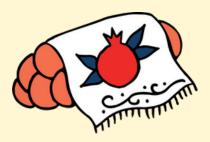
NEWSLETTER

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

February

 Sun Mon Tue
 Wed Thu
 Fri
 Sat

 26
 27
 28
 29
 30
 31
 1

 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8

 9
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15

 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22

 23
 24
 25
 26
 27
 28
 1

NCJW GRS UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars!

- February 5-12: Winter Clothing Drive for School 15
- February 21-22: Repro Shabbat
- March 9: Purim at the JCC
- March 16: Allergy Awareness + Epi-Pen Training
- June 1: Hannah G Solomon/Woman of the Year Brunch
- September 9: Opening Event: Heather Booth
- Check the nciwgrs.org website often for more events!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NCJW GRS Friends.

As I continue my second year as President of NCJW Greater Rochester Section, I am struck by the strength and dedication of this incredible community. It is a privilege to lead an organization that has spent over 130 years advocating for justice, supporting those in need, and creating meaningful change. Our work is driven by the passion of our members, and together, we are making a lasting impact.

As we move through the heart of winter, Tu Bishvat—the New Year of the Trees—reminds us of growth, renewal, and our deep-rooted commitment to repairing the world. Even in the coldest months, we recognize the promise of what is to come, knowing that the seeds we plant today will shape the future. In uncertain times, this holiday teaches us that resilience and action go hand in hand. Now is the moment to reaffirm our mission, stand strong in our values, and continue building a more just and compassionate society.

NCJW GRS has never shied away from difficult work. In the face of rising challenges, we have remained a steadfast voice for women, children, and families. Whether through advocacy, education, or direct service, we are ensuring that our values translate into meaningful action. As we look ahead, we invite you to be part of this journey—whether by engaging in advocacy efforts, attending our programs, or simply staying connected.

This newsletter offers a glimpse into the impact we are making and the exciting opportunities ahead. Your involvement strengthens our collective voice, and your support makes it possible for us to continue this vital work. I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the months to come.

With appreciation,
Ellie Rosenbloom
President, NCJW Greater Rochester Section



WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

FEBRUARY 5-12

Community Winter Clothing Donation Drive for RCSD School 15 - "A World In a School" for Pre-K through 6th grade students

12 Prive for pol"



Winter items needed:

- T-Shirts NEW Boys and Girls sizes
- Socks NEW Adult sizes
- Underwear NEW Girls sizes 8-20
- Winter Boots NEW OR GENTLY USED (IN GOOD CONDITION)
 Sizes 10/11/12 for Pre-K and Kindergarteners
 Sizes 7/8/9 for Boys and Girls



Winter Coats - NEW OR GENTLY USED (IN GOOD CONDITION)
 Boys/Girls Sizes 18/20 - Larger CHILDREN'S sizes, NO ADULT SIZES, PLEASE.

NO hats, gloves, or scarves needed at this time

This is a great opportunity to make a tangible impact in the lives of local children and families.

Donations may be dropped off at the following locations:

Donna Cohen: 28 Chatham Woods, Pittsford - Front Porch Rina Schnaufer: 251 Barclay Square Drive, 14618 - Front Porch Lisa Waldman: 60 San Gabriel Drive, 14610 - Front Porch



QUESTIONS? Please contact Lisa at lwaldman5@gmail.com or 585-244-6189





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Connections Committee Continues Impact

This past December, a group of amazing volunteers came together to help fill
Chanukah bags at the Brighton Food Cupboard. These bags, filled with holiday foods and treats, were
donated to families in need, helping them celebrate Chanukah with warmth and joy. Thank you to
everyone who helped pack and organize these bags!

We are organizing a community winter clothing donation drive for RCSD School 15 - "A World In a School". School 15 has a Pre-K through 6th grade school population and is comprised of 50% refugee students and 50% city students. Please see information above about donating.

~ Adrienne Markus

ALLERGY AWARENESS





Be Prepared: Allergy Awareness & Epi-Pen Training Workshop

Allergies are on the rise—food, environmental, seasonal, and insect allergies affect more people than ever. In fact, studies show that food allergies in children have increased by 50% since the 1990s.

