

Bulletin

NCJWSM

Vol. 25, No. 2
December 2019 - January 2020
www.ncjwgrs.org
 facebook.com/ncjwgrs

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

SUN-SUN / 22-29
Chanukah

JANUARY

WED / 1
Happy New Year!

WED / 8
General Board Mtg.
7:00 p.m.
Temple B'rith Kodesh

MON / 20
Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day

TUE / 21
Take Action Night
7:00 p.m.
Temple B'rith Kodesh

FEBRUARY

WED / 12
General Board Mtg.
7:00 p.m.
Temple B'rith Kodesh

Take Action Night

Planned Parenthood
of Central and Western New York (PPCWNY)
is partnering with
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Rochester Section
(NCJW,GRS)

at its next
Take Action Night
on **Tuesday, January 21, 2020**
from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

The event will be held at Temple B'rith Kodesh,
2131 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, NY 14618

New York State Assemblywoman Jamie Romeo
will be the special guest speaker

Refreshments will be served

To RSVP, please visit ppcwny.org/tan
See inside for more information



Planned Parenthood of Central and
Western New York

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MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN SINCE 1894

Greater Rochester Section

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2019 - 2020**

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Sarah Lobe
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Cathy Schneider
Kathye Simon
Wendy Strauss
Randi Fox Tabb
Stacey Trien

**Change of
address?**

If you have a
change or correction
of address,
please contact
Brenda Comisar
at
**BrendaRComisar@
gmail.com**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the seasons have changed quickly from the crispness of autumn to the blustery feeling of winter, our NCJW Greater Rochester Section has been busy with a variety of activities, taking action in our community for social justice. In this past year, our organization's membership has grown as we celebrated our 125th anniversary. During our fall celebration event, it was so special to have as attendees many women who have 30, 40 and 50+ years' experience with NCJW, GRS! It was wonderful to see how we've changed and grown; we now have multiple generations of people actively engaged in our organization.

From its very beginning, NCJW has been addressing reproductive health and justice. As the organization affirms, "NCJW is committed to creating a world where all people, regardless of race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, or immigration status, have the right to build their families and live their lives with dignity. Our Jewish values teach us that our reproductive freedoms are integrally bound to our religious liberty; we are committed to advancing the goals of reproductive justice so that every person can make their own moral and faith-informed decisions about their body, health, and family."

This year, our section's Public Affairs Committee is focusing on reproductive health, rights and justice. The committee hosted a well-attended summer event with Medical Students For Choice and fostered a letter writing campaign to our elected officials. NCJW, GRS is partnering with Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New

York for an informative Take Action Night about the Pro-Truth Campaign. This program is based on an initiative launched by NCJW NY to educate communities throughout the nation about the deceptive tactics of crisis pregnancy centers, or "fake clinics." The event will take place on Tuesday, January 21. For information and action resources on reproductive health, rights and justice, go to the national website at: ncjw.org

As you think about how you would like to be civically engaged in 2020, please consider how you'd like to be involved with NCJW. **Amy Stein**, chair of the section's Nominating Committee, is currently looking for people who would like to take on leadership roles on our board. Please consider joining one of the following committees and projects:

- Public Affairs Committee, contact **Rikki Brodsky** at rikkibrodsky@frontiernet.net or **Stacey Trien** at STrien@leclairkorona.com.
- New Ideas/Community Impact Committee, contact **Terri Richardson** at terrilrichardson@yahoo.com
- Membership Committee, contact **Debi Brenner** at debi.brenner@gmail.com

We are so glad you are a member of this organization, taking action for social justice for women, children and families in our community, nation and world. Thank you for investing in our future with the Greater Rochester Section of NCJW. Enjoy the glow, warmth and light of this holiday season and a bright New Year in 2020! ☺

Jane Amstey, President
Janera1@yahoo.com



For Tribute Cards

Please contact Cathy Schneider
585-586-7575

TAKE ACTION NIGHT

Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York (PPCWNYS) is partnering with the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Rochester Section (NCJW,GRS) at its next Take Action Night on Tuesday, January 21, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The event will be held at Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave.

