

# Bulletin



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[www.ncjwgrs.org](http://www.ncjwgrs.org)

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National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section



## NCJWGRS in Action!



**NCJW,GRS  
Officers & Directors  
2021 - 2022**

*President*  
Lisa Waltzer

*Treasurer*  
Brenda Comisar

*Financial Secretary*  
Pauline Rutberg

*Recording Secretary*  
Wendy Strauss

*Membership VP*  
Ellie Rosenbloom  
and Amy Stein

*Nominating  
Committee Chair/  
Immediate Past  
President*  
Jane Amstey

*Ex Officio*  
Judy Abelman

*Directors*  
Linda Bice  
Rikki Brodsky  
Donna Cohen  
Marilyn Fenster  
Cindy Finestone  
Sandra Frankel  
Cindy Hirschberg  
Gloria Kaplan  
(Honorary)  
Emily Levin  
Jennifer Loviglio  
Lisa Maas Vangellow  
Karen McArthur  
Leslie Newman  
Terri Richardson  
Rina Schnauffer  
Cathy Schneider  
Sarah Walters

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have exciting happenings on the horizon! Our financial series, which kicked off February 1 with a session on investing, will be followed by a second lecture March 1 about how to achieve personal economic satisfaction. I believe financial literacy and independence are critical to achieving and maintaining equality for women, and I am proud that NCJWGRS is working to promote these assets.

Our Community Connections Committee is currently in the middle of our annual Spread the Love event, collecting unused socks, hats, gloves, scarves and other winter items to support our friends at the Baden Street Settlement House. Our committee chair, **Terri Richardson**, is an Amazon Wish List whiz, and we've had great success in the past using this model. If you haven't already designated National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Rochester Section as your Amazon Smile charity of choice, please consider doing so. A portion of all of your Amazon purchases will come directly to us, and it takes about five minutes to set up.

Our Hannah G. Solomon/Woman of the Year Annual Brunch Committee is hard at work, planning for what is sure to be another fabulous event! Keep an eye out for more details to come.

Perhaps the most exciting event for me personally on our upcoming calendar is our virtual tour of the exhibit "Hello Gorgeous," currently in residence at the Jewish Museum of Florida. Some of you may not know that I have my bachelor's degree in vocal performance, and my childhood was one long Barbra Streisand imitation. I'm pretty sure I

can still recite every word to "Hello, Dolly!" and the first half of "Funny Girl" (it gets dark, so we'd turn it off halfway through). I hope you'll join us for this unique and fun experience! Please be sure to follow us on Facebook and join our email list to be notified of all NCJWGRS activities.

I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that while we're working hard to maintain business as usual, life has been full of challenges lately. In many ways, NCJWGRS has been my compass, guiding me through these turbulent storms. Listening to our Public Affairs Committee discuss the future of voting rights and common-sense gun legislation, for example, evokes several emotions. On the one hand, our country is facing significant tests that are pushing us to reveal who we truly are; yet as one person expresses fatigue and frustration, I am filled with hope as another's fire is just being kindled.

It's okay to take a break. It's okay to pass the torch. The work we do is a marathon – not a sprint. In many ways, the battles we are fighting today are a continuation of those that our mothers and grandmothers fought before us. As Rabbi Tarfon tells us, "You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it." I have faith that both our incredible group here locally and our National partners will continue to weather the storms; I am proud of the work we are doing to champion our mission.➤

