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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, call **Cathy Schneider** at 586-7575.

Thanks to
The Summit
at Brighton
for generously
hosting our
Chanukah
Brunch

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.

Bulletin



Vol. 18, No. 3
January - February 2013
www.ncjwgrs.org

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

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

MON / 21
Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day

SAT / 26
Tu B'Shevat

FEBRUARY

WED / 6
General Board Meeting,
7:30 p.m., JCC

WED / 13
Oscar Night Event

THU / 18
Presidents' Day

THU / 21
Fast of Esther

SAT / 23
Purim

MARCH

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

SUN-TUE / 17-19
NCJW Washington
Institute

MON / 25
First Seder,
Passover

OSCAR NIGHT

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Featuring Filmmaker

Jeff Ureles

Enjoy Jeff's views of the
nominated movies
while indulging in
delicious desserts

Home of
Hinda Miller

101 Esplanade Drive in Brighton

RSVP to Carol Fybush
at 442-8737 by Feb. 10



NCJW, GRS
Executive Officers
2012 - 2013

President
Gina Horowitz

VP Administration
Roz Freedman-Baum

VP Membership
Harriet Renzi

Recording
Secretary
Alison Zakalik

Financial
Secretary
Lorraine Dvorin

Corresponding
Secretary
Donna Cohen

Treasurer
TBA

Ex Officio
Judy Abelman

Directors
through 2013

Alison Cresov
Marilyn Fenster
Ronny Frishman
Doreen Goldstein
Gloria Kaplan
Dolores Kleinberg
Arlene Schenker
Cathy Schneider
Mollie Traub

Directors
serving
through 2014

Vancy Boyar
Nancy Chodak
Soralee Cook
Lynda Garner
Goldstein
Susan Kramarsky
Robin Levitt
Wendy Moss
Judy Slade
B.J. Yudelson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When Mollie told me the story about the progress that Viviana was making in broadening her understanding of the opportunities that were available to her, I thought it was a moment to remember, that it encapsulated the very essence of Consider College – leading students to realize the life-changing value of a good education.

Since Mollie wrote her letter of recommendation (below), Viviana was accepted at MCC. She was awarded \$4,100 in Pell and Tap grants and was invited to apply for the EOP -- Educational Opportunity Program. She begins classes in January, taking remedial math and English, credit-bearing biology and a one-credit career development class.

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

Horizons are broadening before my very eyes By Mollie Traub

"I want stuff, and in order to get it I have to get a good job, and in order to get a good job, I need an education." These words are music to the ears of a mentor working with a student whose academic record has been less than stellar.

I have known Viviana since she was in 6th grade. We lost track of each other for the year she was not attending the Rochester City schools. When she moved back to Rochester, I discovered that she had received her GED and was excited, but quite nervous, about pursuing higher education.

After spending some time determining that she loved animals, but didn't want to study for eight years to be a veterinarian, we settled on a possible career as a veterinary tech and took a field trip to Genesee Community College to check it out. But it was too far for a daily commute for a student without a car and a parent who wants her to live at home.

Then we moved along to taking basic classes at Monroe Community College to

bring her course work up to college level – most likely a one- to two-year process – and then transferring to Genesee Community College for the actual vet tech classes.

One day we were chatting about some of her babysitting responsibilities for siblings and she mentioned that she loved children as much as she loved animals, and perhaps she could be an in-home day care provider. From there we moved right along to her thinking about studying elementary education and becoming a kindergarten or first-grade teacher. I mentioned a higher salary and pension benefits. "Great idea, Mrs. Traub. Thank you for pointing out which jobs pay more than others."

A short time later, we were rummaging through my basement looking for a frame for her GED diploma when she happened to spy an old Xerox paper box with a logo of a shark.

"I love sharks! I watch every program on The Discovery Channel and if I can't be home, I record it."

OK!! "How about studying marine biology or zoology," I said. "What's that?" she asked. As I described the fields, her smile broadened.

We've been meeting regularly to fill out all required forms for admission to MCC and federal and state financial aid. A folder with her important papers sits near my computer. The last time we met, she brought her own notebook and said that she would be writing down everything I wrote down so she could have it at home in case she needed it.

In conversations, Viviana admits that failing in school, moving from parent to parent and getting into fights were a result of her being a "brat" (her words). She takes responsibility and tells me that once she got her GED, she suddenly had a different perspective on education.

