

# MY Connection

Issue 2 Spring 2014 / Tishrei 5775

Growing.  
For Our  
Community.



## Growing. For Our Community.



Bill Appleby, CEO

It gives us great pleasure to thank the Victorian Jewish community for its wonderful support of Jewish Care's 2014 Annual Appeal.

Thanks to our incredible donors and hardworking volunteers, we were able to raise an impressive \$3.02 million, which demonstrates how much goodness can be accomplished by people who genuinely care to make the world a better place.

We appreciate the involvement of our donors, telethon volunteers and supporters who made it their duty to help people in need in our community.

As you know, our work is ongoing and is underpinned by the organisation's Strategic Plan – Towards Tomorrow 2014 – 2017. In this issue of *My Connection* you will find out about our latest news and exciting capital developments.

Certainly, Jewish Care cannot do it alone and will need the support of the community to bring all these developments to fruition. We ask you to keep an eye out for the launch of our capital appeal program 'Growing. For Our Community.'

In line with our strategy, Jewish Care has committed, subject to securing capital funds, a major community housing project which will increase the organisation's capacity to provide much needed social and affordable accommodation. We are extremely excited to embark on our journey of renewal and growth. Together with the construction of our Disability Respite Centre and our Senior Living and Community Precincts, these developments will improve the quality of life for so many people in our community.

**"We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are." ~ Max De Pree**

Other important initiatives in the Community Services area include the launch of our Job Club, offering a place for job seekers to get support from our staff and volunteers, access technology and find employment.

We are sure you will enjoy the new section, 'Our Family' — a collection of interviews and stories about our clients and supporters.

As we enter the High Holy Days, we wish you and your dear ones Shana Tova — a year of happiness, good health and new beginnings. If you would like to make this year a whole lot sweeter for people in need, please fill out the back cover coupon and donate towards our Rosh Hashana Appeal. Thank you for being part of our journey in transforming the future of our community.



### Jewish Gifts For All Occasions

Shop online at Shop Jewish Care for all your Jewish gifts and Judaica and know that 100% of the profit on every purchase you make goes to help people in need in our community!

Visit [www.shopjewishcare.org.au](http://www.shopjewishcare.org.au) today!

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

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

*I'd like to express my appreciation for people who helped me get through a lot of sorrow: Dr Tony Graj who gave me courage for all my 4 surgeries – he saved my life. It's a blessing to Montefiore to have a Clinical Coordinator like Jola Sikora and Lifestyle Coordinator Alex Patrick. I'd like to thank Mr Bill Appleby, Managers and the nursing staff who are working so hard to please everybody. A special thanks to volunteer David Holzer, who comes to help me in the hospital.*

~ Eva Mest, Montefiore Homes resident

*I want to thank Jewish Care and Melinda Kidgell in particular for compassion, help and advice, which literally saved me. In the past, I was a homeless person, who suffered from a stroke and thyroid cancer. I didn't know where to turn. Thanks to Jewish Care, I have a home again. My health improved and so did my outlook on life. Jewish Care deserves every accolade in the world and with employees like Melinda, I know that many more people will be helped.*

~ Michael Zmood



Share your feedback about Jewish Care by forwarding your letters to [yoursay@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:yoursay@jewishcare.org.au)

**Front cover:** Esther Lonkri with son Ron celebrating his Bar Mitzvah at the Montefiore Shul



## Growing. For Our Community.



Artist's impression of the proposed Jewish Care Community Housing in Fulton St, East St Kilda

Responding to the changing needs of our community is integral to Jewish Care's mission. As we break ground at the site of the new Disability Respite Centre in Caulfield, with the building of the Senior Living and Community Precinct anticipated to start mid-2015, we can further release our proposal of a major new community housing development.

The Jewish Care Community Housing development is an important component of our 10-year capital investment program, which will offer affordable one to three-bedroom units for individuals and families in need.

Heavily reliant on this development proceeding in late 2015 is the generous funding support from the community.

### Stage 1

Redeveloping 6 properties in Fulton Street into 33 new units that are modern, comfortable and accessible for all abilities.

### Stage 2

At the completion of the first stage, the 62 existing units between Fulton St and Alma Rd will be extensively refurbished with new carpets, repainting, new kitchens, lift installations, BBQ and succah areas as well as a spacious car park.



Fulton St view

We are extremely excited and proud to create flexible housing options for community members in need, ensuring that Jewish Care continues to support and enhance the wellbeing of the Victorian Jewish community for years to come.



