

Bulletin

NCJWSM

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June 2016

www.ncjwgrs.org

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National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

NCJW Installation Event

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Monroe's Restaurant 3001 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14618

"How to Tell Your Story"

Join us as Adam Chodak,
evening anchor and
managing editor of
Channel 8 News,
gives us a journalist's
perspective on
presenting the news



Installation of 2016-2017 officers will follow.

Refreshments will be served. Please send your check by June 8, 2016.

Please bring a donation of a name brand box of sanitary pads or pantliners for the P.A.D. project.

NCJW Installation Event

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: ___ \$10 per person ___ \$18 per person patron level

Sorry I can't attend, but please accept my tax-deductible donation of \$_____ to NCJW

Please send your check by June 8, 2016 (payable to NCJW, GRS) and this form to:

Ellen Rosen, 334 Council Rock Avenue, Rochester, NY 14610. Seating is limited.

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Soralee Cook

VP Membership
Nancy Chodak

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Donna Cohen

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear NCJW Sisters,

Five of us have just returned from the NCJW triennial policy convention in Washington, D.C. The theme was "Elections 2016: What's at Stake for Women?"

And of course what's at stake for women is plenty. We arranged to visit our New York senators and representatives with four specific requests that are important to our mission and resolutions. When our collective voices are heard we become a force for change.

Our national coalitions are growing in numbers and diversity, from faith-based groups to women of color and the LGBTQ community. We heard from an amazing list of speakers who pushed us to go deeper into understanding the nuances of humanity, race, sexuality and life in general.

Critically important issues to our members and allies, which now exceed 90,000, were taken to Capitol Hill where we advocated for the Senate to do its job and fill the Supreme Court vacancy and other federal judicial vacancies, and pass the Voter Restoration Act, Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act, and the Each Women Act. Further details on each of these policy positions are found in this bulletin.

As a progressive Jewish women's organization, we know the moral obligation to break down institutional racism and create economic sustainability for all is not someone else's job. Our hearts may be in it, but that's not enough. We need to push ourselves to act for all our sisters.

We want to leave you with some insights from our Rochester participants:

Ruth Kramer

Having never attended the Washington Institute I didn't really know what to expect from it. I came away better

informed regarding what is at stake this election year (EVERYTHING) and better informed about many current issues near and dear to me. It was educational, inspiring and fun, and notably very well organized! I know a lot more about Israel's judicial process than I did last week, and about our Supreme Court as well.

It was great to put real people to names such as NPR's Mara Liasson, The Washington Post's Janelle Ross, and Slate's Dahlia Lithwick, and to learn about new names to watch for from here on. On a personal note, I was thrilled Wade Henderson (President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Leadership Conference Education Fund) thanked his wife Marsha Henderson, and in doing so mentioned that she is the current chair of the national YWCA. Since I work at the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County, I thought it was neat having my work and volunteer/Jewish life connect. Of course I did get my picture taken with her to send to my co-workers back home!

It was fun to be with so many progressive, bright, interesting women of all ages and from across the country! However, I must say, Rochester certainly holds its own when it comes to progressive, bright, interesting women. I truly enjoyed getting to know **Vancy**, **Soralee** and **Mollie** better! I am so grateful to have had this unique and inspiring opportunity!

Mollie Traub

The 2016 Washington Institute exceeded my very high expectations. The selection of information sessions and presenters was breathtaking. Without actually consulting with each other, we managed to cover a wide variety of workshops including LGBTQ Equality, Runaway and Homeless Youth, the Trafficking Intervention Act, and the Paid Leave Amendment. As a first time attendee and generous national NCJW scholarship recipient, my daughter Cori

received special treatment at several events for women under 45. It was a thrill for me to room with her and to have almost full time access to her for in-depth conversations about EVERYTHING. My favorite session was the closing Social Action Award Dinner, where four extraordinary women received recognition for their work in attaining marriage equality in the courts of Minnesota and in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Cori Traub

I am so grateful for having finally been able to share such a meaningful experience with my mother. There's such an energizing power in volunteer advocates taking time to come together and demonstrate deep personal commitment to important social justice issues. The respectful and attentive way we were received by legislators and staff demonstrates that NCJW is clearly a force to be reckoned with. I admired a theme I saw throughout the institute of a willingness to tackle the hard questions and problems. My favorite sound bite came from a panelist addressing LGBTQ Rights: "Be uncomfortable because it's the comfort that's killing us."

Washington Institute Policy Issues

NCJW sections from across the country traveled to Capitol Hill to speak to their respective U.S. Senators and House representatives. Our NYS delegation met with Senators Schumer and Gillibrand's staff and liaisons for these important issues. The following is a brief summary of the policy issues and the importance to move forward in these areas.

