

**2019-2020**



**ANNUAL PROGRAM  
REPORT**

# ABOUT NCJWC TORONTO

## **Our Organization**

NCJWC Toronto, established in 1897, has been a catalyst for women and the most vulnerable.

In 1922, our first Council House was opened at 44 St. George Street. In 1964 we moved to 4700 Bathurst Street where we spent 56 years affecting positive change within our community. In February 2020, we moved to our new home at 890 Sheppard Avenue West where we look forward to continuing our dedication to serving the individual and community.

In 1984, NCJWC Toronto Foundation was created and the Bathurst-Prince Charles Apartment Building was opened. The Bathurst-Prince Charles is an integrated fully-accessible housing project with affordable housing for seniors combined with independent accommodation for the disabled.

NCJWC Toronto is a proud supporter of NCJWC's National project in Israel, ALUMA. ALUMA (formerly known as Israel Family Counseling Association), which provides needed services such as pre-marital, marital and family counseling, divorce mediation, preparation of mentally handicapped people for marriage and independent life in Israel.

## **Our Vision**

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto is recognized as engaging and impacting the community through relevant and meaningful programs that provide education, service and social impact.

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# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

## **Eva Karpati**

We are astounding! This year we entered our 123rd year and we still look marvelous! Our year was filled with historic firsts, change, and plenty of excitement. We started the year last summer by the installation of our plaque from Historical Sites and Monuments of Canada, at our first home 44 St. George, which was purchased in 1922. With dignitaries in attendance, including our own Helen Marr and Debbie Wasserman, the ceremony was profound as it marked our place permanently in the history of Toronto and Canada. I was extremely humbled to be representing an organization whose work has been impactful for over a century and I was proud and confident to acknowledge that this was a testament to our journey into the future as a strong voice for Jewish women. I hope you visit the site.

This was an auspicious start to the year because this was the year we redefined “home”. We said goodbye to our second home at 4700 Bathurst Street. For 57 years, this was our heart and soul! To move was an enormous task physically, mentally and emotionally. The Archive Committee, headed by Linda Steinberg and Karen Fenwick, did an incredible job being tender, but disciplined. They sifted through hundreds of files; some went to Ontario Jewish Archives, some reside in our own storage and some we had to let go of. As you know, that is the hardest part of any transition; but it makes room for the new. There were many plaques, photos, paintings, and quilts that adorned our walls. Although most could not come with us, we are grateful to Harold Hutner who carefully took photos of all of them. They will live on as a permanent slide show for all to see.

And then on to our new place at 890 Sheppard Avenue W. At first, it was very difficult trying to image the grey cement walls of a cavernous space becoming a home. We had to trust the process of creation. After months of permits and drawings, work began and each day our place blossomed into something fresh and exciting. Decisions about furniture were difficult; but finally on February 3rd, we moved in. Plans were underway to have a Grand Opening in the spring; but then the unimaginable happened. The pandemic locked us down. I hope that soon all of you will be able to walk into Council House and feel that this is where the proud legacy of NCJWC Toronto continues and evolves.

The celebration of an Opening has been postponed but our work has not. The density of this Annual Program Report shows that the year was a busy one and we still have much to do. I extend the deepest gratitude to all those that make Council a beacon in our community: the devoted Board, who work tirelessly and hands-on with dedication and commitment to ensure success of all of our projects, the program Chairs and their committees, whose passion drive the projects, the staff who work diligently to make us look great, and lastly to you, dear members, whose loyalty motivates us to keep going. This was a phenomenal historic year. The best is yet to come!

Eva Karpati  
President



# 890 SHEPPARD AVENUE WEST. UNIT 1



**Our new home was created with the ardent work of the following companies and industries:**

- Circon Construction Corporation
- Concord Shading Systems
- Frontdoor Development
- Global Furniture Group
- Hem Solutions
- Kirkor Architects
- Network Telecom
- Pre-Lock Security Services
- The Brothers Markle Inc





# STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

## Imperative One: Program Evaluations

During the spring of 2019, NCJWC Toronto embarked on an extensive exercise to create a Strategic Plan for our organization, moving forward into the new decade and beyond. The first imperative in our mandated Plan of Action of the Strategic Plan was to ensure that our current programs and initiatives are focused and relevant.

