

SPRING 2026 Volume 70, Number 3

ADVOCACY

ncjw
National Council
of Jewish Women
Peninsula Section

PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR
**FOUNDER'S DAY
LUNCHEON**

HONORING OUR VERY OWN FAB 4

**RENEE FISCHER
JUDY NOVET
PAM SHELDEN
NATALIE ZEIGER**

6.12.26 🌸 **11:30 AM**

TEMPLE AVODAH
3050 OCEANSIDE ROAD
OCEANSIDE, NEW YORK

PEACE

LOVE

When viewing this pdf file you can go directly to articles by clicking on the sections listed below and you can go to various websites by clicking on the links throughout this issue.

Message from the President	2
Jewish Life: UN and Israel	3
Advocacy Film: "Floyd Abrams: Speaking Freely"	3
Repro Shabbat	4
Film: "No One Asked You"	4
Our Very Own FAB 4	5
ICJW Seminar	6
The Back 2 School Store	8
Peninsula Section Officers 2026-27	9
Joint Women's Community Celebration of Passover	9
Spring Game Day	9
Tributes	10
Calendar of Events	10
Book Review: "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store"	10
Thrifting Behind the Scenes	11

Meet Our Honorees 

If you would like to attend/donate to Founder's Day,
please call our office at 516-569-3660.



INSTAGRAM
[ncjwpeninsulasection](#)



FACEBOOK
[NCJW Peninsula Section](#)



Message from the President

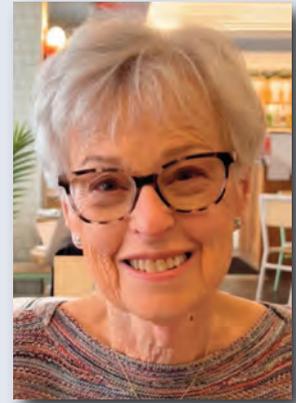
How is it for you during these long, cold, snowy days when the sun barely appears and it's dark by 5:00 pm? Maybe you were lucky and are spending the winter somewhere warm. Well, I am here on Long Island for the duration and I find myself reluctant to leave my little cozy cocoon even though there were things I thought about doing, people I wanted to see, places I wanted to go.

But even in this worst of winters Peninsula Section carries on! Our Period Project met twice to pack kits for public schools and women's shelters. We formed an alliance with Planned Parenthood and have begun providing them with menstrual care kits. We had a productive meeting with TANS, an alliance of 10 synagogues on the North Shore,

to introduce them to Peninsula Section and we found a group of like-minded women eager to work with us.

"In reality, every week is Repo Shabbat because every hour of every day there are people in this country who struggle because they have lost the power to control their own destiny."

One of the highlights of February was Reppo Shabbat. On February 13 and 14 we joined with Long Island Synagogues to read and discuss *Parshat Mishpatim*, the Torah portion that is the foundation for the Jewish value of Reproductive Freedom. Bonnie Sperry, our Executive Director, spoke from the Bima during services at Am Echad in Lynbrook and I was the speaker at a Shabbat Lunch and Learn at Shelter Rock Jewish Center. We also have a combined a Reppo Shabbat follow-up and International Women's Day program with Sid Jacobsen JCC on Sunday, March 8th.



Reppo Shabbat was started six years ago by NCJW as a response to the Dobbs decision which eliminated the Federal protection of abortion rights

and gave states the power to set their own rules. Now, Reppo Shabbat has almost 100 co-sponsor organizations, both secular and religious, and 2,500 celebrations across the country. It galvanizes supporters of religious freedom and women's health to continue to provide assistance to women in states with restrictive and onerous women's health laws. NCJW is a national leader in the Reproductive Rights Movement. As Rabbi Nora Feinstein, NCJW VP of Leadership Development, rightly pointed out, "In reality, every week is Repo Shabbat because every hour of every day there are people in this country who struggle because they have lost the power to control their own destiny."

So we've almost made it through winter and any day now we will see the signs that Spring, the invigorating season of renewal, will be here soon. And NCJW Peninsula Section says, "Welcome Back! Come Join Us!" As you read our *Bulletin* you will find many opportunities for learning, advocacy, fun and celebration. Our Spring Calendar is full of social events, interesting, informative programs, and opportunities for advocacy and community service. Game Day is an April highlight. Our annual Founder's Day Luncheon is on June 12th where we will be honoring four outstanding women. You'll find details on all these events on the following pages. It's been too long—let's get together soon!

