



# Annual Report 5783



## Burquest Jewish Community

Your Jewish home in the tri-cities



# 2022/2023

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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 is dedicated to fostering a vibrant and inclusive community hub that transcends generations within the Tri-Cities Jewish community. We are committed to providing a welcoming space and unwavering support for diverse educational pursuits, meaningful religious practices, enriching cultural activities, and fostering strong community connections. Through our dedication to inclusivity, respect, and shared values, we strive to create a nurturing environment that empowers individuals of all ages to learn, grow, and flourish together.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5783-2022/2023 was another year of bringing together our community. We started the year off continuing with our programming throughout the areas we serve. After the sad and shocking events of October 7th, 2023 our community came together to support, reflect and rally for peace.

The Burquest JCA manages the Burquest Jewish Community Centre in Coquitlam, providing a place for our diverse Jewish community to connect. The working Board of Directors plans and supports a range of activities together with staff programmers and and our administrator. Our programming and events help Jewish families, adults and seniors thrive and connect with their community. We look forward to the year ahead where we can provide even more programs and events to connect our community.



The Burquest JCA strives to provide space and services for Jews in Vancouver's eastern suburbs, primarily at the Burquest JCC. This report's time frame ends with the start of 5784 in Sept 2023. But the Hamas attack on Israel shortly thereafter, and subsequent anti-semitic statements and events, highlight the value of having a local organization and Centre where we can gather, try to console, debate, and pray for peace. As a public space for the local community, we will look outward while keeping in mind our core mission, as listed below.

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

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

Burquest made significant progress towards each of these goals. Our 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 2023 proved challenging, with Covid restrictions lessening but with soaring inflation and the rising costs of everything. We are so grateful to Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, which 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 2022/2023

Our team at Burquest came together to celebrate events in the community as well as find new opportunities to connect. As a Board, we have brainstormed new ideas to attract new membership across the Tri-Cities and continue to do so. Our aim is to support Jewish life for all the members of our community.

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

## Collaborating Across the Community

On many occasions, Burquest collaborated with other Jewish agencies across Metro Vancouver as well as the newly established Chabad in the Tri-Cities. By partnering with these organizations, we are able to increase our reach in the community and offer a wider range of events.

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 2022/2023. Burquest found the means to pull together the Jewish community in a variety of ways. Events ranged from shabbat services, seminars to celebratory events. Here's some of the top events & programs attended in 2022/2023.

01

## High Holiday Services

Burquest's High Holiday services were largely led by long-time Burquest member David Medzon, highly participatory, and emotionally satisfying for attendees. We were supported by Cantor Frani Goodman's passionate chanting during the Days of Awe. The schedule included the outdoor Tashlich service, shofar blowing and the Yizkor remembrance service on Yom Kippur. Child activities were provided on specific mornings, and the services were accessible through Zoom for remote participation.

02

## Burquest Past Present and Future: a video history

Burquest produced and made available a film documenting its founding and history. The 37 minute film includes interviews conducted in 2021 with founders and leaders of the Burquest Jewish Community between 1972 and 2021. It focuses on the community's origin in Burnaby in the early 1970s, purchase of a building in Coquitlam in 2021, through our operations at that site up to today. It includes interviews with co-founder Max Jacobson z"l and an early President Bill Gruenthal, with archival photos from the earliest events. The emphasis shifts to the process leading to the purchase of the current BJCC in Coquitlam, and includes videos from our first event at the building in May 2021. It concludes with leaders talking about program directions taken at the BJCC in the following 20 years.

We premiered the video at the BJCC in June 2023, and used the event also to honour substantial financial donors to the community via upgrades on our major donor board. The video project was led by Zanna Linskaia and Rudy Rozanski, working with producer Lior Noyman. It was scored with original music written by Rozanski and performed by a violin, cello, and piano trio including himself. The film can be viewed at:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=c80ZJJ8IFi8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c80ZJJ8IFi8), or just search for 'Burquest History Film youtube'.



03

## End-of-Life Decision Making Class

Rabbi SaraLeya Schley led a three-part class exploring how the wisdom of the Rabbis informs end-of-life decisions. The class delved into the psycho-spiritual states of illness and dying, the value of human life, and autonomy in medical decision-making, using the lens of secular legislation permitting Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID).

