

MY Connection

Issue 1 Autumn 2016 / Nissan 5776



**Your support
will change lives!**

2016 ANNUAL APPEAL

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**NEED TO
DONATE
TODAY!**

HOUSING SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID & SUPPORT HEALTHY AGEING PROGRAMS DISABILITY SERVICES COUNSELLING

For Our Community. Every Day.



Bill Appleby, CEO

Robert G. Ingersoll, a famous American orator, veteran and community leader, rightfully said that “We rise by lifting others.”

Indeed, the value of a human being does not only lie with his ability to provide for his own needs, but also manifests in his ability to offer a ‘hand-up’ to other people in the spirit of compassion and understanding.

At Jewish Care, kindness (*chesed*) and respect (*derech erez*) are among our most important values. Realising that no one is immune from experiencing challenges, we believe in supporting each and every member of our community at their time of need.

With that in mind, in this issue of *My Connection*, we share our achievements describing how we support our community to become more resilient, independent and successful.

In March, we celebrated a significant milestone resulting from the hard work of so many passionate individuals — Jewish Care’s donors, supporters, employees and volunteers — the opening of The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre.

Embracing the new social policy landscape, the National Disability Insurance Scheme and our own Five Year Disability Plan, the Centre is unique; from providing a combination of respite, support and community engagement to adults and children to being a perfect place to improve skills, build confidence and trial a more independent lifestyle in a warm, Jewish environment.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, people with a disability in our community will lead a better life. Mazal Tov!

“We rise by lifting others.” ~ Robert G. Ingersoll

The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre is the first of our six major projects to roll out as part of the Capital Campaign ‘Growing. For Our Community.’

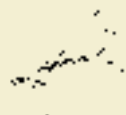
This accomplishment has set a very powerful example of how Jewish Care, together with our supporters, can make our community truly inclusive.

The theme of this edition of *My Connection* is ‘For Our Community. Every Day’, which is also the tagline of this year’s Annual Appeal. Each year, thousands of people contact us for support and we do our best to assist them to become stronger.

Our incredible Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony for our aged care residents, who never had a chance to mark this occasion in the past, was an incredible success. Jewish Care’s Pathways to Employment workshops for people with disability continued to change lives, and facilitating a series of important parenting forums has helped many more families in our community.

These are just a few examples of how Jewish Care makes a difference to the Victorian Jewish community every day. As Victoria’s largest Jewish community organisation attending to 5,000 annual enquiries from individuals seeking assistance, we offer an impressive range of community services including financial support, counselling, disability services, employment and training, Jewish Life services and healthy ageing.

Your donations towards our 2016 Annual Appeal, no matter the amount, are vital contributions towards helping us to continue to provide meaningful support to people in need.



Bill Appleby
Chief Executive Officer



Mike Debinski
President

I wish to thank the Active Living Centre staff and particularly Cate Molloy for excellent services. Because of your program, my mother became happier and more energetic.

The staff is gentle and attentive. My mother enjoys the musical activities so much. After each session, she sings and claps her hands enthusiastically and talks a lot, which rarely happened in the past.

Thanks to your support, her social and physical needs are met. Considering that for the past 6 years, I’ve been the 24/7 carer, your program provides a much needed break for me.

~ Eugenia Datskevich

Dear Jewish Care,

It is hard to believe that we won’t be visiting Gary Smorgon House on a regular basis any longer. My dad’s journey in life has come to an end and we have mixed emotions — we have suffered the sad loss of a husband/father, however, on the other hand he is now at peace.

I would like you to please pass on my family’s sincerest thanks to all of those who have cared for my Dad in an outstanding way over the past six and a half years. It is not easy caring for the elderly; my family has developed strong relationships with many of the people at Gary Smorgon House and we will miss them. I personally spent days/nights at Gary Smorgon House, especially in the last week of my Dad’s life, and I was so impressed with the way my Dad was looked after and he was also treated with dignity and respect right to the end.

Jewish Care plays such a vital role in our community and with your support, my Dad spent his final years in the most heimish and caring environment surrounded by the Jewish values which were so important to him.

