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Bulletin



Vol. 20, No. 2
November/December 2014
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National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

TUE / 11
Books, Mommy
and Me, YWCA

WED / 12
General Board
Meeting
7:30 p.m., JCC
General
Board Meeting

DECEMBER

TUE / 2
Women's Equality
Act Program

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

TUE / 16
Chanukah First
Candle

WED / 24
Chanukah Eighth
Candle

JANUARY

WED / 14
General Board
Meeting
7:30 p.m., JCC

MON / 19
Martin Luther
King Jr. Day
and
Consider College
Job Shadowing
Day



WOMEN'S EQUALITY ACT – The Truth about the WEA

Speaker: **M. Tracey Brooks**
President & CEO
of Family Planning
Advocates of
New York State



Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Temple B'rith Kodesh
2131 Elmwood Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618

Q & A and light refreshments to follow program

Co-sponsors:

- Women of Reform Judaism/TBK Sisterhood
- Planned Parenthood of Central & Western New York
- Genesee Valley Chapter of the NYCLU
- Rochester Chapter of Hadassah
- Interfaith Impact of New York State
- YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County
- American Association of University Women – Greater Rochester Area Branch



120 Years of Social Change

MISSION STATEMENT

National Council of Jewish Women, Inc., is a volunteer organization that has been at the forefront of social change for over a century. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW works to improve the quality of life for women, children and families, and to ensure individual rights and freedoms through programs and projects initiated by its network of 90,000 members and supporters nationwide.

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Nancy Chodak

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Arlene Schenker

Cathy Schneider

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 120th anniversary celebration and opening event of the Greater Rochester Section of NCJW in September was a wonderful way to bring our members together, to remind ourselves of our long history of community service based upon Jewish values, and to build for the future. The Borinquen dancers performed with grace, enthusiasm, and discipline, and they talked about how this program has helped them to succeed in school. The candle lighting ceremony celebrated our community partners, because we work best when we work as a team for the community. Education is at the core of NCJW, GRS, and the presentation on women's issues as seen through the lens of the Women's Equality Act (WEA) rounded out the evening. Hats off to the Planning Committee who did an outstanding job! Thank you, **Carol Fybush, Nancy Chodak, Soralee Cook, Eileen Fishman, Gina Horowitz, and Mollie Traub.**

It is said that democracy is not a spectator sport, and neither is community service. NCJW, GRS members understand how important volunteer work is to the

fabric and health of our community, just as participating in the democratic process and voting is essential to our way of life. We intend to continue to contribute in meaningful ways, so stay tuned for upcoming programs that will focus on the WEA, the environment, education, and health.

Recruiting new members and welcoming back those who took a break from membership will keep NCJW, GRS vibrant and vital. I encourage each of you to reach out and invite someone to an educational program or to help on a project...and to consider membership. Remember that the National Council of Jewish Women is not just for women and not just for Jews. We welcome anyone who wants to help make a positive difference in the lives of women, children and families. ☹

With warm wishes for a very happy and healthy year,

Sandra L. Frankel, President
473-5872
frankel@rochester.rr.com

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY IN ROCHESTER IS COMING ON DECEMBER 8, 2014 Capitalism Versus Human Rights

NCJW, GRS has signed on as a co-sponsor of this event.

This year, we ask big questions: Why do poverty, racism and sexism persist? Why can't we really do something about climate change? Why are we spending so much on war, while cutting back on programs that benefit people? Why don't we have Medicare for all? Why is the minimum wage so low? *Why do we have to keep working so hard for change, with so little result, no matter who is in power?*

This year we've asked the following people in our community to join us and to respond from their own perspectives: Paola Macas Betchart, David Cay Johnston, Ream Kidane, Colin O'Malley, and Danielle Ponder. Many of you know them, or their work in the community. Denise Young will be the moderator. The tone of the evening will be set with a presentation by Spoken Word Artist Shanterra Randle-Brown.

As usual, you will also have a chance to ask questions of the panelists and of each other, to disagree, and to think about a new way of life that will benefit us all, not just the very few.

