

FALL 2024

VOLUME 2 NO. 1

# 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!

- November 5: Election Day
- November 8: Member Shabbat Dinner
- November 12: "My Involuntary Journeys: A Memoir"
- November 17: PAD Party
- Check the [ncjwgrs.org](http://ncjwgrs.org) website often for more events!

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NCJW GRS Friends,

As I begin my second year as President of the National Council of Jewish Women Greater Rochester Section, I am filled with gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility. It is a privilege to lead this remarkable organization, one that is woven into the fabric of our community and supported by such dedicated and passionate members. Together, we continue to make a meaningful impact in a world that needs our voices more than ever.

These past weeks have been a time of deep reflection for many of us, as we've journeyed through the sacred rhythms of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah as well as the October 7th commemoration. In these observances, we acknowledge the weight of Jewish history—its joys, challenges, and sorrows—and we find comfort in the enduring cycle of reflection, atonement, and renewal. This continuity reminds us that while the world around us may feel uncertain, we are part of something enduring and resilient.

Reflecting on the past year, I am immensely proud of how NCJW GRS has risen to meet the challenges of our time. In a world where antisemitism is on the rise and rapid societal changes are unfolding, we have become not only a pillar of strength within our community but also a beacon of hope for those seeking meaningful change. Our work has always been rooted in action, and today more than ever, people are turning to us for leadership, guidance, and the power to make a difference.

I invite you to explore this newsletter to learn about the important work we've accomplished and the exciting initiatives we have planned. From advocating for women's rights to supporting children and families in need, we remain committed to building a better, more just world. I hope you will join us in this journey, finding new and meaningful ways to stand together in solidarity and support.

With gratitude and determination,  
Ellie Rosenbloom  
President, NCJW Greater Rochester Section





# NCJW GRS

## Shabbat Dinner

*Register Now!*

**8 NOVEMBER 2024 | 7 PM**

Special Shabbat Menu by Partyman Catering.

Join us for an NCJW GRS family Shabbat Dinner!

**Space is limited. Reserve your spot by 11/3**  
**All are welcome to join us for services at 6PM at TBK!**

**\$36 per person**

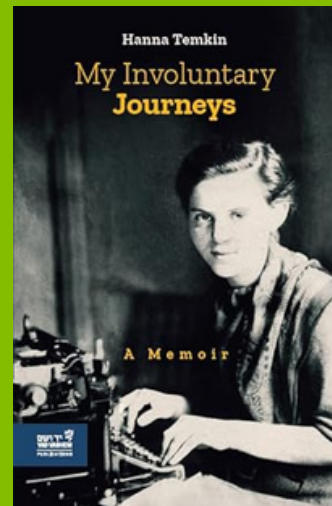
**Registration required.**  
**Location will be shared prior to event.**

NCJW<sup>®</sup>

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section

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

Tuesday,  
November 12  
Noon JCC



JCC AUDITORIUMS

JCC MEMBER: \$8, NON-MEMBER: \$10

ENTER PROMO CODE: PARTNER FOR JCC MEMBER PRICING!

BROWN BAG LUNCH AND LEARN\*

Helena Temkin Greener Presents:

"My Involuntary Journeys: A Memoir", by Hanna Temkin, is a story of a life journey through some of the most difficult episodes of the 20th Century. It depicts the author's escape from Poland to the Soviet Union as the Nazis invaded in 1939, her life in the Soviet Union during the Holocaust and WWII, her return to Poland, and then having to flee again in 1968 due to an antisemitic campaign instigated and fueled by the Polish government. Hanna's daughter, Helena, will read passages from the book, and there will be time for discussion and a Q&A.

Helena has been a Rochester, NY resident since 1977. She is a Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

\*Bring your own kosher-style lunch or stop by Fox's at the JCC before the talk.



