

*Together, creating
a brighter tomorrow*

My Connection



2023 Annual Appeal

PLEASE DONATE

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A Message from our President & CEO



Lisa Kennett, President



Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, CEO

Welcome to the Autumn edition of *My Connection*. It seems that no sooner than we were just enjoying end of year celebrations with our clients, staff and volunteers, that now, we're well into the new year!

Following an internal review and feedback from residents and families, we recently brought our residential aged care food services in-house after many years with external food service providers. It was an exciting and much welcomed transition. In order to provide the best possible service, we have now appointed Catering Managers at each of our residential aged care homes and within our newly created menus, we have included suggestions and recipes from residents too. The transition was successfully completed in November 2022 and whilst we had some early challenges, feedback has been generally most positive and we remain focused on ensuring that we offer nutritious kosher meals to be enjoyed by our residents, whilst providing an inviting and engaging dining experience.

The year has got off to a flying start and whilst the availability of a skilled workforce is the global 'number one' challenge right now, it's doubly so in an environment where we are also growing our services to meet community demand. However, most pleasingly, we're experiencing high levels of interest from people who want to work with us at Jewish Care. Responding to the changing needs of prospective employees in a highly competitive market, we are now actively using social media platforms and offering a much speedier recruitment and selection process, than we did previously. We are supporting this with a streamlined onboarding and orientation approach. The results speak for themselves and since September 2022, we have recruited more than 200 new staff across all our services to join our team at Jewish Care. Pleasingly, we have also reduced our use of external agency staff in residential aged care by more than 40% in the past three months alone. This is welcome news for our residents and their families, who now receive improved continuity of care.

Our Disability Services program was successfully reviewed in September 2022 and we have since been advised that we will remain accredited through to our next assessment in early 2024. This is a great outcome of which we are most proud and we welcome these independent assessments of our services. Improvement never stops at Jewish Care and through our Office for Organisation Improvement established in early 2022, we are always focused on doing better. Amidst a myriad of improvement projects underway, we have set a foundation stone to underpin all planned improvements in 2023 – an **Exemplary Customer Experience, Everywhere, Every time**. We are challenging staff at all levels to ensure that every interaction is a positive one. Of course, this is an ongoing challenge but one which we embrace and we cannot shy away from, in order to achieve our aspiration of **Enriching Lives**.

In this edition, you will read about our 2023 Annual Appeal. We could not continue our work without the wonderful support of our community and we hope that you will give generously to enable us to do more and serve the most vulnerable within our community. This year, we are aiming to raise \$4 million and we look forward to meeting with many of you during the coming months and taking the opportunity to engage with you and share more about the vital work we do.

Later this year, we will reach a very special milestone for Jewish Care – 175 years of caring for our community. We acknowledge those who have gone before us to make Jewish Care what it is today, all built on the work which started at the Rainbow Tavern in 1848 with the Melbourne Jewish Philanthropic Society.

We'd like to conclude with a big thank you to all those who support us, in so many ways. We could not do what we do without you. Thank you!

In the meantime, as Pesach approaches, we wish you a safe and happy kosher Passover with your family and friends.

Chag Pesach Sameach



Cover

Jewish Care's 2023 Annual Appeal artwork.



**2023 Annual Appeal
PLEASE DONATE**

Inbox

David Tarshis has been a wonderful case manager who has shown great care in trying to deliver all of our needs, often going beyond the call of duty.

We appreciate his timely communication and genuine interest in finding solutions to our needs when they come up as well as following up with any suppliers of goods and services.

- B & T Stark, Active Living Services clients

A big thank you to Lynette Maguire. She operates with such kindness, gentleness and care and we thank her for all her help which means a lot to me and my daughter and we are truly grateful.

- RR, Social Services client



**Share your
feedback about our
services by emailing
yoursay@jewishcare.org.au**

2023 Annual Appeal

Together, creating a brighter tomorrow



Jewish Care is privileged to be serving our community as we have done for the past 175 years. We are committed to continuing to provide vital services to the most vulnerable and marginalised in the community who may be:

- experiencing mental health issues
- impacted by family violence
- struggling to put food on their table
- facing housing insecurity
- seeking a job or
- needing financial aid.

Jewish Care can only respond to these calls with your help.

Help for those in our community like Daniel and his mother Jen who were experiencing complex interrelated issues, including mental health and financial difficulties.

