

Bulletin

NCJWSM

Vol. 22, No. 3

April-May 2017

www.ncjwgrs.org

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National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

COMING EVENTS

APRIL

WED / 5
Program: Gun
Violence Prevention
7:00 p.m.

FRI / 7
Books, Mommy & Me
11:30 a.m.
YWCA

MON-MON / 10-18
Passover
WED / 19
General Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m., JCC

MON / 24
Yom HaShoah
(Holocaust
Memorial Day)

SUN / 30
Hannah G.
Solomon/Woman
of the Year Event
11:00 a.m.,
Irondequoit CC

MAY

MON / 1
Yom Ha'atzmaut
(Israel
Independence Day)

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

SAT / 13
Lag B'Omer
TUE-WED / 30-31
Shavuot

JUNE

TBA
Installation
WED / 21
General Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m., JCC



Dr. Rachael Phelps,
Medical Director
Planned Parenthood
of Central & Western
New York
*Hannah G. Solomon
Award Recipient*



Nancy Chodak
NCJW
Woman of the Year
Award Recipient



PLEASE
JOIN US
AT A
RECOGNITION
BRUNCH
HONORING

Sunday
April 30, 2017
Irondequoit
Country Club
11:00 a.m.

4045 East Avenue,
Rochester, NY

Please mail your check (payable to NCJW, GRS) and reservation form to:
Carol Fybush, 120 Viennawood Drive, Rochester, NY 14618
RSVP By April 20, 2017

Brunch \$54 Patron \$150 Sponsor \$250

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 \$ _____

**NCJW,GRS
Officers & Directors
2016 - 2017**

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

Directors

Jane Amstey

Marilyn Fenster

Ronny Frishman

Nicole Gantshar

Gloria Kaplan

Jennifer Loviglio

Peg McNamara

Wendy Moss

Arlene Schenker

Cathy Schneider

Ruth Sklarsky

Judy Slade

Amy Stein

Nancy Gabrielsen-
Tinnes

Stacey Trien

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear NCJW,GRS Members and
Community Allies,

Spring is always a special time of year when you live in the Great Lakes Region. We have grown accustomed to and weary of the gray days and frigid weather. As this letter is being framed, we are in the midst of a mild winter by western New York standards. While the temperatures have been kind, the new administration has wreaked havoc in communities near and far. Our civil rights and 50 years of progress are eroding before us.

Our immigrant communities live in fear of families being torn apart, science is being ignored to the detriment of our environment, our public schools are under attack, LGBTQ students lack the protection they deserve, First Amendment rights and an independent press are being challenged, and anti-Semitism is on the rise. The list is scary and challenging.

How can we respond to the whirlwind of hate, bigotry, racism, and white nationalism that continues to be on the rise? While we do not profess to have all the answers, we would suggest that NCJW,GRS can give us an outlet to learn, discuss and advocate for change. We heard repeatedly at the January 21st rallies to "act locally and think globally." This is what we need to do with persistence and a Jewish voice. Standing together is power, and as Jewish women, we possess that power. Our Washington office continues to be a strong presence on the Hill, fighting for our issues in Congress.

April brings our annual awards brunch. This year's recipients truly represent our values as a section. As medical director for Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York, Dr. Rachael Phelps, our Hannah G. Solomon Award winner, has devoted her career to advocating and acting for reproductive justice. Nancy Chodak, our 2017 Woman of the Year, also represents this "can do" attitude. Nancy will always jump in and say "we can do that" without hesitation.

In addition to honoring two strong, thoughtful and intelligent women, it is also the time of year to elect new officers and members of our board. We hope to see you on April 30 to honor Dr. Phelps and Nancy Chodak, to welcome our new board members, and to thank all of our volunteers for the work they do. Invitations will arrive in early April.

Stay in touch. Send us your email to receive our e-blasts. We continue to rely more on our electronic platforms of email and Facebook to keep you informed. This holds the line on costs and allows us to respond quickly to urgent issues of the day.

We look forward to continuing our fight alongside you this year to advance our progressive issues. ≧

Thank you,

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

IN THE FAMILY

Condolences to:

Rita Simon on the death of her
husband Albert Simon

Get well wishes to:

Michael and **Carol Hirsh**

Please contact **Cathy Schneider** at
586-7575 to order tribute cards. ≧

Thank you to our NCJW, GRS Bulletin Team!

Coordinator-- Donna Cohen

Editor --Marilyn Fenster

Proofreader --Ronny Frishman

Layout and Design- Amy LaGambino

**Printing-- Get Noticed with RJF
Marketing ≧**

A GOOD START TO 2017 FOR THE P.A.D. PROJECT INITIATIVE

The P.A.D. Project Initiative has gotten off to a good start in 2017. The Greater Rochester Association of Women Attorneys (GRAWA) had the first party of the year, led by NCJW,GRS board member **Stacey Trien**. Held on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, more than 25 women assembled over 150 full-cycle kits, all of which went to Wilson Commencement Park, an organization that provides services and resources to low-income, single-parent families.