This young lady of extremely limited means and a frighteningly narrow world view is suddenly considering a path that will lead her to become a professional. She finally gets it! ≧

BOOKS, MOMMY AND ME

The Downtown YWCA case workers and their clients along with NCJW, GRS volunteers have been enjoying lunch together for seven years at the annual Books, Mommy and Me event that takes place in November. Working together, NCJW volunteers and YWCA staff offer an afternoon that is focused on educating teen moms about the importance of reading to their children. It starts with a delicious lunch for all participants. Then NCJW volunteers teach a craft to the teens while the little ones color or listen to a story. This year, teens made flowers out of tissue paper to be used for table centerpieces, and bows for their hair made out of decorative duct tape.

The event draws new teens each year. This year,



however, it was great to see one of the teen moms who was at the very first Books, Mommy and Me seven years ago. She is 23 years old and works full time supporting her 7-year-old son. He was at the lunch and was so eager to fill his backpack with new and wonderful books that he couldn't wait to read. It was a pleasure to see how they both have grown and developed over the years.

The event would not be possible without the help of our amazing NCJW volunteers and chairperson, **Gina Horowitz**. A huge thank you goes to **Lynne Bishop, Soralee Cook, Lorraine Dvorin, Lois Kuh, Diana Nielsen, Harriet Renzi, Cathy Schneider, Arlene Schenker** and **B.J. Yudelson** for all of their efforts in making the day a success. The books are generously donated by the Volunteers of America. It is always a pleasure to work with Ruth Kramer and Shawmina Bowman and the case workers and other staff at the YWCA. They are so appreciative of

our work and see the value in having this event.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with the YWCA and to next year's Books, Mommy and Me event. ≧

Harriet Renzi, Chairperson
248-3484

IN THE FAMILY

Condolences to:

Donna Cohen on the loss of her mother, Sydelle Wexler

Elyse Boress on the loss of her grandmother, Sydelle Wexler

Marjorie Relin on the death of her son, David Relin

Lynda Newman on the loss of her husband, David Newman

Doreen Goldstein on the loss of her husband, Les Goldstein

Alison Zakalik on the loss of her father, Les Goldstein

To list your simchas and sorrows in the bulletin, please contact **Cathy Schneider** at cathy@rochester.rr.com. ≧

OSCAR NIGHT 2013

Don't miss our annual Oscar Night event on Wednesday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. We have an exciting new speaker this year who is eager to talk about the nominated movies and share his expertise with us! Jeff Ureles is a former film critic, teacher, filmmaker and director of the film "Cheap Shots," who will help us interpret and enhance our views of the nominated movies. For those of you who attend our "Reel Women" films, this will be a natural extension of our interest and discussion of good movies. And for those of you who haven't yet joined us at our "Reel Women" movies, this is a great opportunity to come and learn more about it.

This year we are holding Oscar night at the lovely home of **Hinda Miller**. It is at 101 Esplanade Drive (across from Thackeray Road). There will be yummy refreshments (as always) and we are hoping to see all of you there for a lively evening "at the movies"! RSVP to **Carol Fybush** at 442-8737. ≧

DELICIOUS FUN AT SOJOURNER HOUSE

If you're thinking about getting involved in NCJW, a nice event to try is the nutrition evening at Sojourner House. First, we provide a brief nutrition program, on subjects such as stocking a pantry, smart snacking, breakfast choices that provide energy, dinner-portion sizes, and reading food labels. We end with a group quiz that allows participants to test their home food safety knowledge.

Then it's on to the kitchen, where each NCJW volunteer works with three or four Sojourner House women making quick and easy desserts -- chocolate-dipped strawberries, graham glories, yogurt parfaits, cereal cookies and haystacks. It's crowded and busy in the kitchen as everyone takes responsibility for one part of the project.

We put the completed desserts on plates and display them along the counter and each woman samples all the desserts.

The evening has the educational component, a hands-on activity, and the pleasure of companionship. We always receive thank you's and often share hugs.

Thank you to this fall's volunteers: **Nancy Reitkopp, Judy Slade, Lois Kuh** and **Gina Horowitz**.

A spring date is being arranged for March. If you would like to participate, contact Gina. ☞

Gina Horowitz, Chairperson
482-8652

JOB SHADOWING UPDATE

Not only was Tuesday, November 6 a special day for our country, when many of us exercised our right to vote, but it was a special day for nine students in the Consider College program. On a day when the Rochester City School District had a day off from school, the nine students who participated in Job Shadow Day went to work. They were picked up bright and early to arrive at their workplace to shadow an employee for the morning. The students were driven from their homes to their assigned workplace by NCJW volunteers, then picked up and brought to Mollie Traub's home for lunch and a discussion of their experiences. Thank-you notes were written to the employers by the students.