— Donna Bialor



National Council of Jewish Women

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.

NCJW Peninsula Section

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Jewish Life

UN AND ISRAEL: A CHALLENGING AND EVER-CHANGING RELATIONSHIP

Open to
the Public.
Reservations
Required by
March 2.

◆ Tuesday, March 17, 10:30 am –12:30 pm. Program and light lunch to follow.
Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre, 295 Main Street, East Rockaway

Couvert \$18, Make checks payable to NCJW Peninsula Section 342 Central Ave. Lawrence, NY 11559

Guest Speaker: Dr. Joan Lurie Goldberg, International Council of Jewish Women's (ICJW) NGO United Nations Representative and active leader in the fight against anti-semitism and the spread of anti-Israel hate.

Learn, Discuss and Question. Dr. Joan Lurie Goldberg will share her experiences and insights gained from years of hands-on volunteering in Israel and as a representative of the ICJW at the United Nations for the past fifteen years. Topics include the continuing impact of UNRWA, antisemitism at the UN, and her experiences with the people she's met and worked with.



Advocacy Film Series

Floyd Abrams: Speaking Freely

PAM SHELDEN – Facilitator, Peninsula Section's Advocacy Film Series

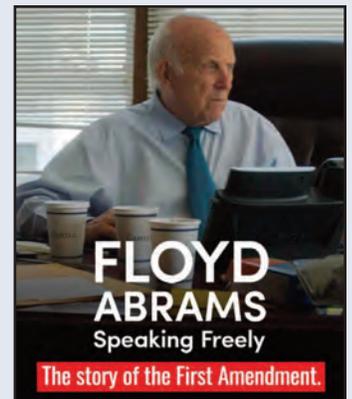
◆ Sunday, March 15, 2:00 pm
Gold Hall, Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library

In partnership with the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library, Peninsula Section's Advocacy Film Series will screen the documentary "Floyd Abrams: Speaking Freely," a biopic of the First Amendment told through the story of one of its greatest legal advocates. Beginning in the 1960s, attorney Floyd Abrams' work helped transform First Amendment protections from oft-ignored principle into a bulwark of American democracy. This is such a current, timely issue to be exploring when we are grappling with such subjects as hate speech, book burnings, and money and politics. A moderated Q and A will follow the screening.

Floyd Abrams' work helped transform First Amendment protections from oft-ignored principle into a bulwark of American democracy.

Moderator: James Coll

Tickets: There is no charge for this screening. NCJW members may call the office, 516-569-3660, to reserve a seat. Seating is open to the District 14 community. (Time: Approx. 1 hour of footage from a nine-hour documentary.)



**On Feb 13th & 14th
NCJW Peninsula
Section Celebrated**



**REPRO
SHABBAT**

... uterus shaped challahs were made as a visible affirmation that reproductive freedom is a matter of dignity, health and justice.

We began the day with two Challah Drops, first to Rep. Laura Gillen's office and then on to Rep. Tom Suozzi's office. Thanking them for supporting reproductive rights as this is the weekend where the Torah portion, *Parshat Mishpatim*, is read saying that abortion is permitted and sometimes required if the life of the pregnant person is in danger.

On Friday night we celebrated services at Temple Am Echad and two uterus shaped challahs were made as a visible affirmation that reproductive freedom is a matter of dignity, health and justice.

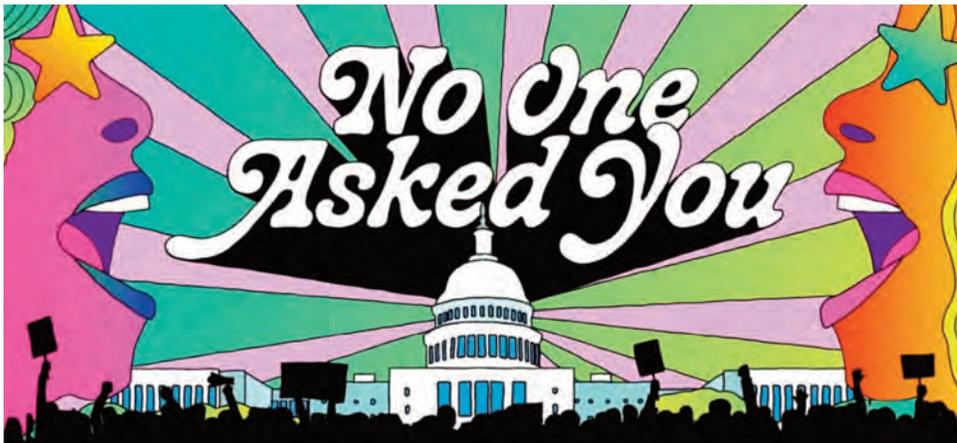
Saturday afternoon we were at a Lunch & Learn at Shelter Rock Jewish Center teaching about the importance of Repro Shabbat.

