

MY Connection

Issue 1 Autumn 2018/Nissan 5778



A Sweet
Shabbat for All

"Transformation is an ongoing process that tends to appear ordinary, when, in fact, something extraordinary is taking place." ~ Suzy Ross



Bill Appleby, CEO



Mike Debinski,
President

Transforming for Our Future

Our 2014-2017 strategic priorities have propelled the organisation well into the future responding to challenges of reform and tight fiscal constraints, particularly in the aged care and disability spaces. We have successfully steered in less than favourable circumstances and transitioned to a highly contestable market, competing well and creating value for the people we support. Building on these successes is the new strategic roadmap for 2018 – 2020 'Transforming for Our Future'. This will open up an exciting chapter for Jewish Care to ensure continuous growth and development, whilst ensuring service excellence and best-in-class support models for those who are most in need in our community.

The 2020 roadmap will stand us in good stead as we expand our service proposition in the residential aged care space. Our transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) enables us to service our clients with reliable, relevant and quality support,

making Jewish Care a provider of choice for our community. We will push our growth into 5 local government areas to cater to the evolving needs of our clients creating a sustainable operation for years to come.

Our Growing. For our Community. Capital Campaign developments are well underway and we are encouraged by the momentum of the St Kilda Road site construction and Fulton Street Community Housing refurbishment, both in full swing. The successful town planning permit for the Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre will set the fourth project in motion with just two more projects to follow.

Looking after and protecting vulnerable members of our community from abuse, neglect and homelessness are a few focus areas of the Annual Appeal, which this year aims to raise \$3.1 million. Last year, we helped over 6,000 people who reached out to us for various supports. We will continue our efforts to minimise the hardships endured by members of our community, and encourage everyone to donate to the 2018 Annual Appeal. As this year's campaign clearly states, "A helping hand can change a life".

As we navigate another year of opportunities and challenges, it is important to appreciate the efforts of our staff and volunteers, who put Jewish Care at the heart of everything they do. It was a great feeling at our Staff and Volunteer Service & Excellence Awards in December, to celebrate and acknowledge Ora Glickman for being awarded the Samuel H. Harris award and David Wilden, for Volunteer of the Year award and all other recipients for their contribution to Jewish Care. It is their dedication and teamwork that helps create a lasting impact. Thank you all for your support and we look forward to another extraordinary year!

Bill Appleby
Chief Executive Officer

Mike Debinski
President

I would like to compliment all staff members of Smorgon Family Nursing Home for their professionalism and loving care of my mum Polina. My mum was very happy and pleased when the lifestyle team organised the celebration of her 100th birthday. On behalf of Polina, I would like to thank staff for their dedicated work. Your work is very important and makes a big difference in the lives of residents.

~Anna Klinger

Michael, Lara and I would like to thank the staff at The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre for looking after Dahlia so well.

She came back extremely happy and healthy. Medication was given accurately and all her clothes were returned. When we called from overseas we spoke to carers who gave us updates on Dahlia's time at respite. We even received a very cute photo of Dahlia. This feedback gave us added confidence that Dahlia was being well looked after, allowing us to have an enjoyable holiday.

Michael and I left for our holiday to Israel on New Year's Day. The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre being open 24/7 for the past nearly 2 years has given us "a life".

We greatly appreciate the hours that respite is open. This is truly social justice.

~ Debbie Shapp



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

Front cover:

Our Village Kitchen volunteers Romy Bursztyn, Emily Brott, Galit Krongold and Lisa Lipshut at the ARK Centre in East Hawthorn (absent: Jo Star)





Dianne Gringlas (centre) was awarded the Leo and Mina Fink Award. Dianne is seen with Nathan Fink and Susie Ivany OAM



Marilyn Kraner and Jackie Barry (left) discuss the topic of 'Housing Affordability- Facts, Figures, and Future Implications'



Bill Appleby, Jewish Care CEO presents his report

Building a Stronger and Sustainable Organisation

Jewish Care held its 2017 Annual General Meeting on 22 November at Glen Eira Town Hall Auditorium. Many significant achievements from the past year were outlined; including the commencement of construction of the St Kilda Road Senior Living and Community Precinct and receiving approval for 11 service types under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Jewish Care President, Mike Debinski, reiterated the priority to grow Jewish Care as "a strong, capable, and sustainable organisation." He also acknowledged the efforts which had resulted in more than \$21 million being raised as at November 2017 towards a goal of \$30 million for Jewish Care's Capital Campaign, *Growing. For Our Community.*

The AGM approved the re-election of Jeffrey Appel OAM, Andrew Schwartz, Adam Joel and Lisa Kennett to the Board of Governance. In addition, Dianne Gringlas was awarded the Leo and Mina Fink Award, recognising her exceptional voluntary and philanthropic contribution to Jewish Care particularly in the area of disability services.