04

## Winter Ball Extravaganza

The Burquest Jewish Community Centre hosted the enchanting "Mood of Winter Ball," a night of sophistication and live music. The musical trio, led by Rudy Rozanski with Arnold Kobiliansky and Yu Tsai, serenaded attendees with famous classical pieces, creating an unforgettable atmosphere. The event embraced elegance with a Parade of Best Dresses, Ball Gowns, and Tuxedos, adding glamour to the celebration. Live music filled the air as attendees danced, creating cherished memories. The Winter Ball, a delightful blend of classical melodies, stylish attire, and delectable treats, exemplified the community's commitment to creating vibrant and enriching experiences for its members.

05

## Israel at 75

On April 30th, members of the community celebrated 75 years of the State of Israel with an Israeli breakfast.

Food was provided by Yossi Degen who made delicious Israeli food such as Shakshuka, salads, and hummus. There was a stall manned by Mikaela Zitron who sold some of her interesting crafts and pictures. At craft tables, children designed and decorated a Hamsa, and a Star of David. They enjoyed an exciting scavenger hunt with prizes made by Gabriela. Parents talked and ate.

It was a busy morning, filled with Israeli music, and a there was wonderful spirit of enthusiasm and joy. '

At one of the community concerts, we hung up the painting donated by the family of the late Ava Lee Millman Fisher in our lobby. The title of our painting, Shechina, means 'Divine Presence'.

06

## Wild Play for Yom Haatzmaut

In celebration of Israel's 75th anniversary, Burquest hosted a fun event at Wild Play in Maple Ridge. This event attracted over 150 people and brought together families to celebrate. Everyone had a great time spending time and enjoying all the facilities at Wild Play.







# 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

- Burquest continued its regular twice monthly and holiday service schedule, led by Cantor Steve Levin, plus highly satisfying lay-led High Holiday services described above. New for 5783: the BJCA is no longer alone in being Jewish ritual service providers in the area. Rabbi and Rebetzen Mordechai and Nechama Gurevitz established Chabad in the Tricities, in Port Coquitlam during the year. We are happy to have a resident rabbi in our area, and jointly sponsored events in the past year, including Purim celebration at the BJCC. We look forward to fruitful synergy with them going forward, while maintaining our vision of providing a diverse approach to Jewish practice for all Jews in the area.





## Book Club

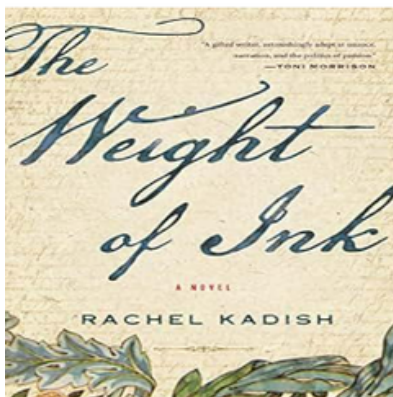
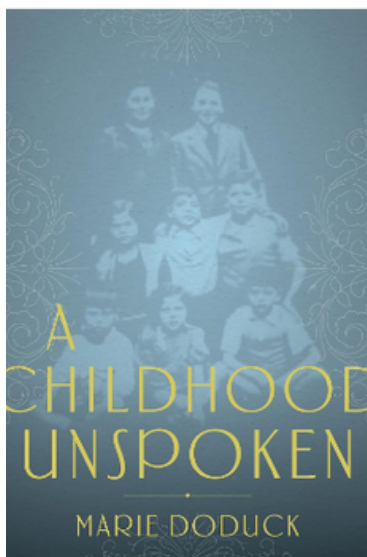
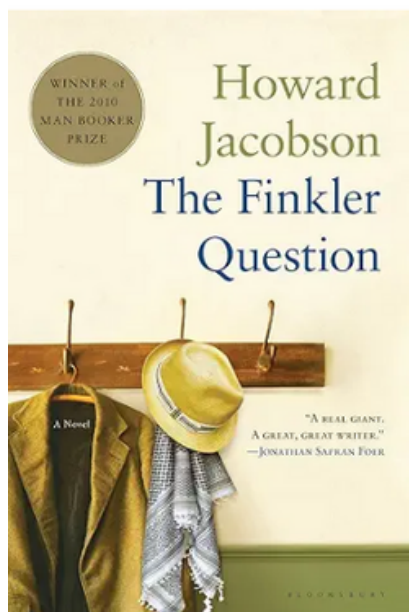
We have been fortunate to have been able to read, enjoy and chat about four books this year, namely;