At both temples, post cards were signed by those in attendance, thanking abortion providers and asking RFK Jr. to keep medication abortion in our communities.

We will conclude Repro Shabbat at the Sid Jacobson JCC on Sunday, March 8th at 2:00 pm by viewing the documentary. "No One Asked You". (Information below)



Donna Bialor, Bonnie Sperry, Representative Laura Gillen, Pam Korn



**SID JACOBSON JCC'S
MOVIES WITH A MISSION**
Thought-provoking films that are sure to inspire!

Kick the government out of your pants!

Following the screening, enjoy a light dinner and a postcarding activity to write thank-you messages to abortion providers.

**Film Screening:
"No One Asked You"**

◆ **Sunday, March 8**
2-4:30 pm
Sid Jacobson JCC

300 Forest Dr, Greenvale, NY 11548

Join us for a screening of "No One Asked You", a humor-driven documentary from comedian and activist Lizz Winstead, co-creator of The Daily Show, and Abortion Access Front. The film journeys across the U.S., supporting abortion providers, challenging stigma, and exposing attacks on reproductive care—showing how comedy, joy, and community can fuel social change.

Free for NCJW members.

Register via email to Danny Capps (dcapps@sjcc.org)

We are proud to announce this year's recipients of the prestigious

Hannah G. Solomon Award

at our Founder's Day Luncheon on June 12

Our Very Own FAB 4

Renee Ficsher



Renee grew up in Philadelphia. After High School she attended the University of Pennsylvania. Renee furthered her education by obtaining a Master's Degree at NYU.

Renee was the 2014 recipient of The Emerging Leader Award. She has held the position of V.P., Community Services and V.P., Education and Jewish Affairs. Renee is most proud of starting the "Period Project." Many girls must stay home from school because they do not have the funds to purchase their monthly needs. School nurses are very grateful to NCJW for our interest in including them in this project.

In Renee's spare time, she loves to cook, bake and entertain. Reading is high on her list as well. In December, Renee and Robert will celebrate their 58th anniversary and they are the parents of two sons, David and Andrew.

Renee says, "What a great honor it is to be selected as a Founder's Day Honoree!"

Pam Shelden



Born and raised in Brooklyn, Pam has divided her thirty-year plus teaching career between Brooklyn College and Stuyvesant High School, after earning a Ph.D. from Kent State University. Though retired, she continues to teach and guide college and

professional applications through her business C.A.T.S.

An NCJW Peninsula Section board member for many years, as well as an Honorary Peninsula Board Enduring Leader, she finds most rewarding her work with our teen advocacy group, Generation Next, as well as her facilitation of NCJW's Advocacy Film Series that she initiated some years back. Other interests include film, theatre, singing, swimming, and traveling. She is immensely appreciative of her wonderful family, son Seth; soon to be daughter in law, Jane, daughter Loren, son in law, Rocco and two delicious grandchildren, Helena and Gregory, as well as of Esme, her shelter cat who, she believes, has really rescued her since her beloved husband Paul passed away.



Judy Novet

Judy graduated from East Rockaway High School and went on to Tufts University. She was raised in a home that valued community service; and her parents were her role models. She learned about NCJW from her mother, Joan Steingart, who

held many leadership positions within Peninsula Section for over four decades.

It was only natural for Judy to become a Life Member of NCJW. She is currently an Assistant Treasurer, a Co-Chair of the Back 2 School Store, and has served as Campership Chairperson. In 2022 she received the Emerging Leader Award. Judy is active at Temple B'Nai Torah of Wantagh currently serving as Sisterhood Treasurer, Chair of their Religious Education, and active among other worthy causes.

