

MY CONNECTION

Please
donate to our
**Annual
Appeal**



Charlie and Helen together with
their father Mr Abram Goldberg
OAM, Holocaust survivor
and resident at Jewish Care
Residential Home Carnegie.
In frame, Abram with his late wife Cesia.

A message from our President & CEO



Lisa Kennett OAM
Co-President



Adam Joel
Co-President



Gayle Smith
Chief Executive

Welcome to the Winter edition of *My Connection*

We begin by acknowledging the ongoing war in Israel. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the hostages, their families, the IDF, and all those so sadly affected. While our hearts stand firmly with Israel, we are also acutely aware of the challenges facing our community here at home, including the alarming rise in antisemitism and mounting cost-of-living pressures.

At Jewish Care, we respond promptly and firmly to all acts of antisemitism. In the wake of the events of October 7, we remain deeply committed to supporting individuals and families whose lives have been affected; providing essential emotional, financial, and practical assistance to help them navigate each day. Through this ongoing support, we are fostering a future grounded in resilience, unity, and strength.

Now in our 177th year, Jewish Care remains steadfast in our purpose: to stand with our community through life's most difficult moments, offering care grounded in dignity, compassion, and Jewish values. We are proud to deliver culturally sensitive, personalised services that meet the evolving needs of our community.

This year, we warmly welcomed Adam Joel as Co-President, serving alongside Lisa Kennett OAM. Adam brings passion, energy, and a strong next-gen mindset that is already helping to shape the future of Jewish Care. His commitment to fostering unity and collaboration with other community organisations is strengthening our collective impact and helping build a more connected, inclusive, and resilient Jewish community for generations to come.

Across every area of our work, mental health, youth services, aged care, disability, housing, employment, financial support, and more – demand continues to grow. In response, we are expanding and adapting our services to empower individuals and families to live with independence, security, and connection.

Our uniquely Jewish offering remains central to everything we do, from in-home aged care and social support groups to our three residential aged care homes and vibrant Jewish Life programming. Respite care continues to be a vital service, with 223 admissions this year providing critical relief for carers and loved ones.

With 310 new staff members joining our team and staff turnover at record lows, we continue to deliver excellence in care and support across aged care, disability, and social services.

To our community of generous supporters, thank you. Your partnership is the driving force behind all we do. With just weeks remaining in our Annual Appeal, we invite you to dig a little deeper and stand with us in strengthening our community – now and into the future.

Wishing you and your families a joyful and meaningful Shavuot.

Chag Shavuot Sameach,

From the Board and team at Jewish Care Victoria

Rabbi Nerenberg's Shavuot message

The power of three



Rabbi Nerenberg

There is a famous Talmudic statement regarding the connections between the Jewish Nation, the giving of the Torah, and the holiday of Shavuot: "A Torah of three (Five Books of Moses, Prophets, and Scriptures), was given to a nation of three (Kohanim, Levites, and Israelites), through a man who is third (Moses was the third child of Amram and Yocheved), on the third day (the third day of 'Boundaries') of the third month (the month of Sivan)."

Clearly the number three is significant. How so, and why especially during the holiday of Shavuot?

The number 'one' is important. It reflects uniqueness, individuality, and unity. Nevertheless, because there is only one, there is no novelty to this unity. There is no room for another voice, opinion, or point of view. It's either my way or the highway. No debate, discussion, or argument.

The number 'two' reflects a different view; a view which may differ or oppose yours and may bring about division. Our sages explain that G-d regretted His creation on the second day, for by separating the upper waters from the lower waters, He brought about division between two entities that were previously one.

This is where the number 'three' comes in and brings peace. Every morning, we read the following statement of Rabbi Yishmael: "If there are two passages that contradict one another, we wait until a third passage comes to reconcile them." This is the power of three. It mediates between the opposing sides and brings about reconciliation, compromise, and unity. The fact that the number three is heavily featured in connection with the holiday of Shavuot is not coincidental. It had to be featured for the giving of the Torah to occur. The Jewish people had left Egypt seven weeks earlier and were divided and broken; physically, emotionally, and spiritually. They needed seven weeks to recoup, heal, and become

whole again. Despite their diversity and differences of opinion, they came together as one to receive the Torah.

When I think of Jewish Care, another number three comes to mind: Our staff, volunteers, and donors. We might look different, come from many countries of origin, speak different languages, have different interests in food and dress, and come from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, but we all have one important goal in common: We all strive together to build and support a healthy, resilient, and inclusive Jewish community. We aim to deliver excellent care and support, underpinned by Jewish values for the community we serve. We attempt to enrich lives. This is our vision, purpose, and focus. This is what gets us out of bed in the morning.