Jewish Care CEO, Bill Appleby emphasised; "We are effectively transforming all that we do to better support our community. I look forward with great expectations to the year ahead, as we continue our work together, in partnership, to deliver on our mission to support and enhance the wellbeing of the Jewish community for now and for generations to come."

The AGM was followed by an engaging presentation by Marilyn Kraner, Individual and Family Support Manager at Jewish Care and Jackie Barry, Director of Housing Asset Strategy and Financing at the Department of Health and Human Services on the topic of 'Housing Affordability- Facts, Figures and Future Implications'. The discussion explored the affordable housing crisis in Victoria; its effects on the Jewish community; and Jewish Care services that support families and individuals experiencing housing strain, including financial counselling, interest free loans, and social and affordable housing.



2018 Tzedakah Sunday Telethon

Jewish Care is inviting volunteers to the 2018 Tzedakah Sunday Telethon on Sunday 6 May, to assist with calling our community members. The Tzedakah Sunday Telethon is sure to be a rewarding experience as each call will help change a life. Just two hours of your time is all we ask for. All donations received will be allocated towards our social services programs that receive little or no government funding.

Location: Active Living Centre
Level 6, 619 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
Time: 10am to 8pm



To register or to find out more, please contact Lauren or Kayleigh on 8517 5622 at kflaks@jewishcare.org.au

YOU CAN CHANGE A LIFE...

** Name and image has been changed to protect the privacy of the client.*



Your Community Needs You

Daniel* is a 35 years old with a fabulous sense of humour, living in a charming private rental in Carnegie.

It was a regular Sunday morning for Daniel riding along Beach Road. He was riding at a fair speed when his front tyre hit an oil patch on the road. The next thing he remembers is waking up in a hospital bed, unable to move his legs.

His spinal cord had been shattered, resulting in partial paralysis. Weeks of hospitalisation followed by weeks of intensive rehabilitation has finally enabled him to walk short distances with the aid of a walker. But, he is reliant on a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

He will never ride again nor will he ever walk properly. And, it is likely that he would never work as a carpenter again.

This was the start of an agonising road ahead for him – physically, emotionally and financially.

Initially, Daniel's father and step-mother wanted him to move in with them. However, due to the setup of their second floor apartment without an elevator, it was impossible for him to get up two flights of stairs.

He decided to go home to his apartment and have a nurse help him at first.

At present, Daniel no longer needs round-the-clock assistance. He is trying to get on with his altered life as best as possible. He's unable to return to work, his medical and utility bills are piling up and his father is not in a financial position to help him.

Daniel's disability pension barely covers his weekly food and rent. He has sold his car and some of his belongings to pay his debts, but that small pool of savings is running out.

Daniel now faces the prospect of being homeless.

There are many ways we all can help Daniel, whether assistance is needed for housing, employment, financial aid, financial counselling, disability or any other vital service.

WHAT YOUR DONATION CAN DO?

- **\$36** can help individuals and families at risk of homelessness with a safe, affordable and secure place to call home.
- **\$72** can help individuals who are out of work and facing financial insecurity to find suitable employment.
- **\$108** can help people in need of disability services.
- **\$216** can help people who are experiencing trauma through our range of individual and family services.

3 WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL APPEAL

- Donate online via
www.jewishcare.org.au/donate
- Donate by phone!
Call **1800 JEWISH (1800 539 474)**
- Donate by filling the coupon on the back of the newsletter

With your support, Jewish Care can organise immediate financial assistance and counselling to help Daniel pay his mounting bills and teach him to budget effectively for his financial future.

With your help, we can also arrange accommodation in one of our social housing units that are set up for those needing assistance with mobility. There, he could stay until more permanent accommodation is found.

With your help, one of our social workers can personally oversee Daniel's case, organising referrals to other organisations that could provide Daniel with specialised assistance, such as trauma recovery and counselling.

But we can only do this with your support. By donating to our 2018 Annual Appeal today, you can change Daniel's life and thousands of others who turn to Jewish Care each year.

Jewish Care's 2018 Annual Appeal aims to raise \$3.1million through a line-up of activities including major donor dinners, a telethon, an annual dinner and regular donations to support vital services including housing, financial aid, counselling, employment, disability services and healthy ageing programs that receive little and no government funding.



