

My Connection



Enriching lives



JewishCare
1848 - 2023

for 175 years

Celebrating
175
years
of supporting
our community



A Message from our President & CEO



Lisa Kennett, President



Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, CEO

Welcome to the Spring edition of *My Connection*. With our coldest days hopefully behind us, it's great to see more people out and about enjoying the Spring sunshine.

However, with *cost of living* pressures part of everyday conversations, we know that our community is doing it tough right now and we're certainly responding to increases in demand for our social services generally but in particular, in mental health, community housing, employment and financial support. We also advocate for our community, to access whatever funding we can, to assist our work in these mission-critical areas. At the same time, we're seeing continued demand for our residential aged care, disability support and community aged care services. And we're also actively engaged with other Jewish community organisations, partnering where we can, to provide wrap-around services. We pride ourselves on being there when our community needs us most. We have continued our innovative and fruitful partnership with Alfred Health, providing short-term accommodation, care and support for patients requiring rehabilitation, prior to returning home.

Our continued focus on business and process improvement is also delivering strong results and in a market where there is a global workforce shortage, we recently clocked-over more than 1000 staff. We are so proud of significant reductions in the use of external agency staff in our residential aged care services even while we've been opening more beds to meet community demand. With seven external accreditation programs across our services at Jewish Care, we're always preparing for the next spot-audit but pleased to report that in the meantime, we are 100% accredited. We are also particularly excited that some of our improvement work will be showcased later this year at the highly regarded *International Forum on Quality & Safety* taking place in Melbourne.

This year, we are proud to be leading a focus on *exemplary customer service, everywhere, every time* and recently engaged our first-ever Customer Experience & Engagement Manager at Jewish Care. We are also in the process of establishing a Consumer Advisory Committee, which will include community representation. We know that our reputation depends on the quality of the services and support we deliver and we know that there's always room for improvement. Our Board and Executive are leading the charge on this improvement and we're excited about some of the smaller changes we are already observing and for which we are receiving positive community feedback.

We are again so grateful for the community support of our recent Annual Appeal. We raised an amazing \$3.84m. Already, your generosity is hard at work, supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Together, we are making a difference. Thank you.

As you may recall, this year we are celebrating our 175th year, continuing the incredible work of our predecessor organisations, which started with the Melbourne Jewish Philanthropic Society in 1848. To mark our 175th year, we've created a new video *We are Jewish Care* to take a snapshot of who we are, what we do and where we've come from. Originally planning a community event later this year, we've now decided to hold a series of smaller events across our aged care and disability services, with clients, residents, family members and our staff. And with an eye on the road ahead, we're looking forward to a special community celebration when we reach our 180th year. We hope you enjoy our 175th anniversary souvenir edition in this newsletter as much as we enjoyed putting it together. We're proud to be continuing the rich history led and created by our predecessors.

Just before we sign-off, we also wanted to take this opportunity to thank and recognise Vanessa Cohen (our former Director: Donor & Community Relations) for her leadership and terrific contribution to Jewish Care. We thank her for her energy and unwavering commitment.

Finally, on behalf of the Board and all of us at Jewish Care, we wish you and your families a very happy and healthy New Year and well over the fast.

We look forward to the continuing privilege of serving our community.



Cover

A collage of historical and current images portraying Jewish Care's rich history over the last 175 years.

Honour your loved ones with Naming Rights

In recognition of our 175th Anniversary, please consider honouring your loved ones with naming rights to ensure your family's legacy lives on.

Naming rights are available for specific areas within:

- Hannah & Daryl Cohen Building, Residential Home Windsor
- Smorgon Family Building, Residential Home Carnegie
- Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre, Caulfield
- Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre

Naming rights donations start at \$20,000 payable over 3-5 years and are fully tax deductible.



**If interested, please call
Orlee on 03 8517 5647
or email:**

oschneeweiss@jewishcare.org.au

2023 Annual Appeal

raises \$3.84 Million

During another challenging year, our community has shown its amazing generosity and support by donating an incredible \$3.84 million to our 2023 Annual Appeal.

With the overwhelming number of calls we receive, Jewish Care is so grateful to have a community to turn to for support. Your generosity has ensured that we can continue to assist those in our community, many of whom have not sought Jewish Care's assistance before.

Your generous donations are already funding essential services for those in our community:

- experiencing mental health issues
- impacted by family violence
- struggling to put food on their table
- facing housing insecurity
- seeking a job
- needing financial aid.

These services rely on your support as they receive little or no government funding. This could not have been done without you.

Together, we are creating a brighter tomorrow! Thank you for making a real difference.

Lior lights up the room

at Jewish Care's 2023 Annual Dinner



Singer-songwriter Lior entertained Annual Dinner guests

Over 265 community members came together at Leonda by the Yarra for Jewish Care's 2023 Annual Dinner. This year's theme was *Together, creating a brighter tomorrow*, for all in our community.

Guests enjoyed a wonderful night of entertainment and celebration. Lior, one of Australia's most successful singer-songwriters, renowned for his beautiful voice and songs that radiate truth and sincerity, wowed guests on the evening.

Melissa Davis who has been on the organising committee for 10 years was MC for the evening. This year was Melissa's and Hilary Cohen's final year on the committee. They will both be dearly missed and Jewish Care thanks them for their years of dedication and passion for this event.

Reuben Zelwer, Jewish Care Board member, Assistant Treasurer and Chair of Empower Interest-Free Loans delivered a heartfelt speech touching on Jewish Care's services and how they support those in need in our community.

Guests enjoyed a fabulous evening, their generous donations make it possible for Jewish Care to continue delivering social services to our community.

Thanks to our sponsors for their generous support.

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QUALITAS

teskacarson



Annual Dinner Committee (L-R) Melanie Smorgon, Hilary Cohen, Melissa Davis and Georgia Danos

Help make this Rosh Hashanah



sweeter for someone in serious need

Rosh Hashanah represents a time to help make the year ahead a little sweeter for those in our community who are in serious need.

“On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, in one of the most famous of our prayers, the Unetaneh Tokef, we think about what we can do to improve ourselves, better our relationship to God and the culminating act of growth which is to give to others,” says Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM, General Manager Jewish Life.