~ Kevin Slomoi



Share your feedback about our services by emailing yoursay@jewishcare.org.au

Front cover:

Jewish Care’s 2016 Annual Appeal artwork





Answer Our Call

Thanks to the involvement of our telethon volunteers, we are able to raise funds for our vital community services. You can make a difference by volunteering for our telethons at 619 St Kilda Rd on the following dates:

Monday	9 May	6pm - 8pm
Tuesday	17 May	6pm - 8pm
Wednesday	18 May	6pm - 8pm
Sunday	22 May	10am - 1pm & 5pm - 8pm
Tuesday	24 May	6pm - 8pm
Wednesday	25 May	6pm - 8pm
Sunday	5 June	10am - 1pm & 5pm - 8pm
Tuesday	7 June	6pm - 8pm
Wednesday	8 June	6pm - 8pm

i To register:
 Online: <http://bit.ly/1SnVFPb>
 Email: telethon@jewishcare.org.au
 Phone: Lauren or Kayleigh on (03) 8517 5622

The Butterfly Effect

Our Annual Appeal video, The Butterfly Effect, features 4 client scenarios that highlight how critical it is to have an organisation like Jewish Care to turn to when life takes a turn for the worse.



globe To watch 'The Butterfly Effect', please visit <http://bit.ly/208WktE>



Your Support Will Change Lives!

It doesn't take long for things to go wrong.

A sudden illness, loss of a job, a pile of unpaid bills or a relationship crisis can lead any one of us to unforeseen difficulties. Every day, we receive many calls from vulnerable community members seeking support. And every day, we stand strong for people in need. Our services touch thousands of lives in our community each year.

We combat poverty, disadvantage, social isolation and unemployment; support victims of abuse and family violence; and assist people living with mental health and disability challenges.

But we can't do it on our own. As our services receive little or no government funding, we rely on you, our loyal supporters, to help us make a long-lasting difference.

Please donate to Jewish Care's 2016 Annual Appeal and help us raise \$3.6 million to ensure our vital programs and services continue to support thousands of people in our community when they need it most.



To make a donation, visit jewishcare.org.au/donate, call 1800 JEWISH (1800 539 474) or complete the coupon on the back page.



The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre in Caulfield

A New Era Opens for Disability Respite Services

Over 150 guests attended the much-anticipated official opening of The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre in Caulfield on Thursday 17 March 2016. Special guests included Martin Foley MP, and major donors Michael and Michelle Coppel and family.

This milestone marks the beginning of an exciting new era for Jewish Care, where the adult and children respite services have been combined under one roof. The investment of \$8.5 million raised from community support has made this much-needed facility a reality.

Victoria's Minister for Housing, Disability, Ageing, Mental Health, Equality and Creative Industries, Martin Foley MP, unveiled the official plaque, together with Michael and Michelle Coppel, the Centre's lead donors.

Mr Foley described how organisations like Jewish Care understand the importance of being intrinsically linked to the community, and how the new Centre will inspire not only the families who use the facility, but the wider community as well.

He also spoke about the National Disability Insurance Scheme

and praised Jewish Care's preparation for this significant change in delivering disability services.

Michael and Michelle Coppel were given the honour of placing the mezuzah on the front door of the Centre. On behalf of the family, Michael spoke proudly, saying that they were inspired by the Centre's vision and design, and the importance of supporting people living with disability.

Kate Weiss, whose daughter Amy has been a Jewish Care respite client for ten years, spoke of the importance such an "incredible" facility brings to the community and how she is "thankful every day that Jewish Care's facilities exist."

"Jewish Care has been there when we've needed it and [the children's respite service] has allowed us to do what we couldn't do before," she added.

Other guests who attended the official opening included Caulfield Liberal MP David Southwick, Glen Eira Mayor Neil Pilling, Capital Campaign Patron Alan Schwartz AM, Capital Campaign Chair Susie Ivany, major donors of the Centre, architects and builders behind the project and Jewish Care's



From left: Mike Debinski, Michelle Coppel, Michael Coppel and Martin Foley MP



From left: Lionel, Benjamin, Ashley, Marian and Leigh Krongold



From left: Jack Gringlas, Alan Schwartz, Susie Ivany and Dianne Gringlas



Kate Weiss, a longstanding supporter of Jewish Care's Disability Services

Board Members, including President Mike Debinski.

"Our approach is visionary, but our commitment towards creating a more responsive, sensitive, accessible and inclusive environment for people with disability is at the core of what we endeavour to achieve for our community, every day," Mr Debinski said.

Jewish Care CEO Bill Appleby praised the generosity of donors who have helped to bring the vision of the Centre to life.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive community which is true to its principles of looking after one another. By your actions, you embody the values we cherish of family, kindness, respect and charity. Thanks to your generosity, hundreds of families in our community will face a brighter future," Mr Appleby said.

The respite centre has been created with the needs of carers and clients in mind. With this new facility, carers have significantly better access to regular, short-term respite enabling them to focus on other family members and to restore their physical and emotional reserves to continue in their caring role.

The Centre will give relief to children and adults with disability, their family and carers by offering a safe, homely and culturally-sensitive environment, while increasing social and recreational opportunities and independence. The state-of-the-art facilities cater for up to five children and five adults in separate and secure houses, where care is based solely around individual's goals and needs.

