

Bulletin



Vol. 21, No. 4
April-May 2016
www.ncjwgrs.org

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National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

COMING EVENTS

MAR

WED / 9
General Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m., JCC

THU / 24
Purim

TBA
Spring Sojourner
House Program

APR

WED / 6
Climate Change
Program
7:00 p.m.
B'rith Kodesh

WED / 13
General Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m., JCC

SAT-SAT / 23-30
Passover

MAY

SUN / 1
Hannah G.
Solomon/Woman
of the Year
11:00 a.m.
Irondequoit C.C.

THU / 5
Yom HaShoah
(Holocaust
Memorial Day)

WED / 9
General Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m., JCC

THU / 12
Yom Ha'atzmaut
(Israel
Independence Day)

THU / 26
Lag B'Omer

Please Join Us at a Recognition Brunch Honoring

Hannah G. Solomon Award Recipient

Larry Marx

Executive Director
The Children's Agenda

NCJW, GRS **Woman of the Year**

Gina Horowitz

NCJW, GRS Board Member & Past President

Sunday, May 1, 2016 11:00 a.m.

Irondequoit Country Club

4045 East Avenue Rochester, New York

Please mail your check (payable to NCJW, GRS) and reservation form to:
Carol Fybush 120 Viennawood Drive Rochester NY 14618

By April 15, 2016

Supporter: \$36 Patron: \$54 Sponsor: \$100 Benefactor: \$500 Underwriter: \$1,000

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Yes, I/We will attend at this level: \$ _____

No, I cannot attend, but enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to NCJW, GRS

**NCJW,GRS
Officers & Board
2015 - 2016**

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Vancy Boyar
Soralee Cook

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Nancy Chodak

VP Administration
Donna Cohen

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

This edition of our bulletin features our 2016 Hannah G. Solomon and Woman of the Year awards brunch. This is an annual tradition to honor the values of our founder Hannah G. Solomon by recognizing a community leader who advances the lives of women, families and children. In addition, we recognize one of our own volunteers who has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to NCJW,GRS and the ability to lead and develop leadership skills in others.

As women, the considerations are up front and personal. We know all too well the demands of women as caretakers for their families, which often include aging parents. For many of us, it is a choice to either pursue a career, a vocation or spend our time in philanthropic endeavors. Regardless of where we choose to spend our time, we know the challenges our children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews face to succeed in today's competitive environment.

As women, it is part of our DNA to care for those less fortunate than our selves. We have all met the women whom our children call "Auntie," or the trusted friend whose residence is "home" to our children. Several members volunteer in various programs throughout the city school district and the county. Some of our own programs try to effect change or bring some hope to many of these women.

So why **Gina Horowitz**? Because Gina's work on the Rochester Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking and our P.A.D. Project reflects our desire to improve the lives of women, families and children. Her work reflects our values that we believe a brighter future is possible, where no human being should be exploited and women have the tools to create positive change. Through NCJW's program Exodus, we resolve to end sex trafficking in the U.S. and globally. We also work towards financial independence of women and their families to break the cycle of abuse.

Why Larry Marx? As director of The Children's Agenda his work is desperately needed to eradicate the extreme poverty in our city. The goals to have thriving kids that are school ready, successful and prepared for college and career are ones we all share regardless of race, religion or economic status. Our shared concern for the children in our community asks us to act. NCJW works for quality, comprehensive child care, early childhood programs, and school-age programs that are affordable and accessible for all. NCJW works to support families and promote change.

On May 1 join us in honoring the important work of both **Gina Horowitz** and Larry Marx. ≡

Thank you,
Vancy Boyar and **Soralee Cook**,
Co-presidents
585-234-3475

ARE YOU A PAID UP MEMBER?



Please remit
your \$36 dues
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2016 HANNAH G. SOLOMON AWARD RECIPIENT LARRY MARX A Champion for Children

Larry Marx, executive director of The Children's Agenda and this year's recipient of the Hannah G. Solomon Humanitarian Award, has made social change his life's work. Committed to the youngest and most vulnerable members of society, he fights for policy changes that will raise children out of poverty, give them the education and support services they need and deserve, and set them on course to be productive adults.

His dedication to action and improving the lives of children and families follows the passion of NCJW's founder, Hannah G. Solomon, and makes him an especially fitting honoree for the award given in her name.

