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National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

WED / 14
General Board Meeting
7:30 p.m., JCC

MON / 19
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

WED / 11
General Board Meeting
7:30 p.m., JCC
with Guest Speaker Elaine Spaul, Executive Director, Center for Youth

MARCH

WED / 11
General Board Meeting
7:30 p.m., JCC

Women's Equality Act

Books, Mommy and Me

Consider College

Sojourner House Life Skills

Combatting Human Trafficking

P.A.D. Project

Environmental Impacts



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.



Oscar Night is Coming Soon!
Stay tuned for details!

Seeking chairs for the:

- Closing Event/ Installation (keynote speaker, Jody Rabhan, director of the NCJW Washington Office) in May
- Sojourner House Life Skills Program



If interested, contact **Sandy Frankel**, at [473-5872](tel:473-5872) or frankel@rochester.com.

RAISE A GLASS OF GOOD CHEER FOR THE GREAT WORK OUR MEMBERS HAVE DONE IN 2014.....



AND FOR ALL TO COME IN 2015!

President
Sandra Frankel

Treasurer
Vancy Boyar

VP Membership
Nancy Chodak

VP Administration
Soralee Cook

VP Ways and Means
Mollie Traub

Financial Secretary
Judy Slade

Recording Secretary
Kourtney Spaulding

Immediate Past
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Gina Horowitz

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Robin Levitt

Jennifer Loviglio

Peg McNamara

Wendy Moss

Arlene Schenker

Cathy Schneider

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The holiday season reminded us of just how fortunate we are for the many blessings in our lives, and for that we are truly thankful. At the same time, we also know that many people continue to experience hunger, housing challenges, unemployment, obstacles to educational success, security concerns, and more. As volunteer members of NCJW, GRS, we strive to help improve the lives of those in need and to promote social justice in our community and country. I want to thank our members and partner organizations for making a positive difference. What you do matters!

In the aftermath of the November 2014 elections, our public policy agenda will require rigorous education and advocacy with legislators. We will continue to work towards approval of the New York State Women's Equality Act and to inform about environmental impacts on our health and communities.

We will continue "Providing Access and Dignity" through the P.A.D. project that supplies feminine hygiene products to girls and women who cannot afford these personal care items, and we welcome our new partner, the Center for Youth.

At City Hall in Rochester in November, I met with women in government from Afghanistan who work on women's issues and elections. We shared information about our respective experiences in government and discussed some of the successes and challenges that they face. In the aftermath of Taliban control, many Afghan girls can now go to school. As a result, educated women are participating in government and other aspects of their society to a greater extent, and they are achieving increasingly more responsible

positions. That said, concerns persist related to security, including human trafficking. They shared stories about a 7-year-old girl who went missing, and about women lost to this scourge. The primary point of contact between predators and their victims is the telephone rather than the internet. We all have a lot of work to do to put an end to this type of crime, and we will continue to work with stakeholders in our community towards this goal.

A major concern that emerged from the general election in 2014 was low voter turnout. According to the Associated Press, only 32.5 percent of the 10.9 million registered voters in New York State went to the polls. Voter turnout in Monroe County was also low. There are many reasons for this, but as fewer and fewer people participate in our election process, our "government of the people, by the people, and for the people" is put at risk. That's why it is important for NCJW, GRS to work with partner organizations like the League of Women Voters and faith community groups to increase voter registration and voter turnout. Please consider getting involved in this effort in 2015.

And speaking of 2015, I want to wish all of you a very happy and healthy New Year. ☺

Sandra L. Frankel, President
[473-5872](tel:473-5872)
frankel@rochester.rr.com

**Remember you can
keep up to date with
NCJW, GRS news
on our website:
www.ncjwgrs.org**

"CONSIDER COLLEGE" IS WINDING DOWN

On November 16, sixteen Consider College students and mentors attended a Rochester Broadway Theater League matinee performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." The music and the dancing were tons of fun. Some, but not all of the students knew the bible story of Joseph and the coat of many colors. The mentors either took their mentees for brunch before the performance or dinner afterward. As the mentees mature, they call well in advance if they are not able to participate in an activity. They generally answer texts or e-mails, and they are pretty easy to reach in general.

We started Consider College in 2007 with 6th graders at School No. 17. The following year we added a second group of students and in 2008, a third group. The classes of 2012, 2013 and 2014 have graduated. The remaining 4 students will graduate in 2015. We hope to hold an annual cultural activity as well as an end-of-year dinner until our funds are depleted.

