



# Na'amat Canada

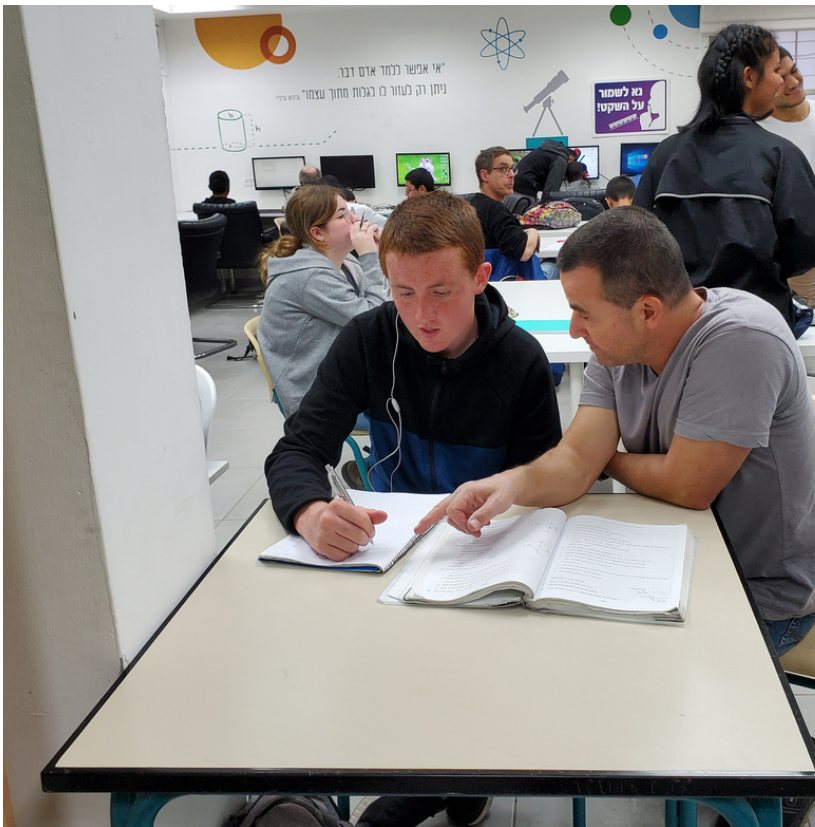
Empowering women and children in Israel and Canada since 1925

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## 2022: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Sandi Seigel

National President, Na'amat Canada



Now that we have flipped our calendars to the new year, this is a perfect time to look back at all the achievements of Na'amat. In spite of the challenges, so much has happened in the past year. Thanks to the efforts of our workers, volunteers, and supporters, Na'amat is perhaps even more vibrant now than ever before. I am extremely grateful for all of your support.

### Kanot Youth Village

➔ Permits are in place for the building of the **new wing at Kanot Youth Village** and soon as funding is in place, construction will begin. The innovative design, along with the innovative programs will surely enhance the already impressive results that we are seeing from the Kanot Youth Village. [Learn more....](#)



Two examples:

For the second year in a row, Kanot was chosen as one of the best high schools in Israel. 95% of the students are eligible for full matriculation which is commendable considering the backgrounds of most of these students.

In June, 11 students from NA'AMAT Kanot Youth Village participated in the International Entrepreneurship and Innovation Science Accelerator Competition in Rome. The competition sponsored by *Out of the Box* is in the field of Aerospace Education. The winning team of 6 students from Italy and Israel included one from Kanot. Their entry, "One Step Forward", featured astronaut boots for better stability and movement on Mars and the Moon. One group from Kanot is in the semi finals this year.



When it comes to innovation, NA'AMAT's Kanot Youth Village went the extra mile and sent **122 flower bouquets to students who excelled academically, socially, or have shown tremendous improvements**. This recognition of their efforts was well received and encouraged the students to continue on the path to success.

