

# MY Connection

Issue 2 Autumn 2012 / Sivan 5772

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## The Cycle of Giving





**Front cover:**  
Jewish Care's dedicated  
volunteers from all walks of life

Photo credit: Dean Schmedeg

## Message from our President and CEO



Bill Appleby  
CEO



Bruce Rosengarten  
President

## The Cycle of Giving

*"You make a living by what you get.  
You make a life by what you give."*

*Attributed to Winston Churchill*

According to the World Giving Index 2011, Australia is ranked the third most charitable country in the world, after measuring against three criteria: volunteering, helping strangers and making public donations.

This outstanding result is made possible thanks to the tireless efforts of 6.1 million Australian volunteers who regularly contribute more than 700 million hours of essential community service, with a common desire to turn lives around and continue the cycle of giving.

National Volunteer Week celebrated across the country during May, highlighted the important role of volunteers, coming from all walks of life, each with a unique kit bag of skills and talents to benefit others.

Jewish Care is an organisation created through the philanthropic spirit of volunteers. From the small group of volunteers that established the Melbourne Jewish Philanthropic Society in 1848, to those individuals who

personally greeted post-war refugees at the Melbourne docks in 1950s, most of our services were initiated through voluntary action.

Our volunteers help us to provide direct assistance to our clients; they enrich our organisation through community engagement and support; and they participate in stewardship through membership on our Board of Management and various other specialist communal committees across the organisation.

This year, our amazing volunteers have contributed over 30,000 hours of support in areas including friendly visiting, companionship, administration, event coordination, training, transportation and leadership. What a tremendous difference that makes to our community!

In recognition of their significant work, we dedicate the autumn issue of *My Connection* to our passionate volunteers, who lead their life with a genuine spirit of giving to others, which demonstrates that giving is, indeed, hardwired within human nature.

The following pages of *My Connection* will overview the incredible scope of volunteering opportunities at Jewish Care, while introducing some of our outstanding stars of all ages and backgrounds, who make a lasting difference to the lives of many.

You will read about:

- Jewish Care's numerous volunteering opportunities that match the needs of our organisation and community with your skills, background, interests and lifestyle;

- Our second annual Staff and Volunteers Service and Excellence Awards ceremony, celebrating truly deserving individuals who lead by example; and
- Our exciting partnership agreement with JCCV to explore the feasibility of establishing a joint Volunteer Resource Centre to support the Victorian Jewish community.

The exceptional service of our volunteers embodies our fundamental values of kindness, family, respect and charity, and that's what Jewish Care is all about.

Turning lives around is a team effort. It takes partnerships with government bodies and key community agencies. It takes research, proper planning, resources, a commitment to service, and a solid team of inspirational staff and volunteers. And importantly, it takes community funding.

As we enter the last month of the 2012 Annual Appeal, we would like to thank all of Jewish Care's supporters and volunteers for their generous donations, active participation and contributions large and small.

Nevertheless, our work hasn't finished. We are still raising funds to improve thousands of lives in our community. Be a part of the journey, and together, we will continue to bring social justice to our community, for now and for generations to come.

Bruce Rosengarten  
President

Bill Appleby  
Chief Executive Officer



Jewish Care Annual Appeal board in East St Kilda

Wingate Group, Events at Caulfield, Gefen Liquor and Kosher Classique.

Our sincere thanks also go to all community members, retail outlets, schools and synagogues for featuring our vibrant Annual Appeal billboards, generously provided by the following real estate agents:

Run Property, Noel Jones, Gary Peer & Associates, LJ Hooker and Woodards TBM.

## Thanks to Our Supporters

We appreciate the kindness of our Annual Appeal supporters and the Gala Dinner sponsors, who assisted us in hosting a magnificent Gala Dinner night with over 650 distinguished guests, starting the Annual Appeal campaign with flying colours.

Our Gala Dinner sponsors and supporters include:

Deloitte, Spotlight Foundation, Harry the Hirer, TIC Group, Kay & Burton,

## 2012 Annual Appeal and Gala Dinner

### Helping Thousands Takes Millions

Over 650 people gathered at Jewish Care's Gala Dinner, held on 16 February at Caulfield Racecourse, launching the 2012 Annual Appeal in support of those in need in our community.

