

# Bulletin

# NCJW<sup>SM</sup>

Vol. 27, No. 1  
September, 2021  
[www.ncjwgrs.org](http://www.ncjwgrs.org)

 [facebook.com/ncjwgrs](https://facebook.com/ncjwgrs)

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

**WED/1**  
General Board Mtg.  
7:00 p.m.  
Temple B'rith Kodesh

**MON-WED/6-8**  
Rosh Hashanah

**WED-THU/15-16**  
Yom Kippur

**MON-MON/20-27**  
Sukkot

**TUE/28**  
Shemini Atzeret

**WED/29**  
Simchat Torah

### OCTOBER

**WED/13**  
General Board Mtg.  
7:00 p.m.  
Temple B'rith Kodesh

**TUE/19**  
Opening Event

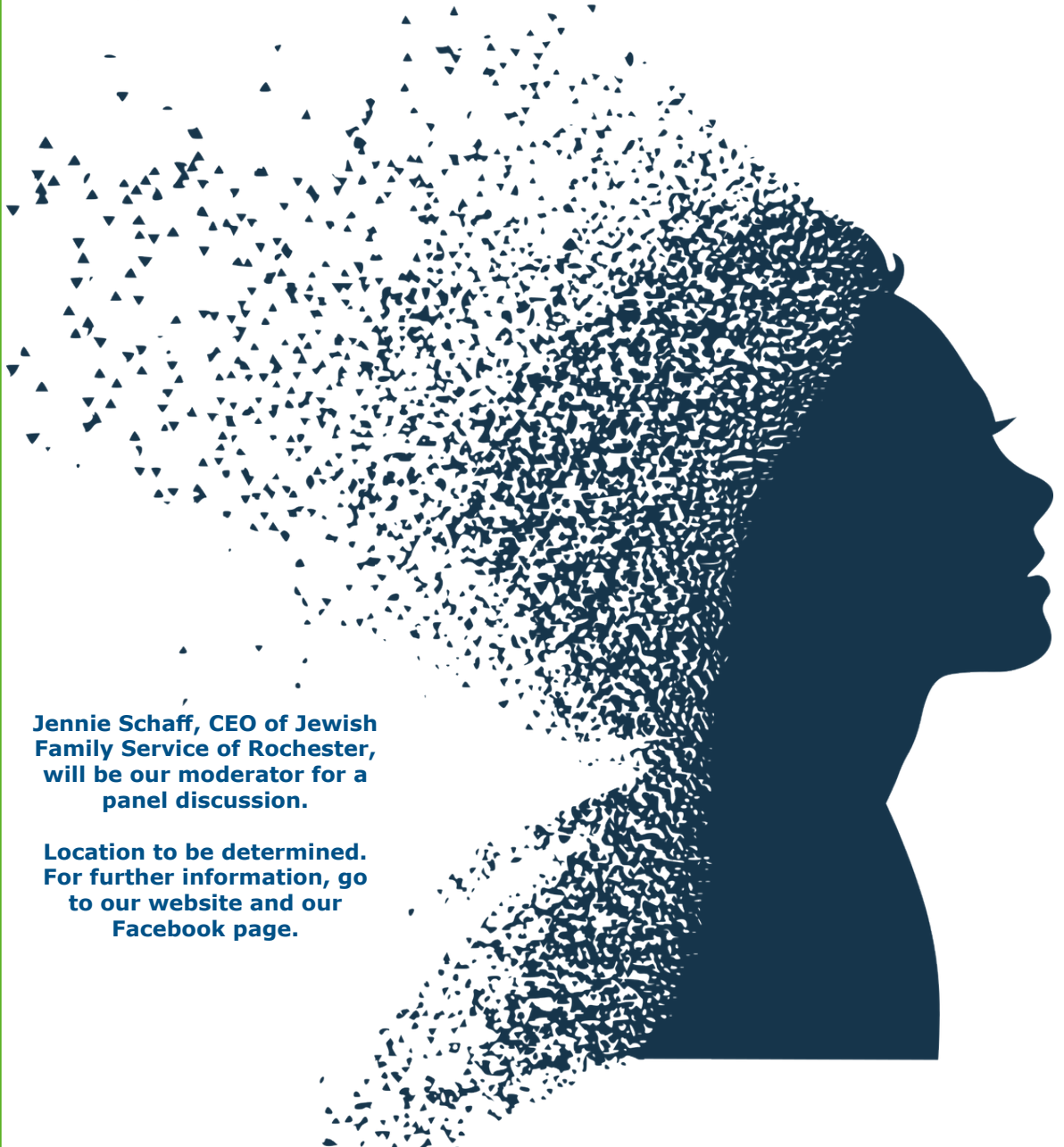
*Save the date for our Opening Event*

## Finding Resilience: Mental Health in the Time of a Global Crisis

**October 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

Jennie Schaff, CEO of Jewish Family Service of Rochester, will be our moderator for a panel discussion.

Location to be determined. For further information, go to our website and our Facebook page.



**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

*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

I am so honored and humbled to be stepping into the role of president of the Greater Rochester Section this year. Having served on the NCJW,GRS board for the last six years, I have had the privilege of seeing firsthand the incredible work that this amazing group of women does for our community. This year, we will be looking to continue this work in new and meaningful ways.

Our opening event in October will focus on mental health, which is a topic near and dear to my heart. I hope you will join us for what promises to be a fantastic conversation about maintaining mental wellness in the face of crisis and uncontrollable circumstances.

Our Public Affairs Committee remains deeply committed to such issues as protecting voting rights and supporting reproductive rights -- rights that are continually under attack. The committee, under the leadership of **Rikki Brodsky** and **Lisa Maas-Vangellow**, ensures that we stay informed and active in our advocacy efforts.

Our P.A.D. Project remains strong and continues to provide essential feminine hygiene products to women in need. Many thanks to **Gina Horowitz** and **Soralee Cook** for their tireless work to adapt this wonderful program amidst the challenges of the coronavirus and to ensure its continued success.