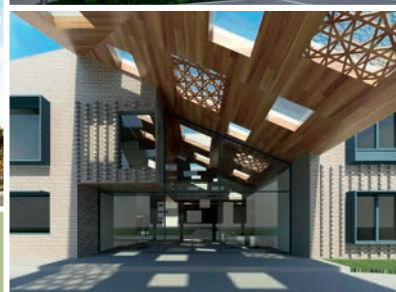
To watch the 2018 Annual Appeal video, visit youtube.com/jewishcarevic

Update: Growing. For Our Community

Jewish Care embarked on a set of major building projects in 2014 with a projected investment of over \$200 million to build 6 projects within 10 years. So far, \$22 million has been raised towards a target of \$30 million for the six developments that will transform our facilities into centres of excellence for residential aged care, disability services and housing support services. Here is an update of the various milestones achieved so far.

2015

The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre was officially opened in March 2015. The Centre is the only purpose-built disability respite centre for the Jewish community.



2018

Fulton Street Community Housing:

Work has been completed on the refurbishment of 9 units and tenants have moved into these units. The second stage of refurbishment work is underway on 10 units and it is expected that these units will be completed by April 2018.



2018

Anne and Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre

The proposed Active Living Centre, an extension to Gary Smorgon House, will provide a range of key services and supports to our Elders, and community focused services to seniors living in the local community. Detailed design work is well underway and it is anticipated that we will be in a position to seek approval to proceed to tender in April 2018.

2018

Carnegie Residential Aged Care facility:
In negotiation with the preferred builder to reach agreement on the construction contract.

2017

St Kilda Road (Stage 1) The Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building

Works have commenced on Stage 1 of the development of the 156 bed aged care facility. Works at present include the demolition of existing buildings on site in preparation for the excavation of the basement car park.



Popular Parenting Forums

Our Parenting Forums have continued to be a great success, not only with parents but grandparents, carers, teachers and health professionals too. Now in its fourth year, this popular series sees expert speakers take to the stage to present on a variety of topics related to mental health and wellbeing of young people.

The second half of 2017 saw a range of great sessions. Drug Ed Australia shared practical tips on talking to teens about drugs and alcohol and helping young people to 'party safe'; the Office of the Children's e-safety Commissioner delivered an eye-opening presentation on digital resilience and supporting kids' wellbeing in a technological world; and a group of enthusiastic parents completed the renowned Tuning Into Kids program to learn how to build their child's emotional intelligence. In addition, we were thrilled to partner with the Jewish Mediation Centre to deliver a special edition workshop on post-separation parenting.

Next Forum



Dr Michael Carr-Gregg will present a session based on his latest book, *Prince Boofhead Syndrome*, on Thursday 26 April. To attend a forum or to be added to the Parenting Forum mailing list, please contact Cassandra Barrett on cbarrett@jewishcare.org.au or phone **8517 5908**.

2018 promises to be another great year of enlightening and engaging sessions. This year will also see a greater focus on interactive, smaller-group workshops to give parents and carers the opportunity to discuss specialised topics in a supportive environment.

Learning Through Experience

Shaya Spigelman, a social work student from Deakin University completed his first placement at Jewish Care in December 2017. He was attached to the Employment and Education Centre (EEC) where he spent most of his time working and observing the many facets of social work.

Shaya works at Adass School and assists students struggling with their schoolwork and home life. His aspiration is to further develop his professional skills to improve his work for the community.

Commenting on his experience at Jewish Care, Shaya said: "A really great experience of working in a professional organisation like Jewish Care. It was great getting on the inside of Jewish Care and seeing what amazing work is done."

I was surprised that it does a lot more than aged care."

Simon Jedwab, Program Manager said: "Having Shaya was an important experience for him and for Jewish Care. It was a steep learning curve for Shaya and for us and we spent many hours engaged in discussion around social work concepts and how to use them within his community. I look forward to seeing how Shaya's social work career develops."



Celebrating Successes of Young People

Twenty seven young achievers participated in the 2017 Young Achievers Program (YAP) benefiting from monthly catch-ups with their mentors and skill development workshops including networking, survival skills, leadership and theatre sports.

The program culminated in a celebration dinner at Duncan Mackinnon Reserve Pavilion attended by young achievers and their parents, mentors, alumni and donors. The guest speaker, Madeleine Buchner, Founder and CEO of Little Dreamers and past YAP participant, spoke of her journey as to why she started Little Dreamers and how hard work, perseverance and picking yourself up when you fail, were all important aspects to succeed in life.



