

APRIL 2024

VOLUME 2

# NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN  
GREATER ROCHESTER SECTION

## NEW AND EXCITING PROGRAMS

NCJW Greater Rochester Section has been busy at work providing programming and resources for our community. Please read this digital newsletter to learn more about NCJW GRS and how you can help in the future!



CHECK THE NCJW GREATER ROCHESTER SECTION WEBSITE REGULARLY  
FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS AND PROGRAMS!  
[WWW.NCJWGRS.COM](http://WWW.NCJWGRS.COM)



## NCJW GRS UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars!

- April 14: Susan B Anthony House Tour
- April 18: JCC CenterStage "Sisters in LAW"
- May 5: Hannah G Solomon/Woman of the Year Brunch
- July 1: Membership Dues Renewals

[WWW.NCJWGRS.ORG](http://WWW.NCJWGRS.ORG)

# Susan B Anthony House Tour

Sunday, April 14th | 11am  
\$15 per person

**Limited space available. Register now!**

The first floor of the museum is accessible for those who have difficulty climbing stairs.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

## **“Exercise Your Writes”**

Join NCJW Greater Rochester Section for a letter writing campaign.

Take part in “exercising your write”  
within the historic neighborhood of Susan B. Anthony!

NCJW<sup>®</sup>

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section

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



# HANNAH G SOLOMON - WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2024

## SUNDAY, MAY 5TH 11AM

### IRONDEQUOIT COUNTRY CLUB

THE HANNAH G. SOLOMON AWARD  
IS PRESENTED BY NCJW GRS TO AN  
INDIVIDUAL IN THE COMMUNITY  
WHO HAS CHANGED THE LIVES  
OF OTHERS THROUGH HIS OR HER  
LEADERSHIP EFFORTS AND SERVICE.  
WE ARE HONORED TO NAME  
KAREN MORRIS  
AS THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT!



The National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section  
2024 Recognition Event

**Honoring**

Hannah G. Solomon Award Recipient

**Karen Morris**

and

NCJW GRS Woman of the Year

**Amy Stein**



**Hearts for Justice**

*Please join us as we celebrate the  
outstanding accomplishments of  
members of our community.*

**NCJW**

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section



THE WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD IS  
PRESENTED TO A MEMBER OF NCJW GRS  
WHO HAS SHOWN LEADERSHIP AND A  
COMMITMENT TO OUR SECTION'S  
PROGRAMMING AND ADVOCACY.  
WE ARE PROUD TO NAME  
AMY STEIN  
AS THIS YEARS RECIPIENT!

HANNAH G SOLOMON - WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2024  
SUNDAY, MAY 5TH 11AM  
IRONDEQUOIT COUNTRY CLUB



KAREN MORRIS  
HANNAH G SOLOMON RECIPIENT 2024

The definition of a Renaissance woman is someone who has a wide range of abilities and interests. I could not think of anyone who better fits that definition than Karen Morris. Born in Watertown, New York, Karen came to Rochester early in her career. She is an attorney, a retired judge, a mentor, an educator, a community leader, a Big Sister and a great humanitarian.

Over her career, Karen was a part-time judge in Brighton Town Court and a distinguished professor of business law at Monroe Community College. She is a role model for her students and always wanted to make the law fun through her teaching. Some of her business law textbooks include Law Made Fun through Harry Potter's Adventures.

Karen is committed to helping the Rochester community through her volunteer work. She spearheaded "Ticket to Ride" an initiative that raises money to provide bus passes for criminal defendants to attend court-mandated hearings and programs. She has called the program one of her most significant accomplishments.

Her involvement in Monroe Community College has not been only as faculty member; she is also involved in DWIGHT (Doing What Is Good and Healthy Together.) This is a campus food pantry initiative created to support students in need of food with additional resources to help those that are having difficulties making ends meet.

Karen's compassion for others has led her to being a community partner for the youth Big Sister program in 1994 where she became a Big Sister to Jamie. Her relationship with Jamie is still strong. Karen was honored for her service and participation in this program in 1995 and 1998.

As part of a Kiwanis project, Karen plays a Santa's helper and sometimes even Santa for various charitable agencies. Karen is also a practicing magician. She continues to learn the tricks of the trade and loves entertaining children with her magical tricks.

Please join us as we honor this Renaissance woman, Karen Morris, as the National Council of Jewish Women Greater Rochester Section recipient of the Hannah G. Solomon award.