The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre is the first project out of six to be completed over ten years as part of Jewish Care's visionary Capital Campaign, *Growing. For Our Community* – a \$180 million investment.



The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Repite Centre is located at 476-478 Glen Eira Road, Caulfield. For further information and bookings, please contact Jewish Care on (03) 8517 5999, email info@jewishcare.org.au or visit jewishcare.org.au/growing

Read about the pioneers of social inclusion on page 12

Taking Steps to Good Health

Jewish Care has partnered with Maccabi All Abilities to run an exciting new health promotion program called Steps to Good Health.

Providing an opportunity to improve health and wellbeing of people with disability, the program offers a variety of activities including walking, healthy eating classes, fitness sessions and healthy relationship and sexuality educational workshops.

Steps to Good Health is a membership-based initiative, tailored to meet individual needs of participants and not impacting on their other day-to-day commitments.

Run in a fun atmosphere at The Manders Villas on Glen Eira Road and other venues within the community from March to June 2016, the program, allows participants to join as many activities as they like. And the more activities they join, the more exciting prizes they might win!

i For more information, please contact Shari Cohen on allabilities@macvic.com.au or Ross Perryman on rperryman@jewishcare.org.au



Our Abilities

'Changing Perceptions' is our heartwarming 9 part series of video interviews with clients of our Disability Services.

The first 3 videos released so far discuss topics related to independence, confidence, being treated differently and the importance of having good friends and support.



View the series on youtube.com/jewishcarevic



Paving a Path to Employment for People with Disability

We have commenced our Pathways to Employment Program for people living with disability.

The 8 to 10-week program focuses on developing employment and social skills to assist participants with gaining employment and interaction in the workplace. It also aims to increase students' confidence and help expand their networks in the community.

The 2015 program graduate, Alasdair Clark said, "I found out how to write a resume, cover letter, get a job and how to test my data entry skills. My social skills have improved and I like meeting new friends and catching up with old friends. The social skills will also help me communicate with my housemates."

"The core focus of our work in supporting people with disability is to promote and encourage their full social and economic participation in society, of which employment is a key aspect," Jewish Care Disability Services Manager, Dan Kisumbi said.

"It was a pleasure to see the program's participants get actively involved in the course and see first-hand the positive impact it's had on their confidence and motivation to get jobs. We look forward to continuing our support for past and future participants on their journey to gain meaningful employment."



For more information about the Pathways to Employment Program, please contact (03) 8517 5999 or info@jewishcare.org.au



Pathways to Employment 2015 Program Graduates celebrating their success



Volunteers Jonathan Iflyand and Michelle Dottori, and Denise Brown (centre)

When Dreams Come True

Like most of us, Denise Brown has a dream. For as long as she can remember, she has wished to go for a ride in a red sports car.

Denise is a resident at one of Jewish Care's supported accommodation houses for people with disability. She shared her dream with Disability Team Leader, Robert Wilson, which created a ripple effect she couldn't have imagined.

Robert helped Denise to find an image online of the car she loved and put it on her bedroom wall. From then on, things started to accelerate.

Shortly after, Jewish Care's CEO, Bill Appleby, met with Denise and she proudly showed him the picture on her wall, and said that one day she will drive in a red sports car.

Immediately, Mr Appleby emailed staff and volunteers asking whether anyone had a red sports car. In turn, Jewish Care volunteer, Avi Bendetsky and his nephew Jonathan Iflyand – Event Manager at Moorabbin-based charity car club HWY, had an idea. A call-out to sports car enthusiasts was posted on Facebook, which resulted in finding the owner of a suitable car in less than an hour.

Michelle Dottori, the owner of a brand new convertible red Mustang, agreed to take Denise for a drive to Mount Dandenong. The following Sunday, Michelle and Denise went on their daytrip in the Mustang.

They enjoyed the scenic views on the drive and lunched together.

"I was so happy to drive with Michelle," said Denise.

"It was the best day for me and it was really special."

Michelle Dottori said, "Seeing Denise's beautiful smile made me very excited. When you make someone happy, it makes you happy, too."

Disability Services Manager, Dan Kisumbi, added, "At Jewish Care, we empower people living with disability to participate in the community and realise their full potential to lead a rewarding life. Of course, our clients need individualised support to accomplish their goals and this is exactly what we are here for."

i To learn more about Jewish Care's Disability Services or volunteering opportunities, please contact (03) 8517 5999, info@jewishcare.org.au or visit jewishcare.org.au

Empowering Parents and Young Adults

Jewish Care's Individual and Family Support team has continued its highly successful community education forums, with the current series focusing on the mental health and wellbeing of young people.

