

Bulletin

NCJWSM

Vol. 23, No. 3
May 2018

www.ncjwgrs.org

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National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

COMING EVENTS

MAY

WED / 9
General Board Mtg.
7:00 p.m.
Jewish Federation

SUN / 13
Breast Cancer Walk

SAT-MON / 19-21
Shavuot

MON / 28
Memorial Day

JUNE

SUN / 10
Hannah G.
Solomon and
Woman of the Year
Brunch Irondequoit
Country Club
11:00 a.m.

TBA
General Board Mtg.

PLEASE JOIN US AT A RECOGNITION BRUNCH HONORING



Mary Andrecolich- Montesano-Diaz

Principal, Rochester International Academy
Hannah G. Solomon Award Recipient



Jennifer Loviglio

NCJW Woman of the Year 2018

Sunday June 10, 2018
11:00 a.m.

Irondequoit Country Club
4045 East Avenue, Rochester, NY

The NCJW,GRS bylaws will be voted on at the June recognition brunch
and can be found on our website.

Please mail your check (payable to NCJW, GRS) and reservation form to:
Randi Fox Tabb, 193 Valley Green Drive, Penfield, NY 14526
RSVP By April 20, 2018

Brunch \$54 Patron \$150 Sponsor \$250

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 & Directors
2017 - 2018**

President
Amy Stein

VP Membership
Debi Brenner

VP Administration
Donna Cohen

Treasurer
Lisa Waltzer

Financial Secretary
Ronny Frishman

Recording Secretary
Jennifer Loviglio

*Immediate Past
Presidents*
Vancy Boyar
Soralee Cook

Directors

Jane Amstey

Linda Bice

Nancy Chodak

Marilyn Fenster

Sandy Frankel

Nichole Gantshar

Barbara Grosh

Gloria Kaplan

Wendy Moss

Melissa Pheterson

Pauline Rutberg

Arlene Schenker

Cathy Schneider

Ruth Sklarsky

Randi Fox Tabb

Nancy Gabrielsen-
Tinnis

Stacey Trien

Rona Wyner

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue"
(Deuteronomy 16:18)

This clarion call to action has resonated with the Jewish people for centuries, and is the guiding imperative of the National Council of Jewish Women.

I found myself reflecting on this central Torah teaching in recent days as I joined so many in the community in mourning the loss of Rep. Louise Slaughter. Louise was an incredible champion in the fight for justice, equality and opportunity, and the members of our section were proud to work together with her on many critical issues. I have reached out to Louise's family on behalf of our section to express sympathy. In addition, we will continue our advocacy and community engagement work, ensuring that we remain focused on tikkun olam, repair of the world.

We were pleased that so many joined us March 26 for "An Evening of Listening and Learning about the #MeToo Movement." We are grateful to Dr. Ayala Emmett and to Dr. Jessica Cantlon for all that they shared, as well as the many contributions from participants at our table discussions.

Members of our Public Affairs Committee met with staff in Louise Slaughter's office before her death, and are preparing for additional legislative visits and actions. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact **Ruth Sklarsky** at frsklarsky@aol.com or **Stacey Trien** at STrien@leclairkorona.com.

NCJW,GRS is proud to be doing so much good work to improve our world and we need your support. You can do this through advocacy, financial support and attendance at NCJW events. Together we can change the world! ≥

Amy B. Stein, President
amysteinncjw@gmail.com

#METOO PROGRAM ENLIGHTENED AND EMBOLDENED

On March 26, men and women gathered at Temple Sinai for an evening of listening and learning about the #MeToo movement. Well-attended yet intimate, the event featured powerful speakers whose remarks sparked small-group discussions for a "salon" feel that inspired all attendees to share ideas.

The program opened with a D'var Torah from Dr. Ayala Emmett, professor emeritus of anthropology and one of the founders of the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Rochester.

Invoking sources from the Book of Ruth to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Emmett discussed

connections between our religious teachings and the lessons of the #MeToo movement: the insistence on dignity, the force of morality, and the need to break the silence that binds power to masculinity.

Dr. Jessica Cantlon, associate professor in the UR Brain and Cognitive Science Department, then shared her story of fighting an entrenched culture of shame and silence at the university. Last year, Cantlon joined her husband and other colleagues in filing a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) against Florian Jaeger, a professor in her department; the case drew national attention as the #MeToo movement evolved and exploded. In December, she was listed among "the Silence Breakers – People of the Year" in *TIME* magazine for her role in speaking out against men who abuse their power. (Jaeger was ultimately censured by the university, but still teaches there.)



photos by Lou Schneider

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2018 HANNAH G. SOLOMON AWARD RECIPIENT

Mary Andrecolich-Montesano-Diaz, Esteemed RCSD Administrator

Mary Andrecolich-Montesano-Diaz understands only too well the challenges that many Rochester children face.

The founder and principal of the Rochester International Academy, Andrecolich-Montesano-Diaz grew up in poverty, the eldest of four children in a single-parent family. She attended Franklin High School, where she says she was a "mediocre student at best," but an outspoken champion for the marginalized population.

