

Keeping volunteers updated

# THE MHM BULLETIN

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Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you had a fantastic break and are feeling refreshed and ready to tackle what 2024 has in store for us.

This will be my last MHM Bulletin, as Dr Steven Cooke takes over the reigns as CEO later this month. It is a bitter-sweet moment, as I'm very sad to be leaving, but also very excited to see all that will be accomplished under Steve's wonderful leadership.

Before I became an employee in 2002, I was a volunteer. First I worked with Phillip Maisel on the Testimonies Project back in 1997 and then in 2001 with Saba Feniger, our then curator. My late mother-in-law, Sabina Josem, was running the library; it was she who lured me in. Initially it was a daunting place, survivors were volunteering in every area of our operations – museum, education, management. I felt intimidated by them, and out of my comfort zone. But once I became part of the curatorial team – five survivors and me – I came to know them as my co-workers and started to feel at home. And then, the subject matter and the meaning and purpose of our work took over and I was hooked. Here was the most passionate and dedicated group of people and I was just so lucky to be able to learn so much from them. I not only learnt about the Holocaust, these women taught me how to do manual tasks, so that we didn't need to rely on handymen: we did it all ourselves!

From that day until today, the volunteers I have had the privilege to work with continue to enrich and inspire me. I want to thank you all for your words of support, and even your words of criticism. When delivered respectfully, your insights are invaluable for our efforts to continuously improve. We can't always get it right, and our best efforts aren't always going to be right for everyone, but we encourage a culture of respectful dialogue where we listen to each other.

After I have had a break, I hope to come back and join the ranks of volunteers eventually as well. So whilst this is 'adieu' from me as CEO, I won't be a stranger. It will be hard to keep me away from our new museum, which I had the greatest time working on with the team here – a true highlight among so many highlights.

It has been a privilege to lead such a talented team to deliver this project, and I feel blessed to be leaving the place in good shape and in great hands.

Take care,

Jayne Josem

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## WHAT'S ON

### 'The Fragility of Freedom': IHRD 2024

Our 2024 IHRD commemoration will be held on 29 January and will include a panel discussion on the importance of democracy. [Learn more >>](#)



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### Hear a Witness: Gilah Leder

On 21 January Holocaust survivor Gilah Leder will be sharing her experiences at MHM. [Learn more >>](#)



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### Preserving Memory: Major conservation projects at MHM

Join Manager of Collections & Research Dr Anna Hirsh for a fascinating insight into MHM's conservation projects [Learn more >>](#)



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### Holocaust education course 2024

Our 9-week Holocaust education course is now open for bookings [Learn more >>](#)



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### Help needed!

We are looking a volunteer to help us digitise material for our institutional archive. This project would be for 1 or 2 days a week for a few months. We are looking for someone with good attention to detail and some computer skills.

If you are interested please let us know via email at [anna.berhang@mh.org.au](mailto:anna.berhang@mh.org.au)

## PERSONAL NOTICES

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### Birthdays

Happy birthday to Holocaust survivors:  
Gilah Leder  
Garry Fabian  
Jack Leder

### Mazel Tov

To Claude Winograd on the occasion of his grand daughter's Bat Mitzvah

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# VISITOR FEEDBACK

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We've had some lovely feedback from visitors that we'd love to share with you. The feedback is a testament to the hard work we all put in at MHM!

“

*The building is beautiful and the staff were incredibly welcoming and forthcoming with personal experiences. We really appreciated the communication with staff. The exhibition itself was incredible. It really provided me with a good understanding of the Holocaust and the experiences of people that suffered (particularly through the VR experience).”*

“

*I came to do some research for my thesis. I live in Bahrain. Julia was AMAZING and exceptionally helpful. I wish I lived in Melbourne as I would definitely volunteer. Thank you for making me welcome.”*

“

*Really beautiful memorial to a horrific moment in recent history. Everyone was incredibly welcoming and made the experience very meaningful for my friend and I.”*

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