This year's Annual Appeal theme, *Giving is in Our Nature*, has emphasised human individuality and that the ability to give is hardwired within each person.

"Our parents and grandparents came to Australia with little or no means to support themselves, and yet, they always found ways to share with others. From a very young age, we were nurtured by our families with certain values and traditions. Giving *tzedakah* is an integral part of all of us," said Bruce Rosengarten, Jewish Care's President.

This year, Jewish Care aims to raise \$5.3 million to cover the ongoing provision of its vital community services, including housing assistance, financial services, counselling, healthy ageing programs, mental health services, cultural and spiritual services, information and referral and kosher food provision. These programs receive little or no government funding, and rely primarily on public donations.

David Smorgon OAM, the Appeal's longstanding supporter and Patron, called out to the community with a personal request to make a practical change to the lives of many and encouraged the attendees to continue the circle of giving: "We all play a role in our community. Now is your chance to show your connection and assist those in need. And it is always better to be a giver than a taker."

Throughout the Gala Dinner, participants were moved by captivating presentations, including an inspirational film, *It's Wonderful*, highlighting Jewish Care's role in strengthening the wellbeing of the Victorian Jewish community and securing its sustainable future.



Bruce Rosengarten and Rosalie Silverstein



From left: Mirielle Krasnostein, Dahlia Sable, Fellina Goldberg



From left: Bill Appleby, Donna Surdut, Greg Segal



Henry and Caroline Zeimer



Solly and Debbie Almagor

The audience warmly welcomed the keynote speaker, Simon Griffiths, a leading innovator in the social enterprise sector, who spoke about how consumer-driven philanthropy is making a true difference in the developing world.

The Outstanding Community Service Award was presented to Rosalie Silverstein, a dedicated Jewish Care volunteer for over 35 years.

Rosalie is also known for running the Posh Opp Shoppe on Glen Huntly Rd, which pays for over 170 Jewish children with disabilities to have carers at school.

"Giving is growing. It changes your life. I've learnt so much from it," said Rosalie.

The Gala Dinner set a successful start to the 2012 Annual Appeal campaign, thanks to the patronage of David Smorgon and the hard work and dedication of the Gala Dinner organising committee of Karen Goldenberg, Annette Smorgon, Dianne Gringlas, Lorelle Krulis, Suzanne Slomoi and Adira Werdiger.

"In our community, we have philanthropists donating from \$5 to hundreds of thousands," said Bill Appleby, Jewish Care's CEO. "Philanthropy is not limited to the wealthy. It is defined by a conscious decision and full-hearted intent to impact positively on other people's lives."

**To donate to our 2012 Annual Appeal, visit [www.jewishcare.org.au/donate](http://www.jewishcare.org.au/donate) or call 1800 JEWISH (1800 539 474)**

**For more Gala Dinner photos, visit the 'Events' page of our website.**

**To view our heartwarming film, *It's Wonderful*, visit the 'News and Views' page at [www.jewishcare.org.au](http://www.jewishcare.org.au) or contact (03) 8517 5718 to order your copy.**





## The Cycle Of Giving

### Jewish Care Honours Staff and Volunteers

Jewish Care's second annual Staff and Volunteers Service and Excellence Awards ceremony was held on March 21st at the Carousel in Albert Park.

The night was dedicated to celebrating contributions of the remarkable staff and volunteers who have demonstrated resilience and the capacity to grow professionally over a sustained period of time to better serve the needs of our community.

The keynote speaker, Louise Sauvage OAM – Australian gold medalist Olympian and Paralympian – shared her inspirational journey of becoming a

true champion and world-class wheelchair athlete, despite the physical challenges she faced. She emphasised how a positive attitude and sheer determination can help you achieve excellence and fulfil your goals.

With this in mind, the Service and Excellence Awards were presented to seven truly deserving staff members and volunteers who lead by example, including the following award recipients:

Anca Ardelean, The Samuel H. Harris Award; Marilyn Lovitt and Martin Zerafa, CEO Customer Service Award; Henri Korn, Volunteer of the Year Award; Emma Boyar, President's Award; Alma Basic and Darren Kovacs, Ethos Award.

