

CMY Connection

Issue 1 Summer 2013 / Adar 5773



THE JEWISH DROP-IN CENTRE
cordially invites you to a
CHANUKAH PARTY
on Thursday, 12th December
5th Day Chanukah
at 1.30 p.m.
186 Carlisle St., Balaclava 534 74
Entertainment, Afternoon tea
Admission free

CELEBRATING
165
years
1848-2013

JewishCare
AUSTRALIAN JEWISH WELFARE AND RELIEF SOCIETY
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APRIL/MAY 1986

 **JewishCare**
My Community. My Choice.

UNITED HIAS SERVICE
How You Can Send
Cables to the United Jewish Overseas Relief Fund
Parcels Are Accepted To Territories Considered
Parts Of The Soviet Union, Including Bakov
Arabia. PARCELS CAN ALSO BE SENT
AND.
Derna

Celebrating 165 Years



Bill Appleby, CEO

165 years ago our forefathers held their inaugural meeting at the Rainbow Tavern on Swanston Street, stirred with a strong mission to give alms to the poor. Despite initial challenges, they were determined to establish the Melbourne Jewish Philanthropic Society which laid the foundation for the Australian Jewish Welfare Society and Jewish Community Services (JCS).



Mike Debinski, President

In 2001, Montefiore Homes for the Aged and JCS merged to form Jewish Care Victoria, aiming to provide a strengthened

"History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are." ~ David McCullough

service response to our community while preserving our strong sense of history, deep cultural empathy and foundational values of chessed, derech eretz, tzedakah and mishpacha.

This year, Jewish Care Victoria is celebrating its 165th year of service provision to the Victorian Jewish community. Over the journey, our organisation has been known as many different agencies, each with a common thread – the vision to do good work, the belief in success, the hope to impact people's lives, and the passion and courage to act!

We continue our journey reflecting the changing needs and aspirations of our community; and it's clear that our sustained efforts and belief are bearing fruit. Our organisation is stronger and more capable than ever before, improving thousands of lives each year by building strength and resilience, and creating a healthier, more inclusive and diverse community for all. However, we rely on your generous support to continue our important work into the future.

This year, our Annual Appeal campaign ***"Our Community. Our Responsibility."*** links Jewish Care's rich heritage with current and future needs of our community.

Each one of us has a part in making history. Please join our efforts and donate to our Annual Appeal, so Jewish Care can be here to support our community for the years to come.

Bill Appleby
Chief Executive Officer

Mike Debinski
President

OUR INBOX

We receive many letters, comments and compliments from our community, residents and clients.

This new section of *My Connection* features your feedback, whether it is a quick thank you, a suggestion or a letter of passionate support.

Please send your letters to yoursay@jewishcare.org.au

"In February, my wife, 2 children and I moved to Australia from Israel where I worked as a financial planner for fifteen years. All those years I gave people tools to promote themselves to a better financial future.

However, after coming to Australia, I realised that I lack confidence to speak about my skills in English in front of other people. This paralysed me. I could not move forward and could not connect to my strength.

Recently, I participated in the AMF Employment and Recruitment workshop, which helped me to gain the confidence and talk freely with people in English.

I want to thank Susan and Eran for the wonderful job they do in these workshops helping people like me."

~ Doron Strusberg, AMF client

"Friday is a very special day for Monte residents. All day the Plaza is full with people, the sound of music, smiling, joking and feeling happy. Every Friday starts with challah making, sitting around a big table, chatting and smiling. All day the residents are busy with exercise and playing games. We feel warm and loved! Thank you to Montefiore staff Faina and Helen who make it happen!"

~ Luba Soukhomilov, Montefiore resident

Front cover:
Historical collage portraying our rich history



2013 ANNUAL APPEAL

Share Your Feedback

This issue of *My Connection* reveals a fresh new design bursting with colour and vibrancy.

We are always looking to improve, which is why we invite you to share your thoughts about the new design of our newsletter. Your feedback will help us to enhance our publication and provide the content you are most interested in.

Please email your feedback and suggestions to marketing@jewishcare.org.au

Telethon Volunteers Wanted

A large part of our Annual Appeal success is due to the many volunteers who give their time to help out during our telethons.

If you are able to donate a few hours of your time to support our 2013 Annual Appeal, please register by contacting our Development Team on (03) 8517 5622 emailing telethon@jewishcare.org.au or visiting www.jewishcare.org.au.

Session times in April:

Sun 14, 10.00am - 5.00pm*
Wed 17, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Thu 18, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Mon 22, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Tue 23, 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Session times in May:

Sun 5, 10.00am - 8.00pm*
Mon 6, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Tue 7, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Wed 22, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Sun 26, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Mon 27, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Tue 28, 6.30pm - 8.00pm

**2hr shifts available*

Location:

Beth Weizmann Community Centre
308 Hawthorn Road,
Caulfield South



Annual Appeal Campaigners in 1973

Our Community. Our Responsibility.

For 165 years, Jewish Care has been caring for our community. Since 1848, we've opened our arms to you, through waves of immigration, two World Wars, happy times and sad. We have cared, assisted, supported and advocated for your rights in times of need.

A lot has changed over the decades but Jewish Care remains as important as ever.