That party was followed by the second annual party hosted by Hadassah, the Temple Sinai Chavurah and NCJW,GRS. Led by **Monika Katzel**, the many women who attended made 150 full-cycle kits and 100 emergency kits, designated for the Center for Youth, the Rochester Area Interfaith Housing Network (RAIHN), and Sojourner House.

Temple B'rith Kodesh Sisterhood, led by **Ellen Solomon** and **Vancy Boyar**, also had a January party. Their kits went to their own TEMple PROject, an effort that helps homeless families, and to No One Left Behind, an organization dedicated to ensuring that the U.S. keeps its promise to care for interpreters who put their safety in jeopardy for our country.

Temple Beth-El held its first party on February 19, led by Marcia Nabut and Abbey Rasnick. Their 100 full-cycle kits and 50 emergency kits went to the Catholic Family Center, Cameron Community Ministries and St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center. Beth-El's next party is scheduled for Sunday, April 23.

And in a spin-off from the GRAWA party, Kimberly Harding and friends held a February emergency kit party that assembled 300 kits.

Since we decided to phase out plastic bags for the packing of full-cycle kits, we've found tremendous support

among groups and individuals to sew drawstring bags.

article continues inside back page



NCJW,GRS SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2017-2018

For election:

2017-2018 Executive nominations

President – **Amy Stein**

VP Administration – **Donna Cohen**

VP Membership – **Debi Brenner**

Treasurer – **Lisa Waltzer**

Financial Secretary – **Ronny Frishman**

Recording Secretary – **Jennifer Loviglio**

Immediate past presidents: **Vancy Boyar, Soralee Cook**

Directors, nominated for term ending May 2019

Linda Bice

Nancy Chodak

Marilyn Fenster

Sandra Frankel

Barbara Grosh

Gloria Kaplan

Pauline Rutberg

Arlene Schenker

Cathy Schneider

Ruth Sklarsky

Randi Fox Tabb

Nira Tobochnik

Rona Wyner

2017-2018 Nominating Committee

Vancy Boyar

Soralee Cook

Ruth Rappaport-Kristal

Directors continuing through May 2018 (no election needed)

Jane Amstey

Nancy Gabrielsen-Tinnes

Nicole Gantshar

Wendy Moss

Stacey Trien

Slate submitted by the 2016-2017 Nominating Committee

Nancy Chodak

Ronny Frishman

Carol Fybush

Ruth Rappaport-Kristal

Arline Seideman

MEET DR. RACHAEL PHELPS, 2017 HANNAH G. SOLOMON AWARD RECIPIENT

In a July 2010 New York Times article about "The New Abortion Providers," Dr. Rachael Phelps, medical director of Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York (PPWCNY), explained why she continues to perform abortions in the face of tremendous outside pressure and risk to her personal safety.

"Women who come to us for abortions are sometimes scared and upset and heartbroken. They often have young children at home. If I have the capability to help them, then I should do it. Because most people will not. So if I'm willing, how can I stand by?"

That statement tells us a lot about Dr. Phelps, our 2017 Hannah G. Solomon Award recipient. As medical director of our regional Planned Parenthood since 2011, and a Planned Parenthood staff physician and abortion provider since 2001, Dr. Phelps has fought ignorance, fear and hate by providing necessary medical care for those who might not receive it elsewhere.

"The ability to decide when or if to have a child is a fundamental right upon which all other freedoms and opportunities for women depend," Dr. Phelps said.

In her administrative capacity, Dr. Phelps oversees 10 health centers and mobile outreach units stretching from Buffalo and Niagara Falls to Syracuse. Each year, PPWCNY serves 31,000 women, men and teens, providing a wide variety of safe, reliable health care. More than 90% is preventive

life-saving cancer screenings, testing and treatment for STDs and birth control. PPCWNY is the only source of health care for most of the young women it serves.

Dr. Phelps has an impressive background. She received her medical degree from The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and is a board-certified pediatrician. After her residency at the University of Rochester, she completed a fellowship in family planning. She is currently a clinical instructor in the departments of Pediatrics and Obstetrics/Gynecology at the University of Rochester and provides clinical training in contraception, pregnancy counseling and abortion to medical students and residents. In addition to her busy schedule at Planned Parenthood and her teaching duties, Dr. Phelps serves on many national medical boards, has received numerous awards and has travelled all over the world to lecture and lend her expertise. Specifically, she has worked in Kenya, Pakistan, the Philippines and Bangladesh to improve maternal mortality through post-abortion care.

