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**NCJW**  
120 Years of Social Change

**MISSION STATEMENT**  
National Council of Jewish Women, Inc., is a volunteer organization that has been at the forefront of social change for over a century. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW works to improve the quality of life for women, children and families, and to ensure individual rights and freedoms through programs and projects initiated by its network of 90,000 members and supporters nationwide. ♫



Marisol Rodriguez, Consider College student, shows off cupcakes she baked on Job Shadowing Day at Monroe's Restaurant.

# Bulletin



Vol. 19, No. 3  
March - April 2014  
www.ncjwgrs.org

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section

## COMING EVENTS

### MARCH

WED / 5  
Spring Sojourner  
House Program

WED / 12  
General Board  
Meeting  
7:30 p.m., JCC

THU / 13  
Fast of Esther

SUN / 16  
Purim

### APRIL

SUN / 6  
Hannah G.  
Solomon /  
Woman of the  
Year Brunch

WED / 9  
General Board  
Meeting  
7:30 p.m., JCC

MON / 14  
First Seder,  
Passover

TUE / 22  
Eighth Day of  
Passover

MON / 28  
Yom HaShoah  
(Holocaust  
Memorial Day)

TBA  
Stay-At-Home  
Fund Raising  
Event

HANNAH G. SOLOMON

Please join the  
**National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section**  
at a Recognition Brunch honoring

**Jean Carroll**  
*President and CEO*  
*YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County*  
**Hannah G. Solomon Award Recipient**

**Soralee Cook**  
**NCJW, GRS Woman of the Year  
Award Recipient**

**Sunday, April 6, 2014  
11:00 a.m.**

**Irondequoit Country Club  
4045 East Avenue Rochester, New York**

**You are invited to bring feminine hygiene products to this event  
for distribution to Sojourner House.**

### Hannah G. Solomon and Woman of the Year Brunch Reservation Form

Please mail your check (payable to NCJW, GRS) and this form to:  
Doreen Goldstein, 31 Chatham Woods, Pittsford, NY 14534 **by April 2, 2014**

Supporter: \$36    Patron: \$54    Sponsor: \$72    Benefactor: \$100

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I/We will attend at this level: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No, I cannot attend, but enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to NCJW, GRS

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

NCJW, GRS  
Executive Officers  
2013 - 2015

*President*  
Gina Horowitz

*VP Administration*  
Roselyn Freedman-  
Baum

*VP Membership*  
Nancy Chodak

*Treasurer*  
Vancy S. Boyar

*Acting Recording  
Secretary*  
Mollie Traub

*Financial  
Secretary*  
Judy Slade

*Corresponding  
Secretary*  
Donna Cohen

*Ex Officio*  
Judy Abelman

*Directors  
serving until 2014*

Soralee Cook  
Alison Cresov  
Lynda Garner  
Goldstein  
Susan Kramarsky  
Robin Levitt  
Wendy Moss  
Mollie Traub  
B.J. Yudelson

*Directors  
serving  
until 2015*

Marilyn Fenster  
Ronny Frishman  
Gloria Kaplan  
Dolores Kleinberg  
Jennifer Loviglio  
Peg McNamara  
Arlene Schenker  
Cathy Schneider

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I love Facebook because it's a melting pot, a multigenerational, multilingual gathering of postings, lighthearted to profound, from folks that represent the distances we have traveled in time and space. Here are some posts I received in January.

1. One about the temperature in Curitiba, Brazil -- 22° C (71.6° F). Posted by Vivian, my second cousin once removed, whom I met in 2002 along with 26 other relatives, all descendants of my grandfather's cousin Pepi. Pepi emigrated from Poland to Brazil in the 1930s -- a move for which we all rejoice, since without it there might not have been any descendants at all.

2. One about an exhibit on key moments in the history of doughnut shops in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Posted by Christopher, a childhood friend of my son who owns an award-winning vegan doughnut shop in Brooklyn.