So as we celebrate Shavuot this year, let us ask ourselves, "What can I do to help people feel whole and unified?" "And how can I foster harmony in my community and bring people together?"





Year 12 Yeshiva boys celebrating Purim

A Purim Mitzvah

Jewish Care wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to a wonderful group of Year 12 students who generously chose to support our work as part of their Purim celebrations.

With great initiative and a strong sense of community spirit, these young men took it upon themselves to plan, organise and run a community barbecue to raise funds for Jewish Care's vital Social Services programs. Their dedication, teamwork and energy helped make Purim enjoyable and a meaningful success, raising an incredible \$557 to assist those in need.

Their efforts are a beautiful expression of *Matanot L'Evyonim*, the Purim tradition of giving gifts to people experiencing hardship. This mitzvah lies at the heart of the holiday and ensures that everyone, regardless of circumstance, can share in the joy and celebration of Purim.

Moments like these remind us that the values of compassion, leadership and *tzedakah* are alive and well in the next generation.

We are so proud of these young menschen, the future of our community is indeed in capable hands.

Building strong foundations

Jewish Care is proud to be partnering with Year 10-12 students from Beth Rivkah Ladies College as part of an exciting new initiative focused on financial literacy and wellbeing.

The *Financial Foundations* series, delivered to 35 engaged students over three sessions, explored essential life skills including values-based spending, discipline and delayed gratification, distinguishing needs from wants, building an emergency fund, and the importance of giving through *tzedakah*.

Far from dry or technical, the sessions resonated strongly with participants. "I thought a session on finance would be boring, but it was so relatable!" shared one student. Another added, "Amazing, I learnt so much ... very motivated to get started."

Pictured with the group below is program facilitator Chaya Barber, a qualified financial planner and experienced educator, who recently joined Jewish Care's Social Services team as Manager of Financial Wellbeing. Her practical and values-driven approach has already made a lasting impact.

The Financial Wellbeing program aims to strengthen financial literacy and empowerment across all age groups in the Jewish community and it's never too early or too late to begin.

If your school or organisation is interested in hosting a Financial Foundations series, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact Chaya Barber for more information:
cbarber@jewishcare.org.au



Celebrating our young achievers: A night of hope, song and unity

In December, the Young Achievers Program (YAP) celebrated its end-of-year dinner with a special night filled with hope, song and unity. Now in its 24th year, the program assists year 10-12 students in developing new skills and deepening their ties to the Jewish community, with 29 mentees graduating in 2024.

Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM's message followed an Acknowledgement of Country, and the newly appointed CEO Gayle Smith commended participants for their resilience and determination.

'It fills me with hope and joy to see the people who represent the future – of our community, our organisation, and indeed, our world,' said Gayle.

The gathering featured uplifting musical performances from the mentees and inspiring words from young people and mentors alike.

'I've met so many people with inspirational insights at a time when I needed the community more than ever. YAP has emphasised the strength and power of our Jewish heritage,' said mentee Kara Freitag.

'These workshops and gatherings are more than lessons. They are moments that have shaped my values and given me community role models, reminding me of the impact we can all have on each other,' echoed Rockford Levine.

Program founder and major donor Philip Brass AO shared his own journey of mentoring, before presenting participants with their scholarships. Congratulations to Rockford Levine and Ariella Schafner who were awarded the Bettie Kornhauser scholarship, endowed by the Kornhauser family in memory of their late mother.

Thanks to our volunteer mentors and program donors, without whom the Young Achievers Program wouldn't be possible – and kol hakavod to our mentees, performers and speakers, and our MCs, Natalie and Evie.

We encourage those looking to make a positive impact on young lives to consider mentoring. Reach out to youthmentoring@jewishcare.org.au for more details.



Members of the 2024 YAP cohort

Changes to aged care costs: What you need to know



Michael Horin

Significant changes to aged care fees will take effect on July 1, 2025. If you or a loved one is considering aged care, it's crucial to understand how these updates may impact costs.

Jewish Care hosted an information session at RHW led by Michael Horin from Clarity Aged Care Advisors. Here's a summary: fees are set to increase, particularly for those who have the means to pay more. However, planning can help you avoid unexpected expenses.

What does aged care cost?

Aged care costs are split into two main parts:

- 1. Accommodation costs** – This covers your room and can be paid as a Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RAD) or through daily payments with interest.
- 2. Ongoing fees** – These cover day-to-day care and additional services:
 - Daily care fee (\$63.57 per day) – Covers basic care needs.
 - Extra services fee (Up to \$120 per day) – Optional extras like premium meals and Wi-Fi.
 - Daily accommodation payment (DAP) – Interest on unpaid RAD.
 - Means-tested fee (Up to \$422 per day) – Government-tested fee based on income and assets.