Today, we continue to stand strong for people in our community who need us most – the young and old, the disadvantaged, the homeless, the unemployed and anguished.

We help them to build their capacity, achieve their goals and live full and rewarding lives.

But there are more who call every day...

Please donate generously to the 2013 Jewish Care Annual Appeal, so we can be here for your children and their families for years to come.

To donate to our Annual Appeal, please go to www.jewishcare.org.au/donate



1972 Appeal poster



1977 Appeal poster

New Year, New Functions

This year, Jewish Care is taking a fresh approach to our Annual Appeal fundraising events by hosting a number of engaging community functions throughout the year.

We have responded to your valuable feedback over the past 12 months informing us that a change to the standard Gala Dinner is needed.

So, between March and July this year,

there will be a series of Major Donor Dinners to be hosted at private homes, an Annual Appeal Dinner for 300+ guests and an exciting Community "Fun Day" event for all ages to enjoy.

More dates and details will be announced at times closer to each event.

We are excited about the new format and look forward to seeing you at one of our functions soon!



Timeline

Founded as the Melbourne Jewish Philanthropic Society, we have grown with the community for 165 years, working diligently to assist its members, helping them to withstand life's turbulences and to thrive.

1848

A Meeting at the Rainbow Tavern

The Melbourne Jewish community called a meeting at the Rainbow Tavern in Melbourne in order to form a Jewish Charitable Society. At the meeting it was resolved to form the Melbourne Jewish Philanthropic Society "to assist the poor and distressed in cases of sickness with medical aid and a weekly stipend to maintain themselves and to afford temporal aid to deserving objects who require it..."

1848

Victorian Jewish population: 200



1888

Establishment of Jewish Mutual Loans

With the simple philosophy to help Jewish people help themselves by providing financial support through interest free loans.



1936

The Foundation of the Jewish Welfare Society

Providing support to those affected by the outbreak of war.

1938

Victorian Jewish population: 9,000

1939

Frances Barkman House

The Frances Barkman House was run by the Australian Jewish Welfare Society. From the late 1930s, the Society used a Balwyn mansion, Larino, to accommodate Jewish children migrating from Germany and Austria including many Holocaust survivors.



1947

The foundation of the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society

After WWII ended, the United Jewish Overseas Relief Fund merged with the Australian Jewish Welfare Society to assist new immigrants from Eastern Europe to absorb into the Australian Jewish community.

1947

Victorian Jewish population: 14,910

1948

Establishment of Montefiore Homes



1965

Annual Appeal Poster



1980s-1996

A new wave of immigration from USSR

The leadership of Jewish Welfare lobbied the Government and informed the Australian public about the living conditions of Jewish people in the USSR. Thousands of Soviet immigrants entered Melbourne and received welfare assistance with housing, food, employment and Jewish education.



1983

Welcare Newsletter



1996

Victorian Jewish population: 37,294



1996

Housing Crisis Response Task Force

Assisting community members with accommodation needs, advocacy, information and alternative living options.

2003

The establishment of Young Achievers Program

The Young Achievers Program (YAP) was founded to provide innovative personal development to young Jewish people aged 15-18.



2001

Jewish Welfare and Montefiore Homes merge to form Jewish Care Victoria



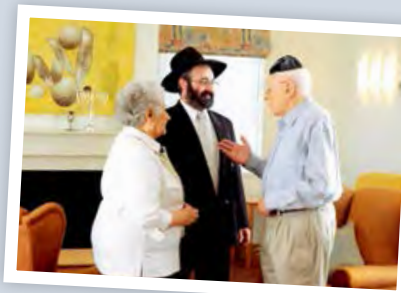
2006

Victorian Jewish population: 45,546

2004

The Mark and Dina Munzer Community Residence

A new boutique facility for older people was opened offering culturally specific extra services accommodation in the heart of our community.



2009

Gary Smorgon House

A new, state-of-the-art residence opened providing a contemporary and spacious environment for its 120 residents.



Children's Respite House Refurbished

Thanks to the generous donations of many benefactors, Jewish Care refurbished the Children's Respite House in Caulfield offering customised support to children with a disability in a warm, heimish environment while giving their carers a regular break.



2010

Glen Eira Villas

The opening of Glen Eira Villas, independent living accommodation for people with a disability (currently known as The Manders Villas).



2012

Victorian Jewish population: 51,000



2012

Adult Respite Centre Launch

Jewish Care responded to the needs of adults living with a disability and their families and carers by expanding existing respite services. The Adult Respite Centre supports adults with a disability to improve their life skills with a focus on transition to independence.

2011

Maccabi – Jewish Care Community Day

Jewish Care was abuzz as 400 Maccabi teenagers spent a day learning and having fun at our first ever Maccabi – Jewish Care Community Day.



\$10,000 Gift to Build Life Skills

A \$10,000 grant from a private community philanthropic fund has enabled Jewish Care, in partnership with Access Inc, to offer a series of workshops improving life skills and quality of life for adults living with a disability.

The gift from the fund, which has requested anonymity, will finance LifeSkills workshops for Jewish Care clients living at The Manders Villas (formerly Glen Eira Villas) independent accommodation in Caulfield.

Access Inc has been engaged to run the sessions, which include topics such as food and budget preparation, purchase planning, food handling and preparation of simple, wholesome meals.