Each program was evaluated against our six established Statements of Purpose that:

1. Create positive change by empowering women, assisting the vulnerable, educating the public, and advocating for others
2. Identify the needs of the vulnerable in the Community through a Jewish lens; educate about those issues; mobilize change
3. Foster leadership opportunities for women
4. Create a community amongst our members
5. Create community and project opportunities for all volunteers
6. Advocate and be a voice for Jewish women

Each Chairperson was given a questionnaire to fill out to describe the program, report on its need in the community and relevancy, discuss the number of volunteers and recipients and other important information regarding data and sustainability in the future. After the evaluation and assessments were complete, a meeting was had with each of the Chairs of each program to discuss successes and identify which next steps need to be taken to continue to deliver their program adhering to our Statement of Purpose.

As a committee, we proposed that that the following initiatives will be our plan as an organization, moving forward. We presented our findings and suggestions to the Board at a Board Meeting on May 4, 2020.

1. Through our existing programs, we will continue to grow and identify the needs of the vulnerable in the community through a Jewish lens; advocate for women, educate about those issues and mobilize change.
2. We will foster growth opportunities in terms of leadership and participation for our members
3. Before moving forward with new programs, we will establish a comprehensive leadership plan for each of our existing programs.

Naomi Kingston  
Communications Chair

# PROGRAMS



## Human Trafficking

Our committee convened in the Fall of 2019 and we established 2 goals:

- 1) Educate parents on prevention and detection
- 2) May 10, 2020 Human Trafficking Awareness Day event.

Unfortunately our committee decreased in size, many citing personal reasons. However the commitment of those remaining was strong. We attempted to receive help from those who had experience in the area of educating parents such as Constable Corrado Rabbito but he did not respond to any communications.

Rhonelle Brudner did come out to a meeting, giving us some helpful information. However, we did not follow through. The City of Toronto rescinded the proclamation of Human Trafficking Awareness Day on May 10 in the name of our organization as they amalgamated with the Provincial Human Trafficking Awareness day on Feb. 22. They would still acknowledge our May 10 event and send a letter of greetings.

Since May 10 2020 fell on Mother's Day, we had decided to do an on line blitz focusing on mother daughter relationships and how openness, trust and honesty may prevent victimization. Plans to execute this were in motion, having secured a mother daughter who offered to tell their story on video. We had planned on having on line ads during the week previous to Mother's Day culminating with the video on May 10. Unfortunately Covid 19 interfered with our plans.

Mother, Lynda and daughter, Samantha agreed to do a live chat on our Instagram page on Mother's Day and it was well received. Over 30 viewers signed on, with many questions and comments. Thanks to Navi for her input!

Ena Cord  
Human Trafficking, Chair

# Just for Me Backpack Project

Dinah Branch, other Council members and people from the community once again supported our Just for Me Backpack project. Each year, we prepare and pack more than 200 backpacks over the summer to benefit kids who otherwise would not be able to afford school supplies. We are able to supply these kids ages 4-12 with new supplies like paper, pens, calculators, binders and such as well as a new lunch box and water bottle as well as handmade hats and mittens, plus loads of other supplies in a brand-new backpack.

In 2019 we had about 15 members, moms and kids as young as 6 join us to back the bags over a 2 night effort. Some kids have returned every summer to pack, for more than 10 years and we look forward to continuing the project this summer, Covid-19 or not!

Robin Tameshtit  
Just For Me Backpack Project Chair



## One Voice

**One Voice**  
MULTIFAITH WOMEN WORKING TO  
END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



We have been continuing our work on creating a toolkit for faith leaders to enable them to address the issue of violence against women. Our progress has been slow and methodical; as we have been trying to navigate in a way that would invite faith leaders to participate. We have been careful not to stigmatize nor blame any faith but instead to show we are all complicit and we all stand to learn in order to end violence against women.

Our Chapters are:

- 1). Defining Violence
- 2.) The Power Wheel
- 3) Reaction and Action: Faith based responses
- 4) Resources

The final edit will be done at the end of June. The next phase is our search for funding to be able to publish the toolkit in print. Working with these women of diverse faiths has been an honour, delight and an education. Our respect for each other deepens as we move through this process and learn to celebrate each other's religious holidays. This year we have mourned and cried together as we have all shared grief over senseless death and violence because of our adherence to our faiths. Our bond as women committed to the elimination of violence against women is formidable. And so we continue our work.

