



**2021 CLOSING GENERAL MEETING
JUNE 17TH AT 7:00PM**

You Are Invited

**MEET AND GREET YOUR NEW BOARD
2021-2023**

President

Sheila Neuburger

Vice Presidents

Patty Niles, Bonnie Wells

Immediate Past President

Eva Karpati

Secretary

Naomi Kingston

Treasurer

Jill Garazi

Advocacy and Education

Bev Hutner, Ena Cord

Communication

Shelly Feldman

Service

Susan Austin

Foundation

Karen Fenwick

Directors Without Portfolio

Melissa Potashner, Joan Segal

Please email info@ncjwctoronto.org for registration information



Year End Program Review 2020-2021

Dear Member,

It is my pleasure to present this Year-In-Review for NCJWC Toronto 2020-21. It is a synopsis of all the wonderful accomplishments of our Section during this challenging time. The enormous impact of our programs is a tribute to the tremendous volunteers and staff who remain committed to ensuring that we make the world a better place. Your participation is the reason we are surviving and thriving. Your participation is the reason that, after 124 years, we continue to be known for our contribution to our community.

My four years as President of this incredible organization comes to end on June 17th. It has been an honour and a privilege. I am thrilled to take on the Board position of Immediate Past President and will enjoy the leadership of Sheila Neuburger as she takes us on an exciting journey for the next two years.

Time dictates change. This written newsletter will be the LAST one that will be physically mailed to you for financial and environmental considerations. Please ensure we have your correct email address in order to guarantee your delivery of our ongoing online newsletters. Please call us at 416-633-5100

Fondly,
Eva Karpati, President

Passover Food Drive

The 39th Annual Passover Food Drive was a great success! Faced with COVID-19 restrictions, we were determined to assist the thousands in the community who rely on our help. The need was even greater and we are proud to have provided **2,100 boxes of Kosher for Passover food to families in the GTA**. We are grateful to UJA Federation who assisted with the logistics and deliveries.

A new initiative, Matzah Mountain, engaged students in a fun way to help raise funds and awareness of this vital project. Many public schools and Hebrew Day Schools enthusiastically participated.

There was an outpouring of appreciation from recipients whose Passover boxes had a meaningful impact in their lives and helped them to enjoy a happy holiday. We acknowledge and thank our generous donors, sponsors, schools and stores that helped support this project again this year.

Gail Crystal, Chair



Project LISA

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

We partnered with Teaching Awareness Through Puppetry to provide children of clients the opportunity to learn together about positive relationships. The workshop produced engaged participation.

Human Trafficking

Our Committee had a very productive year despite the lockdown. We are proud to have created a PowerPoint presentation entitled NOT IN MY FAMILY that speaks of the risks of Human Sex Trafficking to children of all socioeconomic levels. It brings an awareness of this heinous activity to parents who think their children could never be victimized. The presentation quotes myths and statistics, and most importantly gives very important information on how parents can detect any issues and what to do if they suspect victimization of their children. We will approach synagogues, parent associations and other organizations, as well as each of our Sections across Canada to avail them of our presentation.

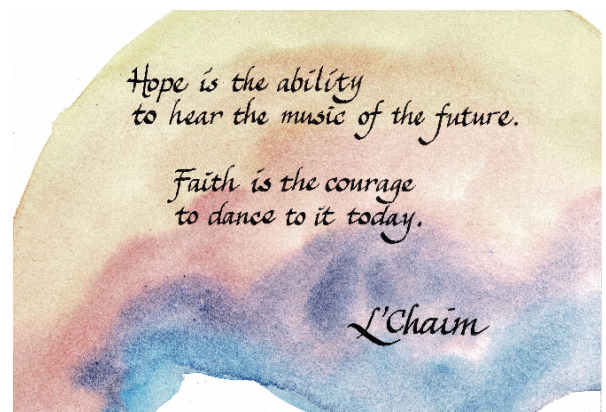
Human Trafficking Awareness Day has now been recognized by the federal, provincial and municipal governments on February 22nd and we have joined that effort. Additionally, we continue to focus on Mother's Day as an opportunity to promote close and meaningful relationships between mothers and their children as one of the most profound tools to combat victimization. We posted relevant messages on all our social media platforms.

