

Club Member Focus



OCSCO
ONTARIO SOCIETY (COALITION)
OF SENIOR CITIZENS' ORGANIZATIONS

Community Resources

Ontario Society of Senior Citizens Organizations / La Société des Organisations des Citoyens Aînés de l'Ontario (OSSCO) is a provincial organization and a registered charity. The tag line "Seniors transforming Ontario through wisdom, insight and experience" expresses their mission and membership.

Founded in 1986, OSSCO's mission is to improve the quality of life for Ontario's seniors through educational programs, research, public awareness, information, referral, counseling, community outreach and support, self-help, and volunteer programs.

Their membership includes over 140 seniors' organizations and individuals representing 500,000 senior citizens from across Ontario, including individual seniors - networks, alliances and groups

Special Volunteer Opportunities at Circle of Care

DO YOU HAVE FREE TIME? WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? VOLUNTEERING IS MITZVAH, JOIN IN!

1. Do you enjoy playing Bridge? Would you like to help an older senior with vision loss continue to play the game he loves once a week? We are looking for a special person to assist our client continue to enjoy the game of Bridge.

2. Want to help make a difference in the life of a senior living with Aphasia? We are looking



Roslyn Harris (left) at the Overcoming Loneliness and Social Isolation: Celebrating Best Practices Symposium sponsored by OCSCO.

- as well organizations representing seniors and who provide services and support to Ontario's diverse and multicultural seniors community.

For more information please call 416 785-8570.

OCSCO is a member of the Association of Jewish Seniors.



for someone who can meet with a client a few times a month to provide companionship and when necessary accompany her to medical appointments. You will have the support of a social worker to assist you.

For more information please call: 416-635-2900 ext. 284

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE
416-225-2112

CENTRE FOR ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS (CIJA)
416-638-1991

CIRCLE OF CARE- EXERCISE & FALLS PREVENTION
905-303-5838, ext. 3156

MINISTRY OF HEALTH- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (MAID)
1-844-243-5880

ONTARIO CAREGIVER COALITION (OCC)
jbertrand@alzheimeront.org

TORONTO FIRE SERVICES
416-338-9050

TORONTO POLICE SERVICES
416-808-3256

UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO
416-635-2883

Celebrating Seniors' Month and Canada's 150th Birthday



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Rozlin Laber, *Chair, Membership*

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ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH SENIORS is funded through Circle of Care by the: Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration
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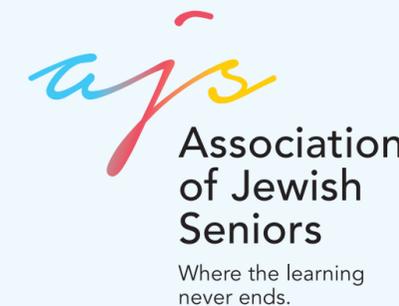
Member of the Older Adult Centres Association of Ontario



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News & Views

SPRING 2017



From the President's Desk, Roslyn Harris



Three days of sun – wow! We certainly needed this. We've had a challenging winter. There have been dark cloudy days, cold weather and snow, icy weather and freezing rain. And then there's Donald Trump - who sometimes causes us to question our sanity. But as seniors in the Jewish community we know who we are. We are people who are continuously learning and setting new goals for our growth.

As we examine our place in the world as Jewish senior citizens, we have cause to reflect on the areas of our life that need some active attention. "With active attention", I mean that instead of just reading the news or watching it on T.V. we determine where we can get actively involved and commit to action. We have many roles in our families such as holder of family recipes, advisor for our children and grandchildren, support system and encourager for those facing difficult tasks. This is positive action that focuses on others. We must also look to our own needs and often that means looking at how our health system is serving us.

Association Jewish Seniors commits to keeping relevant in our thinking and forward looking in our plans. Our Social Action Committee, under the chairmanship of Doreen Benou, has been responding to important issues such as affordable housing, poverty, transportation, and health care.

In order to keep up with our place in society we must be open to new learning concerning technology. The more techy we become, the more access to information will be available to us. Why not make use of the learnings that the younger generation have, to keep ourselves up to date? If we choose, we could use computers, cell phones, and tablets to access and respond to information. And believe me, there will be any number of young family members willing to teach you, as many of us have already found!

We all have much to be grateful for so I hope you are enjoying life as the daylight is brighter, warmer and longer each day.

Best wishes.