For further information and development updates, contact (03) 8517 5999 or email [info@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:info@jewishcare.org.au)

## 2014 Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, 19 November

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Venue:** Monash University Caulfield Campus, Building H

**Don't miss:** An important panel discussion on the topic of *Impact of the Holocaust on the children and grandchildren of survivors, the 2nd and 3rd generation*

**Distinguished speakers:** Dr Anita Frayman, Researcher Monash University, PhD Cultural Influences on Ageing in the Melbourne Jewish community;

Dr George Halasz, Adjunct Senior Lecturer, Monash University and Consultant Psychiatrist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Dr Esther Jilovsky, PhD Holocaust Studies at Royal Holloway, University

of London, Co-author of the book 'Remembering the Holocaust: Generations, Witnessing and Place'

**Panel moderator:** Magalí Kaplan, Program Manager – Jewish Care's Holocaust Survivor Support

**RSVP:** Contact (03) 8517 5733 or [seonard@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:seonard@jewishcare.org.au) or visit [www.jewishcare.org.au/2014AGM](http://www.jewishcare.org.au/2014AGM)





## Census Findings Reveal Community Trends

The Jewish population in Australia has hit 112,000, with 85% living in Sydney or Melbourne, while Caulfield North takes the prize as the most populous Jewish neighbourhood in Australia.

These are just a few of a treasure trove of findings in two new reports released at Jewish Care's head office in May.

The reports, *The Jewish Population of Australia: Key Findings from the 2011 Census* and *The Jewish Population of Victoria: Key Findings from the 2011 Census* were conducted by Professor Andrew Markus from the Monash University Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation and Dr David Graham of JCA Sydney, supported by Jewish Care Victoria and Gandel Philanthropy.

Between 2001 and 2011, the national Jewish population increased by an estimated 20%, with the vast majority – 95% of Jewish people living in its capital cities, 46% in Victoria.

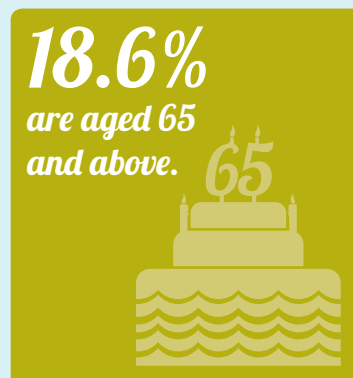
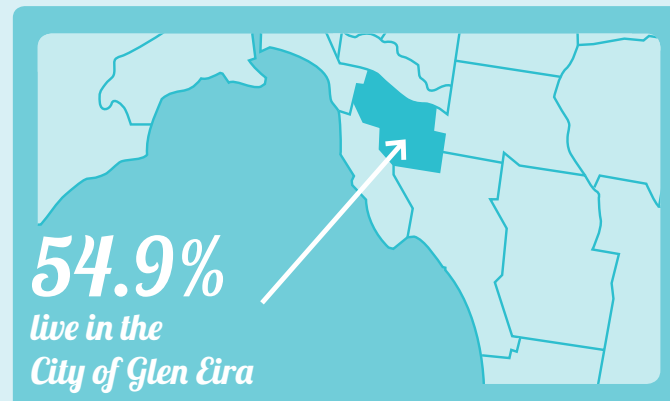
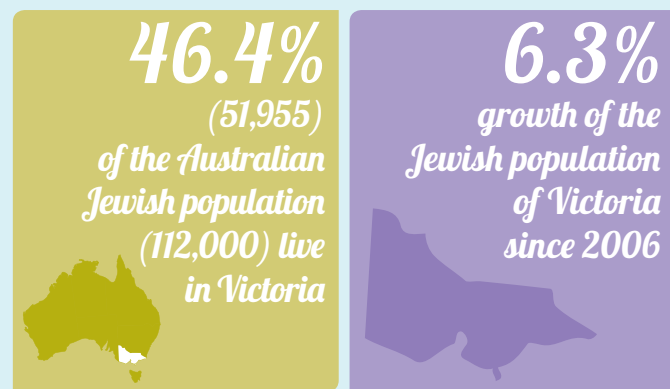
Stephen Thomas, Jewish Care General Manager, Innovation & Quality, said the findings provided an invaluable resource to inform planning for organisations such as Jewish Care.

"Currently, an estimated 1300 Jewish people are living in nursing homes nationwide, however, we need to be prepared for more as the reports predict a significant increase in the population aged 70 and over in the 2020s."

"I recommend the reports be reviewed by other organisations involved in delivering services to the Jewish community, including those providing community support programs, grants and philanthropic funding, along with schools, synagogues, peak bodies, representative bodies and youth program providers."

The reports also found the Victorian Jewish population to be geographically concentrated, with almost 74% of Victorian Jews living in just three neighbouring Local Government Areas: 54.9% in Glen Eira, 10.1% in Stonnington and 8.6% in Port Phillip.

Download your copy from  
[www.jewishcare.org.au/publications](http://www.jewishcare.org.au/publications)



## Cooking Up a Storm

Jewish Care's clients with disability improved their shopping skills and prepared a variety of nutritious meals within budget, as part of the LifeSkills Cooking Course offered at The Manders Villas.

Developed by Jewish Care Disability Services and facilitated by volunteer Robyn Boyar, the course focused on building independence skills and social inclusion opportunities for people with disability.