Eva Karpati  
One Voice, Chair



# L'Chaim

L 'Chaim supports and educates Jewish women and their families living with cancer. In September 2019, at Adath Israel Synagogue, 163 people attended L 'Chaim's outstanding panel discussion: Cancer Prevention and Risk Reduction – What's Fact and What's Fiction.

This educational awareness event featured four doctors speaking about cancer prevention and screening. 10 cancer-related support groups joined us: The Toronto Jewish Quilting Project, After Breast Cancer, The Mitzvah Knitters, The Canadian CML Network, The Central Regional Cancer Program, Gilda's Club, Nanny Angels, Colorectal Cancer Canada, U of T Exercise Study – (impact of exercise on cancer survivors quality of life), The Brain Tumour Foundation.

The role of NCJWC Toronto's service and advocacy projects were highlighted. The attendees showed their support and commitment to the organization and L 'Chaim. The four doctors were very impressed by the organizational logistics and the depth of commitment they saw from L 'Chaim's team of volunteers.

For the L 'Chaim, committee it ensured each one of us was involved and took responsibility for our various roles. We reached out to our core network who are happy to support our endeavour. We learnt that saying "Thank you" makes a world of difference. Due to of Covid-19, a planned event for March 2020 at Aish Hatorah with ChaiLifeline entitled: Rebuilding Body Image and Sexual Functionality after Cancer has been postponed.

Irene Papernick and Susan Austin  
L'Chaim, Chairs



# Passover Food Drive

The year 2020 is one that will not soon be forgotten for many reasons. It should be remembered by members of NCJWC Toronto with pride for continuing to do what we do best and that is to help those in their time of need. This was a year where the need was greater than ever.

This year's Drive was off to a great start. We had a fantastic PFD committee lined up including experienced as well as new individuals who embraced their roles and did an amazing job! We had 50 packing groups/schools lined up to fill our food boxes along with 3 supervisors per group, our recipient list of those in need came from our social agencies, food/boxes were ordered, our stores initiatives were solidly in place with a team to collect food, advertising and social media were ongoing, our beloved Council House was secured, delivery day was taking shape and countless details were undertaken. Hundreds of people were engaged in the Drive for the year.

Just a few weeks before the Drive was to begin, life as we knew it would change dramatically with the Covid19 pandemic. With school closures, a mandate to stay home, social distancing and a fear of the unknown we carried on our good work to complete the task. So many isolated and needy households were counting on us and the calls for our help kept pouring in.

We extend an enormous thanks to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto that came to our aid to ensure that the many efforts that we had already initiated for this year's drive culminated in the packing and delivery of our food boxes so as not to disappoint almost 2,000 households that were relying on our help. Exercising social distancing, the packing was done at UJA's parking lot along with their staff, volunteers, and our fearless leader, Eva Karpati. This was a community working together at its finest – no one was left behind! Deliveries were made by delivery service. Thanks to our steadfast donors whose generosity has enabled us to cover our costs this year for the Drive and for recognizing this project as being so important to our community.

At the conclusion of every Drive we feel grateful. This year, at our small Seders across the city, it took on even more meaning to be able to have been part of a Passover like no other and NCJWC Toronto made a difference in the lives and celebration of so many.

Gail Crystal  
Passover Food Drive, Chair





## Project LISA

This year Project LISA has supported over forty women navigate their family law matters. We introduced a self-defence program run by a local Krav Maga school. 13 women joined us, from across the spectrum of the Toronto community, to learn self-defence and the art of self-empowerment.

Project LISA has developed new relationships with numerous organizations during the course of the year including:

- ☐ Victim Services of Toronto
- ☐ Victim Services of Durham
- ☐ Victims Witness Assistance Program
- ☐ Toronto West Court House
- ☐ Boost Child and Youth
- ☐ South Asian Legal Clinic



Project LISA is a member of Toronto Police Service Domestic Violence Advisory Meeting which has played an integral role in spreading awareness of our project. Additionally, we are working with the advisory team to create a public awareness campaign which will include a Project LISA logo in all of the campaign materials.

Moreover, we have expanded our social media platform to include updated posts outlining the work we do at Project LISA. We have developed a webinar that will be used to share information about domestic violence and our efforts to support victims of violence. Included in this webinar is a timely commentary on Covid-19 and its effects on victims of domestic violence.