2017 YAP participants with Phillip Brass (centre) at the celebration dinner

Jewish Care Recognised at VicHealth Awards

Jewish Care's 'Reach Out Speak Out' campaign was acknowledged at the 2017 VicHealth Awards in the Improving Mental Wellbeing category for combatting the stigma associated with mental illness and promoting help-seeking behaviour.

The video campaign released in 2016 was part of Jewish Care's commitment to mental health promotion. The video featured a variety of Jewish community members with a lived experience of mental ill health.

Cassandra Barrett, Mental Health Promotion Resource Officer said: "It is a tremendous honour to be named a finalist for the 2017 VicHealth Awards. Jewish Care is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the Victorian Jewish community, so it is wonderful that we have been recognised for our work in promoting and improving mental wellbeing."



Cassandra Barrett with the 'Finalist' certificate

Standing Together for 21 Years

The 21st Annual Generations of Women Brunch held at The International Brighton recorded another successful year with over 260 women in attendance.

The guest speaker, Fiona Grinwald, founder of 2lookup, spoke of positivity and why it was important for people to 'look up' and see the compelling beauty in the ordinary things that are all around us.

It was from her personal tragedy that Fiona decided not to look down and let what had happened swallow her up, but instead to live a life with no regrets.

She was a young mother of two young children when her husband suddenly passed away at the age of 39.

"There will always be bad days. For me, the balance between acknowledging bad days and appreciating the good is what's important. And particularly acknowledging the good parts of hard days," Grinwald said.

Donations raised during the event were directed towards Jewish Care's Housing Support Program, which supports individuals and families at risk of homelessness.



Guest speaker Fiona Grinwald



Generations of Women Committee

Creating More Employment Opportunities

A recent partnership between Jewish Care and Access Inc. will assist people living with cognitive disabilities to receive streamlined job seeking and employability training in the Jewish community.

The new course delivered in three phases will include employability skills training, ongoing job seeking support and barista training. The training will provide opportunities to learn and apply

a range of new practical skills that may lead to future employment.

Jewish Care's program has received funding from the Adult, Community and Further Education Board to provide intensive support to job seekers living with cognitive disabilities.

i If you or someone you know is interested in participating, contact the Jewish Care Employment and Education Centre on 8517 5999



Staff and participants in the Jewish Care/Access Inc. course

Leaders Join Hands Against Family Violence



Team from Jewish Care at Federation Square minutes before the march

Nine leading Jewish organisations including Jewish Care, Jewish Community Council of Victoria, Tzedek, National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, Unchain My Heart, Maccabi, Progressive Judaism Victoria, Impact and the Rabbinical Council of Victoria teamed up to send a clear message that the Victorian Jewish community stands united in saying 'No' to family violence at the Walk Against Family Violence.


The Annual walk that commenced from Federation Square was a fitting event to raise awareness of family violence and the impact it has on the community, and to remember those who have lost their lives to family violence.

You Can Ask Me Anything!

The International Day of People with Disability was celebrated at The Manders Villas together with our partners, Maccabi Victoria All Abilities, Flying Fox, Australasian Union of Jewish Students and Access Inc. It was a special day for most of our clients and an exhilarating experience for the cast of 'You Can Ask Me Anything!' who made it possible to create this candid video.

We interviewed 11 clients of our Disability services and posed a range of questions they wouldn't usually be asked. We were enlightened by their responses, humour, honesty and personality.

The video was launched on 3 December to coincide with International Day of People with Disability in partnership with Access Inc. and Maccabi Victoria All Abilities.

 The video can be seen by visiting youtube.com/jewishcarevic



Ross Perryman (left) with Josh Ferenbach



MP David Southwick (third from right) with members of our partner organisations and Jewish Care clients at The Manders Villas

Stand Up for Comedy

Justine Sless, Jacob Sacher and Helen Mizrachi left our Elders and staff in fits of laughter as they performed stand-up comedy at Gary Smorgon House. Apart from these three comedians from the Melbourne Jewish Comedy Festival (MJCF), Elders and staff were also given the opportunity to share their own jokes.

The event was organised to coincide with 'MJCF presents 3 Parts Chutzpah' at Kadimah Yiddish Cultural Centre during 5-7 December 2017.



Helen Mizrachi amusing Elders with her humour

Partnering to Provide Shabbat Meals

Jewish Care recently formed a partnership with a group of community members known as “Our Village Kitchen” to offer nutritious and culturally appropriate meals to the Jewish community.

