

NCJWC– Vancouver Presidents Report October 2022

Vancouver section fiscal year runs from May 1st through to April 30th.

The Vancouver Section wishes to formally thank our incredible National president Debbie Wasserman for being at the National helm this past year and keeping us vibrant as a National organization!

At the AGM in November of 2022, the Vancouver Section appointed 3 co-presidents: Ellen Gordon, Rochelle Garfinkel, and Chaya Rosenfeld.

The COVID19 pandemic sadly put a dent on the co-Presidents' plans for a large event designed to attract young membership to the Section. There are still highlights from this past year to report:

April:

Vancouver Section continued to support Mothers Matter Centre/Hippy with a generous donation from the Kort Sisters.

We had a successful zoom meeting with Jason Eng the principal of the Strathcona school. He spoke about the realities of the inner-city school and the challenges that are occurring as a result of more affluent families moving into the neighborhood.

July:

The Board reviewed a preliminary outline for a strategic planning process. Many important questions came up such as: How do we articulate our values? Why do people join organizations? How to bring in new and younger members? The next Board will consider undertaking a strategic planning exercise.

August:

Vancouver Section entered into a new leasing arrangement as a sub-tenant of Tikva Housing which was at the time still located at the Jewish Community Centre Campus.

A bylaw committee was formed to review and update the existing bylaws. The update was required because: The importance of up-to-date By-Laws which are filed with the Provincial and Federal authorities, and required by the Societies' Act is paramount. The By-Laws must also conform with the National Section By-Laws. There needed to be more flexible, inclusive, and up to 21st Century standards. Examples being virtual meetings, that membership may not be limited to women and the need to allow for more than one President or Vice-President. "Service" had to be defined. Standing committees were replaced with ad hoc committees.

The Vancouver Section has continued to support:

Books for Kids – which purchases and distributes over 700 brand new books to over 10 organizations that work with vulnerable women and children

The wellness programs - provide over \$5000 of funding for enrichment programs in designated inner city schools some examples include Cooking Programs, Gardening, Outdoor Education, Nutrition and Movement Programs,

Provided funding to the Jewish Family Services Food Bank, Vancouver Hebrew Academy lunch program and the Jewish Community Centre Book Festival.

May:

The Annual FRIENDS & ANGELS drive was combined with the annual membership renewal.

We also received a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation to support a program called “Women and Sustainability” in partnership with the young leadership division of the Jewish Federation of Great Vancouver and with “National” as a sponsor. The program will take place on January 26, 2023.

Vancouver section is grateful to receive funding from the Community Foundation, Community Gaming Grants and private foundation

Respectfully submitted October 13, 2022

**Ellen Gordon, Chaya Rosenfeld and Rochelle Garfinkel
NCJWC Vancouver Section Co-Presidents**