

A close-up photograph of several hands of different ages and skin tones stacked together in a supportive grip. The hands are the central focus of the image, with fingers interlaced. The background is softly blurred, showing hints of clothing like a red sweater and a white shirt.

# MY Connection

Issue 1 Autumn 2021/Tishrei 5781

*Enriching Lives*  
**TOGETHER**

**PLEASE DONATE**

[jewishcare.org.au/2021appeal](https://jewishcare.org.au/2021appeal)

1800 JEWISH (1800 539 474)



Susie Ivany OAM, President



Bill Appleby, CEO

It's wonderful to see so many friendly faces back at work as we return to the new COVID normal way of working. As always, we remain committed to providing a safe environment and will continue to ensure that we follow government health advice and our own strict protocols to keep our elders, community, and staff safe.

Despite the challenges of COVID, we are thrilled to report that through the generosity of the Victorian Jewish community, we have opened three new landmark buildings as part of our ambitious strategic plan of reimagining residential aged care. These developments included the opening of two new state-of-the-art, integrated Senior Living & Community Precincts and two Active Living Centres. The architecture of these new assets enables us to deliver services through our unique Hand-in-Hand™ model of support – an approach in care that is geared towards empowering elders to maintain their independence and to live with confidence and joy during their third age of life. These new propositions have redefined our services and positioned Jewish Care as a leading provider of choice within the broader Jewish community.

As an organisation that's committed to thought leadership and continuous improvement, we were pleased to see several innovative recommendations included in the Aged Care Royal Commission's findings that strongly align to our own direction. We were particularly delighted with the Commission's recommendation to move residential care towards a small household model in design which accords with Jewish Care's contemporary thinking and practice. We applaud the Commissioners for their thorough work over the last 2 years and look forward to a very favourable response by our Federal Government. It is absolute certain that the time for action is now. This once in a generation opportunity to align social policy and subsequent funding with the Australian community's expectations.

Supporting those most vulnerable in the community remains a top priority at Jewish Care. In the last 12 months, over 16,500 calls for support and assistance have been received through our COVID-19 Helpline - up from a typical 6,000 calls per year and this demand continues. In response, Jewish Care has launched its Annual Community Appeal – Enriching Lives Together which aims to raise \$3.6M by 30 June 2021.

Donations to this year's Community Appeal will ensure that we continue to offer services that are not fully funded by Government, from housing, employment, financial aid /counselling to mental health services. It is only through your generosity of spirit that we can continue to support over 6,000 people in need each year. So please, let's help each other through what will no doubt be another tough year as we navigate the road to recovery, by giving generously to Jewish Care's 2021 Community Appeal.

In closing, we would like to thank the whole community for your continued support of Jewish Care and wish you peace, prosperity, good health and happiness as we celebrate Pesach.

Chag Sameach!

Susie Ivany OAM

Bill Appleby

*My mother was a resident of Gary Smorgon House and we were very grateful for the excellent care she received during that very difficult time.*

~ **Dorothy Kovacs**

*Jewish Care embodies the sense of community that is key to our story. In the past I have possibly taken it a bit for granted, but now with the pressures that COVID-19 has placed upon our community, I am very pleased that we have a Jewish Care!!*

~ **Leon Steinkoler**

*I thoroughly enjoyed my recent tour of the new Residential Homes in Windsor and Carnegie. Clean sharp lines and beautiful views from St Kilda Road, which is close to the city and the seaside. The Carnegie facility has low rise housing surrounded by foliage and trees nestled in a very suburban area. Our community should be very proud of both of these state-of-the-art facilities, and we are proud to call these our homes.*

~ **Dianne Gringlas**

*From all my family, thank you for the wonderful work you do. For the continuous great care that you give my mother, Gerda, and all the other residents of Gary Smorgon House and for keeping us so well updated. It is a great relief to know what is happening and that she is in such safe and caring hands.*

~ **Anonymous**



Share your feedback about our services by emailing [yoursay@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:yoursay@jewishcare.org.au)

**Front cover:**  
Jewish Care's  
2021  
Community  
Appeal artwork





# Together We Can Enrich More Lives

The global COVID-19 pandemic has brought unparalleled challenges within our community and beyond. In just nine months, over 12,000 calls for support were received by Jewish Care's COVID-19 Helpline – double the 6,000 calls typically received each year.

Jewish Care is now in its 172nd year and, with its robust infrastructure, is uniquely positioned to help those in need in the most responsible, efficient and holistic ways possible. Whether support is required for housing, employment, financial aid or counselling, mental health or any other vital service, Jewish Care is here for our community, every day.

It is through our annual Community Appeal supported by our incredibly generous community that we can continue to provide these essential services. Our 2021 campaign, launched on

25 February 2021, has a target of raising \$3.6 million. With the drastic increase in calls for help, those in serious need in our community depend on you, so we ask you to please give generously.

We aim to, once again, hold our traditional Annual Dinner together with our other regular fundraising activities throughout the appeal period.

Your support will ensure that together, we can continue to enrich the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. Whatever your gift, you can be certain that it will make a difference!



