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## TWO SHNAT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2023

## Funded in memory of community stalwarts

AJN STAFF

TWO Shnat scholarships will be available to 2023 Shnat participants affiliated with the Australian Zionist Youth Council (AZYC).

The scholarships, funded by two families in memory of two stalwarts of the Jewish community, will financially assist two young people to go on long-term Israel programs through their youth movements. The first scholarship is the Daphne Boroda Scholarship, which will contribute \$5000 for one female Victorian participant. This scholarship places an emphasis on empowering female Jewish leadership in the community.



Daphne Boroda Scholarship places an emphasis on empowering female Jewish leaders. Photo: Supplied.

The second scholarship is the Israel Charak Scholarship, available to all Australian and New

Zealand participants, and will grant \$10,000 to one participant. This scholarship places an emphasis on connection to Israel and Zionism, and a desire to be an active part of the community post-Shnat.

Deputy chairperson of the AZYC Jaydon Benn said, "For so many youth movement participants, Shnat is an integral step in their movement experience. But as gap year programs to Israel are getting increasingly more expensive, it makes it ever more difficult for families to send their children. In light of this, we are so pleased to be continuing the facilitation of two Shnat scholarships established by two beautiful families. The Boroda and Charak families

have founded a wonderful and meaningful way to inspire young people with the values that Israel Charak and Daphne Boroda held so dearly."

The families of both Daphne Boroda and Israel Charak are also pleased with the way this contribution to someone's Shnat experience will honour the memory of their loved ones.

Daphne Boroda's grandson Eli Boroda said, "Going on Shnat was one of the most important experiences for my personal development and growth into an engaged Zionist and Jewish leader. It was not easy for me financially to go on Shnat, and I am so glad that I can now help make the decision to go

on Shnat easier for one more leader in our community.

"It is so special to support a female to go on the leadership experience of a lifetime in my grandmother's name."

Israel Charak's grandson Nathan Charak said, "For Saba, Israel was always at the centre of his world and he would be proud to see three of his grandchildren living in the Jewish State. Knowing that this scholarship will help an emerging Jewish leader deepen their relationship with Israel is a source of tremendous pride."

Applications open on September 1, 2022 and close on November 10, 2022. Forms are available via the youth movements.

## RABBIS IN ATTENDANCE

## Police chaplains conference

VICTORIA Police recently held its 2022 Regional Volunteer Police Chaplains conference for the South and North West Metro Regions. After the Silk Miller ceremony at St Kilda Police Station, the conference was held at the St Kilda Town Hall.

Chaplains enjoyed connecting with one another and discussing relevant issues of mutual interest. Presentations and speakers included Deputy Commissioner Rick Hugent who discussed post-COVID challenges and opportunities.

Rabbi Daniel Rabin (police chaplain to Oakleigh station) and Rabbi Shmuel Karnowsky (police chaplain to Caulfield and St Kilda stations) attended. Rabbi Rabin said it was "an honour and privilege to serve in this role and the conference this year was once again very beneficial and worthwhile".

He added, "I enjoyed learning from the various talks and also having the chance to discuss the chaplaincy role with fellow chaplains across Victoria."



Rabbi Rabin (left) at the police conference.

## 'A STRONG ALLY TO LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE'

## Aleph Melbourne hosts ultra-Orthodox Rabbi

THE Victorian Pride Centre on Fitzroy Street, St Kilda, provided the perfect location to hear New York's ultra-Orthodox Rabbi Mike Moskowitz discuss how Judaism can provide a welcoming and inclusive place for people of all genders and sexual orientations, free from judgement and discrimination.

On his tour of Australia and New Zealand last month, the US based rabbi made time in his schedule to address an intimate gathering, as guest of Aleph Melbourne and the Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council.

Talking about how having a transgender family member challenged and changed his worldview, Rabbi Moskowitz spoke about how he devotes much of his time to making Judaism a safer and more welcoming place for LGBTIQ+ Jews, free from judgement and hostility.

Rabbi Moskowitz told those



From left: Rabbi Mike Moskowitz and Michael Barnett. Photo: Gregory Storer.

gathered that he maintains his religious practices while simultaneously attending Pride Parades and protest rallies for queer rights and inclusion.

He also stressed that the fundamental understanding that a person cannot change their sexual orientation or gender identity is of particular importance to him, and shared that he actively combats damaging practices that seek to change or convert LGBTIQ+ people to being heterosexual and/or cisgender.

Aleph Melbourne co-convenor Michael Barnett said, "It was a total joy meeting Rabbi Moskowitz. His passion for LGBTIQ+ people and issues rivals that of any ally I have ever met and sets a very high bar when it comes to advocacy and inclusion."

He also told *The AJN* that "Many of those in attendance spoke of how they found it unexpectedly refreshing to meet an ultra-Orthodox rabbi who was proud to be a strong ally to LGBTIQ+ people and advocate for our full inclusion in the Jewish community."

Barnett added, "What I took from meeting Rabbi Mike Moskowitz is that being decent to LGBTIQ+ people and other vulnerable minorities takes minimal effort, and goes a long way to mend the harms that ill-informed rabbis and others perpetrate in the name of their faith."

Limmud is here! Get last minute tickets at [limmudoz.com.au](http://limmudoz.com.au)