For an incredible 175 years, Jewish Care Victoria has responded to the needs and given to the most vulnerable in our community.

The longevity of our organisation can be attributed to the funding received from you, our valued supporters and donors.

However, 175 years on, the need for support in our community is still as strong as ever.

Many individuals and families are finding themselves in situations they could never have foreseen and Jewish Care has been the only place they could turn to.

In fact, during the last 12 months, we received over 13,000 calls

for assistance and provided 222 families with financial aid to cover essential expenses.

Here’s what one of our clients had to say:

“It was the hardest call I had to make, but I’m so thankful I did. I was immediately greeted with a friendly voice and for the first time in a long time, I felt hopeful. My biggest regret was not contacting Jewish Care sooner,” said Sarah.

There has never been a more important time to help make this New Year sweeter for those in serious need.

To make a donation to Jewish Care, please complete the enclosed coupon and send your donation in the reply-paid envelope today or phone 1800 539 474. Alternatively, you can donate easily online at www.jewishcare.org.au/RH2023 or scan the QR code below.

Thank you for your support and may you and your family be blessed with a sweet, happy and prosperous New Year. Wishing you a Shana Tova from all at Jewish Care.

PLEASE DONATE

ROSH HASHANAH APPEAL

jewishcare.org.au/RH2023

Ph: 1800 539 474



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE

Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Our Community

Following significant mental health government reforms and thanks to generous funding from the Erdi Foundation and the Loti & Victor Smorgon Family Foundation, Jewish Care commissioned an independent mental health review.

The review findings confirmed that the pandemic significantly impacted mental health in an already overstretched and distressed system.

Currently most public and private providers are working at full capacity, which means longer waiting times and higher gap fees. For those who are already vulnerable or marginalised there are financial, religious and cultural barriers to accessing services.

Despite the lack of government funding targeted at supporting ethno-specific service providers, the review indicated a growing demand for mental health support from young people, families and older people in the community.

Jewish Care's current mental health offering aligns with contemporary policy direction, but is unfunded and operating at full capacity. There is strong community support for Jewish Care to enhance and expand its focus and service offerings including:

- mental health promotion and education
- navigation and advocacy support
- psychology supports.

Jewish Care's first step toward enhancing our ability to support the mental health needs of our community is to establish a psychology student hub. Foundational support for this initiative has been funded by the generosity of the Erdi Foundation and two other anonymous donors, with a clinical psychologist role being advertised.



(L-R) Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, Cassandra Barrett, Associate Professor Paul Katz, Marilyn Kraner, Melissa Kidgell and Vanessa Cohen

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS MENTAL HEALTH EVENT

Jewish Care recently held a Community Conversations event to communicate the review findings. Guest speakers included prominent clinical psychologist, author and broadcaster Dr Michael Carr – Gregg, Associate Professor Paul Katz – Executive Clinical Director of Mental Health & Wellbeing at Eastern Health together with Jewish Care speakers Marilyn Kraner, Director: Disability and Social Services and Cassandra Barrett, Manager, Community Education and Participation.

People with Disabilities Make Great Employees

Local businesses are considering employing people with a disability following support from Jewish Care's Disability Employment Navigator.

This free service assists small to medium-sized businesses employ people with a disability. This service is designed to support businesses in tapping into the advantages of a diverse workforce to foster innovation, broaden their customer base and create a more inclusive and productive environment.

Research conducted by Diversity Council of Australia revealed that diverse workforces, bring a wide range of skills, experiences, and problem-solving abilities to the workforce.

Our goal is to dispel misconceptions and recognise the strengths of individuals who often demonstrate exceptional determination, work ethic and punctuality. Their drive to overcome challenges translates into increased productivity within the team. By embracing a diverse workforce, businesses can enhance their ability to connect with and cater to a broader customer base. An inclusive environment

makes businesses more attractive to clients, partners and future employees, fostering stronger team dynamics and boosting employee morale.

In our efforts to create opportunities for everyone, we have been engaging with local businesses like Glazed Gluten Free Patisserie, who are interested in exploring the potential of employing someone through our Disability Employment Navigator service.

The navigator's role is to support businesses through the process including preparation of paperwork, collaboration with staff, assistance to access wage subsidies and arrange any physical adjustments.

If you are a small or medium-sized business seeking to access this service, contact Jewish Care on 8517 5999.



(L-R) Wanda Dopierala with Glazed Gluten Free Patisserie owner Liran Adika



Visit www.jewishcare.org.au/navigator to find out more

Life Governorship awarded to Susie Ivany OAM



(L-R) Susie Ivany OAM and Lisa Kennett OAM at Jewish Care's Annual Dinner

Jewish Care Board member, Susie Ivany OAM was awarded a Life Governorship at the 2023 Annual Dinner.

Susie's first official involvement with Jewish Care was over 30 years ago when she organised a women's empowerment seminar – a cause very dear to Susie.

Susie was elected to the Jewish Care Board in 2011, was Co-Vice President from 2015-2019 and was also Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee during this time. The success of the Capital Campaign can be seen in the wonderful new facilities that were built.

Susie became President of Jewish Care from 2019-2021 and is a current board member known for her exceptional leadership skills.

Susie has also given tirelessly to other organisations; as President and Vice President of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Victoria) and Vice-President of the International Council of Jewish Women.

An ardent women's rights campaigner, Susie founded Unchain My Heart in 2014. She is dedicated to educating, advocating and supporting Agunot (women chained to recalcitrant husbands under Jewish law). She was chair until 2019 and is a current board member.

Susie's community service achievements were recognised in 2016 with the Jewish Community Council Award – The Sir John Monash Award. In 2017, she was awarded the prestigious Medal of the Order of Australia for service to women and to aged care in Victoria.

Susie is committed to developing and engaging the next generation of leaders and she is passionate about mentoring young people and seeing them thrive.

Mazel Tov to Lisa Kennett OAM and Alan Schwartz AO

Jewish Care's dedicated President, Lisa Kennett OAM and inaugural Jewish Care President, Alan Schwartz AO were recognised in the King's Birthday Honours for their immense contributions and service to the Jewish community.