Unfortunately, their story is all too common. With your support, we can help those in our community like Daniel and Jen.

Thankfully with our breadth of services, Jewish Care is perfectly positioned to provide a holistic response to those in our community in serious need.

Your donation will have a significant impact and will enable us to provide a range of services including:

- social work support for those experiencing mental health issues
- safe, affordable and secure housing for those in our community who are at risk of homelessness
- job seeking support for the unemployed
- financial aid for those who are facing financial hardship and
- empowering those with a disability to make their own choices and assisting them to follow their ambitions.

Thank you for working with us – together, we are creating a brighter tomorrow for our community.

To make a donation, scan the QR code, visit jewishcare.org.au/2023appeal, call 1800 539 474 or complete the coupon on the back page.



Leaving a gift in your Will has the power to change lives

Leaving a gift in your Will can help build a better tomorrow for our community.

Jewish Care has a proud 175-year history of supporting families and individuals in our community and is committed to continuing to support those in need.

As our visionary founders intended, the priority at Jewish Care is to support the most vulnerable members of our Jewish community. By leaving a gift in your Will to Jewish Care, you will embody the same visionary commitment as our founders.

No other Jewish organisation in Australia offers such diverse services to meet our community's care and support needs.

The thoughtfulness and foresight of our treasured bequestors continues to provide significant funds to support our vital services. These gifts are making a lasting impact on the lives of those in our community and will continue to do so for future generations.

When you make the generous decision to include Jewish Care in your Will, you will be welcomed into our Circle of Care.

"You will receive invitations to our Circle of Care events, where you can meet like-minded people and have the opportunity to develop rewarding and lasting relationships," says Vanessa Cohen, Director: Donor and Community Relations.



Where Care lives on

A gift in your Will can build a better tomorrow for our Jewish community



To receive our Gifts in Wills information pack, please call Elaine Levine on 03 8517 5437 or email donations@jewishcare.org.au Visit jewishcare.org.au/gifts-in-wills to find out more.



MEET OUR DONORS

Marcia Pinski has been a donor for many years.

Tell us briefly about your life (background and current status)

My parents emigrated from Europe after the Holocaust and I was born and raised in Melbourne. I am married with three adult children and am a teaching associate at Monash University.

I have volunteered with not-for-profit organisations and held Board positions at Jewish Care Victoria and the Jewish Museum of Australia. I am currently undertaking a Doctorate, researching Australian Jewish Leadership and Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.

Where do your philanthropic values and beliefs come from?

My Jewish upbringing instilled the importance of philanthropic values and beliefs.

Is it important to you that your children be community-minded and philanthropic?

It is important that my children have a deep sense of philanthropy; that it be heartfelt and part of their values and that they recognise the level of their own luck in life and can impact those who are less fortunate.

Why do you support Jewish Care?

Jewish Care was the first organisation my husband and I supported and our commitment continues. Many within the Melbourne Jewish community are unaware of the degree of poverty, deprivation and need among our own. Jewish Care has grown into an evidence-based organisation with caring leaders prepared to engage with our community. I consider it to be the one organisation that our community could not do without.

What message would you like to pass on to future generations about giving to our community?

Giving back is an opportunity to provide dignity, care, self-esteem and respect to those in need, fostering independence and self-sufficiency. Giving to our community embodies the importance of values, charity, compassion and enhancing our own growth. When we 'give back', we enrich not just the future of others, but our own future as both individuals and a community.

Celebrating 175 years of supporting our community

This year, Jewish Care will celebrate its 175th Anniversary. As part of this milestone anniversary, we will be holding a community event where everyone can participate in the celebrations.

Mark Sunday 19 November in your diaries and more information will follow soon.

Naming Rights

Naming Rights are available in specific areas within:

- Hannah & Daryl Cohen Building Residential Home in Windsor
- Smorgon Family Building Residential Home in Carnegie
- Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre in Caulfield
- Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre

If interested, please call **Orlee** on **8517 5647** to find out more.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Interest Free Loans Available



- Business Loan?
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- Home Reno?
- Appliances?
- White Goods?
- Education Extras?
- Need a New Car?
- Jewish Life Event?
- Home Buyer?

We are here to help!

