

MY Connection

Issue 2 Spring 2020/Tishrei 5781



Caring For
Our Elders



Susie Ivany OAM, President



Bill Appleby, CEO

The past few months have been unprecedented, to say the least, causing far-reaching distress and destruction on the lives of many individuals and families. Australia's extraordinary uninterrupted run of economic growth has experienced a most dramatic interruption. We are now officially in a severe recession after 29 years of

prosperity, impacting hundreds of thousands of people and communities across this country. The effects have amplified pre-existing disadvantage in our community, adversely affected the most vulnerable, whilst also impacting individuals and families who have never experienced such despair. This viral tsunami has compelled our governments to act quickly to protect those most negatively impacted through a range of various supports. Nevertheless, these supports will be wound back over the next 6 months and we must be ready as a community to stand up and respond.

Our focus has been to protect those people in our care whether it's our clients living at home independently, people living with a disability, or our Elders residing in our residential homes – our number one concern has been the safety and wellbeing of our Elders, clients, staff, and volunteers. Our other area of focus has been responding to community need, as individuals and families have had their lives turned upside down. Job loss, home schooling, remote working arrangements, mental health, family violence, financial distress, confusing and constantly changing restrictions, home isolation, and the list goes on. Jewish Care has received over 8,500 calls for help since the 23rd March! This is indeed unprecedented, and we anticipate the need will dramatically increase as government supports our wound back.

We acknowledge the various organisations and individuals who have reached out and supported Jewish Care, to support the community during these challenging times. Thanks to our incredibly generous community, our Crisis Appeal was a wonderful success raising over \$4.25 million. Your ongoing financial support ensures vulnerable people in our community will be supported. To the five foundations that were instrumental in the launch of the COVID-19 HELPLINE, your partnership continues to be invaluable. To everyone else who have expressed and provided support - Thank You! It's inspiring to live in a community that comes together during the most difficult of times.

Notwithstanding the present challenges, we continue to work towards our transformation in the way we support ageing in the Jewish community, with the successful completion of the beautiful Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre and our Carnegie Senior Living Precinct, on time and on budget! We look forward to seeing our Elders living at Smorgon Family Nursing Home move into their new home in Carnegie mid-November. The Carnegie Precinct is a state-of-the-art design based on the Hand-in-Hand model of support.

It has not been business as usual with restrictions imposed on our everyday life. As an organisation dedicated to supporting the health and wellbeing of elders and clients, it is truly wonderful to see our staff and volunteers adapting and innovating in this strangely restrictive environment.

For over 171 years, Jewish Care has been the safety net for the Victorian Jewish community throughout tough times, and COVID-19 pandemic is no different. We encourage you to continue to do your part. Together, we will come out of this stronger than ever before - our human spirit will prevail.

Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

Susie Ivany OAM

Bill Appleby

I still have tears in my eyes as I write this email - I am just blown away by your thoughtfulness, support and care. Words cannot adequately describe how much Jewish Care's offer means to me, I am so beyond grateful. Thank you so much. From the first time we spoke your sincerity and genuine concern for me and my children's wellbeing has been so heart-warming and I wanted to thank you again for just being there to listen on the other end of the line, simply taking the time to call, and for arranging the food deliveries.

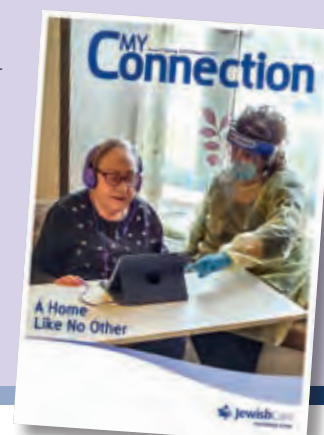
~ Anonymous



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



Front cover: Lifestyle Coordinator at Gary Smorgon House, Tamara Zeltsman, in personal protective equipment supporting Elder, Fryda Schweitzer to connect with her family via Zoom during COVID-19 stage four restrictions.



Continuing to Keep Our Community Safe

Jewish Care's 2020 Annual Appeal was converted to a Crisis Appeal to support vulnerable members of the Jewish community whose lives have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Jewish Care was able to raise in excess of \$4.2 million to ensure vulnerable people in our community are cared for and supported during these difficult times, and in continuing to provide long-lasting and vital supports to over 6,000 people experiencing crisis and hardship, each year.

This year's target was revised from \$3.6 million to \$5 million to meet the demand for additional assistance as a consequence of COVID-19, and we were fortunate to have the continued support of our community. We thank you for being incredibly generous.

