

Bulletin

NCJWSM

Vol. 21, No. 2
December 2015
www.ncjwgrs.org

 [facebook.com/ncjwgrs](https://www.facebook.com/ncjwgrs)

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

COMING EVENTS

JAN

WED / 13
General Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m., JCC

MON / 18
Martin Luther
King Jr. Day /
Consider College
Job Shadowing
Day

MON / 25
Tu B'Shevat

FEB

WED / 10
General Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m., JCC

MAR

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

THU / 24
Purim

TBA
Spring Sojourner
House Program

APR

WED / 6
Climate Change
Program

WED / 13
General Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m., JCC

FRI-SAT / 22-30
Passover

IT'S TIME FOR NEW YORK TO END REGRESSIVE TAXES ON MENSTRUAL NECESSITIES

As recently as June 2015 Canada repealed its goods and services tax (GST) on feminine hygiene products. Parliament unanimously approved a motion to exclude "sanitary napkins, tampons, sanitary belts, menstrual cups or other similar products from GST."

Here in the United States, some states, such as Oregon, have no sales tax at all. But other states -- Minnesota, Maryland, and Massachusetts, and two of New York's neighbors, New Jersey and Pennsylvania -- do not tax pads and tampons. New York state does.

In May 2015 Assembly member Linda B. Rosenthal (D-NY) introduced a bill, A7555, which, if passed, will eliminate taxes on pads and tampons in New York state too.

NCJW,GRS (Greater Rochester Section) strongly supports this bill and encourages all New York sections to lend their support by speaking with their representatives and writing them letters of support.

If you're in search of talking points, here are a few:

1. Sanitary napkins and tampons are not luxuries. They are necessities. It is not possible to conduct a normal life without them.
2. More than 10 million New York women of menstruating age (ages 10-54) would benefit from not being taxed on these monthly necessities.
3. According to research conducted by Rosenthal's office, neither New Jersey nor Pennsylvania has experienced budget shortfalls that have not been made up for by other state income.
4. Without affordable access, women sometimes keep a tampon in use for too many hours, which can trigger toxic shock syndrome.
5. Food pantries, shelters and emergency service organizations do not stock these items and depend on donations, which though always appreciated, are unreliable and insufficient. ⚡



Did you know that many underserved women and girls regularly miss work and school during their menstrual cycle? They can't afford tampons and pads!

Gina Horowitz, Chairperson

**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

By the time you receive this bulletin, fall will certainly have settled in our region and the days will have grown shorter as we approach the December lights of Chanukah. We hope the winter is mild and warm with friendship.

Your membership and our program support payments to National connects us to women who have faith in the future and belief in action. Our common cause to improve the lives of women, families and children position us to effect meaningful change.

How that vision will unfold locally is a discussion the Board began in October. As part of the section capacity building and the section visitors program, we invited Toni Scherzer, past president of the Cleveland section and a former national board member, to conduct a workshop on strategic planning and SMART goals. Taking the time to reflect on our direction and focus only strengthens our efforts as we align our local programming with our national mission and core values.

NCJW,GRS embraces women of diverse backgrounds and temperaments. Ours is a place of both thinkers and doers. Some women come to wrestle with the larger issues confronting society, advocating for change at the legislative, national and even global level. Others leverage our institutional knowledge and know-how to pursue grassroots agendas at the local level. Each project, committee or program is comprised of women who want a voice in our community and have a belief in a better future.

As our demographics change, volunteer time is limited and we want to be responsive to your interests. We can't do this alone---your involvement is critical in this process. The challenges we face are also opportunities to build upon. NCJW,GRS is uniquely positioned to make a difference in our community. ≧

Co-Presidents

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

VISIT TO NYS SENATOR RICH FUNKE

Judy Abelman, Soralee Cook, and Jennifer Loviglio visited the office of state Senator Rich Funke in August to speak with aide Alexander Barrette about three issues of importance to NCJW:

- **Child care** – Sen. Funke was very helpful in acquiring more funds for child care subsidies for working parents. Child care is one of NCJW's priority issues and we thanked Funke for his work in this area.
- **Reproductive Justice** – As this was our first visit to speak with the senator's staff, we wanted to be clear that NCJW supports a woman's right to choose. This is a critical issue for us and many of our members are Funke's constituents.
- **P.A.D. Project** – We described the section's P.A.D. Project and informed Barrette of a bill that had been introduced in the state Assembly by Linda B. Rosenthal (D-Manhattan). Bill A7555 includes exempting from sales and use taxes certain basic necessities such as "feminine hygiene products including, but not limited to, sanitary napkins and tampons." We urged Funke to introduce a similar bill in the NYS Senate.

