

MY Connection

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Front cover:
Kayleigh Flaks, who arranged a fundraiser in support of Jewish Care
Photo credit: Dean Schmideg

Message from our President and CEO



Bill Appleby
CEO



Bruce Rosengarten
President

Sharing the Knowledge

We would not have survived as a species if knowledge sharing were not basic to our nature.

The greater purpose of knowledge sharing is in shaping another's mind and nurturing spirit to release their full potential to live a meaningful and rewarding life. It is the right vehicle of endowing people with values of community responsibility, tolerance, and an eagerness for ongoing learning and spreading ideas to ultimately make the world a better place.

Successful communities offer a variety of opportunities for sharing knowledge and resources, for collaborating and for networking. Through education and knowledge sharing we can improve a person's ability to think critically, solve problems, and make informed decisions for themselves and their communities. Education has the power to lift people out of poverty,

promote gender equality in society, improve knowledge about health and nutrition, promote sustainable development, and improve global cooperation—making it the single most important foundation for global advancement!

In line with that, Jewish Care believes one of our cornerstones in building a strong and resilient community lies in the sharing of knowledge with people of all ages and abilities; and that's why so many of our programs and services are focused on education and empowerment.

In this issue of *My Connection* you will learn about our initiatives aimed to equip our community with valuable skills and strategies needed to manage adversity, build capacity and confidence, and thrive! Some of these programs include:

- The innovative Young Achievers Program, empowering Jewish teenagers to step out of their comfort zones, try new things and pursue their passions, while being guided by highly skilled and motivated mentors helping them along the way;
- Our exciting partnership with the Hebrew University of Israel to operate the Florence Melton School in Melbourne offering Jewish literacy in an open, intellectually stimulating environment for all; and
- An overview of our financial education programs assisting

our clients to alleviate everyday pressures and create sustainable lifestyles for their families, including financial counselling, the JMLC interest free loans, Saver Plus matched savings program, and our Employment and Recruitment service, Always Moving Forward.

As the popular quote states: "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime." Together with our supporters, we are committed to enhancing the wellbeing of our community and making a lasting and sustainable difference to the lives of many.

By expanding the knowledge horizons of our people, we invest in the successful continuity of future generations to come.

As we enter a New Year, please join our efforts and help Jewish Care to make the upcoming year a whole lot sweeter for those in need in our community. Your thoughtful donations will assist thousands of people to go through the hard times with dignity and move towards a better tomorrow.

Your ongoing support is kindly appreciated. Wishing you and your loved ones a very sweet and healthy New Year ahead!

Bruce Rosengarten
President

Bill Appleby
Chief Executive Officer

2012 Annual General Meeting



Tim Costello AO

Date and time: 13 November 2012 - 6pm

Venue: Monash University Caulfield Campus

Highlight: An engaging panel discussion on the topic of *Poverty in the Jewish community*.

Panel moderator: Tim Costello AO, CEO of World Vision and one of Australia's leading voices on social justice issues.

RSVP: 2 November by contacting (03) 8517 5786 or events@jewishcare.org.au or visit www.jewishcare.org.au/events

Renew Your Membership!

Being a member enables you to vote at the AGM and help us shape the future of our organisation.

Our annual membership fee is \$36 per person (\$13 concession rate.) Please renew by **Tuesday 30 October 2012**, by calling Rebecca Tuszyński on (03) 8517 5786 or email rtuszyński@jewishcare.org.au

Sharing the Knowledge

Passion for Social Good

Willing to make a real difference to her community, a 16-year-old student, Kayleigh Flaks, dedicated her year-long personal school project to a worthy cause.

Feeling strongly connected to her Jewish identity, Kayleigh chose to research Jewish Care. "I was simply amazed to learn how broad your programs and services are. I decided to run a fundraising event in support of Jewish Care."

Originally, Kayleigh planned a small morning tea for about twenty people. However, on the day of the event, the house was packed with eighty interested individuals, thanks to Kayleigh's superb organisational skills and passion for social good.

She spent months creating hand-made invitations, making follow-up calls, arranging kosher food donations from the Raw Fruit Shop, Glicks and the South African Shop,

and ordering elegant gift hampers for a raffle.

"My family and friends supported me wholeheartedly," said Kayleigh. "The night before the event, my parents, brother and cousins helped me assemble tons of sandwiches and bake last-minute treats, including a peppermint crisp that turned out delicious!"