What's changing on July 1, 2025?

The government is increasing fees and removing some cost caps to keep aged care facilities running. Key changes include:

- New RAD retention fee – Facilities can keep 2% per year from your RAD for up to 5 years (up to 10% total).
- Higher means-tested fee cap – The lifetime cap is rising from \$82k to \$130k (no annual cap).
- New hotelling supplement – An extra \$12.55 daily for hospitality services.
- DAP interest rates are rising. Adjusted twice a year based on inflation.

How will this affect you?

- 50% of residents will pay more.
- 100% of self-funded retirees will contribute more.
- 75% of part-pensioners will see increased costs.
- 30% of full pensioners will experience fee hikes.
- Low-means residents won't be affected.

Example: What this means in dollars

Let's say you enter care with a \$950,000 RAD. Here's what could change:

- 2% RAD retention = \$19,000 per year (up to \$95,000 over five years).
- Higher means-tested fee = \$10,000 - \$20,000 extra per year.
- New hotelling supplement = \$4,500 per year.
- Total extra costs = \$30,000 - \$50,000 per year.

What can you do?

- Act before July 1, 2025 – If you enter care before the changes, you keep the current rules.
- Get financial advice – Understanding your options can save you thousands in fees.
- Play ahead – Consider whether paying a full RAD upfront or a mix of RAD/DAP is best for you.

Jewish Care is here to support you through these transitions. For guidance on aged care planning and fees, please get in touch with our Admission team Simone Illarietti on 0455 303 783 or Binta Ben Patel on 0474 132 145.

For further information on our three residential homes, please call Simone on (03) 8517 5504 or visit www.jewishcare.org.au

A life of purpose: Abe Goldberg OAM's legacy of survival, strength and service

He's lived through history's darkest chapters and turned survival into a lifelong mission of light. As Abe Goldberg OAM approaches his 101st birthday, his voice remains one of the loudest in the fight against antisemitism, and his life a shining example of resilience, love and community.

Now a cherished resident at our Residential Home Carnegie, Abram affectionately known as Abe, continues to inspire all who meet him. Before his recent move, Abe was a recipient of a Jewish Care Home Care Package, supported for eight years by a devoted care worker. His beloved wife of 74 years, Cesia, had been a resident at Gary Smorgon House for over five years before sadly passing in March. Even while living apart, Abe and Cesia remained deeply connected, speaking daily and treasuring regular visits until her final days.

A survivor. A storyteller. A symbol of strength. Abe's life is one of extraordinary resilience. Born in Lodz, Poland, he was just 15 when World War II broke out. In 1944, after months in hiding, he and his mother were taken to Auschwitz. Abe survived the camps, and after the war, met Cesia in Belgium. The two married and migrated to Australia in 1951 with nothing but determination and a dream for a better life.

They built that life, brick by brick, eventually opening Goldy's Coffee Lounge and Restaurant on Little Collins Street, where traditional Jewish food brought comfort to customers from all walks of life.

Abe's deep commitment to Holocaust education stems from a promise he made to his mother when he was

only 16 – that he would survive and tell the world what happened. That promise has guided his life. A founding member of the Melbourne Holocaust Museum, Abe continues to serve on its Board and speak to students, leaders and community members.

He and Cesia raised two children, Charlie and Helen, and Abe continues to be an immensely proud grandparent. Helen, a former principal of Sholem Aleichem College, continues their legacy of Jewish education.

Fiercely independent, Abe takes pride in his health, noting he hadn't spent a night in hospital in over 100 years. With support from Jewish Care, he remains connected, active and passionate about sharing his story and fulfilling his mother's wish to inspire a better, more compassionate world.



Abe and Cesia with their beautiful family

To learn more about:

Jewish Care's Home Care Packages, please contact Ethal Pablo on (03) 8517 5446

Jewish Care's Residential Homes, please contact Binta Ben Patel 0474 132 145

Or for any other enquiries, please contact our Front Door team (03) 8517 5777



Opening doors: A success story in inclusive employment

Every cup of coffee served at FRESS Café contains a special ingredient: inclusivity. Thanks to his collaboration with Jewish Care's Navigator Program, Ronny – the South Caulfield business owner – has created the perfect recipe for a positive experience all round.

The Navigator Program is a free service that bridges the gap between employers, Disability Employment Service providers, NDIS participants, and our Employment Centre. After expressing his interest in hiring an individual with a disability, Jewish Care's Navigator team connected Ronny with an eager candidate from the community who'd been seeking work for quite some time.

Unlike the DES providers Ronny had previously worked with, the Navigator team gained a deep understanding of his needs and business before tailoring advice

to fit. With practical support and education around accommodations, they streamlined the process (and the paperwork) from start to finish.