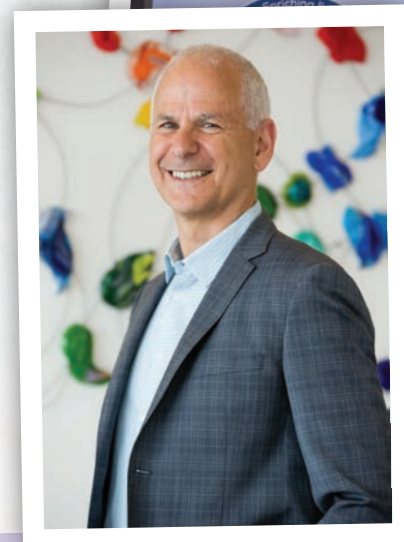
Lisa Kennett OAM was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the Jewish community of Victoria. Lisa has been President of Jewish Care Victoria since 2021 and joined the Jewish Care Board in 2014 and was Co-Vice President from 2018-2021.

Lisa is the immediate past President of Mount Scopus College and serves on the Boards of other community organisations.

Alan Schwartz AO was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his distinguished service to the community through philanthropic endeavours and to sustainable social benefit initiatives.

Alan has made significant contributions to Jewish Care as the inaugural Jewish Care Victoria President from 2001-2004 and as Treasurer from 1996-1999 and Senior Treasurer from 1999-2000.

In 2005, Alan was appointed a Jewish Care Life Governor in recognition of his enormous contribution to Jewish Care.



Lisa Kennett OAM (pictured, top) and Alan Schwartz AO



(L-R) Gabby Walters, Judith Varlamos, Lea Woolf, Delysia Pahoff OAM, Jon Faine AM, Susan Swaitlo, Deanna Levin, Myrna Goldsmith, Caroline Wein, Shirley Sekler and Shirley Sweet

Friends Of Montefiore 40th Anniversary Lunch

The Friends of Montefiore Committee (FOM) and supporters celebrated the 40th annual lunch with great company and delicious food at Leonda by the Yarra.

Guest speaker and award-winning journalist, broadcaster and author Jon Faine AM entertained guests with touching childhood memories of his family and their association with Montefiore Homes as well as the impact they had on him in his younger, more formative years.

This event has a long and proud history of supporting Jewish Care and is a key highlight in our annual fundraising calendar. This year's event raised an incredible \$30,000 that will go towards supporting those in our community who live with a disability, to have meaningful and gainful employment at Jewish Care, in partnership with All Things Equal.

Thanks to the Chair of the FOM Committee, Mrs Delysia Pahoff OAM for her unwavering enthusiasm and energy as well as the entire retiring committee members (see list on right) who have tirelessly and passionately donated their time, to bring this wonderful event to life for the past four decades.

Committee members:

- Delysia Pahoff OAM – Chair
- Lisa Blode
- Myrna Goldsmith
- Jan Green
- Deanna Levin
- Gloria Milgrom
- Eva Rose
- Annette Rosen
- Shirley Sekler
- Noga Shub
- Nicole Silberberg
- Shirley Sweet
- Susan Swaitlo
- Judith Varlamos
- Gabby Walters
- Caroline Wein
- Lea Woolf



(L-R) Esther Berkovitch, Miriam Peters, Fay Szuster and Ada Frydlender



Jon Faine AM



(L-R) Joelle Barnett, Helen Schon and Ruth Scheuer OAM



(L-R) Peter Trevor, Miriam Suss OAM, Eva Suss (centre), Jenny Bloom, Tania Spiegel and Vivienne Trevor

MEET OUR RESIDENTS – Eva Suss

Celebrating Eva's 104th Birthday at GSH

As part of our series – We're not old, we're interesting – we feature residents from across our residential homes. Every resident has a unique story to tell and it is important to share their fascinating lives with our My Connection readers so their amazing contributions to the Jewish community is not forgotten.

Eva Suss is a resident at Gary Smorgon House (GSH) in Caulfield, she has lived there for 12 years and recently celebrated her 104th birthday there with family and friends.

Eva (Rivka) nee Kagan was born in 1919 in Slonim, Poland a small town near Bialystok. She was the middle of five children and sadly her mother died in childbirth with her youngest sister when Eva was a toddler. Her father Benzion Kagan decided to bring the family to Australia to join relatives already settled in Melbourne. They arrived in the early 1920s.

Eva's father raised his large family as a widower who never remarried and who worked hard to establish himself in Melbourne. Eva first attended school in Shepparton where the family had originally settled and later attended Princess Hill State School. She often joked that she went to Melbourne University as she daily traversed the university campus on her way to school from her Brunswick home.

In 1941, Eva met a young soldier, Hans Suss who had managed to flee Nazi Austria and who was serving in the 6th Employment Company of the Australian army under the "Enemy Alien" program. They met at a Jewish dance party with Eva announcing when she arrived home after this first encounter, "Tatte, I've met the man I'm going to marry." They married in September 1941. Eva and Hans had four children, Allen, Michael, Vivienne and Jenny. Their love affair lasted 40 years and sadly Hans passed away in 1982. Today, Eva has eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Growing up in a large single-parent family before World War II, the Kagan girls ran the household and assisted their father in conducting his businesses – a Matzah factory, a storage facility at the Victoria Market and later undertaking building and construction. Eva was often called on to interpret and translate for her father, whose English was not good. Later as a married woman, she assisted her husband in running an importing business and a textile factory as well as raising her four boisterous children.

Eva lived independently and happily into her 90s and made the decision to come into Gary Smorgon House after spending an enjoyable Pesach as a respite resident. She came to GSH on 9 May 2011 – which would have been Hans' 97th birthday. Given that it was her decision to enter she has always been very happy and constantly praises the staff for their dedication and the home for its lovely ambiance.

She is blessed with four devoted children who ensure she receives a visit from a family member every day of the year. Over the years, she made many friends with other residents and revisited friendships with some that she had known since her youth.

Still rather doubtful about her age we assure her it is correct, Eva focuses less on her age and more on retaining her sense of humour and constantly expressing her passionate love for her family. Her message on her birthday was not about herself; she just said very forcefully "I am very proud of my children." Her family adores and admires her and wishes her good health "bis 120."