The end result was better than she could ever imagine: over \$2000 was raised to support Jewish Care's social justice programs. Participants felt privileged to be included in such a vital community cause.

"My phone kept ringing for many days, with people thanking me for giving them a chance to learn more about Jewish Care, and willing to donate and volunteer as well," said Kayleigh. "It made me realise how each person can change lives for good. It's all possible."



Kayleigh Flaks selling raffle tickets

We are very proud of Kayleigh's remarkable commitment and efforts demonstrating one's true potential to turn lives around.

If you would like to arrange a personal fundraising event in support of Jewish Care, please contact our Development Team on (03) 8517 5963 or development@jewishcare.org.au

Reaching Higher

The Young Achievers Program (YAP) has given both past and present mentees a reason to smile.

Now in its 9th successful year, the innovative program tailored for 15-18 year olds, continues to empower our youth to develop life skills and reach higher.

Being matched with an adult mentor, each student has the opportunity to participate in skills and team building activities, such as the workshops on Time Management and Theatre Acting, held in June.

During the workshops, mentees focused on practical strategies to maximise their time and learnt to improve self-confidence in a fun, interactive way.

Current Participants Say...



YAP has impacted my life by letting me step out of my comfort zone, and by trying new things that I never thought I would. It assisted me in pursuing my goals in designing activities that all VCE school kids should know about, as well as having great mentors, to help us along the way if we get stuck.
– **Daniel Tashlik, age 16**



YAP has helped me gain the skills I need to become a great leader with a positive attitude towards achieving my hopes and dreams.
– **Sarah Lewis, age 17**



The most rewarding part of joining YAP is being involved in activities genuinely assisting in personal growth and development. I am still in contact with some of the mentors that I have had on YAP, and they have provided me with direction and guidance.
– **Marcus Frajman, age 19**



Through YAP, I received a grant towards my GAP year in Israel which was one of the most amazing experiences of my life.
– **Jonathan Maybloom, age 20**

To find out more about YAP, please contact Candis Herr on (03) 8517 5626 or yap@jewishcare.org.au

Sharing the Knowledge

Making a Difference



CPE course graduation. Rabbi Boruch Shapiro is pictured second from left

Known for their incredible hospitality, warmth and kindness, Rabbi Boruch and Nechama Shapiro always look for opportunities to offer a helping hand.

From making homemade food deliveries for sick Jewish patients at Melbourne hospitals and hosting regular Shabbat meals for numerous guests to volunteering at various community organisations, Boruch, Nechama and their children, present a shining example of truly devoted individuals impacting the lives of many.

Both natives of the former USSR, Rabbi Boruch and Nechama Shapiro are famous among the members of the Russian Jewish community of Melbourne for their kind nature and good spirit.

For years, no matter how busy Nechama was raising their children, she frequently volunteered at Jewish Care by visiting residents at Montefiore Homes Community Residence.

“The seniors enjoyed talking Russian to me, and my girls sang in Hebrew warming up their hearts,” said Nechama. “We still consider residents as our adopted grandparents.”

In addition to volunteering, Nechama also attended Saver Plus, financial education and matched savings program.

“It was great to share efficient budgeting ideas in a friendly atmosphere at Jewish Care,” said Nechama. “Helping with schooling costs, programs like Saver Plus are crucially important for our community’s current and future wellbeing.”

Following his wife’s example, Rabbi Shapiro turned to Jewish Care to improve his clinical and pastoral care skills. In July 2012, he completed the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course, run in partnership between Jewish Care, the Rabbinical Council of Victoria Inc., the Alfred Hospital and the Healthcare Chaplaincy Council of Victoria.

The CPE course integrates a group study of theology, spirituality, ministry and personal identity whilst offering a self-directed learning experience in the ministry.

“While providing a platform for stimulating theological discussions, the course has also equipped me with real-life situations and solutions, which, is definitely going to assist me in my work as pastoral and spiritual carer.”

Building resilience in our community is Jewish Care’s key agenda. We admire family Shapiro’s achievements and wish them to continue going from strength to strength.

To organise a pastoral visit to Jewish patients in Melbourne hospitals, please call Rabbi Boruch Shapiro on 0406 386 770 or email rabbi.bshapiro@gmail.com

Money Matters

Jewish Care provides a variety of financial services and programs, educating community members about the ways to alleviate everyday pressures and achieve their goals.

Good money management is vital for creating a sustainable lifestyle and safeguarding against unexpected challenges.