Ronny is thrilled with his new employee Elle, who joined FRESS in early 2025. Her zest and dedication shines through her work – and the six-month wage subsidy has been a delightful bonus too. Under Ronny's

new management, FRESS continues to be a space where everyone in our community feels warmly welcomed and Elle is a valued member of the team.

Ronny is proud to lead the way in inclusive workplace practices and Elle has a rewarding role that matches her abilities and needs. It's an encouraging

example of what we can achieve when we come together in community partnerships, and the benefits of opening our doors to a wider talent pool.

'Inclusive hiring isn't just about giving someone a chance; it's about discovering untapped potential and building a stronger community together.'

– Ronny, FRESS Café owner

Ready to expand your talent pool and discover new opportunities for your business?

For more information about the Navigator Program, contact our Project Manager on **0416 167 123** or visit **www.jewishcare.org.au/navigator**

Meet Chaya Barber: Championing Financial Wellbeing at Jewish Care

The Social Services team recently welcomed Chaya Barber as the new Manager of Financial Capability and Wellbeing.

Tell us a little about your background.

I started my career as a teacher, which, unexpectedly, gave me a solid foundation for teaching financial literacy. With a long-standing interest in finance, I became a qualified financial planner and later transitioned into the corporate world. I also had my own business, providing cashflow coaching and financial literacy sessions to the community.

What brought you to Jewish Care?

I was drawn to this role because it brings together my love of teaching and finance. I'm passionate about supporting people in the Jewish community, especially during challenging times. Many people who once felt financially secure now face difficulty, and I want to help change the conversation around money.

What inspired you to focus on financial wellbeing?

My family's experience of going from "riches to rags" made me realise how quickly financial security can disappear due to illness and job loss. I want to empower people to make informed choices and navigate financial challenges with confidence.

Are there particular groups you are passionate about supporting?

For couples, financial difficulties can strain relationships, but with planning and teamwork, many issues are preventable. I also want to help women become more involved in their finances – too many end up vulnerable due to a lack of financial knowledge. Lastly, so many young people ask me, "Why didn't I learn this in school?" I want to ensure they're prepared for real-world financial responsibilities.



What excites you about Jewish Care's financial capability program?

The potential is limitless! Life's ups and downs happen to all of us and this program ensures people have the support they need – whether it's Financial Counselling, Empower Loans, or Financial Literacy Education.

What is your most important piece of financial advice?

"Act your wage!" This quote captures what our grandparents taught us – to live within your means. I believe the goal of financial stability is to be able to give generously. Whether that's sharing a few dollars with someone in need, supporting a charity you care about, helping your children get ahead, endowing a scholarship for the future – financial stability enables us to live the enduring Jewish value of **tzedakah**.

Meet Rachel – Social Services client



Rachel and her family

My name is Rachel, I’m a Jewish Studies teacher at The King David School and most importantly I am a warrior. I have a husband, Emile, and 2 young children. Yet every warrior needs an army rallying behind them, and that is Jewish Care!

I wish to take you back to October 2023, just a couple of weeks after the events of October 7th, when we as a community were already shattered and in disbelief. I received the confronting news that shook my whole world – I had stage 3 breast cancer.

Within a week of my diagnosis I went for multiple scans, met with my Oncologist and then my Breast Surgeon who explained my 12-month treatment plan. This plan consisted of 16 rounds of Chemotherapy, surgery, radiotherapy, and lastly 17 rounds of immunotherapy. Everything was a blur but I’ll never forget the breast surgeon saying just before we stood to leave, **‘Rachel, this is the time to rely on family, friends or anyone in the community – now’s the time to ask for any assistance to get you through this’.**

Faced with uncertainty and fear of the challenging road ahead, Emile and I had no choice but to face it together as a family with our young children. The effects of my treatment were immediate, and our daily routines were drastically upturned. I had to cut my teaching workload in half, felt the financial difficulty of medical bills and

weekly groceries and found it impossible to keep up with the endless household errands. During this difficult time, the immense support from my family, ‘cheer squad’ of girlfriends, workplace became a pillar of strength, helping us navigate the overwhelming challenges. Emile and I did what we could to remain optimistic, resilient and hopeful, especially for our children’s sake, yet we felt the struggles and pressures mounting.

Six months into my treatment plan, I met another young mum who was going through a similar health hardship. She asked me, “Have you reached out to Jewish Care?” So, the next day I did and Wow!