## Kanot Youth Village



➔ As all the world watched with horror as the war unfolded in Ukraine, our generous donors responded immediately to our **Emergency Campaign to assist Jewish Ukrainian children fleeing to Israel.**

Na'amat has taken 30 students into the Kanot boarding school (20 from Ukraine, 10 from Russia). These teenagers (ages 13-15) are in grades 7-9. The funds raised by Na'amat Canada were used to hire special tutors and counselors who speak Ukrainian and Russian to support these students.

This will enable these Jewish kids to continue their middle school education in a safe environment at a top-notch school in Israel.



➔ A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for a **new music centre at Kanot Youth Village.** The centre is named in memory of Kanot graduate Zvi Paz, who died in the Dakar submarine disaster in 1968, along with 68 other crew members. The establishment of the beautiful music centre was made possible with the help of the late Tova Pomera, Zvi's mother. The story of Tova and Zvi represents the story of Israel. Tova, a survivor of Auschwitz, came to Israel alone with her only son Zvi when her entire family perished in the Holocaust. When her son - her pride - died, she dedicated all of her days to preserving Zvi's memory by maintaining her connection with Kanot. At the ceremony, NA'AMAT president, Hagit Pe'er, read from Zvi's last letter to his mother before he left for his final voyage on the way to Israel.

## Ayanot Youth Village



➔ A new program at NA'AMAT Ayanot Youth village, a professional college, was recently established with support from Na'amat USA. Students who graduate from Ayanot can continue for two additional years and will get a **degree in practical architecture.**

These students will serve an additional year in the IDF in the field of architecture.

Many of the students come from deprived families and difficult backgrounds.

NA'AMAT is always working on developing more options for students that will give a meaningful "start-up" in their lives.



➔ Students touched the sky at our AYANOT campus! Fifteen students from NA'AMAT Ayanot Youth Village from 11th - 12th grade completed a **civilian pilot preparation class.** They took 6 sessions with a pilot instructor, during which the trainees acquired basic knowledge in aviation. This finished with the trainees going in the air in the final and exhilarating session.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

➔ Na'amat Israel continued to award scholarships to very deserving women. Eight PhD candidates in the fields of gender studies and science received scholarships. Close to two hundred scholarships were also awarded for graduate and undergraduate studies.

**To celebrate NA'AMAT's 100th anniversary, a special Centennial award was presented** to scientist and Professor Bina Kaliski, from the Department of Physics and the Center for Nanotechnology at Bar Ilan University. We were fortunate to meet Bina at our Scholarship Gala held online in March.



## EMPOWERING WOMEN

➔ Na'amat Israel continues to advocate for gender equality and improved compensation and working conditions not only for the women of Na'amat but for all of the women in Israel. NA'AMAT received the **Ministry of Social Equality 2022 award in the field of the international fight against violence against women**. The campaign video, "My Sister's Keeper", was successful in raising awareness and received 25 million views!

## DAYCARE CENTRES

➔ Despite some staffing challenges, Na'amat's daycares are still robust and offer quality programming for the children who are served there. We were recently given a list of daycares that need **playground or facility upgrades** and funds for most of these have been pledged. As well, we have had some very generous families who have donated larger gifts enabling us to complete larger renovations. We thank them for their amazing gifts.



## NA'AMAT CENTRE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

➔ In April, a festive launch of **"Meshanot", the NA'AMAT Centre for Gender Equality**, previously "Beit Hachavera" took place in Jerusalem. The centre will tell the story of the NA'AMAT movement from the time of the pioneers to the present day and will serve as a home for discourse on gender equality. Participants will experience a holistic and interactive experience that covers all major issues of gender equality and feminism.



## ABBA PROJECT

➔ **Abba – The NA'AMAT Centre for Fathers was founded in 2020 to enable men to take an active part in raising their children.** Gender equality is achieved only when men believe in it. The Abba Centre provides personal meetings, group meetings, and/or spousal meetings. One recent project was dedicated to divorced fathers in the orthodox community, giving them tools to be an active part of their children's lives. At the Abba centre, training and personal support is provided for fathers coping with parental challenges such as parenting twins or experiencing stillbirths or coping with the transition of divorce. Enrichment meetings and programs for fathers and their children help strengthen the father-child experience. These sessions have been successful and are expanding across the country.