The Children's Agenda, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2015, is a nonpartisan advocacy organization that presses for policies and programs that benefit children, from the prenatal period through the teen years. It doesn't sponsor its own programs or services, but instead evaluates, through evidence-based research, what works and what doesn't work; it then pursues funding and policies at the local, state and federal levels for initiatives proven effective at helping children and families.

Marx, who has vast experience leading campaigns to enact new public policies in a wide range of issues, joined The Children's Agenda in 2010 and became executive director in 2012. He has been instrumental in forming

collaborations with other nonprofits and aligning groups and members of the Rochester community to seek solutions to the city's high child poverty rate. He has been a fierce advocate for expanding the Nurse-Family Partnership Program, which supports low-income pregnant women with home visits from nurses. The nationally recognized program, brought to Rochester by The Children's Agenda, improves health outcomes for both mother and child.

In addition to his advocacy work, Marx has participated in the campaigns of local, state, and federal elected officials throughout the Midwest. Known nationally as a social change strategist, he has convened conferences of national funders and experts on democracy and progressive issues. Prior to moving to Rochester, he spent 12 years as executive director of Citizen Action, the largest public interest group in Wisconsin. Since 2014, he has served on the 7-member board of directors of the Partnership for America's Children, a national federation of 56 children's advocacy organizations in 44 states. He also sits on the board of the USAction Education Fund and on the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester. He and his wife, Deb Rosen, have two daughters. ≧



HELP WANTED

We are looking for volunteers to join several committees:

Do you like to write or are social media savvy? The Communications Committee would like to hear from you. Contact **Jennifer Loviglio** at ncjwgrs@gmail.com. Write "communications" in the subject line.

Our Hannah G. Solomon/Woman of the Year award event is looking for volunteers. Contact **Vancy Boyar** at ncjwgrs@gmail.com. Write HG/WOTY in the subject line.

Our Facebook page would benefit from an Assistant Facebook Administrator. It isn't necessary to have administrative experience. Training will be provided to learn how to add activities to the Save-The-Date page, upload bulletins and create links. Contact **Mollie Traub** at 442-7521 or mtraub@rochester.rr.com. ≧

Share news in the Bulletin

Send your articles, pictures or announcements to:

Donna Cohen at raquet19@aol.com

Bulletin Editor:
Marilyn Fenster

Bulletin Committee:
Donna Cohen
Ronny Frishman



**Remember you can
keep up to date with
NCJW, GRS news
on our website:**

www.ncjwgrs.org

GINA HOROWITZ, NCJW, GRS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

On November 22, 2015, Gina Horowitz was surprised and touched when she was informed that she would be honored as the NCJW, GRS 2016 Woman of the Year!



Gina joined NCJW, GRS many years ago, at the invitation of her sister, Mollie Traub. She remained an active member until she moved out of town. After Gina retired and returned to Rochester, she jumped into NCJW participation with both feet. She became vice president of Administration, followed by section president and currently chairs the P.A.D. Project.

Gina loves that NCJW offers opportunities to connect with people in meaningful ways. She offers as an example her participation in Consider College, where the program activities helped form a special bridge between people of different backgrounds. Students and mentors developed a real affection for one another.

Gina has worked steadily, leading and encouraging the members of the P.A.D. project as they took a seed of an idea and matured it to today's successful endeavor; improving life for low-income and homeless women. She continues to lead as the team expands the project's reach and community impact. Gina is finding her political voice, commenting that she is "surprised at how much I enjoyed working towards getting the bill passed that would eliminate taxes on pads and tampons in New York State."

Gina also represents NCJW at the Rochester Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking (RRCaHT) (www.rrcaht.org), and edits the group's quarterly newsletter. "I have learned so much about the work of local organizations and individuals that strive to meet the challenges of victims," she said. "I've connected the dots to my own background in ways I hadn't before, that many young Jewish single women immigrants arriving on our shores became victims of trafficking in the early 1900s and that the slave labor of Jews and other groups during the Holocaust are part of the tragic history of trafficking too."

Gina received her M.A. in theatre from the University of Illinois, moving to NYC as part of the New York Shakespeare Festival, followed by a few seasons in Portland, Oregon with the Portland Opera Association. She also worked as a manager at the Portland Saturday Market, an outdoor crafts and food market. After the birth of her son Gabriel, Gina returned to New York to begin her career as a high school English teacher in Hornell where she and her son "enjoyed the beauty of rural life." There, she found her social-action voice: as a strong believer in the separation of religion and state, she became a catalyst in getting the school to change its policy of religious prayer at school events.