What a blessing that was! At a time when I was at my lowest point, unable to think clearly, I met my compassionate and dedicated case worker who truly understood my family and my own needs. **It was as though my case worker took hold of my hand and reassured me that everything would be ok as she began coordinating and accessing all the different services Jewish Care could provide as well as dealing with mountain-load of government paperwork.** Some of the services included: financial assistance towards health and wellness services for my family and I, domestic assistance for cleaning and gardening, food relief, and supermarket vouchers to assist with grocery expenses.

We’re forever grateful for Jewish Care’s assistance in helping us get back on our feet and the oxygen we needed to resume our everyday lives. This is why I’m speaking up tonight. To anyone in our community facing challenges, especially those caught completely off guard like I was, I wholeheartedly encourage you to reach out to Jewish Care and discover how their support can play a pivotal role in recovery and rebuilding.

Jewish Care really is the heartbeat of our community.

We send Rachel our warmest wishes for the future, may it be filled with only good health and happiness together with her beautiful family.

The heart of our COMMUNITY

Annual Appeal 2025

If not now, when? Please support Jewish Care’s 2025 Annual Appeal

For more than 177 years, Jewish Care has been a pillar of strength for our community – walking alongside those facing life’s most difficult moments. Today, as the needs grow, so does the urgency of our response.

Since October 7, 2023, antisemitism has surged to levels not seen since 1930s Germany. Our community’s sense of safety and belonging has been deeply shaken, with profound mental health impacts leaving many feeling anxious, isolated, and vulnerable.

Even before this, 17% of Jewish families in Victoria were living below the poverty line. Rising global tensions and the cost-of-living crisis have only intensified the pressure. Every day, more individuals and families are turning to Jewish Care in crisis.

This year’s Annual Appeal will help fund vital, life-changing services across our community, including mental health support, employment services, emergency relief, disability support and aged care. These needs are no longer exceptional – they have become the new normal.

The need has never been greater.

We are receiving more urgent calls than ever before:

- Families on the brink of homelessness
- Parents desperate for respite while caring for children with disabilities
- Individuals unable to access medical care or put food on the table
- People losing jobs or facing exclusion due to antisemitism

- Community members in mental health crisis, reaching out for professional help
- We must be there for them. But we cannot do it alone. As institutions turn their backs on us, we must turn toward each other.
- Jewish Care is often the first call for help – and with your support, we can ensure it is never the last.

Donate today.

Your generosity transforms lives and protects our future.

Together, let’s uplift, strengthen and care for our community.

Donate now: www.jewishcare.org.au/page/get-involved/annual-appeal-2025

4 easy ways to donate

Complete the enclosed coupon and return in the reply paid envelope

CALL 1800 539 474

Scan the QR code



DIRECT DEPOSIT
BSB: 013-423 A/C: 836 062 666
A/C Name: Jewish Care (Vic) Inc

When Community calls, we answer together!

Jewish Care's 2025 Annual Appeal launched with passion, purpose and powerful community spirit. Aptly themed 'The Heart of Our Community', this year's campaign stirred hearts and minds through a series of moving events that brought together hundreds of supporters united in their commitment to uplift, strengthen and care for our community with dignity and compassion.

The campaign began with an intimate cocktail gathering hosted by long-time supporter Rosie Lew. 80 guests were deeply moved by Rosie's personal reflections and the confronting challenges facing our community – the rise in antisemitism, financial distress and social isolation.

The energy and emotion carried through the Annual Appeal Gala Dinner, attended by over 300 guests. It was a night that went far beyond fundraising – it was a call to action. A powerful video shared the voices and stories of Jewish Care clients, reminding us that this work isn't about handouts, it's about offering a hand up. It's about restoring dignity, rebuilding lives, and reigniting hope.

One of the most unforgettable moments of the evening came when Rachel, a Jewish Care client, bravely took the stage to share her story. Her words were raw, honest and deeply inspiring, embodying the strength, courage and determination at the core of Jewish Care's mission (Rachel's moving words can be read on page 10).

Showstopping performances throughout the night by several young musicians – Jake Gochevski, Adam and Leo Sachs, Jeremy Borsky, Sasha and Shira on one stage, Isaac and Alex Itescu playing violin on centre stage, Deborah Conway and her extraordinarily talented family on a third stage, and Gemma Kaplan singing both the Australian and Israeli national anthems, all added to the magic of the night, lifting spirits and uniting everyone in pride and purpose.

To close out the night, Linda Dessau AC CVO facilitated a discussion with Deborah Conway and The Honourable Josh Frydenberg about antisemitism affecting our community.

In the wake of October 7, and amid rising antisemitism, the cost-of-living crisis, and increasing demand for mental health support, affordable housing, and secure employment, the urgency of Jewish Care's work has never been clearer. These Annual Appeal events did more than raise vital funds, they sparked conversation, deepened connections, and shone a powerful light on the essential services we provide. We look forward to our upcoming NFOM event, featuring panellists Zara Cooper and journalists Carly Douglas and Cameron Stewart in conversation, moderated by Lahra Carey. This event takes place shortly after this newsletter goes to print.