Our financial counsellors assess personal situations and assist individuals in developing skills and strategies to improve their financial situation, while also educating clients about their government entitlements.

For more information about our financial services, please call (03) 8517 5999 or email info@jewishcare.org.au

Actively Engaged with Music and Laughter

A new weekly afternoon playgroup has become an anticipated event at Gary Smorgon House.

Designed to improve children’s gross motor, musical and social skills, the program also provides a great opportunity to teach the younger generation about the importance of visiting and respecting our elderly.

Thanks to volunteer and experienced musician and educator, Sarah Kisilevich, both residents and children are given a chance to explore music through singing and rhythmic dancing, bringing much happiness to all. What a terrific way of making new friends in the very heart of our community!



From left: Adina Cannon with daughter Tair and resident Liubov Relina

For more information and to register your child, please contact Sari Eisen on (03) 8517 5917 or seisen@jewishcare.org.au

Helping People Help Themselves



When Andrei* was facing an extended waiting period for orthopaedic surgery last year, he approached Jewish Care’s Jewish Mutual Loans Company (JMLC) for assistance.

The 27-year-old applied for a Jump Start loan and received \$7000, which enabled him to pay for immediate private medical care and early rehabilitation. “I am proud that my community wanted to help me,” he said of the experience.

David* aged 20, borrowed \$25,000 to start his building supplies business and was given a two-year repayment period. He paid the money back in just

six months. “Without JMLC I couldn’t have afforded to buy stock. My business progressed rapidly with the aid of the loan,” he said.

For the past 125 years, JMLC has been supporting the members of the Victorian Jewish community to help themselves. The Melbourne Jewish Aid Society, which was later known as JMLC, was established in 1888 by a group of Melbourne Jews who pledged 650 pounds to create an interest free loan fund for their coreligionists.

In 2005, JMLC became a fully owned subsidiary of Jewish Care, which had previously been providing the organisation with administrative support.

The service offers interest free loans to assist borrowers with health costs, to develop their own businesses or with education fees for programs in Israel. A wide range of loans are provided to all members of our community.

“A proud Jewish tradition of interest free

loans is alive and well at Jewish Care,” said JMLC Chairman, Dr John Serry.

In the past financial year, JMLC has given out 92 loans worth \$720,000, an increase on the previous financial year when the organisation made 76 loans at a total value of \$540,000.

“The current increase reflects different financial and economic times and increased community awareness of what we offer,” Dr Serry said. “The demand for loans is growing, and we are committed to meeting the need into the future.”

Today, many more young families and individuals are turning to Jewish Care for assistance with debt or to fund family *simchas* such as Bar/Bat Mitzvahs or weddings. New immigrants from Israel are also benefiting from JMLC, as are the elderly, which, as population demographics indicate, is becoming a growth area.

**Names have been changed to protect client confidentiality.*

To apply for a JMLC loan, please contact Anna Barbakh on (03) 8517 5653 or abarbakh@jewishcare.org.au. To support the service, please contact our Development Team on (03) 8517 5963 or development@jewishcare.org.au

Towards Financial Independence

Do you feel overwhelmed by your ongoing costs? Would you like to reduce your expenses, make better choices and control your spending habits?

Following a savings goal isn’t such a daunting task, thanks to our financial education and matched savings program, Saver Plus.

Run in partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, Saver Plus encourages people to establish effective money management habits, matching every saved dollar with another dollar (up to \$500), for education-related expenses.

“During the past year, we assisted 169 individuals to save more than \$45,000 to help pay for educational supplies, school uniforms and sports



fees,” said Deena Elmakeas, the program coordinator.

In June, Jewish Care hosted two Saver Plus workshops, focusing on planning, budgeting and, ultimately, investing in one’s future.

For further information about Saver Plus, please contact Deena Elmakeas on (03) 8517 5670 or delmakeas@jewishcare.org.au

Did You Know?

Our employees have been amazing ambassadors at home and abroad, presenting to the broader community about the wonderful work of Jewish Care.

Recently, our Mental Health Team Leader, Bronwen Taylor, presented on ‘Cultural Sensitivity and Needs: Considerations for Delivering a Mental Health Program for the Jewish Community of Melbourne’ at the Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Conference 2012 in Barcelona, Spain.

Jewish Care staff also shared knowledge and wisdom in Italy, Germany and Israel as well as at a number of forums and conferences here in Victoria, demonstrating our leadership voice across our areas of expertise.

