

My Connection



*Together we can
create positive change*

2022 Community Appeal

A Message from our President & CEO



Lisa Kennett, President



Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, CEO

It is a great honour to be writing to you as President of Jewish Care Victoria.

I joined the Board of Jewish Care because I wanted to be part of an organisation that really makes a difference to the lives of those who are most vulnerable in our community. There are few organisations that provide such an incredible array of services and I am so proud of all that we do. I am committed to striving to improve our offering and provide our services in the most caring and compassionate manner possible.

Together with the support of the Jewish Care Board and our new Chief Executive Officer, Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, I look forward to meeting the many challenges our community faces. Alan is highly regarded as an expert in both health and aged care, and I know that his experience and skills,

together with his warm and engaging manner, will enable us to rise to the challenges we face in a responsive, considerate and innovative manner.

Jewish Care has a long and proud history and I look forward to being part of the new chapter in our journey.

I would like to thank Susie Ivany OAM for her incredible leadership over the last two years and I am grateful that she remains a member of the Board.

In closing, I would like to thank our staff, volunteers and supporters for all that you do to enable Jewish Care to help so many in our community.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and kosher Pesach with your families and friends.

Chag Sameach!

From the CEO

I am so pleased to be delivering my inaugural message in *My Connection*. Firstly, thank you to our Jewish Care community for the warm welcome I have received.

It is truly humbling and I am most proud to lead and be part of Jewish Care and build on the wonderful services that Jewish Care delivers to the community. I have had the pleasure of meeting some of our dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters and as part of my 100-day plan, I will get out and about visiting all our sites and look forward to meeting more staff, volunteers, home care clients, elders, community members and supporters.

I have learned so much already and I look forward to immersing myself in our elders' and clients' shoes and examining their feedback on our services. I am passionate about using feedback and experience to drive improvement and achieving our vision of **together, building and supporting a healthy, resilient and inclusive Jewish community**.

As a community, we are certainly doing better nowadays "living with COVID". We now need to start planning for the next stage of the pandemic. Given our highly vulnerable elder and client populations, we are taking a closer look at this changing situation because we are still seeing significant numbers of outbreaks around Australia and it is important that we have

tailored approaches across our multiple sites and services to manage this risk. Thank you for your patience as we work through these changes.

Congratulations to Gary Smorgon House and Residential Home Carnegie on receiving excellent results in their recent re-accreditation audits. Both homes are fully accredited until 2025. The excellent report cards demonstrate Jewish Care's ongoing commitment to providing and delivering safe and high-quality care to our elders.

And as you know, supporting the most vulnerable in our community remains a top priority at Jewish Care. We are proud to have launched our Community Appeal – *Together we can create positive change* for which we aim to raise \$3.9m by 30 June 2022.

Donations to this year's Community Appeal will ensure that we continue to offer services, that receive little Government funding including housing, employment, financial aid and counselling, mental health support and family violence support. It is only through your generosity that we can continue to support over 6,000 people every year. Please let's help our community by giving generously to Jewish Care's 2022 Community Appeal.

Enjoy the holidays and I look forward to meeting many more of you, our valued supporters, in the coming weeks and months.



Cover

Jewish Care's 2022 Community Appeal artwork.



JewishCare
2022 Community Appeal

PLEASE DONATE

Inbox

I'd like to say a big thank you to all the organisers and staff for the beautiful Chanukah party yesterday. It was enjoyed by the elders and visitors alike and I think the staff enjoyed the music!!

Well done to all.

– AC –Elder at GSH

May I please take this opportunity to say thank you for last Thursday's Chanukah Party at GSH.

I was greatly impressed at how well organised it was, with extra man-power on-hand to help at every stage. The atmosphere was wonderful and my mother had a great time.

– Sammy



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

2022 Community Appeal

Together we can create positive change

While the threat of sudden and strict lockdowns may have eased and we enter into a "COVID-19 normal" life, many people in our community are in great need of support.

Calls for assistance to Jewish Care continue at rates significantly higher than pre COVID-19 levels. The nature of calls are more complex as families are under enormous stress.

Jewish Care has a 174-year history of supporting the most vulnerable in our community with a range of services. Supports include mental health, family violence, housing, financial aid, employment or any other vital services.

It is through our annual Community Appeal, supported by you, our incredibly generous community, that we can continue to provide these essential services. Our 2022 appeal aims to raise \$3.9 million. Those in serious need in our community depend on your assistance so we ask you to please give generously.