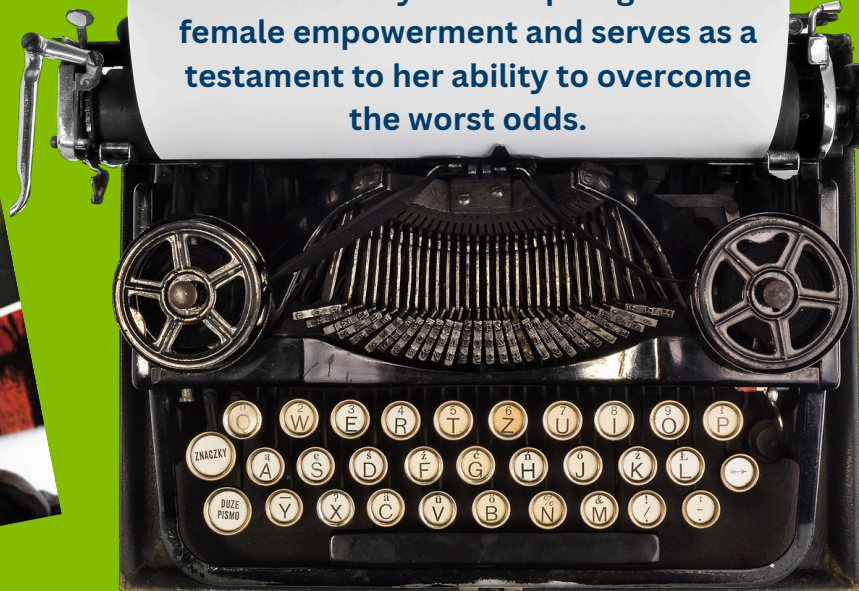
Visit [ncjwgrs.org](http://ncjwgrs.org)  
for more  
information and  
to register



Helena Temkin Greener presents her  
mother's memoir,

**My Involuntary Journeys.**

Hanna's story is an inspiring tale of  
female empowerment and serves as a  
testament to her ability to overcome  
the worst odds.





## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Public Affairs Committee has been busy this summer! We've held six letter writing parties, which we kicked off in Susan B. Anthony's home in April, and written more than 1,000 letters encouraging people to vote! Thank you to **Arlene Schenker** and **Vancy Boyar** for spearheading this initiative and hosting parties, along with **Rikki Brodsky** and **Barbara Orenstein**.

We partnered with **NCJW NY** and **New Yorkers for Equal Rights** in phone banking to spread the word about the Equal Rights Amendment (Proposition 1). Make sure you turn your ballot over and vote YES on this amendment to the NYS Constitution, which will take an important step towards protecting our rights and reproductive freedoms, and will close dangerous loopholes that leave us open to extreme laws from extreme politicians. Head to our Instagram and Facebook pages to find some easily shareable graphics about the ERA by **Joel Rosen**, and make sure to share this message with your networks!

We're well underway planning our next event - an NCJW Community Shabbat Dinner on Friday, November 8th. As New York Times Opinion Columnist Bret Stephens said when he spoke at the JCC this spring, "The answer to antisemitism is Jewish pride." Our committee felt that the best way to respond to the current climate is to continue to be loudly and proudly Jewish. I hope you will join us for this event - stay tuned for more details soon!

- Lisa Waltzer



VOTE YES ON PROP 1!

OUR VOTE IS OUR VOICE

OUR DEMOCRACY IS AT  
ITS STRONGEST WHEN  
EVERY VOICE IS HEARD



THIS NOVEMBER,  
TURN YOUR BALLOT  
OVER AND ...

Vote **YES!**  
on Prop 1

NCJWS

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section



PROTECT  
WOMEN'S  
HEALTH

National Council of Jewish Women

WWW.NCJWGRS.ORG



NEW  
YORK'S

# EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

An Amendment to Guarantee Protections for All New Yorkers

## WHAT TO KNOW:

Right now, New York's State Constitution does not protect all New Yorkers — for example, pregnant New Yorkers, women, LGBTQIA+ people, those with disabilities, older adults, and people from different countries and cultures.

We need a constitutional amendment so our rights and freedoms are protected — no matter who is in office.

The New York ERA would:

- ✱ explicitly prohibit discrimination by the government based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex — including their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression — in addition to pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes.
- ✱ add to existing protections against discrimination based on race and religion.
- ✱ ensure New York's Constitution includes the strongest legal protections for all New Yorkers.

New Yorkers will have the opportunity to vote on the Amendment in November, 2024. If voters approve it, the ERA will be added to New York's State Constitution.

STAY INFORMED  
+  
SPREAD THE WORD

APPEARING ON  
THE BALLOT  
NOVEMBER  
2024

NY

NEW YORKERS  
FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

Do you believe that all New Yorkers should be treated equally?

Vote YES on Prop 1!