"I was in and out of trouble, never thinking that I could afford to go to college," Andrecolich-Montesano-Diaz recalls. "I was always standing up for the rights of those that were the most vulnerable... but quite often I was misunderstood."

She credits a Franklin teacher, who also was her sports coach, for keeping her in school and off the streets through involvement in athletics. The teacher helped her navigate the college admission process, and after graduating Franklin in 1976 she attended the State University of Brockport. She studied

physical education and minored in African dance, an experience that broadened her appreciation for other cultures. She eventually went on to get a Master's degree in education and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Administration.

Starting as a teacher in the Rochester City School District, Andrecolich-Montesano-Diaz "vowed" to emulate the example of the teacher who made such an impact on her life. As principal at Thomas Jefferson High School, she was particularly moved by the overwhelming struggles of teen immigrants: "I became enamored with those students that were new to our country, speaking very little to no English, most coming from refugee camps, with just the clothes on their backs."

In 2010, she had the opportunity to create an educational facility for these new arrivals and a year later the Rochester International Academy (RIA) opened with 38 students. Today, it serves about 400 students in grades K-12 who

come from 20 countries and speak 28 different languages. The school emphasizes acquisition of the English language with integration of curriculum and academic skills; it is community-oriented and aimed at helping its students reach their highest potential.

In 2016, RIA was one of only eight schools nationwide to win the School of Opportunity GOLD Award from the National Education Policy Center; the honor recognizes excellent public high schools that actively strive to close opportunity gaps. The school was featured in a video about the U.N.'s Together Campaign. Andrecolich-Montesano-Diaz was honored by the Rochester Education Foundation in 2016.

"I continue to be blessed as the principal at the Rochester International Academy where I am dedicated to fighting xenophobia and helping my students and their families be successful and happy in their new country," the administrator says. She and her spouse, Gina, have three children and one grandchild. ☹

#METOO *continued*



Discussions followed at each table with these facilitators:

**Judy Azoff,
Jane Amstey,
Debi Brenner,
Soralee Cook,
Gail Ferraioli,
Stephanie**

**Gerspacher, Alyssa Gupton,
Rabbi Kelly Levy, Randi Fox
Tabb, and Rabbi Debbi Till.**

Among the ideas noted at the evening's recap:

- Defining "no-tolerance" behavior in clear terms;
- Supporting women by listening, displaying empathy, standing by them through the grievance process, and taking a stand with conviction;
- Connecting women with resources in their schools, professions and communities;
- Educating men and boys how to be advocates and allies;
- Addressing pornography and the messages it carries;



- Having honest discussions with children to raise awareness early in life.

Future events are in the works to build on the ideas, momentum and solidarity generated by the program. Stay tuned for details. ☹

Melissa Pheterson

CONGRATULATIONS JENNIFER LOVIGLIO, OUR 2018 WOMAN OF THE YEAR!

An award-winning journalist, playwright and volunteer, **Jennifer Loviglio** joined the Rochester Section in 2008 and has been a dedicated member, serving several board terms.

After moving to Rochester in 1997, Jennifer worked as a freelance journalist for several local publications, radio stations and a TV station. Her City Newspaper column, The XX Files, won a national award for excellence in column writing. She wrote plays for the Rochester Museum & Science Center, including one that was performed on the Sam Patch boat as part of the 4th grade curriculum and another that was performed at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Jennifer first heard about NCJW from her friend **Arlene Schenker**, a past president. She was impressed by initiatives such as Project Teaching Respect, which raised awareness about the difficulties gay students encounter. She was also fascinated by Arlene's tales of visiting legislators locally and in Washington, D.C., to lobby for children, women and reproductive justice. Jennifer

recalled thinking, "Why can't I join a group of smart activist women like this?"

Well, she could and she did! She became a Consider College mentor for a teen girl and her older brother. Jennifer was "always encouraging them to participate in all cultural, educational, culinary and just-plain-fun activities," Consider College director **Mollie Traub** said.

Being involved in the P.A.D. Project inspired Jennifer. She learned that some woman and girls miss work and school because they can't afford feminine hygiene supplies. She and her husband, Paul Hartman, convinced the Pittsford Food Cupboard to dedicate a shelf just for pads and pantliners. They sponsored the shelf for a year, motivating other women to sustain it.

Jennifer chaired the Communications Committee and co-chaired the Women's Equality Act program. She has also participated in job shadowing, the Books, Mommy and Me program, and the Public Affairs Committee. In 2015,

she was named Emerging Leader. "Jennifer is always professional and pays careful attention to details," **Vancy Boyar**, past president, said.

The best thing about being on the NCJW board? For Jennifer, it's working with intelligent, compassionate women. "We get right to work. There's no room for ego battles and grandstanding," she said. But, she added, there is always time for thoughtful discussion.