To make a donation, visit [jewishcare.org.au/2021appeal](https://jewishcare.org.au/2021appeal), call 1800 539 474 or complete the coupon on the back page.

## 2019/2020 Annual General Meeting

Jewish Care's Annual General Meeting was streamed from the beautiful Schwartz Family Synagogue in the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building in November 2020.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Annual General Meeting had limited physical attendance, which included Jewish Care's Board of Governance and the Executive Leadership Team.

The event opened with a wonderful rendition of the Australian and Israeli anthems sung by Rachel Tigel and a moving prayer by Rabbi Nerenberg, which was followed by a minute's silence to honour the loss of those close to Jewish Care in the past year. Alan Schwartz AM, inaugural President of Jewish Care Victoria, attended the event as guest speaker and spoke of his contribution and passion for serving the Jewish community.

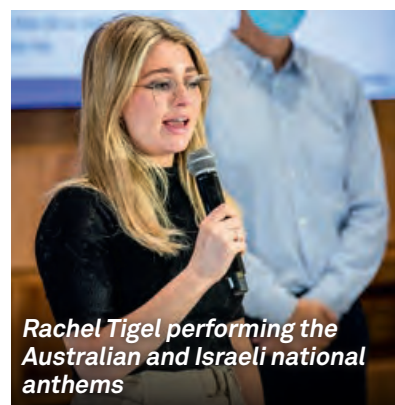
Dr Johnerry was awarded the Leo and Mina Fink Community Service Award in

recognition of over 30 years of service to Jewish Care. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the introduction of Financial Counselling, the Saver Plus program, the Accelerated Debt Reduction Loan, Small Business Mentoring Scheme and reshaping of Jewish Care's Financial Services. Under his stewardship, Empower Interest Free Loans grew exponentially, allocating over \$2 million to approximately 150 individuals and families. Today, these loans are in strong demand and fulfil a range of purposes including small business start-ups, debt consolidation, educational and first-time home ownership.

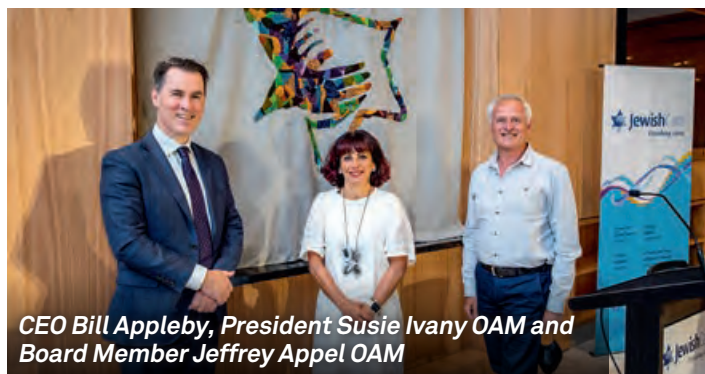
We thank our Co-Vice President, Lisa Kennett, for chairing the meeting. We also extend our sincerest appreciation to our President, Susie Ivany OAM, CEO, Bill Appleby, and Treasurer, Sharon Gdanski, for their leadership and guidance over the past year and beyond.



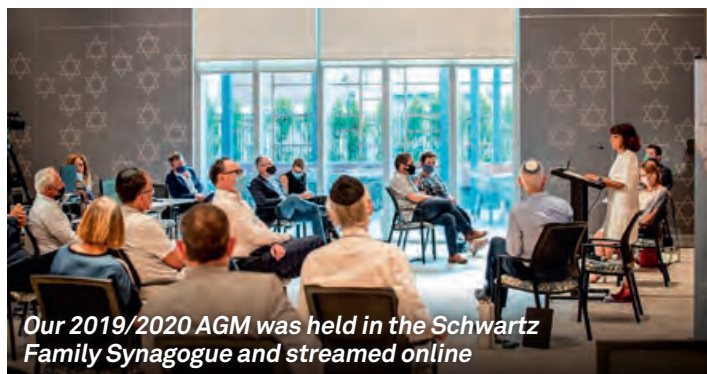
*Recipient of the Leo and Mina Fink Community Service award  
Dr Johnerry, with his wife Suzanne*



*Rachel Tigel performing the Australian and Israeli national anthems*



*CEO Bill Appleby, President Susie Ivany OAM and Board Member Jeffrey Appel OAM*



*Our 2019/2020 AGM was held in the Schwartz Family Synagogue and streamed online*

# Celebrating Ten Years Of Excellence

Jewish Care's 10th Annual Staff and Volunteer Service and Excellence Awards held via Zoom last year, a first for the decade-long event.

The major award for the evening, the Samuel H. Harris Award was presented to Marcus Harty, General Manager, Strategic Projects and Acquisitions, for his work delivering our new state-of-the-art capital projects.

Volunteer of the Year was awarded to two recipients; Errol Rink, who has run weekly News and Views sessions at Gary Smorgon House since 2012, and Leah Jacobs, for taking on multiple community-supporting roles, including as a mentor with the Young Achievers Program.