In honor of this year's Hannah G. Solomon recipient,  
please consider bringing  
a non-perishable food item to support the MCC DWIGHT  
food pantry. Click here for more information.





HANNAH G SOLOMON - WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2024  
SUNDAY, MAY 5TH 11AM  
IRONDEQUOIT COUNTRY CLUB

AMY STEIN  
2024 WOMAN OF THE YEAR



The National Council of Jewish Women Greater Rochester Section (NCJW GRS) has honored Amy Stein with the 2024 Woman of the Year Award. This award is presented to an individual who has shown interest and involvement in the organization and has demonstrated the ability to lead and develop leadership in others. The recipient must also be able to communicate the work of NCJW to the membership and the community. As an advocate of social justice, a leader, fundraiser, mentor, and ambassador extraordinaire for NCJW, nobody does it better than Amy Stein.

As a past president of the Greater Rochester Section of NCJW, Amy continues to be an active board member, and has been honored to serve on the National Board of the Council of Jewish Women. When asked to share her proudest accomplishments with NCJW, Amy remarked that she is most proud of bringing new people into the organization and expanding the membership. She values being able to encourage people to “use their voices” and loves mentoring people, helping them become the best they can be.

Additionally, Amy is on the board of Rochester’s LACE (Language Acquisition and Cultural Exchange), a nonprofit organization whose goal is to bring English language learning directly to the community where new Americans live and work.

Currently, employed as the Executive Director of the Rochester Education Foundation (REF), Amy is responsible for carrying out the organization’s mission to provide programs and resources to improve learning and success for all of the students in the Rochester City School District.

Amy shares her busy life with her husband, Peter, Senior Rabbi at Temple B’rith Kodesh, and their two grown children, Eliana and Ari. She enjoys reading, walking in nature, traveling, and meeting people with stories.

Please join us at the annual Hannah B. Solomon Brunch so we can all learn Amy’s story, as we present her with the NCJW, Woman of the Year award on May 5th at 11:00 am at the Irondequoit Country Club. Tickets are available on the NCJW GRS website.



IN HONOR OF THIS YEAR'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR  
RECIPIENT, PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING  
A BOOK TO DONATE TO THE ROCHESTER EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION. PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE WISH.

## NCJW GRS OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

### NCJW GRS SLATE OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS TO BE VOTED ON IN 2024:

#### OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT ELECT - DAWN WISSET\* (2025-2027 TERM)

TREASURER - DEBBIE SCHAAL (2024-2026 TERM)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

RIKKI BRODSKY

DONNA COHEN

BRENDA COMISAR

CINDY FINESTONE

CINDY HIRSHBERG

ADRIENNE MARKUS

LISA MAAS VANGELLOW

#### PREVIOUSLY APPROVED IN 2023

(TERM CONTINUES TO JUNE 30, 2025)

ELLIE ROSENBLOOM, PRESIDENT

TERRI RICHARDSON, MEMBERSHIP VP

LESLIE NEWMAN, RECORDING SECRETARY

LISA WALTZER, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

JANE AMSTEY

MARILYN FENSTER

JENNIFER LOVIGLIO

RINA SCHNAUFER

CATHY SCHNEIDER

BARB SNYDERMAN

AMY STEIN

WENDY STRAUSS

REBECCA ZARETSKY

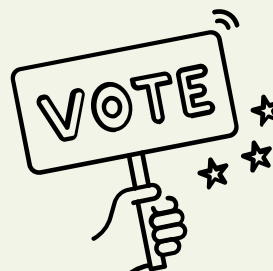
\*INDICATES FIRST TERM ON THE BOARD



### NCJW GRS PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Each year National Council of Jewish Women Greater Rochester Section reviews and creates the slate of officers to oversee our organization. We are grateful for the diversely talented women who serve in leadership capacities and give of their time to propel our organization forward.

Voting by the NCJW GRS membership to approve the slate is conducted electronically. Members must submit their votes to Ellie Rosenbloom at [ncjwgrspresident@gmail.com](mailto:ncjwgrspresident@gmail.com). Additional nominations were accepted until March 26th. All votes were submitted by April 7th. No response from a member is considered a "yes" vote to approve the slate. Thank you to those who took a moment to vote for our section leadership.