New friendship program

launched at Melbourne Holocaust Museum

Residents from our three residential aged care homes recently attended the first Holocaust survivor morning tea, held at the newly refurbished Melbourne Holocaust Museum (MHM).

The event was organised by CCare, MHM and Jewish Care. A new friendship program, *The Connection Club* was launched at the morning tea. Created by CCare, Holocaust survivors will be paired with volunteers for ongoing visits, fostering meaningful connections and providing socialisation, companionship and a sense of belonging.

Both survivors and volunteers attended the morning tea, which was catered by CCare. They heard interesting presentations from all three organisations and volunteers signed up to participate in the program.



(L-R) Abram and Cesia Goldberg



If you would like to become a volunteer for the Connection Club, please email David Ellinghaus on dellinghaus@jewishcare.org.au or call 03 8517 5734

CALL OUT TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS TO SHARE THEIR STORIES

Jewish Care's Chief Executive, Adjunct Professor Alan Lilly, has offered to support the Melbourne Holocaust Museum and Co-President, Pauline Rockman OAM, in encouraging Jewish Care residents who are Holocaust survivors to share their stories. It is imperative that their personal stories live on and the world never forgets the atrocities of World War II.

Jewish Care has over 60 Holocaust survivors living in our residential homes, with the majority residing at Gary Smorgon House. We are encouraging them to share their stories with the Melbourne Holocaust Museum and will contact our home-care, disability and social services clients.

In an effort to record the last remaining voices from the survivor community, we are calling on the public to share your stories.



If you or anyone you know is interested in sharing their testimony, please scan the QR code or call 03 9528 1985



Leaving a gift in your Will has the power to change lives

Leaving a gift in your Will can help build a better tomorrow for our community.

Jewish Care has a proud 175-year history of supporting families and individuals in our community and is committed to continuing to support those in need.

As our visionary founders intended, the priority at Jewish Care is to support the most vulnerable members of our Jewish community. By leaving a gift in your Will to Jewish Care, you will embody the same visionary commitment as our founders.

No other Jewish organisation in Australia offers such diverse services to meet our community's care and support needs.

The thoughtfulness and foresight of our treasured bequestors continues to provide significant funds to support our vital services. These gifts are making a lasting impact on the lives of those in our community and will continue to do so for future generations.

When you make the generous decision to include Jewish Care in your Will, you will be welcomed into our Circle of Care.

"You will receive invitations to our Circle of Care events, where you can meet like-minded people and have the opportunity to develop rewarding and lasting relationships," says Elaine Levine, Acting Director: Donor and Community Relations.



To receive our Gifts in Wills information pack, please call Elaine Levine on 03 8517 5437 or email donations@jewishcare.org.au Visit jewishcare.org.au/gifts-in-wills to find out more

Travel The Moment



Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM

No, two moments are the same, no two hearts are identical. Each is unique and irreplaceable; each pulsates with hope and energy, sadness, and anguish. Each beats with aliveness.

Yet moments, like hearts can grow old and stale and pass listlessly and hopelessly. The challenge is to use time carefully and to develop a wise heart.

Every time I hold a new year in the palm of my hand, I am reminded of that singular challenge. I am reminded of the rich potential of these days as well as the possible anxieties and difficulties

ahead. I am reminded of all the colour and conflict, potential and potency of the weeks and months ahead.

There is a certain texture to time and the Jewish calendar brings it out into the light.

Shabbat and most of the festivals highlight the harmony and eternity of time. It's like William Blake's, profound insight about perceiving eternity in a grain of sand.

The grains of Shabbat and the holy days or Yamim Tovim are immeasurably fine and each is perfectly formed. You only become aware of them, however, if you look very intently and very closely. Otherwise, they just slip through your fingers and are gone forever.

Purim reminds us that time can be as joyful and playful as a little child. Pesach bears a message of fabulous freedom and the gift of Jewish identity. Shavuot is like a flower bursting into life with its buds of knowledge, the capacity to grow and give, its petals of human kindness and compassion.

The Ninth of Av recalls that time can be heavy with pain; the stones of Jerusalem (it is said) have hearts that carry centuries of suffering but then human hearts can be as hard as stones.

At Rosh Hashanah/New Year time, we think intently about the passing of time, the past year slipping away behind us, the future one brimful with hope and uncertainty.

The Hebrew word for a year is Shana and it has a dual meaning – repetition and change. Repetition can be as comfortable as old slippers and there is a place for them. They give life structure and a sense of order. In a world where the only constant is change, the regularity of the Jewish calendar is certainly reassuring.

But it is also worrying for repetition without variation is numbing. Change can be frightening but can also be invigorating and energising.

At the cusp of the new year 5784, the seeds of change are in our hands. We can't change the world but we can change ourselves or as it has been said: Let go of the things you can't change and focus on the things you can. Don't be a prisoner of the elements you cannot control.

As part of the Jewish Care team, I am constantly strengthened and inspired by our residents, staff, supporters, volunteers and leaders. People who recognise that constancy is valuable and that change is invaluable. Our challenges are many but our willingness to embrace them is strong!

In this coming year may we travel each moment with courage and confidence, compassion and clarity. May they bring freshness and fullness. May they be imbued with a wholeness of heart.

Shanah Tovah Umetukah. A Happy New Year to all.

"Let go of the things you can't change and focus on the things you can..."





Holocaust Remembrance Day at Residential Home Carnegie

Celebrating Our Cultural Identity

The Jewish Life team plans cultural and spiritual events and activities for Jewish Care residents, family members and staff to ensure that holy days and festivals are observed according to Jewish religious observance and tradition.

Staff learning lunches are planned before every key festival to inform and educate staff about the Jewish holy days. Staff look forward to the experience very much as they love to try the different festive cuisines, along with entertaining presentations from external speakers.

The Jewish Life team also ensures that the Jewish Care community has the opportunity to participate, acknowledge and celebrate all festivals and holy days.

After Pesach, Lag B'Omer celebrations were held throughout our residential homes. At Carnegie, residents enjoyed a special barbeque and music to mark the day. Other Jewish Care homes celebrated the occasion with concerts and festive activities.