Unfortunately, with the rise of isolation comes an increase in domestic violence. Project LISA has been there for women since the outbreak of the coronavirus. As per most of society, Covid-19 has brought a shift in the manner by which we run our program. Project LISA was able to seamlessly shift its traditional working space, from one conducted in an office, to that of a remote working environment. Clients have remained satisfied with our support, and partner agencies have remained connected through media platforms, phone and internet.

This month we have an upcoming Virtual Tea Party fundraising initiative that will be targeting specific age groups on social media. The purpose of this initiative is to gather groups of women together to have some fun, learn about Project LISA, and fundraise. We look forward to sharing the results of our Virtual Tea Party with you!

Ariella Boehm  
Director of Legal Support, Project LISA

# Teaching Awareness Through Puppetry

Connecting with each other is more important than ever before. TAP is working with communities to continue our goal to help raise a generation that celebrates diversity, inclusion and compassion for themselves and others. NCJWC Toronto provides vital support to the TAP program.

## **Working in Schools July 2019 - March 2020**

Fall is an important time for TAP. As teachers and students head back to school, we were busy recruiting and training our puppeteers and booking workshops for the school year. Our new Mental Health workshop is helping educators support their students amidst the growing crisis of youth struggling with their Mental Health. Children learn with Dog, Moose, Squirrel, Polar Bear and Beaver to identify their feelings and get help when they need it. It was a busy time, we enjoyed working with the students in their classroom.



A favourite of ours is always the trip to Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School in October or November of each year. We have run over 40 workshops and worked with just over 3000 children during this time. The world changed on March 12th, 2020 when the government announced that children would not be returning to classroom learning after March break. Kirsten and Rindy and our team of puppeteers had to work quickly to adapt our program to the new virtual world.

Laura Berkley  
Teaching Awareness Through Puppetry, Chair





## The Toronto Jewish Quilting Project

This year we celebrated the 16th year of sewing together. Many beautiful Angel Quilts were made. During the year we gifted 12 quilts to people touched by cancer.

One of the spectacular quilts, entitled International Women, had a special resonance with us and is, therefore, now adorning the wall of the President's office as it celebrates women from around the world coming together.



In September, we visited the Torah Stitch by Stitch exhibit at the Textile Museum. Many of our quilters participated in this project and their work was on display.

On December 5th we gifted Welcome Quilt #16 to a recently landed refugee family as a gesture of friendship in our continued partnership with JIAS.

Just before Passover we thought of the idea of making quilted pot holders and putting them into each Passover Food Drive box. We started this too late for this year's Drive but this project will continue in order to be ready for next year.

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our group as usually we meet every Wednesday afternoon. Not being able to be physically together the group has transitioned to meeting on Zoom every two weeks. Although not sewing together the women individually have created hundreds of masks and head coverings for front-line workers – always giving.

Eva Karpati  
Toronto Jewish Quilting Project, Chair

# Turning the Page Libraries



Turning the Page  
CREATING CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES IN WOMEN'S SHELTERS



Elayne Shuster and I are the co-chairs of a unique group who turn drab and uninviting rooms into soothing sanctuaries. "Our goal is to promote the love of reading by providing a space where moms and their children can share some quality time," says Elayne. We put children's libraries in abused women's shelters.

In 2019, together with Zion branch, we worked with two VAW shelters –Yorktown Family Services and Juliette's Place. Yorktown is a 32-bed facility and Juliette's Place has 35 beds. Both shelters have 15 to 20 children in residence at any given time, ranging in age from birth up to 18 years of age. Juliette's Place , stands as a beacon of hope and refuge for abused women and their children. It is the only shelter in North East Scarborough where women and their children fleeing domestic violence can get the necessary help and resources in their time of crisis.



Yorktown is a very busy facility in mid-town Toronto and last year 38 women and 49 children received shelter. Our TTP team transformed the space and Laya Crust, an artist, painted a beautiful mural as the centrepiece. Zion Branch crafted a spectacular work/leisure space at Juliette's Place for tweens and teens with books, computers, a large screen TV and a comfy seating area. In July, the shelter held a grand opening and plaque unveiling to thank TTP and Zion. It was a great opportunity for their team to meet with residents and staff, and hear how much they appreciated the new space.