Ena Cord, Chair

L'Chaim

L'Chaim continued to move forward this year with virtual social and educational programs. Our programs are intended to address the social, emotional and educational needs of our clients. This included virtual teas, meditation and stretching, scarf tying, and cooking demonstrations, talks on guided imagery, journaling and intimacy after cancer. Sponsorship of any program, perhaps in honour or memory of a loved one, is encouraged. We use these funds to offset the costs of the excellent speakers we had.

Another fundraising project we created this year is Meaningful Milestones. Artist Laya Crust has generously donated her talent to create gorgeous cards for L'Chaim. Cards are available to send out to loved ones as they journey through their cancer experience. Please call or check NCJWC Toronto's website. Our next step is looking into support for caregivers during these very difficult times.



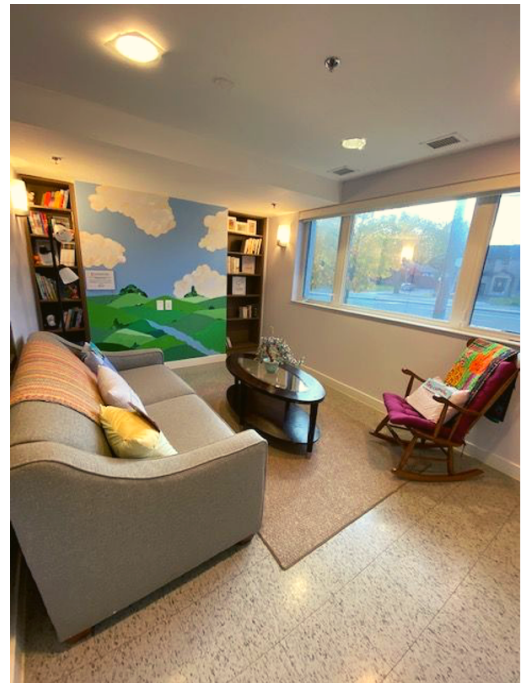
Irene Papernick and Susan Austin, Chairs

Turning the Page Children's Library

This year's Turning the Page Children's Library Project, La Maison's Francophone Shelter was a true accomplishment! Because of the pandemic, all arrangements were made virtually. Everything was delivered to the shelter by Shelter Movers. Our artist respected the protocols and created a delightful mural. The children and staff were thrilled with the beautiful space.

Nellie's Shelter, which was our first library completed, is moving into a new location. We look forward to working with them again to fulfill their request to create another children's library in their new space.

Elayne Shuster and Susan Austin, Chairs



Toronto Jewish Quilting Project

Despite the evident challenges, the Quilting group was able to accomplish much this year. Twelve magnificent quilts were gifted to recipients who were going through treatment for cancer.

The new Pot Holder Project proved to be a great project for members to make on their own at home. The goal of making 2,000 in order to go into each Passover Food Drive box in 2022 was extremely ambitious. Therefore, some Branches participated by learning how to make these mini quilts to help with the numbers. The most exciting positive consequence of the pandemic was reaching out to students who desperately needed volunteer hours. Eva Karpati taught five groups of 10 students how to sew these potholders through 9 hour online sessions. They gained a new skill, gave back to the community and learned about the work of NCJWC Toronto. One of the schools, CHAT gave a wonderful acknowledgment in their newsletter. A few students expressed an interest in starting a Club at their school in the Fall. Presently there are 400 pot holders made.

Eva Karpati and Marcia Pascoe, Chairs

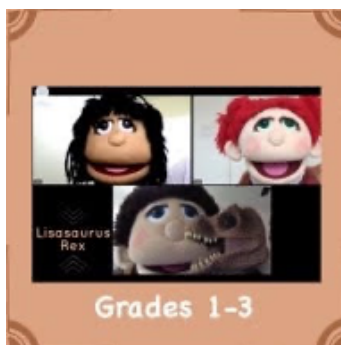


Teaching Awareness through Puppetry (TAP)

It has been a challenging school year with staff and teachers moving back and forth between in-person and virtual learning as we all tried to navigate the challenges of the pandemic. Our virtual workshops have been in high demand. We have delivered 47 workshops to over 1000 students. Conversations with students about mental health, friendship strategies and accepting differences are more important than ever as young children struggle with the isolation and uncertainty of their world. Our puppets have helped us have thoughtful conversations with students virtually in their classrooms, or online schooling in their homes.