How can we keep those around us safe? Join us for a 90-minute hands-on workshop where you'll learn about allergy awareness, what causes anaphylaxis, and the do's and don'ts in an allergy-related emergency. Most importantly, you'll gain the confidence to recognize an allergic reaction and properly use an Epi-Pen when it matters most.



NCJW Greater Rochester Section and Louis S. Wolk JCC Rochester

ALLERGY AWARENESS <-> EPI PEN TRAINING



National Council of Jewish Women Greater Rochester Section

In partnership with:



Sunday, March 16 at 1PM JCC Aud A

Learn the signs of anaphylaxis and how to treat it

Foods, insects, and environmental factors can cause allergic reactions anytime and anywhere. Learn how you can be prepared.

- Discuss who is at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Recognize early signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis.
- Learn how to implement the correct use of epinephrine for the treatment of anaphylaxis, including when epinephrine should & shouldn't be used

Presented by:



Registration and Additional Information:

ncjwgrs.org

Queen Esther and Vashti were the original advocates!



Invite Your Friends and Family to Come See Us!

HANNAH G SOLOMON - WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2025 Sunday, June 1st 11am IRONDEQUOIT COUNTRY CLUB

WOMAN OF THE YEAR



NCJW GRS IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE LISA WALTZER AS THE 2025 WOMAN OF THE YEAR!

Lisa has contributed a great deal to NCJW GRS as a past President and Treasurer and current Chair of the Public Affairs Committee. Lisa supports the Rochester community in so many ways. Amy Stein, 2024 Woman of the Year, along with a large group of past award recipients surprised Lisa with this special news. Join us on June 1st as we celebrate this remarkable woman. Mazel toy!



Look for more information about the Hannah G Solomon/Woman of the Year celebration brunch in your email inbox and on the NCJW GRS website soon!





HANNAH G SOLOMON AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 HANNAH G SOLOMON AWARD RECIPIENT JOY GETNICK!

Dr. Getnick is the Executive Director of Hillel at the University of Rochester. Her prior roles include the Senior Director for Programming and Jewish Life at the JCC and founding director of Camp Seneca Lake (CSL) in Israel, a summer Israel program for teens. An historian by training, she was a professor of History at SUNY Geneseo and is the author of the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning curriculum on the Arab-Israeli Conflict. Joy is deeply committed to Jewish pluralism and community building, and enjoys fostering opportunities for young adults to explore Jewish traditions, ideas, and heritage in new and meaningful ways. Learn more about Dr. Getnick's contributions at the celebration in June!

Congratulations!



WASHINGTON INSTITUTE



Raise your voice in our nation's capital:

May 18-20, 2025

Join NCJW in Washington, DC for Washington Institute 2025, a transformative three-day experience where we will build our skills, celebrate our achievements, and amplify our voices.

Washington Institute 2025 kicks off at 1pm ET on Sunday, May 18, 2025, and wraps up on Capitol Hill with a rousing send-off from lawmakers at 2pm ET on Tuesday afternoon, May 20.

Please note that the start and end times may change slightly as we finalize the program.

What should I expect from Washington Institute?

At Washington Institute you will:

- Strengthen your advocacy and leadership skills
- Deepen your knowledge of the most pressing issues of the day
- Get inspired by our amazing speakers
- Celebrate incredible changemakers
- Network with people from across the country
- Experience the dynamic energy of the nation's capital as you take your message to Congress
- Return home reinvigorated to continue your social justice work with new skills, ideas, and knowledge!

For more information about the NCJW Washington Institute, registration, and travel, please visit: https://www.ncjw.org/events/washington-institute-2025/



National Council of Jewish Women Greater Rochester Section

grening event

REATER BOTH

ncjwgrs.org

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025





September 9, 2025

Heather Booth is a lifelong activist, civil rights champion, and feminist icon whose work has shaped some of the most pivotal social justice movements of our time. From her early days organizing for civil rights in the 1960s to her leadership in the women's movement and progressive politics, Booth has dedicated her life to advancing equality, justice, and democracy.

A passionate advocate for reproductive rights, Booth founded the Jane Collective, an underground abortion service that provided safe procedures before Roe v. Wade. Her work in political organizing has influenced presidential campaigns, labor rights, and grassroots movements, making her one of the most respected strategists in progressive activism.

