

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



**NCJWC**  
Toronto

**NATIONAL  
COUNCIL  
OF JEWISH  
WOMEN OF  
CANADA,  
TORONTO**  
[ncjwctoronto.org](http://ncjwctoronto.org)

# GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT, SHEILA NEUBURGER

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*This year has been one of growth and change as NCJWC Toronto continues upon its path of transformation. Volunteerism is at the core of NCJWC and it is gratifying to see that there are so many members engaging in our programs and projects. Our programs are varied and resonate with our members, recipients and stakeholders. I am delighted that we have been able to attract new women who have much to contribute to our mission.*

*Highlights of the year include the grant that we received from the federal government's Community Services Recovery Fund. This grant has enabled us to develop a plan to strengthen our fund raising and marketing capacity and over the coming months we will be implementing that plan.*

*In addition, we can celebrate the successful Mitzvah Day this year that attracted more volunteers than in previous years and benefited many people in our community through our chosen projects.*

*In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge our collective pain following the tragedy in Israel on October 7. We all continue to pray for the immediate release of the hostages. The surge of antisemitism in the world resounds with all of us and it is my hope that our collective voices will have an impact in addressing the issues that are present today and will impact on future generations.*

*I look forward to continuing to serve you as President during the coming year!*

# GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ROBIN GOFINE

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*This year has been significant for the growth of NCJWC Toronto in the GTA.*

*We have strengthened partnerships with community organizations including JF&CS, the Prosserman JCC, UJA, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism and others. We have become participants in many community endeavours and consultations on topical issues such as aging and the feelings and attitudes of the Toronto Jewish community in a post October 7 world. We have engaged new volunteers and leaders in such initiatives as Mitzvah Day, the NCJWC Toronto Passover Food Drive, the L'Chaim Cancer Support Program and the NCJWC Toronto Fundraising Strategy Implementation Team.*

*All of this and more has resulted in the emergence of this wonderful organization as a valued player in the communal infrastructure of Toronto's Jewish community. The resurgence of antisemitism in our community is unprecedented. For many of us, our organization has been a place where women who want to make a difference are reaching out and engaging with us. May we continue to draw strength from each other in these difficult times and be a source of light and leadership to our community.*

# 2023-2024 NCJWC TORONTO HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

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## ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

- Receipt of two government grants: one from the Ontario Government from the Anti-Hate Security Program to provide additional funds for security of NCJWC Toronto events, and one from the Federal Government's Community Services Recovery Fund which has enabled us to hire a consulting firm (Marts and Lundy) to develop a fundraising strategy for NCJWC Toronto. Implementation of this strategy will support the long term sustainability of the organization. An implementation committee has been struck which will take place over the next year. In addition, the grant has been used to update our database and consolidate all of our donor and member information in one centralized location.
- Through our outreach and engagement efforts we have attracted many new and talented volunteers to lead our various projects and programs. Particularly exciting is the launch of a new and active committee dedicated to addressing antisemitism in our community through education and social action.
- The profile of NCJWC Toronto has seen an increase and we have been approached to consult with MP's seeking the input and response to the government on issues facing the Jewish community. We have also been invited to a roundtable discussion hosted by UJA on responding to the needs of an aging population, and we continue to develop program partnerships with community organizations such as the Prosserman JCC, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism, and JF&CS.



# 2023-2024 NCJWC TORONTO HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

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## SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

- This year, the 41st annual NCJWC Toronto Passover Food Drive was chaired by Shelly Feldman. With an active volunteer committee steering the 41st annual food drive, over 1000 volunteers organized, packed and delivered food boxes. As a result of these efforts NCJWC Toronto ensured that 2350 Passover Food Boxes were provided to those with food insecurity in Vaughan and Toronto's Jewish community.
- The Kids Summer Essentials Fund, chaired by Bonnie Wells and Ellen Ferdman resulted in Walmart gift cards being distributed to over 300 children in the GTA, referred through JF&CS and CCAS. These gift cards enable underprivileged children to purchase runners or other summer necessities to ensure a great start to summer.
- Mitzvah Day, chaired by Robin Tameshtit, this year saw significant growth guided by an active committee of NCJWC Toronto volunteers. This year, winter items were collected and sandwiches and cookies made for VeAhavta clients, toys were collected for Chai Lifeline, purses were collected for the Fill a Purse for a Sister Campaign, and messages of support for our brothers and sisters in Israel were sent. Other highlights include a donor sponsored concert for the residents of Baycrest as well as a games afternoon, run by NCJWC Toronto volunteers for the residents of the NCJWC Toronto Foundation Building.