Lastly, I want to thank our incredible board members for their support and enthusiasm. Each person brings different skills and interests to the table, along with unmatched energy and passion for our mission. I am constantly in awe of this dynamic group and am so looking forward to seeing all that we can accomplish together this year.

As we celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, I want to wish you all a sweet, healthy new year. May we be sealed in the "Book of Life" for another year, and may we continue to improve the lives of women, children and families in our community. ☹

**Lisa Waltzer**  
NCJW,GRS President  
lisakwaltzer@gmail.com

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## WANT TO HELP THE P.A.D. PROJECT?

The P.A.D. Project is once again inviting temples, churches and other groups that have held P.A.D. parties in the past to start scheduling them again. Here are some ideas: invite your book group or neighbors to a party, or celebrate your birthday by inviting friends to a small P.A.D. party at your house. You don't need to assemble 25 kits. You can make fewer. We have some supplies left from March PADness to help supplement your party. Contact [ginarose@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ginarose@rochester.rr.com) if you'd like to sign up or learn more.

Also, Maria Wehrle from Mothers in Need of Others is inviting individuals to

help with sorting and packing items at their Favor Street location. The P.A.D. Project donates many of our kits there. The items to sort and pack are baby items, personal and feminine hygiene, and cleaning and paper products. These are given to case workers for individual clients. If you have an hour or two, contact [mothersinneedofothers@gmail.com](mailto:mothersinneedofothers@gmail.com). ☹

**Gina Horowitz**





# INSTALLATION 2021

We were delighted to have over 50 people join us for the NCJW,GRS Board Installation on June 16, held outside at Temple Beth El – IN PERSON! It was a lovely evening in so many ways. Our outgoing president, **Jane Amstey**, shared the important work that has been done by our volunteers during this unprecedented year. COVID did not stop NCJW,GRS volunteers from working on a variety of programs and initiatives: an educational forum on the electoral college; "Promoting and Protecting the Vote"; "Gender and Sexuality 2021 – How We Name, Recognize, and Care for Our LGBTQ+ Community"; March PADness; Havdalah & Chocolate; and the 5th Street Block Club.