A huge thank you to all our supporters, volunteers and donors and we were fortunate to have RTO 23, (Retired Teachers of Ontario) provide \$4000 as a one-time grant to TTP. Their members made several beautiful book pillows for the children to use and these were distributed between both shelters. We were honoured by both organizations at their end of year events. We were selected by Yorktown to be the recipient of a Community Partnership Award. We are working with NCJWC on plans to expand this project nationally. Our plans for 2020 are on hold. We are working with a French language shelter, La Maison . They have 20 beds and are currently over capacity with 15 women and 12 children in the shelter. Between Niagara and Windsor, there is only one French language shelter that serves the needs of abused women and children.

Susan Austin and Elayne Shuster  
Turning the Page Libraries, Chairs



# BRANCHES

## Chai Branch

Chai Branch, with 14 members, has been in existence for more than 40 years. We opened the 2019/2020 schedule with September's welcome back social. Susan Austin came to our October meeting to tell us about Turning the Page, the Toronto Section programme for libraries in women's shelters. The January speaker was Helen Fish, from Grandmothers to Grandmothers. As part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, this Canadian grassroots organization supports African grandmothers caring for children orphaned by AIDS. Our own Kailah Rubin hosted and led a Tu B'Shevat Seder in February. Chai Branch was able to prep and cook two of the three scheduled dinners for the Youth Out of the Cold Programme at Knox Presbyterian Church, Spadina at Harbord. We continued collecting various necessities through February for Ve'Ahavta. Our annual fundraising is the sale of Mahj Jong cards, available through our members as well as the Toronto Section Office. This effort will enable Chai Branch to make a donation to Toronto Section this year of \$1,000.00.

While in-person meetings and various efforts have been put on hold, Chai Branch continues to stay connected weekly via Zoom. More of a social gathering than a meeting, it ensures that we, a sisterhood of long-time members, colleagues and friends, continues to support one another through these difficult times.

## Nova Study Branch

Nova Branch was established in 1967 and currently has about 28 members. We meet in homes; but most often at Council House. Our programs include book reviews, gallery and theatre outings, speakers and social events. We have been involved with the JIAS Chanukah Party and in the past, the Passover Food Drive routing.

This year's programs started with our Opening Meeting and Lunch at Council House. Barbara Rusch presented "Up Close and Personal... Portraits of a Vanished World" to about 22 attendees. On Wed. Sept. 25, about 12 of our members followed up with a Tour of the Ontario Jewish Archives and on Wed. Oct 16, about 20 of us enjoyed the Maude Lewis Exhibit at the McMichael Gallery. An annual favourite was our October 24 th evening with Mike Daley Musicologist where this year he presented, "The Life and Music of Bob Dylan" to about 50 attendees with spouses and guests. We also enjoyed attending the performance of the "Pianist of Willesden Lane" (about 24 attendees including guests) on Wed. Nov. 13 at the Harold Green Theatre. Our next meeting was our last before Covid 19 hit. On Wed. Nov. 20, Hanna Werner spoke to us about "Sexuality in the Bible" Recently, on May 20 th, we were delighted to watch an online screening of the movie "Precious Life" followed by a Zoom review from Beth Tzedec by Juliet Heifield.



# BRANCHES

## Zion Branch

Zion Branch has been together for over 44 years! We are an active, dynamic group of 23 women who have become close friends, as together we have celebrated happy occasions and sympathized during difficult times. We are proud that we have fostered many Toronto Board and National Board members; including four past Toronto Presidents Barbara Greenglass, Janice Landy, Paula Frisch, and Linda Steinberg.

Last July, we began our year with the grand opening and plaque unveiling of our Turning the Page Shelter Library Project at Juliette's Shelter, to thank our Branch and the generous sponsors of this worthy project. For us, this project was a truly successful and rewarding experience. Traditionally, we meet regularly every other Wednesday evening. Our programs have included our annual movie review with our revered connoisseur, Marcelle Lean; our annual Book Review with esteemed Marilyn Herbert and topics such as "The Story of the SS St Louis", "Wellbeing and Mindfulness", and an Ontario Jewish Archive presentation. We also enjoy our annual social evenings, the Opening Dinner, our Chanukah Party and our Winter Soup Night.