Your support ensures that **together we can create positive change** to the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. Whatever your gift, you can be certain that it will make a significant change to people's lives!

To make a donation, scan the QR code, visit jewishcare.org.au/2022appeal, call 1800 539 474 or complete the coupon on the back page.



Israeli Ambassador visits Jewish Care's Windsor Precinct



His Excellency, Amir Maimon tours Residential Home Windsor.
Photo courtesy of Sav Schulman.

His Excellency, Mr Amir Maimon, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Australia visited our Holckner Family Senior Living & Community Precinct in Windsor.

"We feel extremely privileged that Ambassador Maimon visited Jewish Care and saw first-hand the impact of Jewish Care's services and support for those most in need in our Victorian Jewish community," said Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, Chief Executive Officer.

"My visit to Jewish Care Victoria was quite moving and emotional, the services provided by them truly represent the meaning to the phrase *Kol yisrael arevim zeh bazeh*, meaning all of Israel are responsible for each other. This phrase is the basis of the notion of communal responsibility for the well-being of other Jews. I would like to share my deepest appreciation for the support provided by Jewish Care Victoria to our community," said His Excellency, Mr Amir Maimon, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Australia.

Jewish Care awards Delysia Pahoff OAM

The Leo and Mina Fink Community Service Award was presented to the profoundly deserving Delysia Pahoff OAM at the Jewish Care 2021 Annual General Meeting. Each year this award is presented to a volunteer who has made an exceptional contribution and lasting impact in the areas of fundraising, community development and enhancing the brand and reputation of Jewish Care in the community.

"As the founder and leader of the Friends of Montefiore Committee for over 38 years, Delysia has made an outstanding contribution in furthering Jewish Care's vision of building and supporting a healthy, resilient and inclusive Jewish community. Delysia's tireless work with Jewish Care over many decades, has had a tangible and meaningful impact on the lives of many of our clients and elders," said Lisa Kennett, President.



(L-R) Gerard Mansour, Commissioner for Senior Victorians, Delysia Pahoff's daughter Debra Kiven, Delysia Pahoff OAM and Bill Appleby (former CEO) at the AGM.

Volunteering makes a huge difference

Our passionate and dedicated volunteers continue to be an integral part of Jewish Care and provide assistance to our clients and elders through social, recreational, cultural and spiritual activities.

Volunteers make a significant difference to the lives of elders and our volunteers are valued for their generosity and willingness to help others. We asked one of our volunteers, Abby Levy, why volunteering is important?

Meet our volunteer Abby Levy



Volunteer Abby Levy.

Why did you decide to become a volunteer at Jewish Care?

I wanted to connect with my Jewish identity and like-minded people to make a difference. Through Jewish Care, I discovered my passion for leadership – encouraging others to use their strengths and interests for the benefit of the world around them.

What do you enjoy most about being a volunteer at Jewish Care?

Knowing that my team of volunteers and I, as a Volunteer Team Leader, are fulfilling a mitzvah (a good deed and

command of the Torah) and thereby serving G-d by benefiting staff and residents in the community.

How much of an impact do you feel your volunteering has had on others?

I hope it inspires residents with positive messages, gives elders a meaningful structure to their day and provides mental stimulation.

The need for volunteers is ongoing. If you are thinking about volunteering, you may be interested in the following roles:

Current Volunteering Opportunities

- **Polish Speaking Volunteers**
Visit a Polish speaking elder and brighten up their day
- **Volunteers for Elders**
Pay a friendly visit to provide companionship to elders
- **Volunteer Concierge Role**
Assist visitors with checking in and complying with COVIDSafe measures
- **Volunteer Sing-a-long Facilitator**
Ability to sing Russian, Yiddish or Hebrew songs
- **Corporate Reception**
Assist with administrative tasks
- **Volunteer Maths & English Tutors**
Assist students with their Maths and English
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Volunteers**
Distribute PPE items every Monday (10am – 12.00pm and 2.00 – 4.00pm).



How to Apply – If you are interested in any of the above roles, please contact Anatie at alivnat@jewishcare.org.au to find out more.