As part of the Appeal, a special Giving Day was held on 14 June for 24-hours where all donations were matched dollar for dollar by generous matchers. Both these campaigns were pivotal to the success of this year's Crisis Appeal. Meanwhile, the designated HELPLINE that was launched with the support of the Erdi Foundation, Spotlight Foundation, Victor Smorgon Charitable Fund, Besen Family Foundation, and Gandel Philanthropy will continue to assist those in the Victorian Jewish community impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our HELPLINE 8517-5555 operates Monday to Friday and provides immediate relief to people experiencing emotional distress or worry, social isolation, financial hardship, loss of connection to community, and others in need.



FOR EXAMPLE:
 YOU GIVE WE RECEIVE
 \$50 = \$100
 \$250 = \$500
 \$500 = \$1,000



Rosh Hashana is a Time of Giving

Our community is experiencing the most challenging time in our 171-year history and it has been gut-wrenching for Jewish Care to see the impact of this virus first-hand, especially on the vulnerable in aged care and those accessing our disability services.

Sadly, the impact of this pandemic does not stop at our residential homes. In addition to what we are seeing in our residential homes, we continue to be inundated with calls for urgent financial, housing, employment support, and many other vital services.

There never has been a more important time to reach out and help one another, making the year ahead a little sweeter for those who are now in even greater need. Please give generously to our 2020 Rosh Hashana Appeal. Our community needs you now more than ever!

Wishing you and your family a Shana Tova. May we all keep healthy, keep safe and be blessed with a sweet New Year!



To make a donation, visit jewishcare.org.au/2020RH, call 1800 539 474 or complete the coupon on the back page.



Informational Postcards for Men's Health Week

Jewish Care's Healthy Communities team released a new series of mental health awareness postcards to coincide with Men's Health Week during June.

Aimed at encouraging men to reach out and connect, the free postcards feature practical help-seeking information and highlight some of the damaging gender-based stereotypes faced by men.

"Our new postcard campaign hopes to challenge this belief that there should never be shame in vulnerability", said Cassandra Barrett, Team Leader of Healthy Communities.



To obtain free postcards contact Naomi Sherborne, Health Promotion Officer on 8517 5919 or nsherborne@jewishcare.org.au



IDAHOBIT 2020 - Breaking the Silence

The International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia & Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) was celebrated on 18 May with a virtual morning tea with special guests, Ro Allen and Aram Hosie.

Ro Allen is the Victorian Commissioner for Gender and Sexuality and Aram is a Trans Advocate and Head of Strategic Communications at the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission. They shared their lived experiences of LGBTQ+ advocacy, anti-discrimination, creating inclusive communities, and what the future holds for the LGBTI+ community.

The theme for IDAHOBIT this year was "Breaking the Silence", in recognition that many people still hide their sexuality or gender identity from their families, their social circles, their workplace, their religious/spiritual community, their sporting clubs, or their neighbours. With many wandering through most of their lives with the stigma of feeling ashamed of who they are.

Another proud moment was supporting the 10th Anniversary of Wear it Purple Day on 28 August. Jewish Care participated in a workshop about the importance of the day and lived experiences of LGBTI+ people and organised a special Purple Bake Off competition.

Of the many interesting and colourful pictures we received from the community, Jenna's beautiful rainbow coloured challah was picked up as the winning picture.



Supporting Mental Wellbeing

Jewish Care has delivered a range of activities to support mental wellbeing during COVID-19, with a particular focus on the needs of young people. The Healthy Communities team was pleased to partner with the AZYC and Bnei Akiva to deliver a number of virtual wellbeing sessions for leaders and chanichim. The Raising Healthy Families parenting series has also continued throughout COVID-19, with sessions on supporting the needs of children during COVID-19, unpacking perfectionism, understanding gaming, and reframing masculinity.

COVID-19 Interest Free Hardship Loans

Jewish Care's COVID-19 Interest Free Hardship Loans was introduced to recognise the unique circumstances arising from unforeseen costs for those impacted by COVID-19, despite government entitlements.

Jewish Care recognises that the current climate is creating financial uncertainty and stress for many people, and it is only through extended support that we are able to make their lives a little less daunting and challenging.

