

Bulletin

NCJWSM

Vol. 21, No. 1
September October 2015
www.ncjwgrs.org
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National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

COMING EVENTS

SEP

MON / 7
Labor Day

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

MON-TUE / 14-15
Rosh Hashanah

WED / 23
Yom Kippur

MON / 28
Sukkot

OCT

MON / 5
Shemini Atzeret

TUE / 6
Simchat Torah

WED / 7
Opening Event
7:30 p.m.

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

NOV

TUE / 3
Election Day

SUN / 8
Painting with a
Purpose

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

WED / 11
Veterans Day
Books, Mommy &
Me at YWCA

THU / 26
Thanksgiving

TBA
Stay at Home

NCJW,GRS OPENING EVENT

Poverty: Our Crisis and Our Response

Edward Doherty,
featured speaker
Retired Vice President
of Community Programs at
Rochester Area
Community Foundation
and author of
Rochester's "Poverty Report"



Wednesday, October 7, 2015
7:30 p.m.

at Temple Sinai, 363 Penfield Road, Rochester 14625

Q & A and light refreshments to follow program

*Admission is free and open to the public, but registration is requested.
To RSVP, either call 586-7575 or email: frishman@rochester.rr.com*

Co-sponsors of the NCJW poverty program (as of 7/23/15)

Beth Shalom Sisterhood
The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
First Unitarian Church
Jewish Family Service
Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester
Rochester Chapter of Hadassah
Rochester NOW
Planned Parenthood of Central & Western New York
Temple Beth David
The Center for Youth
The Children's Agenda
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Willow Domestic Violence Center
Women of Reform Judaism/TBK Sisterhood
YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County

**NCJW,GRS
Officers & Board
2015 - 2016**

Co-Presidents
Vancy Boyar
Soralee Cook

VP Membership
Nancy Chodak

VP Administration
Donna Cohen

Treasurer
Nira Tobochnik

Financial Secretary
Barbara Grosh

Recording Secretary
Lisa Waltzer

*Immediate Past
President*
Sandra Frankel

*Honorary National
Board Member*
Judy Abelman

Board Members

Jan Feldman
Marilyn Fenster
Stacey Freed
Ronny Frishman
Gina Horowitz
Gloria Kaplan
Robin Levitt
Jennifer Loviglio
Peg McNamara
Wendy Moss
Helene Newman
Arlene Schenker
Cathy Schneider
Ruth Sklarsky
Judy Slade
Amy Stein

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

L'Shanah Tovah, A Happy and Sweet New Year for us all.

Welcome to our newest board members- **Stacey Freed, Barbara Grosh, Helene Newman, Nira Tobochnik, Amy Stein** and **Lisa Waltzer**. Your new and creative ideas are already making an impact in our work.

We also want to welcome back and thank those board members who are continuing in their tenure or have stayed on for another term. Your time, experience and insights are invaluable.

You can be very proud of your NCJW section. Because of your participation and our volunteer board, we managed programs educating and advocating for the Women's Equality Agenda; supported women in transition at Sojourner House; continued our PAD project educating and advocating on financial issues affecting women in poverty; learned from an RIT speaker on the many pollutants affecting our environment and health, and some actionable steps to take now; and ended the year hearing about the many changes to come at the RPO. We continue supporting graduates from our Consider College program by giving those in college an annual book scholarship.

In addition to the volunteer time and support, we have been acknowledged by the Farash Foundation with a \$2,000 grant toward our PAD project.

There's more work to be done. As active members in our community you are all too familiar with the issues of poverty, violence, the environment and economic injustice still plaguing our city and especially women and families. Lack of affordable child care, sensible gun legislation, protecting our environment, gender inequality, and voting rights are but a few areas where our work can take us. In the past, our section has always been in the forefront

of these battles as they affect all of us as women. More than ever it is critically important for us to stand for the issues of justice for all. We all share in the responsibility of "tikkun olam" and look to you for your time and support. Many hands make for easy work.

There are several ways to strengthen our section. Start small: share your email, "like" us on our Facebook page, visit our new website or complete a volunteer interest form to share your ideas and passions. Your financial support is also critical. Attending events and programs throughout the year is another way to show your support for our work.