A new addition to the awards was the announcement of the inaugural scholarship program worth \$10,000. First year recipients of the scholarship were three staff members who won educational scholarships of their



Staff and Volunteers Service and Excellence Award recipients with keynote speaker Louise Sauvage

choice to further their areas of interest and education.

The evening concluded with Bill Appleby announcing the recipients of the Jewish Care Ethos mission to Israel: Meigan Lefebure, General Manager of Services for Older People; and Deborah Harvey, Manager of Healthy Ageing Program.

**For more photos, visit the 'Events' page at [www.jewishcare.org.au](http://www.jewishcare.org.au)**



Darren Kovacs, Ethos Award co-recipient, with Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant

### A Lesson for All

When the crowded ship MV Napoli docked in Melbourne on 2 June 1950, it marked the beginning of a new life for 20-year-old Holocaust survivor Henri Korn, which years later, would be heralded for his spirit of giving.

"We lost everything in Germany, and when we came to Australia, we lived in an Australian Jewish Welfare society-owned house on Burke Rd in Camberwell," said Henri.

To his surprise, Henri recently became the recipient of our 2012 Volunteer of the Year Award. But being a Holocaust survivor who experienced first-hand intolerance and ignorance, Henri's ongoing efforts to educate new Jewish Care's employees about Judaism and the traumas of the Holocaust survivors, makes him a shining example of the impact one person can have on other people's lives.

"Receiving saved our lives. Believe me,

it's much nicer to be on the giving end," said Henri.

For seven years Henri has been a committed volunteer on our Claims Conference Holocaust Survivors Committee, representing child survivors of the Holocaust. More recently he was invited as a regular speaker at our monthly Ethos Day, where he helps staff familiarise themselves with Jewish lifestyle and understand the trauma some Holocaust survivor clients continue to experience until today.

Henri is also on the Holocaust Museum Board of Directors and a Holocaust Museum guide; as well as the President of Melbourne Child Survivors of the Holocaust, often speaking at schools.

So what motivates Henri to continue his outstanding voluntary work?

"I volunteer because I remember my past, and I want our survivors to be living in old age as comfortably as possible," he said.



Henri Korn with wife Sandra

Today, with wife of 53 years, Sandra, two children and six grandchildren, Henri believes that he lives the happiest years of his life. He enjoys spending quality time with his family, writing books and giving back to the community in his own way. What a great lesson for all!

**To purchase Henri Korn's book, *Saviours: The story of a Jewish Altar Boy*, please call the Jewish Holocaust Centre on (03) 9528 1985**

### The Gift of Time

What does a college student, an 85-year-old Montefiore resident and a successful businessman have in common?

All of them are dedicated Jewish Care volunteers, living with a true spirit of giving and contributing their unique skills and talents to



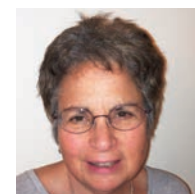
Ronnie Figdor, St Kilda Hebrew Congregation CEO and regular speaker at our Ethos Days

There is a tremendous capacity to give of oneself, to make a difference to the world – one by one. It provides me with a sense of achievement and purpose. What would our life be worth, if not for leaving our fingerprint on society?



Gavin Port, Build-A-Bear CEO, Young Achievers Program Mentor

I support my mentee to achieve his dreams, which is something money can't buy. I hope this mentoring cycle will continue through the generations, changing many more lives.



Karen Neumann, Pianist at the Active Living Centre

Music is a universal language, and being a musician I can bring joy to people's lives, which makes me happy. I always leave our sessions smiling.



Yisrael Reicher, Admin Support at Always Moving Forward

Having recently retired, I now volunteer with Jewish Care, assisting Jewish people to find employment and establish security. At the same time, I am also gaining new valuable experience myself.

a common goal—helping us in turning lives around, together.

Meet some of Jewish Care's outstanding stars of all ages and backgrounds, who show unconditional regard and care for our community.



Andrew Blode, CEO of the Jack & Robert Smorgon Families Foundation, former Board Member and current member of our Development Subcommittee

For many years I devoted time to beautify Montefiore Homes by sourcing artwork from local artists and the Australian Jewish Museum. This small contribution resulted in a great sense of pride for the residents and staff about their home and place of work.



Zehavit Silverstein, Mums & Bubs Club facilitator at Gary Smorgon House

Every week I come to Gary Smorgon House together with my 2-year-old son to dance and play with the residents. This reminds me how special and important it is to be part of our community.