Features of the Hardship Loans include:

- Loans that range from \$1,000 for a single, \$1,500 for a couple, and between \$2,000-\$2,500 for a family dependent on the number of children.
- Loan repayments to commence four months after loan approval.
- Borrowers to have one guarantor, ideally, but options can be discussed.
- Loan applications to be managed electronically and made accessible no later than 72 hours from approval, understanding the urgency.

i To apply for a Jewish Care COVID-19 Interest Free Hardship Loan, contact the COVID-19 Helpline on 8517 5555, Monday – Friday between 9.00am – 5.00pm. You can also apply online at jewishcare.org.au/covid19helpline

Ten Tips to Support Mental Wellbeing

COVID-19 has changed our lives in many ways impacting our mental health and wellbeing.

Some of us may feel the impact more than others for a range of reasons. Perhaps due to our pre-existing mental health issues that have exacerbated or feeling anxious for loved ones who are more vulnerable by virtue of health or age. Whatever the reason, it is vital, now more than ever, that we make a conscious and concerted effort to support our mental wellbeing. We have compiled some of our favourite tips below.



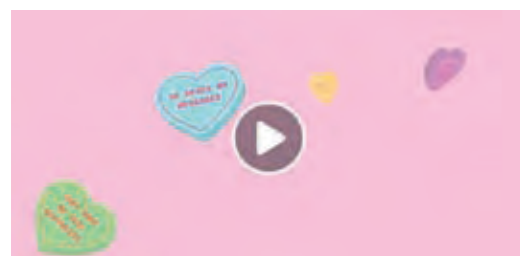
There's No Excuse for Abuse

We released a new animated video series to help build awareness of family violence, titled 'Love Should Be Sweet', following the success of its poster campaign in 2019.

The campaign uses romantic and nostalgic imagery to echo the 'love-bombing' that often occurs in abusive relationships. The 'Love Should Be Sweet' video campaign focuses specifically on violence against women – of which the overwhelming majority is perpetrated by men. We would encourage anyone who recognises these signs in their relationship, irrespective of gender or sexuality, to reach out for help.

All 3 videos can be viewed on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/jewishcarevic

For further information, contact No To Violence on 1300 766 491.



i If something doesn't feel right in your relationship, please reach out:
Jewish Care – 8517 5999
1800 RESPECT – 1800 737 732
@safestepsfv – 1800 015 188
With Respect – 1800 LGBTIQ (1800 542 847)

Thank You From the Bottom of Our Hearts

All at Jewish Care are so grateful to our colleagues on the frontline who tirelessly and selflessly worked day in day out to care and support our Elders. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

For those who put their hand up to work 12-hour shifts, to those who stayed overnight, to those who took on roles outside of their usual, to the shared services team who worked tirelessly in the background so that those on the frontline could keep going, and to all those who went above and beyond – THANK YOU!

To our colleagues at Alfred Health and Ramsay Health Care, who flew in to assist us in the darkest hours – we will forever be grateful.



Staff of Ramsay Health Care during Kate Ceberano's concert in the Bori and Helen Liberman Family Central Courtyard



Masks are Magic

We are now a couple of months into our "new normal" of mask wearing, and it's great to see community members embracing the change – along with some fantastic face-covering fashion statements, in typical Melbourne style!

For those who find this experience overwhelming or confusing – especially for children who are young or who have additional needs, we are pleased to launch a short storybook from the Healthy Communities team.

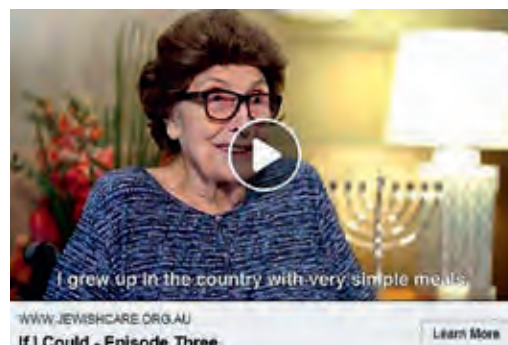
i You can now view and download the PDF storybook from our website. Feel free to share with parents or educators who may find it useful.

If I Could

Jewish Care's latest video series 'If I Could' was launched in June this year and can be viewed at youtube.com/jewishcarevic.

This popular series is packed with light-hearted and thought provoking entertainment featuring Elders from Gary Smorgon House. The series captures interesting insights into how Elders would like to be remembered, who from their past they would like to see again, and some fun questions.

Featured in all episodes is Elizabeth Slater, who sadly passed away on 31 May 2020. Her humour and wisdom contributed greatly to this series. We have dedicated one of the episodes in loving memory of Elizabeth and thank her family for allowing us to continue to celebrate Elizabeth's life through these videos.