- The Finkler Question by Howard Jacobson
- The Hotelkeeper's Daughter by Gloria Levi
- A Childhood Unspoken by Marie Doduck, and
- The Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish

We were also very fortunate to have had the pleasure of the two local authors, Gloria Levi and Marie Doduck, visiting Burquest, reading from their books and answering our questions.

Our group usually meets online, but we recently experimented with a hybrid model which included real coffee, real cookies and a computer screen for our zoomed-in participants.

This is a free, open-to-all group, we are able to share ideas in a relaxed, supportive yet stimulating environment. We hope you will join us in the future!



## Seniors Program

### *Community Kitchen Club*

The Burquest Community Kitchen Club, under the expert guidance of the passionate and talented Zanna Linskaya, has been a hub of culinary creativity and camaraderie. Members gathered regularly to embark on exciting culinary adventures, learning from renowned Chef Asia and engaging in a variety of events that tantalized the taste buds and celebrated diverse culinary traditions.

*Chef Asia's Cooking Classes:* One of the highlights of the Community Kitchen Club has been the exclusive cooking classes led by the acclaimed Chef Asia. Members have had the opportunity to sharpen their culinary skills and explored a myriad of cuisines under Chef Asia's expert guidance. The classes not only provided hands-on experience but also fostered a sense of community and shared love for good food.

Overall, our outreach programs for seniors for the last year have been successful. We continued our singing group twice per month and community kitchen club with the concerts by singing group and delicious luncheons by our kitchen club. Also Culinary art class with chef Asia who offered her original recipes was very popular and loved by participants.

In the frame of Hebrew-English conversations there have been introductions to Siddur, customs and traditions of Jewish holidays, last news in Israel, Canada and all over the world, presentations of literature, poetry, music, etc. by our members - Z.Linskaia, E.Rozenberg, M.Tverskoy, A.Kobiliansky and our guests with refreshments and treats.

Group of seniors - fans of classical music regularly go at musical matinees at Evergreen with reception and duo Bergmann.

Our own musical trio with violin (A.Kobiliansky), piano (R.Rozanski) and cello (Yu Tsai) became sensation for Burquest members and guests. We had a number of their concerts with masterpieces of baroque, classical and romantic music by famous composers with following receptions.

Special seniors' events such as a trip to Van Dusen garden, picnics for Shavuot, Good bye summer, Tu beShvat seder, celebration of Complimentary Day, Festival of lights, Hanukah latkes party, lunches on the road - are attended by 15 - 25 people.

We invited professional musicians for events who played Kleizmer melodies, classical music as well as popular diversity of songs with accompaniment of sax and guitar. The last Valentine's luncheon was exclusive – with guitar music, love songs, and prizes for best romantic stories and jokes about golden age.. Seniors continue to be an important part of Burquest community life.



## Programs for All Ages

### *Macken House Museum Tour*

A unique cultural event was organized with a tour to the Heritage Macken House Museum, offering participants an opportunity to explore the history and heritage of Coquitlam and its surroundings. The event included tea and treats and provided an unforgettable adventure.

### *Israeli Dance Workshops and Performances*

October featured Israeli Dance instructors Tal and Yael, aiming to spread their love of Israeli Dancing

### *Biweekly Board and Card Games*

The Burquest Jewish Community Centre invites members to engage in friendly competition and camaraderie through biweekly board and card games sessions. Games like Mahjong and Carcassonne provide opportunities for socializing, strategic thinking, and laughter. These gatherings strengthen community bonds and create a welcoming space for members of all ages.



## Programs for All Ages

### *Community Potluck Picnics*

Embracing the spirit of togetherness, the Community Potluck Picnics at Burquest bring people together over shared meals. Members contribute dishes from their diverse culinary traditions, creating a vibrant feast that reflects the richness of the community. These picnics foster a sense of unity and celebration, making every gathering a memorable occasion.

