

**2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF CANADA
VANCOUVER SECTION
HELD ON TUESDAY, 15 DECEMBER, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM
13 members attending**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Linda Arato the MC for the meeting, who introduced Catherine Stoller, the President of NCJW Canada, Vancouver Section who welcomed all present to the AGM.

Catherine presented an overview of the past year's activities with an emphasis on the transition to a different model of supporter-based donations (rather than membership dues). Some of the younger women have started a mahjong group and a knitting group. There has been a change in our participation concentrating more on helping to support the Jewish Food Bank and other social action agencies. In November 2019 NCJW Vancouver put on a program with B.C.'s first independent Human Rights Commissioner which was well-attended and gave members an over-view of the Commissioner's aims and objectives.

Currently since the Covid-19 pandemic started, NCJW Vancouver has put on some different programs:

- (1) Teatime Treats, under the leadership of new Board Members Rickie Mintz and Jackie Krystal who organized the putting together of bags of home-made cookies, fruits and candies which were delivered by volunteers to NCJW members who were home-bound. There were many grateful messages from the recipients who were delighted to see the volunteers at their doors as well as the contents of the treat bags.
- (2) The Purse project was organized by Cate Stoller and collected over 100 purses which volunteers filled with personal hygiene items and little gifts which were taken to Atira Women's Resource Society to be given out to women needing help and/or sanctuary.
- (3) The annual Friends & Angels campaign to solicit funds to keep NCJW Vancouver viable was postponed from its usual spring date to October, 2020. The campaign focused on our "One Ask" method to request donations once a year, rolling in together the usual 'membership' fee with our annual appeal for funds. The One Ask Friends & Angels campaign started off with a charming webinar program put on by Howard Busgang at Buzzy's Deli in SaltSpring Island with over 30 people viewing the webinar. Catherine stated that it is the Board's hope to do another webinar in the coming months.

NCJW Vancouver's non-profit status requires a certain criteria to qualify for the ability to give tax receipts to donors, and Catherine reported that we are able to do this thanks to our Board and especially Rochelle Garfinkel who has ensured that our documentation and data systems work properly.

It is hoped that our Gaming money, which we have not been able to disburse due to Covid, will remain on our books until schools are back and able to request funding for their after-school activities and programs.

Catherine re-stated the commitment of NCJW Vancouver Section as a bridge between the Jewish and non-Jewish communities. Our mission infuses our alliances with like-minded social agencies and reaches out to women everywhere.

The presence of National NCJW Canada president, Debbie Wasserman at our AGM gave Debbie the opportunity to talk about some National and International programs. Irwin Cotler had attended an ICJW meeting in Toronto a year ago and was interested in the report on Nasrin Sotoudeh, a human rights lawyer in Iran who had been imprisoned for her work and had been on a hunger strike. Currently she has been released due to health concerns. NCJW Toronto will be showing a film of Nasrin Sotoudeh's life with a panel including Irwin Cotler and a representative of the Wallenberg Institute among others. Details given

on how to join in the showing of the film. Webinars will be available to stream on NCJW's website. This action will raise NCJW's profile. People need to know that Canadian local branches of NCJW are part of International Council of Jewish Women. National does send out information about ICJW and its activities.

Linda thanked Catherine for her report.

Linda noted that members attending this AGM will have received a copy of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM which was circulated with the Zoom invitation.

Shelagh Stoller proposed a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM held on 8 March 2020 and to accept the Minutes as circulated with the Zoom invitation; Seconded by Jackie Krystal. **Motion: Passed.**

Linda noted that a copy of the Unaudited financial statement to 30 April, 2020 was circulated with the Zoom invitation. She called upon our departing Treasurer, Fran Ritch, to review the document and to answer any questions that may arise.

Fran noted that the current Financial Statement has more categories than previous financial statements due to the improvement in the computer program being used. She called this the 'transition' year as the Board sought new members to branch out into some different groups to suit younger members. Income from last year's Friends & Angels campaign was slightly behind the previous year. We also received only \$6,900 from Gaming and our total income was about \$2,500 less than last year. Currently Covid pandemic has affected not being able to distribute the Gaming funds to inner city schools. We are permitted by Gaming to hold those funds over to be spent in the coming year.

There are government programs that we can contact to see if we qualify for funds to make up our losses during Covid and also funds to support a salaried employee. Catherine Youngren agreed to look into the viability of NCJW Vancouver applying for such a program.

Fran asked for a motion from the floor to accept the unaudited financial statements of NCJW Vancouver for the year 2019-2020 as presented. Seconded by Shirley Hyman. **Motion: Passed.**

Linda presented the Nominating Committee report for the 2020-2021 Board as follows:

President: Catherine Stoller

Treasurer: Jackie Krystal

Recording Secretary: Linda Arato

Vice President, Social Action: Anne Lerner

Member at Large: Rochelle Garfinkel

Linda Arato asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none; **Anne Melul cast the deciding vote to declare the slate elected, and Linda Arato declared the slate duly elected.**

Debbie Altow was called upon to install the officers for the year 2020-2021. She first dismissed last year's Executive Board with thanks for all their work, and then installed the officers of NCJW Vancouver Section as follows:

President – Catherine Stoller

Treasurer – Jackie Krystal
Recording Secretary: Linda Arato
Vice President, Social Action: Anne Lerner
Member at Large: Rochelle Garfinkel

Debby also thanked Anne Melul for her efforts to get Debby to return to NCJW more than 15 years ago and she paid tribute to Anne and her long and sustained connection to NCJW Vancouver.

Linda spoke of the good work performed by our in-house programs: Books for Kids is chaired by Rhea Lazar supplying books in their own languages for immigrant communities and indigenous populations, as well as distributing books to families through public health nurses and through certain elementary schools. Operation Dressup is organized by Jane Stoller and Sandy Hazan who have provided clothing and/or funds for clothing for children in some high schools in needy areas. We thank the volunteers for their time in providing this help to families in need.

Gloria Hendin moved that the business portion of the AGM be adjourned. Seconded by Jackie Krystal.
Motion Passed.

Linda thanked the members for attending this unusual AGM and for continuing to support National Council of Jewish Women, Vancouver, and its work of service in the general and Jewish communities.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Arato

Attachments:

Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting of NCJW Vancouver held on March 8, 2020
Unaudited Financial Statements to April 30, 2020.