



# Annual Report



## Burquest Jewish Community

Your Jewish home in the tri-cities



# 2021/2022

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Thanks to Donors, Funders & Community Partners

# VISION



A lively & welcoming Jewish community.  
Your Jewish Home in the Tri-Cities.

# MISSION



Burquest serves all generations of the Tri-Cities Jewish community by providing space and support for education, religious practice, cultural activity, and community connections.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021/2022 was a challenging yet rewarding year for us at Burquest Jewish Community Association. As we began to re-connect in a more face-to-face fashion, Burquest was committed to expanding our programming across the diverse populations we serve.

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Burquest is a place for our Jewish community to connect and, as a Board of Directors, we felt that we created a place for the Jewish community in the Tri-Cities to connect and celebrate. Through our extensive programming and events we helped Jewish families, adults and seniors thrive and re-connect with their community in a way they were unable to since the start of the Pandemic in 2020. We look forward to the year ahead where we can provide even more programs and events to connect our community.



# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

In November 2021 the Board of Directors undertook a series of strategic planning sessions to outline the Burquest Jewish Community Association's (BJCA) future direction in line with changing demographics. We set very ambitious goals for ourselves:

1. Jewish people will feel a sense of home and community at Burquest and support the organization.
2. Jewish people will enjoy access to engaging programs that connect them to each other and their heritage.
3. The Burquest Jewish Community Centre (BJCC) will be known as a hub for the Jewish Community in the Tri-Cities and beyond.
4. Burquest will have clarity in its goals and focus on fundraising.
5. Jewish people in the Tri-Cities area will feel their interests are reflected in Burquest's decisions and programming

As I reflect back on the past 12 months, I am so proud to say that we made significant progress towards each of these goals. Burquest's programs better reflect the community and participation has skyrocketed. Burquest programs diversified to include social events in Hebrew, family gatherings, and differing ritual activities. We have established stronger ties and relationships with other Jewish institutions for collaborations. We have expanded our staffing structure, and introduced a new and more modern website.

The year 2022 proved challenging, with Covid restrictions lessening but with soaring inflation and the rising costs of everything. While I am so grateful to Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver that has increased their funding of our programs this year, we continuously struggle to make programs affordable while ensuring the financial sustainability of Burquest.

Burquest is run by a dedicated volunteer board in addition to a multitude of other volunteers that take on a myriad of activities supporting operations and programs. For most of us, time is the most precious resource we have and it is not without some level of sacrifice that we all contribute to Burquest. I am in awe of the people who contribute their passion, energy, care, and commitment to ensuring that Burquest can accomplish our vision.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021/2022

WE ARE SO PROUD OF ALL WE HAVE DONE IN OUR COMMUNITY OVER THE PAST FINANCIAL YEAR. IT HAS BEEN A YEAR OF FUN AND ENLIGHTENING PROGRAMS FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE TRI-CITIES. WE HAVE TRIED TO EXPAND OUR OFFERINGS & ARE PLEASED WITH THE SUCCESS.

01

## Well Attended Holiday Events

Burquest made a point of hosting a variety of unique and diversified events throughout the year. The most well-attended events were during Purim, Chanukah and Shavuot. All of these events had record attendance and we received positive feedback following the event.

02

## Different Hebrew Schools & Shabbat Services

This past year, Burquest offered two different Hebrew schools by adding a more secular Hebrew school. Additionally, we added different shabbat services. These different services helped to offer diverse offerings for diverse populations.

03

## Diversified Board of Directors

Burquest has a diverse Board in terms of age, skills and experience. This group of volunteer Board members helps to shape the future of Burquest in a positive way, enabling unique discussion to improve what we offer to the Jewish community.

04

## Volunteerism in the Community

Burquest is giving back to its community through providing volunteering opportunities at the Food Bank, Circle of Friends and doing snow removal. Burquest enjoys giving back and will continue to identify opportunities for our community to contribute.