In her "free" time, Gina likes to read, travel, garden and hike. She started doing some fabric collage artwork, under the

guidance of her friend Lynne Feldman, and is surprised at how much she enjoys working in this medium. Gina is looking forward to her son's marriage to Juanita Bernal Benavides in August.

We are especially thankful that Gina retired, moved to Rochester, and re-joined NCJW,GRS. We are so grateful for all her contributions to our section and community. Please join us in honoring Gina Horowitz as the 2016 Woman of the Year on May 1, 2016.≧

IN THE FAMILY

Condolences to:

David Sischy on the passing of his mother

Jennifer Friedman and **Kimberly Kalish** on the passing of their father

Healing Wishes to:

Dan Fybush ≧

Tribute Cards

Please contact Cathy Schneider at 586-7575 to inform your fellow section members of family life cycle events that you would like printed in the bulletin and to order tribute cards. Tribute cards are a meaningful way to honor life cycle events and support NCJW projects.

THE P.A.D. PROJECT

The P.A.D. Project recently held two kit parties. The employees of Athleta, Eastview Mall, made 129 full-cycle kits. This is the third kit party held by Athleta. Its parent company, GAP, encourages volunteerism and our section's P.A.D. Project receives a donation from GAP each time Athleta holds a party. Thank you, **Vancy Boyar** and **Hyla Mink**, both of whom work at Athleta, for your help planning and running these events.

Another successful kit party was held at Temple Sinai. It was a joint event among the Rochester Chapter of Hadassah, Temple Sinai Chavurah and NCJW,GRS. All of the pads and liners for this event were donated by the women of these organizations and they were generous! There were enough supplies to make 160 full-cycle kits, with some spare pads to get a future party started.

Thirty kits were reserved for the RAIHN program (Rochester Area Interfaith Housing Network). Temple Sinai is one of 14 faith communities that house homeless families for one week, four times a year. Special thanks to **Monika Katzel**, whose idea it was to hold the party and who organized it, and to **Mollie Traub**, who came to help and learn to become an ambassador at a future party. Among the 20 participants were reported sightings of other NCJW,GRS members.

The P.A.D. Project Committee continues to advocate for passage of A7555. Senator Joseph E. Robach introduced a similar Senate bill, S6359, in January. If passed, women in the state of New York would no longer be taxed on purchases of pads, tampons, and panty liners.

The P.A.D. Committee, in preparation for growing interest in holding kit parties, is writing a "How to Hold a Kit Party" manual, which will include instructions and a directory of organizations that would like to receive donations.

Ann Germanow, owner of The Scensible Source Company, deserves special recognition and thanks. She and her company have recently evolved from being our corporate sponsor to our co-sponsor. Ann has been a key person in moving the P.A.D. Project forward.

If you'd like to learn more about our work, please contact ginarose@rochester.rr.com. We welcome your interest and help. ≧

Gina Horowitz, chairperson

2016-2017 NCJW,GRS SLATE FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Co-Presidents **Vancy Boyar** and **Soralee Cook*** (term ends 2017)

President-elect TBA

VP Administration **Donna Cohen** (continuing, term ends 2017)

VP Ways and Means TBA

VP Membership **Nancy Chodak** (continuing, term ends 2017)

Treasurer **Nira Tobochnik** (continuing, term ends 2017)

Financial Secretary **Barbara Grosh** (continuing, term ends 2017)

Recording Secretary **Lisa Waltzer** (continuing, term ends 2017)

Immediate Past Pres. **Sandra Frankel**

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Cathy Schneider
Stacey Freed
Peg McNamara
Ruth Sklarsky
Ronny Frishman
Judy Slade
Gloria Kaplan
Arlene Schenker
Amy Stein

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Jane Amstey
Nancy Gabrielsen-Tinnes
Nicole Gantshar

Stacy Trien
Wendy Moss

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
for 2016-2017*
Ronny Frishman, Carol Fybush, Ruth Kramer, Arline Seideman

**Requires election at May 1 Hannah G./Woman of the Year luncheon ≧*

Submitted by the 2015-2016 Nominating Committee: **Ronny Frishman** (chair), **Ruth Kramer, Linda Lowenstein, Sharon Rose, Amy Stein**

NCJWSM

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Hadassah and Temple Sinai Chavurah women making 160 full-cycle kits. Read about the event in this newsletter.

Change of address?

If you have a change or correction of address, please contact

Barbara Grosh at
Barbara@grosh.net



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.