

# Bulletin

# NCJW<sup>SM</sup>

Vol. 26, No. 4  
May-June, 2021  
[www.ncjwgrs.org](http://www.ncjwgrs.org)

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National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section



## YOU ARE JOYFULLY INVITED

### OFFICER AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS INSTALLATION

Come and celebrate this very special day with NCJW!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16 | 7PM  
Temple Beth El lawn

\$5 per person  
Refreshments will be available

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Visit [ncjwgrs.org](http://ncjwgrs.org) to register.

For inquiries and information, contact Ellie  
Rosenbloom at [jejsrose@gmail.com](mailto:jejsrose@gmail.com)

**NCJW,GRS  
Officers & Directors  
2020 - 2021**

*President*  
Jane Amstey

*President-Elect*  
Lisa Waltzer

*Treasurer*  
Ellie Rosenbloom

*VP Administration*  
Lisa Waltzer

*VP Membership*  
Nancy Gabrielsen-Tinnes

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*Recording Secretary*  
Wendy Strauss

*Immediate Past  
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Amy Stein

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Sandra Frankel  
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Cindy Hirschberg  
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(Honorary)  
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Lisa Maas Vangellow  
Karen McArthur  
Leslie Newman  
Melissa Pheterson  
Terri Richardson  
Pauline Rutberg  
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Kathye Simon  
Randi Fox Tabb

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lilacs and dogwoods are blooming, spring has finally arrived! It feels like we have all been in an extended cocoon, wrapped in our homes, just beginning to emerge. As we engage in new opportunities, our Hannah G. Solomon and Person of the Year event helped our section begin to spread our wings. We recognized Dr. Daniel Mendelson and **Nancy Gabrielsen-Tinnes**, and celebrated one another and all that our section achieved this past year. Brava to our event chairs -- **Brenda Comisar, Cindy Finestone, and Ellie Rosenbloom** – and to the committee for coordinating this awesome “drive-in” event! They paid attention to every detail.

Recently, Women’s Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester hosted an online discussion with Mitch Gruber, Rochester city councilman and chief strategy and partnerships officer at Foodlink, and Jennie Schaff, president and CEO of Jewish Family Service. The event provided a closer look at our area’s current food insecurity crisis and the importance of getting involved to make a difference. In cities of similar size, Rochester ranks number one in overall poverty, childhood poverty and extreme poverty (actrochester.org). The pandemic has compounded the issue. This is a concern I have been working on with residents in the Marketview Heights Collective Action Project (MVHCAP) for a long time, and they have created the Children’s Garden on First Street (between Central Park and Bay Street.) In its 13<sup>th</sup> season, the garden grows free produce for residents in need. The MVHCAP raises the funds for the garden

by collecting cans for return deposits. Digging in the dirt in this neighborhood jewel gives me serenity, and a sense of connectedness to community and nature. We can each address food insecurity in meaningful ways.

Examples:

- Donate non-perishable foods to food cupboards, pantries, and shelters.
- Stay current on food policies at the national, state and local levels and lend your voice.
- Volunteer at a food cupboard, pantry, shelter, Meals on Wheels, farmers’ market, or community garden.
- Grow produce in a garden or in containers to donate to the local food cupboards.

There are many ways to get involved in our community. Contact Jewish Family Service or Foodlink for more information.

As I complete my term as your president, I feel honored to have served this organization and the amazing people who make up our membership. The NCJW Greater Rochester Section Board has worked diligently to guide our work, address the issues of the day, advocate, and take action during the pandemic. Thank you to the board and committee members for all your efforts. I am excited to support **Lisa Waltzer** as she takes on the presidency. She will be tremendous in the role! I look forward to the continued work we do together to bring about the change we want to see in our community and the world. ☹

**Jane Amstey**

NCJW,GRS Section President  
Janera1@yahoo.com

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### **Thank you to our NCJW- GRS Bulletin Team!**

**Coordinator-- Donna Cohen**

**Editor-- Marilyn Fenster**

**Proofreader-- Ronny Frishman**

**Layout and Design-- Amy LaGambino**

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## CHILDREN'S GARDEN

At the bottom is the Children's Garden on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The carrots at left are a small part of the over 2,000 pounds of food grown last year. Below, Aji Dulce peppers from the garden. They are a key ingredient in Sofrito, the base of a lot of Puerto Rican recipes.



## NCJW,GRS INSTALLATION 2021

This year's installation event will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 16 outside at Temple Beth El, 139 Winton Road South, Rochester. We will pay tribute to the work that has been done by our volunteers this year. We are so grateful for the time, effort and dedication of our outgoing president, **Jane Amstey**, and we are delighted to welcome our new president, **Lisa Waltzer**. Please join us for a lovely evening. Be sure to wear masks and keep proper social distance.