# EVENTS

Burquest is so proud of the events it hosted in 2021/2022. In the midst of coming out of a global pandemic, Burquest found the means to pull together the Jewish community in a safe yet fun way. It brought the community back together after a time of physical distance. Burquest hosted over 100 events in 2021/2022, bringing together the local Jewish community. These events ranged from shabbat services, seminars to celebratory events. In addition to this, we also offered summer & spring break camps. Here's some of the top events & programs attended in 2021/2022.

01

## Community Rosh HaShana Dinner

Burquest hosted a Rosh HaShana dinner at Burquest in Coquitlam. This event was well attended, drawing over 100 people from our local community, including young families and Seniors.

02

## Shavuot at the Farm

This event was hosted at the Alpaca farm in Surrey. Families took a tour of the farm and learned about sustainability. This was followed by a dairy picnic and storytime for kids about Mitzvot.

03

## Israeli Play

A partnership with Peretz Centre. We brought in Amitai Kedar - Israeli actor and playwright with his semi-autobiographical one-man show "my mother's diaries" - an intimate look at mental illness. This was presented in Hebrew and attended by 30 people at Burquest and 50 people at Peretz Centre.





## 04

### Classical Concert

On June 17, 2022, Seniors programmer Zanna Linskaia arranged the debut concert of the Coquitlam Trio, whose members are Violinist Arnold Kobielsky, Cellist Yu Tsai and Pianist Rudy Rozanski. The program included Haydn's Gypsy Trio Sonata and Dvorak's Dumky Trio. The concert was extremely well attended and received by the audience, many of whom were Burquest members. A number of attendees expressed their appreciation for the concert at Burquest, and their hope for more classical and cultural based programming in the future.

## 05

### Shabbat in the Park

Burquest hosted a Shabbat in the Park event that was widely attended. 100 people turned up to share food, laughter and conversation. It was a beautiful event celebrating all that is Shabbat in our local community.

## 06

### Spring Break & Summer Camps

Burquest offered Jewish families in the Tri-Cities camp options for summer and spring break. These camps enable kids to come out and engage in fun activities across the community. The camp counsellors that Burquest has employed provide a range of activities for the kids who are attending. It has been a well received addition to what Burquest offers our community.





# PROGRAM REPORTS

Burquest strives to offer a range of programs for the members of its local community. We understand that we have a diverse community and have been working hard to provide a range of programs for adults, families, children and seniors.

## Ritual

The Burquest JCA provides the only regular Jewish religious services available in Burnaby and the Tri-Cities. During the 2020-2021 pandemic, we provided twice monthly Friday night online services led by Cantor Steve Levin. In 2022, we shifted to twice monthly hybrid shabbat services, which attract more persons at the BJCC than attend online.

Our High Holiday services for 5783 were led by Jewish Renewal Rabbi SaraLeya Schley, with assistance from Cantor Franni Goodman and member David Medzon. We used a High Holiday Mahzor adapted by Rabbi SaraLeya. We started with a pre-Rosh Hashana event in the park attended by several families, which included a visit by three bear cubs. In addition to a full set of services, we had tashlich and a shofar blowing at Lafarge Lake on the afternoon of the first day. We ended Yom Kippur with havdalah and a community break the fast after Yom Kippur.