This year, we also planned to be more exotic and travel out of the comfort zone of our living rooms to enjoy programs afield. Unfortunately, the Haftorah exhibit was cancelled, but we did enjoy Torah: Stitch by Stitch at the Toronto Textile Museum and Flower Arranging at Kate's Garden. But then the pandemic hit! Not to be deterred, we have continued to enjoy our get-togethers over Zoom! And have even experimented with mid-afternoon meeting times. We have appreciated, "Anti-Semitism in the Haggadah", "Music and Self Care", a book review, "Team Building" and after viewing a TJFF movie, a group discussion and as always, our year-end celebration which will be a Virtual Tea in support of Project LISA. These meetings have truly been a wonderful way for our group to continue to connect with each other and help us all get through these difficult times. We look forward to celebrating our 45th Anniversary this Fall 2020!





# BRANCHES

## Yachad Branch

Yachad Branch started the year with 23 members. Unfortunately, due to the untimely death of Leona Eligberg, who is missed, we now have 22 members. An appropriate memorial will be planned in the future to celebrate her life and her achievements. Yachad meets every other Wednesday evening in the fall and spring. In the winter our meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday afternoon. We have only one meeting in July and one in August. There is an opening dinner/business meeting and we end the year with a closing dinner/installation. Due to present circumstances, there will be no closing dinner this year. The current executive has agreed to continue in each of their positions for 2020-2021.

We had interesting discussions on a variety of topics throughout the year which were attended by 15 to 20 women each, the highlight of which was our 3rd annual Tu B'shevat Seder, attended by 12 members. We also visited the Aga Khan Museum with 17 attending.

Covid-19 has interrupted the flow of our meetings. We have had 3 zoom meetings with speakers and are planning 3 more. Similarly, our discussions about our service project and fund raising for the year have been interrupted. We look forward to holding a celebratory bash when we are able to physically meet again. Yachad wishes that everyone take care and be safe and we look forward to meeting with NCJWC-TORONTO at the next opportunity.

## Thornhill Study Group

We started September with a bang! We had three events that month. A wonderful opening dinner meeting at the home of Reva Waldman; then soon after, we attended L' Chaim's panel discussion, "Cancer Prevention and Risk Reduction – What's Fact and What's Fiction?" One week later, we had an excellent speaker, Ann Dubin, discuss Jewish women and the history of trade unions. In October, Lauren Isaacs of Herut Canada explained how she answers tough questions about Israel on campus. In November, we went to the Harold Green Theatre to see "The Pianist of Willesden Lane" and then later in the month, Debbie Scarob from the Jewish Genealogy Society gave a presentation called "Stories of Discovery". 2019 ended with a beautiful Chanukah dinner at a Shanie Ziv's home.

We usually have a winter hiatus and return refreshed and raring to go after Pesach, but unfortunately, we had to cancel all events for the remainder of the year because of Covid 19. What a strange year, hitting both the highs and the lows. We've laughed and enjoyed each other's company but we've also had sadness. We've lost two dear friends and long-time members; Laurane Klingman and Maureen Hyman. May their memories be for a blessing. Please God next year we will start afresh and continue our commitment and service to Jewish women and the community in their honour.



# **TREASURER'S REPORT**

## **Bev Hutner**

We were unable to prepare an operating budget for 2019-20, as we were unable to determine how long it would take to complete the renovations of our new facility, and therefore how long we would be carrying two locations.

Further, we had not completed our strategic planning, and therefore it was impossible to determine our program costs. These plans were put on hold with the departure of our Executive Director in October, as the Executive Committee was focused on completing the renovations and the move to our new facility. Spending on renovations and furniture for our new home were slightly less than our prior estimate of \$500,000. Our revenue line continues to be severely challenged. As in the prior year, membership dues and branch fundraising, while important, are woefully inadequate for our needs.

Cash flow from our investments is less than in the prior year, as we have invested a portion of our capital in our new facility. The value of our portfolio of investments is holding up nicely due to the prudent management of our financial advisors. We are searching for new fund-raising opportunities.

We expect our occupancy costs to be less than the prior year, as our new home is newly renovated and much smaller than our old facility. Also, we have applied for a property tax credit for 2019 of approximately \$40,000, with regard to the Bathurst Street location.

We have also applied for a property tax exemption for the new location, as we are the owner/occupier. Receipt of the property tax credit and confirmation that we will be exempt from property taxes going forward has been delayed due to the Covid-19 situation.