Our Village Kitchen is a charity, connecting community and culture through their shared love of food and cooking - making delicious and nutritious meals for those doing it tough.

The warm and welcoming community hub at The Manders Villas will be used as the distribution centre for clients to pick up their pre-prepared food parcels. These meals consisting of challah, entree, main and dessert using quality kosher ingredients will be prepared at a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen at the ARK Centre in East Hawthorn.

The tenants of The Manders Villas, all adults who live with a disability, have volunteered to give back to their community by distributing meals to clients of both Disability Services and Individual and Family Support Services.

This is a fantastic example of the community joining hands and banding together to care for those in need in our community. We hope these meals will provide some relief to our community members who are unable to afford healthy and culturally appropriate meals during Shabbat.



Our Village Kitchen volunteers with Jewish Care staff and volunteers



Uri Rosenberg and Ian Leonard (right) storing food at The Manders Villas

Developing Tomorrow's Communal Leaders

Yesod participants and Jewish Care Board members came together to celebrate a year of inspiration, learning and success at an end-of-year celebration held at The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre.

During the past two years, Yesod – the Board Leadership program has given more than 25 energetic and aspiring young leaders an opportunity to develop their skills and capabilities to broaden their leadership roles and involvement in the community.

Nominations were called in for the 2018 Board Leadership program earlier this year, and we were delighted by the enthusiasm and

interest shown in the program. Each year, we have seen a steady increase in applications, making this program popular and sought after amongst the next generation of community leaders.

The Yesod program is proudly supported by the Kelly and Simon T. Morris family and the Szalmuk-Singer family, and facilitated in partnership with the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



2017 Yesod participants with Jewish Care Board members and Bill Appleby

A Night of Excellence and Inspiration

The annual Staff and Volunteer Service & Excellence Awards celebrated the efforts and accomplishments of both teams and individuals over the past year. Over 200 staff, volunteers, Life Governors, communal leaders and supporters gathered at the International of Brighton to acknowledge the exceptional service, innovation and teamwork of staff and volunteers at Jewish Care.

The awards recognised staff and volunteers who were nominated in seven categories across all our services and congratulated others who had given between 5 to 40 years of service to Jewish Care. David Wilden was awarded Volunteer of the Year for many years of voluntary service escorting Elders to and from Gary Smorgon House to synagogue on Shabbat and Jewish holidays. Valda Schnibbe and Rosalie Silverstein OAM were particularly recognised for their 40 years of service.

Another highlight of the evening was the inspirational speech given by Adam Kellerman about his personal journey of beating Ewing's Sarcoma to become an Australian Paralympian and wheelchair tennis champion. He motivated and encouraged everyone present at the awards to be the best versions of themselves.

Bill Appleby, CEO, congratulated all nominees for their hard work and dedication to building "an inclusive community where everyone, regardless of age, background or ability, can contribute and thrive."

Other award categories and winners include:

Samuel H. Harris Award: Ora Glickman, Administration Officer- BlueStar In-Home Services

Innovation of the Year Award: Ayal Tusia, Marketing and Communications Manager

President's Award: Maria Sumovskaya, Program Manager- BlueStar In-Home Services and Meghan Baker, Administration Officer- BlueStar In-Home Services

CEO Customer Service Award: Gita Goldberg, Disability Support and Jaspreet Kaur, Administration Assistant- Smorgon Family Nursing Home

Ethos Award: Amanda Filleul, Activities Assistant - Healthy Ageing Activities and Jack Gurung, Personal Care Worker- Gary Smorgon House

Team of The Year: BlueStar In-Home Services

Professional development scholarships: Cassandra Barrett, Team Leader- Mental Health, Debbie Ellenbogen, Service Coordinator- Individual & Family Support, and Maria Sumovskaya, Program Manager- BlueStar In-Home Services.



David Wilden receiving his award from Julia Cookson



Ora Glickman proudly accepting her award from Bill Appleby



The BlueStar In-Home services team with their Best Team of the Year award

Happy Birthday Polina!

Polina Naumova celebrated her 100th birthday with friends, family and staff at Smorgon Family Nursing Home. Much to her surprise, she was presented with two birthday cakes to cut into as everyone sang 'Happy Birthday' and wished her well.

Polina was born in Ukraine and lived most of her life in Crimea. Her main occupation was growing grapes. On 8 March, 1938 Polina married Susky. She says the most important things in life are peace, children and love.



