



Left to right: Finding One's Voice program volunteer Anne Korman, Jewish Care volunteer program co-ordinator Sari Eisen and Mameh Loshen conversation group volunteer Anna Michowski at Jewish Care's volunteer tea, May 25, 2011.

Finding one's VOICE

Jewish Care's Elana Markowitz takes a look at the organisation's newest volunteer program.

It's Wednesday afternoon, almost winter and rain sheets down on St Kilda Road. On the first floor of The Montefiore Homes Community Residence, two people of very different generations are deep in conversation. They seem good friends.

Each Wednesday Tali Troy has been visiting resident Ruth Crane to talk about Ruth's memories as part of Jewish Care's Finding One's Voice program. "She is a very inspiring and optimistic person – and she is interested in my life too," Tali says of Ruth.

Lital Reveh, a social-work graduate of Israel's Be'er Sheva University, is the co-ordinator of Finding One's Voice. Lital has managed to get this innovative program up and running and has done so in the capacity of a volunteer. As a newcomer to Australia and the mother of a very young child, she says volunteering her professional expertise has given her the chance to meet people and get to know the community.

Volunteer participants of the program interview elders about their life stories. Documentation takes the form of a written, audio or video record. Each volunteer creates a gift of a memoir for the person they have interviewed.

Sari Eisen and Fred Schober of the volunteer-service team explain that in



Jewish Care volunteer of the year Tali Troy.

developing the volunteers' questionnaire, they consulted with Makor Library and The Jewish Holocaust Centre. They were guided by Makor Library to take an open approach and "to be curious", and by the Jewish Holocaust Centre to record wartime memories but also to focus questions on positive life experiences, happy occasions and family joys.

Jewish Care also provides a Friendly Visitor program, which involves an ongoing relationship with an elderly resident, but Finding One's Voice is a self-contained program and it provides an alternative short-term option for potential volunteers. A positive by-

product of the program is that the memories of these elders are being recorded for perpetuity. The plan is to partner with visual communication students at Jewish day schools in creating the visual and aural records.

Back at the first floor at Montefiore, Ruth Crane is telling Tali Troy of her own 23 years of working as a volunteer guide at The Jewish Holocaust Centre. "It's a very important thing to do – if I had the strength right now, I would still be volunteering," she tells Tali.

Volunteering has given her the chance to meet people and get to know the community.

It seems right that her long contribution to the community as a volunteer should now have come full circle.

The Finding One's Voice program is just one of a wide selection of volunteer opportunities available at Jewish Care and individuals chose to work across aged care, disability, youth services and other areas. Many more volunteers are needed and welcome.

Volunteer opportunities

JEWISH CARE

Jewish Care's volunteer resource program is always looking for people to support its many and varied activities. Volunteers decide how and when they give their time.

Contact Sari (03) 8517 5917, seisen@jewishcare.org.au;

EMMY MONASH AGED CARE

Emmy Monash is always seeking volunteers who can help enrich the lives of residents by reading to them, preparing cups of tea, leading a discussion group in English or Yiddish or simply spending time in their company.

Contact (03) 8508 9300

MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Magen David Adom provides emergency services throughout Israel and works with its volunteers to provide effective first-aid treatment. Volunteers spend two months gaining hands-on experience giving first-aid and emergency care, while experiencing real life in Israel.

Visit www.magendavidadom.org.au

UPJ

The UPJ would love help from volunteers in the following areas: IT development and support; communications; public relations and marketing; social action and social justice; fundraising; administration and clerical help.

Contact Ellen (03) 9533 9930

YESHIVAH

Volunteers make a valuable and essential contribution to Yeshivah Centre and the Jewish community. For information on volunteering opportunities within the Yeshivah organisation, contact the staff at their 'Yad L'Ezra – I' Volunteer program.

Contact (03) 9522 8274

THE SHITCK

The Shitck has openings for volunteers in the field of TV production, on camera, lights, sound, script and directing. Behind the scenes, they need an editor, administrator/personal assistant, PR and advertising person, and a fund raiser.

Contact henry@theshitck.info

B'NAI B'RITH

Courage to Care (a B'nai B'rith project) constantly requires exhibition guides and facilitators, helpers to pack/unpack exhibition and volunteers to invite teachers to exhibitions and other tasks.

Contact (03) 9525 8439

JAA

JAA has a range of volunteer opportunities such as mentoring newly arrived refugees or volunteering in Aboriginal communities and in remote parts of Nepal.

Contact lisa@jewishaid.org.au

KADIMAH

Kadimah is turning 100 and is planning exciting activities to mark this anniversary. It needs volunteers in many areas.

Contact (03) 9523 9817

UIA

UIA is always looking for volunteers to help with office admin, canvassing, event planning, hosting functions and more.

Contact (03) 9272 5533