With decades of experience training and mentoring organizers, Booth continues to inspire new generations of activists, proving that lasting change is built through collective action, moral courage, and unwavering commitment to justice. NCJW GRS is excited to have Heather Booth in Rochester in September. More information coming soon!

Visit ncjwgrs.org for more information about this exciting event! Please note that more information will be shared as we finalize the program.

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!

Let us know if you have an idea for a program or event!

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

NCJ≥

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!





PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NCJW GRS members had a blast celebrating Hanukkah at our Latkes and Lobby event on December 29th! We noshed on latkes with all of the traditional toppings (and a few fun additions like pomegranate seeds and lox), split sufganiyot the size of Goliath's head, and lit the menorah together. In between bites, we took advantage of NCJW National's website, which makes it incredibly easy to contact your elected officials about a variety of issues that NCJW cares about. We contacted President Biden urging him to publish the ERA (which he did!) and added our voices to the calls for Congress to pass legislation to further gun violence prevention. Bookmark www.ncjw.org/act and check back often to see the different opportunities to contact lawmakers about issues that are important to you! Thank you to Public Affairs Committee members, Mollie Traub, Vancy Boyar, and Cindy Hirschberg for a successful event! If you're interested in joining our Public Affairs Committee, please reach out to Lisa Waltzer at lisakwaltzer@gmail.com.

- Lisa Waltzer









Repro Shabbat is an annual Shabbat celebration that honors the Jewish value of reproductive freedom. It takes place annually on Parshat Mishpatim, the reading of which contains the verses commonly referenced as the foundation of Judaism's approach to reproductive health, rights, and justice. Individuals and communities across the world gather to celebrate Repro Shabbat and the Jewish traditions it honors. Participation can take many forms. Jewish values compel us to support full access to safe and legal abortions. NCJW is collaborating nationally with many organizations to bring Repro Shabbat to communities across the country during the weekend of February 21-22, 2025. You can also participate from home!



Judaism offers a critical perspective on reproductive freedom that is too often unheard in our public discourse. Repro Shabbat is a time for communities and individuals to connect, educate, and activate towards a more just future.

Declare Reproductive Freedom is a Jewish Value

Signal your commitment to reproductive freedom with a "Reproductive Freedom is a Jewish Value" 6'x4' vinyl banner. Display your banner to help bring our Jewish values proudly into the public square and change the narrative on religion and abortion. Use the code FREEBANNER at checkout.

GET YOUR FREE BANNER

Not able to participate in a service at a synagogue? <u>Click here</u> to sign up for Repro Shabbat at Home! If you choose to participate this way you will have access to many resources, including a study guide, a conversation guide, a Shabbat Spotify playlist, recipes and more to help you plan a memorable at-home Shabbat event including a tutorial on how to braid a uterus shaped challah!

NSW SRS. OR NOU!

Renew your membership today!

Only \$36/year





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

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



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 225,000 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.

P.A.D.

P.A.D. Off to a Good Start in 2025

P.A.D. got off to a great start in 2025. Our friends at Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys (GRAWA) held their sixth MLK Day of Service PAD party, purchasing, assembling, and donating 425 menstrual kits which were welcomed by Charles Settlement, Community Food Cupboard, Foodlink Health and Wellness Program (formerly MINO), and Refugees Helping Refugees.

There are a lot of components to a smooth running P.A.D. Project. One component is our sewists, like Mollie Traub and Nancy LeVant, who contribute many beautiful bags every year. A Jewish quilting club in California sends us 100 drawstring bags every year, and Genessee Valley Quilt Club and about five women we met through our connection with Sew Green Rochester, also sew bags for us. For the past year, Ansel Eklund, manager of Sew Green, has been giving us pre-cut bags so our sewists don't have to provide all the fabric and can get right down to sewing. We also have dedicated NCJW GRS ambassadors: Brenda Comisar, Linda Bice, Mollie Traub, and Nancy Tinnes, as well as PAD co-chairs Gina Horowitz and Soralee Cook, who come to the parties to be sure they run smoothly.

Who receives the kits? Recipient agencies include Action for a Better Community, AGAPE Haven of Hope, Brockport Migrant Education Program, Catholic Charities Family and Community Services, Dimitri House, House of Mercy, Mary's Place, People's Pantry, YWCA, and World Relief Western New York.