News and Partnerships

Melton Melbourne at Jewish Care

Jewish Care has partnered with The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, a worldwide pioneer network of community-based schools, offering Jewish literacy in an open, transdenominational, intellectually stimulating learning environment.

The Melton curriculum focuses on Jewish history, religion and rituals, philosophy, literature and all aspects of modern Jewish life.

“At Jewish Care we believe that education is an integral component of building strength and resilience in our community,” said Bill Appleby,

Jewish Care’s CEO. “Providing numerous services and educational programs for our community, we are in position to operate Melton Melbourne without adversely affecting any existing services.”

“We look forward to providing the Melton curriculum, developed by the Hebrew University, and designed to suit the needs of adults from all walks of life, including clients of our Healthy Ageing Program and staff from other health agencies, wishing to expand their knowledge of Jewish practices and traditions,” said Emma Boyar,

the endorsed Director of Melton Melbourne and the current Youth Engagement Manager at Jewish Care.

For more information about The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning and to register for classes, please contact Emma Boyar on (03) 8517 5933 or eboyar@jewishcare.org.au



For complete course curriculum, please visit <http://www.meltonmelb.org.au>

Generations of Giving



Susan Zimmerman with husband Les

For many years, while leading successful retail businesses, Laser Slutzkin and his brother Sholom, were known as true advocates for the needs of our community. Immigrants from Czarist Russia, they created numerous work places for community members and newcomers, offered a helping hand to those in need, made generous contributions to synagogues and lived their lives with a genuine spirit of giving.

Following the philanthropic beliefs of her grandfather Sholom and great uncle Laser, Susan Zimmerman, and her mother Alys Slutzkin, continue the generational chain of supporting our community.

Recently, Susan and Alys donated two beautiful Mishnah sets to St Kilda Hebrew Congregation, Montefiore Homes Community Residence and Gary Smorgon House, in memory of Susan’s

grandfather Sholom and father, Robert Eliot Slutzkin.

Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant, Jewish Care’s General Manager of Cultural and Spiritual Services, was thrilled to welcome the new set of holy books into the Montefiore Shul. This synagogue is located in the Slutzkin Wing, named after Sholom Slutzkin, past President and Board Member of the Montefiore Homes, who was responsible for its first complete renovation in 1945.

“These *Mishnayot* will certainly be used in our weekly *shiurim* (lectures) touching the hearts and souls of our elderly in such a meaningful way,” said Rabbi Kluwgant.

“The donated Mishnah edition, *Derech Hanesher*, is very close to my heart, as it encapsulates the commentaries of my great uncle Laser, who was a renowned Torah scholar and a prominent community leader,” said Susan Zimmerman.

Jewish Care Victoria extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Zimmerman and Slutzkin family for their kind donation enriching the spiritual wellbeing of our seniors and adding to the *heimish* feel of our residences.

A Journey to Remember

In April, our General Manager of Services for Older People, Meigan Lefebure, and our Healthy Ageing Manager, Deborah Harvey, went on a memorable and inspiring Jewish Care mission to Israel, a first for both.

As part of the mission, both managers visited various aged care facilities and not for profit organisations, giving them the opportunity to understand the issues of aged care in Israel and to gather ideas for application at Jewish Care.

“Thanks to this trip we were able to build long-term relationships with Israeli service providers that will enhance information sharing and further service engagement,” said Meigan Lefebure.



Deborah Harvey and Meigan Lefebure discovering Israel

Together Through Challenging Times

Turning lives around is a joint effort, relying on community partnerships and passionate individuals. Thanks to the long-lasting collaborative work between Jewish Care and the Melbourne Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society (MHLBS), more than ten single women with children in our community are assisted each month to withstand tremendous difficulties and make a transition towards a better tomorrow.

Victims of family violence, difficult divorce or unexpected death of a spouse, these women are often anxious and unsure of their options; yet, they still must continue to strive, often having their own children to support.

For more than 150 years, the MHLBS has helped Jewish women in our community to go through challenging times with dignity and build better futures for their families.

Run by fourteen outstanding volunteers,

the society provides immediate financial relief, food and clothes vouchers while working closely with Jewish Care case managers and financial counsellors in assessing the clients’ ongoing needs and government entitlements and developing strategies to get them back on their feet.