## Adult Education

### *Coat of Many Colours*

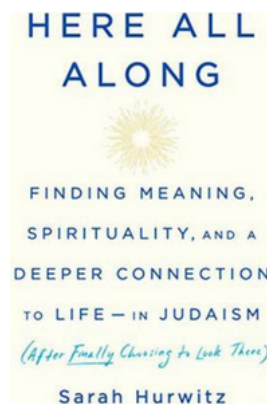
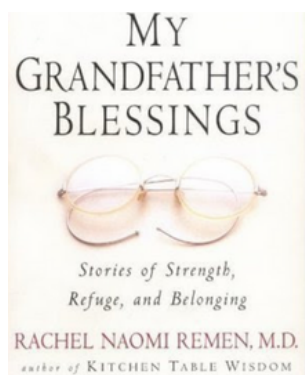
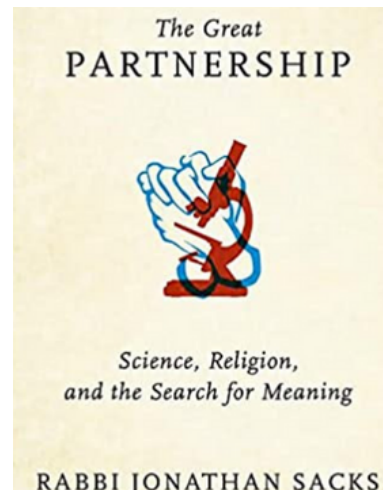
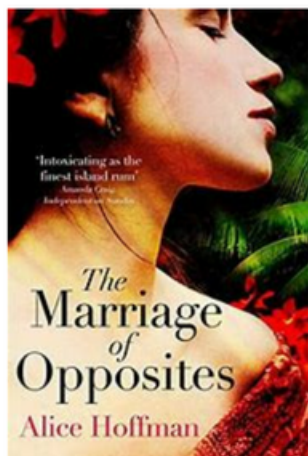
Burquest hosted a series of presentations by Rabbis representing a wide spectrum of Jewish practice and thought, a 'Coat of Many Colours.' Early on Sunday afternoons throughout the fall, in an often sunlight sanctuary, each presenter outlined and demonstrated their Jewish perspective in a circle of engaged participants. High holidays aside, the Burquest community has lacked a Rabbinic teaching presence, and this series has helped to provide participants with this experience. The series was made possible by a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver.

### *Book Club*

During Covid, we launched a Burquest Book Club, which is still going strong today! Our format has been a free zoom discussion for one hour on a Sunday afternoon, every few months. So far, we have enjoyed seven books together, both fiction and non-fiction, all of which have had Jewish themes and/or were written by Jewish authors.

We hope to continue our book club trend and are looking forward to a few live readings from local published authors and many more thought provoking readings and discussions throughout the year.

The books we have read so far include:



## Seniors Program

Throughout the course of the year, Burquest offers a range of programs for adults over 55 years of age. This programming has developed over the years and really creates a nice opportunity for this group of adults in our community. Here are the programs Burquest ran for adults over 55, led by Zanna Linskaia -

1. Singing Group with coffee treats– twice per month – learning, practicing and performing Hebrew, Yiddish, English, Russian and Ukrainian songs at seniors' lunches and seniors' facilities.

2. Hebrew-English Conversations – once per month – discussion and presentation the latest news in Israel , Canada, Ukraine and all over the world, introduction to Siddur and Jewish customs, holidays and traditions, poetry of famous Jewish poets, writers, composers and singers with followed refreshments and friendly coffee breaks.

3. Community Kitchen Club – seniors' lunch by community kitchen club once per month at Burquest and on the road with singing group and musical guests with prizes, gifts, costumes, epigrams, jokes and special themes.

4. Special events such as Chanukah celebration, "Winter ball for Golden age", "Tu b'shvat", "Cabaret style Tu bi' Av" - Jewish day of love", "Purim shpill", "National Compliment Day", "Canada Day", "Yom Ha-Atzmaut", "Musical journeys with duo and trio", etc.

5. Culinary Art class – once per month with chef Asia – original recipes, preparation, demonstration and tasting food prepared during sessions at Burquest kitchen.

6. Musical Matinees and Quiring Concert at New Year Eve by professional musicians at Evergreen theatre –every 2 -3 months. 'Orpheum theater Sundays performances"- 5 times by group of 6-10 seniors.

7. Picnics – "Shavuot", "Seniors on the beach", "Goodbye summer", "Inspirational festival of lights", "Plant your own tree" for "Tu biShvat" 2023.

8. Finalized historical project - Burquest film; preparation for presentation for our community and guests with suggested donations.



## Family Programming

Knowing that the Jewish population of the Tri-Cities has significantly increased and diversified, a key aspect of our strategic plan was increasing our program offerings to families with children under the age of 18.