### ***NCJW Greater Rochester Section Board Slate for 2021-22***

#### Officers

President – **Lisa Waltzer**  
 Treasurer – **Brenda Comisar**  
 Financial Secretary – **Pauline Rutberg**  
 Recording Secretary – **Wendy Strauss**  
 Membership VPs – **Ellie Rosenbloom** and **Amy Stein**  
 Nominating Committee Chair/  
 Immediate Past President – **Jane Amstey**

#### Board of Directors

Term ending June 30, 2022:  
**Rikki Brodsky**  
**Donna Cohen**  
**Cindy Finestone**  
**Cindy Hirschberg**  
**Emily Levin**  
**Karen McArthur**  
**Leslie Newman**  
**Terri Richardson**  
**Lisa Maas-Vangellow**

Term ending June 30, 2023:

**Linda Bice**  
**Marilyn Fenster**  
**Sandra Frankel**  
**Jennifer Loviglio**  
**Rina Schnauer**  
**Cathy Schneider**  
**Sarah Walters**

**Ellie Rosenbloom**, event chair



## MARCH PADNESS REPORT

Thanks to the support and generosity of NCJW,GRS members and friends, we assembled 35 batches of menstrual kits. We had the help of over 50 donors and 30 volunteer assemblers. The recipient agencies welcomed the kits, for their contents, much appreciated by their clients, and for the beautiful presentation, in hand sewn drawstring bags. Thank you all so much. ☺

**Gina Horowitz** and **Soralee Cook**, Co-chairs, The P.A.D. Project

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### Webinar Stresses Respect, Recognition and Speaking Out for LGBTQ+ Community

On April 22, the NCJW,GRS Public Affairs Committee hosted a webinar for over 100 participants on the topic of gender and sexuality. The event included experts from the University of Rochester Medical Center, who discussed the difference between gender and sexuality and evolving terminology, including usage of and respect for a person's pronouns. We learned how we can best support and be allies to members of the LGBTQ+ community. Among the speakers were individuals who represented the gay, gender non-binary and trans community and shared their personal stories in a powerful and moving way.

There were many thoughtful and insightful questions asked by the audience that the panelists adeptly answered. We learned that, as with other marginalized groups in our community, it is no longer enough to be tolerant of the LGBTQ+ community; to be a true ally, we must actively speak out and support individuals when we witness injustice.

It was established that a supportive environment for these individuals decreases their mental health struggles to the same level as those in the straight community, and using a person's correct pronouns can decrease the suicide rate by up to 80%. However, if one accidentally uses the wrong

pronouns or misgenders someone, it is best to simply apologize for the error and move on.

One of the panelists, who has a Jewish education background, pointed out the concept of B'tselem Elohim and that we are all made in G-d's image. Following that idea, one may consider that G-d is neither masculine nor feminine but rather both at the same time, and thus a person also can be anywhere on this spectrum. In the spirit of Tikkun Olam, we learned how we can better support our friends and family members in the LGBTQ+ community and honor our Jewish values at the same time. ☸

**Dr. Lara Evans**

## HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TO A SPECIAL NCJW MEMBER

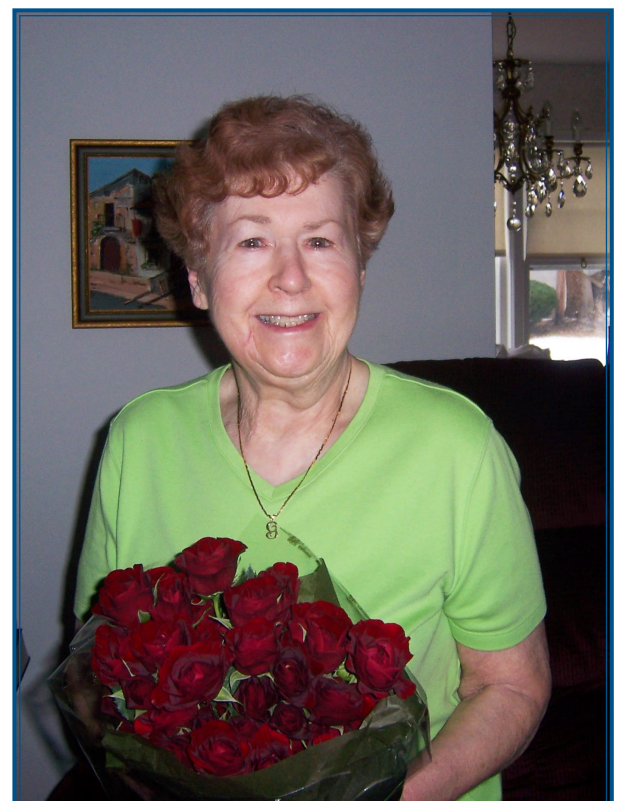
**Gloria Kaplan's** first impression of NCJW came as a young mother when she drove her own mother and her aunt to monthly luncheons at the JCC. They were hosted by "Council," and Gloria thought to herself, What a wonderful thing to do for seniors!

That was the impetus for her 50-plus year membership in NCJW. In 1970, she chaired the souvenir book committee for the section's gala. She first joined the board of directors in 1976 and has been our section's unofficial "historian" ever since.

Gloria would do anything asked of her, including driving older members to meetings, held in the daytime in those early years. Gloria was honored for her continuous dedication to

our causes with a special citation several years ago and was our Woman of the Year in 2008. She is best known for her tireless efforts in soliciting ads for our membership book—and then following up to make sure we got paid! She likely has raised more money for the Greater Rochester Section than anyone else because of this work.