On 18 April, Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) was commemorated. Each home held a remembrance service where Holocaust survivors and/or their family members lit a candle to honour those who perished. After the service songs of remembrance were sung. Each residential home received a visit from a Jewish Care Executive Team member who took part in the ceremony. It was an extremely moving and a very emotional time.

Later in the month, Israel's 75th Birthday, Yom Hatzmaut (Israel Independence Day) was celebrated. At Residential Home Carnegie residents enjoyed a concert, balloons and a fantastic cake was made by our in-house chef! There was dancing, singing and an all-round feeling of celebration and joy in the air!

Following Israel Independence Day, Shavuot was celebrated by eating dairy foods such as cheesecakes and blintzes. One reason for this is that, the Torah is like the nurturing milk of human kindness. The team organised a learning lunch for Jewish Care staff to learn about this festival at Windsor with an array of delicious dairy foods.

Each home held its own synagogue service and many held a delicious kiddush where family members were invited to join the celebrations. Our aim is to include community members in

order to create a holistic Jewish and communal feeling around all festivals.

No matter how big or small a festival is, the Jewish Life team endeavours to create a memorable experience for the Jewish Care community. More festivals will be celebrated in the second half of the year including Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) and Sukkot (the Harvest festival – or as my kids like to call it, the hut festival). Activities and services are held at each residential home in the lead-up to festivals.

Wishing you all a Shanah Tova Umetukah – A happy and sweet New Year!

Rebbetzin Miriam Wainstein
Jewish Life Leader at Carnegie



Yom Hatzmaut celebrations at Residential Home Carnegie

Share your *Simcha*



Amiel Joel



Sonny Smorgon



Maverick Janover

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
Amiel Joel
Sonny Smorgon

Bat Mitzvah
Sophie Tempelhof

9th Birthday
Maverick Janover

70th Birthday
Sue Auster



To share your simcha, please contact our Donor & Community Relations Team on 03 8517 5963 or Ishostak@jewishcare.org.au

Community leaders share their expertise at Yesod Networking Event

The first Community Networking Session for 2023 was held in June at the Hannah and Daryl Cohen Family Building in the Holckner Family Senior Living & Community Precinct in Windsor. This event was attended by the 2023 Yesod Board Foundation Program cohort as well as alumni from the program.

Guest speaker, Jeffrey Appel OAM spoke about board involvement in the not-for-profit sector of the Melbourne Jewish community and how important it is to become involved.

“By serving on community boards you acquire skills to navigate complex business environments, make sound decisions, contribute

to the growth, prosperity and continuity of our community,” says Jeffrey Appel OAM.

Leaders from three community organisations presented on the evening about the purpose of their not-for-profit organisations and potential opportunities to become involved. Speakers included:

- Dale Smorgon, Maccabi Foundation
- Gideon Kline, Jewish Museum of Australia
- Jess Colgan, All Things Equal.



(L-R) Jeffrey Appel OAM, Gideon Kline, Dale Smorgon, Jess Colgan and Miri Eckstein

Inaugural Market Day at GSH

The inaugural market day at Gary Smorgon House (GSH) was a huge success!

The lifestyle team at GSH initiated a wonderful idea for our residents to enjoy the shopping experience and reminisce about a time when they shopped for themselves.

The main communal area was converted into a marketplace with volunteers and family members running stalls full of handmade jewellery, books, artwork, clothing and kitchen items donated by staff, family members and the community. Residents wandered around the market stalls with their family as they chose items for themselves or as gifts. This gave them a big thrill as most things these days are bought for them.

There was also live music, a sausage sizzle and a raffle was drawn at the end of the day with some great prizes.

The day was a huge success and is set to become a regular activity on the GSH event calendar.



Zafir Family donates to Residential Home Carnegie

Karin and Tom Zafir recently visited Residential Home Carnegie.

They have generously donated to Jewish Care and received naming rights in honour of Karin's aunt and uncle, Marianne & Joseph Schwarz.

Marianne was a Holocaust survivor having survived numerous concentration camps.

In 1971, she completed a course in social welfare and worked for Jewish Welfare (now Jewish Care Victoria). She was an officer for Victorian community services for 15 years.



(L-R) Tom and Karin Zafir at Residential Home Carnegie



PHOTO Gallery

Friends of Montefiore 40th Anniversary Lunch

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



Life Governors' and Past Presidents' Morning Tea



Purim Celebrations



Annual Dinner



5 Minutes with Mike Debinski OAM

Mike Debinski OAM has been formally involved with Jewish Care for almost two decades, having held positions on various committees, before joining the Jewish Care Board in 2009. Mike held the position of President from 2012 until 2019 and was instrumental in the significant growth that the organisation achieved over the years. Since the 2022 Annual General Meeting, Mike now sits on the Board as a co-opted member where his experience and pragmatism are greatly valued.



How did you first get involved in Jewish Care?

In 2005, I was asked to join the Quality & Service Review Committee. At the time, I had responsibility for the operation of health and human services in the Victorian Government and had a range of skills and experience that were considered useful for the work of the committee. I then joined the Board four years later.

What is most rewarding about being part of Jewish Care?

Jewish Care has a vital role supporting the health and wellbeing of our community. My family, refugees following the Holocaust and the destruction of their families and communities, were supported by Jewish Care (Jewish Welfare at the time) when they arrived in 1948. Having a role that supports the growth and sustainability of Jewish Care is very rewarding. It gives me great naches and pride.

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

My immediate goals are to continue to deliver quality services for our community, to adapt and grow as needs evolve and policies

change, to be sustainable and to be an organisation of choice for our community.

What are you most passionate about?

Family and friends, travel, food, social justice, building a vibrant secular Jewish life in Melbourne... and at the moment, supporting Yes.

What is your favourite Jewish festival?

Pesach. It's a great social justice story. As a secular Jew, our family has written a Haggadah reflecting our values and beliefs. We are a small family. Coming together, seeing kids grow, reflecting on the Pesach story and its meaning in our modern world is wonderful. I inherited the role from my father of hiding the afikomen – a highlight of the night!!

How do you spend your free time?

Time with family and friends, travel, walking, finding good restaurants, visiting museums, binging good (and not so good) shows and seeing the Bombers go from strength to strength.

