



National Council of Jewish Women
Bergen County Section

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**NEW JERSEY ATTORNEY GENERAL PRESENTED WITH AWARD IN BERGEN COUNTY
NCJW Officers Installed**

BERGEN COUNTY – The New Jersey Attorney General, Gurbir S. Grewal, was presented with the National Council of Jewish Women Bergen County Section Hannah G. Solomon award at its Annual Spring Luncheon at The Estate at Florentine Gardens in River Vale on Tuesday, June 4, 2019. Gladys Laden, NCJW BCS Past President, received the Woman of the Section award.

The elegant event celebrated the organization's 96th Anniversary and included a cocktail hour on the lovely outdoor terrace followed by an outstanding lunch. Officers for 2019-2020 were installed, attendees received a beautiful Journal and there was a raffle and a silent auction packed with beautiful gifts.

Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal was appointed by Governor Philip D. Murphy to serve as New Jersey's 61st Attorney General on December 12, 2017. He was confirmed by the New Jersey Senate and assumed the office on January 16, 2018. Before becoming New Jersey Attorney General, Grewal served as Bergen County Prosecutor. Also attending was the current Bergen County Prosecutor, Mark Musella.

The Hannah G. Solomon is named after NCJW's Founder. In 1893 Hannah G. Solomon was asked to organize the participation of Jewish women at the Chicago World's Fair. When she discovered that participation only consisted of pouring coffee, she walked out and, by the end of the World's Fair, had founded the National Council of Jewish Women, changing forever the nature of Jewish women and volunteerism.

Gladys Laden, the recipient of the Woman of the Section Award, is an NCJW Past President and a member since 1964. She has chaired many committees and currently represents NCJW BCS on the Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative, which provides free primary care to low-income working families with no means to pay. Prior to her retirement in 2010 she was the Financial Aid Director at Cornell University Medical College in New York City.

The 2019-2020 Officers who were installed included Bea Podorefsky as the new Honorary President. Marcia Levy continues as Honorary Vice-President. New Co-President Bari-Lynne Schwartz joins Co-Presidents Elizabeth Halverstam and Ruth Seitelman, who were installed for their third year of service.

New Vice-Presidents this year are Joan Cooper, Joan Schnuer and Virginia Wasserman. Phyllis Betancourt, Marilynn Friedman, Karen Kurland, Nanette Matlick, Elaine Meyerson, Joan Ornstein and Ilene Wechter will continue to serve as Vice Presidents. Norma Goldsmith will remain in her role as Recording Secretary and Elizabeth Roditi will continue as Treasurer.

Bari-Lynne Schwartz, Co-President, has over 20 years' experience specializing in planning and policy development for human services. At the Bergen County Department of Human Services, she oversaw contract and grant processes, built community partnerships, and implemented evidenced-based programming. Since joining NCJW Bergen County Section in 2016, she has advocated for NCJW Bergen County Section's social justice causes, served two years as Co-Vice President of Advocacy and Education and co-chaired a Grants Oversight Process. In 2018, she received NCJW's Bergen County Section's Pacesetter Award.

Joan Cooper, Co-Vice President of Advocacy/Education, grew up in the Bronx and attended the Bronx High School of Science. After raising her family, she went to work for a publisher. She was with the company for 27 years and saw the world change from print to online media. She retired five years ago and spends much time in charitable endeavors, when she's not traveling to visit family. She is currently administering the Summer Campership Program for NCJW BCS.

Joan Schnuer, Co-Vice President of Membership, majored in anthropology at Hunter College and received her Master's in Education from the College of New Rochelle. She taught in the Bronx for 30 years, specializing in special education, and taught in an inclusion class for her last ten years. She now co-chairs the HIPPY program (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) and helps to organize NCJW's outings to New Jersey Symphony Orchestra concerts at NJPAC in Newark.

Virginia "Ginny" Koslow Wasserman has been a member of NCJW BCS since June 2010. She has chaired the Trips and Timely Topics committees and was named 2017 Volunteer of the Month in May 2017. She has a BA from CUNY, MSW from the Wurzweiller School of Social Work and was a Doctoral candidate at Columbia University. She retired in 2002 as a clinical social worker and Administrator at Hackensack University Medical Center and has served on the faculty of several graduate programs. She has been involved in advocacy, education and human services for her entire life.

Proceeds from the Annual Spring Luncheon benefit the work of NCJW Bergen County Section, comprising 1,000 members committed to improving the lives of women, children and families. For more information, please visit www.ncjwbc.org or call 201-385-4847.

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.

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