Both expenses and income for Passover were less than the prior year. Expenses exceeded income, and the shortfall was paid out of Bingo funds. Our expenses continue to exceed our income, and the shortfall will be paid out of our capital.

Bev Hutner  
Vice President and Treasurer



# COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

## Naomi Kingston

The Communication Portfolio has continued to be dynamic and active. Its purpose is to engage effectively with all members and associates of NCJWC Toronto, as well as liaise and communicate with the National organization and sections across Canada and the general public.

### Key Communications Methods

#### E-Blast

The Eblast continues to be distributed by email to all members for whom we have email addresses. Its purpose is to concisely draw members' attention to NCJWC Toronto news, greetings and provide updates of our key projects and events. A new, attractive design, engaging format and photographs enhance the readership. This year, about 4 seasonal and approximately 10 important event Eblasts were emailed to our membership.

#### Social Media

This year, Social Media, with Navi Mann at the helm, has been our greatest area of growth. A consistent presence of our organization has been established by posting several times a week on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. Through these platforms, we have effectively spread the word about our advocacy work, new initiatives and fundraising campaigns. Sharing news, greetings for holidays and celebrations have also been included. Displaying images has been an excellent tool to attract new followers. To date, there are 544 registered followers. We will continue to prioritize social media as a tool to generate awareness of our NCJWC Toronto brand, share news, fundraise, and recruit volunteers. We hope to encourage people to join, browse, like, share and tag our posts!

#### Branch Liason

We have begun to establish a more powerful connection to Branches in order to involve more people in all aspects of the organization. Elkie Handelman communicates regularly with Branch Chairs and Marion Tully communicates with general members. We will continue to investigate ways to ensure our key messages are noticed and supported by our membership.

#### Website

Our Website has been updated. Current projects have been included, as well as a link to donate.

#### Media Coverage and Community Awareness

There is no doubt that we are dealing with unprecedented times. With the closing of the C.J.N. it continues to be a challenge to communicate our successes in the Media, outside of Social Media. We



Naomi Kingston  
Communications, Chair



# FOUNDATION REPORT

## Linda Steinberg

BPC Foundation Building was incorporated in 1984 and opened for tenant occupancy in 1986. Tomi Moriyama our first tenant who just celebrated her 100th birthday was surprised as was Alan Alexander, our Property Manager when Angelo Del Zotto (Tridel) the original builder dropped by for a chat and an opportunity to take some footage for a documentary film.

For the past 35 years Alan Alexander, under the direction of the Board of Directors and DMS Property Management has ensured that the building is maintained to the highest standards. COVID 19 taxed the resources of all staff as new protocols were implemented. Fortunately only 2 tenants were hospitalized and later released. Staff continues to do an amazing job in a very difficult and challenging time. Vacancies in the 160 tenant units are filled quickly as the building's reputation makes it a first choice for many.

Extreme weather and COVID 19, prevented the Board from meeting in December and March 2020. However, our Board work continued. The "Investment Policy" and "Pace Independent Living Agreement" which provides support for 14 tenants were both revised. Capital projects including the replacement of two roofs, repair of the underground garage ramp heating cables and installation of an air flow system to improve odour in the common areas were completed. Window replacement throughout the building will begin soon. The 2019 Audited Financial

Report was presented to the Board by RSM Accounting in September. Staff were pleased to receive furniture which was no longer needed following Toronto Section's move.

The Property Management, Board and several Toronto Section branches continue to support programming for tenants.

Annual BBQ - 172 attended

Holiday Party - 40 attended

Halloween Activity- 100 treat bags distributed

Exercise classes - 10-20 participants twice weekly, discontinued - COVID 19.

Looking forward to additional building improvements.

Linda Steinberg  
President, BPC Foundation





# **NATIONAL REPORT**

## **Debbie Wasserman**

In November 2019 NCJWC's AGM was held in Edmonton. Representatives from all our Sections were in attendance. The opportunity to get together always creates positive energy and the sharing of the projects being done by the various Sections, gives us all motivation. Brainstorming together helps us become stronger and more effectual in the world. ALUMA, our Israeli project, continues to be an excellent counselling facility helping many financially disadvantaged individuals who may not otherwise be able to receive such vital treatment. Last fall ALUMA sent us a short video, discussing the work they do and introducing us to many on their staff. Hearing the staff speak passionately about their work, we can understand why they see such positive results with their clients. Their importance to the community is apparent.