Outside of NCJW, Jennifer's other passion is working with refugees. She volunteers with two refugee organizations' job skills programs. Her new favorite gig is helping 4th graders learn math at a city school that serves refugee and neighborhood children. "The kids are mostly adorable, a teensy bit naughty and very smart," she said.

Jennifer and her husband live in Pittsford and have two sons in their 20s, Nicolas and Ottavio. ☺

Nancy Chodak

NCJW,GRS ATTENDS ROCHESTER MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

Saturday, March 24 was nippy but sunny in Rochester. A group of hearty NCJW,GRS members -- me, **Jane Amstey**, **Vancy Boyar**, **Jan Katz**, **Monika Katzel**, **Ellen Solomon** and **Amy Stein** -- attended the local March for our Lives, which began with a rally in Washington Square Park. We were in the company of about 5,000 other marchers, all there to protest the devastating toll gun violence has taken on children in

Rochester and around the country. The march mirrored demonstrations in many other cities, the largest of which was in Washington, D.C., attended by approximately 500,000.

As has been widely reported, the student survivors of the tragic February shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida spearheaded this renewed push for common-sense gun safety legislation. Their passion

and energy have been contagious, spreading to students in many communities, Rochester included. The march was organized and attended by both city and suburban students. Student speakers reminded the crowd that victims of mass shootings aren't the only children who suffer from gun violence. Children in Rochester neighborhoods have been murdered without any national media coverage and

continued on next page

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Whether you are new to the Greater Rochester Section or have been a member for a long time, there are many opportunities to get involved. Together, old and new members created our informative program about the #MeToo movement. A special thank you to our past co-president **Vancy Boyar** and new members **Judy Azoff** and **Melissa Pheterson** for their hard work on this.

We also would like to send a shout-out to our new members **Linda Epstein, Arielle Foti, Marsha Boelio, Linda Rubel** and **Joyce Schachter** for helping greet participants at recent programs.

We are thrilled to have more new members:

Hillary Lampell
Sarah Lobe
Jill Eisenstein
Marge Rosen
Gitana Mirochnik
Blanche Fenster
Rikki Brodsky
Janice Greenberg
Ellen Rosen Konar
Lisa Maas-Vangellow

If you know of anyone who would like to learn more about NCJW please contact me. The more voices in our section will enable us to grow stronger and have a greater impact on our community and nation. ⤵

Debi Brenner, VP Membership
debi.brenner@gmail.com

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

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES *continued*

with insufficient local attention. Every day in our nation, approximately 19 children are killed or injured by guns. Just since the Parkland shooting, at least 21 other children have been killed with guns in the U.S.

A mother of one of three young men killed in the 2015 Rochester Boys and Girls Club drive-by shooting spoke about her painful loss. She urged young people to stay the course and take back their neighborhoods. Mayor Lovely Warren echoed this sentiment when she said that it will be

the young people who finally put an end to senseless gun violence.

NCJW has an active gun violence prevention initiative, providing education and resources to sections. The Greater Rochester Section has hosted community programs on gun violence prevention in recent years. Obviously, we can't let up until mass shootings and other gun-related incidents no longer instill fear in our children. ⤵

Arlene Schenker

NCJW,GRS 2018-19 PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Executive Board

President-Elect up for vote to 1-year term at June meeting (formal election June 2019 for 2-year term ending June 2021)

President-Elect - Jane Amstey

Officers with 1-year extended terms up for vote at June meeting (term ending June 30, 2020)

VP Membership - Debi Brenner

VP Treasurer - Lisa Waltzer

Officers ~~and Directors~~ Continuing (no election needed; terms ending June 30, 2019)

President - Amy Stein

VP Administration - Donna Cohen

Financial Secretary - Ronny Frishman

Recording Secretary - Jennifer Loviglio

Immediate Past Co-presidents - Vancy Boyar and Soralee Cook

Directors up for 2-year terms (ending June 30, 2020)

Brenda Comisar

Arielle Foti

Melissa Pheterson

Terri Richardson

Stacey Trien

Director up for 1-year term (ending June 30, 2019)

Nancy Gabrielle Tinnes

Directors Continuing

(no election needed; terms ending June 30, 2019)

Linda Bice

Nancy Chodak

Marilyn Fenster

Sandra Frankel

Barbara Grosh

Gloria Kaplan

Pauline Rutberg

Arlene Schenker

Cathy Schneider

Ruth Sklarsky

Randi Fox Tabb

Rona Wyner



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

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Rochester, NY 14692**

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Exercise for a Cause

Join our NCJW team as we support the Rochester Breast Cancer Coalition's



Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13, 2018
Genesee Valley Park
9:00 a.m. Walk • 9:30 a.m. Run

***Bring your friends and family! Do a mitzvah!
Walk or run to honor those who have been affected by this disease!***

To register visit <http://bccr.org/pink-ribbon-run-walk/>

Please note on your registration form that you will be participating with NCJW, GRS.

Questions? Contact Randi Fox Tabb: foxtabb@aol.com

Change of address?

If you have a change or correction of address, please contact **Ronny Frishman** at frishman@rochester.rr.com

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.