"As part of a self-determination process, our clients identified food



George Neuhauser with Support Worker Sylvia Zattelman

handling and meal preparation as key factors in facilitating an independent lifestyle," said Bill Appleby, CEO Jewish Care. "As well as increasing client safety while cooking their own food, the primary focus is empowerment. This course will increase self-management and self-esteem, and reduce dependency

and reliance on family members and paid carers."

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the fund trustees for their generous gift, thereby making this program a reality.



For more information, contact Ross Perryman on (03) 9519 9214 or rperryman@jewishcare.org.au

Rabbi Receives Exemplary Award

Jewish Care's Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant has been awarded this year's Police Community Exemplary Award for demonstrating innovative strategies and initiatives aimed at promoting positive relations between Police and Victoria's Multicultural communities.

Rabbi Kluwgant has been a voluntary Police Chaplain since 2009 helping police in times of personal crisis and assisting in interactions with the Jewish community. He is responsible for five police stations, including Caulfield, Bayside, Prahran, Moorabbin and Malvern.

Rabbi Kluwgant has initiated a number of programs and projects within the chaplaincy department including the annual *Cops and Rabbis* luncheon which brings over 100 local police and members of the Orthodox and wider Jewish community together in an atmosphere of respect, learning and culture.

Jewish Care is delighted by the award and proud to have Rabbi Kluwgant as



Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant with Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police Ken Lay APM

a long-term leader of the organisation. Rabbi Kluwgant has been serving as Rabbi of Jewish Care, and formerly at Montefiore Homes for the Aged, since

1988. This fantastic award provides some well-deserved recognition of the wonderful work he does in addition to his role at Jewish Care.

All Ears for Good Hearing

Jewish Care is supporting adults with disabilities living at The Manders Villas in Caulfield to raise their health awareness. In December, Bloom Hearing Specialists encouraged the residents to access free hearing tests.

Jewish Care residents on a pension can also access free hearing aids, further testing and other hearing services they need.

We are looking forward to extending this opportunity to people in Jewish Care's supported accommodation housing and respite units.

New President and Treasurer Announced

Jewish Care has announced a new President and Treasurer to lead Jewish Care into 2013. Mike Debinski takes office as President of Jewish Care from outgoing President Bruce Rosengarten.

Mike Debinski is a Senior Executive in the Victorian Government and has held a range of leadership roles overseeing the planning and delivery of health and community services.

Rohan Filer has been elected as Treasurer, taking over from Michael Schoenfeld who has diligently served in the role since November 2004.

Mike said: "Being on the Board for 3 years, it is a privilege to take on this leadership role and continue working with the Board and staff to help grow Jewish Care. There are many opportunities ahead and I look forward to building an even stronger organisation to serve our community for many years to come."

He thanked Bruce Rosengarten, President from November 2009, for his extraordinary commitment and service to Jewish Care and the Jewish community of Victoria. He cited major achievements under Bruce Rosengarten's leadership, including the revitalisation of Jewish Care's long-term financial sustainability; navigation of a five year strategic plan; redevelopment of vital assets; the crystallisation of a property strategy for future expansion of services and improved service delivery across many program areas.



From left: Outgoing President Bruce Rosengarten with new President Mike Debinski

"I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution Bruce has made leading the Board over the past three years. He has worked tirelessly to build a sustainable, responsive caring organisation that supports the needs of the Victorian Jewish community," said Mike.

"I pay tribute to this wonderful organisation which accomplishes so much good every day," said Bruce Rosengarten. "It deserves recognition, encouragement and support from the community. Be proud of how it cares for those in need; and I personally ask all of us to help it grow and build strength to continue turning lives around, together, in every possible way – financially, through volunteering and with community spirit and support."

AGM Unveils New Directions and Addresses Poverty



From left: Lorraine Topol with Dr John Serry and Professor Andrew Markus

Jewish Care's Annual General Meeting was held at the Monash University Caulfield Campus in November and was well attended by 150 people.

The audience was presented with an overview of key financial and operational milestones over the past year and the unveiling of exciting new directions for the year ahead.

Highlights of the year included the opening of the much anticipated Adult Respite Centre in Caulfield and a significant partnership with Port Phillip Housing Association which will

provide additional housing to those in need in our community for the next 30 years.

A Life Governorship Award was presented to Dr John Serry who has been a dedicated Chair of the Jewish Mutual Loans Company Committee since 1991 and member of Melbourne Jewish Aid Society since 1987.

During his long period of service, John's vision has shaped and enhanced the way in which Jewish Care provides Financial Services, including the introduction of Financial Counselling, the Saver Plus program, the Accelerated Debt Reduction Loan and Small Business Mentoring Scheme.

The AGM was also the launching pad for a new report entitled *Poverty and Emergency Relief*, part of the Monash University Gen08 series. An engaging, eye-opening panel discussion on the topic of poverty in the Jewish community followed, dispelling the myth that poverty does not exist amongst members of our community.



Download our Annual Report 2011/2012 from the 'News and Media' page of our website at www.jewishcare.org.au



Encouraging Children to Save

According to the latest report by the Hon Jenny Macklin, Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 81% of Saver Plus participants encourage children to save.

Developed by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, Saver Plus, the financial education and matched savings program, helps parents to set positive spending goals, motivating their children to follow their example.