Service milestones were also celebrated on the night with 98 staff and volunteers acknowledged for their dedication and contributions. Marilyn Faiman was congratulated on 40 years of voluntary service, while Thomas Mitchell, Personal Care Worker from Gary Smorgon House, reached a service milestone of 30 years.

Bill Appleby, Jewish Care Chief Executive Officer, acknowledged "the leadership, resilience, commitment, compassion and resourcefulness of our staff and volunteers over the last 12 months."

Appleby went on to say that all staff "will always be able to look back at this time in history and remember proudly, the year 2020. When the entire world changed,

they were busy playing a major role and helping others more vulnerable."

Guest speaker Kath Koschel, founder of for-purpose charity, Kindness Factory, spoke to the importance of resilience after she defied her medical prognosis of paralysis and taught herself to walk – on three separate occasions.

Other award recipients included:

## President's Award for Excellence

Kate Bakos – Active Living Services and Saul Dargie – Disability Services

## CEO Customer Service Award

Suzette Leppard – Blue Star and Joanne Cochrane – Residential Services

## Ethos Award

Mohamed El Nabi – Finance and Debbie Ellenbogen – Individual & Family Services

## Team of the Year Award

Blue Star Rostering Team and the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Home

## Scholarships

Jagath Munasinghe – Smorgon Nursing Home, George Neuhauser – People & Culture, Cindia Auriant – Smorgon Nursing Home and Diana Kostinskaya – Individual & Family Services.

Unfortunately, the Ethos Mission Award, an opportunity to participate in the annual March of The Living program was not presented this year. Instead, the 2019 recipients will represent Jewish Care when it is safe to recommence the program.



**Ethos Award recipient  
Mohamed El Nabi**



**Joint CEO Customer  
Service Award recipient  
Suzette Leppard**



**Joint CEO Customer Service  
Award recipient Joanne  
Cochrane**

## The Artist Viewing The Art

Celebrated artist, Victor Majzner, recently toured our new state-of-the-facility, the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building with his wife, Marion and grandson, Elijah.

Victor's works are displayed in the new Castan Gallery and in elders rooms, perfectly complementing the luxurious residential aged care setting. His work is much-loved by our elders, their families, visitors and volunteers who visit the building.



**Artist Victor Majzner with his wife Marion  
and grandson Elijah**





**The 2020 graduates of the Yesod Board Foundation Program**



**2021 Yesod participants at the induction event**

## Yesod - A Platform for Growth

Jewish Care's Yesod Board Foundation Program is a highly sought-after program among young emerging leaders as it provides participants with a solid understanding of the professional duties and responsibilities of a for-purpose director. The 10-month program immerses participants in best practice principles of governance exemplified at Jewish Care. It prepares participants to embrace new community opportunities and connect with diverse leaders and community builders to witness the complexities of board leadership in the 21st century. The program, in its five years, has produced over 50 future-focused young leaders.

Now in its sixth year, the Yesod Board Leadership Program's 2021 launch saw 13 new participants welcomed by Jewish Care's CEO, Bill Appleby, at the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building. The induction evening began with Bill showcasing the valuable work of Jewish Care, and the multiple ways that the organisation supports and enriches the Jewish community. Following Bill's presentation, the new group was introduced to their mentors and members of the Board and Executive team, enjoying the opportunity for conversation, connection and networking in the beautiful new courtyard. Jewish Care's President, Susie Ivany OAM, concluded the evening with a presentation on governance familiarisation in preparation for the year ahead.

Adam Joel, Board member said, "It was great to see another cohort of committed and passionate current and future leaders of our community, who are striving to become more empowered through learning about board governance and Jewish Care Victoria".

In December last year, an event was held to celebrate the achievements of the 2020 Yesod Board Foundation Program graduates at the new Schwartz Family Synagogue, located in the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building.

Hannah Hammerschlag, Yesod 2020 participant said, "Yesod opened my eyes to the complex mix of skills, personality and experience that is needed to effectively govern a Not-For-Profit board and opened doors to opportunities that I could never have otherwise achieved this early on in my career".

The program will continue to focus on upskilling young professionals to take on leadership and governance positions in the Jewish community, while also leveraging their professional skills to further Jewish Care's objectives. The Yesod Board Foundation Program, which is now complemented by The Observership Program, is proudly sponsored by the Szalmuk-Singer and Kline-Joel Family.

## Meeting Face-to-Face

With over 350 people dedicating their time and resources to support our community, our volunteers are the lifeblood of Jewish Care. Their service is especially important for our elders, who during the COVID-19 pandemic, wrestled with extreme feelings of loss and isolation.

While our resilient volunteers were quick to adapt, maintaining their relationships via social connection calls and Zoom, they were delighted when they were given the green light to resume face-to-face activities in a safe and staggered approach.

"I am really happy that our volunteers are back. I value their presence all the

time," said Henry O'Hana, an elder at Gary Smorgon House. "They are compassionate and I especially enjoy spending one-on-one time with them. Thank you very much for your commitment and hard work."

Another elder, Adele Justin, shared a similar sentiment. "I was very excited to see my volunteer after many weeks. When we saw each other we both were happy and tearful. I am looking forward to seeing her on a weekly basis and I hope it won't change," she said.