Jewish Care records the *Australian Jewish News Weekly* for those with impaired vision. If you would like to receive a copy of the AJN CD please contact Anatie on 03 8517 5933 or alivnat@jewishcare.org.au

Disability Expo

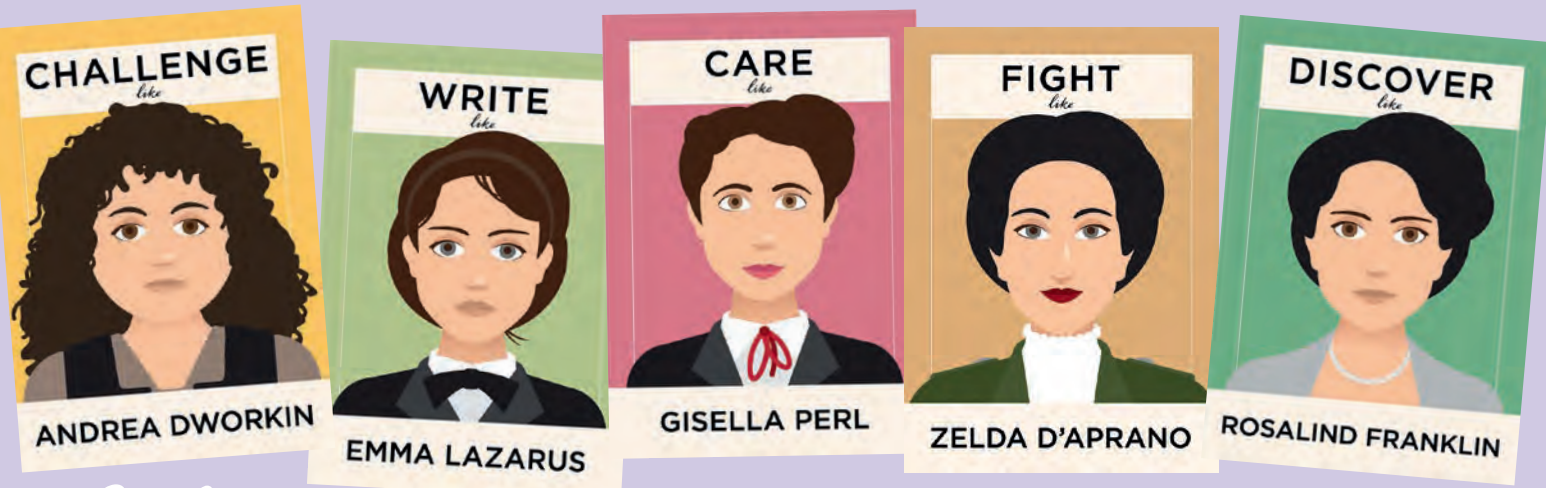
Jewish Care's Disability Services exhibited at the Melbourne Disability Connection Expo held at the Melbourne Convention Centre on 18-19 January 2022.

After two years with very limited opportunities to connect face-to-face with potential new clients, service providers and the wider disability community – the Expo was a welcome opportunity to reconnect and promote our services.

The theme and focal point for the Jewish Care stand was "Be Yourself". This sentiment underpins Jewish Care's unique approach offered to the community and ensures that each person is supported based on their individual needs. The dedicated Jewish Care team support people with disabilities to live their best life, their way.



Jewish Care stand at the Disability Expo.



Celebrating unsung heroes

*Here's to strong women: may we know them;
may we be them; may we raise them.*

Following the success of last year's Her Words, Our Future campaign, Jewish Care's Healthy Communities team has produced a new series to celebrate incredible Jewish women from throughout history, launched in honour of International Women's Day (8 March).

It is a reflection of the gender inequality that is so entrenched in our society that many of us can recall the names and contributions of innumerable male leaders - yet their female counterparts are comparatively little-known.

Our *Women of Valour* campaign celebrates the accomplishments of eight outstanding Jewish women throughout history – many of whom we may not have heard of.

Take British Jewish scientist Rosalind Franklin for instance. Every Year 10 biology student has heard the names of Watson and Crick, who won the Nobel Prize for identifying the structure of DNA – yet their colleague Franklin, whose work in obtaining images of DNA using X-ray crystallography was crucial to the discovery, received no credit for her role until after her death.

Or Dr Gisella Perl, the Hungarian gynaecologist who helped

hundreds of women after they were deported to Auschwitz, providing medical care without even the most basic of supplies.

And then there's our own Zelda D'Aprano (Orloff), a Melbourne-based feminist activist who fought tirelessly for equal pay and in 1969 famously chained herself to the door of the Commonwealth Building in protest.

This International Women's Day, we encouraged our community to share the stories of these incredible women – and the many others who are following in their footsteps and fighting to create change. Our resources included an illustrated poster and a reflection toolkit to encourage conversations about empowerment and equality.