Policy issue #1: Senators should consider and vote on the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court nominee and other pending federal judicial nominees in a timely manner without partisan obstruction. Judicial backlogs compromise our federal courts to dispense justice in a timely manner and affect people's lives directly. NCJW has been on the forefront of this issue for 15 years working through BenchMark: Judicial Nominations Campaign. We will continue to make our voices heard. #DoYourJob #CourtsMatter are just two examples of the grassroots efforts of 300 plus women, walking single file, silently carrying a copy of our constitution and a letter to Senator Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Policy issues #2: Lawmakers should support the Voting Rights Advancement Act (Advancement Act) (HR28675/S1659) to restore the Voting Rights Act and modernize federal voter protections. The right to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy.

Women, as well as seniors, students, low income individuals, people of color and other marginalized communities, are particularly affected by restrictive voter laws, such as limits on early voting and burdensome ID requirements. Without proactive legislation that protects voters from discriminatory disenfranchisement, voters in states with restrictive laws will find themselves unable to participate in upcoming elections. As Jews, our basic tenets are founded on democracy where full participation of all is critical.

Policy issue #3: Lawmakers should support a full and inclusive Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention

Act (S262/HR 1779). The number of homeless teens in the U.S. has more than doubled since 2007; today more than 1.6 million teens are homeless. A growing number of homeless youth identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT): data suggest they make up to 40% of the runaway and homeless youth population. It is often due to anti-LGBT bias that LGBT youth run away or are thrown from their homes. Locally our coalition partner Center for Youth Services is on the front line of providing these critical services to our disenfranchised youth. "At The Center for Youth, we believe that it is never too late to have a happy childhood, and for our young victims of commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking that means that prevention and intervention, education and support are much needed. Our work with victims is the hardest work we do but also the most rewarding, as together we can help to turn around a tragic situation into one of hope and brighter future." Dr. Elaine Spaul, Executive Director, The Center for Youth.

Policy Issues #4: Lawmakers should pass the EACH Woman Act (HR2972) so every woman can make her own faith-informed decision about abortion no matter her income, insurance, or where she lives. Abortion is a personal decision. However we feel about abortion, it is not our place to deny a woman the ability to make a decision that's best for her, just because she is poor or due to her source of insurance. The decision to choose adoption, end a pregnancy, or raise a child must be left to a woman in consultation with those she trusts, such as her doctor, and per her own faith. ⚡

Vancy Boyar & Soralee Cook,
Co-presidents, 585-234-3475

OUR INSTALLATION EVENT SPEAKER: ADAM CHODAK

Adam Chodak is one of Rochester's own. He grew up in Pittsford, loved the outdoors and ran cross country for Pittsford Sutherland High School. He went on to Syracuse University, where he studied broadcasting. His first on-air job was at WAER-FM (the NPR station); his first paid job was at 570 WSYR-AM. His start date: 9/11/2001.

He moved on to TV when Time Warner Cable wanted R News to have a sister station in Syracuse. So in 2003 he joined the launch of News 10 Now. Syracuse was good to him: he not only learned how to tell a visual story there but he also met his wife, Jill.

Next was a move to Boston, where he reported for WLVI-TV (CW). After two years, the station was sold and he was among about 100 people looking for a job. He found one in Colorado, as the Fort Collins

bureau reporter for the Denver NBC affiliate, KUSA-TV. He and a colleague, Gary Wolfe, wandered all over northern Colorado together telling stories about the people, wildlife and environment. They received an Emmy Award for their coverage of an EF-3 tornado, which passed a half-mile from their truck.

He moved back to Rochester - and family - in 2011, joining WHAM-TV (ABC), where he had interned years earlier. In 2015, he became the evening anchor and managing editor at News 8, a job he calls "the opportunity of a lifetime."

Outside of work, he likes to run, read, practice Spanish and play the guitar. He teaches a college class on digital journalism with Evan Dawson, of WXXI. He and his wife live in Pittsford with their dogs and 3-year-old son Isaac. ≡

IN THE FAMILY

Condolences to:

Fran Studley on the passing of her father

Lisa Waltzer on the passing of her grandmother

Healing Wishes to:

Judy Blaustein

Marv Cook ≡

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.

2016-2017 NCJW,GRS SLATE FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents **Vancy Boyar** and **Soralee Cook*** (term ends 2017)

President-elect TBA

VP Administration **Donna Cohen** (continuing, term ends 2017)

VP Ways and Means TBA

VP Membership **Nancy Chodak** (continuing, term ends 2017)

Treasurer **Nira Tobochnik** (continuing, term ends 2017)

Financial Secretary **Barbara Grosh** (continuing, term ends 2017)

Recording Secretary **Lisa Waltzer** (continuing, term ends 2017)

Immediate Past Pres. **Sandra Frankel**

DIRECTORS (continuing, term ends 2017)

Marilyn Fenster

Jennifer Loviglio

Cathy Schneider

Stacey Freed

Peg McNamara

Ruth Sklarsky

Ronny Frishman

Judy Slade

Gloria Kaplan

Arlene Schenker

Amy Stein

DIRECTORS (2-year term ends 2018*)