**Please contact our Volunteer Program team on 8517 5734 if you are seeking volunteer opportunities.**



**Community staff Hayley Bacher, Ali Saha and Lauren Howard with volunteer James Stosser organising Rosh Hashanah care packs**



**Volunteer Richard Kommel delivering Chanukah boxes donated by Our Village Kitchen**



## Addressing Conversion Therapy

On 20 January 2021, Jewish Care hosted a unique virtual community forum, discussing LGBTI+ conversion practices and the current Change and

Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill. Conversion practices, global and local research about prevalence and harm and the journey that led to the development of the Victorian bill were all discussed on the night, as well as the importance of our community demonstrating their support.

The event involved a panel of influential speakers including Rabbi Gersh Lazarow from Temple Beth Israel; Samuel Murray from Jewish Care; Patrick McIvor from the Brave Network; Nathan Despott from the Brave Network and SOGICE Survivors; Nicola Kolb, a community member and survivor ally; Dr Gávi Ansara from Rosh Pinah, an affirming Orthodox Jewish network; Jarod Rhine-Davis, 2020 B'nai B'rith Changemaker Leadership

Award recipient; and Leah Boulton from Pathways Melbourne.

The forum was co-hosted with the Brave Network, a survivor support and advocacy group, and SOGICE Survivors, a national advocacy and research group, as well as supported by Courage to Care.

Commenting on the Government's legislative ban on harmful LGBTI+ conversion practices, Samuel Murray, Jewish Care's Executive sponsor for LGBTI+ inclusive practice, said, "This legislation sends a strong message to all Victorians that conversion practices are not therapeutic, are known to cause significant long-term psychological and emotional harm, and that a person's sexuality or gender identity is real and valid and not a mental disorder to be cured. The real danger to LGBTI+ people and their mental health and wellbeing is societal ignorance, prejudice and the pressure to conform to entrenched heteronormative societal values."

## Apart Together

2020 was certainly an unusual year for Jewish Care's Youth Mentoring programs. No sooner had the programs begun when COVID-19 forced the transition to remote and virtual activities. However, our mentor-mentee matches – more than forty pairs in total – found some incredibly creative ways to stay connected. From Zoom chats and socially-distanced walks, to virtual 'watch parties', cook-a-longs, museum tours and university open days, matches found ways to get to know one another and build their relationships despite the challenges of the pandemic.

Group activities continued to take place alongside mentor catch-ups, with mentees joining in a range of workshops including trivia, online escape rooms and a multicultural workshop with Big Brother Big Sister.

"I get so much out of the workshops," said one mentee. "I love that even though we are stuck at home I still have something to be a part of outside of school. It gives me something to look forward to – that relaxing, enjoyable hour or so each month where I get to express myself and have fun."

We rounded off the 2020 program with our end of year celebrations. For Youth Aspire, we were delighted to join together in-person – many for the first time – for a celebratory dinner at Spot On Ripponlea. Meanwhile, the Young Achievers participants attended a virtual celebration with speeches, a comedy set and a delicious kosher dinner delivered to their homes.



**Youth Aspire participant Sam Pamensky with mentor Jacques Levy**



**Youth Aspire participant Amy-Summer Seef with mentor Rachel Kraus and Youth Mentoring Coordinator Maayan Shaul**



**Participants of the 2020 Young Achievers Program**



# Mazal Tov Philip AM!

Mazal tov to Philip Mayers AM on recently being awarded an Order of Australia. An Honorary Life Governor of Jewish Care and Circle of Care Gold Member, Philip was Executive Director of Montefiore Homes from 1987 – 1990.

Philip grew up in a progressive Jewish home in Johannesburg, South Africa, where the Jewish values of charity and caring for those less fortunate were espoused by his parents and grandparents. Philip was particularly inspired by his grandmother, Gussie Sussman, whose philanthropic involvements earned her an MBE, the third highest ranking Order of the British Empire award.

A lawyer by training, Philip was very active in the Johannesburg community, helping to establish a school for disadvantaged African children. Disenchanted with life in apartheid South Africa, the Mayers family eventually immigrated to Melbourne.

Philip's many communal roles have contributed significantly to the Victorian Jewish community. He has served as President of Temple Beth Israel and Chairman of the VUPJ, and was an executive committee member of the JCCV, the State Zionist Council and the ECAJ. Philip was also a past Chairman of Make-



*Philip Mayers AM and Rhona Mayers*

A-Wish Foundation and is currently Chairman of Freemasons Foundation of Victoria.

Philip is resolute in his desire to improve the lives of the vulnerable in our community. The values he cherish will continue to benefit our community through the gift he has made to Jewish Care in his Will.

## Challenge the Way You Think

**Did you know that 1 in 5 Australians - over 4 million are estimated to have a disability? That's approximately 18% of our population. Did you know that there are disabilities which can't be seen such as mental illnesses, intellectual disabilities, visual or hearing impairments and learning disabilities? So there's a good chance you know people who have a disability.**

On International Day of People with a Disability, Jewish Care's Disability Services team launched a 12 month social media promotional campaign focused on changing the way people think about disability. With approximately 18% of our community having a disability, this campaign seeks to inform and educate people about breaking down stereotypes and working towards inclusivity for all members of our community.