In her spare time, Judy enjoys yoga, pickleball and the theater. Judy and husband Matthew live in Massapequa with their three fabulous sons, Alex, Tyler, and Michael.



Natalie Zeiger

Natalie grew up in Brooklyn. She loved to read and spent hours at the library. She attended Erasmus Hall High School and Brooklyn College, where she received her teaching license and taught in Canarsie.

Natalie and her husband Richard bought their home in East Rockaway where she was involved with the purchase of the new library and served as a Trustee. A friend told her about NCJW, and after several lectures, she was taken by the enthusiasm of Hope Coleman for the Back 2 School Store. She became involved with the organization volunteering for a myriad of projects.

Natalie's daughter Lisa and husband Rich live in a suburb of Boston and her son Steven lives in Westchester with his wife Tali. Natalie has four grandsons, Jacob, Aaron, Jordan and Noah. They are the best!!

She knows that her husband Richard would have been proud of her. Natalie says, "I am forever thankful for all that NCJW has given to me and the community!"

ICJW Seminar Brings Leaders to Israel to Foster Education and Awareness About Issues Impacting Women Worldwide

JUDY MINTZ – ICJW Representative

ICJW Herczeg Education Seminar at Mashav-Carmel International Training Center, Haifa

Every four years ICJW holds a seminar dedicated to confronting and responding to the concerns of the Jewish community and women in general. On November 9–12, 2025, participants gathered from 13 of ICJW's 34 affiliates: the United Kingdom, Australia, Mexico, South Africa, Uruguay, Switzerland, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Israel, Canada and the United States. During the sessions we REFLECTED on our commonalities as well as diversities, we CREATED networks always striving for Tikkun Olam and we LEARNED from each other and many professionals.



When reviewing the experiences of the four-day seminar, these were my personal highlights:

- ◆ Listening to Dr. Shoshan Haran who was held hostage for 50 days by Hamas after October 7th. Both her husband and sister were murdered. Now her purpose in life is being a dedicated advocate for “against using civilian abduction as a new weapon of war”. She began her powerful presentation with a video of the 251 faces of the hostages. She’s an amazing woman!
- ◆ Learning from Sheikh Muwaffah Tarif, the leader of the 150,000 member Druze community in Israel, about his followers and the ongoing massacre in Suwayda (Syria) by ISIS. The Druze are loyal Israeli citizens who serve in the IDF, fought in Gaza, and welcomed evacuees after October 7. We were urged not to forget what was happening to these people and to help spread the truth about the ongoing siege.
- ◆ Being reminded that the United Nations must declare that rape cannot be used as a weapon of war.
- ◆ Hearing from Professor Daphna Hacker from the NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program (W&GS) at Tel Aviv about the gender programs there. How proud to know that “our” W&GS Program is still attracting great minds and producing important research. She spoke of “intersexuality”, the gender gap, parity for women (must be 50-50), and the need for strategic philanthropy and mentorship to encourage women. Israel is in the lower half of the world in gender equality.

ICJW continued on next page



ICJW representatives including Section's own, Judy Mintz, 2nd row, 3rd from the right



ICJW continued from previous page

- ◆ Being invited to the Haifa Municipality Hall by Mayor Yona Yahav. Haifa has a very diverse population and he spoke to the “harmony” of the Jews, Druze, Christians, and Muslims. He shared that his daughter is an Air force pilot and flew while pregnant in the Gaza War.
- ◆ A panel discussion about diaspora responses to October 7 in the United States, Hungary and Australia. (mostly negative: death threats, anti-Israel/Jewish riots, hate speech, pro-Palestinian demonstrations, fractured communities)
- ◆ After breaking into eight small groups, we were directed to identify one issue that was most pressing in our affiliate. Two common needs were reported repeatedly: how to attract younger women and how to combat anti-Semitism.

International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW)

Established in 1912, the ICJW is an umbrella organization representing Jewish women and women’s organizations in 36 countries. <https://icjw.org/>

ICJW Herczeg Jerusalem Seminar for Jewish Education

Endowed by Rosita and Esteban de Herczeg is held every four years in Israel. This unique gathering offers Jewish women from around the world the opportunity to learn together, share ideas, and explore inspiring educational and social initiatives.