"There is a real sense of community within the group of students," said Ross Perryman, Outreach Coordinator Disability Services. "Their ability to work as a team, solve problems and enjoy dinners together is just fantastic."

In June, participants 'cooked up a storm' for The Manders Villas Shabbat Dinner and shared it with over 40 guests, who complimented the quality of food, presentation and personal warmth of their hosts.

In September, a video presentation and cookbook were launched at The Manders Villas to celebrate the students' wonderful achievements.

To view the video of the LifeSkills Cooking Course, 'Master Chefs', go to [www.youtube.com/jewishcarevic](http://www.youtube.com/jewishcarevic)



## Need a Job?

Thanks to a generous grant from the Trawalla Foundation, an exciting new Job Club was launched at Jewish Care.

Based at 619 St Kilda Road, and open from 10am-4pm, Mondays to Thursdays, the Job Club provides a place for job seekers to come together, support each other, access technology and find a job.

"It offers a space to improve prospects, receive one-on-one help from trained volunteers and qualified consultants, and increase confidence and emotional wellbeing while seeking work," said Bill Appleby, CEO Jewish Care.

The Job Club hosts many free workshops each month on a variety of topics to help job seekers secure employment.

To find out more about Jewish Care's jobs and workshops, visit [www.jewishcare.org.au/eec](http://www.jewishcare.org.au/eec) or contact (03) 8517 5912 or [eec@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:eec@jewishcare.org.au)

## Promoting Social Inclusion

A newly formed Social Inclusion Leadership Committee (SILC) chaired by David Southwick MP, State Member for Caulfield, brings together a group of community leaders set up to lead a campaign of realisation and change, that actively promotes the inclusion of Jewish people with disability in employment and community life in Victoria.

With representation from the areas of government, community services, sport and recreation, housing, employment, education, schools and academia, their vision and goal is to take real action towards creating a more inclusive society.

Jewish Care Victoria President, Mike Debinski, said: "In order to effect long term and lasting change, we need positive, enthusiastic and creative leadership in our community. The members of SILC are fully engaged and committed to influence the hearts and minds of people in our community so that true inclusion for people with disability will become a reality."





## Recycling is FUN!

A weekly innovative program at Jewish Care residences, Recycling is Fun, transforms old milk cartons and newspapers into beautiful, unique craft works.

The program has been an unqualified success among residents, who discovered an exciting hobby helping them to remain active, both physically and mentally.

"It's a labour of love, helping older people to maintain dignity and a sense of participation while having fun," said Sara Fonda, Creative Director and founder of the program.

Recycling is Fun has been a true blessing for family members who often create crafts together with their loved ones during their visits.

So too, the program has had a tremendous therapeutic impact on the wellbeing of isolated residents, offering a regular opportunity to explore creativity and improve their self-esteem.



The Founder of Recycling is Fun Program, Sara Fonda, at Gary Smorgon House

## Together for Children with Disability

The soon-to-be constructed Jewish Care Disability Respite Centre in Caulfield has received a funding boost after an extraordinary show of support at the 31st Friends of Montefiore Annual Brunch.

Sponsored by The Pratt Foundation, the Brunch raised more than \$80,000 to help pay for a playground for children with disability.



Friends of Montefiore committee

## From the Depths of History

Two mysterious film canisters were discovered in Jewish Care's archive, soon to be identified as important historical documentaries, 'Battle for Survival' (1946), and 'Placing the Displaced' (1948).

Both films include unique historical footage from the Holocaust period as well as post-War global response to the needs of Jewish refugees, family reunions, and first agricultural developments in Israel.

In June, Jewish Care representatives organised the delivery of these original celluloid films to the Yad Vashem World Center for Holocaust Research in Jerusalem and The Stephen Spielberg Jewish Film Archive at the Hebrew University.

Jewish Care's General Manager Quality & Innovation, Stephen Thomas, who found the canisters, said, "The discovery of these chronicles is truly remarkable. Both films take us back in time to help understand the challenges of Holocaust survivors."



To view 'Battle for Survival' go to [youtube.com/jewishcarevic](https://youtube.com/jewishcarevic)



Mazal Tov to Matan Gozlan, Adam Parasol, Raph Casper, Siena Hampel, Nissim Sibony and James Mann-Segal

## Never Too Early

'Sharing is caring' is more than a catch phrase for the Leibler Yavneh College Prep students.

Matan Gozlan, Adam Parasol, Raph Casper, Siena Hampel, Nissim Sibony and James Mann-Segal decided to do something special in honour of their 6th Birthday. Together with their parents, they requested donations in lieu of gifts for Jewish Care's Children's Respite House.

Amanda Hampel, Siena's mother, said, "We thought that donating to kids was the most appropriate way of teaching our own kids about the beauty of giving and the importance of mitzvah 'V'Ahavta L'reacha Kamocha', Love your fellow as you love yourself."