The first step towards raising awareness was the launch of a Jewish Care video titled 'Challenge the way you think to change the way you think'.

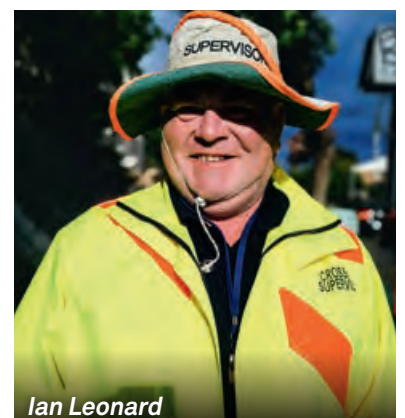
The second phase included snapshots of three of our clients challenging commonly held misconceptions of people with disabilities' inability to work, inability to live alone and that all disabilities can be seen.

Dr Pamela Dean moved into her new home recently and said, "To me, moving from a group home to my own unit is very liberating. I feel greatly encouraged to regain my personal agency on how to live my life."

Ian Leonard has been working as a school crossing supervisor for three years. He is committed to and loves his job, especially being able to walk out onto the road and stop the traffic so that children can safely get to school.



*Dr Pamela Dean*



*Ian Leonard*





The new Bori & Helen Liberman Central Courtyard located in the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building

## Residential Home Windsor Open Day

***On 28 February 2021, Jewish Care's new Residential Home Windsor opened its doors to the community to witness, firsthand, what this magnificent building and our model of care offers anyone seeking entry into residential aged care.***

Visitors were taken on tours of the purpose-built and beautifully appointed home to explore different aspects of the Hand-in-Hand™ model of support that promotes independent living - a new era in aged care. They were able to witness, firsthand, the nurturing environment and our three-tiered aged care product offering; Traditional, Classic and Choice, and other exclusive amenities.

Our new state-of-the-art Senior Living and Community Precinct provides a safe, secure and nurturing environment for our elders and clients and we were delighted to share some of these insights and experiences with our community at the Open Day.



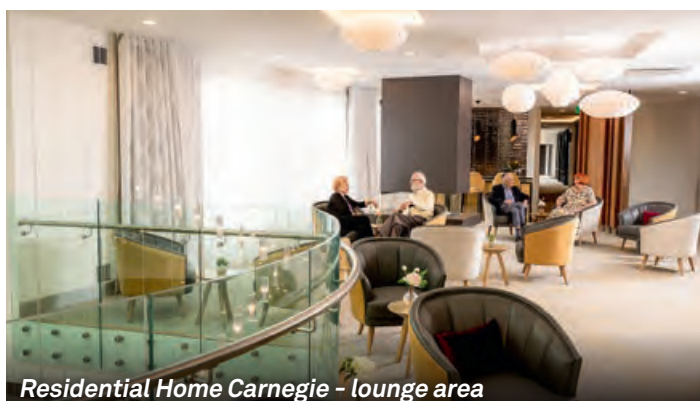
The Holckner Family Senior Living and Community Precinct comprises a spacious 156-bed luxury aged care home that is designed with elders' independence, dignity and wellbeing in mind. Spanning nine storeys, this modern home comprises seven levels of residential aged care and two levels of essential community services including a cafe, synagogue, salon, health and medical services, cinema, rehabilitation services and social justice community services.

Residential Home Carnegie sits at the heart of a vibrant community, central to a nearby shopping strip, medical centres and public transport, all within the leafy surrounds of Melbourne's south-east. This luxurious, modern home accommodates 120 elders across two levels in eight residential houses. Like all Jewish Care homes, our heritage and community is thoughtfully and naturally incorporated and embraced, delivering a new standard of living with a host of features. These include three types of accommodation with en suites, access to gardens, courtyards and balconies, active living and rehabilitation services such as podiatry, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, a contemporary synagogue and a family friendly living environment with cafe, gym, cinema, salon, secure gardens and walking tracks.

Our new Gita Smorgan Family Active Living Centre located in the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building and Ann & Eric Smorgan Active Living Centre in Caulfield have become invigorating spaces for the community to connect with others either through therapeutic interactions or social programs. Designed to support our clients in regaining, maintaining, and optimising their health and wellbeing, our Active Living Centres offer a wide range of supports, groups and programs, including allied health services, social support groups and respite programs.

Since opening the Centres post lockdown, our social support groups have been running a variety of activities throughout the week in a COVID safe way, including individual table activities, tea and coffee meet and greets, news and current affairs, exercise and dancing, gardening and games such as bingo and rumi tiles.

Our Allied Health team continues to provide physiotherapy as an essential service to support people at home and other services such as exercise programs and podiatry services.