Their experiences were diverse. One student spent the morning at SteinMart, shadowing a sales person in the store. At the end of her visit, she was asked to fill out an application for employment. Another student observed a dentist treating patients and learned about running an office from the office manager. Two students went to Wegmans Corporate Maintenance Administration and Call Center where they saw first-hand how maintenance calls are handled at the supermarket company. They said it was very high-tech and quite interesting to see how problems are resolved so quickly at a large company. Two students spent the morning at Temple Beth El preschool, assisting with some of the tasks associated with the classroom. They left with a new appreciation of early childhood care. One student observed at an animal hospital where she saw a dog undergo an ultrasound.

Another student went to the U of R Radiology Department at Strong Hospital where she was able to see the radiology equipment and talk to the staff about how they are trained and what the equipment is used for. One student spent the morning at Penfield Fitness and Racquet Club where he observed a personal training session and took an exercise class. He spoke to the owner, who gave him important business advice.

It was exciting for the students to visit all of these interesting places, but it was also rewarding for the host employers to share their expertise. The volunteers, most of whom are mentors to the students, enjoyed seeing how poised and grownup the students have become. It was a successful day for all who participated.

The day would not have been possible without the superb orchestrating by **Mollie Traub**, whose attention to detail and knowledge of all the students and mentors are invaluable. Thank you, Mollie. In addition, the volunteers who drove the students to their assignments are vital for the Job Shadow Day to take place. Thank you to **Henra Briskin, Diane Shrager, Nancy LeVant, Irwin Solomon, Mollie Traub, Harriet Renzi**, and **Julie Holzbach** for transporting the students to and from their work place.

If you would like to volunteer to drive a student next year or if you have a suggestion for a work place visit, please contact **Harriet Renzi**. ☞

Harriet Renzi
hrenzi4nyps@aol.com

NCJW, GRS SUPPORTS PLANNED PARENTHOOD

The Rochester Riverside Convention Center was large enough to hold the hundreds of men and women who came to support Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region for its Annual Luncheon Program on November 2, 2012.

Donna Cohen organized a table of 10 women to represent NCJW,GRS – **Donna, Marcia Eisenberg, Lorraine Dvorin, Linda Lowenstein, Mollie Traub, Ellen Rosen, Marian Kobrin, Lynne Bishop, Cathy Schneider** and **Gina Horowitz. Lynda Garner Goldstein** and **Arlene Schenker** were also present

The highlight of the luncheon was the guest speaker, Donna Brazile, familiar to all from her regular appearances on TV as commentator on CNN and ABC and as a Democratic political strategist.

She talked about the safety net provided by Planned Parenthood, which offers cancer screenings, support for survivors of sexual assault, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, health services for men, and family planning and abortion. She mentioned Planned Parenthood's roles of empowering women and teaching responsibility.

Ms. Brazile was disturbed at the unfair and unbalanced attacks on Planned Parenthood. States have proposed over 600 pieces of legislation aimed at reducing access to abortion.

In a "What would Jesus do?" reflection, she seemed confident that he would not have pulled apart the safety net that Planned Parenthood



provides, nor would he have stood silently by on the issues.

Her call to action was simply, "Please vote."

It felt really wonderful to sit among hundreds of people gathered together to support this vital organization and I encourage our members to help us create a second table of supporters next year. ☞

Gina Horowitz, President

EXPERIENCE NCJW'S COLLECTIVE POWER IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

Our local section enjoys serving the Rochester community in a number of ways – donating items to the women and children at Alternatives for Battered Women, mentoring city school children towards high school graduation and beyond; encouraging young mothers to read to their toddlers.

At the triennial NCJW Washington Institute we have a chance to experience the connection between our local projects and the work of the national organization.

As former president of NCJW Nancy Ratzen wrote, "Washington Institute is a powerful opportunity to turn NCJW's progressive ideals into action.

"It is an extraordinary chance for all NCJW members and supporters to come together from around the country to make an impact on our nation's leaders. Only once in three years does our collective voice echo with such resonance in the corridors of power, speaking out for progressive social change to our nation's leaders on Capitol Hill and in the White House.

"Be there to make our voices heard – to pursue the kind of progressive social change we seek – to *be* the change we wish to see in the world." ☞

NCJW Washington Institute
March 17 – 19, 2013
Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D.C.