In February, over 80 parents attended the 'Working Out Worries' forum. Facilitated by clinical psychologist and media commentator Sally-Anne McCormack, the forum helped parents of teenagers to learn about the signs of anxiety and equipped them with the skills to support young people affected by it.

Registration is currently open for our next two forums. 'Building Social Resilience' with Evelyn Field takes place on 26 May, and will focus on equipping parents with the skills to support their children to develop supportive social networks and assertively navigate peer relationships. 'Connecting (and Re-connecting) With Kids' takes place on 21 June, and will focus on helping parents to find ways to communicate with their teens and tweens better.

i If you would like to register, please contact Cassandra Barrett on (03) 8517 5908 or cbarrett@jewishcare.org.au. For more information about Jewish Care's Community Services, please contact (03) 8517 5999 or info@jewishcare.org.au



Generation of Change

Over 100 people attended our 2015 Annual General Meeting last November, learning about Jewish Care's biggest achievements of the year.

The milestones included the provision of care and support to approximately 5000 people in the community, distributing \$1,139,396 worth of Jump Start Interest Free Loans; providing 62,584 hours of support via the Holocaust Survivor Support Program and 21,265 hours of care for children and adults with disability at Jewish Care's Respite Centres.

President Mike Debinski addressed the progress of Jewish Care's Strategic Plan 'Towards Tomorrow', which continues to guide the fulfilling vision of supporting and enhancing the wellbeing of the Victorian Jewish community. Our Capital Campaign 'Growing. For Our Community.' has impressively received pledges of almost \$12 million to date, and the first of its 6 projects, The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre has opened its doors in March 2016.

The AGM hosted a panel of inspiring guests to present on the topic of 'The Next Generation: Tomorrow's Change Leaders' and featured Dean Cohen, Founder of Camp Sababa Melbourne; Romy Katz, Founder of Agents for Change; and Amanda Miller, Co-Founder of Impact Generation Partners. The thought-provoking panel discussion explored the values of the millennial generation, and the unconventional positive change they are making to our community through social enterprises, start-ups, impact investing and family philanthropy.

The Life Governor Award was presented to Bruce Rosengarten who served as President from 2009-2012. In speaking about Mr Rosengarten's achievements, Mike Debinski paid tribute to his tireless contributions in revitalising and transforming Jewish Care into a modern and professional service provider and a leader in service innovation and care provisions.



The AGM hosted a panel on the topic of 'The Next Generation: Tomorrow's Change Leaders'



Proud YAP graduates with families, mentors and friends

A Year of Growth for Young Achievers

Over 80 mentees, mentors, proud family members and friends gathered recently for Jewish Care's Young Achievers graduation at the Caulfield Pavilion. Following a jam-packed year of personal development workshops focusing on healthy lifestyle, leadership and skill building, the graduates enjoyed well-deserved recognition on their special day.

Shelly Makhlin, a Grade 10 student at McKinnon Secondary College, shared the impact of the program on her life, "During the year, I had awesome experiences and met amazing people including my mentor Tanya who shares my background and interests, and therefore, truly understands where I am coming from. I am very grateful for being a part of this incredible program and our community and will definitely return for more next year."

Keynote speaker David Harris, Director of TIC Group and a longstanding supporter of the Young Achievers Program (YAP) addressed the audience with words of encouragement for further development and said that "Success always comes to those who work hard and respect the people around them."

The inaugural Bettie Kornhauser Scholarship was presented to graduates Leah Hain and Natalie Gunn for demonstrating exceptional excellence and leadership skills and representing the true values of Jewish Care — family, kindness, respect and charity. This scholarship will allow mentees to explore personal advancement options such as educational courses and trips.

"Our job as informal educators is to help mentees to develop their stronger sides and leave their comfort zones to explore who they really are; and for someone who wants to learn, possibilities are infinite," said Lana Block, Young Achievers Program Coordinator. "In 2015, we challenged our Young Achievers with camping, ice skating, circus balancing, meditation, self-presentation and community volunteering. We are excited about many more skill-building activities planned ahead."

Mark Joel, General Manager Community Jewish Care thanked the donors and mentors within the community for their support of the Young Achievers Program, and said that "it's crucially important to invest in our youth and inspire them to become strong community leaders of tomorrow."



Watch our latest YAP video on YouTube at
<http://bit.ly/1RxK6oX>



Honouring the Best and Brightest

Jewish Care's Staff and Volunteer Service & Excellence Awards were held at the Malvern Town Hall in October in great spirit and ceremony.

The annual event started in 2011 and since then has acknowledged the work of the organisation's 600 staff and almost 500 volunteers.