Jane Lothringer, Montefiore resident and Telethon volunteer

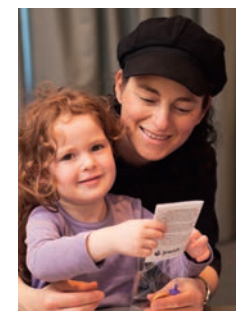
I started volunteering at Jewish Care's Telethons nine years ago. Since then, I've met many wonderful people supporting our community. Recently, whilst on the phone, one gentleman even offered me a job, but I refused: I am already busy assisting Jewish Care!



Helen Lewitan, Psychology student and volunteer

Following a gap year in Israel, where I volunteered for ten months, I learned the importance of giving back to the community and developing a sustainable future, in hope that one day, when I'm in need, it will support me too.

### Let the Volunteering Begin!



Jewish Care provides volunteering opportunities to work with and around your lifestyle.

Whether you are a new mum, a talented musician with some spare time, an active retiree or just a caring individual willing to enrich your life by helping others,

Let your inner light of giving shine by sharing your strengths with your community. Our current volunteering positions include the following areas:

- Participating in our Mums & Bubs Club gatherings;
- Fundraising activities such as Telethon canvassing;
- Providing musical entertainment;
- Assisting residents in wheelchairs on short outings;
- Facilitating bowling sessions and

other recreational activities such as drama and art classes;

- Administration and data entry;
- Cultural & Spiritual assistance;
- Providing transportation or supporting social outings;
- Friendly visiting;
- Team leadership and event coordination.

**For a full list of volunteering opportunities, visit [www.jewishcare.org.au/volunteer](http://www.jewishcare.org.au/volunteer) or contact Adriana Smith at (03) 8517 5700 or [asmith@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:asmith@jewishcare.org.au)**



## The Cycle Of Giving

### Pay it Forward

Leading a successful screen printing business for 15 years, Peter Pfeifer-Benet could not imagine that his partial vision loss was the early sign of developing Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a complicated chronic disease, which affects the central nervous system and brain function, causing abnormal muscle spasms and speech impediment.

As Peter's health seriously deteriorated restricting his mobility, he was forced to leave the workforce. Having no relatives, Peter contacted Jewish Care's Disability Services seeking support.

"Every day Jewish Care's staff member or volunteer visits me to help with my numerous medications, and also takes me to the park or shopping at Chadstone," says Peter.

Sadly, at the age of fifty, he finds it hard to walk more than ten metres. Nevertheless, his severe medical condition doesn't stop Peter from volunteering at Smorgon Nursing Home on St Kilda Rd twice a week.

A native of Warsaw, Peter spends hours talking to high-care residents in Polish and Russian, going back in time to rediscover their dear memories of living in pre-War Europe.

"I make friends with people who lost their loved ones in the Holocaust. I am also lonely, so we are like family," says Peter.

Thanks to Hadley Bortz, a young pharmacist at the Alfred Hospital and our new dedicated volunteer who regularly drives Peter home, he can continue to visit our residents to their delight.

"Jewish Care's Volunteering Department introduced me to Peter after accessing my capacities and full-time work commitments," says Hadley. "I am very happy to assist Peter in achieving his volunteering goals. He is doing a wonderful job in helping others."



From left: Hadley Bortz with Peter Pfeifer-Benet outside Smorgon Nursing Home

Even though, it might seem to Hadley that he is just a small piece of the puzzle, but in reality he is a strong part in the cycle of giving, demonstrating that all of us can do something meaningful towards enriching another person's life.

"Helping each other is a part of Jewish background," says Peter with a smile. And we most certainly agree.

**For more information on how we can match your skills and interests to the needs of our community, please contact Adriana Smith on (03) 8517 5700 or [asmith@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:asmith@jewishcare.org.au)**

### Purim Joy Packaged

Sending colourful food packages to family and friends, known as *Mishloach Manot*, is an exciting, ancient Purim practice loved by kids and adults alike.

In February, our volunteers united once again at Jewish Care's pre-Purim Working Bee Day. They enjoyed decorating greeting cards and sorting through thousands of candies and chocolates.

