National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto

www.ncjwctoronto.org

















































Annual Report 2024-2025



Greetings from the Executive Director, Robin Gofine

The important and exciting work of NCJWC Toronto continues. Over the past year, we have continued to build partnerships in the Jewish community of Toronto through collaborative programming and volunteer based programs. Partnerships with strong organizations ensure that we continue to broaden our exposure to the wider community and build our growing base of volunteer and philanthropic support in the GTA.

The establishment of the Canadian Jewish Women's Collective, initiated by NCJWC Toronto, has enabled us to offer programs in person and online that address the issues that are important to Canadian Jewish women locally and across the country. The Collective includes organizations such as NCJWC, CWH (Canadian Hadassah Wizo); Na'amat Canada, Momentum Canada and Women of Holy Blossom. In the aggregate, these joint programs have enabled us to reach over 1000 women and bring them together to ensure that we have a collective voice as Canadian Jewish women.

In addition to growth in all of our program areas, we are particularly proud to have received a \$250,000 grant from Heritage Canada to launch *The Power of Small Conversations*. This joint initiative, being developed in partnership with NCJWC, under the leadership of Linda Steinberg, will ensure that our organizations play our part in addressing growing antisemitism in Canada.

NCJWC Toronto's mandate is to educate Jewish women about issues that matter and engage them in addressing these issues through social engagement and action. We invite you to continue to work with us to effect societal change. Volunteers are at the core of our organization. We could not do what we do without you. Thanks to all of you, our volunteers and community members who are vital to our success.

Looking forward to another year of growth, engagement, action and social change.



Tribute to our President, Sheila Neuburger (z'l)



It is with great sadness and deep appreciation that this Annual Report is being dedicated to the memory of our President Sheila Neuburger, who passed away after a brief battle with cancer on Saturday June 14, 2025. Sheila was a visionary leader and mentor, a devoted daughter, loving sister and sister-in-law, beloved aunt and great aunt and an exceptional friend. Sheila was in the second term of her presidency when she became ill and in spite of this, she continued to lead and direct the organization with strength, clarity and integrity.

NCJWC Toronto was fortunate to have a leader who brought tremendous expertise as a highly respected professional and expert in governance. Sheila was trained as a social worker and her career was multi-faceted. Sheila was an Adjunct Lecturer at the Interwash-Factor Faculty of Social Work at University of Toronto, a private Adoption Practitioner, a surveyor for Accreditation Canada and a member of the Ontario Consent and Capacity Board. In addition to serving as President of NCJWC Toronto for almost two terms, Sheila was a valued member of the boards of Hill House Hospice, Jewish Family and Child Service, and March of Dimes Canada.

Sheila was instrumental in moving NCJWC Toronto forward with her vision and clarity about the importance of ensuring that the organization continue to grow and serve as a voice for Jewish women in the GTA. She was committed to fairness, equity and ensuring that the vulnerable are cared for in our community. Sheila's character and values guided her work and made her successful. She will be missed.

SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE



MIT7VAH DAY 2024

Mitzvah Day is an international day of volunteerism and social action. Last year, we reached over 1700 people in the GTA, marking a 40% increase over the previous year.

OUR IMPACT

- Collected winter clothing and knitwear for Ve'ahavta to distribute to the homeless.
- Collected new toys and games for Chai Lifeline.
- Collected new and gently used purses for women in shelters.
- Collected new baby and infant supplies for JIAS.
- Engaged teens in the community and hosted a carnival at DANI.
- Hosted a family bingo at the NCJWC Toronto Foundation building.



KIDS SUMMER ESSENTIALS FUND

The Kids Summer Essentials Fund was created to give kids a great start to summer. Thanks to the generosity of many donors and NCJWC Toronto members, in 2025 we raised over \$20,000 for this worthy project.

OUR IMPACT

• Our support enabled the purchase of 235 Walmart gift cards for vulnerable children in the care of Children's Aids societies in the GTA.



2025 PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE

The NCJWC Toronto Passover Food Drive has been providing food boxes to the vulnerable in our community for 42 years. This year, the drive took place at the Reena Battle Centre. The partnership illustrated true community collaboration at its best- bringing together all members of the community to ensure that those in need are fed during Passover.

OUR IMPACT

- Raised funds to purchase Passover Food for over 2000 community members referred to the program by fourteen social service agenices in the GTA.
- Mobilized over 1000 volunteers to pack and deliver 2350 boxes and get them into the homes of those in need.



TORONTO JEWISH QUILTING PROJECT

Each Wednesday afternoon, a committed group of volunteer quilters gather at Council House and collaborate on the design and creation of beautiful quilts. These quilts are delivered by L'Chaim volunteers to individuals experiencing cancer and are referred to this program

OUR IMPACT

• The creation and delivery of over 500 handmade quilts to cancer patients since the programs inception in 2005.