Bill Appleby, Jewish Care CEO, gave glowing praise to all staff and volunteers, "From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your ongoing commitment to the provision of dignified, heimish care and support, for our community. Every day, each and every one of you proves that hard work, dedication, resourcefulness

and excellence, can achieve incredible things!"

Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Jane Lothringer, a resident of Montefiore Homes who has also volunteered at every Jewish Care fundraising telethon for over 10 years. At 88, Jane is always around at every opportunity to lend a helping hand to other residents and at staff and community events.

Berry Liberman, Co-founder of Small Giants and Publisher and Editor of the Dumbo Feather magazine was the keynote speaker who inspired the audience with her stories and insights into what has motivated her to achieve her life's passions with a goal of changing the world we live in.



Generations of Women Brunch for a Cause

Our 19th Annual Generations of Women Brunch was attended by over 200 women in October at the International of Brighton.

The event raised over \$60,000, with all proceeds going towards Jewish Care's Housing Support Program, which supports individuals and families at risk of homelessness. This includes the expansion of community housing developments as part of Jewish Care's Capital Campaign, 'Growing. For our Community.'

Guest speaker Timmy Rubin, Australia's only Jewish female prison chaplain, engaged the audience with her emotive and sometimes humorous stories.

Generations of Women Chair, Melissa Davis, said the uplifting event was a great success and she was thrilled by the amount raised for Jewish Care's Housing Support Program.

A New Home for Our Active Living Centre

The Active Living Centre has moved to Level 6, 619 St Kilda Rd. The new location offers more space to enjoy gentle exercises, make new friends and enjoy a range of therapies and fun activities.

i For your guided tour of the new Active Living Centre, please contact Cate Molloy on (03) 8508 6321 or cmolloy@jewishcare.org.au



Join our Active Living Centre and keep healthy and connected



Resident Sandor Lastor celebrating his Bar Mitzvah at Gary Smorgon House

It's Never Too Late to Celebrate a Bar and Bat Mitzvah!

On Sunday 13 December 2015, we hosted a special Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremony for approximately 75 aged care residents who hadn't yet celebrated this milestone.

Over 300 people attended our heart-warming ceremony at Gary Smorgon House where residents' family and friends, fellow residents and the Jewish Care community watched their loved ones take part in this emotional and inspiring occasion. Held on the seventh day of Chanukah, the festivities included a synagogue service with Dov Farkas leading the proceedings, singing, dancing and a brunch.

Believed to be the first ceremony of its kind in Australia, the Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebration was held because many of Jewish Care's residents missed out on this significant life event due to reasons such as living through times of war and communist rule.

92-year-old Bat Mitzvah participant and resident, Adel Justin, addressed the crowd about her tumultuous childhood in Europe, where her family had to escape Poland during World War II.

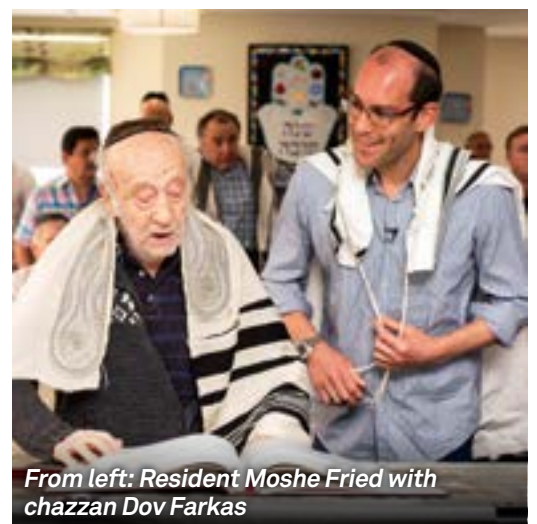
She explained how Rabbi Nerenberg invited her to participate in the Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremony. She replied: "Rabbi, I'm in it, it's a good idea, but you know you're taking me back 80 years, it will be a long journey – a journey of memories, and very emotional."

Rabbi Nerenberg said that it was the second Bar Mitzvah for another aged care resident, Maurice Minski. Just hours into his first Bar Mitzvah at 13 years old, the Nazis invaded his town and took his parents away. He never saw or heard from them again.

Leor Broh from Mizrahi spoke about the significance and importance of Jewish identity and how such an event allowed those to now practise what they were once denied because of the Holocaust and persecution.



Gary Smorgon House packed with family and friends



From left: Resident Moshe Fried with chazzan Dov Farkas



Watch the SBS News report of this special day by visiting <http://bit.ly/1PEL6VZ>

From Ethiopia to Melbourne: Starting a New Life

Kidiste Alene is an Ethiopian Jewish woman with a nursing background who moved to Australia over a year ago.