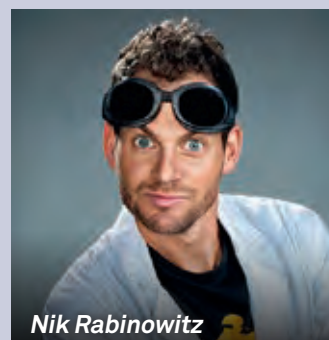


Zoom Comedy Night with Nik Rabinowitz

We were extremely excited to have one of South Africa's top comedians, Nik Rabinowitz, provide a night of laughter for our community on 18 June.

The free event that was held via Zoom and provided much needed entertainment during COVID-19 restrictions.

Nik is 'Africa's funniest Jew', and we were very fortunate to have him perform for us and give us some much-needed comedy, especially during these difficult times. As stated on Nik's website, his major claim to fame remains the fact that he was born in a stable, and is one of only two Jewish boys in the last two thousand years to have done so.



Nik Rabinowitz

Camit & Nathan Cher Family Cafe

We are excited to formally announce the opening of the new Camit & Nathan Cher Family Cafe and Salon.

Located on the ground floor of the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building, the Camit & Nathan Cher Family Cafe offers delicious kosher food within its stylish, modern décor to staff, Elders and visitors.

The Salon, also on the ground floor, provides a welcoming environment for Elders to enjoy some well-deserved pampering.



Camit & Nathan Cher Family Cafe



Elders getting pampered at the new salon

Andrew Rogers Sculpture Unveiled

Cast in bronze, the seven-metre tall sculpture, 'To Be', adorns the forecourt of the new Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building located in the Holckner Family Senior Living & Community Precinct on Punt Road, Windsor. Jewish Care hopes it brings joy and reflection to the Jewish community, the wider public of the surrounding suburbs, and the tens of thousands who drive along Punt Road every day.

The creator of this magnificent piece of art is internationally recognised artist and long-time supporter of Jewish Care, Andrew Rogers. He not only created something out of the ordinary, but something truly significant to Jewish Care.

In discussing his motivation for creating 'To Be' for Jewish Care, Rogers said; "Jewish Care is vital to the community. I really think that it's the community's responsibility to have an organisation to care for everyone in the community who needs it and that's what Jewish Care does."

Weighing in at 3.5 tonnes and at a height of seven metres, this magnificent sculpture feels right at home.

Rogers' artist statement for the piece further reveals the intention and significance of 'To Be', saying:

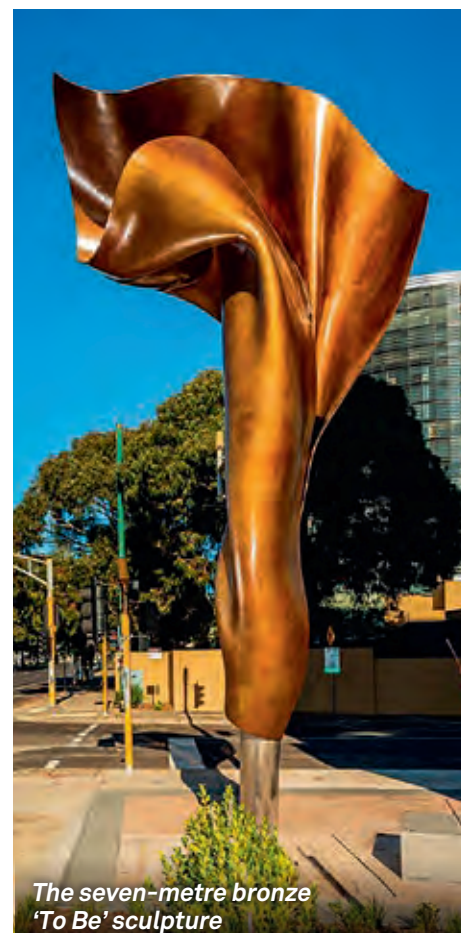
'To Be' is a metaphor for the relationship between the individual and society. It is the individual that makes our world a place of justice and compassion however there is an inseparable relationship between the singular and the communal.

'To Be' is about the interconnection of humanity. It reflects my desire to build a bridge through art - across individuals, across generations, and across cultures.

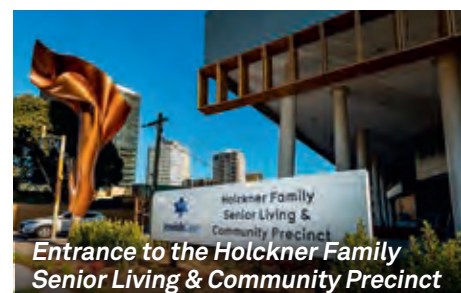
'To Be' underscores our important role as caretakers with responsibilities to those around us and those who will follow. We receive the consequences created by our predecessors. In turn we leave a consequence for our descendants. It is a catalyst for all to consider our interconnected lives and the values that shape our lives and our collective future.