3. Photos of Niagara Falls frozen over due to the polar vortex. Posted by **Doreen Goldstein**.

4. Photos of Jeremy Cooney at RPO, Carrier Dome, and at Lovely Warren's inauguration. Posted by Jeremy, a childhood friend of my son. Jeremy was recently appointed chief of staff for Mayor Warren's administration.

5. Twenty-nine photos of the cast of "Downton Abbey" being totally un-Downton-like. Posted by Margie, a former student of mine.

6. Link to a video about the reunion of two retired circus elephants at Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee. Posted by **Julie Holzbach**.

7. Link to videos about Malika Saada Saar, human rights lawyer and anti-trafficking advocate, showcasing her work with victims of sex trafficking and the fight to curb online prostitution. Posted by NCJW. Ms. Saar will be the featured speaker at the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, March 6-8, in St. Louis, Missouri.

8. "Like" of photo of my son, his girlfriend and me getting ready to zip line during our California celebration of my sister Mollie's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Posted by my great-nephew, Anton.

Most touching: #6

Best feeling of being part of the "in"crowd: #5

Me looking the greatest: #8

One I most recommend that you see: #7 (just type in her name at youtube.com). ≧

**Gina Horowitz**, President  
482-8652, ginarose@rochester.rr.com

## CONSIDER COLLEGE JOB SHADOWING 2014

On January 20, we sent Consider College students to the Fairport Animal Hospital, the University of Rochester Radiology Department, Monroe's Bakery, a Jewish Senior Life art class and Temple Beth-El Keshet Preschool. In years past, we have assigned students somewhat arbitrarily to job sites. This year most of the students went to visit jobs they were considering as careers. The student who went to the preschool will seriously consider getting a child development certificate from the Rochester Education Opportunity Center (REOC). The student who was assigned to the Fairport Animal

Hospital will be studying to be a vet tech at Genesee Community College after she finishes her prerequisites at MCC. The student who went to the art class is interested in studying social work and the young lady who went to the radiology department is interested in EVERYTHING!

As usual, everyone returned to my house for pizza and thank-you note writing. ≧

**Mollie Traub**, Consider College Chair

## 7<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF BOOKS, MOMMY AND ME A SUCCESS

Emilie Buchwald, an award-winning children's novelist, once said, "Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." That's been the hope of the Greater Rochester Section and a primary reason why over the last seven years we have distributed new books to young moms and their children at our annual Books, Mommy and Me program.

As you all know, the program's goal is to encourage young parents to read to their children so the youngsters will learn to love reading and be better prepared when they enter school. This year's Nov. 11 event, co-sponsored as always with the YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County and held at the YWCA's Clinton Avenue facility, attracted about 30 to 35 teen moms and their preschool children. Everyone enjoyed lunch -- assorted sub sandwiches, fruit, chips and cookies -- and the moms decorated book bags and bookmarks, a creative activity coordinated by **Soralee Cook**. Most of the young mothers are enrolled in the YWCA's Teen

Services Program, and several of their case managers attended to help with the program. Eleven GRS volunteers were on hand to socialize with the parents, entertain the children with read-aloud sessions and provide comfortable laps where needed. We

usually expect a rather chaotic afternoon since we never know just how many people will show up, but the children were well-behaved, the moms appeared engaged and this year's event seemed somewhat calmer than previous ones. (No complaints on that front!)

Each year, we've been fortunate to receive a wonderful selection of new Scholastic Books from the Volunteers of America of Western New York. Every child who attended went home with several books, which NCJW volunteers helped their moms select. The YWCA also made



available applications for library cards and an information sheet on the value of reading to young children.