Willing to kick-start her career, Kidiste decided to apply for a Certificate III in Aged Care/Home & Community Care offered by our Employment and Education Centre (EEC), with possible funding assistance. Our staff helped her receive financial support and access funds through the Webster Scholarship.

While studying, the EEC assisted Kidiste to find ongoing part-time employment at a local kosher takeaway. Our staff also encouraged her to enrol for the Learn Local Language & Literacy for ESL

Aged Care Workers Course to improve her English.

At the end of Kidiste's course, she successfully completed a job placement of 120 hours at Montefiore Homes. The EEC assisted Kidiste to prepare for her job interview at Jewish Care, and she secured a job at Montefiore Homes.

These days, Kidiste is a happy, empowered, independent member of the Victorian Jewish community.



For more information about Jewish Care's Employment and Education Centre, please contact (03) 8517 5999 or info@jewishcare.org.au



Kidiste Alene is proud member of the Jewish Care family



Miron Kaganer



Liliya Volziker



Tovya Levit



Yeva Guler of blessed memory



David Sokolovsky

Reflections of World War II

Jewish Care's aged care residents participated in a significant photographic project called Reflections, aimed at creating compelling photo memories of Australian WWII veterans.

Organised by the Australian Institute of Professional Photography (AIPP), the project encouraged the veterans to take part in a free professional photo shoot, commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the Gallipoli landings.

Thanks to photographer Sav Schulman who volunteered his time to capture the

portraits of Jewish veterans living in our residencies, the project became a truly emotional experience for everyone at Jewish Care and beyond.

Dressed in their best suits and wearing war medals, our residents modelled for the camera, reminisced about their younger years, spoke about family and friends who perished during the Holocaust.

Each veteran received a printed and mounted photograph which they proudly displayed in their rooms.

The collection of photos was donated to the National Archives of Australia and the Australian War Memorial and will be published in the official historical almanac titled 'Reflections', along with 14,000 other photos of the Australian veterans residing nationwide.



To view more images of the 'Reflections' project, please visit facebook.com/jewishcarevictoria



Egon and Lily Weiss z"l



Deanna Levine; Rita Gordon; Eva Mahlab, guest speaker; Lily Weiss; Heather Cohen; Lawrence Joseph, Executive Director of Jewish Welfare at the Parents & Friends of Glen Eira House 1986 Annual Luncheon



Parents & Friends of Glen Eira House excelled in grassroots fundraising including hosting street stalls



Glen Eira House, circa 1986, eventually became the site of the current Richard and Marietta Manders Villas



Rookie (Rachael) Smith z"l

Remembering Outstanding Friends of Glen Eira House

Outstanding supporters Rookie (Rachael) Smith z"l and Lily and Egon Weiss z"l were honoured at an event held at the recently opened The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre.

Attended by friends, family and colleagues, the event gave due recognition to the important contribution made by Parents & Friends of Glen Eira House and other early pioneers of Jewish Care's disability services.

Jewish Care's services for people with a disability began with a recreational group for young adults launched in the mid 1970s under the direction of Marion Lippman, then Senior Social Worker at Jewish Welfare. This was followed by the establishment of Glen Eira House, located in a former Frances Barkman House at 311 Glen Eira Road, which provided full-time accommodation for 5 adults with intellectual disabilities. The property next door was eventually set up as a co-residence, offering respite for families caring for loved ones with a disability.

Banding together with fellow parents and a network of enthusiasts, Lily and Egon spearheaded the formation of Parents & Friends of Glen Eira House to support Jewish Welfare's activities for people with a disability. Rookie Smith was one of the group's many hardworking volunteers and an invaluable contributor, thanks to her experience supporting Jewish orphans as a former member of the Frances Barkman Committee, where

she worked side-by-side for many years with her close friend Meryl Slutzkin z"l, the committee's Chair.

Parents & Friends of Glen Eira House excelled in grassroots fundraising, hosting street stalls, fashion parades, bridge parties, pre-weddings, luncheons and other fundraising events, with the proceeds going towards the provision of furniture, equipment and general upkeep of the houses.

Lawrence Joseph, then Executive Director of Jewish Welfare, was known to have expressed his astonishment at the funds the group brought in, writing in a thank you letter in 1987, *"On behalf of the President and Board of Jewish Welfare, I am writing to express our concern at the way that the Parents & Friends of Glen Eira House are upsetting our budgeting by giving us so much money."*

In later years, Jewish Care was very grateful to have been a beneficiary of the Lily and Egon Weiss Foundation and also of a number of bequests stewarded by Rookie Smith. Thanks to their vision and hard work and that of a wide circle of friends and helpers, the legacy of Lily and Egon Weiss and Rookie Smith continues to enhance lives today.



