

NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
GREATER ROCHESTER SECTION



NCJW GRS UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars!

- May 3 - Hannah G. Solomon and Women of the Year Recognition Brunch
- all month of May - PAD Collection with Assemblywoman Sarah Clark
- June 14 - SUFFS

Check the NCJW Greater Rochester Section website regularly for updated information about events and programs!
www.ncjwgrs.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Spring!

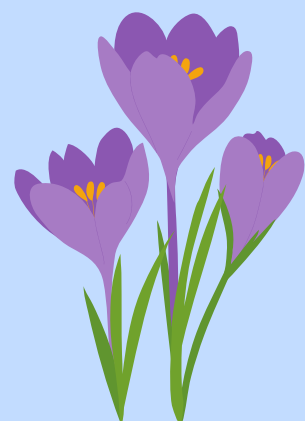
After a few warmer days and Passover having come and gone, I think I can confidently use that as a greeting - even though it did snow (and hail, and rain) just last weekend. Passover and spring celebrate renewal and freedom, both physically and spiritually. For our Greater Rochester Section, spring means it's time for our annual recognition event. This year's Recognition Brunch will take place on Sunday, May 3rd where we'll honor Lindsay Tarnoff, recipient of the Hannah G. Solomon Award, and Cindy Finestone and Brenda Comisar, our Women of the Year. Tickets are available now on our website!

We recently completed March PADness Because of This Madness, a month long collection of menstrual product donations to help immigrant and refugee friends who fear leaving their homes to make essential purchases. We followed up with a PAD Party to assemble kits for organizations serving these communities. We also held a second EpiPen Training with Allergy Partners of New York, allowing us to renew our certification and update our prescription for epinephrine, which we have with us at all events. On June 14th at 6:30, we'll have the opportunity to attend *Suffs* with members of WRJ/TBK Sisterhood and the Rochester Chapter of Hadassah. There are a limited number of tickets available, so purchase your tickets on our website now!

As always, we are grateful for all of you! Your continued participation and support are essential to NCJW GRS. Please keep reading our emails regularly. If you aren't receiving them, contact us at ncjwgrspresident@gmail.com so we can help solve the problem. Emails are our main form of communication with you, so it's important for you to see them.

Enjoy the nicer weather. Hope to see you soon!

Dawn Wisset
President, NCJW Greater Rochester Section



HANNAH G SOLOMON AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2026

Join us on May 3rd to celebrate this year's Hannah G. Solomon Award recipient, Lindsay Tarnoff, and Women of the Year, Brenda Comisar and Cindy Finestone.



Sunday, May 3, 2026
Doors open at 10:30 am
Brunch Event starts at 11:00 am
Irondequoit Country Club
4045 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618

In honor of this year's Hannah G. Solomon recipient, please consider bringing individually wrapped menstrual products to donate.

[PURCHASE TICKETS HERE](#)

WWW.NCJWGRS.ORG

CAMPAIGN TO PASS NYS VOTING REFORM LEGISLATION

As we progress with this campaign, we continue to learn and hone our advocacy skills. Four of us recently had a good meeting with Wendell Lambert from Sarah Clark's office. Sarah Clark is a co-sponsor of one of the bills in the voting reform package. Her office agrees that voting rights and access to voting are important issues. We discussed the necessity of ensuring proper processes are in place to ensure the bills are implemented effectively and learned that determination of bills is heavily influenced by leadership. It was suggested that we contact Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Carl Heastie, and that we continue to speak up, even when the bills are already supported. We also learned that letter writing is more effective when the message is personalized and not just copied. Watch for information on a letter writing campaign that has an option and suggestions for personalization.



SAVE ACT ADVOCACY SUCCESS!

As SAVE Act's opponents, NCJW declares victory in our advocacy to prevent the enactment of this dangerous bill. Senate Majority Leader Thune has refused to commit to bringing the SAVE Act to the Senate floor again anytime soon, as it failed to pass during the recent debate. This is a huge victory, and a direct result of the tireless advocacy from advocates like you. But we know that this is not the end. Those who seek to restrict the freedom to vote are relentless, and we expect they will keep trying to enact the SAVE Act through other means. When they do, we will be ready to mobilize and defeat these efforts once again. Thank you for your continued efforts to protect our rights!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We're excited to share a bit about the Community Connections Committee! This committee is focused on building and strengthening relationships — within NCJW GRS and throughout Greater Rochester — by creating our own projects, identifying community needs, and turning our shared values into meaningful action together.

We embrace the creativity and energy that come with developing new ideas, even when it stretches us. This past February, we led a successful Love a Mensch Week campaign, celebrating and honoring those in our community who act with kindness, integrity, and compassion. Tribute cards were sent to recognize friends, family, and community members, while also supporting NCJW GRS programs and advocacy.