In July, more than 50 children had a ball at the Soccerwise birthday party, while also donating over \$1,500 towards the needs of children with disability in our community.

"We thank the amazing group of young philanthropists who reminded us that it's never too early to make a difference," said Dan Kisumbi, Disability Services Manager. "The donated money is going to be used to buy linen and furnishings for the children's section of our new Disability Respite Centre."

Jewish Care appreciates the involvement of Matan, Adam, Raph, Siena, Nissim and James and wishes them health, happiness and ongoing success!

## The Wonders Of Alice

On August 31st, the Volunteer Resource Program hosted its first youth volunteer event for those aged under 35.

A chance to meet and bond, they were all treated to a cooking demonstration from special guest Alice Zaslavsky, former MasterChef contestant and current host of children's cooking show 'Kitchen Whiz' on Channel Go.

'Alice from Yavneh', as she introduced herself, said she was "delighted to share her skills with volunteers from Jewish Care – the organisation that helps so many people in our community."

Alice infused her cooking process of making borsht, canapés and mocktails with warm childhood memories, love of fresh ingredients and her philosophy that "cooking doesn't need to be complicated; it's about using your intuition."

Participants appreciated a chance to network with each other in a relaxed, entertaining atmosphere, while The Manders Villas residents took great joy in helping Alice prepare the dishes.

Mary Scott, General Manager People and Culture at Jewish Care



From left: Alice Zaslavsky, Tiffany Page and Tamara Henschel

thanked volunteers for their hard work and commitment, demonstrating true community spirit.

Volunteer Grace Schwarz said: "I definitely get at least as much out of volunteering as the person I work with. It's not that I'm volunteering – I'm visiting a friend."



To access the list of latest volunteering opportunities at Jewish Care, please visit [www.jewishcare.org.au](http://www.jewishcare.org.au)



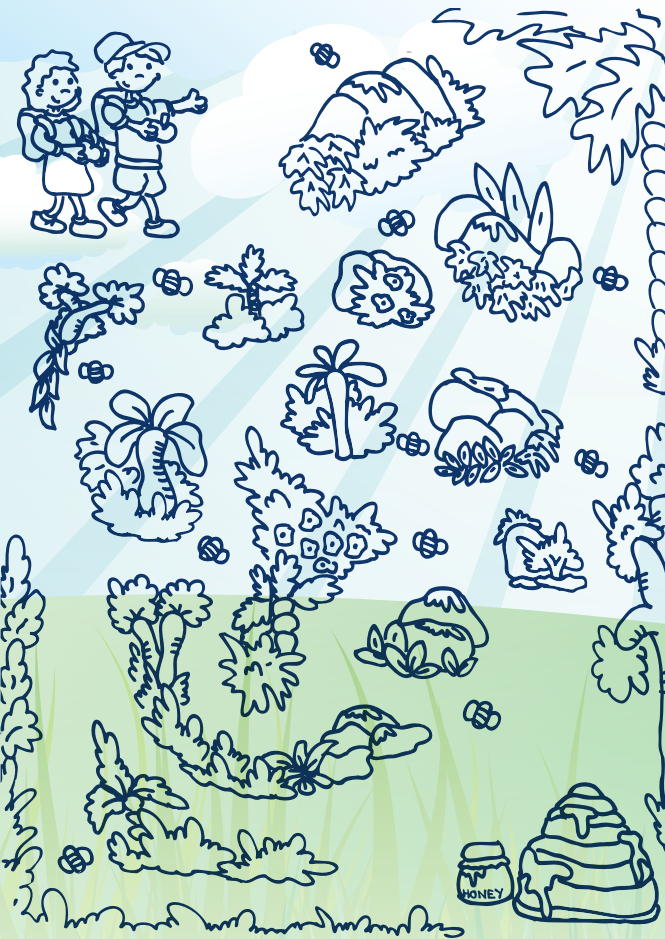
# KID'S CORNER

Hi Kids!

This section of our newsletter has puzzles, mazes and other great activities just for you! It's all about having fun and learning along the way. Let's get started!

## ROSH HASHANA HONEY HUNT

Help Sarah and David find the honey for Rosh Hashana. You must pass 10 bees on the way! You can only go over each part of the path once!



## WORD SEARCH

These words appear up, down, forwards, backwards and diagonally. Can you find them all?



J	M	R	H	R	A	F	O	H	S	A	H
E	M	E	W	E	R	B	E	H	Y	H	U
R	O	S	H	H	A	S	H	A	N	A	H
U	U	Z	H	G	N	B	W	L	A	B	A
S	P	P	I	U	P	L	H	L	G	R	R
A	A	Q	P	L	C	U	A	A	O	A	O
L	U	E	K	I	P	P	A	H	G	H	T
E	B	G	H	J	K	L	I	C	U	A	R
M	S	R	A	E	P	M	A	B	E	M	E
A	R	L	O	T	H	Y	O	A	B	R	G
U	P	Y	S	P	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R
P	H	H	E	N	H	I	A	Y	A	R	R

- Abraham  
Rabbi  
Challah  
Rosh Hashana
- Hebrew  
Shofar  
Jerusalem  
Synagogue
- Kippah  
Torah  
New Year  
Yom Kippur



Ron Kotev (second from left) celebrating his Bar Mitzvah at Montefiore Homes with his family

## A Bar Mitzvah for the Generations

A glorious Bar Mitzvah took place at Montefiore Homes Community Residence, and what a celebration it was!