The Women of Valour campaign was developed as part of Jewish Care's commitment to the prevention of family violence. Gender inequality is the leading driver of violence against women.

Cassandra wins Joshua Levi Award

Cassandra Barrett, Jewish Care's Manager of Healthy Communities and Youth Mentoring, was awarded the inaugural Joshua Levi Young Professional Award at the 2021 B'nei B'rith and JNF Jewish Changemaker Awards.

The Joshua Levi Award celebrates a Jewish professional who works within or engages the Jewish community; has exhibited meaningful and impactful change in the area of their work; has promoted a sense of collegiality across the communal landscape; and is committed to furthering their engagement with the Jewish community through their professional career.

Cassie was recognised for her community education and capacity building work, particularly in relation to mental health, family violence and youth wellbeing, as well as her volunteer efforts more broadly. Nominator Bill Appleby said, "In a role that is entirely devoted to supporting the needs of the Jewish community, Cassie has thrown herself into this to go above and beyond."

The award was founded in honour of the late Joshua Levi, CEO of the Australian Jewish News, who sadly passed away in 2020. Joshua's brother Ben, who presented the award on behalf of the Levi family, said "Our community is in great hands with these young people making a change." As an enthusiastic writer herself, we are confident that Cassie will continue to uphold Josh's legacy.



Cassandra Barrett.

Mazel Tov Michael Debinski OAM!

Mazel Tov to Mike Debinski OAM who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Australia Day Honours for service to the community in a range of roles.



Michael Debinski OAM.

Mike is a current Jewish Care Board Member and was President from 2012 to 2019. Prior to joining Jewish Care, Mike had a long and distinguished career as a senior executive in the Victorian Government and held a range of leadership roles overseeing the planning and delivery of health and community services.

Mike also played a lead role in negotiating and supporting the implementation of the

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

"I am very honoured to be awarded an OAM. My parents were Holocaust survivors. When they came to Australia, they worked hard to build a new life with a commitment to family, community, and social justice. These commitments have also guided me," said Mike Debinski OAM.

"I am particularly proud to have been involved in closing outdated night shelters for homeless people in Melbourne in the 1980s,

responding to the Black Saturday fires in 2009 and establishing the NDIS in Victoria."

"During my time at Jewish Care we have reformed residential aged care services with wonderful new facilities and a new model of care. We have expanded disability care, including establishing a child and adult respite centre. We have introduced the Yesod program for emerging Jewish leaders, ensuring both Jewish Care and the wider community has strong leadership for years to come. I am proud to have helped build a resilient, and caring organisation to support our very diverse Jewish community."

In the last few years, Mike has also been actively involved with the Holocaust Museum. "This organisation plays a vital role in telling the stories of survivors who built new lives in Melbourne and teaching new generations about the Holocaust. We do this so the tragedy of the Holocaust is never repeated," said Mike.

Mike lives a strong and active secular Jewish community life and is involved with a number of Jewish organisations. He continues to work to reduce inequality and achieve better lives for the most disadvantaged in our community.

Kol Hakavod Mike. We are very proud to have your continued support on our Board.

Dr Simon Grof joins Jewish Care

Jewish Care Victoria is delighted to welcome Dr Simon Grof as inaugural Chief Medical Officer (CMO).

Dr Grof joined the Executive Leadership Team in March 2022, reporting directly to Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, Chief Executive Officer.

With extensive medical experience, Dr Grof has been a Consultant Geriatrician at Eastern Health since 2014 and is Clinical Director of their Coordinated Care, Aged Medicine Program. He is also a clinical lecturer at the School of Medicine, Faculty of Health at Deakin University.

"This significant investment cements Jewish Care's desire to be best in class in the provision of high-quality, innovative care, and support of our community," said Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, Chief Executive Officer.

"Dr Grof will provide strong medical leadership at both the governance and operational level supporting the organisation in the provision of high-quality clinical services within our residential aged care homes, active living centres, and in-home support services. His appointment comes at a pivotal time when the aged care sector faces numerous care challenges and opportunities in the wake of the *Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety* findings," continued Alan Lilly.

"I look forward to strengthening Jewish Care's clinical care delivery and education to support GPs and staff. I am keenly motivated to improve the healthcare outcomes for elders which aligns with Jewish Care's values, ethos, and philosophy of care and support," said Dr Simon Grof.