Some of the other co-sponsors are: Dave Atias, Center for Disability Rights; Mary Boite, Honeoye Frackabouts and community activist; Sandra Cain, Downtown Presbyterian Church Justice Team; George Dardess, Deacon, Catholic Diocese; Barbara Deming, Episcopal Diocese Public Policy Committee and Rural Migrant Ministry; Ed Lemon, The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester; Pat Mannix, Metro Justice and Moving Beyond Racism; Gail Mott, Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice and Rochester Committee on Latin America; Hank Stone, Citizens for a United Earth; Shirley Thompson, Shades of Sisterhood, FR=EE. ☹

IN THE FAMILY

Get Well Wishes to:
Gloria Kaplan for a speedy recovery

Condolences to:
The family of Jane and Larry Glazer on their passing
The family of Officer Daryl Pierson on his passing
Anita Miller on the passing of her sister
Bruce and **Donna Cohen** on the passing of Bruce's sister ☹

Tribute Cards

Tribute cards are a meaningful way to express your sympathy, honor family and friends, and commemorate special occasions and life cycle events. Your donation helps support NCJW projects. To have a card sent, contact **Cathy Schneider** at 586-7575 or cathy@rochester.rr.com.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.NCJWGRS.ORG

- Front Page – upcoming events
- Current and back issues of bulletins
- Names of officers and directors
- Direct links to national NCJW
- Membership information



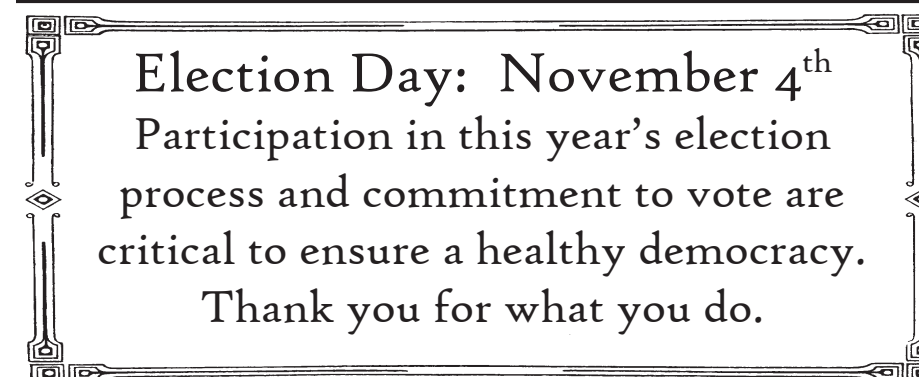
HELP WANTED
Assistant Web Administrator

Learn How to:

- Add activities to the Save-The-Date page
- Upload bulletins
- Create internal and external links

It's really tons of fun, but there should be more than one person in this position.

Contact **Mollie Traub** at 442-7521 or mtraub@rochester.rr.com



Election Day: November 4th
Participation in this year's election process and commitment to vote are critical to ensure a healthy democracy.
Thank you for what you do.

Happy
Chanukah

OPENING EVENT 120TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sixty-five section members and friends came together for the opening event on September 18. It was a celebration of the Greater Rochester Section's 120th anniversary. The agenda for the evening included an outstanding performance by the Borinquen Dance Theater whose mission is: *"To offer a diverse range of youth, many from economically challenged families, the opportunity to develop and practice discipline through the mental and physical training afforded by a rigorous holistic dance program.... To foster excellence through high expectations while balancing the demands of academic success with the methods of a disciplined rehearsal, training and performance program."*



Following the performance, Section President Sandra Frankel spoke about the New York State Women's Equality

Act and its importance to the lives of men and women.

During the candle lighting ceremony we honored our coalition partners, Hannah G. Solomon award recipients, life members, Women of the Year, the marvelous men in our lives, the newest members, the members with the greatest longevity, past presidents, community services, advocacy, education and our hopes for the future.

The souvenir program included a VERY impressive list of 40 programs and projects that the Greater Rochester section has initiated. That list is posted on the website www.ncjwgrs.org under "News" for everyone to enjoy.

The evening ended enjoyably with anniversary cake, coffee and time for socializing. ☺

THE WOMEN'S EQUALITY ACT

Do you know that...

- The Women's Equality Act (WEA) will help the women and families of New York by preserving women's access to reproductive health care, ensuring fair treatment at work, and helping survivors of violence.
- WEA would close the loopholes in New York's equal pay laws which allow employers to pay women less than their male colleagues.
- WEA would require employers to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers.
- WEA would prohibit employers from denying work or promotion to employees simply because they have children.