This programming included -

1. Family friendly ritual offerings such as: Harry Potter Passover Seder, kid friendly shabbat picnic
2. Family friendly holiday celebrations that included age appropriate entertainment such as Purim with a puppet show and Israeli Independence Day party with Israeli themed crafts
3. Education: Hebrew school partnership with Chabad plus own program to reflect the diversity of the community
4. Social: connecting Jewish children to one another through pro d days and camps
5. Teen engagement: employing youth from the community to run activities alongside professional instructors to increase their capacity and keeping them engaged





# FINANCE UPDATE

As in previous years our financial statements have been compiled by L.Liang Inc. Chartered Accountants. We are pleased to announce that with the help of generous grants from the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, the Jewish Community Foundation and others we have been able to expand our programs and reach a much wider audience.

## Financial Statements

Burquest was able to achieve a \$22,006 surplus, down 5% from the previous year while increasing Net Assets by 4% to \$529,083. Long Term Liabilities have been reduced by 5% to \$77,523

*Gabriela Slade, Treasurer*

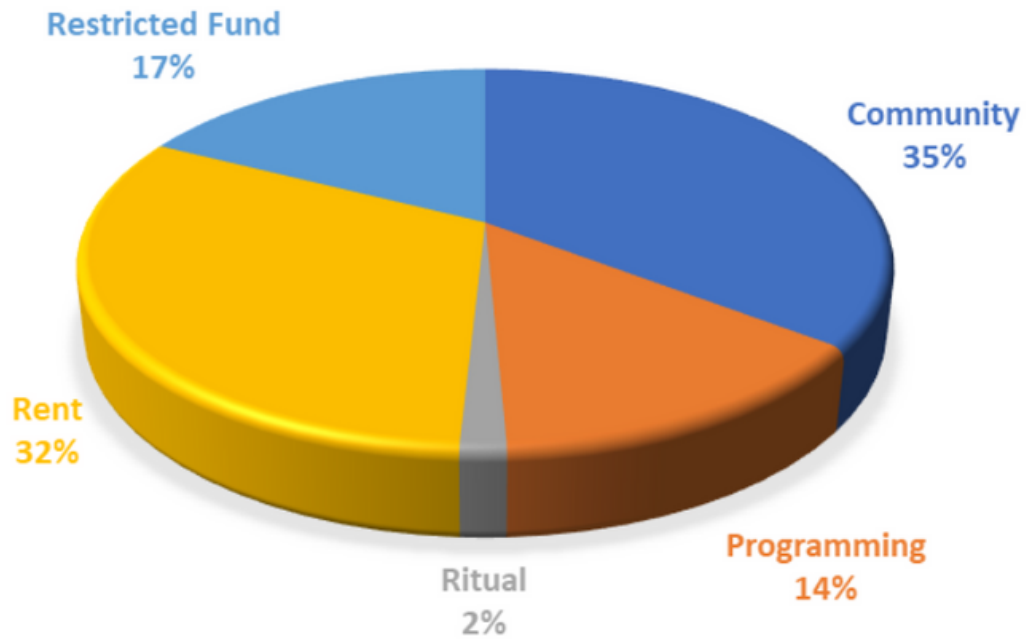
**BURQUEST JEWISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**August 31, 2022**

	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 93,415	\$ 58,802
Goods and services tax recoverable	505	451
	<u>93,920</u>	<u>59,253</u>
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 3)	424,389	440,835
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS	10,774	10,774
	<u>\$ 529,083</u>	<u>\$ 510,862</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 3,765	\$ 3,408
Scheduled payment of term debt	-	10,000
Employee deductions payable	831	141
Deferred income	4,116	4,919
	<u>8,712</u>	<u>18,468</u>
OTHER LONG TERM LIABILITY	68,811	62,840
	<u>77,523</u>	<u>81,308</u>