# 2023-2024 NCJWC TORONTO HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

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## **SUPPORTING WOMEN WITH CANCER:**

### **L'CHAIM CANCER SUPPORT PROGRAM: CO CHAIRS- SUSAN AUSTIN & IRENE PAPERICK**

- This year, L'Chaim's profile was raised through the ongoing efforts of an active committee. L'Chaim received 16 new referrals, 13 of which received gift bags prepared and delivered by NCJWC Toronto volunteers in addition to a hand made quilt created by the Toronto Jewish Quilting Group who meets weekly in our office.
- In addition, this year, L'Chaim launched a new initiative to address the needs of younger women (under 40) who have been diagnosed with cancer. Future plans include education, social and recreational programs for this demographic.
- Now in its second year, The Wellspring/L'Chiam Peer Support Program for Cancer Patients and their Caregivers continues to grow. There is a strong volunteer pool of 16 individuals in place including 9 patients, 6 caregivers and one patient and caregiver. An additional five volunteers have been trained for the program. In order to boost growth and profile of this program, an active volunteer committee is reaching out to physicians, clinicians and caregiver organizations in the GTA. Through this program, patients and caregivers are receiving short term counselling and support.
- L'Chaim was the beneficiary of Chabad of Green Lane's fall fundraiser this year: The Great Pink Challah Bake. There were over 500 people in attendance.

# 2023-2024 NCJWC TORONTO HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

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## **BUILDING BRIDGES: ONE VOICE- EVA KARPATI CHAIR**

- One Voice is comprised of women of diverse faiths. They stand as a model of respect, understanding and compassion and demonstrate what true cooperation can achieve. After many years of committed work, the women of the One Voice project completed their task of creating a toolkit for faith leaders entitled Faith Leaders on the Front Line: Responding to Domestic Violence in our Communities – A Guide for Faith Leaders. The 20-page booklet was mailed to 400 faith and community leaders in the GTA.
- On Monday May 27th, a zoom launch of this Guide was hosted by the One Voice committee. The program consisted of a multi-faith panel discussion on zoom who offered perspectives on how to recognize and support individuals facing domestic violence. The event was attended by 60 people and the committee is seeking ways to continue to bring this important information to faith communities in the GTA and beyond.

## **TEACHING AWARENESS THROUGH PUPPETRY: INCLUSION LAURA BERKLEY, CHAIR**

- TAP presented more in-person workshops than last year as people continue to transition from the pandemic and seek community. The 2023/24 school year resulted in 41 workshops, working with over 2100 students to fulfill the TAP mission to help raise a generation that values equity, inclusion and understanding.
- Robbins Hebrew Academy and Paul Penna Jewish Downtown School were participants in our workshops which focused upon Friendship Strategies, Mental Health and Wellness, learning about living with Autism, how to incorporate tools, deep breathing exercises, to help calm our minds & bodies, together.
- A new video for Passover to promote understanding and history for the community was produced and uploaded on the TAP website and on YouTube.