B'shalom,  
**Lisa Waltzer**  
NCJWGRS President  
lisakwaltzer@gmail.com

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

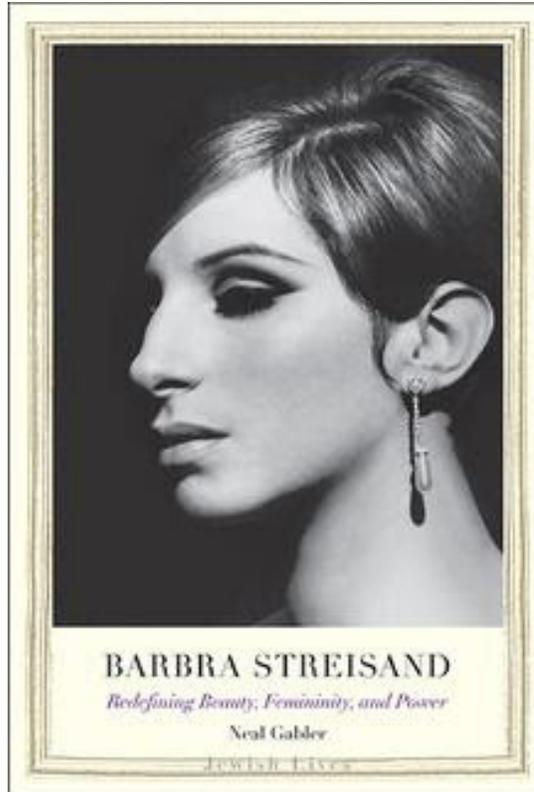
*The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.*

## WHO DOESN'T LOVE BARBRA?

Get Ready for "HELLO GORGEOUS"  
at 4:00 p.m., March 27

The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Rochester Section is proud to present "Hello Gorgeous," an hour-long virtually-led tour of the life and works of the iconic singer, actress, director, and producer Barbra Streisand.

Your tour guide will be the curator of the Jewish Museum of Florida, who will lead you through an eclectic exhibition of costumes, photos, videos, record album covers, and other objects. You will hear Barbra sing and be able to participate in a Q & A after the program. To top it off, three participants will have the chance to win copies of Barbra Streisand's biography, *Hello Gorgeous*. Information regarding registration will come at a later date, but mark your calendars now so you will not miss this fabulous event. ≧



## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Public Affairs Committee continues to grow its members and we have had some deep and meaningful discussions about a variety of important issues including voting rights, reproductive justice and gun violence. Currently, there is nothing new regarding any planned programming.

During a recent meeting, the book *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson, was recommended. For those who have not yet read it, we encourage you to do so. It discusses how "America today and historically has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings." Perhaps those interested could join in a group discussion at some future date. ≧

**Lisa Vangellow** and **Rikki Brodsky**

lvangell@rochester.rr.com  
rikkibrodsky@frontiernet.net

## WARM WINTER ESSENTIALS COLLECTION

A heartfelt "thank-you" goes out to everyone for their support and donations as we have continued our tradition of collecting warm winter essentials for our neighbors in need. This will mark the fourth year we, as a section, have collected winter items for groups in our community. We were pleased to partner with the Baden Street Settlement House this year. The mission of the Baden Street Settlement House is to improve the quality of life for neighborhood children, youth, adults and seniors by providing programs, resources, and basic needs that address the effects of poverty while



building self-sufficiency and community. For those looking to find out more about Baden Street's needs and programs visit [www.badenstreet.org](http://www.badenstreet.org).

As this bulletin goes to print, we have collected dozens of hats, gloves, mittens, socks and scarves. There are too many names to mention, and some deliveries arrived without a note telling us who the generous sender was. So if you did not receive a personal thank you, we apologize and please know your donations were received and are greatly appreciated. A special thank you to **Amy Stein** for being our collection coordinator this year and handling outreach to Baden Street. ≧

**Terri Richardson**

terrilrichardson@yahoo.com

## MEET RINA SCHNAUFER- New Board Member

On a gorgeous June afternoon last year, new board member **Rina Schnauffer** finally got to meet her colleagues in person after months of Zoom meetings. It was a reunion for many and a chance to also meet **Sarah Walters**, another new board member.

Rina joins us at an important time for her and for the Rochester section. NCJW is growing and doubling down on fighting injustice in all its forms. Rina has been spurred to action by her growing awareness of inequality and overt racism over the past two years.

Her childhood in Great Neck was somewhat sheltered, as she describes it. She didn't want that for her family. She and her husband Bill chose Brighton to raise their children. "They were exposed to more diversity than I had been," she said. "But in the last couple of years things started coming out, the BLM movement among other things." She reached out to friends and activist neighbors: "I asked them, 'What do I need to know to do a better job?'"