New York State Assemblywoman Jamie Romeo will be the special guest speaker.

PPCWNYS hosts a monthly Take Action Night, where you can get involved and work towards change. Take Action Nights include education, advocacy, and the opportunity to connect with fellow Planned Parenthood supporters.

The January 21 event will inform participants about the Pro-Truth Campaign, an initiative launched by NCJW NY to educate vulnerable communities across the country about the dangerous and deceptive tactics of crisis pregnancy centers, or "fake clinics." Refreshments will be served. To RSVP, please visit ppcwny.org/tan.

Very special thanks to Temple B'rith Kodesh for hosting this event! ⚡

Rikki Brodsky

MAKE NEW FRIENDS, BUT KEEP THE OLD...

Whether you are new to NCJW or have been a member for many years your membership is appreciated.

We are fortunate to have many important programs that have existed for years and with your input new programs are being created. If you have any ideas or suggestions please feel free to contact our Social Action Co-chairs **Rikki Brodsky**

125TH ANNIVERSARY RECAP

NCJW, GRS welcomed more than 200 members and friends at Temple B'rith Kodesh on Sept. 15 to celebrate our organization's impressive history and the dynamic women who have been making change happen for 125 years. Guests entered the ballroom to lovely harp music, played by Emily Stone, and were able to chat with friends over wine and delicious desserts, peruse old scrapbooks and photos from our archives, check out some unusual Silent Auction gift baskets, and relive moments from the past shown in a video produced by **Mollie Traub**.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Catherine Cerulli, director of the Susan B. Anthony Center and the Laboratory of Interpersonal Violence and Victimization at the University of Rochester. Her sobering talk on the inequalities that still exist in our society clearly shows how necessary the National Council of Jewish Women is to improving the lives of women, children and families and achieving social justice for marginalized people.

Planning for this event began last February and the committee worked tirelessly all summer to ensure a classy event for our membership. Many thanks to these wonderful women: **Jane Amstey, Linda Bice, Vancy Boyar, Nancy Chodak, Donna Cohen** (co-chair), **Soralee Cook, Ronny Frishman** (co-chair), **Gina Horowitz, Sharon Kovalsky, Emily Levin, Terri Richardson, Ellie Rosenbloom, Cathy Schneider, Amy Stein, Nancy Gabrielsen-Tinnes** and **Mollie Traub**.

Special thanks to Mollie for pulling the video together and to Vancy for overseeing the tribute book. Many businesses and members contributed congratulatory ads to the tribute book, which was distributed at the event and helped to raise over \$23,000 for our section. ⚡

Donna Cohen and Ronny Frishman

(rikkibrodsky@gmail.com) and **Stacey Trien** (STrien@leclairkorona.com) or our New Ideas & Community Impact Chair **Terri Richardson** (terrilrichardson@yahoo.com). Thank you for all you contribute to NCJW!

We welcome the following new members:

Carol Steron
Nancy Haney

Lynda Bowen
Ann Vella
Lynn Gatto
June Jefferson
Rabbi Debbi Till
Jenny Rosen
LeeAnn Riesenberger
Cheryl Andler
Hava Holzhauer
Cathy Harris
Phyllis and Marty Korn ⚡

Debi Brenner, VP of Membership

HELP US SPREAD THE LOVE

Finding a need and filling it, connecting with women across the community, getting out of our individual comfort zones.

In our continued partnership with the 5th Street Block Club, we will once again deliver Valentine's bags in February to members of the community to "spread the love." The bags will contain warm winter goodies, including hats, gloves, socks, candy and valentines. Dates to prepare and distribute the bags have not been finalized, but they will be assembled in late January and distributed in February, prior to Valentine's Day.

As you are out and about shopping for the December holidays please consider picking up hats, gloves and socks. "One size fits all" is always appreciated, but men's, women's, teen's and children's sizes are welcome. Drawstring bags and candy will be needed as well.