 **JewishCare**
Enriching Lives

Contact us on (03) 8517-5999 or email: info@jewishcare.org.au to find out more

Empower
Jewish Care Interest Free Loans



Our community unites against family violence

Jewish Care was proud to lead a record 15 communal organisations at the annual *Walk Against Family Violence*. Held each year in November, the walk marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

More than 80 representatives and community members came together at Caulfield Park to send a clear message that we stand united against family violence in all its forms.

The walk attracted plenty of attention from passers-by who stopped to ask questions, share their support and give thanks. The event also included a poignant reflection ceremony in remembrance of those who had lost their lives to violence.

Each year the walk brings together a diverse range of organisations in what is truly a community-led, grassroots initiative.

Our sincere thanks to walk partners – Australian Jewish News; Australian Zionist Youth Council; Australasian Union of Jewish Students; Chevra Hatzolah; Impact; Jewish Community Council of Victoria; Maccabi Victoria; Maoz; National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Victoria); Pathways Melbourne; Progressive Judaism Victoria; Rabbinical Council of Victoria; Unchain My Heart and WIZO Victoria – as well as our friends at C Care for their support.

It was incredibly heartening to see our community come together for this important event – though we look forward to the day when we no longer need to walk.



Everyone has the right to feel safe at home. If you or someone you know is in need of support, please contact Jewish Care's Front Door on 8517 5999 or call 1800 RESPECT on 1800 737 732.

Supporting youth mental health

“Everyone should do this course – it was engaging, impactful, and such an important conversation. This will be helpful not only in terms of the young people I support, but my friends and loved ones too.”

Our Healthy Communities team was delighted to once again run Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for a group of Australian Zionist Youth Council madrichim/ot in the lead up to their summer camps. It was incredibly heartening to see young leaders in our community taking the time to complete this important program.

“As always, I was blown away by the participants’ empathy, knowledge and compassion,” said Cassie Barrett, our MHFA trainer and Manager of Community Education and Participation. “Talking with these young leaders truly gives me hope that the stigma and culture around mental health in our community is changing for the better.”

Did you know that adolescence is the peak onset period for mental health issues? In any given year, one in four young people will experience a diagnosable mental illness and it’s vital that we – as parents, teachers, coaches and community members – can recognise and respond to the signs.



(L-R) Leaders from Hashy, Hineni, Bnei Akiva and Cassie Barrett, Manager – Community Education and Participation



You can learn this and more in the accredited Youth Mental Health First Aid course. To enquire about training for your group or organisation, contact the Healthy Communities team at cbarrett@jewishcare.org.au

Recognising excellence and dedication

The 2022 Jewish Care Staff and Volunteer Service & Excellence Awards were held at Leonda by the Yarra – a wonderful celebration of our dedicated staff and volunteers, who are exemplars of excellence.

The awards recognise the amazing contributions, achievements and dedication made by our staff and volunteers.

“Along with Board President Lisa Kennett, I had the pleasure of attending and participating in my first awards night at Jewish Care. We all enjoyed celebrating our wonderful staff and volunteers together in person. Awards are much more fun when we can congratulate each other in person,” said Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, Chief Executive.

Service milestones were celebrated from five years to 45 years. Volunteers Deanna Levin and Rosalie Silverstein OAM, together with staff member Valda Schnibbe were awarded 45-year service awards – an amazing achievement and commitment.

“Thank you to all our staff and volunteers with long and distinguished service to Jewish Care,” said Alan Lilly.

Congratulations to all excellence award winners:

Maxxia Endeavour Scholarship – Daphne Giotas-Kronk (Head of Development and Engagement, People & Development)

Volunteer of the Year Award – Zeta Bierenkrant (Child Psychologist, Social Services)

Ethos Award – Andrew Williams (Housing Manager, Social Services)

CEO’s Customer Service Award – Manjit Singh (Direct Care Worker, BlueStar)

President’s Award for Excellence – Marina Sokolova (Direct Care Worker, BlueStar)

Sameul H. Harris Award for Excellence – Jarod Rhine-Davis (Employment Centre, Social Services)

HESTA Team of the Year Award – Residential Home Carnegie (Residential Aged Care)

Meet our incredible 45-year service award recipients:

Deanna Levin

Deanna remains a passionate volunteer and was an exemplary office bearer in Jewish Care’s predecessor organisations.

Since 1983, Deanna has been actively involved in the Friends of Montefiore Committee and has been a Life Governor of Jewish Care since 2006.