Rina is a full-time certified multiple sclerosis nurse educator. Bill is an electrical engineer. "We've been married 29 years and we're still on a honeymoon!" she said. They

have two sons, Ryan, 26, a software engineer in Rochester, and Jacob, 23, a biomedical engineer who lives in Maryland.

Thanks to those conversations with activists and community leaders, Rina is making up for lost time. She has taken on the role of co-chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council at Federation. "The goal is to bridge effectively to create a better relationship with the community. Interfaith is a big piece of it," she said. She's also a health-and-wellness coach with the job readiness success project, a program of Beyond the Sanctuary located in the AME Zion Church.

Best of all, Rina has joined the NCJWGRS board! Her friend, co-vice president of membership **Ellie Rosenbloom**, ran into her at a new member event, shortly after Rina had joined NCJW last year. "Rina was excited to have found NCJW, which supports many of the things she is passionate about," Ellie said. A few months later, when Ellie was asked who she'd recommend for the board, "my mind immediately went to Rina. Her excitement is contagious and I cannot wait to work with her again!" Ellie said. ☹

**Jennifer Loviglio**

## LONG OVERDUE THANK-YOU

This is a belated thank-you to all the members who responded to the call late last summer to collect new backpacks and school supplies for the families served by Mary's Place Refugee Outreach. **Jennifer Loviglio** and I unloaded cars filled with book bags, crayons, pencils, notebooks, erasers and other school items at the center. Thanks to the help of NCJWGRS, Mary's Place distributed more than 300 backpacks filled with supplies to clients' children.

"Without the support of community members like you, Mary's Place would be unable to continue serving refugees in Rochester," Executive Director Charley Bickett wrote in a thank-you note. "Again, thank you so much for helping us to be a safe, inclusive place where all are welcomed with open arms."

I personally want to thank Jennifer for helping me collect and deliver the items. We all know the cultural, economic and language barriers refugee children face, and the recent pandemic has only added to those challenges. Our assistance helped some vulnerable children show up for the first day of school prepared to learn. ☹

**Ronny Frishman**

Moving?

Send address changes to Dawn Wisset at danjamjo@frontier.com



*Tribute  
Cards*

Please contact **Cathy Schneider** at 586-7575 to order tribute cards, a meaningful way to honor life cycle events and support NCJW projects.

# NCJWGRS P.A.D. PROJECT

Despite the challenges of 2021, nine groups, including three from NCJWGRS, assembled 1,551 kits and donated them to 22 agencies that work with low-income and homeless women.

Immense thanks to all who donated, assembled and delivered kits during our March PADness event.

If you're looking for a winter sewing project, we would love you to sew some drawstring bags. Contact [mtraub@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mtraub@rochester.rr.com) for instructions. ≡

**Gina Horowitz**  
[ginarose@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ginarose@rochester.rr.com)





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

TIME VALUE



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

## WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF WASHINGTON INSTITUTE!

**Save the Dates: Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Our new and improved hybrid event will be held both in-person in Washington, DC, and virtually from anywhere in the world. Mark your calendars now.

At this premier three-day conference, you'll build connections with NCJW leaders and advocates from across the country, hear from lawmakers and powerful speakers on the frontlines of making change happen, strengthen your skills, and have the opportunity to meet with your elected officials.

We are also excited to share that NCJW Vice President, Julie Matlof Kennedy, and NCJW Board Director and Immediate Past President of Minnesota Section, Laura Monn Ginsburg will serve as our esteemed Washington Institute Chairs!



"Washington Institute is a highlight of the NCJW experience, providing opportunities for education, advocacy, and community-building. Your presence and participation will be critical to this inspiring event — we can't wait to see you there!"

Get excited for Washington Institute 2022 by watching the recap from Washington Institute 2019. Search on YouTube for "NCJW Washington Institute 2019 Recap Video."