Reflecting on the significance of 'To Be', Jewish Care CEO Bill Appleby said;

"'To Be' celebrates life and is the perfect embodiment of why Jewish Care exists; to enrich lives in the Victorian Jewish community. At Jewish Care, we understand that visual arts are an important way we share our collective and individual histories, and that these represent our Jewish and organisational identities in contemporary and engaging ways."



The seven-metre bronze 'To Be' sculpture



Entrance to the Holckner Family Senior Living & Community Precinct

Keeping Our Mind, Body, and Spirit High During Covid-19

It has been incredible to see everyone doing random acts of kindness during this global pandemic that has affected so many lives here in Australia and around the world.

Jewish Care's Elders, clients, staff, and volunteers were no different; they have all been busy focusing on the little things that matter, helping one another whilst in lockdown and making a positive effect on themselves and on the community. We share some of those moments captured from April to September under stage three and four restrictions.

Concerts in the Courtyard

Our Elders and staff were thrilled to see famous artists and Rabbis from the community performing in the new Bori and Helen Liberman Family Central Courtyard at the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building.

Kate Ceberano's magnificent voice and spirit kept our Elders and staff buzzing for days.

Rabbis Kim Ettlinger, Gabi Kaltmann, and Yaakov Glasman, and Chazan Brett Kaye from the ARK Centre, Temple Beth Israel, and St Kilda Shul entertained and delighted all who watched.

The weekly Concerts in the Courtyard series has provided much needed entertainment to our Elders and staff, who are able to watch and listen to these performances from the balconies, terraces, and on TV in their rooms.



Kate Ceberano singing in the courtyard



Elders watching from their rooms



Rabbi Gabi Kaltmann performing

Elders Wishing Us Well

Elders at our Windsor Home and at Gary Smorgon House took the time to let their families and friends know that they were keeping well. They used colourful hand-written messages to wish their families well and to let us know that they are thinking of us during these very difficult times.

We were able to capture some of these beautiful messages of love and hope.



Elders from Residential Homes Windsor holding their handwritten messages: Noah White, Henry Eller, Peter Fiala and Ian Ajzenszmidt

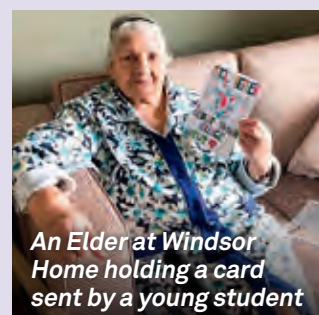
Cards of Love

Primary school students of Leibler Yavneh College surprised our Elders with handmade greeting cards to let them know that the community is thinking of them.

A very big thank you goes out to all primary students for their thoughts and wishes and for brightening up the lives of our Elders!



Cards drawn by primary school students of Leibler Yavneh College



An Elder at Windsor Home holding a card sent by a young student

"Lockdown" By Freda Searle

Our beloved Elder, Freda Searle, at Gary Smorgon House wrote this beautiful letter, unsolicited, to let us know about her thoughts of being in lockdown. The letter was so good, we thought of sharing with our community too!

"I was sitting in my room on the third day of lockdown and thinking how lucky we are here at Gary Smorgon House.

Recent news broadcasts told of neglect and worse in other Elders' Homes, so we should have been thankful, not resentful.

Our staff and carers went out of their way to help us.

Yes, it would have been good to get out in the sunshine.

But we were blessed with wonderful carers who tried their best to keep us happy.

Two ladies who deserve special accolades are Cinole and Lini, who both went out of their way to try and keep us occupied.

We were given magazines to look at.

If we wanted we were given artwork or jigsaw puzzles to do.

Our carers took care of us despite the very trying situation and uncomfortable clothing they had to wear.

We could have taken this time to tidy cupboards and sort things out.

We could have taken this time to meditate and think quietly about our lives.

We should have done a little of the physio that we remembered and walked around our rooms.

Not much fun? No. But we have all been kept healthy and the C19 virus isn't here; let's hope it stays away.

Rabbi Nerenberg tried to instill the spirit of Shabbat; where else did that happen?

I think a hearty Mazel Tov is due to all our Elders for the way they handled this unpleasantness.