Together we can continue our strong NCJW,GRS history and make a difference in our community. ≧

Co-Presidents

Soralee Cook, jaysoralee@frontiernet.net
Vancy S. Boyar, vsboyar@gmail.com

Tribute Cards

Please contact Cathy Schneider at 586-7575 to inform your fellow section members of family life cycle events that you would like printed in the bulletin and to order tribute cards. Tribute cards are a meaningful way to honor life cycle events and support NCJW projects.

OPENING EVENT

Poverty: Our Crisis and Our Response

*Edward Doherty,
author of Rochester's
special poverty report,
featured speaker*

Poverty and its devastating effects have moved to the forefront of local concerns since a 2013 report revealed the high degree to which poverty is concentrated in the Rochester community and the detrimental impact it has on education and other public services in the city.

Edward Doherty, the former vice president of community programs at the Rochester Area Community Foundation and the author and primary researcher of that landmark report, will discuss his research findings and the state of community action at the Greater Rochester Section's opening event.

The program, "Poverty: Our Crisis and Our Response," will be held at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 7, at Temple Sinai, 363 Penfield Road, Brighton. Admission is free.

Doherty has spent the last 40 years focusing on the challenges facing the Rochester community. He worked for the City of Rochester for more than three decades, serving as budget director and then commissioner of environmental services. His government service included overseeing public works, ensuring quality drinking water, managing large-scale public improvements, cleaning up hazardous waste sites and caring for the city's infrastructure.

At the Community Foundation, Doherty, who retired in April 2014, oversaw grant making and community leadership functions, with a focus on early childhood development, education, youth and families, and community engagement. He played a critical role in launching ACT Rochester, a community indicators program that gathers timely data to promote community problem solving.

Since the release two years ago of "Poverty and the Concentration of Poverty in the Nine-County Greater Rochester Area," Doherty has given about 50 community presentations and participated in other events to educate people about the report's findings. He currently serves on the steering committee of the Rochester-Monroe County Anti-Poverty Initiative, which was created to effect positive change and turn the city around.

Doherty sits on the boards of the Children's Agenda, Parks and Trails of New York and the Genesee Land Trust. He holds a bachelor's degree from St. John Fisher College and a master's in public administration from the State University of New York at Brockport.

Join us to learn what's being done to pull Rochester out of poverty and to hear about possible ways that NCJW can help. ≧

IN THE FAMILY

Mazel tov to:

Randi Fox Tabb on being awarded the "Jan Katz Grinspoon Award" for excellence in Jewish education, and on her son Josh's engagement

Kourtney Spaulding on her graduation

Rabbi Amy Sapowith on her new rabbinic position in Virginia

Get well wishes to:

Robert Simon
Beth Bruner

Condolences to:

The family of **Felice Harris** on her passing

Joan Clar on the passing of her mother, Diane Rock

The family of **Sue** and Gary Tebor on the passing of Gary's mother, **Lea**

Lorraine Dvorin on the passing of her father

Karen Moscoe on the passing of her mother, Julia Winterman

The Sischy family on the passing of David's sister, Ingrid

The family of **BJ Yudelson** on her passing ≧

CLOSING – INSTALLATION EVENT

NCJW,GRS ended the year on a high note with 90 attendees enjoying an informative talk by Ward Stare, the new music director of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. The closing event, held in the atrium at Max of Eastman Place, included the installation of the 2015-2016 board of officers as well as the naming of the recipient of the Emerging Leader Award.

Stare spoke of his desire to make the RPO more appealing and accessible to a broader audience by using social media, interactive devices during concerts, and performances in new venues. He is not afraid to try new things, he said, and adjust as he learns. Stare described his process for planning a season of music, which takes into consideration the nationality of composers, the kinds of music and the schedules of out-of-town soloists, among other elements. Following the talk he answered questions from the audience.

“Maestro Ward Stare was informative and engaged with a very willing audience,” said NCJW board co-president **Vancy Boyar**.

Event co-chairs **Cathy Schneider** and **Ruth Sklarsky** chose the elegant venue and cultural theme to celebrate the end of a productive year. Open to the public, the event featured light appetizers as well as the installation, overseen by honorary national vice-president **Judy Abelman**. **Jennifer Loviglio** received the Emerging Leader Award for her contributions to the organization.