The annual appeal events have reminded us that when our community calls, we answer – together. This is the heart of our community. And to keep it beating strong, we need your support. Please dig deep and give generously to help us continue this vital work.



Mouthwatering recipes for Shavuot



South African Cheesecake

Supplied by Lisa Goldberg, Monday Morning Cooking Club (recipe credit – Dorryce Rock)

375 g (13¼ oz) plain sweet biscuits, such as Marie or Digestives
pinch of salt
250 g (9 oz) unsalted butter, melted
8 eggs, separated
230 g (1 cup/8 oz) caster (superfine) sugar
750 g (1 lb 10 oz) cream cheese, at room temperature, chopped
150 ml (½ cup + 1 tablespoon/5 fl oz) pure (35%) cream

Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F/Gas 4). You will need a deep 3 litre (12 cup) baking dish. To make the cheesecake base, put the biscuits and salt in a food processor and process until they resemble breadcrumbs. Add the butter and pulse to combine. Tip the mixture into the base of the baking dish and press it evenly into the base and up the sides.

Using an electric mixer, beat the egg yolks until light and fluffy, adding the sugar gradually. Add the cream cheese one-third at a time, and beat on high speed to ensure there are no lumps. On medium speed, slowly add the cream and beat until smooth.

In a separate bowl, whisk the egg whites just until stiff peaks form. Using a spatula or metal spoon, gently fold the egg whites into the cream cheese mixture, one-third at a time, then pour the mixture into the prepared crust. Bake for 45 minutes or until golden brown on top (probably with cracks) but still quite wobbly.

Turn the oven off and leave it to set in the oven for 10 minutes. Serve at room temperature.
To serve, scoop with a large spoon.

Serves about 12



Romanian Malai Polenta Cheesecake

Supplied by Lisa Goldberg, Monday Morning Cooking Club (recipe credit – Debbie Levi)

3 eggs
230 g (1 cup/8 oz) caster (superfine) sugar
60 ml (¼ cup/2 fl oz) oil
500 g (1 lb 2 oz) ricotta cheese,
125 g (scant ¾ cup/4½ oz) polenta (cornmeal)
finely grated zest of ½ an orange or lemon
¼ teaspoon salt
sour cream, to serve

Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F/Gas 4).

Grease a 23 x 13 cm (9 x 5 inch) loaf (bar) tin generously with butter or oil and leave unlined as this will give the malai a lovely crisp edge.

Using an electric mixer, beat the egg s with the sugar until thick and pale. With the mixer on low, pour in the oil and beat until combined. Add the cheese and beat well, then add the polenta, zest and salt. Continue to beat until well combined. Don't be concerned if you can still see lumps of cheese.

Pour into the prepared tin and bake for 45 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Allow to cool in the tin for 10 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack.

Serve warm or at room temperature with a dollop of sour cream. Store any left overs in an airtight container in the fridge.

Serves about 10



Mini Basque Cheesecakes

Supplied by Alice Zaslavsky

500g cream cheese
250ml cream
100g caster sugar
1/2 tsp vanilla bean paste
1/4 tsp salt flakes
1 tbspl plain flour
2 eggs
Fresh raspberries to serve (optional)

Preheat your oven to 220C (200C fan-forced).

Line a 12 piece muffin tray with squares of baking paper, keeping the sides high when cutting out the squares (you should get 4 x squares from each square of standard-sized baking paper). Use the dregs of your cream cheese to help glue the middle of each square down into the tin.

Place cream cheese into a stand-mixer with paddle attachment or into your blender (see tips). You can also use hand-beaters and a bowl, if you're that way inclined.

Mix cream cheese on a medium speed, scraping down the sides until soft and smooth. Pour in the thickened cream and beat/blend to incorporate.

Add in the sugar, salt and vanilla and beat until you can't feel the grit of the sugar between two fingertips.

Sprinkle in flour and mix, then add 1 egg at a time until incorporated.

If using a stand mixer, ensure you scrape down the sides and the bottom one final time with a flexible spatula and give everything one last mix. Transfer into a pouring jug.

Pour into lined muffin tray. Place on the centre rack of the preheated oven for 18-20 minutes, until the tops are browned.

Keep an eye on the centre of the cakes, you're still after a tenderness in the middle. They will appear pretty much burnt on top, but in this case, that's a good thing!

Remove from oven, leave until cool enough to touch (10 minutes), then pop onto a cooling rack to set. Serve with fresh raspberries.