By the time you read this letter, we are all back to normal and wandering around out of our rooms and enjoying our usual activities.

Shabbat Shalom."

Freda



Freda Searle



David Hamilton and wife, Sharon, at the factory where personal protective equipment are produced

Fella Hamilton Supporting Health Workers

Fella Hamilton donated 400 sets of scrubs to Jewish Care during our outbreak management at Windsor Home reiterating their support of Jewish Care.

We applaud everyone at Fella Hamilton for their generosity, ingenuity and community spirit to ensure the safety of our frontline workers and their continued support of Jewish Care.

COVID-19 Helpline

Jewish Care's COVID-19 Helpline that was launched at the beginning of the pandemic continues to assist and support those in the Victorian Jewish community impacted by COVID-19.

Since the launch of the Helpline, Jewish Care has received more than 8,500 calls from members of the community experiencing emotional distress, financial hardship, social isolation and more.

Jewish Care is also working collaboratively with a range of other charitable organisations within the community to ensure the needs of those most vulnerable can be met by pooling resources from around the community.

Speaking about the organisation who supported the establishment of the COVID-19 HELPLINE, Jewish Care CEO Bill Appleby said, "Our community is at its best when faced with challenges. We witnessed the way in which we all rallied together during the recent bushfire crisis, and now with COVID-19, we are seeing even more strength, resilience, and caring for each other".



If you are affected by COVID-19 and need support, contact the COVID-19 Helpline on 8517 5555, Monday to Friday or visit www.jewishcare.org.au/COVID19helpline to submit an online enquiry.

Volunteers Reaching Out

Volunteers have always been an integral part of the Jewish Care family, and we are ever so grateful to our volunteers for their dedication and passion, and their unwavering support during these difficult times.

In light of the present challenges, it was heartening to see our volunteers stepping up and taking on new opportunities in continuing to provide meaningful and necessary support to our Elders and vulnerable members of our community.

Pavel Meixon was one such extraordinary volunteer. When the public housing towers lockdown was depicted as a very bleak and upsetting event, many people wondered what it was really like on the inside; were the residents angry, lonely or scared, or were they grateful or understanding? Jewish Care wanted to find out how over 150 clients residing in two of the towers were doing and to provide appropriate supports.

Pavel, the ever-willing and committed Russian speaking volunteer, agreed to come to our office – socially distanced and sanitized – to make phone calls to our clients locked in the towers. Pavel knew that every call was a new experience, and with innate empathy and compassion, he gave the clients the time they needed and deserved.

Like all heartwarming good news stories, this volunteering experience was a win-win. Pavel said the clients expressed



Pavel Meixon making calls to Jewish Care clients during the lockdown

great gratitude to Jewish Care for taking care of them. “I tried to encourage them and tell them about the reason for optimism. They were so grateful for the call from Jewish Care and for the opportunity to talk, and told small stories about themselves”.

While a global pandemic has hijacked opportunities for face-to-face social connection, Jewish Care will continue to support, connect and care about our valuable community members.



Please contact our Volunteer Program on 8517 5734 to find out more about volunteering opportunities with Jewish Care.

Youth Mentoring: Keeping Connected – Virtually

Our Young Achievers and Youth Aspire mentoring programs remain in full swing despite the impact of COVID-19, with participants finding creative ways to stay connected and engaged.

2020 promised to be an exciting year with our largest-ever cohort of young people. The inability to meet face-to-face hasn't stopped our mentees and mentors who have risen to the challenge admirably, keeping in touch via phone, Zoom and WhatsApp and participating in various online activities including games, classes and workshops.

Group sessions to date have included wellbeing activities, leadership and team building, a multicultural workshop, public speaking, art therapy, a virtual escape room and a video challenge. In the words of one participant: “I like how even though we are restricted to staying at home, I still have

something other than school to be a part of. YAP provides me with that excitement, that relaxing and captivating hour or so that allows me to express myself and have fun!”

A key aim of Jewish Care's youth mentoring programs is to encourage young people to step out of their comfort zone. Building and maintaining a mentoring relationship during these unusual times is exactly that!

Young Achievers is currently accepting enquiries for the 2021 program, while Youth Aspire intake continues year-round. Participation is free of charge for eligible young people. In addition to individualised mentor support and workshop activities to build skills and social connection, participants can apply to receive an academic scholarship of up to \$500 to support educational or vocational pursuits. For further information, contact youthmentoring@jewishcare.org.au

New Family Violence Funding a Boost for Early Intervention

Jewish Care was pleased to be nominated as a recipient of funding under the Multicultural COVID-19 Family Violence Program, receiving \$110,000 over two years. The program, a partnership between the Department of Premier and Cabinet and Family Safety Victoria, provides one-off funding to faith-

based and ethno-specific organisations to assist with family violence awareness raising and early intervention activities during the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery. The Individual and Family Services team look forward to continuing to build our community's capacity to respond to family violence.

