

# GCC News



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On Wed, Feb. 26, NCJW members gathered at Fairmount Temple to begin a new year with information and action. We were pleased to welcome new members to our Greater Cleveland Congregations Teams and learn of their interests and reasons for coming together.

Our speaker, Rob English, lead organizer for GCC, helped us to understand the impact we at NCJW can have on what is happening in GCC. **WE CAN INFLUENCE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE IN OUR COMMUNITY BY GETTING INVOLVED.** We challenge you to do it! What excites you?

## **1. Education:**

Fairmount Temple's GCC, has begun a partnership with Anton Grdina School. After much work, they are ready to tutor students twice a week after school and will shortly begin a program during the school day. We will be watching their model and participating in an orientation program. If you are interested in tutoring or know someone who taught or teaches in a Cleveland Public School, let us know. We are interested in the needs of teachers and parents. Help us learn their stories so that we might truly support just one school at a time.

## **2. Criminal Justice: "Do Not Stand Idly By" Gun Violence Reduction**

What drew a diverse group of people to Fairmount Temple March 18? According to the speaker, Donna Weinberger, we were there to listen to the outline of a movie plot: A nice Jewish girl from Cleveland, travels to Nuremburg, Germany with 5 clergy and confronts an Israeli gun manufacturer to create safer guns! Sounds bizarre, but the story is true.

Donna traveled to Germany, walked right into the second largest gun show in the world in Germany, spoke with important executives from Glock, Sig Sauer and other gun manufacturers in an attempt to understand their business practices in regards to making guns that include safer technology. As a GCC representative, Donna and her group were there to make the manufactures understand the need to bring this safe gun technology to American markets.

This action was a result of GCC research into an effective way to deal with gun violence. Many people at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting volunteered their reasons for attending; they had lost a student or friend or neighbor to gun violence. Some were discouraged by the repetition of horror caused by guns in schools and communities. All of us were intrigued by Donna's story and the path that she had opened for gun safety.

**If you have a story about gun violence and would like to share it with NCJW /GCC, we would like to hear from you. Judy Eigenfeld has issued a challenge to our members. Tell your experiences, feelings and thoughts about gun violence in our world today. Contact Judy, Susan Reis or Lynn Kleinman and help GCC build a base of understanding to further influence these manufacturers. Do this before April 18.**

## **3. Criminal Justice: Audit of the Courts and Juvenile Diversion**

Teams are researching an action auditing the courts to get information about practices that may be contributing to the problems of racial disparities and overcrowding in the justice system. Also, facilitating diversion programs to keep youth out of the criminal justice system entirely.

**4. Health Care:**

“All organizing is re-organizing.” After our big win on Medicaid Expansion, the health care team is trying to determine its next focus. If this interests you, GET INVOLVED!

To learn about any of these programs contact Lynn Kleinman [lekchoral@aol.com](mailto:lekchoral@aol.com)