Deanna was a Board Member of the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society from 1986-1988, the Jewish Welfare Society from 1988-1990 and patron of the Phantom Tea from 2002-2014. Deanna was also Vice-President in 1988 and then President in 1999-2001 of Parents and Friends of Glen Eira House.

This quote from Deanna sums up her passion and commitment: *“My message to our youth and future community leaders is to be thoughtful, loving, caring and giving of yourself. When your focus is on the well-being of others, only good things can happen.”*



Rosalie Silverstein OAM

A life-long journey of volunteering began at the age of 11, when Rosalie accompanied her mother, Adele Southwick OAM and her sister, Delysia Pahoff OAM on visits to Montefiore Homes.

Since joining Jewish Care as a volunteer in 1977, Rosalie has worked tirelessly in various roles including providing companionship and conversation; indulging residents with manicures and hairdressing; arranging lavish lunches for residents in the homes of supporters; accompanying residents on outings and organising wonderful Sunday concerts.

Rosalie’s extensive volunteering has greatly enhanced the overall well-being of our residents.

Rosalie’s commitment to Jewish Care has been recognised with the bestowing of a Life Governorship in 2005 and the Leo & Mina Fink Community Services Award in 2012.

In her own words, *“The most important thing about volunteering is that it makes others smile and that’s my biggest inspiration.”*



Valda Schnibbe

Valda is dedicated, caring, compassionate and works tirelessly in our Disability Services team. She is the longest-serving employee at Jewish Care, which is an amazing achievement.

One of her clients, said *“I’ve known Val for nearly 30 years and I have some great memories with her. Val has been really supportive, she’s helped me learn to do things in different ways and opened my eyes to explore new hobbies. Val has taught me how to sew, do my budget and look after my bills. Val is like family to me, she’s been a great companion and helped me around the house. If ever I’m in a pickle she sort of calms me down.”*

In her own words *“When we listen, we help the other person express what they are feeling. We can heal through listening, not offering advice, but by listening and letting the story of life be heard.”*



Generations of Women *Light up the room*

Over 270 women of all ages attended the first in-person Generations of Women event since 2019. Held in November, Generations of Women celebrated the milestone 25th annual brunch in style with fantastic company and great food.

Guest speaker, Camilla Freeman-Topper, Creative Director at CAMILLA & MARC captivated the audience and shared her professional and personal journey, her love of family and the Jewish community. She spoke about her commitment to raise awareness and funds for ovarian cancer research following the loss of her mother at a young age. Her story was moving and inspiring.

Jewish Care's Disability and Social Services Director, Marilyn Kraner spoke about the housing crisis within our community and how philanthropic support is vital to enable Jewish Care to provide safe and affordable housing to those in serious need.

Thank you to the *Generations of Women* organising committee (Melissa Davis – Co-Chair, Miriam Farkas – Co-Chair, Hilary Cohen, Rachel Arber, Keren Zelwer and Lauren Hunter) who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the success of this exciting event. The committee secured many fabulous raffle prizes which were donated by generous supporters.

Generations of Women was kindly supported by the Spotlight Foundation, Gandel Foundation (Gold partners) and Chemist Warehouse (Silver partner). We thank our partners for their ongoing support to ensure the continuation of this wonderful community event.

Proceeds from the *Generations of Women* event were donated to Jewish Care's Housing Services, which support individuals and families at risk of homelessness.



(L-R) Miriam Farkas Co-Chair, Hilary Cohen, Melissa Davis Co-Chair, Rachel Arber, Keren Zelwer and Lauren Hunter

GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNER



Midsumma Pride

On Sunday 5 February a proud Jewish Care team celebrated diversity and inclusion in the 27th Midsumma Pride March.

Jewish Care partnered with other Jewish organisations in support of the LGBTQIA+ community, being one of the largest groups to walk together.

"As a proud Rainbow Tick accredited organisation, Jewish Care Victoria takes great pride in supporting the LGBTQIA+ community and we're committed to creating an inclusive and diverse community," says Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, Chief Executive.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS



Volunteer, Debbie Max

Why did you decide to become a volunteer at Jewish Care?

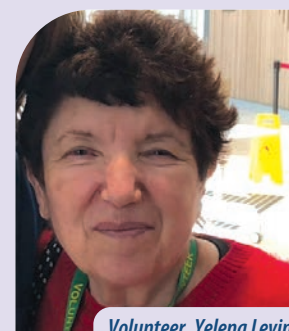
"Volunteering provides me with the opportunity to give back to the community. I have a long history of family connection to Jewish Care. When I was a teenager, our home was a short-term emergency respite for young girls who needed a safe haven. My late mother, Inge Sommer OBM, was involved in Jewish Care for decades."