To see images of Parents & Friends of Glen Eira House from the mid-1980s, selected from Egon Weiss's personal photo album and lovingly preserved by Anouk Smetana, please visit Jewish Care's YouTube channel [youtube.com/jewishcarevic](https://www.youtube.com/jewishcarevic)



Boychicks and Meydls' is a brand new play group for children aged 0-3 years that meets at Gary Smorgon House.

Meet Our Boychicks and Meydls

Boychicks and Meydls' is a brand new play group for children aged 0-3 years that meets at Gary Smorgon House.

The group was initiated by Jewish Care's staff, Tamara Zeltsman and Mandi Elias, who is currently on maternity leave following the birth of her first child.

Introduced to the community through a post on a Facebook group, the group currently has 100 members online with many already attending one of the sessions since its inception.

"The impact that 'Boychicks and Meydls' has had on the residents has been wonderful. Many of the residents who are in various stages of dementia light up as soon as the children come in to the room. The staff and family members have commented on the changes in the residents' moods, and have been very appreciative and welcoming," said Mandi Elias.

At the moment, the group requires donations of second-hand toys, playmats and rugs to use during the sessions.

'Boychicks and Meydls' meet three times a week – Mondays at 11.15am and 2.30pm, and Fridays at 11.15am. The morning sessions are run by members of the Gary Smorgon House Lifestyle team, and the afternoon session is run by a volunteer who is a qualified early childhood educator.

i For more information about this 'Boychicks and Meydls', please contact Tamara Zeltsman on (03) 9209 1398

International Award Recognition for Our Campaign Video

We are extremely proud to announce that our Capital Campaign video titled "Growing. For our Community." has won a Gold Award at the Horizon Interactive Awards in the Promotional Video category.

The Horizon Interactive Awards is held in the USA and now in its 14th year, has become one of the most prestigious awards in the field of interactive and creative media. The competition recognises, promotes and awards the best websites, videos, online advertising, print media and mobile applications.

Each year, the Awards receive thousands of entries from over 40 countries worldwide. Those entries are narrowed down to the "best of the best" to be recognised and promoted on an international stage for their excellence. The judging process involves a Horizon Interactive Awards advisory panel, end user panel and a worldwide panel of judges consisting of industry professionals.

"Filming this video was a huge team effort that involved our volunteers, residents, clients, staff and community members. We are thrilled to have received this recognition," said Ayal Tusia, Marketing and Communications Manager.

Thank You, Bill!

In 2012, Bill Rogers, the former owner of iconic Australian brands, Stanley Rogers Cutlery and Westminster China, made a very generous donation of over \$1 million towards Jewish Care's Jump Start interest free loans service.

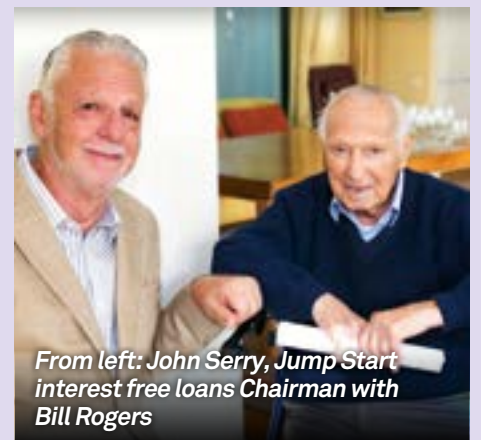
His significant contribution led to a major growth in the amount and scope of loans distributed among the Victorian Jewish community.

Due to Bill's donation in 2012, we have been able to triple our distribution of funds to \$1,500,000, helping many more community members to establish businesses, take care of their health needs and enhance their quality of life.

Recognising the impact of supporting Jewish Care, Bill Rogers recently made a second major donation towards the interest free loans service.

"Fostering independence and responsibility is what I strongly believe in," said Bill. "The fact that the loans are securely supervised and funds are preserved to assist people to become self-reliant, has assured that this donation would remain effective in perpetuity."

We appreciate the giving nature of Bill Rogers and wish him health, nachas, prosperity and an abundance of blessings in all areas of his life!



From left: John Serry, Jump Start interest free loans Chairman with Bill Rogers



To watch Bill Rogers speak about supporting Jewish Care, go to <http://bit.ly/1qvaXuU>



Matthew Posner – Bar Mitzvah



Brayden Lustig – Bar Mitzvah



Rebecca Zylberman – 103rd Birthday



Val Granat (right) – Birthday



Claire Aghion and Joseph Wajnsztein – 100th Birthday at our Active Living Centre



Lilly Cook (second from right) donating her Tzedakah money to Jewish Care

Thank You!