Gloria will turn 90 on July 1, 2021. So many of those years have been devoted to NCJW, and we are all so grateful. Happy Birthday, Gloria. We celebrate you! ☸



# DRIVE-IN EVENT A SMASHING SUCCESS!

"Honk if you can hear me!" That's how **Ellie Rosenbloom**, co-chair with **Brenda Comisar** and **Cindy Finestone**, started off the 2021 NCJW,GRS Recognition Brunch on April 25. Faced with the pandemic, but still wanting to get together to recognize our honorees, NCJW gave the brunch a whole new look – more like a drive-in movie. A 9'X16' video wall greeted attendees in the Temple B'rith Kodesh parking lot. The live speakers were broadcast onto the large video wall, making every car a good seat to view the event. Those who could not join us in person were provided with a link to watch the broadcast on the internet. The turnout for this unique event was fantastic. After guests were welcomed, **Ronny Frishman** gave us insight into the life of Fannie Bigelow, a true Rochester leader and hero. One of NCJW,GRS' first leaders, she worked tirelessly to improve conditions for women and children. Along with her friend Susan B. Anthony, she helped to convince the University of Rochester to admit women, and helped raise funds for women to attend. Fannie was described as a "leader, visionary, and a force to be reckoned with."

**Marilyn Fain Fenster**, last year's Woman of the Year, introduced this year's honoree, **Nancy Gabrielsen-Tinnes**, as someone who is "always ready to take on all of our initiatives and responsibilities." Quoting **Linda Bice**, a good friend of Nancy's, Marilyn said, "Those fortunate enough to know Nancy appreciate her great

sense of humor, boundless determination and focused commitment to women's rights and equality."

As Nancy accepted her award, she shared that she is fortunate to have a wonderful and supportive family. Relatives came to Rochester for the event, and several around the country were able to watch via the web link. Nancy praised the work of NCJW, saying her driving force is "...to ensure that my grandchildren live in a socially just world."

## **Barbara Orenstein-Present**

introduced Dr. Daniel Ari Mendelson, winner of the Hannah G. Solomon Award. Barbara provided Mendelson's background, and then proceeded to explain that, "Clearly, Dr. Mendelson has impressive technical chops in his field, but it is the level of compassion with which he treats each of his patients that makes him unique."

In accepting the award, Mendelson told a poignant story of a remarkable woman named Sadie, whose lung cancer was misdiagnosed. Sadie was Mendelson's grandmother, and he knew at age 11 he wanted to be a doctor so he could do better for people like Sadie. Later, he found that his real calling was geriatrics and

palliative medicine. He said his way of honoring Tikkun Olam and his grandmother is to "ensure older adults receive truly person-centered care that aligns with their values and goals, and reflects the beautiful lives they lived."

NCJW,GRS President **Jane Amstey** wrapped up the morning by sharing highlights of the past year, and noting the wonderful events and programs in which members have engaged. We can't forget about the swag bags! Each attendee received an NCJW bag filled with goodies, including candles, tea, a fan to wave, a car coaster, lip balm, hand sanitizer, seeds to plant, and of course, movie candy and popcorn in keeping with the event theme.

A huge thank you goes out to fabulous committee members **Linda Bice** and **Donna Cohen**. The committee had a lot of help getting ready for the event and setting up and greeting attendees. Thank you also to Greg Mendelsohn,

Izaak Mendelsohn, **Terri Richardson, Jeff Rosenbloom, Joan Rosenthal, Pauline Rutberg, Amy Stein, Rabbi Peter Stein, Wendy Strauss, Nancy Gabrielsen-Tinnes, and Dawn Wisset**.

We would be remiss if we did not thank our sponsors, without whom our work would not be possible. Thank you to everyone who attended, either in-person or via the web link. ≡

**Brenda Comisar**





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OR CURRENT RESIDENT



When was the last time you voted in a local primary?

Local primaries are generally not as jazzy as national elections and voter turnout is usually pretty dismal. The Public Affairs Committee of NCJW, Greater Rochester Section wants you to get in the habit of voting EVERY time there is an opportunity to do so.

Primary Day is June 22, 2021. Candidates are running for: Town Council seats in Brighton, Pittsford, and Hamlin; Monroe County Court Judge; Commissioner of Schools in Rochester; Rochester City Council; and Monroe County Legislature in eight legislative districts. Now is the time to find out about each candidate in your party and decide if you are going to vote for the candidate designated by the party in which you are registered or for the challenger. If your

district, town or party is not on the list, you will wait until November 2 to vote.

In some ways, local elections affect our daily lives to an even greater degree than national elections – town councils, school boards, district legislators, judges and town supervisors decide matters of policy and taxation. We are entitled to have a say in how our taxes are spent and which policies are in line with our values. Go to [monroecounty.gov](http://monroecounty.gov) and type “candidates” in the search box to see everyone who is running in a primary.

The following link shows the candidate in Brighton who have received Democratic and Working Families Party designation. There are no Republican primaries in Brighton this year. <http://www.brightondems.com/bdc-supported-candidates>