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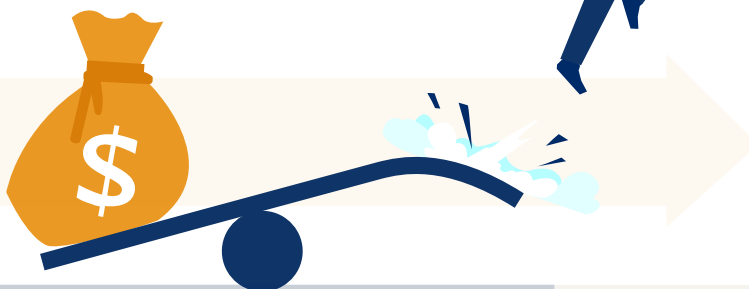
youtube.com/jewishcarevic
@jewishcarevic
jewishcare.org.au/blog

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



WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Interest-Free Loans Available



Do you need assistance with:

*A business loan?
Managing debt?
Home renovation?
Appliances?
White goods?
Educational extras?
Need a new car?
Jewish life event?
Buying a new home?*

We are here to help!

 **JewishCare**
Enriching Lives

*Conditions apply

Contact us on **(03) 8517-5999** or email: info@jewishcare.org.au to find out more

Empower
Jewish Care Interest-Free Loans



JewishCare

Celebrating

175

years

of caring for the
Jewish community

SOUVENIR



EDITION

For 175 years, Jewish Care has responded to community needs and provided care and support to the most vulnerable in the Victorian Jewish community.

The first predecessor organisation of Jewish Care Victoria was established by visionary community philanthropists. In 1848, members of the Melbourne Jewish community met at the Rainbow Tavern in Swanston Street and formed the Melbourne Jewish Philanthropic Society (MJPS) to support Jewish immigrants arriving in Melbourne. Today, it is the oldest continually running philanthropic organisation in Melbourne.

At the time the Melbourne Jewish community numbered only 200 and many migrants arrived in the newly established colony with no funds, family connections or employment.

In 1869, MJPS was granted Crown land and 500 pounds to build Almshouses on St Kilda Road. The foundation stone was laid in September 1870 with the Almshouses completed later that year, which housed those in need, primarily poor, elderly Jewish immigrants, who had no funds or relatives to look after them.

With the gold rush, the population of Melbourne boomed and during the 1880s a number of Russian and Polish immigrants escaped the pogroms in Eastern Europe and were welcomed in Melbourne by MJPS. In 1897, Montefiore Homes was built and named after Sir Moses Montefiore, the great British philanthropist.

The Australian Jewish Relief and Welfare Society ("Welfare Society") was established in 1948. Under the leadership of the late Leo Fink, it initiated a resettlement program to encourage the immigration of Holocaust survivors.

From 1947 onwards large numbers of displaced persons from Europe came to Melbourne and in 1948 the first of seven migrant hostels opened to house the new arrivals, funded by the Welfare Society.

Between 1940 and 1952, 10,000 Jewish migrants were sponsored by the Welfare Society. Support services were provided by dedicated volunteers who met new arrivals as they disembarked at Station Pier and organised financial support, accommodation and work.

Waves of Polish and Hungarian Jews followed and immigrated here to escape persecution in Europe. During the 1980s and 1990s, a new wave of immigration from the USSR arrived in Melbourne.

In 1967, the Almshouses were demolished and the new Montefiore Homes for the Aged was built on the St Kilda Rd site.

In 2001, Jewish Care Victoria Inc. was formed from the merger of Montefiore Homes for the Aged and Jewish Community Services

to meet the community's changing needs by creating a larger, more sophisticated, single-care entity that could comprehensively service the entire Jewish community.

Today, the Melbourne Jewish population numbers 50,000. Jewish Care supports the most vulnerable and marginalised members of the Jewish community with a range of services including:

- residential and community-based aged care
- accommodation and support for people with a disability
- dedicated Holocaust survivor program
- a range of social services which support vulnerable members of the community experiencing housing insecurity, unemployment, financial issues, family violence, mental health issues and parenting concerns along with a range of educational and advocacy programs designed to strengthen community wellbeing.



OUR JOURNEY

Melbourne Jewish Philanthropic Society Founded

First meeting at the Rainbow Tavern.

1848



VICTORIAN JEWISH POPULATION: 200

Jewish Mutual Aid Society established

To provide interest-free loans to community members.

1863

The Jewish Almshouses foundation stone was laid

On the St Kilda Road site after Crown land was granted.

1870



Melbourne Jewish Aid Society established

To provide emergency financial loans to families in distress.

1888

Montefiore Homes for the Aged built



BY 1901 IT IS ESTIMATED THERE WERE OVER 15,000 JEWS IN AUSTRALIA

1897



Jewish Welcome Society of Victoria founded

1925

German Jewish Refugees Fund established

Following the outbreak of WWII in Europe.

1936

Australian Jewish Welfare Society established

After the German Jewish Refugees Fund changed its name.

1938



VICTORIAN JEWISH POPULATION: 9,000



Frances Barkman House opened

Providing housing for refugee children and orphans.

1939



The United Jewish Overseas Relief Fund established

Leo Fink established the United Jewish Overseas Relief Fund (UJORF) to raise money to send food and clothing to survivors in Europe.

1943



VICTORIAN JEWISH POPULATION: **14,910**

The Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society established

After The Australian Jewish Welfare Society merged with The United Jewish Overseas Relief Fund to assist Jewish migrants arriving from Europe.

1948

Jewish Community Services Inc. established

1995

Jewish Care (Victoria) Inc. established

Montefiore Homes for the Aged amalgamated with Jewish Community Services.

2001





VICTORIAN JEWISH
POPULATION: **45,546**

2009

Gary Smorgon House opens

Providing aged care for 120 residents in a friendly, welcoming Jewish environment in Caulfield.



2016

The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre opens

Providing a safe, homely and culturally sensitive environment to children and adults with a disability.

The Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building

Hannah Cohen and family donate \$5 million in memory of the late Daryl Cohen. The Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building in Windsor is named in their honour.



Holckner Family Senior Living & Community Precinct

2019

Charles Holckner OAM and family donate \$5 million. The Windsor site is named in their honour.



