



SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE from Linda Steinberg, President

The NCJWC Board is very engaged developing meaningful programs and projects.

Our **strategic pre planning** process has begun with an in-depth discussion of the importance of NCJWC and how we benefit the community. We are also exploring ways to increase our support to our five Sections and financially sustain our organization.

The **AGEism Committee**, led by Monika Simon, is ecstatic to welcome Dr. Samir K. Sinha, who has just completed his research on "Aging in Medicine" to be our first presenter for a webinar series.

The **Anti Semitism Committee** will explore ways in which we can make an impact on our own communities, finding a niche that can contribute to all the work being done by many other Jewish organizations.

Continuing to build bridges to counter racism, the **W2W Against Racism Committee** (Women 2 Women Against Racism), led by Eva Karpati and Debbie Wasserman presented a session on Antisemitism to the Toronto Bangladesh Community Centre via zoom.

The **Human Trafficking Awareness Committee** under the guidance of Ena Cord created a power point presentation titled NOT IN MY FAMILY, alerting parents to

the dangers that lurk for their children. Their goal is to reach and educate parents of all religions, ethnicities, cultures and socio-economic levels.

Yasher Koach to all our Sections for their passion and dedication to their communities.

We are so proud of Winnipeg Section who was honoured to receive a recognition award by Mitzvah Day International for their efforts to grow Mitzvah Day in Winnipeg. They reached out to 24 local organizations to join them in this effort. Sharon Graham provided a warm and heartfelt acceptance by video.

Vancouver Section under the mentorship of Rochelle Garfinkel has revamped their Board. Jordana Corenblum is their new President. They are strengthening connections with their community and promoting new membership.

Edmonton Section has a small membership, but through their extensive partnerships with community organizations continues to make a huge impact under the guiding hand of President Jodi Zabłudowski.

Simcoe County is flourishing as our newest Section. This Section has filled a niche for Jewish women and their families looking for a Jewish community connection north of Toronto. Helen Silverstein as President has provided an excellent framework for starting new sections.

Under Sheila Neuburger's leadership, Toronto Section has just completed a Strategic Planning Process which has provided a clear path forward.

Eva Karpati and I attended a Human Trafficking Awareness Day event at our Provincial Parliament which increased our own understanding of the political process to make change.

Debbie Wasserman and I will be participating in the Executive ICJW meeting in Zurich in May.

Looking forward to meeting in person with our Board and Council members at the October AGM in Toronto. The AGM will be held on Saturday evening October 21-Monday afternoon October 23, 2023.

NCJWC COMMITTEES

WOMEN TO WOMEN AGAINST RACISM (W 2 W Against Racism)

Vision Statement: To eradicate all forms of racism

Mission Statement: W2W Against Racism is a group of women representing women's organizations whose communities may be targets of discrimination and/or prejudice. Our mission is to stand in solidarity as partners to show the power of respect, acceptance and understanding to pave the way towards peace and harmony among all. Our belief is that women have the capacity to demonstrate true cooperation and collaboration through comradery.

Our Goal: To create programs and projects to bring to life our mission statement. February 2023, the NCJWC Board approved the name, vision, and mission statement. To date CCMW are working out how to navigate this partnership with their diverse membership that includes Palestinians. This points out where the work comes in. It is easy to celebrate similarities. It is in working out our differences that this collaboration becomes meaningful. We are going into this with confidence as we both, NCJWC and CCMW, are committed to success. In the meantime, one of our Muslim sisters recommended us to present a session on Antisemitism to the Bangladesh Community Centre – insisting we personally do it. We accomplished this on March 20, 2023 and thereby paved a new road for NCJWC.

Eva Karpati, Vice President and Committee Chair

“Every once in a while, you find yourself in a place where everything aligns and all is right in the world. Such was the case on the April 18 Iftar meal which marked the end of the daily Ramadan fast. It was the meal to break the fast that we were privileged to share with our Muslim sisters. The energy flowed, the conversation was

easy and the feast laid before us dazzled the eyes and our tummies. Thank you to Nazila Isgandarova for being the consummate host.” Dahlia Rusinek, committee member



ANTI SEMITISM COMMITTEE

Our Board has given the green light at its last meeting to form an Antisemitism Committee with representation from all Sections!

Are you interested in joining this vital committee?

If so, you'll have the privilege to help shape a plan how we can push back against Antisemitism in our country. E-mail or call Monika Simon, NCJWC Vice-President, at monikaandrew@gmail.com or call 514-525-1869.

Monika Simon, Vice President and Committee Chair

UPCOMING WEBINAR



National Council of Jewish Women of Canada

AGEISM IN MEDICINE

**WHY DOES AGEISM REMAIN AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OF DISCRIMINATION?
AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.**



Dr. Samir Sinha
MD, DPhil, FRCPC, AGSF

Dr. Sinha poses this question to help explore what AGEism is and why it remains an active issue that negatively impacts the lives of individuals seeking medical care each day. Through better understanding it and its negative impacts, we can all learn how to combat it at the individual, organizational and policy-making levels to help ensure Canada becomes the best place to age.

He is the Director of Geriatrics at Sinai Health System and the University Health Network in Toronto and a Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto and the Director of Health Policy Research at Toronto Metropolitan University's National Institute on Ageing.