In addition to our ongoing programming, TAP and NCJWC Toronto collaborated on three special projects through social media and throughout the community. We created a video with Laura Berkley talking about Chanukah and Passover. In April, in partnership with Project LISA, we ran our Lisasaurus Rex workshop for families and children. It was a great success and we learned together about the importance of positive relationships and getting help when you need it. Videos are available through the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada YouTube channel.

Laura Berkley, Chair



Just for Me Backpack

Like so many other aspects of life in 2020, the Just For Me Backpack Project needed to pivot given COVID-19 restrictions. We typically pack the backpacks in July in anticipation of kids going back to school. This past fall, there was so much uncertainty around what "back to school" would look like that JF&CS, the agency through whom we provide the backpacks, asked us not to provide physical goods. Instead, the agency requested gift cards to enable families to purchase school supplies they deemed would be most helpful for their children facing the potential of more online schooling. The agency was very grateful that the gift cards could be distributed without any client interaction.

We are hopeful this summer will bring better news as more and more people are vaccinated and we will be able to resume our typical backpack project.

Robin Tameshtit, Chair

Bathurst Prince Charles Foundation

This past year has been very difficult financially due to our aging building and unforeseen circumstances. Maintenance has included boiler and plumbing issues, replacement of entrance security system, reconstruction of walkway entrances, and renovations to many tenant units as they have become vacant.

Under Alan Alexander's leadership as Property Manager strict adherence to COVID-19 protocols were maintained. Regularly scheduled recreational activities for tenants were suspended. However, staff ingenuity ensured that holiday celebrations continued. A BBQ was held in August - food was barbequed on site and delivered to each tenant unit. In December, Orah Branch provided gifts for the children and for each tenant unit, which staff delivered. Passover Food boxes were also delivered to 70 tenants.

In April, Management, PACE staff and Sunnybrook hospital organized a vaccine clinic for tenants. Alan Alexander, Lena Gabriel, Harry Hagopian and Dan Donnell did an exemplary job taking care of registration and set up, exhibiting their continued pride and dedication to the residents in our building.

Linda Steinberg, President

NCJWC National

In spite of the challenges of social distancing, lockdowns and travel restrictions, technology has enabled the women of NCJW Canada to connect, collaborate and create. This past year has been filled with the planning and execution of exciting and dynamic national programming. This included the Women and Justice Webinar Series culminating with Anat Hoffman who spoke from Israel about her women's rights organization, Women of the Wall.

An important advocacy initiative was our webinar featuring the documentary Nasrin, followed by a panel discussion about the human rights activist, Nasrin Sotoudeh, from Iran. We continue to press for her release in tandem with the Raoul Wallenberg Centre in Montreal.

NCJWC not only continues its valued relationship with ICJW; but has now also become involved with the new Commonwealth Jewish Network, connecting Jewish women leaders from more than 30 commonwealth nations. The pandemic has brought the five NCJWC Sections closer. The establishment of a Presidents' Council, provides a platform to share ideas, programs, successes and failures.

The staff from our Israel project, ALUMA (IFCA) gave an important virtual presentation to the membership highlighting the important work they do. This demonstrated the value of our yearly monetary contribution to this unique counselling centre and the on-going need for our financial aid.

Thus, our national organization continues to thrive. We are proud of the resilience of our national and international organization and look forward to continued good work in the future.

Debbie Wasserman, President NCJWC

Branch Survey

A Branch Survey was sent to the 14 active Branches. The information that was compiled provided us with important historical information that is now documented. As well, this valuable feedback gave us a snapshot of current activities, service and fundraising efforts including thoughts and comments. It is our hope to continue to update on a regular basis.

Elkie Handelman, Branch Liaison

Branch Reports

All the Branches kept active and engaged this year. Keeping connected to each other was especially important. These are a few of the highlights from some of the Branches.

Chai Branch

Throughout this pandemic, Chai Branch was able to raise considerable funds for Toronto Section through the sale of Maj Jongg cards, while staying together and forging even closer bonds through our weekly members' mental health advocacy get-togethers.

Dinah Branch

This year, Dinah Branch continued our programs virtually. This included two hands-on programs. We tie-dyed t-shirts and masks. For future Passover Food Drive boxes, we made quilted potholders. In addition, we joined Orah Branch to enjoy a few excellent programs hosted by Lianne Harris Racioppo.