Ron Kotev, a 13-year-old McKinnon Secondary College student, a passionate sportsman and a Jewish Care volunteer decided that Montefiore Homes was the perfect place for his Bar Mitzvah.

On May 24, Ron wore his tallit for the first time at the Montefiore Homes shul in the presence of family, friends, residents and Jewish Care staff.

"I absolutely loved the heimish shul and thought that sharing my special day with the residents here was awesome! After all, it's not that easy to get around when you are older. That's why I wanted to bring my Bar Mitzvah simcha to their doorstep," said Ron, while giving a handshake to every single resident.

Jewish Care residents enjoyed every moment of the joyous occasion — from listening to Ron's Torah reading, hugging the Bar Mitzvah boy and sharing a festive meal together.

Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwagant delivered an emotional speech highlighting the significance of a Bar Mitzvah as an important

life stage, transforming a boy into responsible member of the Jewish community.

Ron's mother, Esther Lonkri, was very proud about her son's idea too. In addition to giving nachas to the residents, holding a Bar Mitzvah at Montefiore Homes enabled Ron's grandparents to join the celebration.

*"I absolutely loved the heimish shul and thought that sharing my special day with the residents here was awesome!"*

"My parents, who travelled from Brisbane, needed accommodation that was equipped to address their specific care needs, and Jewish Care helped to provide just that. They were warmly welcomed and really enjoyed their stay," said Esther.

With words of encouragement, blessings, songs, hugs and tears of joy, Ron's Bar Mitzvah was a truly unifying experience for all.

Mazal Tov to Ron and his entire family!





From left: Dima Bensky with Daniel Tashlik

## YAP Mentor/Mentee Q&A

### DANIEL TASHLIK, MENTEE

#### What inspired you to apply for the Young Achievers Program?

Following my sister's example, I decided to join YAP and become more involved in the community. I met new friends of my age, participated in exciting workshops (ranging from rock-climbing to VCE study skills) and created a relationship for life with my mentor.

#### Why is having a mentor important for you?

Sometimes asking your family for assistance might not be your first option, and having a mentor, who is external from your immediate family or group of friends, is perfect. As a more experienced individual with unbiased opinion, a mentor can see your situation clearly and help you find the best solution. Also, he can broaden your network within the community and introduce you to people in the industry you like.

#### What types of things do you do with your mentor?

I catch up with my mentor once a month for a couple of laps around Caulfield Park with a coffee in hand. During the walk, the conversation is inevitably going to take multiple turns, but it never gets boring. Since I am in Year 12,

careers and university have taken up a lot of the time, but also school, hobbies and general interests are definitely mentioned too. Recently, my mentor helped me write my resume for summer jobs. That was excellent.

### DIMA BENSKY, MENTOR

#### Why did you decide to become more involved in YAP?

It was a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community that has given both me and my family so much. I chose YAP because this program genuinely helps young people and involves a balanced time commitment.

#### What is it about young people that you find exciting?

Their potential – a continuous sense that nothing is impossible.

#### Why do you think your mentee turns to you for advice?

In many cases we relate to one another, since we have similar backgrounds, values, direction and interests. Our relationship definitely developed over the years but understanding, compassion and trust continue to be its critical ingredients.

 Download the new YAP Comic book, "What is this mentoring thing?" from [www.jewishcare.org.au/YAP](http://www.jewishcare.org.au/YAP)

## Achieve Your Dreams!

The Young Achievers Program welcomes Jewish students between the ages of 15-18, from non-Jewish and Jewish schools, who are motivated, goal orientated and driven to achieve.

The program aims to:

- Develop positive self-esteem;
- Provide a supportive connection with the Jewish community;
- Improve general life skills;
- Assist financially.

There is NO COST involved. All you need is a commitment to the program and a desire to reach higher.

 Applications for 2015 close on 14 November 2014. For more information, please contact Lana Block on (03) 8517 5626 or [lblock@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:lblock@jewishcare.org.au)



Anne Korman (right) with Volunteer Resource Program Manager Sharon Malecki

## Meet our Volunteer of the Year

Anne Korman has been a highly dedicated Jewish Care volunteer for more than 12 years. At 81-years young, she is a proud mother and grandmother with a heart of gold. Anne leads an active life and is always open to new volunteering opportunities.

In September, Anne received the 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award for her extraordinary commitment to Jewish Care. The award was presented to Anne at the annual Staff & Volunteer Service and Excellence Awards.