Saver Plus participants, many of whom are single mothers or parents on low incomes, use the program to pay for essential educational items for their kids including computers, school uniforms, excursion costs and musical instruments, with savings up to \$500 matched by ANZ.

ANZ Managing Director, Retail Distribution, Mark Hand, said:

“Starting a new school year is a perfect opportunity to introduce new family habits and teach your children about the value of money,” said Henry Frenkel, Jewish Care Saver Plus Coordinator.

i For more information about Saver Plus, please contact Henry Frenkel on (03) 8517 5670 or hfrenkel@jewishcare.org.au

Succah Dedication in Memory of Helen West

In October, Jewish Care hosted a succah dedication ceremony at Gary Smorgon House following an earlier succah donation by Mr Joseph West. The new, beautiful succah was built in memory of Mr West's late wife Helen, who was known for her incredible hospitality and warmth.

Jewish Care's Co-Vice President Jeffrey Appel delivered an emotional speech at the ceremony:

“Mr West and his beloved wife Helen lived through the darkest period of Jewish history. Yet, they had resilience to rebuild their ‘succah’ in Australia, and helped others by sharing the fruits of their lifelong work,” said Jeffrey.

“Looking around this state-of-the-art building, we see a Therapy Centre,



“Saver Plus is the largest and longest-running financial education and matched savings program in the world, with more than 16,000 Australians having participated. We will continue to work with the Australian Government and our community partners to ensure the program reaches more people.”



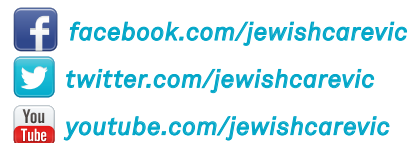
Jewish Care CEO Bill Appleby with Mr Joseph West at the Succah dedication

Jewish Care Goes Social!

Staying in touch with Jewish Care's latest news, events and activities has never been easier.

We are thrilled to launch our new Facebook page, featuring our rich organisational history, photos and news.

You can also follow us on Twitter and view our inspirational videos on our YouTube channel.



Making his Mark

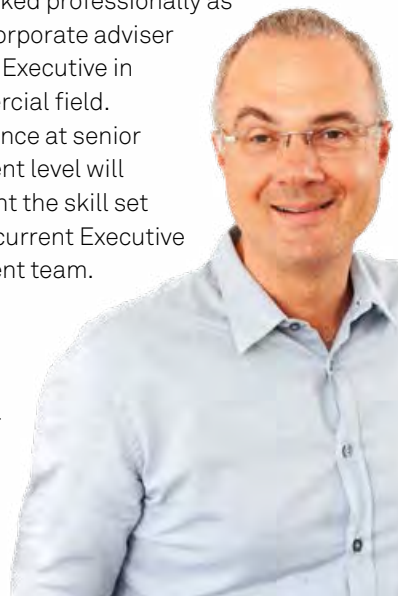
Jewish Care is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Joel as General Manager Development, incorporating fundraising, marketing, communications and youth engagement services.

Mark is well-known to many in the Jewish community through his involvement with Leibler Yavneh College and, in particular, his position as Chairman of its School Council and Co-Founder of its Foundation.

Mark has a passion for fundraising and community development along with being significantly involved with the Jewish community.

He has worked professionally as a lawyer, corporate adviser and Senior Executive in the commercial field. His experience at senior management level will complement the skill set within the current Executive Management team.

Mark Joel,
General
Manager
Development



OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Q&A with Emma Boyar

In 2012, Jewish Care has partnered with the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning (FMSA JL) to offer an elevating, text-based learning experience to our community.

With Melton commencing in February 2013, Emma Boyar, the Melton Director at Jewish Care, shares her thoughts about the program.

How did the Florence Melton School start?

Back in early 1980s, a famous philanthropist and Jewish community activist, Florence Melton, had a vision about the importance of adult Jewish education.

Together with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, she undertook the development of the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning. Her vision was right; today, Melton is



the largest, pluralistic, adult Jewish education network in the world which successfully operates in 56 communities.

What makes the Melton program unique?

The world-class Melton curriculum is designed by a team of passionate scholars of the Hebrew University's Melton Centre for Jewish Education. The courses explore the everlasting topics of Jewish thought such as Creation of Man and the Purposes and Ethics of Jewish Living.

In addition, all Melton students get an opportunity to connect with Melton students and teachers around the globe and attend international study seminars in Israel, Poland and Spain.

Some people think that learning is hard after a certain age. What do you think about that?

At Jewish Care, we believe that education isn't limited by one's age or abilities. We consider education to be a powerful tool expanding one's horizons to think critically, evaluate perspectives and explore alternative viewpoints. Education enriches one's mind and soul, and at the same time provides a wonderful opportunity to socialise with like-minded people.

What are the Melton prerequisites?

Melton attracts students of all levels of knowledge and practice and does not involve any exams. The only prerequisite is a commitment to learn.

i For more information and to enrol, contact Emma Boyar on (03) 8517 5933 or melton@jewishcare.org.au

www.meltonmelb.org.au

Waiving Transaction Fees for Holocaust Survivors

A new, rewarding partnership between Jewish Care and ANZ is going to improve the lives of Melbourne based Holocaust survivors.