**Residential Home Carnegie - lounge area**



**Visitors exploring the new courtyard at Residential Home Windsor**



**Visitors taking a tour of Residential Home Windsor**



**Residential Home Carnegie - courtyard and garden**



**Gita Smorgan Family Active Living Centre located in the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building**



**Ann & Eric Smorgan Active Living Centre in Caulfield**

# COVID-19 Crisis – Thank You for Your Support

We thank our partners for playing an important role in ensuring that our community continues to receive additional supports during this once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic.

As donors, you stepped up in response to the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19 to comfort us and to encourage us, and to support our elders, clients and staff with donations and much more.

Erdi Foundation	Hupert Family Foundation
Spotlight Foundation	Jack & Robert Smorgon Families Foundation
Loti & Victor Smorgon Family Foundation	Josh Liberman
Gandel Philanthropy	Naphtali Family Foundation
Besen Family Foundation	Nossbaum Family
Eva Selwyn	Sonenberg Family
Heat Group	Sunraysia Foundation

## Our wonderful and committed partners said:

“The Erdi Foundation partnered with Jewish Care early on in the pandemic. Jewish Care played a vital role in supporting the most vulnerable and needy within our community during these challenging times.”

**Philip Zajac, CEO Erdi Foundation.**

“The Gandel family and Gandel Philanthropy have been longstanding supporters of Jewish Care. Jewish Care is a leading communal organisation, supporting many important aspects of the Jewish community across Victoria. In recent times Gandel Philanthropy provided support for the communal COVID-19 Helpline, as it was clear this would be crucial to better manage support activities for the Jewish community through these difficult and challenging times.”

**Nicole Brittain, Manager,  
Jewish and Israel programs, Gandel Philanthropy.**

“The Spotlight Foundation is honoured to partner with Jewish Care during this unprecedented time and continue its support of the much needed COVID-19 Helpline. As so many of our community will be faced with hardship and much uncertainty during this difficult period, Jewish Care will continue to tirelessly provide hope, comfort and safety for those in need.”

**Dahlia Sable, Chief Executive Officer,  
Spotlight Foundation.**



“The Besen Family Foundation has partnered with Jewish Care over many decades to support their services to the community through aged care, social services and respite care. We were impressed with Jewish Care’s urgent response to the impact of the coronavirus on the community and proud to support the establishment of their dedicated COVID-19 Helpline to ensure people had access to direct and immediate support, advice and referrals to other agencies.”

**Debbie Dadon AM, Chair, Besen Family Foundation.**

“Our most recent commitment to the COVID-19 crisis appeal, was a reflection of a longstanding and respected relationship between Jewish Care and the Loti & Victor Smorgon Family Foundation. It was a commitment we felt was essential to ensure Jewish Care’s continuity and success in delivering stakeholder support.

In response to COVID-19, Jewish Care stepped up boldly to serve the community, to meet the increasing and challenging needs this crisis has presented. They are working tirelessly to deliver exceptional support and assistance and working diligently to protect the residents, the vulnerable and at-risk in our community.

We commend Jewish Care’s professional, agile and innovative response.”

**Belinda Bardas, Loti & Victor Smogon Family Foundation.**



# 2020 Supporter Survey

Thank you to all our wonderful supporters who responded to our 2020 Supporter Survey! We are encouraged by your passion and concern as we continue to work together with you to support and enhance our community.

We received some heartwarming responses, including:

*Jewish Care helped me to start a new life in Australia in 1978, being a refugee from the former USSR. My family and I will never forget it.*

## Mr Roman and Mrs Klara Nakhamkes

*Jewish Care, by providing excellent care for our daughter Kerry, has taken a lot of this burden off our shoulders. This is a great help in our twilight years.*

## Mr Joe and Mrs Dia Wolfe

We are grateful to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts and insights.


We are also delighted that so many of our supporters indicated that they have included or intend to include Jewish Care in their Will. Their legacy will help to strengthen our community now and in the future.

We look forward to publishing more detailed Survey results.


In the interim, a warm Mazal Tov to the following winners of our Survey prizes:

Mr Jack Aghion  
Mr Gary Fabian,  
Betty Frid  
Rodney Goldsmith  
Mr Jack Migdalek

Hanna Rojter  
Mr Syd Travitz  
Mr Henry Wald  
Tibor Weisz  
Dia Wolfe



## Supporter Survey 2020



**JewishCare**  
Enriching Lives

Dear Ms Marks,

Your views matter to us!

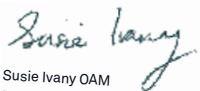
Your insights, opinions and feedback are incredibly valuable and will help us support people in need in our community. Please take a moment to complete the survey and return it via the enclosed Reply Paid envelope or alternatively, online at [www.pages03.net/j/jewishcare/gfhh](http://www.pages03.net/j/jewishcare/gfhh).

Be sure to respond before 21 December 2020 so you can go into the draw for a chance to win one of:

- \$100 Coles voucher
- \$50 gift certificates for Glick's Bakery, Antique Silver Company or Kosher Kingdom
- Classic Cinema film vouchers

If you have any further questions, contact Feygl Cylich, Planned Giving Manager on (03) 8517 5602.