Polina Naumova (seated) surrounded by caring staff and family at her 100th birthday



Mark and Helen Steiner with the beautiful Menorah

Lighting a Menorah in Memory of Leon Steiner

A beautiful sterling silver menorah was donated by Mark and Helen Steiner to Gary Smorgon House in memory of their father, Leon Steiner. The gift was to commemorate Leon's first Yahrzeit which fell five days before Chanukah.

Leon was a beloved and popular Elder and Shul member of Gary Smorgon House from early November 2013 until late December 2016. He was a traditional Jew who loved the Shabbat and Jewish holidays, especially the festival of Chanukah. Although he lived a very modest life, he tried to give charity and help others whenever he could.

We thank the family for their kind donation, and look forward to honouring Leon's memory by lighting the menorah for many years to come.

Legacy Gift Supports Adults with Special Needs

Nestled amongst the suburban homes which surround it, Jacob's House provides safe and secure accommodation for adults with special needs. With easy access to family, friends and the Jewish community, it is one of five Jewish Care supported accommodation houses, the only Jewish facilities of their kind in Victoria.

Replacing Bundeera House in Carnegie, the purpose-built facility opened in 1990, thanks to a generous legacy gift from the late Ida Salicki. The home is named in memory of Ida's late parents who perished in the Holocaust, Genia and Jacob Lang. A project of the Women's Division of Jewish Community Services Welfare Relief Appeal, other contributors included the late Lily and Fred Bishop and the Richtman family in memory of the Late Walter Shaechter.

A refugee from Vienna, Ida arrived in Australia in 1939 after fleeing the

Nazi invasion. Ida was a talented glove maker and found work with Kayser Australia as a floor supervisor. Ida married Simon Salicki, a Holocaust survivor who made his fortune operating dairy farms in Gippsland, Epping and Werribee. The couple raised a family and were supportive of the Jewish community, sponsoring many refugees to emigrate from post-war Europe.

Following her husband's passing, Ida perpetuated the couple's philanthropic legacy. She volunteered with several community organisations including Jewish Care, where she served at the Montefiore Kiosk every Friday for many years.

Ever grateful, Ida felt it her responsibility to help those in need. Her generous bequest to Jewish Care continues to provide a home for the many residents who have passed through Jacob's House's doors.



Jacob and Genia Lang, after whom Jacob's House is named



Ida and Simon Salicki z'l



Jacob's House - kitchen and dining area

The Gift of Giving to Help Improve Lives

Making a donation in honour of a Bar/Bat mitzvah to help those in need is a meaningful value taught by most Jewish parents, including Jessica Goldman's parents, Victoria and Tal. In lieu of presents for her Bat Mitzvah, Jessica made a generous donation to Jewish Care in February 2018. This decision was made as she wanted to support her community, including young families, people living with disabilities as well as the elderly.

Her first exposure to Jewish Care was in 2011 when she and her sister Chloe, donated their birthday money. She also remembers her dad bringing her to Montefiore Homes Community Residence to visit her great-grandmother where they played bingo and sang songs for the residents. The girls have also taken tours of other Jewish Care facilities including The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre and The Manders Villas.

Jessica & Chloe were also featured in our 2012 Annual Appeal campaign video 'It's Wonderful' where they spoke of how important it is to give back to those who have less in our community.

That year, they sold lollies to raise funds for Jewish Care and since then, they have continued to donate to Jewish Care for their birthdays.

Speaking to her about this special occasion, Jessica said; "My parents have always encouraged me to think of something worthwhile, like helping people in our community. I feel it is a good cause and we should think of others and make a difference in other people's lives whenever possible. That's why I thought for this special day to donate to Jewish Care." She was also delighted that the Pratt Foundation will double the amount of money raised once she participates in a volunteer program at Gary Smorgon House on Purim.

Jessica's family are no strangers to Jewish Care. Her great-grandparents; Dr Wolfe Davis, was the Honorary Secretary of Montefiore Homes Community Residence for 40 years and a practising doctor at the facility in an honorary capacity. Her great-grandmother, Eliza, is a resident at Montefiore.



Jessica Goldman

i For more information about our B'nei Mitzvah program and matching donations, contact our Community Team on 8517 5905 or email dsiegel@jewishcare.org.au

Rachel and Gita on National TV

Rachel Kay from The Manders Villas and disability support worker, Gita Goldberg, were recently featured in a commercial produced by the Heart Foundation to promote the Heart Foundation's new walking app.

The opportunity came about through Maccabi when they were contacted by the Heart Foundation looking to cast a person in a wheelchair to represent inclusivity. Rachel was immediately thought of as someone who would enjoy the experience to engage in this social activity, as well as being part of something big and exciting.