**Lisa Waltzer** spoke beautifully about her vision to bring NCJW forward as she begins her tenure as president.

The Greater Rochester Section Slate for the Board 2021/22 was installed as follows:

## Officers

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**

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 Schnauffer**  
**Cathy Schneider**  
**Sarah Walters**



*Immediate Past President Jane Amstey (left) and President Lisa Waltzer*

A lovely reception followed with beautiful music played by cellists Kathy Lewis and Nancy McGee. A special thank-you to **Debbie Zeger**, who assisted with planning and coordination. A huge thank-you also goes out to the Installation Committee –

**Jane Amstey, Linda Bice, Debi Brenner, Brenda Comisar, Cindy Finestone, Leslie Newman, Amy Stein, Wendy Strauss, and Nancy Tinnnes.** ≡

**Ellie Rosenbloom,**  
Event Chair



*Below left to right, Brenda Comisar, Jane Amstey, Lisa Waltzer, Cindy Finestone, Linda Bice, Nancy Gabrielsen-Tinnnes, Ellie Rosenbloom*



## WE ARE LISTENING TO YOU, NCJW,GRS

Our members' voices are important. We need your help to guide us with programming and communication so we can provide meaningful engagement and address the most pressing issues of our community. The Greater Rochester Section conducted a membership survey recently to assess our members' needs, interests and satisfaction with our organization's efforts over the past year. Thank you to the 51 members who responded to the survey! This information was shared with the GRS Board of Directors and will be helpful in our section's current and future planning.

When asked what the top priority should be for our section's focus, respondents most frequently noted:

- Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice (67%)
- Environment (43%)
- Voter Engagement (41%)
- Civil Rights (41%)
- Human Needs (37%)

When asked about the Greater Rochester Section's communication with members, we learned that most respondents (56%) like receiving the bulletin online;

34% enjoy getting both an online version and hard copy through the mail. More than half of the respondents (55%) follow us on Facebook, and 39% follow us on Instagram. Those who said they were not our Facebook or Instagram followers indicated they tend not to use those forms of social media. A resounding 98% felt receiving eBlasts was helpful in keeping members engaged with timely, relevant issues and programs, and alerting them to ways they could take action locally, regionally and nationally.

Just about all the respondents (98%) expressed satisfaction with being a member of our organization and having their needs met. Numerous members thanked us for all the work taking place during this pandemic. Many members shared that they would like to be engaged in committee or board work. Please watch for upcoming eBlasts and bulletins that provide information on potential opportunities. We look forward to serving members in the coming year and will use your voices to help guide the efforts of NCJW's Greater Rochester Section. ≧

**Jane Amstey**

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## DO YOU MISS THE NCJW,GRS MEMBERSHIP BOOK?

Your section leaders are here for you! We will provide a listing of names, addresses and phone numbers to NCJW,GRS members upon request. If you would prefer that your information not be shared in

this listing, or if you have changes to your information, please email [info@ncgwgrs.org](mailto:info@ncgwgrs.org) by October 31, 2021.

All requests will be filled after the list is updated. ≧

## CONSIDER COLLEGE

We had a brainstorm!! In addition to buying books for the children of Consider College "originals," we had the brilliant idea to purchase books for their parents, as well as for Consider College alums who don't have children. All are now in their 20s.