Makes 12



Sandi's Cheesecake

Supplied by Ronnit Hoppe & Delia Baron, Better Together Kitchen

1 packet Butternut Snap biscuits, crumbed
2 tbspn butter, melted
3 x 250g blocks of cream cheese (room temp)
6 eggs, separated
1½ cups sugar
Juice of a lemon
Zest of a lemon
¼ tsp vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 180C. Line base of a 26cm spring form tin with baking paper.

In a bowl, combine biscuit crumbs and melted butter. Press into tin and set aside in fridge.

In a separate bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Add egg yolks, sugar, lemon juice, zest and vanilla. Mix until well combined.

In a separate bowl, beat egg whites until stiff. Fold into cream cheese mixture and pour over biscuit crumb base.

Bake for 1 hour. Turn off oven and allow cake to cool with door slightly open. Place in fridge, still in the tin. Remove from tin when firm and completely cold.

Serves 10-12

Around the Homes

Residential Home Windsor (RHW)

Unbreakable spirit at RHW

Since October 7, Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM has led a profoundly moving series of bi-monthly Solidarity Sessions at Residential Home Windsor. Moments of reflection, unity, and resilience during one of the most painful chapters in our recent history.

These gatherings bring together residents, staff, families, and community members to stand shoulder to shoulder – to pray for peace, honour those we’ve lost, and call for the release of innocent hostages still held in Gaza. In these sacred moments, hearts have opened, fears have been shared, and a deep collective strength has been rekindled.

Throughout the year, we’ve had the privilege of hearing from outstanding guest speakers whose insights brought clarity, courage, and comfort. Among them:

- **Alon Cassuto**, from the Zionist Federation of Australia, spoke with passion about his deep connection to Israel, the diaspora and our community’s response and advocacy.
- **Dr Ran Porat**, Israeli-born academic and former IDF intelligence officer, offered an unflinching perspective on the harsh realities of terrorism and conflict.

- **Justin Kagan**, CEO of CSG, provided essential context on community safety during these uncertain times.
- **Deborah Stone**, Editor-in-Chief of *The Jewish Independent*, shared a journalist’s insight into shifting media narratives and public sentiment.

Each speaker has added a vital thread to the rich tapestry of these sessions, fortifying our resilience, broadening our understanding, and instilling hope when it’s needed most.

Just as importantly, these sessions have opened the doors of the **Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building** to the broader community – a space where connection, safety, and Jewish life are deeply valued and celebrated.

Through these Solidarity Sessions, Jewish Care continues to uphold what matters most: **belonging, courage, and unwavering hope.**

Together, we remember. Together, we rise. Together, we remain unbroken.



Orlee Schneeweiss,
Alon Cassuto, Rachel Ash



Dr Ran Porat, Rabbi Ralph
Genende OAM



Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM,
Deborah Stone



Justin Kagan

Gary Smorgon House (GSH)

Celebrating Purim together

We were thrilled to have members of the community, GSH families and the Active Living Centre Social Services clients, attend our enchanting Amazon Rainforest-themed Purim Party and Open Day on Friday 14 March.

Our Home was delightfully transformed to a vibrant spirit of the rainforest and we thoroughly enjoyed celebrating with the wider community. In addition to our lively festivities, we also had an Open Day, where families who are considering aged care could come and experience our unwavering commitment to a heimish environment and “Excellence in Care”.



Photo gallery – for more photos and to keep up to date, please follow our Jewish Care Victoria social media accounts.

For further information on our three residential homes, please call Simone on (03) 8517 5504 or visit www.jewishcare.org.au



Donor spotlight

Interview with Leonard Levy OAM

Tell us briefly about your life and current status.

I am a fifth-generation Australian who has been connected to Jewish Care for over 40 years. During my working life, I was a pharmacist caring for people in the St. Kilda area. I also participated in early trials supporting addicts on methadone. At present, I arrange Shacharit prayers for the St Kilda Shul congregation and volunteer with the Port Phillip Rotary Club. I keep fit by walking daily with my wife, Kay and swimming regularly.

Where did your philanthropic values and beliefs come from?

My parents were always actively fundraising. My father was a Montefiore Board Member and a founding Master of the Jewish Masonic Lodge, my mother was a Life Governor of several major Melbourne hospitals and a WIZO Darom member, and my grandmother was a Montefiore Homes resident when I was a schoolboy. Philanthropy was deeply ingrained in my upbringing.

How important is it to you that your children and grandchildren are charitable and community-minded?

It is extremely important. I have four daughters and one son, all involved in community work.

What are your feelings towards Jewish Care and its work?

Jewish Care is a wonderful organisation that strengthens our community. Its diverse services are crucial and its ability to evolve these services to meet changing needs is remarkable.

What message would you like to convey to future generations about “giving back” to their community?