Sure enough, Rachel was keen and arrangements were made to support her. We were also able to offer one-to-one support to Rachel. After working out the logistics and liaising with the Heart Foundation and the production company, Rachel and Gita, together with her beautiful assistant dog, Radar, ventured out to Elwood Beach.

Rachel and Radar received star treatment from wardrobe consultants and make-up to engaging conversations with the production team and other actors. Gita was offered a position next to Rachel to continue to support her in the

filmed activity. It was a wonderful experience and they were both very excited to see themselves on screen when the commercial aired on national television in January!



Watch the Heart Foundation commercial
<https://youtube/rq9aKZyshBI>



Snapshot of the Heart Foundation video

Living a Jewish Life

The Jewish Life team has had a very busy few months preparing and facilitating memorable events across Jewish Care's facilities, together with our Elders, clients and families sharing a true sense of joy and unity.

Chanukah

Chanukah was a huge celebration across Jewish Care. Each of our facilities had its own choice of events creating a fun filled atmosphere for Elders, their family members and staff of Jewish Care. Menorah lighting, Hora dancing, falafel dinners, donut making and decorations, perfume making, karaoke, live band performances and games were some of the most exciting events lined up for our Elders.

Purim

Purim was exceptionally colourful this year with vivid theme parties organised across all our facilities from shtetl and rainbow to superheros vs villains. It was a fantastic way to get our Elders, families and staff in the party spirit and enjoy the line-up of fun filled activities including megillah reading, photo booths, dancing and performances. Key highlights were the fashion show at The Manders Villas, a performance by 'The Splitters' at Smorgon and students of Beth Rivkah and Leibler Yavneh College visiting Montefiore Homes to join in on the fun.



Chanukah celebrations at The Manders Villas



Purim celebrations at The Manders Villas - residents dressed as Batwoman and Superman

Tu B'Shvat

We celebrated Tu B'Shvat with pot plant decorating, planting sessions and flower arranging across all our Facilities. Residents got the opportunity to express their creative abilities through art, accompanied by great chats and fresh fruit in the spirit of the day.

On One Stage

"On One Stage" an event to celebrate the talents of our Gary Smorgon House Elders was held in December for our residents and their family members.

The program began with a beautiful musical performance by Moshe Fried. He sang the Israeli national anthem and an assortment of Hebrew and Yiddish classics. Denise Liebowitz and Hillary Malkinson, daughters of Pauline Malkinson took to the stage next to recap their mother's journey from South Africa to Australia, and her transition from Munzer Community Residence to Gary Smorgon House one year ago. They especially thanked the members of the Gary Smorgon House Shul for welcoming them with open arms.

Next was a moving piano recital by Harry Engel. He learned to play the piano for the first time as a means of therapy just a few months ago, following his diagnosis with

Parkinson's in October 2016. He has quickly taken to it and performed two songs to a standing ovation.

Soon to follow was the keynote speech by Adele Justin. She spoke of the power of the Shiur (lecture), and explained how attending the weekly Shiur has changed her life and has connected her to the Jewish religion in a way that she never thought possible. She ended her speech with the following simple but powerful message: *"You are never too old to learn. When you listen you learn, when you learn you exercise your brain, when you learn you grow and are alive. When you stop learning your world stops turning, nothing moves anymore, and you become passive. When you learn the sun shines, when you stop the sun sets and disappears. If by the grace of G-d, He grants me more time, I would love to keep learning and enjoying it."*



Harry Engel playing the piano

The event concluded with two final songs by Moshe Fried and a presentation of gifts to all participants, followed by a scrumptious afternoon tea.



Fran Bruell – 70th Birthday



Geoff Lipton – 80th Birthday



Jessica Goldman – Bat Mitzvah



Ayden Appel – Bar Mitzvah



Pia Zayontz – Bat Mitzvah

Thank You!

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

Bar Mitzvah

Ayden Appel

Bat Mitzvah

Simone Aizik
Jessica Goldman
Sienna Klooger
Elise Rubin
Pia Zayontz

Pidyon Haben

Ezra Genende

3rd Birthday

Jethro Rzechta

50th Birthday

Judy Gandur
Jeff Klein

60th Birthday

Mark Gandur
Libby Skurnik
Sandra Verblun

70th Birthday

Fran Bruell
Riva Rosenbaum

80th Birthday

Geoff Lipton
Miriam Peters
Leonard Sharpe

85th Birthday

Marilyn Hyams

90th Birthday

Norma Boltin
Marie Hirsh
Minnie Smorgon

Special Birthday

Patricia Baitz

Wedding

Anniversary
Leslie and Edi
Sheffield



To share your simcha, please contact our Community Team on 8517 5786 or donations@jewishcare.org.au

Let the happiness of your special day **brighten the lives of thousands** in need in our community!