There are currently 17 participants in our book program – 14 ladies and three gents. I sent *Latinitas: Celebrating 40 Big Dreamers* to the six Latinx moms to enjoy and share with their daughters. Then I sent *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor (one of the women mentioned in the previous book) to Annali, and *Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes to Viviana. **Alice Silver** has signed up to send *Giver of Stars* to Kyarra (who recently got married), **Nancy LeVant** will send *My Beloved World* to Briana and **Ruth Rappaport-Kristal** will send it to Alazia and Lucy. **Soralee Cook** highly recommended *The Four Winds* by Kristen Hannah, but we haven't yet decided to whom we will send it.

Would you like to "claim" one of the participants who does not have a mentor, and three or four times a year send him/her a book you have read and enjoyed? Since we are well-known "people of the book," I imagine many of us are in at least one book group and can make recommendations of books we've read and loved. You can also consider asking your book group to sponsor one mentee. If you're interested in participating, contact me and I'll give you a name. ≧

**Mollie Traub**  
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[mtraub@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mtraub@rochester.rr.com)

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# THE BEAUTY OF KOL NIDRE

There has always been something special for me about Kol Nidre. As a kid, getting dressed up at night meant a special occasion, like attending an RPO concert or seeing a show at the Auditorium Theater. We attended Friday night services frequently as a family, but they always had a casual feel. Kol Nidre is different. Walking into the Temple Beth El sanctuary at night, wearing my "Saturday best," still gives me butterflies. The air is thick with anticipation. The magnificent stained glass windows, normally streaming with sunlight, are muted and somber at dusk. As the sanctuary fills with people, I see faces I've known for 30 years, faces of people who have borne witness to my life. My family settles into our High Holiday seats (different from our normal seats, naturally) and we pick up the conversations with our neighbors from last year as if no time has passed: questions about the kids, mazel tovs on the simchas – the usual. For me, the holiness of the High Holidays is rooted in community. It's the feeling of being enveloped by my fellow Jews that elevates the evening. Last year, not being able to gather together drastically changed my experience of the High Holidays. While I was sad about not being able to participate in this annual ritual of community, I felt a sense of solidarity with my fellow Jews who were experiencing the same unprecedented situation, and who were soldiering on as Jews have been doing for



The Talmud teaches that anyone who sees harm and does not speak out is held responsible. Our vote is our voice, and we must also protest attacks on the rights of other voters. We are obligated to speak up and take action to ensure that every eligible person can cast a vote and have that vote counted.

Here in the United States, citizens aged 18 and older have the right to vote as stipulated in several Constitutional amendments ratified over the years. Despite that, our voting rights are being attacked on every side, at every level and in every state. State laws being enacted may appear unobtrusive, but in fact they disillusion a public already weary of partisan bickering only to be amplified with misinformation on social media.

Last November, with a nationwide effort from many corners of the country, a nonpartisan push to get out the vote did, in fact, rally citizens from all different backgrounds. Our efforts had an impact and will continue to effect change.

NCJW volunteers nationally, and especially in Arizona and Texas, are on the ground

thousands of years. I am hopeful that we can be in person again this year, but I know that new challenges will continue to arise and we will face them the only way we

spotlighting the detrimental effects of these new laws. They are our fellow members who need our voices and support in advocating for federal legislation.

After the Supreme Court upheld Arizona's restrictive voting laws, NCJW CEO Sheila Katz wrote, "Today's decision by the Supreme Court . . . will negatively impact voters across the country – particularly those who are already marginalized. By allowing the laws in Arizona to remain in place, the Court has further weakened the Voting Rights Act, and once more demonstrated the need for Congress to take action to pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act."

Stay tuned as we move into the fall with important local elections in November. We will be partnering with the League of Women Voters and other nonpartisan organizations to get out the vote. Every election has consequences and the success of NCJW's mission depends on our votes and efforts. ≧

**Vancy Boyar**  
Public Affairs Committee  
Member

know how: Together.

G'mar chatimah tovah! ≧

**Lisa Waltzer**  
NCJW,GRS President  
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NCJW<sup>SM</sup>

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section

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Sarah Ross

## 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.*