“It’s crucially important to enter the lives of these women when they need it most,” said Brenda Kahan, the MHLBS Honorary Secretary. “That’s how they re-learn to trust and gain back the confidence to move forward.”

The MHLBS volunteers build a relationship with their clients by paying regular visits to their homes, bringing food, clothes, shoes, linen and home appliances, and overall making them feel secure.

“We don’t act just as a support network, but rather as a group of relatives or friendly aunties, genuinely caring for the



From left: Brenda Kahan, Marion Jacobson and Dianne Cass

physical and emotional wellbeing of our clients,” said Marion Jacobson, the MHLBS President.

“However, we need new volunteers to join our circles,” said Diane Cass, the MHLBS Treasurer. “Trust us, it’s an incredible feeling to give just a portion of your time to make someone’s life a whole lot brighter.”

For more information about the MHLBS and to volunteer, please contact Brenda Kahan on 0411 473 836 or brenda@bacitia.com.au

Providing Employment is Providing a Future



Francois Adam with Montefiore resident Mindla Horowicz

Jewish Care and Jewish Aid Australia have combined forces to support a member of the Darfuri community living in Melbourne.

Francois Adam was a qualified nurse in Sudan and has also completed 5 years of a 7 year medicine course in France. Arriving in Australia in 2011, Francois was keen to continue his work as a nurse.

The Jewish community has rallied together to support Francois with Jewish Aid subsidising his enrolment fees in an aged care course, while Jewish Care provided placement for 110 hours of work experience.

Bill Appleby, Jewish Care CEO said, “Jewish Care is committed to recruiting and investing in the best and brightest people. Francois is a shining example of a compassionate and empathetic carer, who continues to develop his skills at Jewish Care through our professional training initiatives. The end rewards not only benefit Francois but the many residents who appreciate his care.”

“Jewish Aid works very closely with newly arrived refugees from Sudan by assisting them with pre-employment skills, English support and mentoring,” said Lisa Buchner, Jewish Aid Australia, Local Programs Director.

At the end of Francois’ work experience, Jewish Care offered him a job as a Personal Care Assistant. “I am so happy to have a job at Jewish Care. This is a big opportunity for me,” said Francois.

Francois is very grateful to the Jewish community for all the help in making his dream come true!

Entering the Workforce

Always Moving Forward, Jewish Care’s employment and training service, recently ran a morning workshop to empower jobseekers with effective strategies to gain employment.

The training session focused on successful job search techniques, the importance of tailoring one’s resume and cover letter while addressing the key selection criteria and securing job interviews.

Participants practiced identifying their own key personal and work strengths and were encouraged to build networks with other jobseekers.

Attendees agreed that the workshop empowered them to secure employment.

For more information on current job opportunities, please contact (03) 8517 5999 or email amf@jewishcare.org.au or visit www.jewishcare.org.au/amf

Community Engagement

Combining Cooking and Philanthropy

The 29th Friends of Montefiore Annual Brunch was held on Wednesday May 23 at Leonda by the Yarra, and well attended by over 200 supporters of Jewish Care.

Guest speakers Judy Kempler and Pnina Jacobson, co-authors of the international, award-winning cookbook, *One Egg is a Fortune*, shared their journey of creating such an original, sophisticated and self-published cookbook.

"This is a collection of cultural



From left: Committee member Nicole Silberberg, speakers Pnina Jacobson, and Judy Kempler, with Chair Delysia Pahoff

vignettes from compelling contributors and mingles recipes with warmth, nostalgia and sociological record," said Pnina Jacobson.

The Friends of Montefiore committee, led by their dedicated Chair, Delysia Pahoff, has brilliantly run this fundraising and social event for nearly three decades. The money raised from this year's brunch will be used to purchase a second commuter bus for our aged care residents.

"It is a wonderful achievement for



Roberta Okun and Susan Swiatlo

Mrs Pahoff and her team, and we are once again extremely thankful for their unbelievable support. This brunch is what turning lives around, together, is all about," said Bruce Rosengarten, President of Jewish Care.

Over 80 copies of the cookbook were signed by the authors and sold during the event. Proceeds from book sales went towards the purchase of another commuter bus, to facilitate more outings for Jewish Care's residents, enhancing their quality of life.



From left: Yolanda Klempfner, Eva Ermer, Janina Fleiszig, Marla Bancroft and Noga Shub

Paying Tribute



Marietta Manders with husband Richard

Marietta and Richard Manders were known throughout the Jewish community for their philanthropy supporting vital community organisations.