As a child, Anne was inspired by her hardworking parents, Helda and Ernest Springer, and especially her mother who did not let language and gender barriers stop her from being an advocate for Holocaust refugees.


Over the years, Anne has been involved in a variety of volunteering activities at Jewish Care – from friendly visits, packing gift bags for those in need, and facilitating computer classes for seniors to providing transportation assistance, administration, fundraising and events support.

Every week Anne visits Gary Smorgon House and The Mark and Dina Munzer Community Residence, where she spends time with residents and makes them feel needed and recognised. In addition, she provides transportation assistance to Montefiore residents, enabling them to go to doctors' appointments.

In 2011, Anne worked closely with Holocaust survivor and Jewish Care resident Trudie Aldor, carefully documenting her most important life moments for future generations. As a result of Anne's amazing involvement, Trudie was able to produce her own book called 'Reflections'.

"Volunteering at Jewish Care has been a very positive experience," said Anne. "Indeed, when one gets to a certain age and paid work is no longer an option, volunteering makes one feel useful again. As a volunteer, I get as much back as I give! I appreciate the joy of being in touch with lovely people, both recipients and staff at Jewish Care. Thank you for including me."

Anne is also a committed volunteer for other community causes such as the Jewish Museum of Australia and the Mount Scopus Memorial College Opportunity Shop. Anne loves being with her children and grandchildren and finds time to play bridge, read books, explore social media and travel the world.

 To find out more about volunteering at Jewish Care, please contact Nicole Ellis on (03) 8517 5917 or [nellis@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:nellis@jewishcare.org.au) or visit [www.jewishcare.org.au](http://www.jewishcare.org.au)

## What An Honour!

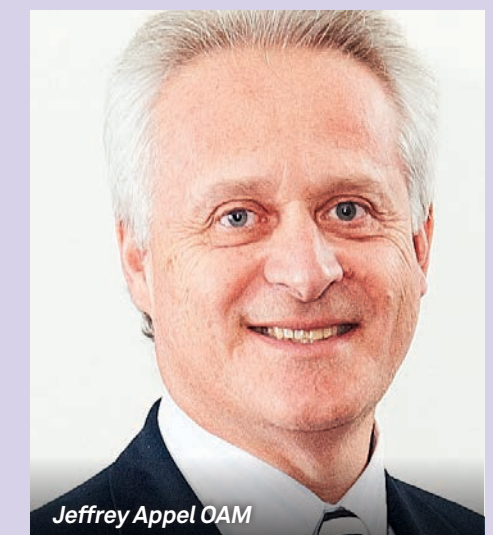
We congratulate Jewish Care's longstanding supporters, Jeffrey Appel and Delysia Pahoff, on receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours for their exceptional contributions in areas of aged care, disability support and community development.

At Jewish Care, we believe that volunteers like Jeffrey and Delysia are shining examples of inspiration for all of us. Their tireless efforts, dedication and leadership over the years have helped create a stronger, more resilient and compassionate Jewish community.

We wish them great success in all of their endeavours and hope that their community involvement will continue to positively impact many more lives!



Delysia Pahoff OAM



Jeffrey Appel OAM





Avi Yemini at the IDF Training studio on Hawthorn Rd

## Empowering Our Community

For Avi Yemini, success is about empowering people with resilience and self-confidence.

Avi is a Melbourne-based entrepreneur and co-owner of IDF Training. Back in the mid-2000s, while serving in the elite Golani IDF brigade, Avi ran a regular training group in Israel. Upon returning to Melbourne in 2008, he decided to start a first-of-its kind Israeli Krav Maga training studio, together with his wife Sarah. However, like most new small businesses it struggled to overcome the many expenses incurred during the start-up period.

"We went through a trial and error phase, with most of the money being spent on set-up. We worked 50 hours per week but still relied on Centrelink to pay our bills," said Avi. "And then I heard about Jewish Care's loans to help us grow the business."

Avi contacted Jewish Care's Jewish Mutual Loans Company and received 2 interest free loans totalling \$30,000. The money was used to purchase essential

training equipment and build a fully automated website, which significantly reduced administrative costs.

"The process of getting the loan took less than a month," said Avi. "And what a difference it made! We could finally focus on making the business profitable."

Today, IDF Training is a busy studio on Hawthorn Rd, which attracts over 3000 clients, adults and children as well as victims of crime who benefit from government-funded training. Choosing from over 30 weekly classes in authentic Krav Maga, Brazilian jujitsu, kickboxing, self-defence and other martial arts, clients become fitter, healthier and more confident.

"I love running my business and helping people to achieve results and feel good about themselves. And as a community, we have to be strong and proud of who we are, particularly when anti-Semitism is on the rise."