Give to Jewish Care in lieu of gifts for your birthday, wedding, anniversary or any other special occasion and really make it a day to remember.

Photo Gallery



Yishai Elaluf, Arthir Kaganovitch and Noah Szuster at the YAP year end celebration dinner



Stephen Schwartz with Lifestyle coordinator Gwen Hill on Bollywood Day at Smorgon Family Nursing Home



Sadie Goldsmith and daughter Barbara Belfer celebrating Purim at Gary Smorgon House



Mariya Goikhman, Sofia Batkilna & Fenya Peltina (left to right) on Jewish Family Day at Montefiore Homes



Lorelle Krulis and Tania Smorgon at a major donor dinner held in February



Shanna Brott and mother Natalie Brott at the IDPWD event



2017 Yesod participants Tammie Slade, Stephanie Briskin and Naomi Swart (left to right) with Susie Ivany OAM (second from right)



Rebecca Goldenberg and daughter Debbie Searle at Gary Smorgon House during Chanukah



Zac Chester with Romy Cohen and niece Layla Cohen celebrating Chanukah at The Manders Villas



Howard Kiel, Pat Cashmore & Keith Faiman at the Circle of Care year end luncheon



Shelley Beder, Rochelle Mendel, Sharon Klein & Lani Sharp at Generations of Women



Tamara Herschel with Maccabi athletes at The Manders Villas



Like us on Facebook to see more photos of events and activities around Jewish Care – facebook.com/jewishcarevictoria

5 Minutes with Prof Sharon Goldfeld



1. Why did you join the Jewish Care Board?

I have spent my lifetime working in and with the Jewish community; from youth groups (SKIF), school (Mt Scopus) and Boards of Jewish organisations (Sholem Aleichem College). I've also been committed to boards that align with my other passion which is around children, especially those most vulnerable; so I

spent 14 years on the board of Very Special Kids. It then made perfect sense to align my personal and professional passion with my Jewish roots and join the board of Jewish Care where we are able to contribute to a healthier Jewish community, especially meeting the needs of those most vulnerable.

2. What is your vision for Jewish Care Victoria?

I really like Jewish Care's existing vision but the element that resonates most for me is around excellence and caring. It's really important to me that when children and families access Jewish Care they know they are getting the very best.

3. What would you personally like to achieve during your time as Board member?

I have the honour of chairing the Quality and Service Review committee-responsible for thinking about and monitoring

the quality of the services that Jewish Care provides. This committee of amazing people will really help fulfil the organisation's aspirations in regards to excellence and caring. This is also my aspiration, to ensure that we are an organisation that cares about the quality of services and continues to want to provide more.

4. Tell us about your family?

I'm a first generation Australian; my parents both migrated from Poland in the 1950's having started their university education in Poland but migrating in the face of increasing anti-Semitism. I grew up in Australia, went to Mount Scopus and SKIF, a Jewish youth group centred on Yiddishkeit and social justice. I met my husband there and we have 2 adult (where does the time go!) wonderful daughters.

5. What do you want to do when you retire?

I hope it's not too soon. Three things basically; to travel, to become a grandparent and to be able to do voluntary work in the community while I feel I can still contribute. Someone once wisely said to me "I married my husband to be with in sickness and in health, but not for lunch". I think keeping busy will be important!

6. What is your favourite Jewish holiday and why?

It would be Pesach and the reason why is first of all, great food. Second of all, the story is relevant to today. Third of all, it's a chance for the family to sit around the table and really talk about meaningful issues such as slavery and freedom and what that means today.

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



Yes, I want to support the 2018 Annual Appeal

Below are examples of how your gift can help towards making a real difference.

- ☐ **\$36** Can help provide Daniel and others at risk of homelessness with a safe, affordable and secure place to call home.
- ☐ **\$72** Can help Daniel and others who are out of work and facing financial insecurity to find suitable employment.
- ☐ **\$108** Can help Daniel and others in need with disability services.
- ☐ **\$216** Can help Daniel and others who are experiencing trauma through our range of individual and family services.

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

Mobile DOB

Email

So that more of my dollar can go to those in need, I am happy to cover the Credit Card surcharge (optional) ☐ Amex 1.5% ☐ Visa/MasterCard 1%

☐ 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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