## SISTERS IN LAW

While Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor had a lot in common as the first two women on the US Supreme Court, their methodologies and political leanings couldn't have been more varied. NCJW GRS partners with the JCC Centerstage to present *Sisters in LAW*, a new play by Jonathan Shapiro, based on the book by Linda Hirshman exploring the relationship between these two women. Purchase tickets here with NCJW GRS for the April 18th showing and receive \$5 off! Join us before the show at 6pm for a meet & greet with the artistic director. Seating is limited so purchase your tickets now!

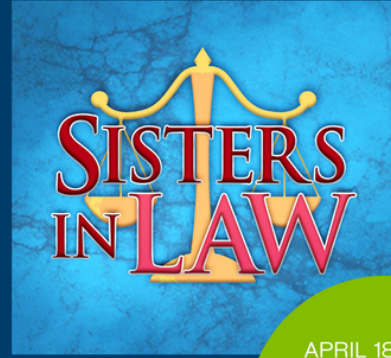


Powered by National Council  
of Jewish Women

To state it simply, the bad news is that our work is far from done. The good news is that we are the right people in the right place brought together to keep bending the arc of the moral universe toward justice! - Jane Yamaykin, National Council of Jewish Women, Inc. Former Associate Director, Engagement & Leadership

DONATE TO NCJW GRS TO  
SUPPORT PROGRAMMING,  
EVENTS, AND INCREASED  
SECURITY COSTS.

NCJW GRS AND JCC CENTERSTAGE  
PRESENT



APRIL 18, 2024

Show begins at 7PM

JOIN US BEFORE THE EVENT

Pre-show Meet &  
Greet with the  
Artistic Director at  
6PM in the Lipson  
Lounge

**Tickets on sale now!**

Seating is limited

Member: \$30 Non-member: \$35

Student: \$20

Enter promo code: **NCJW**  
before choosing seats  
for \$5 off April 18th showing only!

JCC Rochester  
1200 Edgewood Avenue



NCJW

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section

To purchase tickets:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ncjwtx>

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

## DONATE

NCJW GRS continues to offer important and impactful programs—in no small part due to the generosity of our loyal supporters. We are a 501(c)3 organization, and donations are tax-deductible. Click here to make a donation today. For assistance in making your gift, contact [ncjwgrs@gmail.com](mailto:ncjwgrs@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

[WWW.NCJWGRS.ORG](http://WWW.NCJWGRS.ORG)





## NCJW GRS P.A.D. PARTY!

A huge thank you to those who joined NCJW Greater Rochester Section on Sunday, February 25th as we learned about the NCJW GRS P.A.D. Project (Providing Access and Dignity)! This event was a huge success!

The P.A.D. Project (Providing Access and Dignity) helps women's groups collect, assemble, and donate feminine hygiene products to local shelters, food pantries and agencies that assist low income and homeless individuals who menstruate. Synagogues, churches, book clubs, and groups of friends enjoy adding this service project to their annual activities.

You can still be a part of the P.A.D. Project program by hosting your own P.A.D. party! Please contact [ncjwgrspresident@gmail.com](mailto:ncjwgrspresident@gmail.com) if interested. Donations of individually wrapped pads, tampons, and/or panty liners are always welcome.







## TRIBUTE CARDS

NCJW Greater Rochester Section tribute cards are available for purchase. 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. Tribute cards are available for \$5 each or 6 cards for \$25.

To purchase or have tribute cards sent on your behalf, please contact Marilyn Fenster at [NCJWCARDS@gmail.com](mailto:NCJWCARDS@gmail.com)

## NCJW GRS OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

### NCJW GRS 2023-2024 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

ELLIE ROSENBLOOM, PRESIDENT  
BRENDA COMISAR, TREASURER  
TERRI RICHARDSON, MEMBERSHIP VP  
LESLIE NEWMAN, RECORDING SECRETARY  
LISA WALTZER, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT,  
NOMINATING CHAIR, INTERIM PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHAIR

### DIRECTORS SERVING UNTIL 2024

RIKKI BRODSKY  
DONNA COHEN, BULLETIN EDITOR, CHAPTER HISTORIAN  
CINDY FINESTONE  
CINDY HIRSHBERG  
LISA MAAS VANGELLOW  
ADRIENNE MARKUS, COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CO-CHAIR

### DIRECTORS SERVING UNTIL 2025

JANE AMSTEY  
MARILYN FENSTER, TRIBUTES COORDINATOR  
JENNIFER LOVIGLIO, COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CO-CHAIR  
DEBBIE SCHAAL  
RINA SCHNAUFER  
CATHY SCHNEIDER  
BARB SNYDERMAN  
AMY STEIN  
WENDY STRAUSS  
BECCA ZARETSKY



As a member of NCJW Greater Rochester Section, you will be connected to a growing network of courageous and compassionate individuals who work together to improve the quality of life for women, children and families every day. We join with 180,000 other members nationally to make our voices heard in Rochester, Washington DC and Israel as we fight for social justice. As an organization, we take action and work together to be a positive force for change.