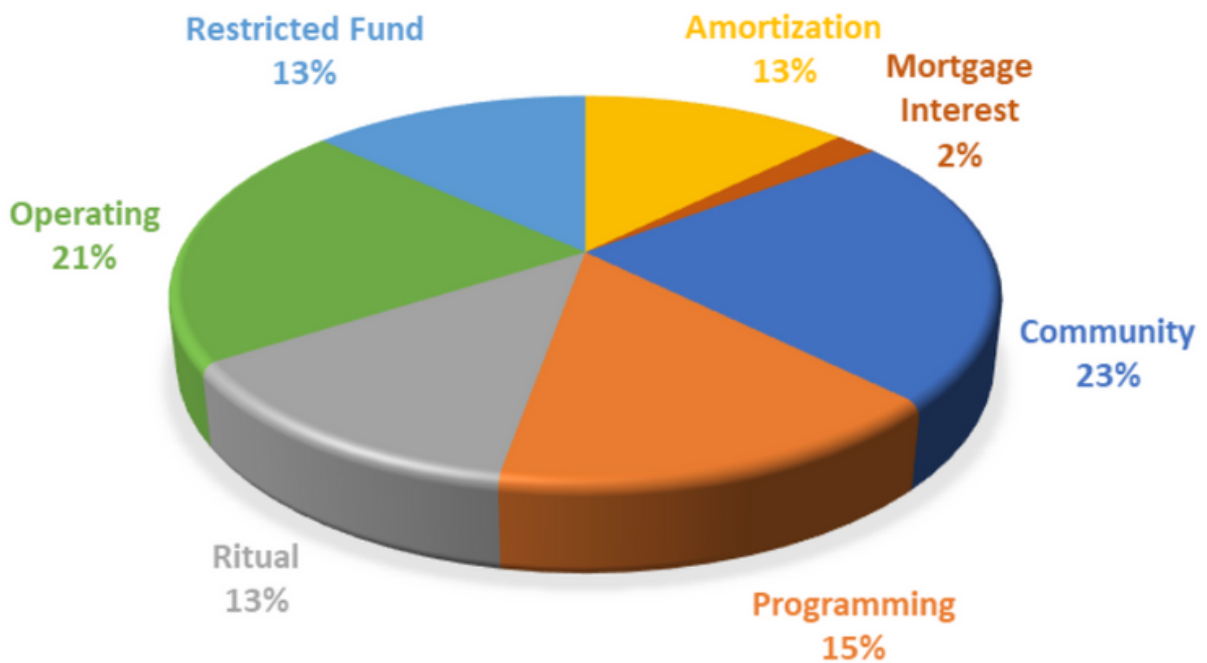
**BURQUEST JEWISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Operations and Fund Balances**  
**Year Ended August 31, 2022**

	2022	2021
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Community	\$ 54,112	\$ 44,757
Programming	21,177	6,000
Ritual	2,379	1,564
Rent	48,377	42,150
Restricted fund	26,703	22,803
	<u>152,748</u>	<u>117,274</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Amortization	16,446	23,966
Interest on long term debt	2,671	3,164
Community	29,824	19,105
Programming	20,085	4,372
Ritual	17,140	9,480
Building-operating	27,407	24,660
Restricted Fund	17,169	9,358
	<u>130,742</u>	<u>94,105</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ 22,006</u>	<u>\$ 23,169</u>

## 2021-22 REVENUE



## 2021-22 EXPENSES



# 2021/2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Maggie Karpilovski, Chair



Dov Lank, Vice Chair



Gabriela Slade, Treasurer



Sandra Hochstein, Secretary



Rudy Rozanski, Past President



Anna Litvak Joseph, Director



Grigori Khaskin, Director



Heather Liberman, Director



Inna Shlafman, Director

# 2021/2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Laura Zitron, Director



Miriam Hoolahan, Director



Noa Barak, Director

# 2021/2022 BURQUEST STAFF

Marina Karpilovski, Administrator

Yossi Degan, Family Programming

Zanna Linskaia, Seniors programming

Cantor Steve Levin



# TODAH RABAH TO DONORS, FUNDERS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



THE ISAAC & SOPHIE  
WALDMAN  
ENDOWMENT FUND



ANONYMOUS DONORS

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS & OUR COMMUNITY!



Thank you to everyone who came out to our programs, became a member or donated to help us continue the good work we are doing in the Jewish community in the Tri-Cities.

*We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to our community.*

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## CONTACT

Burquest Jewish  
Community  
Association

2860 Dewdney Trunk  
Road  
Coquitlam, BC  
V3C 2H9

[www.burquest.org](http://www.burquest.org)  
[admin@burquest.org](mailto:admin@burquest.org)  
(604) 552-7221