➔ The police visited the shelter, but not for the reason that you might think. They came to interact with the children and women and to show them that **police do not have to be feared**. It turned out to be a rather festive day.

➔ Canadian visitors to the **Rhodie Blanshay Benaroch Children's Centre at the Glickman centre**, pledged a significant amount of funds to build a **musical playground** for the children to use and enjoy. The purpose of the musical garden is to develop and cultivate musical and expressive sensitivity, which promotes compassion and positive communication in daily life. Shared playing has many values - listening to others, patience and restraint, and music is known to have an overall calming and therapeutic effect on wellbeing. The musical garden will be a great place to meet, sit and enjoy music together. The garden will be designed as a welcoming, fun, creative space. Colourful, with a wide variety of different instruments where each instrument produces its own unique sound. In addition, it will include a variety of ecological seating areas. The installation of this structure will soon take place. If you know of any potential visitors who may be interested in making a large donation to any of our facilities in Israel, please let the National office know so that we can arrange a visit.



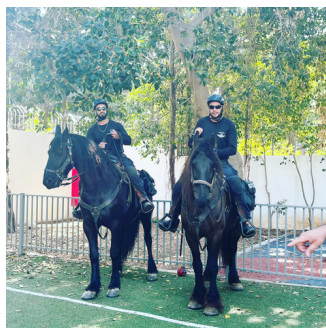
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## SPECIAL EVENTS AT GLICKMAN

➔ "Shelter in a pot" is how Ruthie Russo, a leading chef in Israel, sees her job and how she feels about cooking. For her, the pot she's cooking in and making food provide a "safe space" where she can gather her thoughts and deal with life's difficult moments. Ruthie met the women at NA'AMAT's Glickman Centre and cooked for them and with them while she got to know them and their difficulties and their desires for a safe environment for their children. At our women's shelter, we try to give women a place with a safety net; a place of empowerment, and the restoration of their self-worth so that they can return home stronger.



**We are happy to report that a welcome renovation to the kitchen at Glickman will soon be underway.**



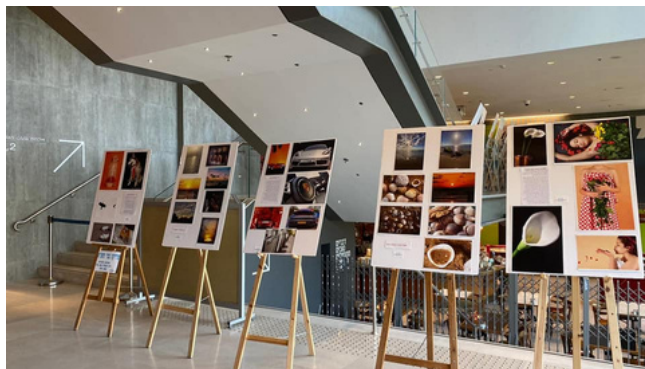


## TECHNOLOGICAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Students in our technological high schools continued to flourish. We learned about more unique initiatives at our schools and about more wonderful success stories, again in partnership with the municipalities and universities. Examples include:



➡ The Photography Department at NA'AMAT **Holon Technological High School** presented their final projects at the Holon Theater early in 2022. In addition to displaying the exceptional talent displayed by the students, the event provided an opportunity to present the program's teachers and its coordinator with an award by the Holon Municipality for their contribution to the community. Great work, everyone!



➡ The students of NA'AMAT **Rishon Lezion High School** presented 3D printed objects and advanced robotics at the city fair for robotics and engineering in October. They developed these products in the school's computer and robotics program. We are proud of the magnificent work produced by these talented students.



➡ Recently, 28 diplomas were awarded to male and female practical engineers who graduated from NA'AMAT **Rishon Lezion High School**.

One of our graduates gave an emotional speech that began with, "Only God knows how you managed to train us to be male and female engineers when everyone else had already given up on us." And after five years of massive investment by the educational team, these degrees will allow them to integrate seamlessly into the army and later into industry.