New Buildings to Open Soon

During the past couple of months, our builders and commissioning teams have been busy preparing our new sites for official openings. Soon to be opened are the Carnegie Senior Living Precinct in Carnegie and Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre in Caulfield.

The Carnegie Senior Living Precinct

The Carnegie Senior Living Precinct is a two-storey residential home featuring eight houses of 15 beds with manicured gardens. The brand new purpose-built home will provide bespoke aged care services and supports in addition to community supports.

Informed by the innovative Hand-in-Hand model of support, the two-storey facility will provide a range of accommodation features to meet the diverse needs of Elders in the Jewish community, including residential beds with a variety of care levels, family friendly senior living, memory care friendly, kosher facilities, landscaped and secure gardens, and a contemporary synagogue.



Landscaped and secure gardens adjoining bedrooms

Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre

Located in Caulfield, next to Gary Smorgon House, is the new Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre. This new Centre will provide a range of therapeutic and allied health services to support the healthy ageing of Elders at Gary Smorgon House and those living independently in the community.

A linked walkway connects the Centre with Gary Smorgon House, making it convenient for Elders and visitors to access the new shule, training and outreach programs, social and recreational activities, and consulting rooms.



A kosher kitchen in a house at the Carnegie Senior Living Precinct



New Synagogue at the Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre



Entrance to the new Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre



War veterans, Sofia Patent and Mykhaylo Brusylovsky receiving their medals from Benjamin Litchfield, Residential Services Manager



Victory Day – Recognising True Courage and Spirit

Among Jewish Care Elders are many veterans who fought for the Soviet Army during World War II. Each year, we remember those heroes and celebrate this great Victory Day with our veterans and their families and wish them many years of good health!

This year, to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory Day, nine Elders were presented with special medals on behalf of the President of the Russian Federation through the Russian Embassy. The '75 years of Victory in World War II of 1941-1945' medals were presented to Mykhailo Bryslovsky, Klaudia Eldina, Efim Feldon, Emma Granovsky, Efim Kordonsky, Toyva

Levit, Sofia Patent, Rena Shisman, and David Sokolovski at the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building.

With changes to visitation and social distancing, families and other Elders were able to tune into the medal presentation via Zoom. One of the veterans, Toyva Levit, called on everyone present to honour a minute of silence in memory of those killed in the war. The ceremony was followed by a special concert, with volunteers providing musical entertainment for Elders remotely. Elders were able to see their family members via Zoom, and everyone sang together.

A Gift of Kindness

Jewish Care is grateful for a bequest recently received from the Estate of Cyril and Ella Goldberg. Immigrants themselves – Cyril arrived from Romania in 1941 and Ella from Shanghai in 1954 – they met on iconic St Kilda Beach and shared 50 happy years together devoted to children and grandchildren.

During the 1970's, Ella worked as an interpreter for Jewish Welfare as it was then known, helping to integrate the large influx of Russian migrants arriving at that time. It was a job she undertook with great pride and commitment.

Nicknamed "The Professor" by his family, Cyril was interested in intellectual pursuits, world politics and social justice. He was a tech wiz and loved having a meaningful discussion and problems to solve.

Their bequest to Jewish Care acknowledges their previous connection to the organisation and their joint commitment to helping the elderly and others in the Jewish community less fortunate than themselves.



Ella and Cyril Goldberg

Gift Bags to Welcome Elders

Elders were treated to special welcome gifts at the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building when they moved in on 30 April.

Despite challenging circumstances faced by many due to the global pandemic, the Jewish community rallied to support Elders and ensured that they were warmly welcomed into their new home, with many donating funds and gifts. Hannah Wollan, Vanessa Janover and her children, Maverick and Liv, brought welcome gifts to Elders, including photo frames and kosher lolly bags from Adira Werdiga, dermal therapy products from Shelly Sher; Casper & Lewis cosmetics from Tim Casper; and cards from the Spigler, Weiss, and Grosberg families.



Gift bags donated by the Erdi Foundation and Heat Group



Elder at Residential Homes Windsor showing off his goodies

Zoom Yerushalayim

Yom Yerushalayim is Israel's Independence Day, and to commemorate this special day Jewish Care hosted a concert via Zoom for Elders and their families of all residential homes.