"The room was filled with so much *simcha* and energy," said volunteer Sara Goldberg. "I have no doubt that each one of us left feeling happier and more fulfilled in our achievement."

During the Working Bee Day, participants packed 1600 gift bags that were later distributed to residents, clients and community members, bringing them much joy.

### Call to Action

Over the years, Jewish Care's Telethon sessions have become an integral part of the Annual Appeal campaign, helping to educate our community about Jewish Care's services, and raising crucial funds for people in need.

Run by devoted volunteers of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, the Telethon is an exciting opportunity to show support of Jewish Care's activities, and a practical way of turning lives around.

"With personal warmth and sincerity that clearly comes across from our dedicated volunteers, one Telethon session can generate \$1000 or more from each participant," said Lauren Woolf, Telethon Coordinator.

We appreciate the generous support of our community and thank our sponsors, Vixtel, for providing us with



Malka Bando volunteering at Jewish Care's Telethon session in March

40 state-of-the-art IP telephones, and Afacorp Pty Ltd, for supplying delicious food for our hardworking Telethon volunteers.

**For Telethon session times and more information, go to the 'Annual Appeal' page of our website at [www.jewishcare.org.au](http://www.jewishcare.org.au) or contact Emma Boyar on (03) 8517 5933 or [telethon@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:telethon@jewishcare.org.au)**

## News, Views and Advocacy

### National IT Award for Jewish Care

Jewish Care has won a national peak body award for the establishment of a new IT data centre in Melbourne CBD and super-fast cable link to its St Kilda Rd site.

Jewish Care was awarded the Aged Care Association Australia's (ACAA's) *Best Implementation of the Year Award for Infrastructure* at the 2012 National Information Technology in Aged Care (ITAC) Awards, held at Crown Casino on 19 April.

The Award recognises Jewish Care's creation of a highly advanced, quick, resilient and safe IT centre, using state-of-the-art technology – and it's even green!



From left: Our IT team Rob Beasley, Marilyn Lovitt, Cameron Mackay and Dale Clyne

Jewish Care's IT Manager, Cameron Mackay, explained: "We needed to replace our servers that were at capacity. Now we have an external data centre with a much more flexible and scalable system, needed to introduce new advanced methods of managing and sharing information across the range of Jewish Care services."

"It's green – using less power than our old servers which is better for the environment – and it's safe. The security exceeds anything we could have here at Jewish Care. This includes power, cooling, fire systems and physical security."

Jewish Care's CEO, Bill Appleby, said: "This Award validates the great work of our IT team and our direction in building a solid base for the deployment of quality software that will assist our staff to deliver improved care and support to our residents and clients."

### Expanding Respite Services to Adults

In February, Jewish Care opened the doors of the Glen Eira Villas Adult Respite Centre in response to the diverse needs of Jewish adults with disabilities, and focusing on their transition to independent living in a supportive, inclusive, culturally specific environment.

Before its establishment, Jewish Care could only provide respite services to children under the age of eighteen and their families.

"Having an adult respite centre in the heart of our community has been a dream for many people. We are very proud to have made this dream a reality in only one year," said Bill Appleby, CEO Jewish Care.

The Centre was launched in the presence of Parliamentary Secretary for Families & Community Services, Ms Andrea Coote MLC, who recognised the joint efforts of staff and donors: "Through the remarkable fundraising efforts and the philanthropic impulses on the one hand, with the Jewish Care imperative on the other – you have provided the opportunity for that to happen."

The opening was made possible thanks to generosity of community members, including Dianne Gringlas and Liz Nissen who spearheaded the fundraising project with passion, generating over \$737,000 over three years.



From left: Bruce Rosengarten, Andrea Coote MLC, David Southwick MP and Bill Appleby

This amount, together with \$312,000 of Department of Human Services (DHS) funding, has allowed Jewish Care to accommodate up to three people with a disability overnight and up to five individuals during the day.

"We look forward to many more visits to the friendly environs of Glen Eira Villas," said Janette Dvash after visiting the Centre with her daughter Alysa. "The unit is warm and inviting, and the care is gentle and complete."

The Adult Respite Centre operates Wednesday to Monday and during school holidays. Despite strong initial demand, there are still places available for adults living with a disability and their families.

