

# CLOSING

May Chazan



## Onward, with Hope

Jean was a prolific and powerful “sender,” as she liked to say. She wrote and spoke to all who could be persuaded to listen. I hope this book has offered a glimpse into Jean’s “beautiful life,” to quote Emma’s song title.

I hope that it has honoured the intangible gifts so many of us have received through the intergenerational magic of radical visiting: slow time, deep care, grief, joy, meaningful friendship, mutual learning, and true reciprocity.

I hope it has inspired knowing smiles and small surprises for those who knew and loved Jean; and has offered those who may not have crossed paths with Jean a chance to listen.

Visiting with Jean reminded me often of the importance of visiting our elders—whether our connections are through blood or through community; whether we can visit over tea or only in our imaginations. I hope you may be as inspired as I was to listen carefully with an embodied knowledge that we are here on colonized land.



Jean in her apartment during a visit with Ziysah, Peterborough, 2023.

“The only words I’ve ever really said that mattered a tinker’s damn are: We must listen to the First Peoples. They have things to tell us. And now I’m saying: We just have to simply listen to one another. Whoever they are, whoever we are.”

- Jean Koning, 2023

*from Ziysah’s audio files*

“We are beginning to discover one another— Indigenous and non-Indigenous—as human beings who share this Creation together. It’s not going to stop. It’s happening in so many ways. My story is just a little part of this transformation that is happening.”

- Jean Koning, 2023

*from Ziysah’s audio files*