Following a meaningful negotiation with Jewish Care representatives, ANZ agreed to introduce a bank waiver of transaction fees for Holocaust survivors receiving restitution payments from the Claims Conference, German and Austrian Governments, through ANZ.

“Melbourne has the largest number of Holocaust survivors per capita outside of Israel, who dedicated their lives to building a solid foundation for our community's current wellbeing,” said Magali Kaplan, Claims Conference Program Manager at Jewish Care. “Many of them are exclusively dependent on their pension to survive. It's our duty to give back to our elders by advocating for their needs and enhancing their quality of life.”

“The rise of the Australian dollar has impacted on the net value of European compensation funds, thus negatively impacting on the livelihood of our survivors. That's why our partnership with ANZ is so important,” said Daniel Goodman, Jewish Care's Chief Financial Officer.

“On one hand, it will ease the financial pressure on Holocaust survivors who rely on their pensions as their only source of income. And on the other hand, our partnership with ANZ cements a significant recognition that compensation payments to Holocaust survivors are distinct



from any other source of income and, therefore, should be treated differently.”

Currently, Jewish Care and ANZ are working closely to finalise the details and application process, which will be announced publically at a later date.

Jewish Care is looking forward to expanding this important initiative with other Australian banks.

i To find out more about pensions, payments and services for Holocaust survivors, please contact Jewish Care on (03) 8517 5999 or info@jewishcare.org.au



Claims Conference ועידת התביעות
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

A Nurturing Environment for All

Growing up at home where foster care was practised, sisters Gilly Klein and Tali Kimelman, learnt the values of genuine acceptance and unconditional love from their parents, Rabbi Jekuthiel and Tikva Broh.

“Back then, when people called Jewish Welfare searching for a place to stay, our parents were one of the first points of contact,” said Gilly and Tali, Co-Directors of Gilly’s Early Learning Centre (ELC) in Caulfield and strong supporters of Jewish Care.

As schoolgirls they often visited the Montefiore Homes for the Aged, talking and singing to the residents to brighten up their days.

Today, Gilly and Tali continue their meaningful connection with Jewish Care on a new level by hosting regular excursions for Jewish Care’s National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP) participants, who live with dementia.

“We believe that aged care and childcare have many similarities. Both elderly and little kids appreciate a loving atmosphere and enjoy simple, fun activities,” said Gilly.

“Yet, they are both vulnerable, at times not being able to speak up for themselves. That’s why it’s our role as educators and carers to advocate on their behalf and support their needs in a nurturing environment,” added Tali.

In Spring, the program participants attended a remarkable Shabbat Concert at Gilly’s ELC providing a wonderful opportunity for social inclusion.

The elderly loved listening to familiar Jewish songs and enjoyed the traditional Shabbat experience, while children were excited to have such an appreciative audience.



From left: Gilly Klein with her mother Tikvah Broh and sister Tali Kimelman

A morning tea and cappuccinos followed; with children handing out flowers to the delight of their visitors.

“The outing to Gilly’s ELC was an unbelievable success,” said the Program Coordinator Cate Molloy. “As a result, we saw an incredible improvement in our clients’ physical and emotional wellbeing. We’ll definitely come again.”

“We want to change the perception people have about aged care and childcare,” said Tali.

“Unfortunately, many people feel guilty about sending their children to childcare, and their loved ones to aged care. But if you have high quality in either of those places, there can’t be a better option,” added Gilly.

In December, the Klein family shared their joy on the occasion of their daughter Shternie’s wedding, by hosting the Pre-Wedding party at Gary Smorgon House, where Gilly and Tali’s mother lives.

The night was filled with simcha, dancing and beautiful speeches, giving true nachas to guests of all ages.

We extend our warmest congratulations to both families and wish the young couple many happy years together!

Giving is Growing

Jewish Care’s innovative B’nei Mitzvah program, run in partnership with the Pratt Foundation, connects a new generation of young Jewish people to the concept of tzedakah and volunteering.

The program is designed for young people in Victoria who are celebrating their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The Pratt Foundation generously supports the B’nei Mitzvah Program by matching each donation to Jewish Care dollar-for-dollar.

We asked some of the program participants to share their experiences with our readers.



“I chose to donate to Jewish Care and in particular, their Respite House because I think Jewish Care does a wonderful job caring for kids with disabilities and giving their families a break. I hope that my donation goes towards helping to improve the Respite House, so it can continue to be a special place for special kids.”

~ Stacey Mendel, age 12



“By volunteering at Jewish Care I learnt to be grateful for what I have and learnt the importance of being a good member of the Jewish community.”

~ Ellie Cohen, age 12



“Having a Bar Mitzvah is about growing up and taking on adult responsibilities, like Tikkun Olam – improving the world. And a great way to start is to help people in need, which the B’nei Mitzvah program is all about.”

~ Alon Katz, age 14



“Giving time and giving charity work well together, because if you give charity you also want to know what you are giving for. I learnt to look at people for who they are and not for what they look like.”

~ Jack Bassat, age 12

Who Was Aunty Elsie?

Migrating to Australia shortly before the outbreak of WWII as the only surviving member of her family, Elsie Ehrenfeld had tremendous strength and courage to start anew in Melbourne.