Residential Home Carnegie opens

Located in the Smorgon Family Building within the Thomas Ganz Senior Living & Community Precinct, it provides luxurious low-rise accommodation and aged care services for 120 residents.

2020

Residential Home Windsor opens

Located in The Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building and part of the Holckner Family Senior Living & Community Precinct, it provides state-of-the-art luxury high-rise quality aged care accommodation for 156 residents.



2020

Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre, Caulfield opens

Providing a wide range of recreational and social groups, allied health and wellbeing programs to support people living in their own homes.



VICTORIAN JEWISH POPULATION: 51,955

2023

50 years of volunteering with Jewish Care

Professor John Zeleznikow has been volunteering with Jewish Care for an incredible 50 years and during that time John has contributed to a number of Board Committees.

Volunteering takes many forms and volunteers who sit on Board Committees provide expert advice to senior management and the Jewish Care Board.

John's parents are both Holocaust survivors, his father, Avram Zeleznikow OAM z'l was a decorated war hero. His parents fled Poland separately after the war and were reunited at the Scheherazade nightclub in Paris.

John was born in Paris and his family came to Australia as refugees in 1951. The family was sponsored by the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society which helped them to start a new life in Melbourne. Shortly after they arrived, John contracted polio in 1953 and was admitted to the Fairfield infectious diseases hospital and afterwards, he spent three years in contraction in the children's hospital to treat Perthes disease in his hip. He learnt English from the nurses and as a result, has a broad Australian accent.

In 1958, his parents opened a cafe in Acland Street, St Kilda and named it Café Scheherazade. The iconic café was opened with a loan from the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society and became a refuge for Holocaust survivors and the wider Melbourne community serving wholesome Jewish food.

John's father, Avram made significant contributions to Jewish Care. He joined the Executive of the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society in 1969 and held numerous roles including Honorary Secretary from 1971-1977, Co-Treasurer from 1982-1985, Vice President from 1986-1990 and President from 1990-1992.

John's mother Masha Zeleznikow OAM z'l founded the Tuesday Club which ran for 30 years, she met Russian doctor immigrants at the airport, organised accommodation and supported them to get medical qualifications to practice in Australia. Very fittingly, she was awarded the Leo and Mina Fink Community Services Award in 2015.

John was elected to the Australian Jewish Welfare & Relief Society Board in 1973 at the age of 23; at the time he was the youngest person on the Board. He has been on a number of committees including the Immigration, Frances Barkman House, Sheltered Workshop, Aged Care

(Pras and Rose Court and Fink Building), Community Education, Finance, Jewish Counselling Centre and Care of the Mentally ill.

John played a major role in encouraging involvement from the younger members of the Jewish community, organising youth programs, educational activities, social events and youth appeal meetings.

John was also an Ethnic Communities Council delegate and a Caulfield City Councillor from 1977-1979 and later Co-Chair of the Montefiore Homes Appeal.



John was mentored by well-known Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society President, Walter M Lippmann MBE AM z'l who took him under his wing.

"When I started volunteers played a major role and organised the majority of activities. Under the leadership of Walter Lippmann, there was a gradual shift and now paid professionals fill these key roles, as happens in most not-for-profit organisations," said Professor John Zeleznikow.

John now sits on Jewish Care's Quality & Service Review Board Committee.

Professionally, John completed a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree with a PhD in mathematics. In 1979, he lived in America for six years. John is a Professor of Technology and Law, specialising in artificial intelligence and dispute resolution. He also supervises research at La Trobe University.

An avid athlete, John has completed a staggering 200 marathons since 1971 in many countries around the world including the Boston Marathon. He has raised thousands of dollars for Jewish Care in the process – what a phenomenal achievement!

In many ways, John and his family have and continue to contribute significantly to Jewish Care. John's family's involvement doesn't stop there. His daughter Eva and son Joseph have completed Jewish Care's Young Achievers Program as mentees. Eva was also an intern at Jewish Care as a social work student and then worked in the Active Living Centre for two years.

John's wife Lisa generously volunteers for Jewish Care via the Jewish Mediation Centre. Taking it full circle, Lisa's mother is a resident at Gary Smorgon House.

In the words of our community ...



"Translated, Jewish Care means 'Our community.' It reminds us that like the community it serves, it's a 'family of families'. And like an extended and inclusive family, it cares – especially when it's needed most. When Jewish Care says that it's there for 'young and old, rich and poor, healthy and sick, religious and unaffiliated' we know that the actions speak as loud as the words."

Pratt Family and Pratt Foundation

Mahatma Gandhi explained 'the true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.'

"For 175 years, Jewish Care has helped the most vulnerable members of our community. As the community grows, the number of vulnerable and the types of vulnerability grow. As a result, Jewish Care's services are ever more required. We at the Erdi Foundation are honoured to support and partner with Jewish Care Victoria, an organisation of thoughtful and committed members delivering positive outcomes for our community."

Erdi Foundation Board

"The Spotlight Foundation is proud to be a long-term partner of Jewish Care which has been supporting the most vulnerable members of the Victorian Jewish community for 175 years. Its longevity is a testimony to Jewish Care's commitment to delivering targeted, accessible, and inclusive programs designed to prioritise the client above all."

Dahlia Sable, Chief Executive Officer, Spotlight Foundation

"For the Loti & Victor Smorgon Family Foundation, supporting Jewish Care's 175-year journey is an embodiment of shared values.

Jewish Care's unwavering commitment to addressing community needs and offering care to the most vulnerable within the Victorian Jewish community resonates deeply with our own mission.

Through this enduring partnership, we acknowledge and celebrate their remarkable legacy of compassion, resilience, and impactful service.

Jewish Care's dedication to fostering a stronger, more connected society aligns with our aspirations, making our support a testament to the enduring strength of collaborative endeavours."

Belinda Bardas, Trustee, Loti & Victor Smorgon Family Foundation

"Jewish Care is an amazing resource for our community. The Besen Family Foundation is delighted to have supported the vital work of Jewish Care for many years.

We admire Jewish Care's vision to remain relevant, engaging and meaningful in the work it carries out so it can be the first choice for community services for Jewish people in Victoria. This is all made possible because of the extraordinary people who work at Jewish Care as well as those who volunteer."