**For more information about the Adult Respite Centre and its hours of operation, please contact Les Herbert on (03) 9519 9250 or [lherbert@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:lherbert@jewishcare.org.au)**

### Jewish Care Welcomes New General Managers

Jewish Care is pleased to announce the appointments of Maureen Flaherty, General Manager of Community Services; Mary Scott, General Manager of People & Culture; and Daniyela Rob, General Manager of Innovation & Quality.

All three ladies bring along a wealth of knowledge and expertise and accomplished careers in Health Management, Human Resources and Nursing at multisite organisations.

Having a passion for quality care and support of our clients and their families,

Maureen, Mary and Daniyela will certainly contribute their skills and personalities to benefit many Jewish Care's initiatives. Welcome aboard!



From left: Maureen Flaherty, Mary Scott and Daniyela Rob



## Partnerships and Community Engagement

## Portsea Retreat for Young Achievers

Summer camps create life-long friendships and memories, especially such ones as the Young Achievers Program's (YAP) three-day camp, held in early April in beautiful Portsea.

Following the Meet & Greet picnic in February, the YAP camp offered a great opportunity for mentees – consisting of high school students from various Melbourne schools – to learn more about each other in a relaxing atmosphere.

Participants enjoyed a full range of fun educational activities including sea kayaking, bike riding, strawberry picking and beach walking, while focusing on life skills and team building.



*Young Achievers ready for sea kayaking*

All mentees agreed that the camp experience provided a wonderful break from studies.

**For more information about the Young Achievers Program, please contact Candis Herr on (03) 8517 5626 or [cherr@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:cherr@jewishcare.org.au)**



*From left: Ian Caplan with Sonny, Toby and Luca Morris*

## Time to Play

There's plenty of fun and games at Hawthorn Road House supported accommodation with the donation of a Wii video game console by the family of our Board Member, Simon Morris. The residents and guests enjoy playing a range of individual and group interactive games, adding to the *heimish* atmosphere of their home.

"When we play Wii at night together, you can hear lots of laughter," said resident Ian Caplan. "It's great."

## Exploring the Volunteering Horizons

Jewish Care Victoria and the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) have signed an agreement to explore the feasibility of establishing a joint Volunteer Resource Centre (VRC) aiming to become a 'one stop shop' in the recruitment, matching, referral and training of local volunteers to support the Victorian Jewish community.

"This is an exciting initiative that I envisage will lead to our communal organisations being better resourced with volunteers, as well as to greater volunteerism in the community," said Nina Bassat AM, JCCV President.

"We endorse volunteering as an important part of community involvement and link it to the core value of *tzedakah*," said Bruce Rosengarten, President of Jewish Care. "We are confident that our extensive knowledge and expertise in the recruitment and management of volunteers will build stronger communities by offering opportunities for social inclusion within the Jewish community."

At the moment, Jewish Care and the JCCV are planning to conduct a comprehensive research study

## Pesach Gifts from Young Philanthropists

In preparation for Pesach, Bialik students kindly donated food items essential for *Seder*, to be distributed by Jewish Care's volunteers among families in need.

The young philanthropists also participated in Jewish Care's workshop focusing on giving *tzedakah*. The students discussed ways of helping each other throughout life and asked many thoughtful questions.



*The Bialik ELC students donated matzah and grape juice for those in need*



*Nina Bassat AM with Bruce Rosengarten*

of the community's needs and expectations, aiming to provide evidence based findings to assist both Jewish organisations and community members in their volunteering needs.

## Thinking of Future Generations

An uncomfortable bed in a hospital-like facility with long, unpleasant corridors, is one of the first early childhood memories John Beckman has. His parents and twin brother perished in the Holocaust, while John's grandmother miraculously survived Auschwitz. After the end of the war, she managed to find 5-year-old John, and together they moved to Israel and later to Australia.

In 1968, John met his future wife Evelyn, a medical technologist from Perth, whose parents escaped Germany in midst of the World War II. The couple was married in 1970.

For many years John and Evelyn led a very busy lifestyle raising their four children: Debbie, Anita, Adam and Daniel, and running a successful furniture removal business.

Unfortunately, John suffered a stroke in 2007. While in hospital, Evelyn took care of her husband, who was unable to continue working.

"Suddenly, our business stopped and I didn't know what to do with myself.