Many thanks go to **Ruth Kramer**, the YWCA's program support specialist (and an NCJW member), and to Janice Johnson, a YWCA case manager, for their fabulous assistance in organizing this event. We are truly grateful to Pat Drake, senior vice president of agency advancement for the Volunteers of America of Western New York, whose ongoing support and generous book donations have kept this program going. I also wish to thank Wegmans for its donation of a gift card to offset food costs. Lastly, I want to thank committee members **Soralee Cook** and **Donna Cohen** for their help in planning Books, Mommy and Me, and our other energetic volunteers -- **Lynne Bishop, Lorraine Dvorin, Carol Fybush, Gina Horowitz, Lois Kuh, Jennifer Loviglio, Diana Nielsen** and **Cathy Schneider** -- for demonstrating NCJW's trademark caring and commitment. ≧

**Ronny Frishman**, Board Member



## JEAN CARROLL, HANNAH G. SOLOMON AWARD

*continued from previous page*

racism. The YWCA has raised its visibility and the positive impact its services can have on girls and women through its Empowering Women luncheon, a fundraising event that is in its eighth year and draws up to 1,600 attendees.

An ardent voice for *all* women, Carroll is a member of the New York Women's Equality Coalition and recently has been advocating for the Women's Equality Act, which includes provisions to break down discrimination barriers and protect pregnant women in the workplace but failed to pass the State Legislature last June. She is a founding member and past president of the Council of Agency Executives and a former member of the United Way Community Investment Division Cabinet. She participated in the *Democrat & Chronicle's* Unite Rochester Initiative, serving as a blogger on racial issues, and was a finalist for the Chamber of Commerce Athena Award and the Rochester Women's Network W Award. Former Mayor Bob Duffy recognized her community service on June 3, 2010, declaring it "Jean Carroll Day."

Join us April 6 as we, too, celebrate this inspiring individual, who has demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of women and children and to ensuring social justice for all -- values that stand at the heart of NCJW. ☞

**Ronny Frishman**, Board Member

## NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The NCJW New York State Public Affairs Committee (NYSPA) convenes monthly in New York City (with conference call access) to review public policy issues of concern nationally and on the state level and consider advocacy actions. Issues highlighted in January included:

- Human trafficking – Governor Cuomo has signed the Safe Harbor Act, now including 17-year-olds. The White House Conference on Human Trafficking is working on a 5-year strategic plan to address the issues.
- Reproductive Rights - The Supreme Court is looking at the Hobby Lobby case. The issue at hand is insurance coverage for birth control and whether the religious rights of corporations can supersede the health care needs of individuals. A second issue under fire in the court is the protected buffer zone around women's health care clinics; its constitutionality is being questioned on the basis of free speech rights. NCJW has signed on to an amicus brief saying that the buffer zone does not impinge on constitutional rights since it is not specific to any class or group. No one can trespass this zone. Only those having business in and out of the clinic can enter the zone.
- Social Media – An overview was presented on how to use Facebook most effectively and create awareness and action for NCJW advocacy issues.

- State Public Policy Advocacy Day in Albany - NYSPA is considering an Albany Advocacy Day this spring. Discussion focused on when to hold the event (several dates are under consideration) and whether it should be a single lobbying date with training in advance, or as in the past, an overnight with training the afternoon before lobbying.

Watch for more information in future bulletins. ☞

**Judy Abelman**, Ex Officio

## IN THE FAMILY

*Speedy Recovery to:*

**Judy Abelman**  
**Gloria Kaplan**  
Laura, daughter of  
**Cathy Schneider**

*Condolences to:*

The family of **Lorraine Hall**,  
on her passing  
The family of **Etta Atkin** on  
her passing  
**Peg McNamara** on the loss  
of her dear friend, John  
Phelan

To list your simchas and sorrows in the bulletin, please contact **Cathy Schneider** at [cathy@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cathy@rochester.rr.com). Also, contact **Cathy** for tribute cards. ☞

*Welcome our  
New Members!*

*Joy Getnick*

*Lori Harter*

*Linda Maehr*

## CHANUKAH BRUNCH WRAP-UP

On November 24, 2013, NCJW,GRS celebrated the early arrival of Chanukah with a delicious brunch held at The Summit at Brighton. Because it was the first time in over 150 years that the Festival of Lights occurred before Thanksgiving, there were many jokes about turkey legs and potato latkes sharing the same holiday plates.