At the community Purim Carnival at the JCC, we engaged more than 100 children and families in a fun, hands-on “voting” activity — teaching the importance of civic participation by letting them vote on their favorites (meal, hamantaschen flavor, and Purim character). The winning results? Shabbat dinner, chocolate, and Queen Esther! It was a joyful and meaningful way to connect Jewish tradition with civic engagement.

We also hosted an EpiPen training in partnership with Allergy Advocates of NY. Participants learned when and how to administer epinephrine in emergency situations — and just as importantly, when it should not be used. Because of this training, NCJW GRS is now equipped with community stock epinephrine, and will have an NCJW trained member at all of our events, helping to create a safer, more prepared community in the event of anaphylaxis. This certification is renewed annually, and we look forward to offering it again next year.

Whether we're organizing service projects, supporting community partners, or creating new opportunities for connection, this committee helps us show up as NCJW — united and impactful.

This is a wonderful place for new and longtime members alike to get involved. Bring your ideas, your experience, or simply your curiosity — we'd love to have you join us!

Looking forward to working with you,
Wendy Strauss and Ellie Rosenbloom
Community Connections Committee Co-Chairs



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We recently sponsored March PADness Because of This Madness. Throughout the month of March we partnered with the Louis S. Wolk JCC of Greater Rochester to collect period products for immigrant and refugee friends who feel unsafe leaving their homes to make essential purchases. On April 12th we held a PAD Party at the JCC to assemble kits with the donations for distribution to organizations supporting the immigrant and refugee community.

We're participating in a campaign to send postcards to HHS Robert F. Kennedy Jr., making it unmistakably clear: *medication abortion is safe, effective, and must be protected.*

We would love to have you join us in planning future advocacy and educational events! If you're interested in becoming a part of our committee, please contact Committee Chair, Lisa Waltzer at ncjwgrs@gmail.com.

GIRLS JUST
WANNA HAVE
FUNDAMENTAL
HUMAN RIGHTS

CARING CRAFT EVENT TO SUPPORT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Thank you to Jane Amstey for hosting a Caring Craft Event at her home to support Temple Israel in West Bloomfield after the recent attack on their community. We wrote caring notes and created supportive art to send comfort and love. If you'd like to send them monetary support during this difficult time, you can [donate here](#).



Refugees Helping Refugees
228 S Plymouth Ave, Suite 200
Rochester NY, 14608
(585)- 563-7747



Dear friends at NCJW GRS,

On behalf of everyone at *Refugees Helping Refugees*, I want to sincerely thank you for your generous donation of **75 full menstrual cycle kits**. Your generosity is not only an investment in our programs but also a powerful message of solidarity and hope for the refugees and immigrants we serve.

It means so much to see individuals within the community; like you supporting our mission to uplift and empower refugees and immigrants. Your kindness helps us continue to provide essential services and create a welcoming space for those building new lives in our community.

Thank you again for your support—your compassion truly makes a difference.

With warmth and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sadiya Omar".

Sadiya Omar

Cofounder & Lead Case Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mai Abdullah".

Mai Abdullah, MS

Executive Director

at Refugees Helping Refugees

228 S. Plymouth Ave. Rochester, NY 14608



Direct from Broadway comes the acclaimed Tony Award®-winning musical **SUFFS** about the brilliant, passionate, and funny American women who fought tirelessly for the right to vote.

Tickets are \$80 for Left Orchestra seats. The show is 2 hours and 30 minutes, including intermission, and is appropriate for ages 10+. Limited number of tickets available.

Purchase tickets on our website at ncjwgrs.org or by mailing a check to NCJW GRS at PO Box 92444, Rochester, NY 14692.



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.

We currently have only the larger cards available. They can be purchased for \$10.00 each or in packs of three for \$25.00. Your purchase helps support NCJW GRS projects, advocacy efforts, and programs.

To purchase cards to send on your own or to have a card mailed for you, contact Marilyn Fenster at NCJWCARDS@gmail.com. Tribute cards are also available for purchase at all NCJW GRS events.

WITH LOVE
& SYMPATHY



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Summary of 2025 P.A.D. Project

“Providing Access and Dignity”

TOTALS:

2022: 1551 kits (24,525 pads)

2023: 2358 kits (35,370 pads)

2024: 2350 Kits (35,250 pads)

2025: 1518 Kits (23,250 pads)

Groups Holding PAD Parties 2025

Allendale Columbia School

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day

Saints, Brighton

GRAWA (Greater Rochester

Association for Women Attorneys)

NCJW GRS (3)

ShinShinim (Jewish Agency for Israel)

St. John Fisher University Feminist Alliance

Temple B'rith Kodesh

Temple Beth El Sisterhood (2)

Temple Sinai Women's Chavurah (Independent)