It was a big challenge forcing us to sell our house," said Evelyn.

"We had to adapt to new, changing circumstances," added John.

Evelyn didn't stay home for long. Soon, she became a regular Jewish Care volunteer helping a person with vision impairment to write letters and do shopping. Once John felt better, he joined Evelyn.

Today, they again lead a busy lifestyle, helping their children and grandchildren, while also thinking of those in need. Together, they enjoy coming to Jewish Care's Working Bee Days, where they meet new friends willing to bring happiness to others.

Inspired by an incredible scope of Jewish Care's programs and services, the Beckmans decided to include Jewish Care in their will, considering it an essential community organisation assisting people through all life stages.

"As parents, we believe that it is very important to support our children,



*John and Evelyn Beckman participating in our Working Bee Day*

of course. But we can't forget our community too," said John.

"We would certainly like to help Jewish Care to be around for many generations to come," agreed Evelyn.

We appreciate the heartfelt involvement and generous support of John and Evelyn Beckman, and wish them many happy and healthy years together!

**For more information on how you can include Jewish Care in your will, please contact Feygl Cylich on (03) 8517 5602 or [fcylich@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:fcylich@jewishcare.org.au)**

## The Wheels on the Bus Bring Smiles All Around

A new commuter bus donated by a generous group of women is providing a change of scenery and routine for elderly Jewish Care residents.

The Toyota Hiace bus has been donated from money raised by the Friends of Montefiore, led by their hardworking Chair, Delysia Pahoff,

for residents of the Montefiore Homes Community Residence.

"We are so thrilled to see the arrival of the bus for Jewish Care. Regular outings make such a difference to the quality of life for residents, and this is our aim – to help bring enjoyment and pleasure to our aged," said Delysia Pahoff.



*Montefiore residents, staff and supporters looking forward to the first bus outing*

"Variety is the spice of life, especially for our aged care residents – it is so important to offer a range of activities which support independence, social connectivity and overall physical wellbeing," said Bill Appleby, CEO of Jewish Care. "The new bus will increase opportunities for more of our residents to get out and about – to go on an excursion, visit a place of interest, attend an event or concert, or just go for a drive to the beach or park to see the beautiful autumn leaves."

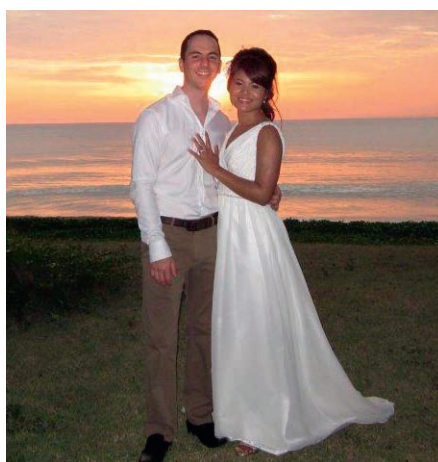
Friends of Montefiore have successfully run their flagship annual fundraising and social events for the last 28 years, raising more than \$850,000 towards furniture upgrades, audio equipment and specialised medical equipment to enhance the quality of life of our aged care residents.



## Share the Simcha



Matthew Bassat (far left) marked his Bar Mitzvah by donating to Jewish Care



Larry and Ochin Silber made a donation to Jewish Care on the occasion of their marriage



Nina Peer's Bat Mitzvah donation will help Jewish Care to support those in need



Zachary Rockman requested donations in lieu of his Bar Mitzvah gifts



Mazal Tov to Pat and Geoffrey Cashmore who made a donation to Jewish Care in honour of their 50th wedding anniversary

## Thank You

To share your Simcha, please contact our Development Team on (03) 8517 5963 or [development@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:development@jewishcare.org.au)

**A tremendous thank you to all those who have made their recent celebrations an opportunity to donate to Jewish Care.**

<b>Birth</b> Benji Bechler	<b>Wedding</b> Larry & Ochin Silber	<b>50th Birthday</b> Andrew Olb Andre Kupfer Rochelle Davis Maxine Sharp	<b>70th Birthday</b> Arnold Oshry
<b>Bar Mitzvah</b> Mia Moses Isabella Worth	<b>50th Wedding Anniversary</b> Pat & Geoffrey Cashmore	<b>60th Birthday</b> Alan Feil Caryn Granek	<b>80th Birthday</b> Rodney Granat Norman Gordon
<b>Bar Mitzvah</b> Zachary Rockman Matthew Bassat Joshua Sharp	<b>Special Birthday</b> Deirdre Beville	<b>90th Birthday</b> Mike Klein Edward Weidman	