Throughout Elsie’s life, she remained a proud, independent woman who preferred to give to others rather than to receive. Over the years, she was a committed Jewish Care member, supporter and financial contributor.

Elsie lived in the Leo Fink Court Flats on Alma Road for more than 20 years and, in fact, was the very first resident there. She was a well-loved person and an important member of the flats and became affectionately known as “Auntie Elsie.”

After the death of her husband Paul, and without children or family members



of her own, she continued to lead a life filled with caring for others. Although she didn’t consider herself wealthy, she nevertheless directed all her restitution payments from the German Government to create a legacy for her beloved Jewish Community Services. That legacy consisted of a five-year bequest totalling \$200,000 to be used for the elderly in need of housing.

Thanks to Elsie’s bequest, a housing project worker was hired to facilitate shared housing arrangements for the huge numbers of older people in need of suitable accommodation.

Sadly, Elsie Ehrenfeld passed away in 1997, however, her thoughtful contribution continues to help hundreds of people today. Each month, between 80 to 90 families and individuals receive accommodation assistance through our housing support services. In addition, Jewish Care supports our housing clients with up-skilling, job search and counselling services to help them establish a sustainable lifestyle.

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

Ten Years of Youth Mentoring

Jewish Care wrapped up its 2012 Young Achievers Program with a dinner for graduates at Caulfield Park Pavilion on November to celebrate another successful and rewarding year.

During the past 12 months, participants have improved their knowledge and skills through a series of workshops, cultural exchange, theatre, sports, self-defence, meditation, paramedic training and rock climbing, while enhancing teamwork and communications. Each mentee was paired with a mentor, helping participants to achieve their goals.

Guest speaker Naomi Milgrom AO, Executive Chair and CEO of the Sussan Group, provided inspiration and guidance for the future.

“The success of this program lies in the mentoring connection between a person with both professional and life experience,

and a young person setting out on adult life,” Ms Milgrom said. “What drives this connection is the mutual desire to create a life of purpose, to achieve a life of meaning.”

Graduate Asher Kozma said, “Aside from all the great workshops, the camp and my mentor, the Young Achievers Program has given me the opportunity to meet and socialise with other Jewish students.”

In December, the program marked its 10th anniversary by launching an exciting YAP Alumni program at Sweet Crumble Café & Patisserie in Malvern.

Keynote speaker Peter Alexander inspired 30 participants with his own life story, which included school challenges, ambitious goals and commitment leading to enormous success.

The YAP Alumni aims to reconnect past participants and make them more involved with the Jewish community and Jewish Care through regular networking events and interest-based functions.

“We believe that learning never ends,” said Young Achievers Program Coordinator, Lana Block. “We are delighted to provide YAP graduates with new educational and networking opportunities, helping them to achieve their dreams beyond the program.”

i For more information about YAP, contact Lana Block on (03) 8517 5626 or lblock@jewishcare.org.au



Guest Speaker Peter Alexander surrounded by YAP Alumni

One Man's Triumph Over Past Adversity

The launch of a new book at the Jewish Holocaust Museum on 18 November 2012 marked not only one man's triumph over unspeakable adversity but an important contribution to Jewish community Holocaust memoirs.

My Past Is My Future: Searching for Identity follows Henri Korn's earlier release *Saviours: The Story of a Jewish Altar Boy*. It recounts Korn's journey from the last year of WWII, living in hiding from the Nazis, through to 1950, when he and his family left for Australia.

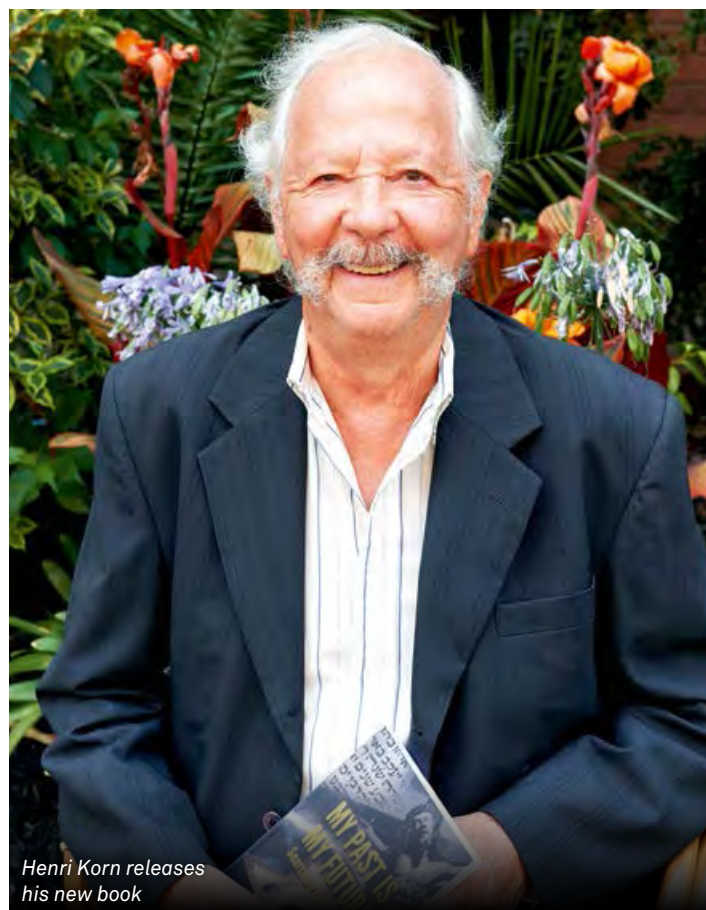
Launching the book, Jewish Care CEO Bill Appleby reflected on Korn's amazing life. He said, "During his formative years, Henri witnessed the worst of human behaviour, deceit, distrust, exploitation, violence, theft and abuse. Yet, he remained positive to make a better world for himself."