Members of the AJS Executive Board: (L to R –top row) Rozlin Laber, Sandra Genesove, Jerry Genesove, Roslyn Harris. (L to R—seated) Mary Greenberg, Layla Persaud, Doreen Benou.



On Tuesday February 28th 2017, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) held its inaugural Lobby Day at Queen's Park. More than one hundred volunteers from Ontario's Jewish community – including community leaders and representatives from an array of social service agencies – met with Premier Wynne, Opposition leader Patrick Brown, representatives of NDP leader Andrea Horwath, and more than half of the Members of Ontario's Legislative Assembly to talk about affordable housing, fighting discrimination, and enhancing community security. Members of the Association of Jewish Seniors participated in



this great opportunity to meet with members of parliament and have their voices heard.

Passover Seder Boast Over 160 Participants



(L to R) Shirley Snell, Barry Pacter and Rozlin Laber.

On Monday April 10th 2017, the Association of Jewish Seniors, in partnership with the Bernard Betel Centre, held its 46th Annual Passover Seder. Each year the AJS organizes a Seder for seniors and members of the community who otherwise would not have the opportunity to celebrate the traditions of Passover. This year, over 160 individuals were in attendance. The Seder was led by David Cohen and provided an opportunity for many to participate. The Annual Seder is a time to celebrate Passover among friends and enjoy the warm atmosphere and good food.

The Social Action Committee has been very busy writing letters to all three levels of government. We have expressed our concerns regarding the increasing cost of hydro, the highest public transportation rates in the country, the need for more affordable housing, the consistent cuts to hospital and health care services, the resistance to provide Kosher Food in Long Term Care Facilities, and the neglected response to Coroner's Inquest and Recommendations to the Casa Verde incident which took place over 10 years ago. We have also represented the Association at a number of Town Hall meetings making sure that our voice is heard.

We are concerned regarding the announcement that the North York General Hospital is shutting down its Branson Ambulatory Care Centre in 2018. These services will be transferred to the Leslie Street site. This move leaves our seniors and other community members at a disadvantage. The inconvenience and added costs are not acceptable to our area residents. The Association will be actively contacting the government to discuss this issue.

Thanking Our Sponsors



Four Elms representative, Bev Stroll, with raffle winner Frances Chapkin and AJS President, Roslyn Harris.



On February 28th 2017, Roslyn Harris, Arnold Foss, Rayna Greenspan and I attended Lobby Day at Queen's Park, organized by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA). Together with other community leaders, we met with Members of Provincial Parliament from all three major political parties to raise awareness and recommend solutions for three important issues affecting our community: combating anti-Semitism, fight poverty, and protecting individuals from genetic discrimination.

We continue to have a very exciting year and we hope that many of you will join us in our fight for Seniors issues.

We would like to thank the following Retirement homes for supporting and sponsoring our events!

- Amica at Bayview Retirement Community
- Amica at Thornhill Retirement Community
- Four Elms Retirement Residence
- Kensington Place Retirement Residence
- Thorne Mill on Steeles Retirement Community
- Viva Retirement Community

A recent membership survey conducted by our student, Amanda Rudachuk, took place in January 2017. We are pleased to share the following results with you.



100% of membership was happy with the current methods of communication.



85% of membership felt that their expectations and needs were met with the presentation topics.



82% of membership found the location of meetings to be convenient.



100% of membership was satisfied with the frequency of meetings.

Kosher Food Bank Supporting Jewish Poor

According to the 2011 National Household Survey, there are over 25,000 Jewish poor living within the Greater Toronto Area. One in six Jewish seniors live in poverty making services such as kosher food banks increasingly important in the community.

With a growing senior population in Ontario, the number of those in poverty increases simultaneously. There are many challenges that individuals living in poverty face on a daily basis, the main one being the lack of awareness of available services. The National Household Survey found that nearly half of individuals felt looked down upon or isolated in the Jewish community with the main reason being their lack of income.

Over recent months, AJS has been collecting non-perishable food items for the Pride of Israel

Synagogue Kosher Food Bank. After learning about the growing need for the Kosher Food Bank, our members generously collected food to be donated to those in need within the Jewish community.

Currently, Pride of Israel's Kosher Food Bank services approximately 180 individuals and is always grateful for the additional help the community provides. AJS is dedicated to offering its support and will continue to collect kosher food at our monthly meetings.

Those interested in learning more about Pride of Israel or donating to the food bank can contact (416) 226-0111.