Everybody ages, and some may require professional support. It is vital that the Jewish community continues to sustain Jewish Care, ensuring that those in need receive care and dignity in their time of need.



Meet our staff

Yoni Paluch – Director: Strategy and Community Engagement

How does your job impact the community we serve?

As Director; Strategy & Community Engagement, my role is to highlight the amazing services Jewish Care have on offer. We also liaise with stakeholders to understand the needs of the community and how we can develop programs internally or work collaboratively with other organisations to best serve the Jewish Community.

What is the most rewarding about being part of Jewish Care?

Being part of an organisation, whose sole aim is to

support the Jewish Community is a privilege. To know that the work we do impacts the lives of so many, is something I don't take for granted.

What are you most passionate about (in life)?

My family, the Jewish Community and Israel... Closely followed by the Collingwood Football Club.

How have you been impacted since the events of October 7?

I am definitely more conscious of wearing my kippa in certain settings. I believe now more than ever that our community needs to stand up and look after ourselves. We need to support both Israel and local Jewish causes to ensure that no-one is left behind.



Meet our staff

Gayle Smith – Chief Executive

How does your job impact the community we serve?

As Chief Executive of Jewish Care, I have the privilege of ensuring we provide the services and care our community needs. My role is to make sure we grow and evolve in line with those needs, always striving to meet and surpass expectations.

What is most rewarding about being part of Jewish Care?

Being part of an organisation that truly cares – for the community, residents, clients, volunteers and staff. We celebrate together in good times and support each other through the bad.

What are you most passionate about (in life)?

My family is my greatest joy – my husband, two grown daughters, and their partners. I treasure our traditions and love how technology allows me to stay closely connected to my youngest daughter in London, a world away from the old aerograms we once relied on!

How have you been impacted since the events of October 7?

The events of October 7 have caused me profound sadness, anger and confusion, shaking my sense of the world. The rise in antisemitism is deeply upsetting, something I never imagined seeing in my lifetime. Yet, I am inspired by those standing up against hatred, ensuring we remain true to our values both here and globally.



Rachel Ash – Head of Fundraising, Marketing & Communications

How does your job impact the community we serve?

As the Head of Fundraising, Marketing and Communications, I'm bringing fresh energy and focus to ensure our community

understands who Jewish Care is, what we stand for, what we do, and why it matters. My goal is to strengthen our brand, raise awareness, and drive the support that keeps our services strong. Jewish Care is a safety net, a community of strength and care, my role is to shine a light on that, so no one ever feels alone or forgotten.

What is most rewarding about being part of Jewish Care?

Being part of an organisation that directly impacts people's lives, bringing hope to those who need it most, is incredibly meaningful and rewarding.

What are you most passionate about (in life)?

My family and raising three proud Jewish Zionists (16, 13, 7), who are committed to standing up for their values, and looking out for others. I have always felt a deep responsibility to contribute to Jewish continuity and to inspire collaboration, connection, and leadership within our community. I also cannot let Yoni's Collingwood comment go without adding, I'm a diehard Saints fan, which has definitely taught me resilience over the years!

How have you been impacted since the events of October 7?

The events of October 7 changed me profoundly. As the grandchild of Holocaust survivors and the daughter of an Israeli father, with loved ones living in Israel, I've always felt deeply connected to my Jewish identity and to Israel. But something shifted that day, a switch flicked, and I moved straight into action. I've been more vocal than ever: advocating for Israel, standing up to antisemitism, and showing up proudly for our community. My sense of duty to protect, uplift, and strengthen Jewish life has only deepened.

Apply now



YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Give back. Build skills. Change lives.



CONNECTION



COMMUNITY



GROWTH



ACTIVE LIVING CENTRE



SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS



Monday to Friday



Activities run between
9AM – 4PM

- Bus tours
- Lunches
- Zumba
- Concerts
- Fun games
- Planned events
- Excursion Groups
- and much more



For more information please phone **1800 536 474** or
visit www.jewishcare.org.au

Share your simcha



In lieu of gifts, ask your friends to
celebrate your special day with a
donation to Jewish Care.

These gifts will make a real
difference to the lives of the most
vulnerable in our community.

For more information please
phone **1800 536 474** or visit
www.jewishcare.org.au



Rainbow flag Jewish Care is a Rainbow Tick accredited
organisation - proudly celebrating and warmly welcoming
the rich diversity of our community as we strive to be
inclusive for all.

*From your home
to outings, we're
here to help you
live your best life*

We Offer

- Personal care
- Home cleaning
- Companionship
- High quality meals
- Escorted shopping
- Support with gardening
- Transport to appointments

For more information please phone **1800 536 474** or
visit www.jewishcare.org.au