## Meet our New Mascot



Jewish Care's tzedakah box mascot with Grade 2 children from Gandel Besen House outside Montefiore Homes

Arriving just in time before Purim, our tzedakah box mascot is a friendly face to raise awareness of Jewish Care at schools and community events and teach kids the importance of giving.

Our mascot will hand out tzedakah boxes to children and members of our community to help support Jewish Care's services.

Look out for him at local schools, Jewish Care's functions, community events, festivals and more.

We hope this friendly fellow will delight children and adults alike, while delivering an important message – you're never too young to make a difference to someone else's life.

**To book our mascot for your next school or community event, please contact Ricci Hoffman on (03) 8517 5718 or email [rho Hoffman@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:rho Hoffman@jewishcare.org.au)**

## Festivals and Memorials at Jewish Care

To view more of our events and celebrations, visit the 'Events' page of our website at [www.jewishcare.org.au](http://www.jewishcare.org.au)

### Tu B'Shvat



Montefiore resident David Biller planting flowers



From left: Tamara Henschel and Jacquie Cowan celebrating at Glen Eira Villas



From left: Munzer resident Edith Vasl enjoying the seven fruits with Sylvia Drever

### Purim



From left: Gisi Marek, Ludwig Ehrenreich and Mona Rosenfield ready for Megillah reading at the Active Living Centre



From left: Matthew Lichtig, Natan Kessler, Ariel Hersham and Daniel Barr-Waanders with GSH resident Dora Honig



From left: Amy Mable, Shoshana Rodan, Nada Saucy and Allen Kestenberg at the Munzer Purim party

### Pesach



From left: Yehudith Benchaim, Lara Kuran and Miriam Ovadia lighting candles



From left: Basia Vaxman, Berta Finkelshtain and Efraim Levin at the Seder for Holocaust survivors



Three generations at the Munzer Seder. From left: Annette Wester, Rywa Zagel and Natalie Wester

### Yom Hashoah



Eva Migdalek performing at the Yom Hashoah Memorial at Gary Smorgon House



Caroline Isakow delivering a memorial speech in front of the Munzer residents



Deborah Tuckman lighting candles in memory of six million victims



## Message from our Rabbi

## Two Jews, Three Opinions



Rabbi Meir Shlomo  
Kluwgant

Book of Deuteronomy: "Today you have become a nation." (27:9-10)

Since then, every Shavuot Jewish people commemorate the revelation and acceptance of the Torah, highlighting the significance of Jewish morals and culture in modern life.

Interestingly, in Hebrew, the word *Shavuot* means 'weeks', which refers to the seven-week countdown

When Jewish people accepted the Torah on Mount Sinai more than 3300 years ago, they acquired the status of a united nation with unique values and culture, as stated in the

period between Pesach and Shavuot, known as *Sefirat Haomer*. During that time, it is customary to dedicate one's time to personal growth by refining character traits, doing more praiseworthy deeds and helping others in preparation for the upcoming Holy Day.

Here at Jewish Care, we proudly celebrate the beauty of Jewish ethics and practices on Shavuot and beyond. We strongly embrace the fundamental values of *chesed*, *mishpacha*, *derech erez* and *tzedakah* which permeate all areas of our work. This powerful connection to our heritage enables us to meet the diverse needs of our clients.

During the weeks prior to Shavuot, we have been making an extra

effort to enhance our Cultural and Spiritual Program by developing a comprehensive research study, in order to understand more about current and future Jewish needs of our clients.

Through considering the diverse viewpoints from all sectors of our community, we will be in a stronger position to enhance the quality of life for our community of clients and residents.

As the saying goes, "Two Jews, three opinions" – all three are valuable, so please join in.

Warm wishes and blessings,  
Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant



To participate in our short survey, please visit [www.jewishcare.org.au/survey2012](http://www.jewishcare.org.au/survey2012)

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MC22012

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