The entertainment was provided by professional actress, singer and dancer Janine Mercandetti, who sang Broadway tunes written by Jewish composers. She and her pianist rocked the Multi-Purpose Room with her heartfelt renditions of old well-known favorites. This performance was the perfect way to end our holiday brunch and we received many compliments about the program.

Thanks to **Robin Levitt** and **Vancy S. Boyar** who co-chaired the event, and to **Barbara Drachman**, who collected the reservations and money. NCJW members and the guests from The Summit donated items for the P.A.D. Project (Providing Access and Dignity) for young women in need of feminine hygiene products. A silent auction was also held. **Soralee Cook** donated one of her handmade dolls, and **Donna Cohen** won a framed photograph of Highland Park and donated it to The Summit. ☞

**Robin Levitt**, Board Member

## NCJW, GRS SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2014-2015

The NCJW, GRS nominating committee, consisting of **Arline Seideman, Karen Lustig, Lois Taubman, Peg McNamara, Soralee Cook** and **Mollie Traub**, presents the following slate of officers and directors for 2014-2015. Voting for this slate will take place at the Woman of the Year / Hannah G. Solomon recognition brunch on April 6.

### GRS Officers

President	Sandra Frankel
VP Administration	Soralee Cook
VP Membership	Nancy Chodak
VP Ways and Means	Doreen Goldstein
Treasurer	Vancy S. Boyar
Financial Secretary	Judy Slade
Recording Secretary	Kourtney Spaulding
Immediate Past President	Gina Horowitz

### Directors serving until 2015

\*second year of a two-year term

Marilyn Fenster  
Ronny Frishman  
Gloria Kaplan  
Dolores Kleinberg  
Jennifer Loviglio\*  
Peg McNamara\*  
Arlene Schenker  
Cathy Schneider

### Directors serving until 2016

Robin Levitt  
Wendy Moss  
Donna Cohen  
Lori Harter  
Jan Feldman  
Mollie Traub



**Chanukah  
brunch at  
The Summit at  
Brighton**

## SORALEE COOK, NCJW WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Let's congratulate **Soralee Cook**, our new NCJW,GRS Woman of the Year! As a mother, wife, daughter, artist, activist and volunteer, Soralee has journeyed through life molding and smoothing the years as if she were skillfully shaping clay on a wheel. Soralee joined NCJW, GRS around 1970. According to her friend **Carol Fybush**, "Little did I realize when I asked her to join me at various NCJW events that she would dive in whole-heartedly and in her own quiet way become a treasured asset to our organization."

Together they developed Oscar Night into a popular member event and continue to choose the movies for the Reel Women gatherings at Pittsford Cinema. Soralee has designed the Stay-at-Home fundraising invitation, participated in the Artist in the Park and Artists in Residence events and, most recently, planned the craft activity for teen moms at the annual Books, Mommy and Me program at the YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County. She serves on the NCJW,GRS board and is on the slate to hold the position of vice president of administration for the next two years.



**Mollie Traub**, who started NCJW's Consider College mentoring program in 2006, said, "Soralee, along with **Peg McNamara** and **Arline Seideman**, has been a devoted mentor to three lovely girls with very complicated lives. On more than one occasion she has gone well above and beyond the call of duty to provide comfort and aid."

Soralee attended the RIT School of Art and Design when it was still a city school. She would occasionally drop in to the American Craftsman School on campus, visits that sparked a lifelong interest and love of working with clay.

Post graduation she spent a few years at the former McCurdy's department store downtown as a window designer, working six days a week because the men wanted the weekends off. Not deterred by the male-dominated workplace, she made her mark and caught the eye of her supervisor, who allowed her to design her own windows, not a common practice at the time for a young woman.