The Golda Meir Mashav-Carmel International Training Center (MCTC)

Founded by Golda Meir in 1961, MCTC’s three main areas of study are: Sustainable Community Development; Entrepreneurship and Innovation; and Early Childhood Education; all with gender as a cross-cutting issue. <https://mctc.mfa.gov.il>

We heard many presentations about the concept of hope, community building, dealing with stress, empowerment, domestic and partner violence, rape as a weapon of war (denialism), conflict related sexual violence (CRSV) and storytelling. The experts represented many organizations: Drawing the Line Initiative, the Safety Net Program, Fair Planet, Israel Trauma Coalition, No2Violence Against Women Association, WIZO, the Dinah Project, the Ironi Aleph High

School (“where diversity becomes belonging”), and Women Envision Hope. We were always mindful of October 7th and the hostages. Yellow ribbons were (still) everywhere! It was a privilege to be at the seminar-to be in Israel-and to meet other like-minded women!



Save the Date – May 5

PROGRAM MEETING
L'DOR V'DOR, HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS
FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

at Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre
Time TBA • Free Event

לדור ודור



Volunteer and Join Us in Making a Difference

HOPE COLEMAN and SUSAN FOX, B2SS Chairs

If you would like to be part of something meaningful, we would love to have you join us for NCJW Peninsula and South Shore's 12th Annual Back 2 School Store on Friday, August 7th and Sunday, August 9th.

At the Back 2 School Store, we invite 700 elementary school children from under-served communities to "shop" in our very special "Department Store" for everything they need to go back to school with pride and enthusiasm! All items are brand new and free of charge.

We depend on volunteers to work with the children and just as importantly to "staff" the store. Shifts are available – you can join us for one or more shifts, a full day, one day or both days. Whatever you choose, we guarantee you will come away from this experience feeling good by doing good.

Keep an eye out for our Constant Contact email in May about Registration and additional details! You can sign up after May 15th on our website (www.ncjwpeninsula.org), or use the link in the Constant Contact email.



Donate to Our B2SS 2026 Summer Event Make a Difference in a Child's Life

With rising prices, we need your help more than ever! Your donation will ensure the success of our August 7th and 9th event and support our ability to supply the children with much needed necessities to start the school year.

WAYS TO DONATE

1. ONLINE www.ncjwpeninsula.org
2. OR MAIL a check payable to "NCJW Peninsula Section" and put "B2SS" in the memo line. We can no longer accept checks made out to Back 2 School Store or B2SS. Include your name, address, email and phone number. Mail to: B2SS, NCJW Peninsula Section, 342 Central Ave. Lawrence, NY 11559

SPONSOR LEVELS

Diamond	\$10,000 & above
Gold	\$1,000 – \$9,999
Silver	\$500 – \$999
Bronze	\$180 – \$499
Honor Roll	Up to \$179

Donate any amount and we'll combine it with other donations to give the children everything they need.

See how far your donation goes for one child:

- \$180:** New clothing, sneakers, school supplies, backpack, books and more
- \$72:** All new clothing
- \$54:** Winter jacket, hat, gloves, hoodie, sweatpants
- \$36:** Backpack and school supplies
- \$18:** Pair of sneakers

100% of all donations go to the Back 2 School Store.™



Save the Date!
Annual Back 2 School Store
Friday, Aug. 7th & Sunday, Aug. 9th

To Purchase NCJW Tribute Cards

Making a donation is a meaningful way to celebrate a special occasion or a thoughtful way to let someone know you are thinking of them. Cards can be purchased by contacting our office at 516-569-3660 or at www.ncjwpeninsula.org/tribute/.

ALL OCCASION FUND

Supports NCJW Peninsula Section's efforts to improve the quality of life for women, children and families and ensure individual rights and freedoms for all.

ISRAEL GRANTING PROGRAM FUND

All donations to this program enable us to partner with a granting site in Israel. All projects advance women's empowerment.