Jane Amstey

Nancy Gabrielsen-Tinnes

Nicole Gantshar

Stacy Trien

Wendy Moss

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

for 2016-2017*

Ronny Frishman, Carol Fybush, Ruth Kramer, Arline Seidman

**Requires election at May 1 Hannah G./Woman of the Year luncheon*

Submitted by the 2015-2016 Nominating Committee: **Ronny Frishman** (chair), **Ruth Kramer, Linda Lowenstein, Sharon Rose, Amy Stein** ≡

SUCCESS STORY FROM NCJW ISRAEL

NCJW's Israel Programs work toward gender equality and women's empowerment through advocacy, education, and grant-making, thereby improving the lives of women, children, and families in Israel. Jennie Kim's story illustrates the kind of successes NCJW Israel and your contributions to the Israel Granting Program have helped to create.

Through NCJW's Israel Granting Partner, *Turning the Tables*, Jennie escaped the cycle of commercial sex trafficking and has become a major fashion designer. In the past year, Jennie opened a store in Tel Aviv for her clothing collection under the brand name *Jennifer*. She is now considered one of Israel's most promising designers.

NCJW,GRS makes a donation to the Israel Granting Program each year from the "Yad b'Yad" (hand in hand) money collected each month at our board meetings, supplemented by an additional \$300 from our budget. Some of our members add to this amount or make a separate contribution. If you would like to add to the successes of NCJW Israel and our granting partners, please send your check to NCJW,GRS with "yad b'yad" in the memo line or write to Arleneschenker@gmail.com for instructions on making a separate contribution. We will make sure that you get a copy of the report from Israel describing the current year's grantees.➤

Arlene Schenker

REPAIRING THE PLANET EVENT REPORT

On Wednesday April 6th NCJW hosted a program on climate change at Temple Brith Kodesh, "Repairing the Planet -- Starting in the Flower City." TBK's chapel was filled with about 120 interested citizens. Rabbi **Debbie Till** opened the event with a d'var Torah explaining the moral imperative to protect the planet.

Panelist Dr. Susan Spencer, a self-described "solar geek," lit up the audience with her passion as she described Rochester's solar potential. She has a dream and a vision, and is the founder of ROCSPOT, which is building eight solar farms on brownfields in Rochester, and aims to make cheap solar power available to all in the city. Based on watching his young daughter in the audience, facilitator Scott Fybush predicted that he would be pressured to "go solar!"

Panelist Vanessa Rule founded Mothers Out Front, mobilizing mothers to work together against climate change to protect their children's futures. Once mothers share their fears and begin taking steps to fight climate change together, they feel less isolated, more connected, empowered and hopeful. Action is contagious.

Panelist Mark Dunlea, founder of the Green Education and Legal Fund, reviewed some of the numbers, both scary and hopeful. He spoke of the research of Mark Jacobson of Stanford, showing that the technology exists to transition the world completely away from fossil fuel by 2030. He works daily to build coalitions to convince New York policy makers to move away from fossil fuel as quickly as possible. He left the gathering with many signed letters urging Governor Cuomo to fund a study for how New York can move expeditiously to eliminate our use of fossil fuel.

Following the panel and a lively Q&A, conversation and networking continued over a dessert reception. Event co-chair **Barbara Grosh** challenged each audience member to find new ways we in the Rochester community can work together to fight climate change. Special thanks to the event committee (**Arlene Schenker, Barbara Grosh, Ruth Kramer and Debby Kornfeld**), as well as the greater public affairs committee.➤

**Ruth Kramer and
Barbara Grosh**

CAN YOU SERVE?

- Do you like to work on the computer, write emails or newsletters? Looking for someone to write our email blasts. No formal experience is required and we can train.
- We are looking for someone to mail our bulletins and other communications. Job includes driving to the main post office and purchasing supplies as needed. Mailings are approximately eight times per year.
- Are you interested in working on communications and public relations? Having a flair for writing will help.

If any of these volunteer opportunities sound somewhat appealing please contact **Vancy Boyar**, 330-2088 or **Soralee Cook**, 234-3475.➤



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

P.A.D. PROJECT UPDATE

Wanted:

NCJW,GRS members who would like to become ambassadors at P.A.D. kit making parties one or two times a year. Attend a practice party. Work with a partner. Contact **Gina** at ginarose@rochester.rr.com.

Wanted:

Would your book group, synagogue, workplace, Mahj or volunteer group like to have a P.A.D. kit making party? Contact **Gina** at ginarose@rochester.rr.com.≧

Gina Horowitz, chairperson

From my desk to yours-

*I have an outstanding bulletin team that makes my job easy! Many thanks to Amy LaGambino from Amy's Always Write for her design talents, **Donna Cohen** and **Ronny Frishman** for their keen proofreading eyes, and Get Noticed with RJF Marketing for printing our publication.*

- Marilyn Fenster, Editor

Change of address?

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.≧