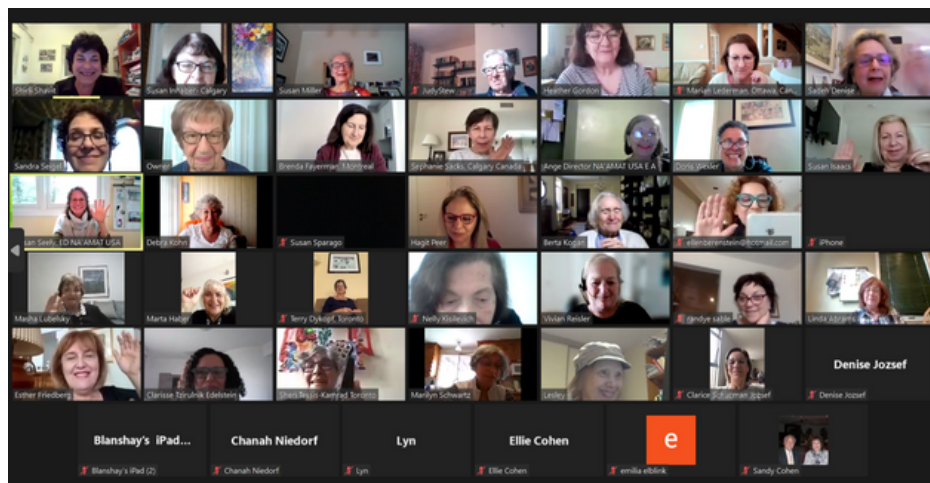


Thanks to the new reality of being online so much more frequently these days, we have made closer connections with the leadership of Na'amat in other countries around the world.

## INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS



Na'amat Israel organized **international meetings via Zoom** for Passover, Rosh Hashanah, and Chanukah, giving us a chance to meet and greet each other and learn what has been happening in each of the other countries. In addition to a holiday celebration there is an interesting speaker from Israel. All Na'amat members are invited to be at these meetings. Please plan to attend in 2023.



## 125TH WZO CONGRESS



A highlight for four of our executive members this past year was attending the **125th WZO Congress in Basel, Switzerland**, home of the first congress. Being in the same spot where Herzl declared his vision of Zionism and standing with our sisters from other Na'amat countries was really moving. Highlights of our trip were recently shared with the membership. We look forward to our solidarity meeting which is coming up in April.



Sandi had an opportunity to meet with the ladies of **Na'amat Belgium**. She was able to attend one of their meetings and was treated to their hospitality. This group meets every second week under the leadership of President Denise Sadeh.





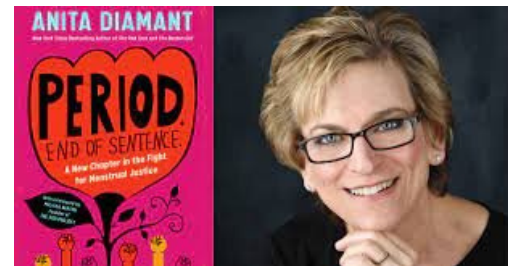


**Information sessions with Shirli** will continue this year. These sessions provide us with updates on our facilities and projects on Israel. We also get a chance to learn how the climate in government affects our work and the challenges that it sometimes presents. These opportunities allow all members to meet with Shirli and they have the effect of bringing us closer to the work that we are doing. Members are given the chance to ask questions. These sessions are very well received by those who attend. Please plan to join us in 2023.

## COLLABORATIONS



We have continued to successfully collaborate with Na'amat USA. Our relationship has been growing stronger and stronger and we are very happy with the programs that we have organized together. Our two most successful events were our **Scholarships Gala with Anita Diamant, author of "Period. End of Sentence."** and our **cooking demonstration with Shawna Goodman**. We are in the planning stages for another program which will be held in March. Stay tuned for details.