At this point, we are in touch with 27 students. Of these, one is married, five have children, two are working on a GED, seven are in college, one lives in California but keeps in touch when he's in town, two are temporarily missing in action, and four will graduate high school in June.

Over the course of eight years, Consider College has received \$34,000 in grants from the Rochester City School District, Wegman Foundation, Ames Amzalak Foundation, Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation and Max and Marian Farash Foundation.

We've spent funds on the following:

- Family picnics
 - A Chanukah party
 - Deposits into college bookstore accounts
 - Ice skating
 - An afternoon at Color Me Mine
 - Bus trips to the University of Rochester, SUNY Brockport, SUNY Geneseo, RIT, MCC Henrietta campus, the MCC Technology Center, and St. John Fisher College
- We've provided job shadowing experiences at:
- Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield
 - Fairport Animal Hospital
 - University of Rochester Radiology Department
 - Monroe's Bakery
 - A Jewish Senior Life art class
 - Temple Beth-El Pre-School
 - Rochester Athletic Club, among others

The goal has been to try to begin to break the cycle of poverty and to encourage low-income Rochester City School District students to aspire to college and careers by exposing them to activities they do not have the means to participate in and to events and programs they would not ordinarily attend, in order to level the playing field with their suburban counterparts who have many more opportunities for enrichment.

A corollary benefit has been the exposure of NCJW members to the realities of poverty. For the first year of Consider College we hired buses to pick up the students and take them to each activity. Mentors would meet the buses at the various venues. After a year, mentors felt comfortable enough with their mentees and the families to venture into neighborhoods that were unfamiliar at best and uncomfortable at worst. We have all come a long way, baby.

We mentors look forward to continuing to be involved with our mentees as they graduate college and begin to find meaningful careers. ☺

Mollie Traub, Chairperson
442-7521

BOOKS, MOMMY AND ME Brings Reading and More to Young Moms and their Children

For eight years, our "Books, Mommy and Me" program has been a day of books, crafts, food, and fun for teen moms and their children. This year, we broadened the "fun" by including some special guests -- a bear, a raccoon, a monkey, a sheep dog, a lamb and a turtle. The entourage came courtesy of Marabeth Nally, a local puppeteer and story teller who mesmerized our young attendees with her songs, stories and furry friends (even the turtle was soft and cuddly).

Co-sponsored with the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County and held at the YWCA's North Clinton Avenue facility,



the Veterans Day program drew 10 young women (two pregnant) and 14 children. Though most years the experience is a cross between mayhem and structured chaos, this year's event was remarkably calm and orderly. Most of the children were older than in the past, and they were delightful and well-behaved. After a lunch of sub sandwiches, fruit, chips and cookies, the moms and kids decorated book bags, a craft activity organized by our own in-house artist, **Soralee Cook**. Then, instead of reading to the youngsters as we've done in previous years, Marabeth gathered the children around for a half-hour of storytelling and singing. Her hand puppets were eerily lifelike and the children loved "petting" them.

We never know exactly who will show up for Books, Mommy and Me, but fortunately this year's age group was perfect for the entertainment.

The goal of this early childhood literacy program is to encourage young parents to read aloud to their children and to foster a love of books and reading; research has shown

that children who are read to are better prepared when they start school. Each child went home with brand new Scholastic Books provided by the Volunteers of America of Western

New York. Beautiful board books, some in Spanish and English, also were distributed by Deanna Krusenstjerna, co-president of the Brighton Rotary Club, who received a special grant from the club to purchase the books from Barnes and Noble. The YWCA made sure there were additional gifts for the moms and children.

I want to thank **Ruth Kramer**, the YWCA's program support specialist (and an NCJW



member), and Janice Johnson, a YWCA case manager, for their wonderful organizing skills and support. Ruth suggested Marabeth, and all agreed that her

appearance was a big asset to this year's program. As always, NCJW,GRS is grateful to the Volunteers of America of Western New York, whose generous book donations have kept Books, Mommy and Me alive. Many thanks also to Deanna and Chuck Krusenstjerna and to Brighton Rotary for their help and generosity. Wegmans deserves a big thank-you for again choosing to support our program with a gift card for food. Finally, I want to thank the YWCA staff who helped with the program, and our loyal NCJW,GRS

women -- **Soralee Cook, Donna Cohen, Lynne Bishop and Cathy Schneider** -- who year after year make sure it's a great day for the kids and their moms. ≧



Ronny Frishman
586-9260

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE WOMEN'S EQUALITY ACT It's not radical. It's common sense.