DATE: Tuesday, June 6, 2023

WHEN: 1:00 p.m. EDT

WHERE: ZOOM EVENT

REGISTER: Visit ncjwc.org

SECTION UPDATES



EDMONTON UPDATE

We are proud to have hosted this event:



Upcoming Events:

Edmonton Jewish Film Festival - May 7 - 18th

The Edmonton Section sponsors a short film during this event.

Casino on May 21-22 at the Starlight Casino - West Edmonton Mall.

Volunteers will take on different shifts over the 2 days and 2 nights.

Jodi Zab Ludowski, President Edmonton



SIMCOE COUNTY UPDATE

Simcoe County participated in **International Mitzvah Day** by partnering with Fill a Purse for A Sister Campaign. It was very successful, and we have committed to doing it again for IMD 2023.

In January, we furnished a suite for an arriving Ukrainian family. Our members donated furniture, linens, toiletries, did some home baking and donated money so we could stock the fridge. A member of Simcoe County section has set up an ESL tutoring schedule for the family. It was a perfect project as it gave several different options for participation.

In November we started a monthly lunch/coffee meetup. Starting with 5 participants in November, in March we had 17 women! This has proven to be a great way to introduce women to NCJWC, Simcoe County with no obligation. It has so far translated into 3 new members. We hold these lunches the last Wednesday of the month, so members know well in advance.

Our **Book Club** is held the first Monday of the month and will continue to be virtual as we have members that otherwise would need to travel quite a distance to attend.

Following on the success of our monthly lunch & book club, we are going to trial a monthly drop in mahj & canasta afternoon.

At the end of April, we have a **Gallery Tour** and artist talk in Midland. Midland is an hour north of Barrie/Innisfil where most of our members reside. Our hope is to organize events in other parts of Simcoe County where we have members.

We have two speaker events booked for May and June that we are going to open to the community.

In July, we will repeat our **Mahj/Canasta Day**, this time as a fundraiser.

We are grateful to Linda Steinberg for her leadership and to her committees that continue to develop such excellent programming that make being part of NCJWC so worthwhile.

Helen Silverstein, President Simcoe County



TORONTO UPDATE

NCJWC Toronto Section is currently taking the first steps to implement its strategic plan which was approved by the Board in December 2022.

The Board and Executive Director are focusing on setting the future direction of Toronto section while in the short-term increasing its programs and developing partnerships with other organizations. We are also enhancing our media profile and have contracted with a social media specialist who has brought a focused approach to our presence on social media.

Our current initiatives include

- *Passover Food Drive
- * Fundraising Event at live theatre (Gloria Steinem)
- *Caregiver Forum (with partners)

*Kick off to Camp (May 2023)

*Inter faith collaborations related to anti semitism and domestic violence

In the coming months, we will be continuing to assess our membership model and will create focus groups to gather input on future directions on this subject. We are still working through pandemic recovery and our programs are a mix of virtual and in person events.

We are very excited to welcome our National Council of Jewish Women colleagues in October 2023!

Sheila Neuburger, Toronto President



VANCOUVER UPDATE

Vancouver Section has been trying get their footing. With new folks on the Board, we're trying to draw in new engagement and spread the word about NCJWC and our focus on Social Justice - past, present and future.

We had a beautiful cocktail event for International Women's Day bringing women together to learn about what NCJWC is and the important work that the organization does. We also used this as an opportunity to find out more about what it is that women prioritize in their lives and want to give their energy to.

Coming up in May we have an Intergenerational Tea planned which will be an opportunity to celebrate the important contributions of women in our community, and look at what we need to do to bridge the generations and move NCJWC forward in the hands of the next generations.

Jordana Corenblum, Vancouver President



WINNIPEG UPDATE

The Winnipeg Section has a number of exciting initiatives coming up:

On April 21st, we are hoping to launch a new branch, Women Working! This is a lunchtime event at a local library, when women newcomers to Winnipeg will be able to share job searching and career advancement tips!

On April 23rd, our new sewing circle is planned. All needlecrafts are welcome. Those who have their own projects are welcome to bring them, or we will sew gloves for winter distribution by a local street patrol.

Date TBA, we hope to run another spring cleanup. Last year there was snow until May 15th! This is a taste of Mitzvah Day event.

It will be so nice to have an indoor AGM this year! Our AGM event will be a knish making lesson.

Our annual backpack project, which packs backpacks full of school supplies for children whose families are working with JCFS, begins in the summer.

Mitzvah Day also gets started in June, when we send out emails to Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, to remind them to start thinking about mitzvahs!

And we are looking forward to the National Council AGM in October!

Sharon Graham, Winnipeg President

Mitzvah Day 2022





LET'S RE - CREATE MONTREAL SECTION

Our Board would like to see a Montreal Section restarted, for which we need your help!

Do you have any family members or friends in Montreal? If so, please tell them about National Council and ask if they'd like to get involved in founding a Section. If so, they should contact Monika Simon, NCJWC Vice-President for more information at 514-525-1869 or e-mail her at monikaandrew@gmail.com



Dedicated to furthering human welfare in the community.

*Copyright © *2023 NCJWC,*

All rights reserved.

Naomi Kingston, Vice President Communications

Website: ncjwc.org

Linda Steinberg, President
president@ncjwc.org

General Inquiries
info@ncjwc.org