Volunteering was always a part of her life and what started out as a volunteer position at the PACT (Parent and Child Training) program through Strong Memorial Hospital became a full-time paid position as outreach coordinator. Soralee witnessed the depths of poverty and its effects on the young parents

and babies in her charge, and still gets emotional remembering how these young families lived, conditions that for many continue to this day.

Soralee spent 25 years displaying her art, doing two to three shows per year-- the Clothesline (her favorite), the Waterfront Arts Festival in Canandaigua, and the Park Avenue Festival. The Shoestring Gallery honored her as a showing artist for years. Always attracted to clay, when Color Me Mine opened its doors Soralee began teaching and managing the store. When her hands could no longer tolerate working with clay, she turned her artistry to doll making, finding the softness of the cloth easier to manage. All of her work is handmade: the faces, clothing and interior. She finishes and refinishes the expressions, until they become faces she knows and loves.

She and her husband, Marv, have three children: Michael (Beth) from Lake Oswego, Oregon; Caren (Michael) from Atlanta, Georgia; and Neil (Lisa), from Webster. In addition, Marv and Soralee enjoy the company of their three grandchildren, Jason, Halle, and Alexandra.

We thank Soralee for all her contributions to our section and the community. I hope you will join me on April 6 to celebrate this beautiful life and our new NCJW Woman of the Year. ☺

**Vancy S. Boyar**, Treasurer

## JEAN CARROLL, YWCA PRESIDENT AND CEO, TO RECEIVE THE 2014 HANNAH G. SOLOMON AWARD

The list of Rochester's past Hannah G. Solomon Award winners is indeed impressive, but if ever there were a 21st-century leader who embodies the spirit and ideals of NCJW and its visionary founder it is this year's honoree: Jean Carroll. As head of the YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County and a fervent advocate for women -- particularly the more vulnerable in our community -- Carroll has dedicated herself to the YWCA's mission of "eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all."

A cum laude graduate of the SUNY Albany business school, Carroll began her nonprofit career in Rochester as finance director for Puerto Rican Youth Development. She moved to the YWCA in 1985 as its controller, becoming the organization's assistant executive director in 1985 and its president and chief executive officer (CEO) in 1995. She is known for her strategic planning skills and her passion to improve the lives of girls and women, especially those facing personal challenges such as homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse or teen pregnancy.

Founded in 1883 by 11 local women who saw a need for housing for young women, the Rochester organization eventually opened a boarding house and offered employment and educational services under the auspices of the national YWCA. Today, the local YWCA serves about 1,000 women and

girls annually through its housing and teen services programs; 62 percent of its clients are African American, 19 percent are Hispanic and 23 percent are Caucasian.

Under Carroll's leadership, the YWCA has adapted and broadened its services to meet community needs. Recognizing the shortage in affordable housing, the YWCA has been renovating its building at 175 North Clinton Ave. -- with the help of state, federal and local funding -- to create 14 new residential units, increasing its total units to 110. When completed, the space will include common areas and laundry facilities. The YWCA also has expanded the capacity of its emergency housing program to accommodate more women and children.

For the teen population, YWCA staff provide invaluable services that help young women complete school and prepare them to lead healthy, productive lives. The YWCA provides support to pregnant and parenting teens at five schools in the Rochester City School District. The organization has a case manager who works with students attending Monroe Community College and offers ongoing support to young parents continuing their education. In-home supports and parenting education for young parents are provided through the nationally recognized "Parents as Teachers" program. Youth



development and service learning opportunities are available to young adults attending the Avenue D Recreation Center in collaboration with the City of Rochester.

In 2002, Carroll led the local YWCA to renew its commitment to fight prejudice and injustice by incorporating the words "eliminating racism, empowering women" into its logo. She also was the force behind bringing to Rochester in 2010 the national campaign "Stand Against Racism," which aims to reduce intolerance and strengthen communities. To date, about 15,000 people in 200 companies, nonprofits, universities, faith communities, health organizations and small businesses have signed on to the yearly campaign to spread awareness about

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