WOMEN'S HEALTH & WELLBEING



NCJWC TORONTO L'CHAIM CANCER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The L'Chaim Cancer Support Program is a volunteer driven initiative to provide social support to Jewish women who are diagnosed by cancer. Each month, programs are offered on a range of topics including coping with cancer, dealing with stress, as well as arts and relaxation based programs that provide respite from the challenges of a cancer diagnosis. The partnership with Wellspring continued to this year, L'Chaim partnered with Look Good Feel Better for an afternoon for a makeup and self card workshop.

In addition, a new feature of our program is the establishment of a Wig Bank. New and lightly used wigs are now available (along with a complimentary styling) for cancer patients affiliated with L'Chaim.

OUR IMPACT

• L'Chaim programs enabled over 100 women over the past year to connect, learn, grow and share their cancer and caregiving experiences with their peers.

FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM



THE POWER OF SMALL CONVERSATIONS: FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM IN THE GTA AND ACROSS CANADA

Through the receipt of a significant grant from Heritage Canada and in partnership with NCJWC, *The Power of Small Conversations* will educate Canadians of all backgrounds, races and religions to respectfully discuss contemporary antisemitism and hatred in our society.

OUR IMPACT

Through a coalition of organizations across Canada, we will hold small conversations that will educate and engage participants at the grassroots level. The Project's objective is to create opportunities for all Canadians with diverse opinions, perspectives and backgrounds to converse respectfully, and to acquire knowledge. Discussion will focus upon such topics as:

- The origins of antisemitism and contemporary antisemitism
- Holocaust history and remembrance
- The role of the State of Israel in Jewish identity
- Canadian Values and Freedom of Expression.
- The implications of hatred on Canadian society.



L'CHAIM ZUMBA CLASS



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT 2024



ROSH HASHANAH CHOCOLATE TASTING



MORNING MOMMY MEEET UP



MITZVAH DAY 2024



MITZVAH DAY 2024



PURIM PROJECT 2025



IRENE PAPERNICK, VOLUNTEER



PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE 2025



PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE 2025



PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE 2025



TORONTO JEWISH QUILTING PROECT



ANTISEMITISM SUMMIT



TORONTO JEWISH QUILTING PROECT



NOVA EXHIBIT



UJA WALK FOR ISRAEL 2025



CANDADIAN JEWISH WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE



HELEN MARR, VOLUNTEER



L'CHAIM CANCER SUPPORT PROGRAM END OF YEAR ACTIVITY



EVA***



JIAS MENTORSHIP NETWORKING EVENT



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT 2025

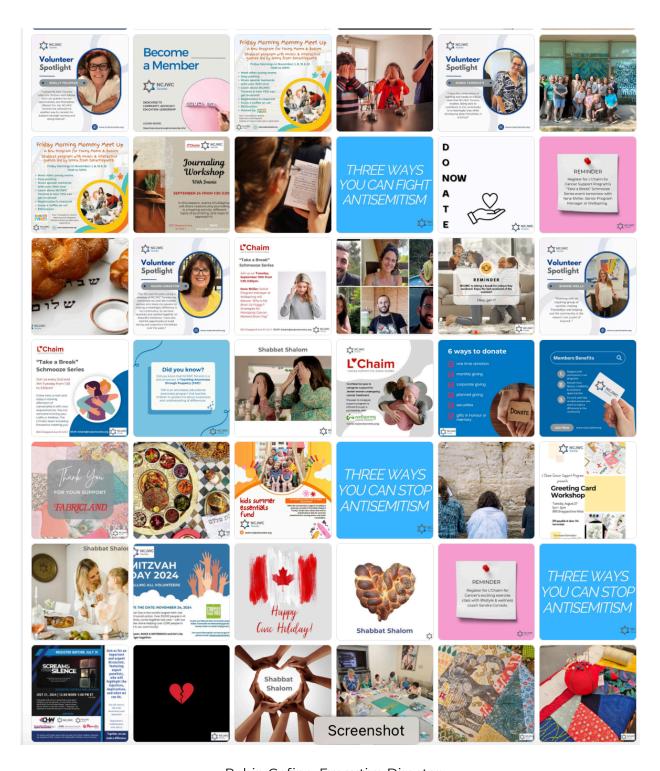


VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT 2025



LCHAIM WIG BANK LAUNCH

WOMEN POWERED. VOLUNTEER DRIVEN. COMMUNITY, EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP, SOCIAL ACTION.



Robin Gofine, Executive Director Annual Report designed by: Mona Gabay, Manager of Communications