I am happy to pick up or you can drop them off at my home or Temple B'rith Kodesh. If you have any questions or would like to help assemble and distribute, please email me at terrilrichardson@yahoo.com. ☞

Terri Richardson

Interested in assisting
with our website?
Please contact
Dawn Wisset at
danjamjo@frontier.com

P.A.D. PROJECT: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The P.A.D. Project enjoyed a busy 2019. Altogether we held 18 parties and one collection drive. We donated more than 1,850 pad kits (around 30,000 pads) to 30 agencies that serve low-income and homeless women. We participated for the third year in Homeless Connect Rochester, where we gave menstrual kits and tampons kits to over 200 guests who stopped at our table. They were as happy to have the hand-sewn drawstring bags as they were to have the pads and tampons. We also added socks to our table and the guests were delighted to take a pair or two. We'll do that again next year.

The bags are sewn by NCJW,GRS women as well as by members of the Genesee Valley Quilt Club and IJQ (Internet Jewish Quilters), who mail us their beautiful bags from places as far flung as California and Pennsylvania.

Women's access to pads has been improving. Last December, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a law to provide free pads to New York State prisoners. Also passed was a federal law requiring that women incarcerated in federal prisons receive free pads. Now, both federal and state prisons are required to provide these products to incarcerated women.

In November, Ohio passed a no "tampon tax" law, making it the 17th state (plus the District of Columbia) that does not tax menstrual products.

Looking ahead, we have five parties already scheduled for 2020. We welcome your interest in holding a P.A.D. collection or



party. If you already make food donations to a local food pantry, you can add a package or two of pads or tampons, which the food pantry will be happy to give to women who need them.

Special thanks go to team members **Soralee Cook, Eleanor Hopke, Nancy LeVant, Ellen Solomon, and Mollie Traub**; to Sew Green for donating fabric and ribbon; and to Athleta for donating 50 Athleta bags. ☞

Gina Horowitz

THERE'S STILL TIME TO CHOOSE A PARTY

In 2016, a lot of people who had never registered for a political party wanted to vote for Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary. That's when New Yorkers discovered how restrictive our laws were on party registration. There were a lot of angry voters who found that they would have had to change their party

designation before the general elections in 2015 to vote in primaries in 2016. They were out of luck and without a voice in choosing who would appear on the ballot in November.

Last year, both the NYS Assembly and Senate passed a law to change that, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed it. The

deadline to select a party for the New York presidential primary on April 28, 2020, is now February 14, 2020. Voters can change parties (or pick a party for the first time) up until that date to make their voices heard in April. ≡

Barbara Grosh

Save the Date!

Vision for America: Putting Values into Action

Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Temple Sinai

Enjoy an insightful evening with Beatrice Kahn, president of the NCJW Board of Directors. Previously, Kahn was president of the NCJW, New York Section.

NCJW is governed by a board of directors which sets the policy and direction of the organization, contributes to the achievement of programmatic goals, and fulfills a variety of fiduciary responsibilities.

Watch for an invitation and registration information for this special event.



Consider attending the

NCJW NATIONAL CONVENTION 2020!

Thursday, April 23 – Saturday, April 25, 2020

Chicago, Ill.

If you're passionate about social justice and interested in NCJW, Convention 2020 is a great way to get involved and join our movement. Section leaders, board members, and general members are encouraged to attend. There will be awesome speakers and engaging workshops; delegations will vote on national resolutions and bylaws. The convention provides plenty of opportunities to network.

Early bird registration ends 1/20/20. For Convention 2020 information go to: ncjw.org



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Save the Date!



**Sunday, May 3, 2020
11 AM
Irondequoit Country Club**

Annual Recognition Brunch
Presenting:
**Hannah G. Solomon Award
to Dr. Daniel Mendelson**

**Woman of the Year Award
to Nancy Tinnes**

For more info, contact:
BrendaRComisar@gmail.com or
Cindyannf27@yahoo.com