### *Russian Literature Poetry Presentations*

Dr. Nark Tverskoy, an esteemed expert in Russian Literature, graces the Burquest community with captivating poetry presentations. These sessions offer a deep dive into the world of Russian literary masterpieces, providing members with a cultural and intellectual journey through the verses of renowned poets. Dr. Tverskoy's presentations add a unique and enriching layer to the center's cultural offerings.

### *Amazing Musical Journeys*

Piano virtuoso Rudy Rozanski, accompanied by Arnold Kobiliansky on the violin, orchestrates amazing musical journeys at the Burquest Jewish Community Centre. These performances showcase masterpieces from baroque, classical, and romantic eras, featuring compositions by Schumann, Elgar, Albeniz, Kreisler, Massenet, Rachmaninov, Sibelius, Debussy, and many others. The harmonious collaboration of piano and violin creates an immersive experience, transporting the audience through the realms of classical music. The musical events curated by Rozanski and Kobiliansky not only entertain but also contribute to the cultural richness of the community. These performances offer an avenue for members to appreciate and connect with the beauty of classical music, fostering a shared appreciation for the arts within the community.







## Family Programming

### *BURQUEST KIDS*

Burquest's Kids Programs took a delightful turn with the annual "Shavuot at the Farm" celebration. This unique event offered children an exciting opportunity to connect with nature, learn about agricultural practices, and celebrate the festival of Shavuot in a memorable fashion.

The adventure began with a fascinating tour of an alpaca farm. Kids were immersed in the world of camelids as they discovered the origins of these charming animals. From understanding their unique physiology to learning about their nutritional needs, the children gained insights into the care and breeding of alpacas. The tour included engaging discussions on shearing, fleece grading, and fun facts about cria, the adorable baby alpacas.

### *Hands-On Learning*

Shavuot at the Farm wasn't just about enjoying the outdoors; it was a hands-on learning experience. Kids got a close look at the shearing process, understanding how fleece was collected and graded. The educational component aligned with the spirit of Shavuot, a festival traditionally associated with the harvest season and the giving of the Torah.

The day concluded with a celebration that combined the agricultural theme with the Shavuot festival. Children left with a deeper understanding of the connection between nature, food, and the traditions associated with Shavuot.

Camp Aviv During Spring Break: Burquest's Camp Aviv "Break for Fun" Spring Break program brought joy and excitement to children aged 6-12. The carefully crafted daily activities offered a delightful mix of recreation, learning, and camaraderie, ensuring a memorable and enjoyable spring break for every participant. Each day presented a new adventure. The program kicked off with an energetic Sports Day, followed by an Olympic Games extravaganza that transformed Camp Aviv into a mini-Olympic village. Martial Arts Mastery provided an opportunity for kids to explore discipline and fitness, while a day dedicated to Old-Fashioned Games brought back the joy of classic childhood activities. The global twist continued with a day dedicated to Games from around the world, broadening the children's horizons and fostering appreciation for diverse cultures.

The Burquest Jewish Community Centre's program offerings go beyond the routine, providing a holistic and enriching experience for its members. From friendly game nights to cultural explorations in literature and the arts, the centre cultivates an environment where community members can connect, learn, and celebrate together. These varied activities underscore the centre's dedication to offering a dynamic and inclusive space for the diverse interests and passions of its members.



## Family Programming

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# FINANCE UPDATE

## Burquest Annual Report for Fiscal Year 5783: Advancing Our Mission with Financial Transparency

In the spirit of transparency and commitment to our mission, Burquest presents the annual report for the fiscal year 5783. This report aims to provide our stakeholders, donors, and supporters with a detailed overview of our financial performance and the impact of increased revenue and expenses on our not-for-profit initiatives.

Burquest's total revenue for the fiscal year 5783 reached a noteworthy \$200,079, demonstrating a substantial increase from the \$152,748 reported in the previous year. This growth signifies the success of our efforts to secure funding and support for our mission-driven programs.

Funding for specific programs and initiatives has played a crucial role in diversifying our revenue streams and expanding our outreach.

Successful grant applications and partnerships with like-minded organizations have been instrumental in bolstering our financial resources.

