, David, Lori & Michael Siegel

Denise Malvin's speedy recovery

Ilene & Jim Ross

Gladys Gold's special birthday

Mike & Ellen Siegel

Dr. & Mrs. Allan Schachter's daughter's marriage

Lynne & David Siegel

Cathy Bleckman's Speedy Recovery

Lynne & David Siegel

Mr. & Mrs. Jay Stein's daughter Deana's wedding

Lynne, David, Lori & Michael Siegel

Dr. & Mrs. Allan Schachter's twin grandsons, Joseph Paul & Samuel John Boersma

Betty & Ira Weiss

Linda Wozman's special birthday

Lynne & David Siegel

Dr. Merrill Egorin's speedy recovery

Dr. & Mrs. Paul Caplan
Barb & Ed Siegel

Sol Ruben's special birthday

Mary B. Marks

In memory of:

Ed Weisberg, husband of Sharon Weisberg

Lynette Lederman
Robin Elson
Karen Friedman

Harold "Peewee" Solomon, brother of Eileen Berger

Joe & Betty Berger

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Bachenheimer's uncle

Linda Shensa

Mr. & Mrs. Donnie Mann's father, Ziggy

Lynne & David Siegel

Charles Lando, friend of Mr. & Mrs. Al Zions

Mike & Ellen Siegel

Brennan Frank, son of Toby Frank

Ilene & Jim Ross

Contribution Card

Date: _____

Acknowledge to: _____

Address: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Donor's Name: _____

Donor's Address: _____

Amount (\$5 minimum): _____

Please make checks payable and mail to:

NCJW * 1620 Murray Avenue * Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Phone: 412-421-6118

Fax: 412-421-1121

E-mail: info@ncjwpgh.org

Please clip these lists and add them to your membership directory!

May 7 - July 13, 2005

Address/Phone/Name Changes (in bold)

Marian B. Allen
335 S. Linden Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Sandy Chernew
540 N. Neville Street, #306
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-683-2284

Wendy Feinstein
50 Hazel Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Esther Garfinkel
412-422-5353

Tasi Herman - Tasi **Handelsman**

Minna Nielsen
52 Garetta Street, #902B
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Phyllis Nissel
5600 Munhall Road, #309
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Marolee Pollock
412-681-0766

Maxine Rothman
5825 Fifth Avenue, #104A
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
412-371-7460

Joanne Ross Simon
1235 Squirrel Hill Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Christine Stone
1309 Shady Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

New Members

Linda Bodell
6311 Morrowfield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412-521-0272

Dana Levine
4625 Fifth Avenue #210
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-687-1717

Robin J. Rosen
167 Richmore Drive
Verona, PA 15147
412-793-1954

IN MEMORIAM

Ethyl Corn

Phyllis Goldstein

Irwin Porter

Kate Wurtenberg

"Chairs Wanted" For Pic A Bag and for Book Drive for the Children's Playrooms at the Courts

We are looking for leaders who love children and will coordinate these two wonderful projects. Get involved and feel the satisfaction of knowing that children removed suddenly from their homes for foster care, or who are temporarily residing in shelters, will get a duffel filled with necessities and love from NCJW through Pic A Bag; OR that every child visiting one of our Playrooms at Family/Juvenile, Criminal, or Municipal Court while a parent is involved in a proceeding will leave with a book to call his or her own. You'll have the support of energetic volunteers and the office--we need you to take charge!! Call Cindy at 412-421-6118

Please be sure to register correct e-mail address for the e-mail action alert network. These corrections will ensure that you get up to the minute action alerts regarding the political situation.

Send corrections or new registrations for action alert to info@ncjwpg.org.