A Presidents' Council was established this year to give Section Presidents (also Vice Presidents and Administrators) a chance to share information and ideas. Helen Silverstein, the President of Simcoe County, came up with this idea to bring the Sections closer together and more aligned with the National Organization. Zoom has enabled everyone to meet face-to-face. I am confident this Council will enrich each of the Sections and NCJWC as a whole. Across Canada the Sections are dealing with the pandemic in positive ways. Members are reaching out to members who are isolated, and some Sections are continuing programming using Zoom technology. In April, International Council of Jewish Women had its first Executive Zoom meeting seeing that we were unable to meet in Zurich as was the plan. Over 65 women from across the world participated in the meeting. We are so pleased to continue to be the only Canadian women's organization involved in this amazing organization. Our Canadian voice is heard and respected. A special NCJWC committee has been formed to create a Fall webinar series on Women and Justice. Four extraordinary speakers will be discussing various aspects on this topic. Once the plans are finalized, all members will be notified. This is a new initiative for NCJWC and we hope the membership will be excited to participate on Zoom.

The next Annual General Meeting of NCJWC will take place digitally on Sunday, October 18th, 2020. As a member of NCJWC, you are invited and encouraged to attend. The meetings are always inspiring, thought provoking, and give everyone a sense of what is going on across the country. Please mark the date on your calendar and be a part of this event! I offer my congratulations to NCJWC Toronto. Your annual report is a testament to the commitment of the NCJWC Toronto's strong Board and its membership. I wish you all continued good health. Please keep safe and let's hope that in the not too distant future we will again be able to resume our programs in the traditional manner. Toronto, continue making your positive impact on the community. Yasher Koach!

Debbie Wasserman  
President, NCJWC

# Helen Weisbrod Memorial Scholarship

The Helen Weisbrod Memorial Scholarship was established by Murray Weisbrod in 1997 in his wife's memory in collaboration with the Jewish Community Foundation. Helen was a long-standing member of York Mills Study Branch. She was active in many areas such as Serviettes, Meals on Wheels, and always participated in her Branch activities. She assumed many positions in her time.

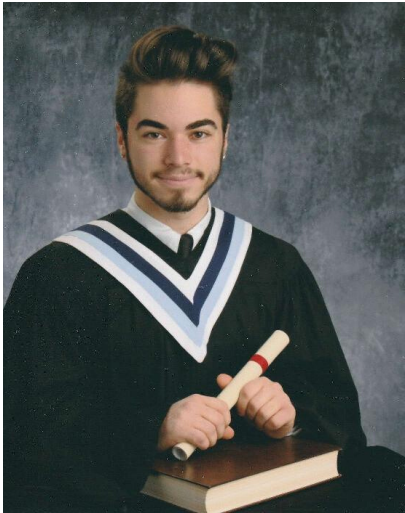
We are grateful to her family's kindness. The recipient must be a person who espouses the philosophy and purpose of Council and entering the first year of an undergraduate program as a fulltime student at a university in the Greater Toronto Area.

## 2020 SCHOLAR

Nathaniel Ross has just finished high school at William Lyon Mackenzie C.I. As an activity he enjoys playing the piano working towards his teacher's certificate through Royal Conservatory of Music. "One of my intentions is to teach children how to play the piano so that they can live a little bit happier and have the same enjoyment I have had playing over the past 11 years." He has participated in the Passover Food Drive with his family delivering food to the recipients and helping organize and pack the cars of the delivery people.

For the last ten years he has spent the summer at Camp Gesher. Nathaniel will be attending Ryerson University in the Business Management program. His goal is to obtain a degree and eventually become a lawyer. "I desire to help those in need, to protect the community and to make sure everyone is treated fairly. It is a goal of mine that I have had for many years".

We feel Nathaniel is a worthy and deserving recipient and we wish him much success for the future.





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To strengthen the voices of  
Jewish women in our community

## **MAKE TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS**

To support our programs and initiatives to help  
serve the needs of the community.

# **HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

## **HONOUR A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER**

Send a card to a loved one with the gift of a donation.

## **VOLUNTEER WITH US**

To help make an impact in our community

# CONTACT DETAILS

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