We continue to meet regularly, and we **readily share ideas and the workload** between the two countries. General programming emails flow between our two countries and members are invited to attend each other's events when possible. Not only have we begun developing friendships with our Chaverot in Na'amat USA, but by collaborating we have been able to produce fantastic results in our programming and fundraising efforts.







We are most proud of the work that we have been doing here at home. Our cities continue with programming and fundraising. Often programming can now be shared with not only Na'amat members across the country, but with our donors and others interested in our mission and the topics that we are presenting. Projects meant to benefit the community such as School Supplies for Kids, phone directories, bursaries, calendars, Hamantaschen and more have continued, as well as putting on events for the community.

## LEADERSHIP



In October, we held our **National Leadership seminar** on Zoom. A fantastic group of women attended and were immersed in the world of Na'amat Canada- past, present, and future. Sandi gave a 'brief' 101 slide presentation on everything that is happening today, and one attendee gave a super introduction to public speaking. The next stage, the Freda Sohmer Leadership Seminar in Israel, is being planned for later this year.

## CONVENTION



**Our triennial convention will be held October 13-15** and our new board will be installed at that time. The committee has been busy planning a wonderful weekend and an exciting slate of programs. Though a virtual option will be available, a subsidy is planned for those flying in. We look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible at this event. It has been a long time since we have had a chance to be together. Come and experience Calgary's famous western hospitality. Plan to spend a few extra days to visit the Rockies.



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## OUR NEW BLOG

1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY!



Do you read our blog? On this website platform, our members and guest writers talk about what matters to them that connects them to our Na'amat mission. **Topic categories are: Empowering Children, Empowering Women, Equity Diversity Inclusion, The Jewish People.** To read, visit our website and tap the Blog tab. To write, email or call our National office. Links to new blog articles are posted on Facebook. Follow us on all our social media channels for the latest Na'amat news.



## NA'AMAT CANADA CONNECTORS



**We continue to strive to engage younger members.** A group of members recently formed the Connectors Club which is an online club geared to women in their 20s to 40s across Canada.

## WILL POWER

Our resolve to do more for the women and children in Israel has made us look for ways to do things differently. This is why we have **partnered with Will Power, a national movement inspiring Canadians to think differently about charitable giving, and support the causes they care about through a gift in their Wills.**

Na'amat Canada is clearly close to your heart. But did you realize that you can make a large and lasting contribution to Na'amat Canada through a gift in your Will? Without using any of the resources you need now, or taking away from loved ones? Even 1% of your estate could result in a truly powerful gift, while still leaving 99% for family and friends.

Watch your inbox and social media for more information to come in 2023.



## NOTABLE PASSINGS IN 2022



### **Nava Arad, Na'amat Israel's President, 1977-1981.**

Her tenure was marked by the organization's push to increase women's involvement in social issues. She supported full equality between men and women and saw the paramount importance of early childhood education, as a tool to encourage women to go to work.



**Tamar Eshel, Secretary General of NA'AMAT Israel, 1974-1977.** She was an active public figure, a passionate Zionist, and an activist for women's rights. She passed away at the age of 102.

## EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION & ANTI HARASSMENT POLICIES



Our **EDI policy** is now complete. This document formalizes our organization's openness and inclusiveness while still maintaining the very core of our mission and values. We also have created an **anti-harassment policy** that governs how we conduct ourselves when dealing with each other. You may view these documents **here** or ask the National office to send them to you

## OUTREACH TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLE



We are **striving to be supportive to Indigenous People in our communities.** While we cannot provide monetary support, we can listen, learn, and perhaps donate goods that would be useful. We hosted a wonderful speaker at our last AGM who shared her powerful truth with us. Our School Supplies for Kids projects in Calgary supports some Indigenous Women's shelters.

## ETERNAL THANKS



Once again, we'd like to express our eternal thanks to **Vivian Reisler** and **Pam Segal** for all of their hard work. They are the glue that keeps the organization together. No task is too big nor too small and they are here to help each of the cities in any way that they can as well as the organization as a whole. We are so lucky to have them working for us.