They were longstanding Jewish Care supporters and members of our Circle of Care Planned Giving Club and majors donors for over twenty-five years.

For more information about wills and bequest, please contact Feygl Cylich on (03) 8517 5602 or fcylich@jewishcare.org.au

Moving to Australia from war-torn Europe, the couple met in Melbourne in 1959, establishing a hospitable home.

A chartered accountant and real estate agent, Marietta was generous to all people around her. She never dismissed her childhood friendships and often went back to Europe to visit her loved ones.

Marietta's husband Richard was a successful solicitor and brilliant linguist speaking numerous languages.

Sadly, they never had children. Despite the loneliness Marietta felt after Richard's passing, she saw the realisation of his wishes with a generous donation towards the construction of Gary Smorgon House.

The third floor of the residence carries the couple's name.

In 2011, Marietta passed away, leaving a heartfelt bequest for Jewish Care which will assist our community for decades to come.

To honour the memory of Richard and Marietta, Glen Eira Villas, Jewish Care's independent accommodation for people with a disability has been renamed The Richard and Marietta Manders Villas.

"As an organisation and a community, we are indebted to the Manders family not only for the breadth of their generosity, but for the example of giving which as a couple they epitomised," said Robbie Franco, General Manager Development.

In Memoriam



Rodney Lloyd Benjamin OAM

Our sincere condolences go out to the family of Rodney Lloyd Benjamin OAM PhD, on the sad occasion of his passing in June 2012.

Rodney was a prominent writer of history, a business leader, a community activist and a successful sportsman.

For almost twenty years, Rodney was associated with the Australian Jewish Welfare Society as Board Member, President and Federal President.

Rodney will be greatly missed by his loving family and many friends, who will always remember his caring personality, positive attitude and a will to succeed.

And the Winner is...

A huge thank you to all young supporters of Jewish Care who took time to submit their great naming ideas for our friendly mascot.

It wasn't an easy decision to make with so many creative entries demonstrating how giving *tzedakah* is such an important part of our children's lives.

We are thrilled to announce the winner as Noa Baker, 15, for naming our mascot Tzeddy.

Mazal Tov to runner-up Ellie Israel, 5, for suggesting the name Ezra.

Both Noa and Ellie were thrilled to receive their certificate and prize of movie tickets to the Classic Cinema.



Noa Baker and Ellie Israel with Tzeddy.



www.classiccinemas.com.au • 9 Gordon Street Elsternwick

Sport for Support

The Over 30s Kick for a Cause footy stars raised more than \$10,000 for Jewish Care and the Melbourne Jewish Charity Fund in their annual footy match in June.



David Gold trying to break a strong tackle

There were spectacular marks, super-star goals and great sportsmanship shown by all participants.

Organised by a committee of friends including Reuben Zelwer, David Gold, Yoni Paluch and Dion Epstein, the event encouraged players and supporters to raise sponsorship for those in need.

The organisers were elated with the event, now in its third successful year.

"It was a day filled with smiles, sport, sausage sizzle and an amazing show of support," said Reuben Zelwer.

Our appreciation also goes to sponsors Burgess Paluch Legal Recruitment, Adapt Wealth Management and Team Zone, who donated 50 coveted AFL Prize Cards, a huge hit with the kids.

From Melbourne to Holy Land

Since the destruction of the Holy Temple on Tisha B'Av, a custom evolved to pray at the Kotel (Western Wall) and place notes between its ancient stones.

In preparation for Tisha B'Av, Jewish Care's residents, clients, family and staff were given an opportunity to deposit their special letters in Prayer & Message Boxes which were set up in the Montefiore Home Plaza, Gary Smorgon House Synagogue and Munzer Community Residence.

All letters were delivered to Jerusalem and were securely placed in the Western Wall.



Myer Weinstock proudly displaying the hand-carved Yad at the presentation ceremony

Pointing in the Right Direction

Myer Weinstock, an experienced woodworker and resident of Montefiore Homes, donated a handmade wooden Torah reading pointer, known as *Yad* in Hebrew, to our Montefiore Shul.

"Once in shul, I saw a man pointing to read the Torah, so I decided to make a proper Yad," he said.

"Thanks to Mr Weinstock's dedication and talent, it will be easier for our congregants to find the right place when called up to the Torah," said Rabbi Yisroel Kohn, Minister Montefiore Homes.