# Rene≥

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS BEGIN JULY 1!**

**STILL ONLY \$36 A YEAR**

## MEMBERSHIP

As a Member You Can:

- Attend and participate in informative programs that keep you educated and engaged.
- Volunteer in our myriad of local service projects.
- Make your voice heard on issues that impact public policy.
- Meet new people, build friendships and make connections throughout the country and in our local community.
- Impact the Section by joining NCJW GRS committees.
- Receive important communications including newsletters, upcoming events, updates, and postings through our website, Facebook, Instagram, and timely emails.

**RENEW IN JULY!**

The word “membership” can evoke many feelings and meanings. It can be warm and engaging, it can be exclusive and cliquish. NCJW GRS Membership, to me, feels thoughtful, inclusive and rejuvenating. As we move through the program year, I want to introduce myself to those that I have not yet met, reintroduce myself to old friends and explain what I envision NCJW GRS Membership to mean. My name is Terri Richardson, I work for the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) remotely from my home in Brighton. My husband and I have three almost grown children. NCJW GRS speaks to me as a Jew, a mother, wife, woman, Jewish professional and as a parent to children that, among them, identify with the LGBTQ+ community as well as the Autism world. To me membership begins by reaching in. If you are a member but not engaged, not engaged to the level you would like to be, or simply want to grab a cup of coffee to connect, please reach out. Making new friends, becoming involved and stepping outside our comfort zones is hard! If you have a friend, regardless of gender or religion, that would like to connect with NCJW GRS and the great work we do, please bring them to an event, share our story with them or share my contact information or theirs with me. Your partner, neighbor, co-worker, person you met at yoga class, our mission speaks to so many, and we want to spread the word! I look forward to the year ahead! - Terri Richardson, NCJW GRS Vice President of Membership  
terrilrichardson@yahoo.com

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

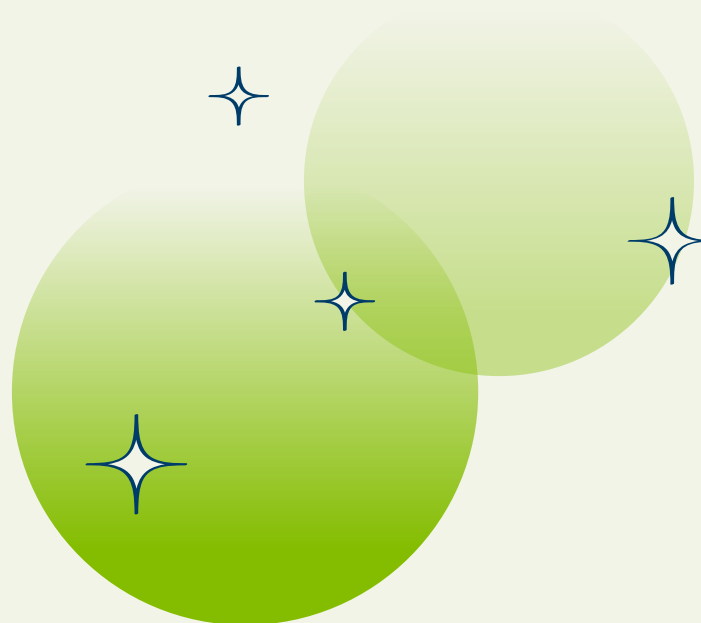
**CREATING MEANINGFUL TRANSFORMATION AT LOCAL, STATE,  
AND FEDERAL LEVELS.**

There are lots of ways to volunteer with NCJW GRS! Attend an event or  
contact [ncjwgrspresident@gmail.com](mailto:ncjwgrspresident@gmail.com) to find out how you can volunteer!

**SUPPORT NCJW  
GREATER ROCHESTER SECTION  
BY RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR  
MAKING A DONATION  
TODAY!**



National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section



**[WWW.NCJWGRS.ORG](http://WWW.NCJWGRS.ORG)**