Kind regards



Susie Ivany OAM  
President

**ABOUT YOU AND YOUR CONNECTION TO US**

**1** We are grateful that you care about and support people in need in our community. Would you share a bit more about your motivation for giving to Jewish Care? (Tick all that apply.)

A ☐ I feel it is important to support our Jewish community.

B ☐ I believe we should help people who are in need.

C ☐ My family was supported by Jewish Care in the past, and I feel it's important to give back.

D ☐ I support Jewish Care because there is no other organisation as impactful in terms of the size and breadth of services it delivers to the Jewish community of Victoria.

E ☐ I value Jewish Care's ability to respond to crisis in our community.

F ☐ I or my family may need Jewish Care one day.

G ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

4221/2020SURV/3



**Traditional Judiaca sculptures**



## Generous Donation of Art

Jewish Care has acquired some of Frank Meisler's extraordinary sculptures through a generous donation made by Harry Chojna.

These unique traditional Judiaca sculptures are meticulously hand crafted in silver, gold and metal.

These unique sculptures are displayed on the Ground Floor of the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building, giving everyone a glimpse of the work of world renowned Israeli architect and sculptor.

## Not In Our Community

Jewish Care and Unchain My Heart hosted a virtual event in December 2020 in support of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, titled 'Not In Our Community – Not In Any Community'. The event drew a virtual crowd of over 180 attendees, raising awareness about the critical issue of coercive control, a largely invisible form of family violence often referred to as 'intimate terrorism', and its intersection with gett refusal.

Two guest speakers presented, including investigative journalist and author of award-winning book *See What You Made Me Do*, Jess Hill, and lawyer and gett refusal expert, Joanne Greenaway, CEO of London School of Jewish Studies. Both speakers expertly undercut the common belief that family violence does not occur in the Jewish community and relayed the importance of preventing its harm.

The need for collective action was a key point addressed, including understanding what healthy relationships look and feel like, as well as encouraging conversations in a kind, open

and non-judgmental way. As Greenaway summarised, "part of the awareness raising this evening and the work that [we] do, is so people are able to lean on the rest of the community and do not have to suffer on their own."



## ORAH Project Supports Jewish Care




We are delighted to announce that the ORAH project has continued its support of Jewish Care, recently donating a \$12,700 gift.

"The ORAH Project is a great supporter of communal organisations like Jewish Care and the work we do to support our community," said Bill Appleby, CEO of Jewish Care. "We thank The ORAH Project for this generous gift which will help us to continue to provide vital supports to meet the growing and diverse needs of members of the Victorian Jewish community."

The ORAH Project was established in 2016 to create a new revenue stream to provide funds to for-purpose organisations supporting people in need in Jewish communities.

"The ORAH Project has now surpassed \$1.1M in donations to the community through its unique fund available to investors and is thrilled to be able to provide additional resources once again to Jewish Care to expand Jewish Care's reach and depth. Jewish Care's services provide valuable reinforcement and safety nets to the Jewish community – which is so vital, especially in these unique COVID-19 times," said Nathan Cher, Chair, ORAH Allocations Board (Vic).

 For more information about the ORAH Project, visit [www.theorahproject.com.au](http://www.theorahproject.com.au)



## Creating Jobs Post COVID-19

Jewish Care's Employment Centre has been a provider of the State Government's Jobs Victoria Program since 2016 and has assisted many job seekers to secure employment. Since 2016, we have placed 158 job seekers with disadvantage into employment, of which, 101 have remained in their roles for over 6 months.

We are delighted to announce that as part of the State Government's budget commitment to assisting people back into employment post COVID-19, the program has been extended by another six months until July 2021, giving more people the opportunity to find suitable placements. Along with placement support, Jewish Care continues to provide training, transport costs and job seeking equipment to assist job seekers.

 Contact Jewish Care's Employment Centre on 8517 5999 for more information.



# Join our Free Cinema and Reading Clubs

Two new state-of-the-art residential homes in Windsor and Carnegie have launched a free Cinema Club in English and Russian and a Community Reading Club to connect like-minded community members.



## The Carnegie Cinema Club

You can now watch your favourite movie with friends in our theatre and join in lively discussions afterwards. The Cinema Club will be held every Monday and Wednesday at 2pm at Residential Home Carnegie.



## The Windsor Reading Club

Our Community Reading Club at our new Residential Home in Windsor has been designed to bring our community together to learn about and discuss something that matters to you. Each Wednesday, members of the Reading Club will meet in the Besen Family Library at the new Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building at 11am.

 Please email: [volunteers@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:volunteers@jewishcare.org.au) to register your interest or for more information on our Cinema or Reading Clubs.

# Uniting Against Family Violence

On 25 November 2020, Jewish Care joined eleven other Jewish communal organisations to support the Walk Against Family Violence, held on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

With COVID-19 halting the usual congregation in Federation Square, representative organisations joined together for a socially-distanced walk in Caulfield Park to send a clear message that the Jewish community stands united against family violence. These included Unchain My Heart, Jewish Community Council of Victoria, Rabbinical Council of Victoria, AZYC, AUJS VIC, NCJWA (Vic), Progressive Judaism Victoria, Maccabi Victoria, Impact, Pathways Melbourne and The Australian Jewish News.