To find out more about Jewish Care's interest free loans, visit [www.jewishcare.org.au](http://www.jewishcare.org.au) or call (03) 8517 5999



Noemi Fooks holding a letter from Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Photo: [www.kh-ua.org.il](http://www.kh-ua.org.il)

## Remembering Noemi Fooks

An exceptional activist and volunteer, Noemi Fooks left an impressive mark on the Victorian Jewish community.

Born in 1909 in Latvia, Noemi Fooks (nee Matusevics) was the youngest of 6 children. She was brought up by her father as her mother died when Noemi was still a child.

She had an incredible talent for languages and knew Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, German, English, French and Japanese.

Diagnosed with tuberculosis in 1929, Noemi was treated in Italy, where she also met her future husband, a promising architect from Vienna, Ernest Fooks.

As the war drew closer, Noemi moved to Canada to join her siblings. In 1938, Ernest escaped Austria and the couple reunited in Montreal. After the wedding, they relocated to Australia.

In Melbourne, Ernest successfully continued his architectural career and was later elected President of the Jewish Society of Arts. Noemi worked as a bookkeeper but soon got involved with Jewish organisations UIA and B'nai B'rith. Noemi co-founded the women's auxiliary of UIA and raised thousands of dollars for Israel. Her community work was honoured by the Israeli Prime Minister.

A true advocate of human rights, Noemi was a longstanding donor and supporter of Jewish Welfare and Jewish Care, up until her passing in 2012. She strongly believed in the importance of Jewish Care's work and left a substantial bequest to secure the ongoing delivery of vital community services.

"While Noemi witnessed both of the World Wars, the rise of Nazism, vicious anti-Semitic attacks, immigration and difficulties of absorption into the new society, she always looked on the bright side and devoted her life to supporting people in need," said Tony Levy, Community Liaison Officer at Jewish Care.



To find out more about Wills and Bequests, please contact Feygl Cylich on (03) 8517 5602 or [fcylich@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:fcylich@jewishcare.org.au)

## Their Legacy Will Live On

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of our honoured supporters and remarkable community members: Don Marejn, Bronka Kaplan, Bettie Kornhauser and Lorraine Topol on the sad occasion of their passing.



Don Marejn

A benefactor of many community organisations in Australia and overseas, **Don Marejn** was a truly humble individual who provided significant funds to enable Jewish Care to deliver exceptional nursing care to its elderly residents. He remained active and learned until his final days – just three months shy of his 100th birthday.

A devoted volunteer of over 40 years and a Life Governor, **Bronka Kaplan** was well-known in the community. From running the Montefiore library to visiting the sick and elderly and delivering inspirational speeches, Bronka will be always remembered for her kind heart and caring nature.



Bronka Kaplan



Bettie Kornhauser

**Bettie Kornhauser** was a genuine ambassador of Jewish Care who embodied the values of charity, kindness, respect and family in everything she did. Bettie was a co-founder of our Young Achievers Program, which allowed close to 100 young individuals to develop positive self-esteem, improve life skills, connect with the Jewish community and reach their full potential.

**Lorraine Topol** was a passionate philanthropist and a full-hearted supporter of people in need. A dedicated member of the Jewish Mutual Loans Committees since 1996 and Deputy Chairperson over the past ten years, she introduced important initiatives into Jewish Care's Financial Services. Thanks to her generosity and foresight, numerous businesses in our community are thriving today.



Lorraine Topol





Fiona Geminder hosted a pre-wedding for Megan Smorgon (left)



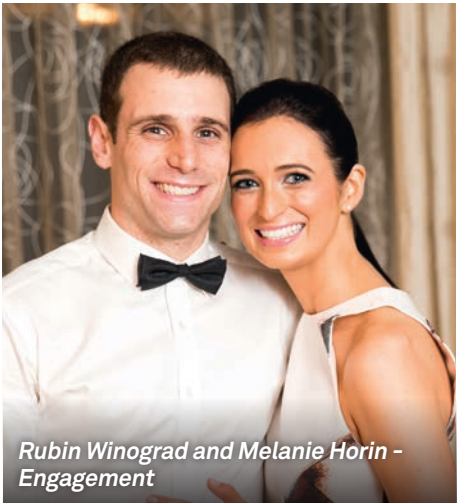
Lorraine Schnall (centre) – 60th Birthday