As a side note, on our way from the parking lot into the meeting, we saw Funke as he was making his way towards his car for another appointment. We stopped him to introduce ourselves and let him know we would be leaving information for him with his staff.

We are most appreciative of the opportunity to speak with Funke's staff and plan to maintain contact with his office on issues of concern to NCJW. ≧

Judy Abelman, Co-chair, Public Affairs

BOOKS, MOMMY AND ME

A Special Day for Moms, Kids -- and Volunteers

The Veterans Day weather was gray and rainy, but the atmosphere was a lot brighter inside the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County where more than 30 young moms and their children gathered for our annual "Books, Mommy and Me" event. Participants had the opportunity to channel their creative energy decorating picture frames, socializing over lunch and chuckling through a thoroughly entertaining puppet show, performed by "the Storylady," Marabeth Nally.

The moms were very appreciative and the children were delightful and engaging. One of the 14 moms attended with four children and another came with twins under age two. These women, most of them single parents in their teens, face enormous challenges and the YWCA provides them with valuable support through its School-Age Parents Program. While the goal of Books, Mommy and Me is to give away books and encourage moms to read aloud to their children to

better prepare them for school, those of us who have participated in the event over the years have come to realize the importance of simply planning a fun, joyful day for these young parents and showing them there are people in the community who care.

Each child went home with a colorful balloon and three brand new books. The moms received gift bags from the YWCA and, for the first time, NCJW,GRS supplied "kits" (prepared by **Gina Horowitz**) from its P.A.D. Project, our initiative to provide access and dignity to women by giving them sanitary products for their menstrual cycles.

I want to thank our wonderful YWCA partners -- led by **Ruth Kramer**, a NCJW,GRS member and the Y's program support specialist, and Janice



Johnson, parent educator -- for their impeccable organization skills. Many thanks go to the Volunteers of America of Western New York for its generous donation of Scholastic books, and to Wegmans for a gift card that helped offset food costs. To this year's BMM crew -- **Lynne Bishop, Soralee Cook, Lois Kuh, Nancy LeVant, Cathy Schneider** and **Jennifer Loviglio** (who couldn't stay but donated some brand new board books for the children) -- I can't tell you how easy and (almost) stress-free the day has become because you not only bring helping hands, but lots of heart to the program. ☺

Ronny Frishman, Chairperson



WHY THE VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT IS GOING NOWHERE

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 prohibited any state or local government from imposing any voting law that results in discrimination against racial or language minorities. The act specifically outlawed literacy tests and similar devices to disenfranchise racial minorities.

Section 5 of the act required states or localities with a history of discrimination to "pre-clear" changes to voting regulations or procedures. Whenever the Justice Department believed that the effects of a proposed change would have placed an undue burden on minority voters, it could block implementation. This was much simpler than requiring victims of discrimination to prove it in court after the fact, and the law was highly effective in increasing the number of minority voters and resulted in far more of them being elected to office.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson worked with Republicans in the South to ensure passage of the act, afraid that elected southern Democrats would block it. Republicans voted for it because they believed it could spell the downfall of the Democratic party in the South. This proved to be true, but it established a tradition of bipartisan support for the act. It was renewed with wide bipartisan margins in 1970, 1975, 1982 and 2006. In 2006, it was renewed for 25 years with a vote of 98-0 in the Senate and 390-33 in the House.

IN MEMORIAM: BETH BRUNER

NCJW and many of us lost a good friend this fall. We fondly remember the many NCJW hats Beth wore. In addition to her life membership in NCJW, Beth was our section president from 1991-93. She was the New York State Public Affairs Committee co-chair from 1995-97, and was named our "Woman of the Year" in 1999. As the co-chair of Public Affairs, Beth attended meetings either in person in New York City, or by conference call (at a time when the speaker box was placed in the middle of the conference table and all the committee members in New York City had to speak VERY loudly!). Beth also attended NCJW's national conventions, Washington Institutes and leadership conferences.