– Debbie, concierge

What do you enjoy most about being a volunteer at Jewish Care?

"I enjoy how music impacts people of all ages. Sometimes I see how my tunes bring back memories and the faces of the elderly rejoice and light up. It's a healing experience for them and for me – a win-win."

– Yelena, music sessions



Volunteer, Yelena Levin

MEET OUR RESIDENTS

Genia Chrakowski

A Woman of Style



Genia Chrakowski, Residential Home Windsor resident

As part of a new series – ‘We’re not old, we’re interesting’, we will profile residents from across our three residential homes. Every resident has a unique story to tell and it is important to share their fascinating lives with our My Connection readers so their contribution to the fabric of the Jewish community is not forgotten.

Genia is a resident at Residential Home Windsor and she has lived at Jewish Care for over two years.

Genia was born in Warsaw, a much-loved only child. At the beginning of World War 2 after the Soviet invasion, the family was forcibly transported into Russian territory. One day, whilst picking mushrooms with her parents, a chance encounter with a Red Army soldier on horseback led her to study medicine – which she did for two and a half years, but this ended abruptly when she was asked to spy for Russia.

“Yes, but I will need a week to prepare,” responded Genia, horrified at being asked to spy on her colleagues.

Her parents recognised the danger they were in, so without even packing suitcases, her father negotiated passage on an icebreaker and they started a long journey that eventually led to Moscow. Life was tough during the war, but they survived, somehow. Genia was fortunate in securing a much-envied government job in the food rationing process.

After the war, Genia and her family moved to Vienna, where she worked in a laboratory until she met her husband, whom she married in 1955. He owned a fur business which was perfect for Genia as she had always been interested in fashion, make-up, dressing up and looking beautiful.

Genia, her husband and her parents emigrated to Melbourne in the 1960s. Her father started a fashion business in the rag trade area on Flinders Lane where Genia and her husband worked. With Genia’s beautiful looks it made perfect sense that she became the house model, fulfilling her dream of working in the fashion industry.

Genia enjoyed modelling and featured in print and magazine advertisements during the 1960s and 1970s. An advertisement for Raymond Castle shoes was featured in *Vogue* magazine and the photo sits proudly in Genia’s room as a reminder of her once glamorous lifestyle.

Genia takes great pride in her appearance and never goes out without make-up, she also looks forward to going to the hairdresser on a regular basis.

“I love putting on my make-up every day and my favourite lipstick colour is red. It gives me great satisfaction and I feel ready to start the day,” said Genia.

When her father’s fashion business closed after his passing, Genia became a businesswoman and ran businesses with her husband including commercial properties.

Genia loves living in our Windsor home and has made lovely new friends. She particularly enjoys celebrating Jewish festivals and attends as many events and activities as possible.

Rabbi Ralph's Pesach message – *A Window of Light*

I was leading a discussion with a management group from the National Art Gallery and was startled by the first question: "Why are all Jews such good storytellers?"

After agreeing, I reflected that storytelling was central to Jewish consciousness. Our history begins with a story; our tradition is based on the greatest and best-selling story of all time – the Bible; our God loves a good story; our culture is based on the transmission of a story.

It is a story that shapes and gives form to the most critical event of Jewish history; the Exodus. The act of storytelling occupies a central place in the Exodus festival, the Seder; "Vehigadeta Levincha" teach your children, is the mitzvah or commandment par excellence of the night.

The Jewish story is one of the oldest and we tell it to our very youngest. The Haggadah, our text for the night begins and ends with children. From *Mah Nishtana*, the four questions asked by the youngest child to the *Chad Gad Yah* song, the narrative is constantly aware of children sitting around the Seder table. We tell them a story of suffering and of hope, compassion and passion.

It has been suggested that the Jewish story is different from a fairy tale and distinct from a Greek myth or tragedy. A fairy tale always ends on a happy note, a Greek tragedy always ends with death and suffering brought on by an indifferent fate. The Jewish story seeks not to deny but to defy suffering; it challenges an impersonal universe to recognise the personal hand of God. It may end with hope but is tempered by realism.