On Tuesday, December 2, 2014, NCJW presented a program on the Women's Equality Act (WEA). More than 60 people from a variety of organizations were in attendance. We thank all of the co-sponsoring organizations: Women of Reform Judaism/TBK Sisterhood, Planned Parenthood of Central & Western New York, Genesee Valley Chapter of the NYCLU, Rochester Chapter of Hadassah, Interfaith Impact of New York State, YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County, and the American Association of University Women- Greater Rochester Area Branch.

Our first speaker was Rabbi Peter Stein, senior rabbi at Temple B'rith Kodesh. Rabbi Stein spoke about the Jewish value of equality and why we should engage with this issue. He cited examples from the Torah, which still resonate today. He also spoke of the importance of the issue to him as a parent, with both a daughter and a son.

Our presenter, who stepped in for us only a few days prior to the event, was Kaelyn Rich, director of the Genesee Valley Chapter of the New York

Civil Liberties Union. Kaelyn gave an overview of the WEA, explaining each of the 10 points, several of which are very complex. She highlighted the facts and the misconceptions, pointing out information new to many in the room and clarifying points that had been bandied about during the recent election. The strategy for moving forward in the new year is still under discussion, but you can be assured that NCJW will be involved.

Following the formal presentation and Q & A, many of the attendees moved on to a reception where they stayed and schmoozed, meeting people from other organizations and talking with the presenters.

Special thanks to the NCJW Public Affairs Committee: **Vancy Boyar, Gina Horowitz, Ronny Frishman, Jennifer Loviglio** (co-chair of the program), **Wendy Moss, Arlene Schenker, Cathy Schneider, Ruth Sklarsky** and to **Ellen Solomon**, NCJW member and liaison with the TBK Sisterhood. ≧

Judy Abelman
461-0282

TREASURER'S REPORT

The fiscal year end of our section is June 30. Our accountants Gordon & Chodak have prepared our financial statements, and appropriate tax returns have been filed. All state filing fees are paid.

Both the tax return and financials are available for review on request.

In addition, the current year's budget was approved at the October board meeting. This budget was proposed by the Finance Committee based upon deliberations and goals set at the June planning meeting. The current budget reflects spending in the areas of advocacy (WEA and the environment), community outreach (P.A.D. project) and sex trafficking (along with coalition partners), to name a few of our local initiatives. Our program support helps to fund national initiatives such as Bench Mark, Reproductive Justice, Exodus, and Higher Ground. Our fundraising goals support these important local and national efforts. ≧

Vancy Boyar
381-5086

SAVE THE DATE for an important discussion exploring personal care and household products for a healthier you, family and environment. The NCJW principle of protecting the environment with an eye toward a sustainable future requires us to seriously consider the human impact on disease and the world around us.

Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at King's Bend Park in Pittsford. Speaker will be Kate Winnebeck from the NYS Pollution Prevention Institute, www.rit.edu/affiliate/nysp2i.

If you want to volunteer to help with this program, please call **Arlene Schenker** at 271-7626 or **Vancy Boyar** at 381-5086. ≧

THANK YOU TO ADVERTISERS

The National Council of Jewish Women Membership Book has become one of our major fund raisers over the years. It provides information about NCJW, our projects, and our board of directors, and provides an opportunity for local businesses to advertise.

We wish to thank these special people for all their support over the years: ADT, A Different Point of View, Access Lifts and Ramps, Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, Balsam Bagels, Brickstone, Brighton Memorial Chapel, Brownstein's Deli and Bakery, Canandaigua National Bank, Chateau Wine & Spirits, Donna Clare Custom Designing, Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Cooley Brand, Cornell's Jewelers, Davey Tree and Landscape, ESL, Eastview Mall, Economy Paper, Eight Branches Acupuncture, Ethan Allen Home Interiors, Eye Openers, Feldman Heating & Cooling, Fox's Restaurant, Friendly Senior Living, Get Noticed Rochester, Glen Moscoe Jewelers, Gordon and Chodak, CPAs, Gro-Moore Farms, Highlands at Pittsford, Hoffman Appliance, Hollywood Service Center, Hurlbut Care Communities, Jewish Ledger, Jines Restaurant, John H. McGee & Son, Key Bank, Kittelberger Florist, Lee B. Bradley Flooring, M&T Bank, Mann's Jewelers, MAPCO Auto Parks,

