

National Council of Jewish Women
Bergen County Section
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**NCJW GENERAL MEETING FEATURES REMARKABLE ESCAPE FROM IRAN
BY JEWISH WOMAN AS A TEENAGER**

TEANECK – Dr. Sima Goel, author, inspirational speaker, freelance writer and chiropractor, will be the speaker at the April NCJW Bergen County Section General Meeting. The event takes place on April 17, 2018 at 12:30 pm, at Temple Emeth in Teaneck. Iranian-born Dr. Goel's journey began at age thirteen when she spontaneously defended a Baha'i classmate against a schoolyard bully. It triggered events that would eventually take her into danger and far from her beloved homeland. She has dedicated her life to promoting the importance and fragility of freedom.

Dr. Goel lived under two dictatorships: the Shah and the Ayatollah Khomeini. She knew what was at stake and will share her memoir, *Fleeing the Hijab: A Jewish Woman's Escape from Iran*. She will discuss how life in her beloved homeland changed from a paradise to a hell and how she crossed the most dangerous desert in the world rather than accept the restrictions of life in Iran in the early 1980's.

Once a penniless political refugee, now an established Montreal professional, Dr. Goel shares her belief that an authentic life requires freedom of choice, the most precious commodity of all. She is a master storyteller with a peerless perspective on the events that shaped her world. Dr. Goel will tell her story with dignity, passion, clarity and wisdom as she takes us on a journey that speaks to the power of resilience and courage. We will leave enlightened and inspired, and grateful for the myriad privileges available in modern democratic societies.

"I couldn't put this book down," says Elizabeth Halverstam, Co-President of NCJW BCS. "It is a courageous yet heart-wrenching story that will make us all appreciate the freedom we take for granted."

The meeting is free for members. There will be a \$10 charge for non-members applicable toward new membership if paid that day. Refreshments will be served.

NCJW BCS provides educational and stimulating programs and speakers throughout the year, including six general meetings and a myriad of study groups, book groups and trips. For more information on this meeting, or NCJW BCS and its upcoming programs, please contact office@ncjwbcs.org, call 201-385-4847 or visit <http://www.ncjwbcs.org>.

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) 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 and freedoms.

Photo caption:

Dr. Sima Goel will speak to the National Council of Jewish Women Bergen County Section about her flight as a teenager from Iran across the most dangerous desert in the world. The event takes place on April 17, 2018 at 12:30 pm, at Temple Emeth in Teaneck.