Right now, NY only includes protections against unequal treatment based on race, color, creed, and religion leaving many unprotected.

This proposal will amend the act to also protect based on age, sex, disability, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes, as well as reproductive healthcare and autonomy. Prop 1 does NOT change existing laws around girls' sports or parental consent. Vote YES to close loopholes to prohibit government discrimination regardless of who is in office!

VOTE

WANT ALL  
NEW YORKERS  
TREATED EQUALLY?

Vote YES!  
on Prop 1

NCJW



VOTE YES ON PROP 1!

## Proposition 1: Supporters say enshrine rights; opponents say more details needed

by Christian Garzone

Mon, October 21st 2024 at 4:45 PM

Updated Tue, October 22nd 2024 at 11:33 AM



Supporters of New York's Proposition 1 speak during a rally at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, Monday, Oct. 21, 2024. (Photo by Mark Schuman/WHAM)

Co-sponsors of this event include:

Association of University Women  
Catholics for Choice  
First Unitarian Church  
First Universalist Church  
Greater Rochester Association of Women Attorneys  
League of Women Voters Rochester Metro  
New Pride Agenda  
National Organization for Women  
National Council of Jewish Women GRS  
Planned Parenthood of Central & Western New York  
Pride at Work AFL-CIO  
Rainbow Seniors ROC  
Temple Brith Kodesh Women of Reformed Judaism  
Women's Bar Association of New York State  
YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County

On October 21, NCJW GRS was honored to participate in a panel discussion about the ERA ballot initiative organized by the First Unitarian Church Reproductive Justice Ministry.



WWW.NCJWGRS.ORG



# VOTE EARLY!

PROMOTE the  
**VOTE**

PROTECT the  
**VOTE**  
NCJW

## LOCATIONS

Click here for the 2024  
Early Voting Sites in  
Monroe County!

## SUSAN B ANTHONY

Cast your ballot during early  
voting on the historic grounds of  
the Susan B Anthony House!  
Click here for more information!

## VOTE YES!

Vote YES on NY Prop 1  
to protect rights and freedoms  
including abortion!  
Click here for more information!

NCJW

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section

OUR VOTE IS OUR VOICE

**OCTOBER 26 -  
NOVEMBER 3**



# HELP TO FIGHT PERIOD INEQUALITY BY PROVIDING TO THOSE WHO NEED IT THE MOST



National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section

To support people with periods through NCJW's P.A.D. Project,  
please bring individually wrapped pads  
(NOT bladder control) and tampons.

Products can be purchased locally or through the  
NCJW GRS Amazon wish list by [clicking here](#).

Please be sure to include your name so we can thank you!

**Sunday, November 17**  
**1 PM TBK**

♥ P.A.D. | Providing Access and Dignity  
to those who menstruate

Please register at  
[ncjwgrs.org](http://ncjwgrs.org)

NCJWGRS.ORG

**JOIN  
NOW  
WE NEED YOU!**

**Renew your  
membership  
today!**

**Only \$36/year**

**NCJW<sup>®</sup>**

**National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section**

**If you prefer to join or renew your membership by check,  
please make checks payable to NCJW GRS and mail to:**

**National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section  
PO Box 92444  
Rochester, NY 14692**



**WWW.NCJWGRS.ORG**

## CARING COMMUNITY



### Community Connections Committee Kicks Off the Year

The CCC started the year strong, leaning into a favorite service project. In mid-September members gathered at the Brighton Food Cupboard to pack Rosh Hashanah bags for community members in need. This time, to accommodate members' schedules, we added an evening volunteer time in addition the afternoon slot. The assembled baskets were brought to homes by both NCJW GRS members and community members. In some cases, personal connections were made with the recipients. This marks our third volunteer effort with the Brighton Food Cupboard; previous events involved assembling Chanukah and Passover baskets.

This past year we also we toured the Brighton Food Cupboard's impressive new facility at Temple B'rith Kodesh.

In response to leadership requests for awareness of allergy dangers when serving food at our events, two CCC members held a training session for the local Board of Directors. The session focused preparing and serving food while being mindful of hidden allergens like nuts, gluten, and dairy. When in doubt, just ask someone who manages these challenges daily. That's the best way to ensure you're offering the safest options in the safest way.

Lately, the CCC has been all about food but our interests go beyond that! This year, join us for possible projects with refugees, book collections for City school kids and more. We welcome new members to join our efforts!