Debbie Dadon, Chair, Besen Family Foundation



"The Cher Family Foundation is proud to support Jewish Care in its many activities. Jewish Care provides an important security net to many segments of our community."

Nathan Cher, Cher Family Foundation

"Everyone can rely upon Jewish Care, because Jewish Care cares about each one of us."

Philip Mayers AM, Jewish Care Life Governor

"Jewish Care means to me our history of arrival from Europe with the post-war migration when my family and thousands of others were assisted to come to Australia as migrants by the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society. It means a benevolent and caring employer of our son Darren from 1989 to the present.

It means the place where we can be sure that we will be cared for, when we can no longer live independently. It means the people to whom our poor, needy, injured and our dispossessed can turn to for help in bad times. It means the face of Jewish charity in Australia of which we can all be proud."

Dr Dorothy Kovacs

"It is our social responsibility to care for our community, to help them live the best possible life that they can.

Jewish Care is an organisation with a really big heart and I wanted to be part of it. That's what really attracted me to join."

Alan Schwartz AO, Jewish Care Life Governor

"Jewish Care has given me the chance through Empower Interest-Free Loans to provide opportunity and autonomy for our clients to achieve their own designated goals. It also gave me wonderful experiences working with like-minded volunteers and a dedicated and skilled professional staff."

Dr John Serry, Jewish Care Life Governor



"Jewish Care was able to facilitate my dream of assisting young people in their quest for realising their dreams with the Young Achievers Program."

Philip Brass AO, Jewish Care Life Governor

"Jewish Care is a valuable organisation which provides wonderful care and support to our entire community."

The Nossbaum Family



"I have been involved with Jewish Care for more than 40 years, both as a Board member and then as President of Montefiore Homes 1994-1996.

My family's connection to Jewish Care is very strong and now as a Life Governor, I am still extremely proud to be part of this fine organisation, which gives essential care and support to so many in our community. Jewish Care to me, means fulfilling its duty to look after our people's needs, of whatever nature, and providing them with a home, comfort and care.

MAZAL TOV and all the best for the next 175 years."

Graham Slade AM, Jewish Care Life Governor

"Jewish Care is the organisation that assists the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community. For the past 175 years, Jewish Care has delivered excellent care and support to hundreds of thousands of people in need of a vast range of different services and procedures.

Well done to all past and present executives, staff, doctors and importantly the volunteers and donors. Kol Hakavod to everyone!!"

David Smorgon OAM

"I have been associated with Jewish Welfare and Jewish Care since the 1960s as a contributor, board member, past president and constant supporter. The services provided to so many members of our community over those years have changed lives. I hope that extraordinary legacy will continue for many years to come."

Geoffrey Green OAM, Jewish Care Life Governor

"I was delighted to accept the invitation to join the Board of Montefiore Homes in 1983. In leading the annual appeals for many years, I was motivated by the belief that a community is measured by the way it looks after its most vulnerable people. In fundraising, I also believed that 'the manner of giving is worth more than the gift' and that is why I always closed my presentations by saying 'give until it feels good!' I never accepted the old saying of 'give until it hurts.' Helping those in need should not hurt. It should feel good."

Roy Tashi OAM, Jewish Care Life Governor

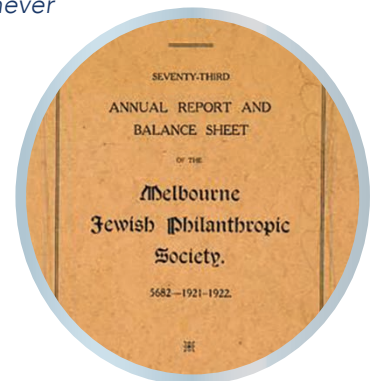
"Jewish Care is a vital support network for our community that resonates deeply with me. It is an organisation that has been supported by tens of thousands of community volunteers over its life's journey. It has touched so many people's lives, from families and individuals who are looking for assistance and to those that need care in a warm and friendly Jewish environment. Its compassion and dedication reflect values that I cherish, ensuring a stronger, more inclusive community for all."

Andrew Blode AM, Jack & Robert Smorgon Family Foundation and Jewish Care Life Governor

"Our ancestors were fortunate enough to live in Melbourne since the inception of the Melbourne Jewish Philanthropic Society and our support spans many generations.

We feel privileged to be in a position to give back to our community, so that Jewish Care can continue to support and advocate for people in need."

Hannah Cohen



"We all have a duty and responsibility to give back in any way we can. We can't sit around waiting for miracles to happen. Sometimes you need to be that person who rolls up their sleeves and takes the initiative."

Melissa Davis, Jewish Care Life Governor

"Jewish Care nurtures the Jewish community – through kindness, inclusion and support."

Mish Kohn, Dodge Family Foundation

"Jewish Care is a vital community asset committed to supporting and enhancing the wellbeing of Jewish individuals and families.

It provides a wide range of personal services, including aged care, disability support, counselling, and social programs, fostering a strong sense of unity and connection within the Jewish community.

Through its outstanding staff and dedicated efforts, Jewish Care embodies compassion, resilience, and the preservation of cultural values.

I could not imagine how our community could function without Jewish Care."

Jeffrey Appel OAM, Jewish Care Life Governor

"Jewish Care is a core part of our community, its reach and support is an essential part of the fabric and success of Melbourne's Jewish community. It brings both humility and joy for its volunteers, its team, its donors, and most importantly, its clients."

Bruce Rosengarten, Jewish Care Life Governor

"To me, Jewish Care means a moral obligation to look after your extended family, in particular those in need."

Assoc Prof. Leslie Reti AM, Jewish Care Life Governor



"I will always support Jewish Care because it is a very good organisation that helps a lot of people. They helped me and my family when I came to Australia – they do excellent work in the community."

Joe Szwarcberg

"We believe that supporting Jewish Care should be a priority for all Melbourne Jewry.

Following the principles of concentric circles of giving, we feel that after our immediate family, the next most important obligation is to support our local Jewish community.

That is why for the last two decades we have considered Jewish Care our number one obligation."

Dianne and Jack Gringlas OAM





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