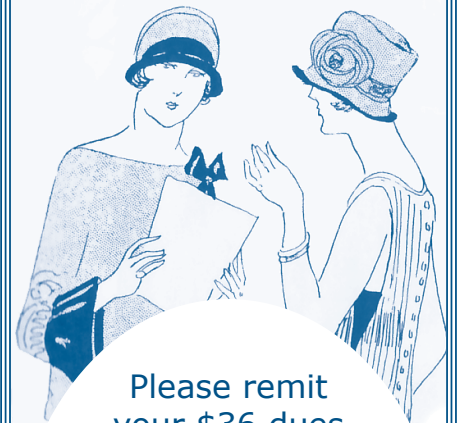
In addition, Beth served on the Nominating Committee for several years. She and her husband Josh were particularly generous in opening their home for several NCJW events, including hosting national NCJW guests and end-of-year parties for Consider College mentors.

It is not sufficient to enumerate the many offices and jobs Beth held to advance the causes NCJW stands for. We honor Beth's memory by remembering her dedication to our section. Beth's spiritual and financial support of our mission, to improve the lives of women, children and families, will live on. May Beth's memory be for a blessing. ☹

In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down Section 5, finding that the use of discrimination data that was too old (40 years) was unconstitutional. In 2014, Democrats introduced a bill to restore parts of the act, but Republican support was too weak to permit it to get anywhere in Congress. Some of the Republican supporters of the bill were defeated in the 2014 elections. In 2015, the Democrats introduced a much stronger bill to restore it, but with no Republican co-sponsors it will go nowhere. It seems the Republican party calculates that minority voters enfranchised by a renewal of the act will not vote Republican, a calculation that has also guided Republican-dominated states to pass voter ID laws and gerrymander extensively. ☹

Barbara Grosh, Financial Secretary

ARE YOU A PAID UP MEMBER?



Please remit your \$36 dues payment today.

Send your check to
Barbara Grosh,
12 Whittlers Ridge,
Pittsford 14534

Or pay online at
ncjwgrs.org



THE RRCAHT LAUNCH

The official launch of the Rochester Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking will be January 11, 2016, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, with a press conference to be held (tentatively) at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 275 Lake Avenue. To learn more about the launch, and to subscribe to the RRCAHT quarterly newsletter, visit rrcaht.org.

HELP WANTED

We are looking for volunteers to join several committees:

Do you like to write or are social media savvy?

The communications committee would like to hear from you.

Contact **Jennifer Loviglio** at ncjwgrs@gmail.com. Write "communications" in the subject line.

Our Hannah G Solomon/ Women of the year award event is looking for volunteers to help plan this year's event. This is a fun way to get involved and work with some of your NCJW sisters. Contact **Vancy Boyar** at ncjwgrs@gmail.com. Write HG/WOTY in the subject line.

IN THE FAMILY

Condolences to:

The family of **Beth Bruner** on her passing
Hyla Mink on the loss of her mother

Healing Wishes to:

Jan Feldman
Barry Goldfarb, husband of
Judy Abelman
Barbara Morgenstern's
husband George
Vancy Boyar

Mazel tov to:

Gina Horowitz on the engagement of her son

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.



OUR NEW FAVORITE F-WORD

What do Amy Poehler, a standing-room only crowd, and 130 PAD kits have in common? You'll have to check our Facebook page to find out!

NCJW, GRS is on Facebook! Connect with us to get the most current info on local and national NCJW events and issues that we are passionate about. You'll find photos from previous programs like our well-attended Opening Event featuring Ed Doherty, links to articles such as a recent one about American Jews coming together to support Israel and posts to inspire and enlighten.

Facebook is a great tool for our section to utilize, helping us to stay relevant as we try to engage new members and maintain strong connections with our current members. So if you haven't already done so, be sure to "like" us on Facebook and invite your friends to do the same!

Lisa Waltzer,
Recording Secretary

SAVE THE DATE

Fixing the Planet -- A Panel Discussion on Climate Change

Learn how the Rochester economy can be transformed from one based on fossil fuels to one based on sustainable energy by 2025

Learn how climate change disproportionately impacts poorer nations and people

Wednesday, April 6, 2016



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

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

TIME VALUE

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 295
Rochester, NY

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



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

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
raqet19@aol.com

Bulletin Editor:
Marilyn Fenster

Bulletin Committee:
Donna Cohen
Ronny Frishman