Reflecting on the successful evening, event co-chair **Cathy Schneider** said she was impressed that Stare answered so many questions and even stayed on after the program to talk with small groups. “I think the RPO’s subscriptions will get another boost,” she said. ≧

COUNCIL INVESTORS

In 1998, a group of NCJW women got together to talk about investments. They decided to form Council Investors. Once a month this group of women gathered to learn about investing in the stock exchange. As one of the original members, I had the opportunity to meet and get to know so many interesting and exciting women. We shared information about the companies that we were responsible for, talked about new companies we might be interested in and made investment decisions.

Now it is 2015 and the stock market is at a high point so we have decided to sell our portfolio.

Council Investors proved to be a very financially successful group. Now, many of us are still interested in the stock market. We have decided to start a NEW Council Investor group.

If you are interested in learning about the stock market and companies that are exciting to follow, PLEASE join us on Wednesday, October 7 at 12:00 noon, Canandaigua National Bank at Twelve Corners. This will be an exploratory meeting to see if there is enough interest to pursue a NEW club.

Please RSVP to **Donna Cohen** raquet19@aol.com or call 385-3081. ≧

EMERGING LEADER AWARD

From the first time I heard current board member and past president **Arlene Schenker** talk about her work with NCJW, I was intrigued and a bit jealous. Who were these smart women who were changing the world? And how do I get to be one of them? I wanted to know more about their cool projects, like Project Teaching Respect, which, years before its time, educated school administrators and counselors about issues facing gay students.

And I was curious about Consider College, which paired 6th grade city school children with NCJW members for mentoring that included trips to museums, Garth Fagan performances and many area colleges. I wanted in!

First I became the mentor of a young-teen girl, and when her brother wanted to join I began mentoring him, as well. Then I was asked to join the Board of Directors where I heard about Books, Mommy and Me; joined advocacy visits to legislators’ offices; and became involved in the P.A.D. Project. There was no stopping me.

It was gratifying to receive the Emerging Leader Award because I felt recognized for the recent work I have done to make myself a better contributor. My thanks go to the women who chose me for this honor: immediate past president **Sandra Frankel**, **Sharon Rose**, and current co-presidents **Vancy Boyar** and **Soralee Cook**. Thank you! ≧

Jennifer Loviglio

MEMBERSHIP

There are many ways to be involved in NCJW. It is up to you to decide what level of involvement you would like to have and how you can better enjoy membership in this dynamic, forward-thinking organization of progressive and intelligent women. We want our members to be involved both long and short term. This year we are asking new and existing members to fill out this volunteer interest form:



VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM

There are many ways to be involved both long term and short term

❖ **Be a member**

- Annual membership-\$36
- Life membership-\$360

❖ **Tell us what topics you are interested in:**

- Environmental issues
- Social action and community collaboration
- Educational events on current topics, including speakers and book reviews
- Women's reproductive rights, equal pay
- Civil rights, including voter rights and LGBTQ
- Social events, including investment club
- Other issues _____

❖ **Consider involvement in one time service or membership events:**

- Literacy program with YWCA's teen mother program- one day event, active October-November
- Nutrition program with Sojourner House- one day event, active March
- Hannah G. Solomon Humanitarian Award/Women of the Year, award event including board elections, active February-April
- Closing event which includes installation of new board members-active April-May
- I am interested in planning onetime events

❖ **Consider on going projects**

- P.A.D project- on going community service, advocacy and education on an important feminine hygiene topic
- Voter registration
- I am interested in on going community service projects in the community

❖ **Volunteer professional skills to our program and board- time is flexible and all projects can be tailored to fit within your personal and professional demands.**

- Communication-web design, social media
- Administrative tasks including Microsoft office , mail merge, bulletin editing, membership data base
- Finance, bookkeeping, etc
- Board Governance, board involvement
- Photography; photo archiving
- Event planning-decorations, baking, invitations
- Phone calls
- Other skills you might wish to share with our section _____

Name _____		
Phone _____	Email _____	

Once the form is filled out, please mail it back to me at 15 Devonwood Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534. I hope to see you at an upcoming event or as a volunteer for one of our many programs or projects that interest you. If you know of any Jewish women looking to join a progressive organization where they can put their ideals into meaningful action, please have them contact me at nmchodak@aol.com.