- Jennifer Loviglio and Adrienne Markus





## MEMBERSHIP



**Inclusion, Belonging, Participation** all words that fall under the umbrella of Membership.

**Inclusion** is the open door, the invitation extended to everyone who believes in our mission. NCJW GRS doors are open to all, you do not need to be Jewish or identify as female to be a member.

**Belonging** goes beyond inclusion; it is the feeling of being genuinely valued and part of the team. NCJW GRS is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates (the Team) who turn progressive ideals into action. Keeping our mission at the forefront of being inspired by Jewish values, we strive for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children and families by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. Our goal is to value every voice and member of our team. To ask our membership at large to be part of that team on all levels to uplift our collective mission.

**Participation** involves actively engaging in activities, discussions or decision-making processes. Letter writing, packing food baskets, assembling PAD kits, speaker events, this past year provided many opportunities to participate.

As an NCJW GRS member, we hope you share our message of **inclusion** and invite all those you know to join us. As a section, we strive to make sure everyone feels like they **belong** and are a valued member of our team. It takes every single voice, idea, and inspiration to make an impactful difference in our world. And we hope all our members find meaningful touchpoints of **participation** to engage in our work, at whatever level you choose.

- Terri Richardson, NCJW GRS Vice President of Membership [terrilrichardson@yahoo.com](mailto:terrilrichardson@yahoo.com)

# Renew

**RENEW NOW!**

**STILL ONLY \$36 A YEAR**

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.

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

## INFORMATION

Interested in learning about or joining a committee?

Reach out to us!

You can give as much (or as little) time as you wish!

If you or someone you know are interested in learning more about NCJW GRS, please send their contact information to [info@ncjwgrs.org](mailto:info@ncjwgrs.org) and we will add them to our mailing list.

# NCJW

National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section



NCJW GRS volunteers have been working hard to bring you a variety of programs that are interesting and timely!

Be sure that your membership is up-to-date and check your email and the website often, so you don't miss any of our events!



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

## UPDATE

The central call to action for National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is, “Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue” (Deuteronomy 16:20). Founded in 1893, we are the oldest Jewish women’s grassroots organization in the country and are continually guided by Jewish values that call on us to improve the lives of the most vulnerable women, children, and families. We work both in the United States and Israel to achieve this goal.

Our 225,000 members, 49 sections, State Policy Advocacy Network, and seven Action Teams use our Theory of Change to accomplish this: meaningful education, combined with progressive and feminist advocacy, and dedicated community service results in impactful transformation on local, state, and federal levels.

NCJW GRS has been a strong leader within this larger organization for 130 years. Over this past year, we have been in discussions with national about what the future of all sections could and should look like. The national organization of NCJW is looking to merge into one entity that is hoping to grow into 1 million women strong! What that looks like and what that would mean for NCJW GRS is something that we are regularly discussing. With your help, NCJW GRS has been a beacon of hope and light in the Rochester community. We hope to continue that for another 130 years. Please check regularly for updates to these important discussions. We have created a task force that meets regularly that will make recommendations to the board. We hope to hear your feedback as we go through this process to make the organization that we know and love in Rochester a stronger one that can span for generations to come. If you have an idea, questions, or are looking for more information, please contact [ncjwgrspresident@gmail.com](mailto:ncjwgrspresident@gmail.com)



National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Rochester Section



### NCJW GRS TOWN HALL MEETING

We would like to hear from current and past leaders and members to discuss and share information about the future of NCJW GRS. This is a meeting you don't want to miss! Join us!



THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024 | 7 PM  
TEMPLE B'RITH KODESH

Learn about the changes happening with NCJW Greater Rochester Section and help shape future of our community!

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



## PAST EVENTS

# NCJ $\geq$ ™

National Council of Jewish Women



# VOTE FORWARD

Your vote is your voice



## You helped to Raise Voter Turnout!

Did you know receiving a hand-written letter increases voter turnout? NCJW GRS with Vote Forward held multiple letter writing parties to encourage potential voters to vote.