Tributes for October 23, 2025 to February 16, 2026

GOLD ALL OCCASION FUND

In Honor of:

Renee Fischer on your special birthday

Miriam Gross

Pnina Knopf on your Bat Mitzvah

Harriet Rubenstein

Sylvia Fisher on your milestone birthday

Patricia Greenfield

In Honor of:

Dena Stein on the engagement of your son Zach

Fran Denny

Pnina Knopf on your Bat Mitzvah

Sally Telias

Helen Pollack on your 100th Birthday

Pam Shelden

Donna Bialor

ALL OCCASION FUND

In Honor of:

Donna Bialor for a speedy recovery

Abby Fox

ISRAEL GRANTING PROGRAM FUND

In Memory of:

Alan Rodolitz, beloved husband of Nina Rodolitz

Joan Butwin

In Honor of:

Marshall Reses on your special birthday

Adrienne & Arthur Singer

Linda Kannen on the birth of your great grandson

Adrienne & Arthur Singer

Pnina Knopf in honor of your Bat Mitzvah

Adrienne & Arthur Singer
Joan Butwin

SILVER ALL OCCASION FUND

In Memory of:

Fred, beloved father of the Molod Family

Fran Denny

Florence Brodsky, beloved mother of Nina Beno

Susan Schwarz

In Honor of:

Pnina Knopf on your Bat Mitzvah

Harriet Rubenstein

Myra Garber

BLUE ALL OCCASION FUND

In Memory of:

Wallace, beloved husband of Judy Siegel

Susan Schwarz

You can click on event items below for more information in this Bulletin.

MARCH

◆ SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Movies With a Mission: "No One Asked You"

Sid Jacobson JCC

2:00–4:30 pm

◆ SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Advocacy Movie: "Floyd Abrams-Speaking Freely"

Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library

2:00 pm

◆ TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Jewish Life Program: UN and Israel

Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre

10:30 am–12:30 pm

◆ TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Community Celebration of Passover

Temple Am Echad, Lynbrook

5:00–7:00 pm

◆ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Book Review: "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store"

Private home

1:30 pm

APRIL

◆ TUESDAY, APRIL 21

Game Day Luncheon

Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre

11:00 am–3:00 pm

MAY

◆ TUESDAY, MAY 5

Program Meeting: L'dor v'dor, Holocaust Survivors from Generation to Generation

Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre

Time TBA

JUNE

◆ FRIDAY, JUNE 121

Founder's Day Luncheon

Temple Avodah, Oceanside

11:30 am

Book Review

"The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride

◆ Wednesday, March 25 at 1:30 pm

A murder mystery locked inside a Great American Novel. It's charming, smart, heart-blistering, and heart-healing.

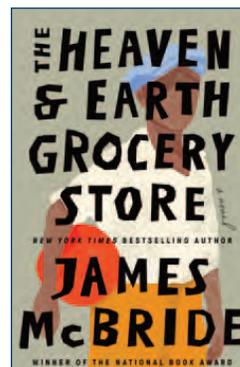
This lovely afternoon will be held at a private residence.

Location will be emailed to all attendees by March 20th.

Light refreshments will be served. \$20/Members, \$25/Non-Members

Facilitator – Barbara Sklar

RSVP – Please send your check payable to "NCW Peninsula Section", 342 Central Avenue, Lawrence, NY 11559.



Thrifting Behind the Scenes

MARCI LAST – Thrift Shop Manager

As 2025 came to an end we thanked all our donors, customers, volunteers, our NCJW board and all of our friends. For what?? For everything!! Your donations, your support, your dedicated shopping hours and love. Yes love!! Our customers love us and we love them back. They make what we do everyday a dream job filled with feel good moments. Now that's just in the store.

With the help of loyal customers and friends we have aided those outside of our community. Far Rockaway migrants, families associated with the transition center and local homeless citizens.

- ◆ We have filled barrels for Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. We have sent essential items to the Ukraine. We have also provided children clothing for those in need in Israel.
- ◆ We are donating our extra surplus inventory to places all over the World.
- ◆ We intend to continue our generosity throughout 2026. The world needs some repair and we at NCJW are there.

Help us achieve our goals and we promise it will feel good.

Thriftfully Yours,
Marci + the Thrifties



It is with deep sorrow that we mourn the loss of our friend Travis. He was a part of our Thrift Shop family for over 20 years. Travis could light up a room with his smile and big heart. We will miss him dearly.

Laura Glabman, donor–shopper–friend, and Todd Carroll loading a car for the migrants in Far Rockaway with hats, gloves, coats, sock and boots.

NCJW Peninsula Section

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