Maynard's Electric Supply, Monroe's Restaurant, Nancy Moscov Rapp, Northfield Goldsmith, Pontillo's Pizzeria, Ray Case Floors, Rochester Financial Services, Rochester Ophthalmological Group, PC, Sammy's Appliance Service, Senator Joseph Robach, St. John's Meadow, Soulstice Artisan Market, The Summit at Brighton, Tops Friendly Markets, Van Bortel, Vision Automotive Group, Wegmans, Christopher Williams Agency, Lorraine Wolch, CPA's PC, Robert J. Zeman, State Farm Insurance, Zweigle's. And as always a special thank you to our printer, Remy Fenster. Without his patience, this would never get done!

As members PLEASE consider supporting these fine businesses in our community. Let them know you saw their ad in our NCJW Membership Book. If you have additional business's that you think might like to advertise with us, PLEASE ask them. If not let us know and we will contact them.

Again, thanks to everyone for allowing NCJW to make a difference! ≧

Donna Cohen
Gloria Kaplan
Raquet19@aol.com,
271-7458

IN THE FAMILY

Mazel Tov to:

Sandy Frankel on her granddaughter Sarah's Bat Mitzvah

Sandy Frankel on her granddaughter Hannah's wedding

Barbara Orenstein on the birth of her grandson, Avi

Linda Bardenstein on the birth of her grandchild, Camden

Get Well Wishes to:

Rona Wyner
Art Segal

Condolences to:

Soralee Cook on the passing of her mother, Bessie Kopen ≧

Tribute Cards

Tribute cards are a meaningful way to express your sympathy, honor family and friends, and commemorate special occasions and life cycle events. Your donation helps support NCJW projects. To have a card sent, contact **Cathy Schneider** at 586-7575 or cathy@rochester.rr.com.

SNEAK PREVIEW OF COALITION PARTNER WEBSITE

If you visit the Rochester Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking website, at www.rrcaht.org, you will see that it is on its way to becoming a comprehensive website that will be used by victims seeking help, as well as professionals in the fields of hospitality, law enforcement, medicine and education. It will also be of interest to citizens of our region who want to learn more about the problems of human trafficking locally and beyond.

On the website's Home page at present, you will have an opportunity to sign a petition in support of passing the New York Trafficking Protection and Justice Act (A.2240D/S.5879B). This bill, if passed, will protect minors trafficked into the commercial sex

industry, hold their abusers accountable, and help New York take steps to eliminate all forms of modern-day slavery. Known as TVPJA, it will improve current laws dealing with human trafficking.

Also on the Home page is the "Latest Traffic Report," which allows visitors to access up-to-date articles on human trafficking from around the country and around the world. The variety and scope is impressive, thanks to Judy Weinstein, Anne Ghory-Goodman and Peg Billyard.

The website also contains videos. If, for example, you missed WXXI's Need to Know special, "Human Trafficking in Monroe County," with host H el ene Biandudi Hofer, the

entire program is accessible. Two short videos on the home page introduce viewers to the Safe Harbor (Harbour) Act, which guarantees that sexually exploited youth be treated as child victims, not as perpetrators of crime, and be offered services to pave the way for better outcomes in their lives. There are additional videos on the Video page.

National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Rochester Section, is a member of the RRCAHT. I hope you'll spend some time exploring this brand new local website. It provides an excellent opportunity to learn. ≧

Gina Horowitz,
Board Member, 482-8652



P.A.D. PROJECT

Members of NCJW,GRS P.A.D. Project deliver personal kits containing sanitary napkins, tampons, and Scensible disposal bags to the Street Outreach Program of the Center for Youth. ≧

HELP WANTED
Assistant Facebook Administrator

Learn How to:

- Add activities to the Save-The-Date page
- Upload bulletins
- Create internal and external links

It's really tons of fun, but there should be more than one person in this position.

Contact **Mollie Traub** at 442-7521 or mtraub@rochester.rr.com

TO OUR SNOWBIRDS

If you are fleeing the snow but still want to receive the NCJW Bulletin during your months away, please email your winter address to **Judy Slade** at jslade1@rochester.rr.com or call her at 442-6526. ≧

We invite your participation in NCJW, GRS programs and projects. To find out more about your interests, talents, and time, we will be conducting a survey. Please help us help others by responding. Please also include your current contact information so that we can be sure that our records are up-to-date – Nancy Chodak.