Each of the residential homes had their own performances, including a brief video about Yom Yerushalayim, a piano performance by our Lifestyle staff member Vera Yavlinsky, and a surprise live performance (via Zoom) from Israel by Ari Goldsmith and family, grandson and great grandchildren of Gary Smorgon House Elder, Sadie Goldsmith. Sadie had no

idea about the family performance and was absolutely thrilled to see them all on camera.

We thank our Jewish Life team, Rabbis Nerenberg and Kohn and all the staff at our homes for making these Zoom connections with family such enjoyable moments. These were truly heart-warming moments during COVID-19 times.



ORAH Project Supports Jewish Care

Jewish Care recently received an \$8,758 gift from The ORAH Project.

Nathan Cher, Chair, ORAH Allocations Board (Vic) said, "Jewish Care's position and services provide valuable reinforcement and safety nets to the community – so vital; especially in these unique COVID-19 times. The ORAH Project is thrilled to be able to provide additional resources to Jewish Care to expand their reach and depth".

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. Funds donated to organisations through The ORAH Project are collected through The ORAH Fund, a fund-of-funds consisting of ten underlying investment funds that generously donate all management fees from investments made through The ORAH Fund.

"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."

i For more information about the ORAH Project, visit www.theorahproject.com.au





Jackie Bursztyn



Matthew Cohen



Jeffrey Appel OAM



Stacey Dodge

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

Perri Dudakov

Birthday

Jackie Bursztyn

Stacey Dodge

70th Birthday

Jeffrey Appel OAM

Matthew Cohen

90th Birthday

Inge Sommer

50th Wedding Anniversary

Rod & Jessie Hartman



To share your simcha, please contact our Community Team on 8517 5786 or 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



“ 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.

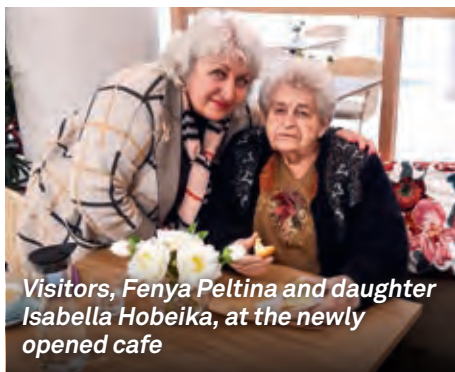
Please contact Feygl Cylich (03) 8517 5602
fcylich@jewishcare.org.au



Photo Gallery



Dora Perej and Jane Lothringer on a tour of the new Windsor Homes



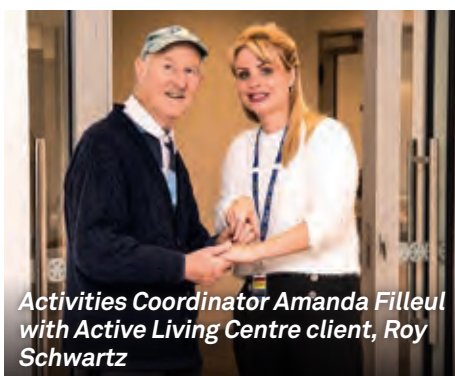
Visitors, Fenya Peltina and daughter Isabella Hobeika, at the newly opened cafe



Gary Smorgon House Elder, Chawa Kraner helping to pack goodie bags



Windsor Homes Elder, Mona Rosenfield, at the Victory Day celebrations



Activities Coordinator Amanda Filleul with Active Living Centre client, Roy Schwartz



Disability clients Debra Lissek and Susan Tidor celebrating Pesach



Young Achievers and mentors at a YAP picnic (pre-COVID-19)



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



I was approached by a Board member a few years ago to see if I was interested in joining the Finance and Audit Subcommittee. Late last year, I became a Board Member and was appointed Treasurer. It is the most satisfying and rewarding part of my life and has given me such nachas to give back to

The love and passion that the Board and Management have is remarkable. Every one of these people have hectic lives both professionally and personally, but are all willing to give of themselves for Jewish Care. I am so humbled and honoured to sit on a Board with such a giving group of people whose goals are to make a positive impact for those less fortunate in our community. I can't say enough about Jewish Care's management and staff - their dedication and commitment to go above and beyond expectation.

Wanting to escape some of the stresses of everyday life, I love nothing better than going for a walk and listening to salsa music or walking with a friend. Travel, short getaways, art museums, markets, home renovations, and dining out are just some of the things I enjoy in my free time.

jewishcare.org.au/blog