



## **New Jersey Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (NJWELCA)**

**Future of NJ Women of the ELCA** – The board members of the NJWELCA meet regularly to plan activities for our groups. We are aware that participation is dwindling but if we focus on our mission.... We can make this organization stronger with your support. We want you to know that we are here for you and would like you to send ideas and suggestions on how we can make NJWELCA stronger. Many hands make light work and we need all hands on board to make NJWELCA successful.



**We need you!!! NJWELCA's future depends on all of us.**

**We want to know what you are doing in your local NJWELCA groups.**

**Email your suggestions, feedback and comments to: [njwelca@yahoo.com](mailto:njwelca@yahoo.com)**

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In this issue, we would like to share what some of our board members are doing in their communities. We are starting with Wannetta Phillips and Joanne Lucey. At this time the board is made up of six women.

**Wannetta Phillips – Board Member** is passionate about giving back to her communities locally and internationally. Born in Guyana, South America and migrated to the United States as a teenager. She has taught sewing and quilting to students in one of New Jersey Schools in Newark and to young adults in Orange. Each year she travels to Guyana, South American to give back to her community. Recent project in January 2021 include supporting an annual food distribution to seniors of the All Saints Anglican Church in the town where she grew up. Although she could not travel due to COVID19 she worked with other members of the Mission Team, Overseas Disturbance Group in the United States to ship supplies for distribution to the seniors in Guyana.

Over the years she has supported, the handicapped by donating wheelchairs, walking sticks for the visually impaired, school supplies to the local Special Needs School, medical supplies to the local Psychiatric and General Hospitals and donated quilts to hospitals in the town where she grew up and many other charities. She also taught quilting to women in her hometown. She believes that: To whom much is given much will be required (Luke 12:48).



In picture, Ms. Wannetta Hope-Phillips presents the items to Medical Superintendent of the New Amsterdam Hospital Dr. Vasana Henry and Government Medical Officer Dr. Stamon Carr at Center.

### ***Joanne Lucey – President***

The Women of Grace, Bayonne are six to nine women in number. You will find them helping with the distribution of vegetables every Saturday in front of our church, working at the church's boutique store several times a week, some teach music in our music school others are cleaning and or balancing the church's finances.

The women gather two times a month for regular fellowship. This is where sisterhood is re-enforced and life gets a little easier for a short period of time.

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### ***Recapping the Movie Discussion held on November 15, 2020, with Julia Sabella, Board Secretary.***

The subject of this discussion was "On the Basis of Sex", a short biography of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who passed in Sept. 2020. A summary of the film is available on <https://en.Wikipedia.org>. We chose this one because 2020 was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote (19<sup>th</sup> Amendment), there were infinite hurdles for a young female lawyer in the 1950's and a pro bono case with Prof. Ginsburg and the ACLU changed the course of history. The case of *Moritz v. Commissioner* set the precedent for overturning gender-based laws so that there was equal protection under the law. Ruth Ginsburg found her voice, to champion men's and women's cases against discrimination. Despite her impeccable credentials, no major law firm would hire a woman. However, Rutgers hired her to teach sex discrimination cases.

Our group discussed the newly appointed Supreme Court Justice, Amy Barrett, the controversial Presidential elections and our societal roles and missions. Another book and film ("RGB") are available plus interviews with Justice Ginsburg, whose nomination was confirmed with over 90 votes in the Senate in 1993. She was dedicated to change



the laws to be consistent with the societal changes of the country—a real heroine, balancing both career and motherhood, a true inspiration, a pioneer.

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***Save the Dates:***

**Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> @ 2 PM or Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM**  
**Book Discussion with Author Rena Trefman Cobrinik'**  
**A Different Mother**

The New Jersey Women of the ELCA is excited and extremely happy to be able to host two dates for a book discussion with Author Rena Trefman Cobrinik. Rena will be discussing her book, A Different Mother at this free event!

*“A Different Mother reflects Rena Trefman Cobrinik’s life in an immigrant family. As a little girl, growing up in the Bronx during the Great Depression and World War II, she did not recognize the desperation or poverty. She leaned back in the comfort of Yiddish spoken at home. Struggle was a positive energy. Outsmarting life was the bottom line to many family stories but, as she grew older, as an adult responsible for her mother’s end-of-life needs, she would learn that the most amazing parts of the stories had been left out. In A Different Mother, she traces them to very personal and surprising revelations.”*

To find the book:

- Please check with your local library
- or if you belong to a reading group community like GoodReads

The book is also available on Amazon:

Kindle: \$4.99, Kindle Unlimited \$0.00, Paperback \$18.95.

To register for this free event, please either send an email to [njwelca@yahoo.com](mailto:njwelca@yahoo.com) or contact Joanne @ 201-388-0181. Once we receive your registration we will send you the Zoom link with Dial-In by Phone information as well.

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**Women of the ELCA  
Triennial Convention August 3-5, 2021**

The Eleventh Triennial (Churchwide) Convention of the Women of the ELCA, originally scheduled for July 14-16, 2020 has been rescheduled to August 3-5, 2021, due to the global coronavirus pandemic. The rescheduled convention will be digital, with details to be provided in the coming months.

Among the benefits of participating in Women of the ELCA is the opportunity to have a voice in determining the activities and direction of the organization. Where we go and what we do as a churchwide organization will be shaped, in part, by the voting members of the Eleventh Triennial Convention. Voting members of the Eleventh Triennial Convention will elect officers and women to serve on the churchwide executive board for the 2020-2023 triennium.

**Women of the ELCA (Churchwide) Gathering postponed until 2023**

The Just Love (Churchwide) Gathering, scheduled for August 5-8, 2021, has been postponed and registration refunds will be offered. The Churchwide staff is looking for other ways to build community and bring women together virtually in 2021 and 2022. Suggestions? Send your ideas to [www.womenoftheelca.org/contact](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/contact)