**Over 1000 letters were written and were mailed in October!!**

### DONATE

OUR VOTE IS OUR VOICE

OUR DEMOCRACY IS AT  
ITS STRONGEST WHEN  
EVERY VOICE IS HEARD



**Consider donating \$18  
to cover the cost of  
stamps, envelopes, and  
materials  
for 20 letters!**

NCJ  $\geq$ ™ | Greater  
Rochester  
Section  
National Council of Jewish Women

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



## PAST EVENTS

**NCJW GRS OPENING EVENT**

**PERCEPTIONS & POLARIZATIONS:**

**HOW SOCIAL MEDIA SHAPES OUR WORLDVIEW**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

HOW TO CRITICALLY EVALUATE SOURCES  
AND RECOGNIZE BIASES BEFORE YOU  
SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Michael Dobkowski**, Chair,  
Holocaust Studies and Professor,  
Religious Studies, Hobart and  
William Smith Colleges
- **Miranda Stefano**, Program  
Librarian, RCSD

Please take a selfie as you drop off  
your P.A.D. donations. @NCJWROC

**NCJW** Greater  
Rochester  
Section  
National Council of Jewish Women

ncjwgrs.org

NCJW GRS began its 130th year with a well-attended opening event titled **Perceptions & Polarizations: How Social Media Shapes Our Worldview**. We learned of ways to identify misinformation and some resources to fact check information in order to prevent the spread of inaccuracies.

“Disinformation is designed to make you numb, to drain your energy, to wear you down, and to trick you into concluding that truth is ever elusive”  
-TruthorFiction



## PAST EVENTS

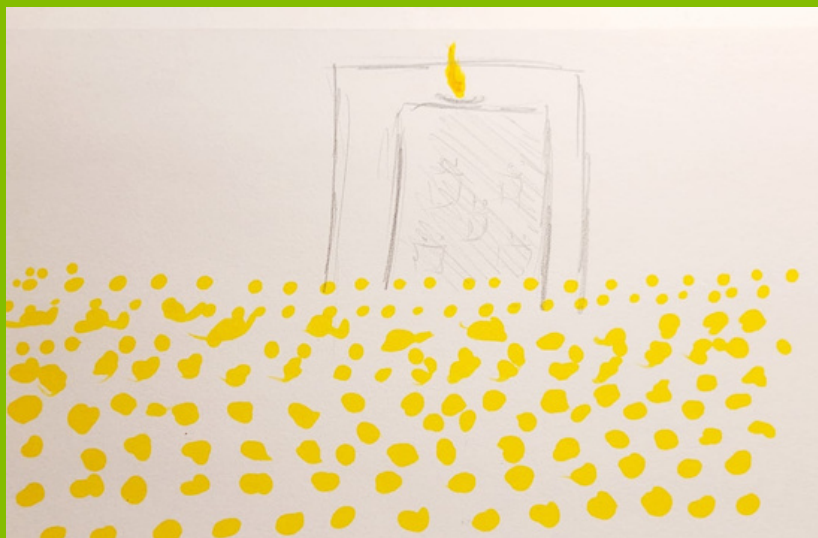
REMEMBRANCE. RESILIENCE. HOPE.

MONDAY  
**OCTOBER 7th**  
6:30PM  
COMMUNITY  
COMMEMORATION



Jewish Federation  
of Greater Rochester

The Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester, National Council of Jewish Women Greater Rochester Section, Bring Them Home Rochester, other community partners, and community members came together in solidarity for the one-year anniversary of the October 7th massacre. We remembered those lost and pray for the safe and quick return of the remaining hostages. We honored the heroes who defended our people and reaffirmed our community's strength and commitment to Israel. NCJW GRS recognized this moment by providing 1000 yellow satin kippot for the commemoration.



Patti Singer, "What I Saw Tonight," October 7, 2024





## PAST EVENTS



# ALLIES FOR EQUALITY

*Men Supporting ERA and Reproductive Access*

**Learn about the ERA initiative on the ballot in November!**

This is a great opportunity to have some food, fun, beer, and join like-minded individuals to learn what you can do to support ERA and reproductive access!

**FREE EVENT**

**AUGUST 15 6-8 PM**

**NCJWGRS.ORG**

Thank you to Nate Salzman and Avi Presberg for conducting a wonderful and informative program about ways men can and should support reproductive access and the Equal Rights Amendment that will be on the ballot in November.

Thank you to Three Heads Brewing for their support!