For seven years, Henri has been a committed volunteer on Jewish Care's Claims Conference Holocaust Survivors Committee, dedicated to providing a 'measure of justice' for survivors through negotiation, compensation, restitution and advocacy.

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

More recently, he was invited to be a regular speaker at Jewish Care's monthly Ethos Day, where he helps staff and volunteers to develop empathy and understanding of Jewish lifestyle and the significant trauma associated with the Holocaust experience.

Henri is also on the Holocaust Museum Board of Directors; and is a Holocaust Museum guide as well



Henri Korn releases his new book

as President of Melbourne Child Survivors of the Holocaust. In addition, he speaks at many schools and builds alliances with disadvantaged groups, including an Aboriginal Rehabilitation Centre.

i **Proceeds from sales of Henri Korn's books will be donated to Jewish Care Victoria and the Jewish Holocaust Museum and Research Centre.**

Strengthening Connections

In Spring, Jewish Care hosted the Annual Leadership Luncheon for community Orthodox Rabbis and lay leaders spreading awareness of Jewish Care's broad spectrum of significant community services and social justice programs.

In addition, Jewish Care held the Progressive Community Luncheon over Succot in the new succah at Gary Smorgon House.

Both annual functions helped Jewish Care to continue strengthening meaningful connections with a number of local synagogues and community organisations.



Community Orthodox Rabbis at the Leadership Luncheon



From left: Rabbi Fred Morgan, Marcia Piskier and Rabbi Kim Ettlinger

Following Family Traditions

For Bill Rogers, the former owner of iconic Australian brands – Stanley Rogers Cutlery and Westminster China – giving is a generational value.

Back in Czarist Russia in the 1890s, Bill's grandfather Dov Rogowoj lived in the city of Chelm, successfully running a yeast delivery business. The Torah values and communal life were important for him, so much so that he decided to build a new shul for the community.

In his twenties, Bill's father, Stanislaw Rogowoj moved to Warsaw where he became an apprentice at a merchandise warehouse. Speaking four languages, he travelled a lot for business.

Foreseeing the upheaval in Europe, in 1926 he migrated to Australia with his

"Comfortable life is good but there is so much more to it," said Bill. "I consider myself to be a custodian of what I have; and I want to give it back to my community during my lifetime and beyond."

wife and children, where he changed his name to Stanley Rogers. In 1930, he started his legendary business, Stanley Rogers Cutlery, which grew to become one of Australia's most successful brands.

However, no matter how busy Stanley was, he always found the time to participate in communal affairs, and was often invited as a *borer* (counsel chosen by a party at Jewish Rabbinical Court *Beth Din*.)



From left: Bill Appleby, Jeffrey Appel, Bill Rogers and Dr John Serry

"The *yiddishkeit* I grew up with was very strong. All the *yom tovs* were always celebrated in our house following my family traditions," said Bill.

When WWII began, Bill Rogers was in the middle of his second university year studying law. He was recruited into the army where he served for three years. After the war ended, he joined his father's business, contributing to its ongoing success.

In 1950, Bill married Rita Kalb – the

daughter of Melbourne Hebrew Congregation's cantor – and the couple had two children.

Over the years, just like his grandfather and father, Bill has continuously assisted the Victorian Jewish community by donating to worthy causes. He also founded the William and Rita Rogers Charitable Foundation which funds community organisations

locally and overseas, in addition to hospitals, research initiatives and arts.

"My father brought us up with Jewish values, and as you know, *tzedakah* is an important part of Jewish nature," said Bill. "Wealth doesn't make one happy."

"I believe that all Jewish people should support each other, after all, there are so few of us. If we don't support our own institutions like Jewish Care, we might disappear altogether."

We extend our sincere gratitude to Bill Rogers for his generous donation of \$1 million towards Jewish Care's Jewish Mutual Loan Company in honour of his 90th birthday.

We wish Bill good health and continued success for many years to come!

i **JMLC assists borrowers with interest free loans to help pay for health, education and business development expenses. 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

Thanks to our Strong Supporters

We appreciate the heartfelt involvement of strong and spirited supporters of Jewish Care who helped us to raise the necessary funds for our community by donating to our September and Phantom Tea campaigns and attending the Generations of Women fundraising event in November.

Thanks to your thoughtful donations we were able to raise \$138,680 which will enable Jewish Care to continue supporting those in need into the future!



The Generations of Women Committee with guest speakers Sally Nielsen and Kate Weiss (middle front row)



Taya Carp made a donation in lieu of her Bat Mizvah gifts and also registered for our B'nei Mitzvah program



Amanda Smorgon and Antony Jolson shared the joy on the occasion of their Pre-Wedding Party with people in need



From left: Anne Korman, Inge Rubin, Gabriel and Mavis Hornstein

Circle of Care Celebrate

During Chanukah, the members of our Circle of Care Planned Giving Club attended an End of Year Afternoon Tea at Caulfield Park Pavilion.