Jewish Care's inaugural Chief Medical Officer, Dr Simon Grof.



Looking for a job?

The Employment Centre can help you

The Jewish Care Employment Centre has helped many jobseekers find and secure meaningful employment and is a proud Victorian Government Jobs Victoria partner. The partnership has allowed the Employment Centre to expand its services. As a result, Jewish Care has a number of experienced employment consultants who can help you find a job.

The Employment Centre specialises in providing tailored advice to people's individual circumstances, no matter what challenges people encounter. Consultants can help with preparing and updating resumes, cover letters, interview preparation, LinkedIn profiles, networking, referrals to other service providers and recommending suitable training courses for those wishing to upgrade their skills.

Consultants can also match job seekers with employers and have helped people with disabilities, mental health challenges and those with religious and cultural requirements find employment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many people in our community – some people have lost their jobs while others have had their hours reduced and are experiencing underemployment and want to work more hours. Extended lockdowns have created anxiety for many people and those in impacted industries are considering other options including retraining and upskilling in order to gain employment in other industries.

It is a great time to look for a job and there is a plethora of opportunities available.

"During the last six months we have successfully helped many people find jobs, including school leavers and those starting out in the

workforce, older workers – many who lost jobs due to the pandemic and people experiencing mental health, disability and cultural employment challenges," said Jewish Care, Employment Centre Manager, Simon Jedwab.

"The Employment Centre equips job seekers with the skills they need to find their ideal job. Currently, there are a lot of initiatives and supports on offer designed to help people find work and our consultants can provide tailored advice according to job seeker needs."

For some, it has been many years since they needed to look for work and technology has changed how people search for work and apply for jobs. Jewish Care's Employment Centre is well placed to help no matter what stage of your career you may be at. Help is available for those starting out and looking for their first job; women wishing to return to the workforce after raising children; and older workers who are not ready to retire.



Need help finding a job? Contact Jewish Care's Employment Centre on 8517 5999 today or visit www.jewishcare.org.au/job-seeker-support

Upcoming workshops

Tools and Techniques for Job Seeking – includes resume and cover letter tips, job searching advice, how to market yourself, interview techniques and networking. Workshops run on selected dates from May-November.



Call 8517 5999 or visit www.jewishcare.org.au/workshops-and-courses to find out more about this workshop and other training opportunities.

Jotkowitz Family donates to

Anne and Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre Synagogue

We are delighted to announce the recent donations of a brand-new Perochet (Curtain for the Ark) and Bimah covers for our Synagogue in the Anne and Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre next to Gary Smorgon House, by Michael and Ethel Jotkowitz.

Ethel has been an elder of Gary Smorgon House since 2011, and Michael has been a dedicated Synagogue member since the Synagogue's inception in late June 2009.

The Jotkowitz's have a longstanding relationship with Jewish Care Victoria and Montefiore Homes. Michael's paternal aunt, Dorothea Scherbel, embroidered a Perochet and Sefer Torah cover for the Synagogue that was located in the old Slutzkin wing of Montefiore Homes, while she was living there in the late 50's and early 60's. Michael's mother, Rosel Jotkowitz, was an elder in Ashwood in the late 90's and early 2000's; and Ethel's mother, Greta Somogyi, was an elder of Gary Smorgon House from mid-May 2011 until late February 2016. The family therefore felt that it was befitting to celebrate their longstanding connection to Jewish Care with this gift.

On behalf of all elders, staff and management of Jewish Care Victoria, we thank Michael & Ethel for their kind donation and for their ongoing commitment towards our Synagogue.



(L-R) Michael Jotkowitz, daughter Debbie and Ethel Jotkowitz (centre).

Thank you for your generous support

Jewish Care sincerely thanks our donors, sponsors, and partners for your ongoing support. Your generosity enables us to fund all our vital community services.

A special thank you to the following for their recent donations:

Nicci and Stephen Pianko donated Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) to ensure the ongoing safety of our staff and clients across our aged care services.

The Gandel Foundation for their generous donation to support food relief. This welcome donation provided much needed food vouchers, fresh fruit and vegetables, kosher meats and pre-prepared kosher meals to help the most vulnerable in our community.

Erdi Foundation and the **Loti and Victor Smorgon Family Foundation** for their generosity in partnering with Jewish Care and funding an independent mental health review. The prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns has had a significant impact on the mental health of our entire community. The increasing presentation of mental health issues necessitates a communal

response. Jewish Care Victoria will lead the response by conducting an independent review which will help create an evidence-based response for future service evolution.