Chana Rubin (right) - 90th Birthday



Bailey Werdiger - Bat Mitzvah



Rubin Winograd and Melanie Horin - Engagement



Benji Krongold – Bar Mitzvah

## Thank You!

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Birth</b><br>Daniel Balter   | <b>70th Birthday</b><br>Lorraine Couzin<br>Robin Epstein<br>Dina Silber<br>Vivienne Opat   |
| <b>6th Birthday</b><br>Matan Gozlan<br>James Mann-Segal<br>Nissim Sibony<br>Raph Casper<br>Adam Parasol<br>Siena Hampel | <b>75th Birthday</b><br>Lily Midler<br>Brian Schauer   |
| <b>9th Birthday</b><br>Aliza Kingsley   | <b>80th Birthday</b><br>Bella Friedman<br>Bruce Krass<br>Geoffrey Green<br>Pauline Green<br>Hymie Mervin Gross                                       |
| <b>Bar Mitzvah</b><br>Benjamin Krongold   | <b>85th Birthday</b><br>Norman Lewis   |
| <b>Bat Mitzvah</b><br>Bailey Werdiger   | <b>90th Birthday</b><br>Chana Rubin<br>Gerald Shapiro<br>Oscar Tager<br>Claire David<br>Oscar Conway<br>Robert Danos<br>Jack Carman<br>Doreen Carman |
| <b>Engagement</b><br>Rubin Winograd<br>& Melanie Horin  | <b>95th Birthday:</b><br>Daniel Bokser   |
| <b>Pre-Wedding</b><br>Megan Smorgon   | <b>103rd Birthday</b><br>Ignacy Tyrmand  |
| <b>Wedding Celebration</b><br>Michael & Natalie Braude<br>Alan Kozica<br>& Rocky Lambert                                | <b>Special Birthday</b><br>Riva Hine<br>Ron Page<br>Penny Harris   |
| <b>21st Birthday</b><br>Rohan Ajzensztat  | <b>Queen's Birthday Honours</b><br>Jeffrey Appel OAM   |
| <b>40th Birthday</b><br>Boris Zaslavsky<br>Daniel Small   |  |
| <b>50th Birthday</b><br>Ari Mervis<br>Michelle Ajzensztat<br>Roslyn Rosengarten   |  |
| <b>60th Birthday</b><br>Betty Lederman<br>Lorraine Schnall<br>Eli Raskin<br>Danny Gluck<br>Philip Lewis                 |  |

**i** Share your special day with someone in need and make your simcha memorable, indeed. To find out more call 1800 JEWISH (1800 539 474) today!

## Photo Gallery



The Annual Appeal Dinner at Leonda by the Yarra gathered close to 400 people



From left: Paula Hansky, Rae Rothfield and Jeanne Pratt at the Raheen fundraising dinner



Fundraising Dinner at Ten Cubed Gallery in support our Annual Appeal



Lynda Mandel, Bill Wellins and Rosalie Silverstein celebrating Purim at Gary Smorgon House



Disability Services Model Seder at The Manders Villas



Sylvia Briggs with sons Nathan and Ian Swart at the Smorgon Nursing Home Pesach Seder



Trudie Aldor lighting candles at the Munzer Yom HaShoah memorial



Zinovi Khaikin celebrating his 100th Birthday at the Active Living Centre



Kick for a Cause Footy Match raised over \$6000 for Jewish Care and Melbourne Jewish Charity Fund



From left: Lola Pelege, Albert Barouh and Donna Purchase at the Circle of Care Movie Night



From Left: Mike Debinski, David Southwick MP and Rabbi Reuven Cooper at the Orthodox Leadership Luncheon



AJAX Football Club players rolled up their sleeves at a Gary Smorgon House Working Bee

**g** For more photos, visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/jewishcarevictoria](https://facebook.com/jewishcarevictoria). To watch our latest videos, visit [youtube.com/jewishcarevic](https://youtube.com/jewishcarevic)



# Growing Together



**Rabbi Meir  
Shlomo Kluwgant**

As we approach the days of awe, the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), we prepare ourselves for the numerous prayer services that will take place in synagogues across the globe.

This time of year provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the past and to make plans and resolutions for the future, and more specifically for the year ahead. Much of this is done through the liturgy of prayer.

In fact, during the Holy Days one of the famous prayers that we read is the *Avinu Malkenu* prayer. In this prayer when asking G-d for a good year ahead, we beseech Him: "Our Father, our King, do it for Your sake if not for ours."

On the surface, a request of that kind sounds quite strange. Why would G-d grant us a year of goodness for His own sake? What does that even mean?

The true meaning of these words may be demonstrated with the parable of what occurs on an airplane just prior to take off. At the beginning of each flight, passengers are instructed that in an event of emergency they should put on their own oxygen masks before putting masks onto their dependents. Similarly, on Rosh Hashana we say that looking after us is also important for G-d's own sake.

Here at Jewish Care, we are planning for growth. What is inspiring about this growth is that although it is we who are growing, it is all about bringing direct and improved services to you, our people, our family, our community.

So fasten your seat belts as we tackle this busy time of the year, and please join us as we grow in our mission of supporting and enhancing the wellbeing of the Victorian Jewish community.

Shana Tova and all the best of everything to you and your loved ones!



**Always know when Shabbat starts and ends by subscribing to our weekly Shabbat lighting times email at <http://eepurl.com/rfHS1>**

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Please direct any feedback regarding *My Connection* to [marketing@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:marketing@jewishcare.org.au)



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## Please make this New Year a whole lot sweeter for people in need

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**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

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Signature

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

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☐ Becoming a volunteer  
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