Simchas and Acknowledgements



Wolfe and Fay Rakusin made a donation to Jewish Care to mark their 50th Wedding anniversary



Dina Webb (in blue) shared her 80th birthday simcha with those in need by donating to Jewish Care



A huge Mazal Tov to Jewish Care's past President, Robyne Schwarz, for being awarded the Order of Australia Medal on Queen's Birthday



Congratulations to Anna Zamek who celebrated her 90th birthday with family, friends and a heartfelt donation to Jewish Care



A joyous simcha became memorable, too, for helping others as engaged couple Adam Beckman and Shari Sweet requested donations to Jewish Care in lieu of gifts



Avreml Shepes donated to Jewish Care in honour of his 90th birthday

Thank You

To share your simcha, please contact our Development Team on (03) 8517 5963 or development@jewishcare.org.au

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

Bar Mitzvah

Thomas Friedman
Jordan Zaitman
Max Shapiro
Phillip
De Carvalho Koch

Engagement

Adam Beckman &
Shari Sweet

50th Wedding Anniversary

Wolfe and Fay
Rakusin

40th Birthday

Ronn Bechler

50th Birthday

Marcia Pinskiar
Paul Kessell
John Deane

60th Birthday

Stephen Nowak

70th Birthday

Ian Rogers
Gabor Gyopar

75th Birthday

Lou Silber

80th Birthday

Dina Webb
Mirri Curtis
Magda Levy
Mark Kausman
Eva Marks
Phillip Shulman

85th Birthday

Leila Roland

90th Birthday

Joe Isaac
Michael Gerczuk
George Upton
Benno Heneberg
Bobby Shandler
Anna Zamek
Martha Wynn
Lily Hayat
Marianne Schwarz
Avreml Shepes
Keith Steinhardt

A Word of Thanks

Jewish Care expresses sincere gratitude to our partners and corporate sponsors, supporting our community and helping us to turn lives around, including:

Bialik Early Learning Centre and Primary School for the donation of Shavuot baskets.

Classic Cinemas for giving 5 family passes, valued at \$380, for our Mascot Naming Competition.

Unigift Traders for their generous support of Friends of Montefiore Brunch.

What's New at Jewish Care?

For more photos, go to the 'Events' page at www.jewishcare.org.au

Friends Across Generations



Mount Scopus Year 8 students visiting Montefiore residents



From left: Dahlia Goldberg, Anna Grisman and Hannah Estraich



Natalie Adler with Montefiore resident Stella Hercz

Shavuot Celebrations



Doreen Kenmar and Maurie Perlow at the Circle of Care Shavuot celebration



Members of the Circle of Care Planned Giving Club and Jewish Care representatives



Shavuot party for Disability Services at St Kilda Hebrew Congregation

National Volunteer Week



Our dedicated volunteers Avram and Masha Zeleznikow



Volunteers from all walks of life celebrating their achievements at Jewish Care



From left: Annette Meller Wilden, Paula Rosin and David Wilden

Spreading Joy



(L-R) Young Achievers Ben Grosman, Katie Brand, and Evelina Kaganovitch at a Drama workshop



A young generation of footy fans supported the Over 30s Kick for a Cause



Grade 4 girls from the Kim Factor School of Dance performed at Gary Smorgon House

To watch our videos, visit the 'News and Media' page at www.jewishcare.org.au

Message from our Rabbi

Yearn to Learn



Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant

In the vernacular Rosh Hashana is referred to as the New Year; however, in perfect translation, it is actually the 'Head of the Year.'

The head is often used as a reference point for knowledge and intellect, which are in essence defining factors in our humanity.

Biblical in origin, the statement "You shall teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 11:19) serves to further accentuate the importance of learning and education as part of our culture and heritage.

Throughout history, education has helped the Jewish nation to preserve its unique identity and pass it on to future generations, whilst also serving as a powerful tool against inequality and anti-semitism. And today, education continues to determine human character and life understanding, empowering people to contribute their talents in a meaningful way.

At Jewish Care, we invest heavily in the education and training not only of our staff, but indeed of our clients and residents as well. We offer numerous courses and workshops for community members aiming to expand their skills and build capacities. We also have weekly *shiurim* (lectures) at each of our facilities and periodical study and learning sessions prior to festivals and special occasions.

And as we enter the first days of the New Year, let us all together reaffirm our commitment to education and to learning so that we may grow together in peace and prosperity.

Warm wishes and blessings,
Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant

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MC32012

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