In an age when the slavery of women and children is still rampant, when freedom is still out of reach for so many (think China and Myanmar) when racial, cultural and gender inequality is still widespread (and Australia is not devoid of this), the message of Pesach is as urgent and compelling as today's news. As the Torah reminds us on so many occasions Passover is a paradigm for freedom and that a civil society cares for its migrants, vulnerable and weak members.

A slave loses the capacity to tell a story, becomes muted and caught up in the restricting confines. Slaves are prisoners of the *metzarim* (narrow spaces) of their *Mitzrayim* (Egypt). A free person revels in their ability to roam not only the physical and geographical but beyond conventional and restricted thought boundaries. The free individual has the capacity to create and invent their own story. A free Jew will inevitably draw strength and creativity from the liberation story of their people. A slave lives without hope, a free person lives with hope and dreams in their heart. A slave worries about the next piece of *lechem* (bread) and a free person carries a slice of *chalom* (dream) with them. In Hebrew the word *chalom* and *lechem* have the same letters. The story we tell at Passover time is about vision and resilience, finding courage even in the darkness.

On the last days of Pesach, we reflect on the crossing of the Red Sea. It's one of the great stories of the Torah because it's about fear and bravery, faith and despair. It's about crossing into the unknown and travelling on a path few would dare to tread. In Robert Frost's timeless words – it's about embarking on the road less travelled. Frost's poem ends with the evocative phrase: "I took the one [path] less travelled by and that has made all the difference."

At Passover time, we reflect on and tell a story about the formation of our Jewish identity, the freedom and responsibility that came with it, the birth of hope and the courage of true compassion. A story with global resonance since it speaks to all of humanity in

an age of deep conflict and abiding anxiety about maintaining a belief in the future. At Pesach, the Jews started on a journey few had ever travelled – and that has made all the difference to who we all are today and what we can become tomorrow.

Chag Sameach – a happy and fulfilling Pesach to you and your family.



Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM



Pesach Events

Pesach will be celebrated at all our residential homes and facilities with Synagogue services and Sedarim.

Friendship Luncheons

We are thrilled that the very popular Jewish Care Friendship Luncheons have returned for 2023 after a long hiatus.

Residents from Residential Home Windsor and Residential Home Carnegie were guests of Leanne and Dani Peer for an afternoon of friendship and fun.

A delicious lunch, along with singing, dancing and a 90th birthday celebration were enjoyed by all.

A heartfelt thank you to volunteers, Rochelle Mendel and Tania Smorgon for organising these wonderful luncheons and to the many hostesses and drivers who volunteer their time and effort to ensure such enjoyable and successful Friendship Luncheons.

Residential Home Carnegie resident Henry Wald said, "Thanks to the volunteers who drove the residents to and from the luncheon as well as serving us lunch and to Joe – the pianist who entertained us all afternoon."

The luncheon was a great success and more Friendship Luncheons are planned throughout 2023.



Introducing the new *Carnegie Jewish Life leaders*

Welcome to our new Jewish Life leaders at Residential Home Carnegie: Rabbi Refoel and Miriam Wainstein.

The Wainstein's run Shabbat and festival services, supervise the kashrut of the kitchen, organise shiurim and festival events and provide one-on-one pastoral care to Residential Home Carnegie residents.

Rabbi Wainstein was born in Johannesburg and emigrated together with his family to Sydney when he was 10 years old. Rabbi Wainstein & Rebbetzin Miriam married in 2007 and have two children Dina Shoshana & Nechama Mushka.

Rabbi Wainstein is still involved in his role as an IT Manager for a National Transport Company and works with Jewish Care in the evenings and on the weekends.

Rebbetzin Miriam is a qualified personal trainer and loves strength training and training other women in this area. She is competing in a national powerlifting competition in April.

Refoel and Miriam are enthusiastic about creating an ongoing cultural and religious experience for all residents. They also hope to facilitate a hub for local Jewish residents. Director: Jewish Life,

Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM, has warmly welcomed the Wainstein's as "a couple who embody what we do best at Jewish Care – engaging our senior residents in a meaningful, thoughtful compassionate and enriching Jewish life."



(L-R) Rebbetzin Miriam Wainstein and Rabbi Refoel Wainstein

Introducing our new catering team

A review of our catering service was conducted last year, including feedback from multiple stakeholders. The review focused on optimising positive dining experiences for residents by enhancing food and dining preferences.