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

**NCJW**  
**GREATER ROCHESTER SECTION**

ncjwgrs.org

# Power Your Voice With Us

**Become a NCJW GRS member today.**

**NCJW GRS advocates for... abortion access;**  
**NCJW GRS advocates for... equal rights for all;**  
**NCJW GRS advocates for... a fair and independent judiciary;**  
**NCJW GRS advocates for... gun violence prevention;**  
**NCJW GRS advocates for... immigrant and refugee rights;**  
**NCJW GRS advocates for... gender equity in Israel;**  
**NCJW GRS advocates for... justice;**  
**NCJW GRS advocates for... you!**

**JOIN NCJW GRS TODAY!**

Becoming a member advocate with the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Greater Rochester Section (GRS) offers the opportunity to contribute to a long-standing tradition of community impact. By joining for \$36/year, you'll have the chance to:

- **Join a Network of Strong Women:** Become part of a powerful community of women and advocates who have been making a difference in the Rochester area for over 130 years. You do not have to be Jewish or a woman to join NCJW GRS!
- **Shape the Future:** Influence the direction of the NCJW Rochester section, focusing on the issues and initiatives that matter most to you.
- **Advocate for Policies:** Support and work towards New York state and federal policies that align with your values and priorities, making a real difference on both local and national levels.

Membership allows you to be actively involved in creating positive change and advocating for the issues that are most important to you!

**Join Now!**

**NCJW** <sup>TM</sup> | Greater  
Rochester  
Section  
National Council of Jewish Women





## TRIBUTE CARDS

Sending tribute cards to friends, colleagues, family members, or acquaintances is a meaningful way to express your sympathy, honor family and friends, and commemorate special occasions, achievements, and life cycle events. Tribute cards are available for \$5.00 each or in packs of six for \$25.00. Your purchase helps support NCJW GRS projects, advocacy efforts, and programs. To purchase cards to send on your own or have a card mailed for you, contact Marilyn Fenster at [NCJWCARDS@gmail.com](mailto:NCJWCARDS@gmail.com). Tribute cards are also available for purchase at all NCJW GRS events.

## NCJW GRS OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

### NCJW GRS 2023-2024 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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DEBBIE SCHAAL, TREASURER  
TERRI RICHARDSON, MEMBERSHIP VP  
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NOMINATING CHAIR, INTERIM PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHAIR

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BARB SNYDERMAN  
AMY STEIN  
WENDY STRAUSS  
BECCA ZARETSKY

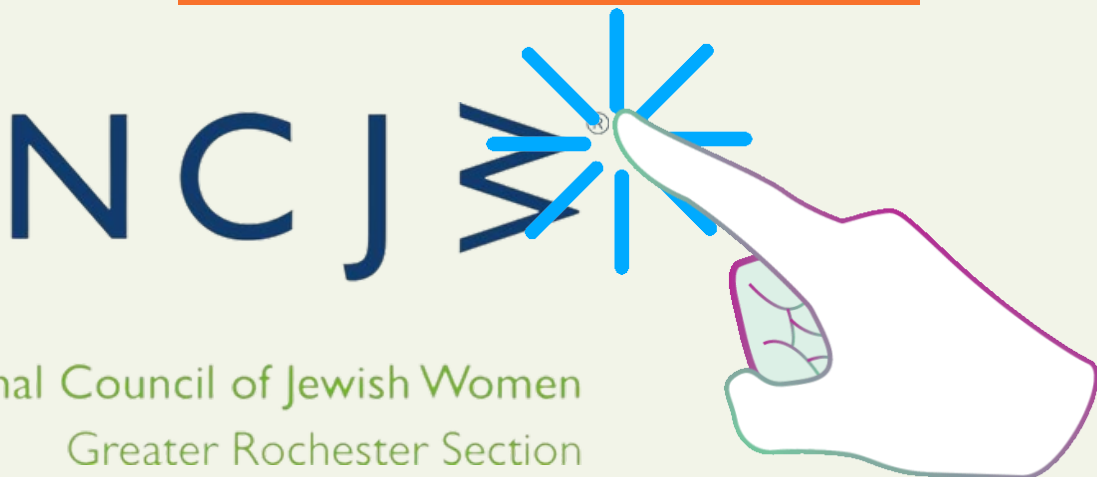


**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**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 JOINING, RENEWING YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP, OR  
MAKING A DONATION  
TODAY!**



**National Council of Jewish Women Greater Rochester Section  
PO Box 92444, Rochester, NY 14692**

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