Terri Richardson and Friends

Women's Club of Pittsford

Recipient Agencies 2025

Action for a Better Community

Agape Haven of Abundance

Baden Street Settlement

Blessing Box, West Road

Brighton Food Cupboard

Center for Youth

Charles Settlement

Community Food Cupboard

Foodlink

Jennifer House

Keeping Our Promise

Menses in Need

Monroe HS

Open Door Mission

People's Pantry of Rochester

RCSD

Refugees Helping Refugees

TemPro

World Relief Western NY

Special thanks to:

***Soralee Cook** for co-chairing since the beginning of The P.A.D. Project. I miss you.

***Mollie Traub and Nancy Levant;** Lois Kuh, Eleanor Hopke, Esther Smalline and Carol Bradshaw; Webster Stitching Divas - Brenda Rubinstein and Marki Price; Pomegranate Chapter of Internet Jewish Quilters – Bonnie Vorspan, Elaine Blonder, and Joyse Zaslov; Sew Green sewists Cynthia Roza, and Susan Wasserbauer; Genesee Valley Quilting Club.
All these women sewed drawstring bags!

***Party Ambassadors: Soralee Cook, Linda Bice, Brenda Comisar, Mollie Traub, Gina Horowitz, Ellie Rosenbloom, Adrienne Markus**

***NCJW GRS members and friends** for attending PAD parties and donating pads and tampons

***Lindsay Tarnoff, Esther Smalline and Takako Nakamoto** for financial support

***NCJW GRS Board** for continued generous support

***Temple Beth El Sisterhood** for completing their 15th PAD party. Thanks to leaders Gail Finkelstein, Amy Wasserman and Lynda Axelrod.

***Temple Sinai Women's Chavurah** for their annual independent PAD party. Thanks to leader Monika Katzel.

***SewGreen Rochester** community for their wonderful store and generosity to the P.A.D. Project. They gave us pre-cut bags!

Submitted by Gina Horowitz, April 2026

P.A.D. PARTNERS

Thank you to all of the groups who partner with us on P.A.D. , all of the amazing sewers making bags for us, all of our volunteers, and all of our donors!
Here are a few pictures of recent parties held by other organizations.



Nazareth University
Social Worker Students



Laughing Gull Chocolate,
Valentine's Day

Greater Rochester
Association for Women
Attorneys (GRAWA),
Martin Luther King Day



P.A.D. (Providing Access and Dignity) is an ongoing project, so we appreciate monetary donations and Amazon Wish List purchases throughout the year. Use the QR code below to make a monetary donation or [make a purchase from our wish list](#) . Thank you

Make a
Monetary
Donation



Welcome

Welcome
to our
Newest Members!

Randi Forman
Dianne Mortensen

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to all those who have recently joined NCJW GRS. Your decision to become part of our community strengthens our collective voice, deepens our impact, and helps us continue the important work we are so passionate about.

Each new member brings fresh perspectives, energy, and commitment—and we are truly grateful to have you with us. Whether you are here to connect, advocate, volunteer, or learn, there is a place for you in NCJW GRS, and we look forward to getting to know you.



Thank You to ALL
Members!

We appreciate all you do to support NCJW GRS. You are our greatest ambassadors! Your enthusiasm and dedication are what make this organization so special. We encourage you to share your experiences with friends, family, and colleagues, and invite them to learn more about NCJW GRS. Personal connections are one of the most powerful ways to grow our community and expand our reach. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant, engaged membership that supports our mission and drives meaningful change.

Thank
you



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

Sunday, May 3rd
Irondequoit Country Club
doors open at 10:30 am
brunch event begins at 11:00 am

**The National Council of Jewish Women Greater
Rochester Section 2026 Recognition Event**

Honoring

Hannah G. Solomon Award Recipient
Lindsay Tarnoff

and

NCJW GRS Women of the Year
Brenda Comisar
and
Cindy Finestone

\$72 Individual Tickets

\$72 Pay-it-Forward Tickets

(donate an extra ticket to ensure everyone has a seat at the table)

Sponsorship Levels

(includes one ticket, unless indicated otherwise)

\$118 Patron \$180 Chai Circle

\$360 Advocate \$500 Bronze Sponsor

\$1,000 Silver Sponsor (includes 2 tickets)

\$1,800 Gold Sponsor (includes 2 tickets)

If you cannot attend, please consider making a donation.

RSVP and Pay Online at [NCJWGRS.ORG](https://www.ncjwgrs.org)

or

Mail a Check to NCJW GRS

PO Box 92444

Rochester, NY 14692

In honor of this year's Hannah G. Solomon recipient, please consider bringing individually wrapped feminine hygiene items to donate. (Ex: pads, tampons, liners)

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.

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.

NCJW

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section





National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section



YOU ARE NEEDED!

Be the Change You Want to See in
the World - Get Involved!

- *Advocacy Opportunities*
- *Educational Events*
- *Committee Work*
- *Social and Networking Connections*



**CONTACT US TO
LEARN MORE!**



ncjwgrs@gmail.com



ncjwgrs.org



facebook.com/ncjwgrs