We thank the following community members for sharing their special occasions with us:

8th Birthday

Jesse & Josh Slade

Bat Mitzvah

Jessica Irons
Jasmine Sweet & Maya Herszfeld

Bar Mitzvah

Jack Davis
Brayden Lustig
Matthew Posner

Wedding

Robyn Krause-Hale and Rick Roush

20th Wedding Anniversary

Robert & Dorothy Sofer

60th Wedding Anniversary

Sheila & Ronald Leigh
Ben & Gloria Milgrom
Jack Cyngler

40th Birthday

Simone Frey

50th Birthday

Rodney Brott
Sharon Klein

60th Birthday

Dia Goldenfein
Sylvia Gluck

Special Birthday

Sara Weis
Sylvia Portek
Shirley Sweet

70th Birthday

Vivienne Fried

80th Birthday

Vivienne Sokol
Morre Sunshine
Rochelle Cooper
Alan Gruskin
Sonia Hornstein
Gerald Nissenbaum

George Roth
Paula Flinkier
Bennie Schreiber
Tessa Sharp
Colin Silver
Val Granat
Robin Rothfield
Jeanette Kaplan

90th Birthday

Heniek Cyngler
Leon Steiner
Esther Pinski

103rd Birthday

Rebecca Zylberman



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

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Photo Gallery



Helen Szer, Roy and Esther Barton at the Healthy Ageing Rosh Hashana party



Sandra Rafalowicz with mother Phoebe Sher at the Gary Smorgon House Rosh Hashana celebration



Raisa Kordonsky learning about shofars at the Montefiore Shofar factory



From left: Rabbi Schneier Lange, George Neuhauser and Uri Rosenberg at the Disability Services Succot party



Rysia Rozen, Dorothy Graph and Brian Samuel at the Succot Community Leadership Luncheon



Munzer resident Bronia Waksman making challah in preparation for the Shabbat Project weekend



The Mitzvah Day concert by the Kim Factor School of Dance at Montefiore Homes



Ludwig Ehereich and Cate Molloy celebrating Chanukah at the Active Living Centre



Ian Abrahamer lighting the menorah at the Disability Services Chanukah celebration at Toorak Shul



From left: Miriam Suss with Cecilia Zydwor at the Circle of Care End of Year Luncheon



Top left: Elka Ekstein and Helen Schon; seated front: Helen Jacobs, Pola Hoppe and Luba Olenski at the Circle of Care End of Year Luncheon



Montefiore resident Lydiya Driker and Jacinta Jarutis enjoying planting activities on Tu B'Shvat



To watch our latest photos, visit our Facebook page

A Different Family Seder



*Rabbi Yisroel Kohn,
Minister Jewish
Life Montefiore
Homes Community
Residence*

I would like to share with you a Pesach story which took place at Montefiore Homes on Pesach Eve last year.

Moshe* and his wife Chana* lived at Montefiore for many years. Moshe enjoyed taking Chana to activities and concerts, and loved seeing her happy.

Sadly, a year before, Chana passed away, followed by Moshe's dear sister.

Since then, Moshe chose to stay in his room and grieve alone. He felt sad for himself and at 92 years old, believed that he has had a good life and was ready to move on.

The day before Pesach, I came to visit Moshe in his room and brought him wine for the Seder.

Moshe thanked me and sighed, saying that it would be the first Pesach without his wife and therefore he was not planning to join other residents for the Seder downstairs.

However, he still asked me to bring him a Jewish calendar so that he could know when Pesach starts.

It was getting late and I was rushing home to finish my own holiday preparations, however, knowing that Moshe planned to stay on his own for the Seder, I rushed downstairs to get him the calendar as well as some matzah and a Haggadah.

Moshe was not expecting any visitors and was surprised to see me only a few minutes later, holding all of the Pesach essentials in my arms. I wished Moshe a Happy Pesach and encouraged him to join other residents for the Seder. He was thrilled and very thankful.

The next night, when I came to Montefiore to run the community Seder, Moshe was sitting in the dining room along with other residents and guests.

Although he no longer had any immediate relatives of his own, the other residents and their relatives were now his extended family.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and joyful Pesach celebration!

** Names were changed to protect resident's confidentiality*

Jewish Care (Victoria) Inc
619 St Kilda Road
Melbourne, Victoria 3004



(03) 8517 5999



info@jewishcare.org.au



jewishcare.org.au



@jewishcarevictoria



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



Yes, I want to support the 2016 Annual Appeal.

MC12016

Please accept my donation of ☐ \$36 ☐ \$54 ☐ \$72 ☐ \$90 ☐ \$108

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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Expiry Date

Signature

Name on Card

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Mobile

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

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

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

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