P.A.D., which stands for Providing Access and Dignity, began in 2014, when the New Projects Committee learned that there were women in our community who struggle to afford their basic monthly needs. We developed the P.A.D. Project to help. According to recent statistics, almost 35% of women in Rochester live below the poverty line. (Source: RMAPI: Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative). This statistic is similar to what we found ten years ago, so the problem persists and we're happy to still be helping. In 2024, we donated 1937 kits, approximately 30,000 pads.

~Gina Horowitz





Ansel Eklund, manager of Sew Green Rochester with pre-cut bags.

P.A.D.



Rochester ShinShinim learn about P.A.D. while making kits for Baden Street Settlement

P.A.D. provides access and dignity to those who menstruate by supplying kits containing pads, tampons, panty liners, and chocolate! This offers individuals an opportunity to continue to go to work or school without the burden of cost associated with these products.

CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR AMAZON WISHLIST



Groups scheduled to hold parties in 2025 are ShinShinim Jewish Federation Israeli Emissaries, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Pittsford Women's Club, Barrington Park Neighbors, Temple Beth El Sisterhood and SJFU Feminist Alliance. Temple Sinai Sisterhood will hold an independent party in March.



Members of St. John Fisher University Feminist Alliance donated this year's kits to World Relief Western NY

P.A.D.



GRAWA (Greater Rochester Association of Women Attorneys) members, family, and friends at the end of their successful and enjoyable P.A.D. party on MLK Day!

PROVIDING ACCESS AND DIGNITY TO THOSE WHO MENSTRUATE







If you know of an organization that would like to host a P.A.D. party, contact us at info@ncjwgrs.org











PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE AND ADVOCATE



a letter writing campaign

December 29 | at 4:00 pm The home of Vancy Boyar

For more information and to register, go to ncjwgrs.org



National Council of Jewish Womer Greater Rochester Section Several members
joined Lobby and Latkes to
celebrate and advocate as
we supported important causes
and celebrated the miracle of
Hanukkah! It was a wonderful,
relaxing evening connecting
with members of
NCJW GRS!





PAST EVENTS



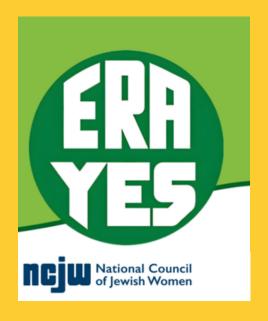
On October 21, NCJW GRS was honored to participate in a panel discussion about the ERA ballot initiative organized by the First Unitarian Church Reproductive Justice Ministry. The proposition passed on November 7 with over 57% of voters showing support for the amendment.



<u>Click here</u> to watch the recording of "A Century in the Making: ERA Yes!" a NCJW webinar from January 26th.

Effective January 1, 2025, the New York State Constitution will include protections against discrimination "by any other person or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by the state or any agency" based on "race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed, religion, or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy." The Equal Rights Amendment further clarifies that Article I, § 11 of the New York State Constitution does not invalidate or prevent any future law, program, or practice from preventing or dismantling discrimination (such as the New York State Human Rights Law). It also does not invalidate or curtail the free exercise of religion under Article I, § 3 of the New York State Constitution.

38 states have now ratified the ERA.
On January 17, Biden declared
ERA is "the law of the land."



NCJWGREATER ROCHESTER SECTION

Power Your Voice With Us

ncjwgrs.org

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!

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!





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. Tribute cards are also available for purchase at all NCJW GRS events.

NCJW GRS OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

NCJW GRS 2024-2025 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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

DIRECTORS SERVING UNTIL 2026

RIKKI BRODSKY

BRENDA COMISAR

DONNA COHEN, BULLETIN EDITOR, CHAPTER HISTORIAN

CINDY FINESTONE

CINDY HIRSHBERG

LISA MAAS VANGELLOW

ADRIENNE MARKUS, COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CHAIR

DIRECTORS SERVING UNTIL 2025

JANE AMSTEY

MARILYN FENSTER, TRIBUTES COORDINATOR

JENNIFER LOVIGLIO

RINA SCHNAUFER

CATHY SCHNEIDER

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 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