- WEA would extend sexual harassment protections to employees of all private business, no matter how large or small.
- WEA would ensure that a woman can access abortion care when her health is at risk by codifying in New York State law the 1973 Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade.
- WEA would offer better protection to survivors of human trafficking by treating survivors as victims and holding perpetrators accountable.
- WEA would make it illegal for landlords in New York to deny housing to victims of domestic violence.

NCJW is proud to present Women's Equality Act – The Truth about the WEA. Join us on

December 2, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple B'rith Kodesh to learn more about the WEA and what we can do to support the passage of the bill. Our speaker, M. Tracey Brooks, Esq., is the president and CEO of Family Planning Advocates of New York State and Planned Parenthood Advocates of New York. She leads a statewide coalition representing more than 125 civic, labor, religious, and health and human services agencies promoting access to and affordability of comprehensive reproductive health care services for women and families statewide. ☺

Judy Abelman, Co-Chair Public Affairs Committee, 461-0282
Judy.abelman@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE P.A.D. PROJECT

As you probably remember, the purpose of the P.A.D. Project is to "provide access and dignity" to women during their monthly cycle. So when we learned that the Center for Youth Street Outreach Program, which provides on-the-street services, could benefit from a donation, we got to work.

By the time you receive this bulletin we will have donated 500 packages of sanitary napkins and tampons in a Scensibles disposal bag, ready for distribution. Each small package will also contain information about how to contact the Center for Youth, as well as

other useful information about sex trafficking and domestic abuse hotlines.

Elaine Spaul, executive director of the Center for Youth, and Kathy Cummins, volunteer coordinator, have helped us with this project.

Ann Germanow, owner of Scensibles Source Company and an NCJW, GRS member, has donated the disposable bags. Ann's company is committed to helping economically disadvantaged teens and women have ready access to feminine care products and Scensibles in a dignified manner.

The P.A.D. Project also recently delivered all of the sanitary napkins and tampons we collected over the past year to Sojourner House. That was 11 boxes of tampons, 21 boxes of sanitary napkins and three cartons of panty liners. These were all donated by NCJW, GRS members at events during the course of last year. Thanks to all who donated.

We will continue to accept your donations, especially during our bigger events, such as the Hannah G. Solomon / Woman of the Year brunch. So keep on shopping! ☺

Gina Horowitz, 482-8652
ginarose@rochester.rr.com

ROCHESTER COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

Since 2013, when it was merely a twinkle in the eye of Patricia Braus, executive director of Rochester Education Foundation, and a former Hannah G. Solomon Award recipient, the Rochester College Access Network (RCAN) has been meeting monthly to address the fact that only 10% of Rochester City School District (RCSD) students attend and graduate from college as compared with 64% for the rest of New York State. RCAN's focus is to support students by:

- Setting community goals for college-going;
- Emphasizing the advantages of a college degree, including employment, monetary benefits and personal fulfillment;
- Marketing information about college, opportunities and requirements for college entry to parents, students, counselors, schools, and the community;
- Providing resources to young people;
- Sharing knowledge and expertise about college access and retention possessed by RCAN

with members, parents, students and the community;

- Identifying and filling needs of parents, students, the RCSD, and network members;
- Improving the cooperation and collaboration between existing programs, opportunities, services and associations.

Participants on the committee are the Rochester City School District, Bryant & Stratton College, Monroe Community College, Nazareth College, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John Fisher College, SUNY at Geneseo, SUNY College at Brockport, the University of Rochester, League of Women Voters, Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection, Ibero-American Action League, Urban League, Rochester Area Community Foundation, United Way and National Council of Jewish Women, represented by **Mollie Traub**. These representatives bring a wide variety of resources to the table. The link that follows contains practical information for college juniors and seniors – information

on financial aid forms, area college contact information and a timetable for applying to college. http://rochestereducation.org/resources/college_access.shtml

RCAN has plans to expand the website, to provide locations throughout the city, such as libraries, community centers and schools, where students and parents can get help in filling out the financial aid forms. We are also beginning to tackle some of the social and financial obstacles that RCSD students face as college freshman which cause a disproportional number to drop out within the first semester. These include assisting with such questions as: "Where is the bookstore?" "Where are my classrooms?" "Where do I study?" "If I don't understand something, where can I go for help?"

From time to time I'll update you on RCAN's programs and progress. ☺

Mollie Traub, 442-7521
mtraub@rochester.rr.com