Locally, Dr. Phelps was named one of Rochester's "Forty under 40" community leaders for her work with Planned Parenthood. She was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Society by University of Rochester students for her teaching, and received the Dr. Barnett A. Slepian Memorial Fund Clinical Training



Award for the abortion training she provides to residents and fellows.

Through her experience, she knows that when women can't finish their education, can't qualify for good jobs, and can't support the children they already have, we all suffer. Children grow up poorer, women are prevented from reaching their full potential and achieving their dreams, and we lose out on the benefit of their talents. In these beliefs, and in her work both as a physician and as an advocate for reproductive justice and equality of health care, Dr. Phelps exemplifies the NCJW mission of improving the lives of women, children and families. She, like Hannah G. Solomon, is truly a "woman who dares."

Please join us on April 30 when we present Dr. Phelps with NCJW's highest honor, the Hannah G. Solomon award, and help us to show our support for the life-saving work she does at Planned Parenthood. ≧

Arlene Schenker

NANCY CHODAK, WOMAN OF THE YEAR



Even if you don't know **Nancy Chodak**, you can tell from her picture that she is a happy person. "I wake up in the morning with a smile on my face." Maybe it's because during her childhood her parents told her that she could achieve anything she set out to do . . . and Nancy believed them.

When Nancy joined NCJW about 20 years ago, wanting to connect with like-minded women in Rochester, she jumped right in as a board member. She chaired and co-chaired events – the Hannah G. Solomon luncheon, openings and installations --- and was one of the founding members of the section's investment group, the Oscar Night discussion, and movie events.

After stepping back for awhile because of work and family, Nancy rejoined the NCJW board several years ago and has served as vice president of membership. She worked with **Mollie Traub** and **Carol Fybush** in overseeing both

the 120th anniversary party at Temple B'rith Kodesh and last year's Woman of the Year brunch. She said one of her proudest moments was having her stepson Adam Chodak, news editor and anchor of Channel 8, as guest speaker at the 2016-17 installation at Monroe's.

"Nancy is a wonderful co-chair," Mollie said. "She is competent, confident, creative and tons of fun to work with."

Nancy was born in Providence, R.I., and attended Tufts University. After graduating she began an active work life in sales for Mobil Chemical Company, starting in Atlanta and moving six times as her career advanced. She worked her way up, finally coming to its headquarters in Pittsford.

She married her "soul mate and wonderful husband, Alan" and continued working while caring for her two stepsons and her daughter Zoe. She spent two years at Xerox and then became director of sales for Genesee Valley Publications. She was active in state and national trade associations, and

was elected president of NYS Free Community Papers. She eventually retired and began CM Jewels, her own jewelry and accessory business.

Nancy has many hobbies and interests, including tennis, golf, working out and winter sports. She's a member of the community board of the YMCA, and works with a major fundraiser in support of SIS (Sustain Inspire Survive), a local organization that provides financial support for women in treatment for breast cancer.

"Nancy is one of the kindest, most caring people that I know," said **Harriet Renzi**, a friend and longtime NCJW member. "Her positive attitude is refreshing and she always finds the silver lining in any situation. I'm so proud of her for receiving this well-deserved award."

Join us and Nancy's family – Alan; Zoe, 20; Gabe and Patty Chodak and their children Christopher, 2, and infant Eliana, and Adam and Jill Chodak and their son Isaac, 5 – in honoring our 2017 Woman of the Year! ⚡

Gina Horowitz

P.A.D. PROJECT continued

drawstring bags. The Genesee Valley Quilting Club, American Quilt Guild of Brighton, and



Temple B'rith Kodesh Sisterhood will each be holding a drawstring bag sewing party this spring.

Thank you to so many generous and enthusiastic Rochesterians for helping our sisters achieve access and dignity during their monthly cycles. ⚡

Gina Horowitz,
ginarose@rochester.rr.com



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS

Our members already know that the National Council of Jewish Women strives to make a difference in the world. In these challenging days, others in our community are looking for ways to effect change. You can help them: encourage them to join the Greater Rochester Section of NCJW.


Their involvement in NCJW will allow them to have a real impact on the lives of women, children, and families of all backgrounds and to have a strong voice in public policy. Membership is a rewarding experience and helps us turn our beliefs into action.

By becoming part of our 123-year-old grassroots network of courageous and compassionate individuals, members have the opportunity to:

- Make a difference in our community, country, and Israel
- Volunteer in community projects
- Serve as advocates for those who cannot speak for themselves
- Research, educate, and be educated in the needs of the community

- Build friendships
- Develop leadership skills
- Support the organization financially through dues, donations, and tribute funds.

Someone once said, "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

The cost to join NCJW,GRS is just \$36 a year. We have a lot to do in the years ahead; tell your friends to join us! 

Nancy Chodak, 387-8955
nmchodak@aol.com

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.