

COMMUNITY IN BRIEF

AJN STAFF

ReFocus Club's community grant

THE ReFocus Club, a Jewish friendship, social and support group, recently held a talk to explore "Live Better, Live Longer" with Monash Health social worker Eva Gross presenting.

More than 35 people attended the stimulating discussion at the Caulfield Centre in South Caulfield.

Immediate past chairman of Bendigo Bank Caulfield Park branch Sam Parasol also presented a community grant for \$500 from the bank to support the work conducted in the community by the ReFocus Club.

The ReFocus Club provides organisational functions and outings such as musical events, dances, discussion groups and outings, as well as a monthly "Meet n Greet" dinner for potential applicants to meet the members.

For more information on the ReFocus Club, visit www.meetup.com/ReFocus-Club-Melbourne-Inc.

St Kilda shul library hits a high note

THE library at St Kilda Hebrew Congregation has recently grown to include an extensive collection of chazanut records, CDs and cassettes.

Donated by the family of past president, the late Dr Ephraim Ehrmann, the collection pays homage to his passion for Jewish and classical music and his dedication to the synagogue.

At the official dedication of the

Centenary celebrations

BORN and bred Melbourne Miriam Lewis celebrated her 100th birthday recently surrounded by her family and friends at HammondCare in Caulfield.

Born Miriam Rubenstein to Romanian parents who ran a grocery store, she married her first husband Issy, a grocer, despite promising herself she would not marry a grocer.

They had three children together and she now has seven grandchildren, but unfortunately her husband passed when he was relatively young.

Reflecting on her mother's life, Annette Mckernan said, "Her big highlights were marrying dad and dad being a violinist. Also opening their first business together with only 100 pounds ... I think she had a hard life but she was always content with her lot."

"She never wanted for more, she wasn't materialistic, she was happy with her lot and she still is, she's just amazing. She's got a really beautiful nature. Everyone loves her at HammondCare and they are looking after her with such love and care."

Discussing the celebrations, Mckernan said she enjoyed drinking her champagne and eating the croquembouche.

"She also enjoyed all the family around her."

Discussing her mother's longevity, her daughter said she is very healthy, "is a vegetarian and doesn't even take a tablet. She never smoked, doesn't drink and goes to bed early."

collection recently, his widow Susie Ehrmann described her husband as an avid collector and saw it as a "natural fit" given the shul's long history of chazanut and choral music.

This contribution adds to the already quite extensive collection at the shul library, which is one of the largest in Australia.

The shul's CEO Rabbi Ronnie Figdor



Miriam Lewis enjoying a glass of champagne for her centenary.

added that it is currently seeking volunteers to assist in cataloguing the growing Jewish music collection.

The music is available for listening during shul office hours from 9am-3pm each weekday and the books at the shul library are available for loan. For more information, visit www.stkildashule.org.au.

Striving for affordable education in Melbourne

ZOE KRON

A TUTORING business with a social action agenda recently launched with two Jewish educators at the helm.

Strive Education offers online English and maths tuition for children from 5 to 15 years old while also donating a portion of the funds to help underprivileged communities have access to better education.

Founded by special education teachers Hayley Traub and Sharon Branicki, the tutoring business combines a vision for affordable tutorials and helping others.

Explaining the idea, Traub said the lessons allow for retention and understanding of content by the participants.

"As teachers we understand the importance of frequency for learning, and as mothers of school-aged children we understand the importance of offering tutoring that can slot into busy weekly routines."

Harnessing technology, Strive Education conducts all lessons in real time by an online video call and uses premium digital resources aligned with the Australian curriculum.

Branicki emphasised that the teaching approach is based on the latest insights from the world of education, technology and neuroscience.



Founders of Strive Education Sharon Branicki (left) and Hayley Traub.

"Our students engage with the interactive resources and find it is a novel experience to be guided by, and connect with, their online teacher. Engagement and rapport are crucial for learners to reach their full potential," she said.

Offering three packages, the bronze, silver or gold, the founders recommend three lessons per week, which is still a saving of as much as 50 per cent when compared to other tutoring models.

Reflecting on Strive Education's support for underprivileged communities, Traub added that a child's education cannot be taken for granted.

"We decided we needed to give back to those less fortunate, and we are proud that we can donate part of our income to help underprivileged children become more literate."

For more information, visit www.striveeducation.com.au or contact info@striveeducation.com.au.



IN HONOUR OF THE 2016 NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK, WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY

THANK YOU

תודה רבה

UIA is grateful for the support and dedication of our volunteers who form the backbone of our organisation.



To become a volunteer for the UIA, contact Simonne Winecier 9272 5533 or Simonne.Winecier@uiavic.org


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SAVE THE DATE

JNF ANNUAL DINNER 2016

MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

For more information or to enquire about sponsorship packages please contact the JNF office on 1300 563 563



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