Jewish Care's CEO Bill Appleby shared the highlights of the year and discussed new projects for the year ahead.

Participants enjoyed top-class musical entertainment by the Maestri tenors who performed popular theatre songs.



Happy Birthday to Alan Freedman who donated to Jewish Care in honour of his 60th Birthday



Mazal Tov to our resident Susan Hires who celebrated her 19th anniversary at Montefiore

Thank You!

Jewish Care thanks the following people for their donations on the occasion of their simcha.

Upsherin

Benjamin Lotzoff
Zac Balter

Bar Mitzvah

Aryeh Fried
Bailey Melzak

Bat Mitzvah

Ellie Cohen
Monique Lustig
Stacey Mendel
Taya Carp

Pre-Wedding Party

Antony Jolson and Amanda Smorgon
Peretz Shapiro and Shternie Klein

50th Birthday

Lindsay Kotzman

60th Wedding Anniversary

Martin and Ellinor Moore

60th Birthday

Alan Freedman
Eva Light
Lyne Siegel
Lynda Gunzburg
Maryann Katz
Michael Grynberg
Ruth Katz

70th Birthday

Phil Harris

80th Birthday

Geoffrey Simpson
Harry Newhouse
Jack Joel
Nachum Buch
Stanley Kennett

89th Birthday

Sally Iglicki

90th Birthday

Anne Wolper
Bertha Isaacs
Iris Solomon
Felix Hiller

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

Photo Gallery

High Holidays at Jewish Care



From left: Irene Levick, Helen Szer and Chawa Kraner at the Active Living Centre Rosh Hashana party



Simon Ash and Mark Polonsky at the Disability Services Succot party



Montefiore resident Eric Collinson shaking Lulav with Rabbi Yisroel Kohn

Spreading Light and Joy on Chanukah



Resident Endre Gescheit lighting candles at Gary Smorgon House



From left: Margaret Kelly and resident Esther Rozen at the Munzer Chanukah party



Chanukah Packing Day at Caulfield Hebrew Congregation

Strong Bonds Across Generations



Monte residents Manya Horowitz and Raisa Naidich making friends with Grade 2 students from Gandel Besen House



UJEB students visiting Gary Smorgon House residents on Mitzvah Day

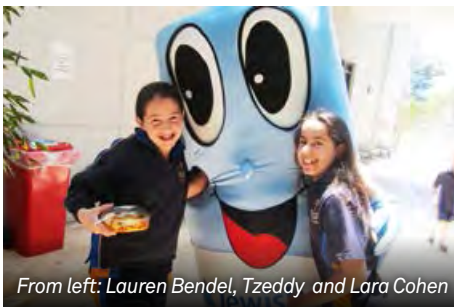


From left: Sonia Goldberg, Ruby Gance, Aerin Klein and Dora Retman at Gary Smorgon House

Tzeddy Meets and Greets



Tzeddy with a happy group of Biallik College students



From left: Lauren Bendel, Tzeddy and Lara Cohen



Our Tzedakah Mascot Tzeddy with Grade 2 students from Gandel Besen House

For more photos and videos, visit the 'News and Media' page at www.jewishcare.org.au

Remembering Where We Come From



Rabbi Meir
Shlomo Kluwgant

As we turn the pages of yet another Gregorian calendar year it is time for us all to reflect on what we have achieved over the past 12 months.

This year, our organisation has reached an incredible milestone, celebrating 165 years of community support. So, our reflection will need to be broadened, far beyond the usual 12 months parameters.

In 1848, visionaries in our community built

the foundations of Jewish Care with the establishment of the Melbourne Jewish Philanthropic Society to provide assistance to those in need. The entire Jewish population of Victoria numbered only 200.

As waves of migrants established their home here, our organisation continued to evolve, responding to the changing needs and aspirations of those it served.

And today, Jewish Care proudly continues the tradition of helping our community to withstand challenges, grow and reach higher.

Celebrating milestones is something that is not foreign to the Jewish community. This time of year, Jewish communities across the globe will be reading from the Torah about the miraculous milestone incorporating the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt resulting in the formation of the Jewish nation some 3325 years ago.

Remembering where we come from is not only a vital ingredient in guiding us towards the future; it is vital to our very existence.

So, let the celebrations begin. Let us each take a moment to look back and to draw inspiration in forming relationships that will lead us towards the future in health, happiness and prosperity.

Warm wishes and blessings,

Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant

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



Yes, I want to donate to Jewish Care's 2013 Annual Appeal

MC12013

Please accept my donation of ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$250

OR my choice \$ (All donations over \$2 are tax deductible)

☐ Please find my cheque enclosed (made payable to Jewish Care)

OR Please debit my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex

Card Number

Expiry Date

Signature

Name on Card

Email

Home Phone

Mobile

☐ Yes, I would like to make monthly donations to Jewish Care

I authorise my credit card to be debited \$ per month. (Minimum \$10)

Please send me more information on

- ☐ Wills and bequests
☐ Simcha giving (donations in lieu of gifts)
☐ Becoming a volunteer
☐ Programs and services

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Address