The walk attracted plenty of attention from passersby who stopped to applaud, share their support and give thanks, and included a poignant moment of reflection and remembrance for victims of family violence.



Staff from Jewish Care at Caulfield Park participating in the Walk Against Family Violence





Barry Levy and Leah Kaplan



Margot and Peter Joseph



Harry Naphtali

## Sharing their Simcha

We are extremely grateful to the following supporters for requesting donations to Jewish Care in lieu of gifts to mark their special occasions:

### Bat Mitzvah

Charlie Davis  
Harry Naphtali  
Toby Snyder

### 50th Birthday

Andrea Lotzoff

### 80th Birthday

Barry K Levy  
Lorna Vidor

### 60th Wedding Anniversary

Naomi and Roger Alberts  
Margot and Peter Joseph



To share your simcha, please contact our Community Team on 8517 5786 or [donations@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:donations@jewishcare.org.au)

## Getting Organised?

Our Personal Records Organiser will help you put your affairs in order.

For your complimentary copy contact [gifts@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:gifts@jewishcare.org.au)



“ I hope my children and grandchildren will continue our tradition of giving and helping people in need. ”  
Inge Ruben, Bequestor

Ensure a lasting legacy. Include a gift in your will to Jewish Care.

Please contact Feygl Cylich (03) 8517 5602  
[fcylich@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:fcylich@jewishcare.org.au)





# Photo Gallery



2020 Yesod graduates Lindy Susskind and Elise Cook with Vanessa Cohen, General Manager – Community



2021 Yesod Board Foundation Program participants gathering in the courtyard of the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building



Jewish Care President Susie Ivany OAM with Co-Vice President Simone Szalmuk-Singer



2021 Yesod Board Foundation Program participants Elissa Sharp and Amie Frydenberg



B'nei Mitzvah contributors Harry Naphtali and Aidan Rubinfeld, who both generously shared their Bar Mitzvah with Jewish Care



Elders at Gary Smorgon House, Sarah Ben-Danan and Polina Gelfer



Elder Ellis Reuben taking part in Mitzvah Day 2020, a day dedicated to undertaking good deeds for our community



Elder Yukhim from Residential Home Carnegie with Manager of Jewish Life, Rabbi Yoseph Nerenberg



Gary Smorgon House care worker Samia Mulky with elder Ungar Vernon dancing at the 2020 Chanukah party



Residential Home Windsor elder Stanley Berkoff creating Chanukah decorations



Elders Mikhalina Khmelnsky and Fenya Peltina, enjoying their end of year Chanukah party



Elder Louis Rosenberg lighting the Chanukah candles at celebrations held for Residential Home Windsor



Like us on Facebook to see more photos of events and activities around Jewish Care – [facebook.com/jewishcarevictoria](https://facebook.com/jewishcarevictoria)



## 5 Minutes with Reuben Zelwer

**Reuben has been actively involved in Jewish Care sub-committees for more than 10 years. His particular passion is in the area of financial capacity building where he has helped set up the Saver Plus and financial counselling programs.**

### 1. How did you first get involved with Jewish Care?

I was invited to join the Empower Interest Free Loans Committee around 15 years ago. I remain on the committee to this day and have recently taken over as Chairman.

### 2. What is most rewarding about being part of Jewish Care?

Being part of an organisation, which has such a meaningful impact on so many people in our community. I am incredibly proud of the role Jewish Care plays in our community as exemplified by our mission of supporting a healthy, resilient, and inclusive Jewish community.

### 3. As a Board member, what are your immediate goals for Jewish Care?

A central part of our strategic plan which has now come to fruition is the completion of our new state-of-the-art aged care facilities in St Kilda Road and Carnegie. These facilities are of

the highest quality and we are confident will continue to attract residents notwithstanding the current COVID challenges.

### 4. What are you most passionate about?

I am most passionate about Jewish Care's work in financial capacity building and have been fortunate to contribute to Jewish Care's work in this area over the years.

### 5. What is your favourite Jewish festival?

Purim brings joy not only to all our aged care residents, but also to all our adult and youth with special needs and even Jewish Care's staff. And I love hamantaschen!

### 6. How do you spend your free time?

In addition to participating in several of Jewish Care's sub-committee as well as the Board, I enjoy time with my family and keeping active with running, gym and playing tennis when time allows!

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



(03) 8517 5999



info@jewishcare.org.au



jewishcare.org.au



@jewishcarevictoria



@jewishcarevic



linkedin.com/company/jewishcare



youtube.com/jewishcarevic



@jewishcarevic



jewishcare.org.au/blog

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



**Yes, I would like to give a gift today that will help someone in serious need**

### Please fill in your payment details

☐ 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)

☐ I am considering leaving a gift to Jewish Care in my Will. ☐ I have included a gift to Jewish Care in my Will.



Donate by: [jewishcare.org.au/2021annualappeal](http://jewishcare.org.au/2021annualappeal) 1800 539 474 PO Box 6156 Melbourne, Victoria 3004