Following the review, a decision was made to bring the catering service 'in-house'. Catering Managers were appointed at each residential home to oversee all aspects of meal production and meal service delivery. Jewish Care's Catering Managers are qualified chefs and lead a team of other qualified chefs to produce nutritious, flavourful and appetising meals.

Food is central to how we live and enjoy our lives. Our talented team of chefs has created new seasonal menus for our residents in a 'home-like' dining environment.

Our catering team is educated about kosher requirements and the kitchens are supervised by our dedicated rabbis, ensuring Kosher standards continue.

Meet Jewish Care's Catering Managers:



Dickson Yong
Catering Manager
– Residential Home Windsor

What brought you to aged care & Jewish Care specifically?

I had been working in a corporate environment and wanted to do something different where I could give back to society. Jewish Care's vision and values align with what I would like to achieve in my career.

Did you choose your career or did it choose you?

I wanted a career in hospitality as the industry is fast-paced, provides opportunities to meet people and taste lots of good food.

What is your favourite dish to cook?

It depends on my mood and the weather. On a cold winter night, I love to cook a hearty stew (beef cholent is my new-found favourite, but with bone marrow of course!). In summer, I'm into low and slow American style BBQ.

What are your hobbies/passions?

My passions are finding out and understanding how things work – especially trying and modifying recipes. I am very self-driven and always have the passion to start something and finish it.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Sounds fattening, but I love to eat and will always endeavour to try out new cuisines from around the world.



Debra Adams
Catering Manager
– Gary Smorgon House

What brought you to aged care & Jewish Care specifically?

I came to aged care through my late parents. I felt I could help improve and change people's perception of aged care food. Jewish Care approached me and I knew I could make a difference.

Did you choose your career or did it choose you?

Coming from a traditional Jewish upbringing, I always had a deep love of cooking. My mum and dad encouraged me to follow my dreams and do an apprenticeship in cooking.

What is your favourite dish to cook?

I love cooking traditional Jewish food that everyone from my great-grandmother, grandmother and mother passed down to me.

What are your hobbies/passions?

Cooking is my hobby. I love cooking for my husband, gorgeous two boys and their partners. Nothing brings me more happiness than cooking for my whole family which includes four sisters.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I love shopping. Anyone who knows me, knows that I love a good shopping day!



Berney Ranasinghe
Catering Manager
– Residential Home Carnegie

What brought you to aged care & Jewish Care specifically?

I find great pleasure in caring for vulnerable residents. The work at Jewish Care is very fulfilling and something I take great pride in.

Did you choose your career or did it choose you?

I've always had a great passion for cooking and creating and following that passion in my career is a choice I'm very proud of.

What is your favourite dish to cook?

My favourite dish to cook is lasagne as that was the first dish I served to a customer after becoming a qualified chef.

What are your hobbies/passions?

I love cooking. My other passion is music. I love to sing and play the bass guitar, primarily to Sinhala music.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I like to watch movies and play music. I also love to eat from restaurants and try food that other people have prepared.



School holiday fun

When school holidays come around, parents are often at a loose end as to how to entertain their children.

Brother and sister, Theo and Sophie Greene recently participated in our children's group program and visited the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI). They explored the exciting sensory, imaginative and interactive nature of the venue. Afterwards, lunch was organised at the playground in Birrarung Marr, a short walk from ACMI.

The children's group program allows children to be active, social and engaged in fun outings and activities, returning to their parents after a full day program, happy and well-rested.

All participants like Theo and Sophie are accompanied by experienced disability support workers who facilitate activities and take children to exciting locations in the community such as Arthur's Seat, Bounce and Imaginaria.

Amanda Filleul (Practice Leader), Watiri Boylen and Kenneth Mwiliza (Support Workers) joined Jarvis Colegrave (participant) and the other children.



(L-R) Amanda Filleul, Disability Practice Leader and Sophie Greene



(L-R) Watiri Boylen, Disability Support Worker and Theo Greene



Contact us on 03 8532 9801 or email drcrespitebookings@jewishcare.org.au to find out more about the disability services children's group program.

Yesod 2023 Board Foundation Program Launch

Jewish Care's 2023 Yesod Board Foundation Program was launched at the Hannah and Daryl Cohen Family Building in the Holckner Family Senior Living & Community Precinct. The highly sought-after program provides formal education, mentoring and first-hand exposure to the professional duties and responsibilities of a for-purpose, non-executive director.