Spotlight Foundation and the **Besen Family Foundation** for their continuing support to fund the COVID-19 Helpline and our ongoing response to COVID-19.

In addition, the following grants were received from the **Department of Fairness, Families and Housing**:

- *Multicultural Seniors Support Grant for 2021-2025* – provides funding to support Jewish Care to build stronger connections with our community through our Active Living Centre
- *Supporting Multicultural and Faith Communities to Prevent Family Violence Grant 2021-2024* – provides funding for our Family Violence and Advocacy Support Programs.



Rabbi Ralph's Pesach message

If there are two stand-out words for Pesach they are surely freedom and compassion.

The great German writer, Heinrich Heine, once said that ever since the Exodus freedom has had a Hebrew accent. The liberation of the Hebrew people some 3000 years ago from the tyrannical pharaoh – was a radical and unique moment in human history. For the first time the notion that once a slave always a slave was overturned. The idea that every single individual regardless of their status, culture or race was entitled to be free, was born on the banks of the River Nile. To claim otherwise is to be in denial! Passover is a freedom festival and is celebrated by a freedom meal called the Seder at which we recall and relive the glorious liberation saga.

It is a fabulous story, perhaps in the words of the English poet Robert Graves, the only story worth telling, but it is also a tale of awful suffering and hideous oppression. It's about the humiliation of slavery, the oppression of the weak, the killing of babies and the genocidal fantasies of a totalitarian regime. The Torah, however, does not focus on the pain and deprivation alone but rather highlights the compassion, connectivity and compelling humanity that emerged from the darkness. From the Egyptian experience comes the foundational and imperative command to Jews for all generations: remember that you were slaves in Egypt and let this shape and focus your efforts on behalf of the weak and vulnerable, the stranger, the outsider and the struggler in your midst. Empathy or chesed became axiomatic for Jewish life and practice and until this day informs the fabric of the Halacha (Jewish Law) and Jewish existence itself. Compassion is the Jewish calling card.

If there is one fundamental principle under attack in the world today it is surely freedom.

From China to Myanmar, Moscow to Melbourne, democracy is being undermined and distorted. From the oppression of the Uighurs to the distortions of the COVID-19 deniers, freedom is under siege. And from the awful tragedy of Ukraine we witness liberty in tatters.

If there is one value being challenged today it is surely that of compassion.

After two years of the pandemic we are suffering from compassion-fatigue. We have become less forgiving and more

intolerant, ruder and cruder. Our essential workers, be they in aged care or health or other basic services, are often under-appreciated and even abused despite their heroic efforts.

Jewish Care embodies the very concept of chesed in its name. In fact, care and compassion are what it is all about for us. All our other values flow from this – respect, inclusion, social responsibility, and community.

Integral to the vision and purpose of this proud organisation is the respect for the freedom and integrity of every single individual and the recognition that a free society creates better human beings.

This Pesach let us reaffirm the potency and power of freedom and compassion! Chag Sameach – a happy, kosher and compassionate Pesach to you and your families!

– Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM



Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM.

Pesach Events

Pesach will be celebrated at all our residential homes and facilities with Synagogue services and sedarim, educational opportunities for elders, residents, staff and supporters.

One new initiative in conjunction with Kehilat Keshet, will be a two week pre-Pesach educational programme run by Rabbi Ralph and the well-known, popular presenter Paul Forgasz in person and simultaneously on Zoom. Details and costs to follow but save the dates - 23 and 30 March at 7.30pm. Email Rabbi Ralph at rgenende@jewishcare.org.au for more information.

Topic – Is Freedom Just Another Word? Exploring the challenges of Pesach in word and deed. Looking at the energising and transformative ideas of Pesach and how to bring them into your Seder Experience. The program will include suggestions for incorporating innovative readings and artwork into the Seder.

Share your *Simcha*



Sebastian Banky



Jesse Fajkind



Nicholas Bursztyn



Leo Shaw

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

Bar Mitzvah

Sebastian Banky
Nicholas Bursztyn
Jesse Fajkind
Leo Shaw

Wedding

Steven David and Brogan Efron



Steven David and Brogan Efron



To share your simcha, please contact our Community Team on 8517 5963 or Ishostak@jewishcare.org.au



PHOTO Gallery

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

End of Year Party



Annual General Meeting



Staff and Volunteer Awards