Nancy Chodak, VP Membership

NEW YORK STATE - DON'T TAX FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Internationally, as recently as June 2015, Canada repealed its goods and services tax on feminine hygiene products. Australia and the United Kingdom are the focus of the next wave of tax reform.

Here in the United States, some states, such as Oregon, have no sales tax at all. But other states, including two of our neighbors, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, do not tax pads and tampons, whereas New York State does.

In May 2015, Assembly member Linda Rosenthal (D-Manhattan) introduced in the NY State Assembly Bill A7555, whose purpose includes exempting certain basic necessities from sales and use taxes, "such as feminine hygiene products including, but not limited to, sanitary napkins and tampons." Why does this even matter? How trivial is eight cents on the dollar? What difference can it make? The answer is that for people who count every penny, every penny matters.

Beyond that, passing a no sales tax bill can lead to larger changes at the federal level. At present Federal Flexible Spending Account allowances do not extend to the purchase of pads or tampons though they do cover pregnancy tests, condoms, and yeast infection products. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly Food Stamps, also disallows the purchase of menstrual necessities. But

a movement is growing to change these federal rules, too.

NCJW,GRS would like to work towards achieving the goal of eliminating the New York State tax on feminine hygiene products, and on making the purchase of these products possible with SNAP benefits and Federal Flexible Spending monies.

In conversation with Lauren Schuster, Rosenthal's chief of staff, and with the legislative director for Assembly member David Weprin, who introduced a similar bill, we

learned that in January 2016, when the New York State Legislature reconvenes, we should send memos of support to every NY state Assembly person explaining the reasons for our support. We should also visit Albany to speak directly with our representatives.

If you would like to help us provide access and dignity to women during their menstrual cycle, in this and other ways, please contact **Gina Horowitz**, chair of the P.A.D. Project. ≧

Gina Horowitz, Chair
ginarose@rochester.rr.com

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

You Have the Right to...

▶ **Receive a Ballot**

If you are a registered voter, but your name is not on the rolls, you have the right to request a provisional ballot.

▶ **Use an Accessible Polling Place**

Persons with physical disabilities and persons in need of language translation must be provided with accommodation and must be assisted in voting.

▶ **Review a Sample Ballot Before Voting**

If you want to see a sample ballot in order to help you vote properly, you are entitled to do so.

▶ **Cast a Vote As Long As You Arrive Before the Poll Closes**

If you are in line before the polls close, you are entitled to vote, no matter how long it may take.

▶ **Have Your Vote Count**

If you fail to vote in some of the races on the ballot or if there is an error on your ballot and you fill out a provisional ballot instead, your vote must still be counted.

**If you experience or witness voter disenfranchisement, please call
1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA**

NCJW Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote Resource Guide

Painting With a Twist
6-9 P.M.

Sunday, November 8, 2015

Fun for all ages – mothers, daughters, aunts, sisters,
granddaughters.



The concept of Painting with a Twist pairs instructional art with a lively instructor to produce individual works of art. Enjoy step-by-step instruction with our experienced and enthusiastic local artists. You'll leave with a one-of-kind piece of art and a new found talent you'll want to explore.

"I've been there three times (once for a private event) and I've loved every single occasion. The instructors I've worked with have been fabulous and made the whole painting experience really enjoyable."

-- comment from a former participant

"You don't need to be an artist or have any background in art to let your brushes hit the canvas."

-- comment from a former participant

\$35 per person
Elegant refreshments

Go to www.ncjwgrs.org to sign up

NCJWSM

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

**P.O. Box 92444
Rochester, NY 14692**

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If you have a change or correction of address,
please contact Barbara Grosh at Barbara@grosh.net

L'SHANAH
TOVAH



MISSION STATEMENT

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.

Share your news in the Bulletin

Send your articles, pictures or announcements to:
Donna Cohen at raquet19@aol.com

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Ronny Frishman