Loyal donors and members continue to support and engage our community in a meaningful way.



BURQUEST JEWISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
Statement of Financial Position August 31, 2023

	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$117,451	\$93,415
Trade accounts receivable from related parties	251	505
	117,702	93,920
<b>TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	413,726	424,389
<b>LONG TERM INVESTMENTS</b>	10,774	10,774
	\$542,202	\$529,083
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,720	\$ 3,765
Employee deductions payable	763	831
Deferred income	3,313	4,116
	7,796	8,712
<b>OTHER LONG TERM LIABILITY</b>	64,626	68,811
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	72,422	77,523
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	469,780	451,560
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	\$ 542,202	\$ 529,083

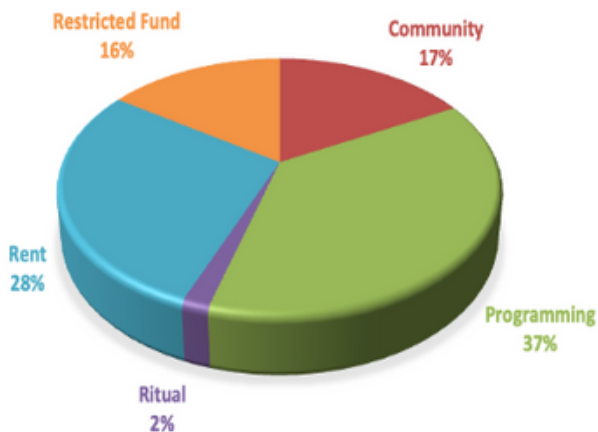
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**Gabriela Slade, Treasurer**

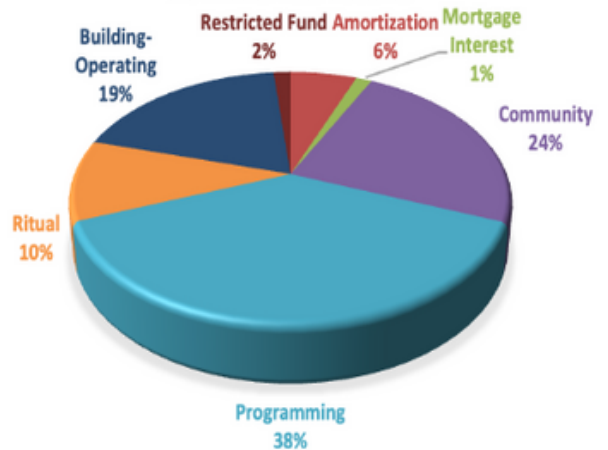
**BURQUEST JEWISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Operations and Fund Balances Year Ended August 31, 2023**

	2023	2022
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Community	\$ 34,133	\$ 54,112
Programming	74,602	21,177
Ritual	3,400	2,379
Rent	56,925	48,377
Restricted Fund	31,019	26,703
	200,079	152,748
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<u>Amortization</u>	10,663	16,446
Interest on long term debt	2,514	2,671
Community	43,331	29,824
Programming	69,082	20,085
Ritual	18,940	17,140
Building-Operating	34,601	27,407
Restricted Fund	2,728	17,169
	181,859	130,742
	18,220	22,006

**2022-23 REVENUE**



**2022-23 EXPENSES**



# 2022/2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Maggie Karpilovski, Past President



Dov Lank, Acting Chair



Gabriela Slade, Treasurer



Sandra Hochstein, Secretary



Heather Liberman, Director



Miriam Hoolahan, Director



Laura Zitron, Director

# 2022/2023 BURQUEST STAFF

Marina Karpilovski, Administrator  
Yossi Degan, Family Programming  
Zanna Linskaia, Seniors programming  
Cantor Steve Levin





TODAH RABAH  
TO DONORS,  
FUNDERS &  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS



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.

*In Memoriam: Lynn Schliffer*

*With heavy hearts, the Burquest Jewish Community Centre bids farewell to a cherished and long-standing member, Lynn Schliffer. Lynn's presence within our community has left an indelible mark, and her contributions over the years have enriched the experiences of all who had the privilege of knowing her.*

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

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## CONTACT

**Burquest Jewish  
Community  
Association**

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