# 2023-2024 NCJWC TORONTO HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

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## FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM: EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ACTION

- We have seen an unprecedented rise in antisemitism globally and within the GTA since the October 7 tragedy in Israel. This has inspired activism within our members as well as women in our community who continue to approach us about how they can take action.
- NCJWC Toronto was represented by its members and staff at every key rally that has taken place since October 7 in Toronto, Washington, and Ottawa. In addition, our members participated in two rallies against antisemitism at Queen's Park and at Earl Bales Park in conjunction with Canadian Women Against Antisemitism. Most recently, members participated in the rally at Bais Chaya Mushka School to support the students at this school.
- A new Fighting Antisemitism Committee has been struck at NCJWC Toronto. The purpose of the committee is to educate our members and the general community about the antisemitism we face and how we can address this societal problem and take action. Lead by NCJWC Toronto member Susan Glickman, this committee is focused in key areas: identifying practical actions each of us can take to address this problem; organizing ourselves to have our voices heard at rallies and through contacting various members of government; and planning events including an in person lunch and learn series with speakers who will provide a first hand account of antisemitism they are facing in our community.

# 2023-2024 NCJWC TORONTO HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

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## AT RISK YOUTH: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS, CHAIR, ENA CORD

- Since its inception in 2012, The Human Trafficking Awareness Committee at NCJWC Toronto has celebrated many achievements. Highlights include:
  - Organizing and hosting a myriad of programs to educate the public about this important issue and our committee members being sought after by community groups who wish to learn more about Human Trafficking.
  - In 2021, the proclamation of the proclamation of Human Trafficking Awareness Day in the name of NCJWC Toronto by the City of Toronto and in 2022 by the Federal government.
  - The preparation of an educational resource *Not in My Name* which provides important information for parents, grandparents, guardians, caregivers, and adult children.
  - In 2022 an invitation to present at the International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference in Toledo, Ohio on: The Power of Community Groups in Educating and Raising Awareness About Human Sex Trafficking.
- In 2023, the Committee recognized that its goals have been reached and decided to dissolve the Committee. All resources remain posted on the NCJWC Toronto website.
- Members expressed satisfaction and pride in their accomplishments in having brought this critical issue to light. Greats thanks is extended to Ena Cord, Chair, and to all the committee members for their efforts.



# 2023-2024: WOMEN POWERED



Oct 2023- A visit to NCJWC Toronto by Ya'ara Saks



June 2023-NCJWC TORONTO at the opening of the new Toronto Holocaust Museum. Pictured: L-R Ministers Ya'ara Saks, Melanie Joly, Dara Solomon, Director



Thank you lunch with NCJWC Toronto L'Chaim Cancer Support Program Leadership Susan Austin, Irene Papernick Co- Chairs Elizabeth Erlich, co- Founder



October 2023- Remembering the Hostages



October 2023- Remembering the Hostages



Cheque Presentation for Kids Summer Essentials Fund- JF&CS, CCAS,, Bonnie Wells, Chair



Summer 2023 Thank you dinner for Passover Food Drive Committee



Rally against Antisemitism at Queens Park



November 2023 Games Afternoon for Israel



November 2023 Games Afternoon for Israel Debbie Wasserman. Susan Glickman, Chairs



December 2023- Ottawa Rally



# 2023-2024: VOLUNTEER DRIVEN



The Great Pink Challah Bake to benefit L' Chaim by Chabad of Green Lane Oct 2023



Feb 2024 Challab Bake cheque presentation, Susan Austin, Chair



Fall 2023 Shaarei Shomayim Heath & Community Services Fair



Mitzvah Day November 2023



Mitzvah Day November 2023



Mitzvah Day November 2023



Mitzvah Day November 2023



NCJWC Toronto, Prosserman JCC Feb 2024



Passover Food Drive 2024, Susan Austin, Shelly Feldman (Chair), Bev Hutner



Passover Food Drive 2024



May 2024- Rally to Support Our Students



May 2024 - Rally to support Bais Chaya Mushka



May 2024, Flag Raising for Yom Haatzmaut, Queens Park  
Eva Karpati, Israeli Consul General Idit Shamir, Linda Steinberg, President, NCJWC

**WOMAN POWERED.  
VOLUNTEER DRIVEN.  
DEDICATED TO:  
COMMUNITY.  
EDUCATION.  
LEADERSHIP.  
SOCIAL ACTION.**

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