Now in its seventh year, the program has produced over 70 future-focused young leaders. The 2023 program cohort includes Caroline Tait, Danielle Jones-Resnik, Gal Spira, Gilad Katz, Ilit Golshevsky, Jonathan Posniak, Leon Szewicz, Miri Eckstein, Nicole Small, Rachel Bloom and Rachi Averbukh.

"The 10-month intensive program immerses participants in best practice principles of governance exemplified at Jewish Care and prepares them to embrace new community opportunities and connect with diverse leaders," said Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, Chief Executive.

President, Lisa Kennett and Chief Executive, Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly welcomed the

2023 cohort before they had the opportunity to officially meet their respective mentors from the Jewish Care Board.

Later, executive coach and leadership team facilitator, Ron Steiner addressed the group of aspiring leaders, imparting his words of wisdom gained from over 40 years of experience with leaders.

The program is proudly sponsored by the Szalmuk Singer family, Shelly Kline and Adam Joel.



2023 Yesod Board Foundation Program participants and mentors

Share your *Simcha*



Amelie Kohn



Foxy Upton



(L-R) Matthew Danos and Georgia Geminder

We are extremely grateful to the following supporters for requesting donations to Jewish Care in lieu of gifts to mark their special occasions:

Bat Mitzvah
Amelie Kohn
Foxy Upton

80th Birthday
Lester Cohen
Michael Jotkowitz

60th Birthday
Steven Rubenstein

Wedding
Georgia Geminder and
Matthew Danos



To share your simcha, please contact our Community Team on 8517 5963 or Ishostak@jewishcare.org.au

Next Gen cocktail party

A Next Gen cocktail party was held on a balmy late summer evening at Jewish Care's Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building in the Holckner Family Senior Living & Community Precinct in Windsor.

Guests heard from speaker Sarah Grynberg, host of "A Life of Greatness" podcast. Sarah talked about what it means to live a life of greatness and explored how this involves being part of a community and giving back through volunteering and donating.

Cassie Barrett, Manager of Community Education and Participation spoke about the vital social services provided by Jewish Care to the community. Guests were particularly interested to learn about the impact of Jewish Care's services including supporting the homeless and those facing mental health issues.

After some drinks and delicious food, guests toured the state-of-the-art building.



Guest speaker, Sarah Grynberg



Cocktail party guests touring Residential Home Windsor



(L-R) Jackie Bursztyn, Romy Bursztyn and Ellie Smorgon



PHOTO Gallery

Chanukah Celebrations

Like us on Facebook to see more photos of events and activities around Jewish Care – [facebook.com/jewishcarevictoria](https://www.facebook.com/jewishcarevictoria)



Circle of Care Event



Generations of Women Event



Staff and Volunteer Awards



5 Minutes with David Slade



David is a registered pharmacist and the proprietor of a large network of pharmacies across Australia, focused on the provision of hospital pharmacy services.

David's experience in healthcare is extensive and includes the provision of medical management services and supply to the aged care sector.

How did you first get involved in Jewish Care?

I first became formally involved as a member of the Finance & Audit Subcommittee in 2020. However, my connection dates back many years when my father, Graham Slade AM was President of Montefiore Homes and my two late grandmothers were residents of Gary Smorgon House.

What is most rewarding about being part of Jewish Care?

For me, it's knowing and seeing the impact of our decisions on the care and support being provided to those in need and those who we love dearly in our community.

As a Board member, what are your immediate goals for Jewish Care?

The main goal is to ensure we are doing all we can to provide the

best care and support to people in our community. I hope to bring my commercial knowledge and service delivery experience in healthcare to Jewish Care.

What are you most passionate about?

I am passionate about looking after our community, our parents, grandparents and all those people in need.

What is your favourite Jewish festival?

Pesach is my favourite Jewish festival; precious time to spend with family at the Seder, to reflect on our history as Jewish people and look forward to a vibrant future as a Jewish community in Melbourne.

How do you spend your free time?

Free time is spent with family - reading, reflecting and exercising.

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Please direct any feedback regarding *My Connection* to marketing@jewishcare.org.au



Yes, I would like to give a gift today that will help someone need in our community



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I am considering leaving a gift to Jewish Care in my Will.

I have included a gift to Jewish Care in my Will.



Donate by: www.jewishcare.org.au/2023appeal

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