Dinah Branch held a successful fundraiser in March, our second virtual games night with 98 participants and \$3085 raised for Council through players and donations.

Etobicoke Branch

Since the beginning of COVID-19, Etobicoke Branch didn't meet until January 2021 where we enjoyed a couple virtual Zoom meetings, including a well attended book review.

Nova Study Branch

Nova, like many other Branches honed our Zoom skills and were able to participate in several virtual programmes offered by various sources.

In the fall, we participated in the series offered by Thornhill Lifelong Learning, "The Evolution of the Hollywood Musical" facilitated by Adam Nayman. Additionally, we shared four programmes with Orah Branch. We enjoyed learning about Canadian Jews in the Military, Music Therapy, Laugh for your Health and Royal Scandals. In the spring, we were treated to a study of Queen Esther presented by Alana Ruben and we tagged onto a movie review offered by Beth Tzedec. We hope to be able to assemble in June or July for a picnic in the park.

We would also like to honour the memory of one of our members, Susan Gorewich, z'l', who passed away this year. May her memory be for a blessing.

Orah Branch

We kicked off our year by joining the fabulous Fall series "Women and Justice" that NCJWC National hosted. Other virtual programs that we enjoyed were "Aging Well with Nutrition" presented by Marsha Fenwick, Ellin Bessner spoke to us about Canadian Jews in the Military and Royal Scandals with Lianne Harris Racioppo. We delivered gift baskets to be distributed to the residents of Bathurst Prince Charles for Hannukah or Christmas.

Thornhill Study Branch

Our virtual programming, this year provided us with a venue that was very well attended over the past year. We lost two very special members to cancer during 2020. This loss created the focus for some of our programming and we decided to sponsor an event to honour these beautiful women, Laurane Klingman and Maureen Hyman, z'l'.

Additionally, we enjoyed a variety of speakers; such as Eric Lipetz, a Holocaust survivor who spent the war years with his family in the Philippines and then Israel, Bunny Iskov, founder of the Ontario Poetry Society, Myrna Wieser reviewed the book, Song of the Jade Lilly by Kirsten Manning, and our own Judy Weinryb gave us a fun, creative writing assignment.

We participated in two joint programs with L'Chaim. Laya Crust, one of our favourite speakers, gave a superbly insightful presentation on Spirituality, Expression and Art. Carolyn Cohen of Delicious Dish Cooking School presented a scrumptious and fantastically well-attended cooking demonstration.

We will be having our closing virtual dinner on June 8th.

Yachad Branch

This year Yachad had interesting discussions on a variety of topics which were well attended. Highlights were our 3rd annual Tu B'shevat Seder and visiting the Aga Khan Museum.

Due to the untimely death of Leona Eligberg, z'l', our valued member, an appropriate memorial will be planned in the future to celebrate her life and her achievements.

Zion Branch

With the advantage of virtual meetings, Zion Branch enjoyed a variety of programs. Our annual book review with Marilyn Herbert and a Stretch and Balance class for Seniors with Cinnie Noble. Through Cheryl Levitt's film and discussion, we learned about the Fabulous Mae Cohen, "The Gender Lady". We participated in a cooking demo with Carolyn Cohen of Delicious Dish Cooking School. We met and learned how Cheryl Obrant-Cohen started the popular FaceBook page, Sharing is Caring. We uncovered Royal Scandals and the History of Hygiene with Lianne Harris Racioppo. Dr Franco Gallipoli presented "How the World Sees Italy" and "Sophia Loren". Our meetings culminated in a fabulous walking tour around Siena, Italy with Dr. Anna Piperato!

To give back to our community, we enjoyed participating in the Baby Give Back programme and made potholders for the Passover Food Drive. To combat the long, cold, dark, winter; we were good to ourselves by having a Soup Swap. We look forward to the adventures next year will bring!

In Memoriam
June 2020 to May 2021

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of the following beloved members.

Evelyn Lent
Anna Gangbar
Doreen Silverstone
Faye Kushnir
Bettie Raibmon
Arlette Belaiche
Renee Disenhaus
Connie Kachuck
Frances Kirshenbaum
Lorraine Herlick
Kay Robins
Susan Gorewich
Kaylee Miller
Evelyn Bernstein

Please accept our apologies for anyone we may have inadvertently missed. We deem this information very important. We appreciate being notified of the passing of our dear members.

