



MONTEFIORE

VOX VOLUNTEERS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." – Helen Keller



With more than 500 volunteers dedicating over 32,000 collective hours annually, Montefiore's volunteers epitomise the essence of Helen Keller's words above.

It's been another busy and rewarding year at Hunters Hill, Randwick, Woollahra and Camelot, as we introduced new initiatives and programs for our residents and continued to assist in so many areas of Montefiore.

Our student volunteers are a very special part of our team, and this year we even welcomed some international students

who took time out of their summer camp program to learn about what we do.

The Spirit of Volunteering event in November is always a highlight on the calendar, as it's our opportunity to thank all of you who give your time, and recognise some of our most dedicated individuals with service awards.

On behalf of all of us on the Volunteer team, we wish you and your families a Chag Sameach, and look forward to another fulfilling year in 2018.

The Volunteer Team

Key dates for 2018

New Volunteer Orientation

Invite your friends to join us as a volunteer.

Randwick:
February 6 & April 9

Hunters Hill:
March 12 & May 15

National Volunteers' Week

May 22-25

Please note that the Volunteer Centres will be closed from December 25-27, 2017, and January 1 & 26, 2018.

2017 Spirit of Volunteering event



From Left: The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP speaking at the event; meeting Montefiore resident Kate Feigen; and pictured with her daughter, Montefiore Student Volunteer Anna Coutts-Trotter and Montefiore President David Freeman AM.

In November, more than 160 of Montefiore's 500-strong volunteer base gathered at the Randwick campus for the annual Spirit of Volunteering event, which included an awards presentation and inspiring keynote addresses by The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Member for Sydney and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and her daughter Anna Coutts-Trotter, who is a dedicated student volunteer at Montefiore Randwick.

Ms Plibersek's address covered issues including the gender pay gap and action on violence against women, and also drew a connection between the Australian tradition of volunteerism – which contributes more than \$14 billion to our economy each year – and the true meaning of being a 'good citizen'.

"Volunteering is very much part of the Australian character and what glues us together as a society," said Ms Plibersek. "And it draws on the same qualities it takes to be a good citizen – engagement, connection and responsibility." Referring to the current citizenship turmoil

engulfing Federal Parliament, she continued: "It's not about the paperwork or where your grandparents came from, citizenship is about the contribution we make. Volunteers are always the first to tell you that it's not about what you get, but what you give."

Ms Plibersek's daughter Anna, 16, impressed the audience with the same maturity and compassion she shows in volunteering with the residents of Monte Terrace dementia care unit, where she and a schoolmate have volunteered for nearly two years. "There are few things as rewarding as my time at Montefiore" Anna said. "We run a trivia game every week with the residents – they don't remember us, but they love seeing us and thank us each time, asking us questions about our lives."

As part of the event, Ms Plibersek, Montefiore President David Freeman AM, CEO Robert Orie, Volunteer Manager Hazel Stein and Volunteer Coordinator Jane Silverman presented 48 volunteers with special service awards – Mazel Tov to all the recipients!

2017 Spirit of Volunteering award recipients

Creativity & Initiative

Samantha Coates
Sandy Behr
Gail Beifus

Team Player

Gloria Isaacs
Harry Bauer
Leon Lurie
Micheline Lane

Leadership

Annette Joseph
Wendy Englander

Resident Volunteer

Kitty Finger
Beverley Kellerman
Gabriella Nash

Dependability

Ingrid Cohen
Brenda Cohen
Di Englander
Evelyne Fleming
Jane Lee
John Lowbeer
Sandra Tanner
Melinda Itzkowic

Empathy

Villa Chang
Barbara Hart
Agnes Sheary

Quiet Achiever

Edith Klimt
June Appleberg
Tova Goldstein
Avril Rom
Pat Lore

Special Achiever

Sylvie Vanasse
Shirley Herman
Evie Weltlinger
Judy Spira

Goes the Extra Mile

Hélène Gonski
Shirley Jacobson
Sidney Young
Lewis Levi

Attitude Determines Altitude

Faye Glover

Virtual Volunteering

Peter Varga

Special Award on Retirement

Jan Goldman

Fundraiser extraordinaire

Allen Rosenberg
Camille Hirschowitz

Commitment

Michael Freeland
Lina Lobasso
Ian Hadassin
Michael Jaku
Maurice Kiss
Lea Portrate





Above: Volunteer Karen Alpert with Randwick resident volunteer the late Zeita Rose, Cindy Radomsky and two of our regular canine visitors.

The Year in Review

Melanie Lindenberg, Client & Community Relations Manager

It's almost impossible to count the ways in which our tireless team of more than 500 volunteers makes a difference across the organisation, so below are just a few of the areas where they contributed, as covered in the recently published Montefiore Annual Report for 2016-17.

Each year, the Volunteer Department organises two key events to celebrate and honour all those who contribute their time. The Spirit of Volunteering Recognition Event in November 2016 featured keynote speaker William Nemesh, Jewish Community Relationship Manager at the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, while guests at the National Volunteer Week function in May 2017 heard from Ramona Freedman on her experiences as a young mother undergoing cancer treatment.

At Randwick and Woollahra, the past year has seen the introduction of Welcome Ambassadors who present new residents with a welcome gift and introduce them to life at Montefiore. New regular activities at Randwick include the

introduction of an Afrikaans conversation group, Men's (Gibborim) Group, and pet therapy sessions in the nursing home with our canine volunteers.

At Woollahra, we have begun a knitting group as well as regular visits to the Randwick boutique. At Hunters Hill, we have seen the Library Trolley service extended to Monte Gardens and the Shabbat Trolley service now staffed by volunteers, as well as new weekly evening activities and shopping services introduced to great success. The Welcome program for new residents has also been extended to nursing home areas.

Our Ladies' Committee is an integral part of our volunteer base. Thanks must go once again to Co-Presidents Wendy Englander and Annette Joseph for their fundraising efforts in support of the vital Holocaust Staff Awareness Program undertaken by all staff. As well as running the boutique with assistance from other volunteers, events have included a Bridge Evening in April 2017 that raised a record-breaking \$12,000.



Above: Randwick resident Lottie Weiss with Community Service volunteers.

“It’s almost impossible to count the ways in which our more than 500 volunteers make a difference.”

Another very special group of volunteers are those who spend time with our residents to record their Life Stories, producing more than 200 such memoirs over the past 12 years.

Thanks to the Intergenerational and Community Service programs, more than 50 student volunteers join with residents for leisure activities as well as offering support with practical tasks such as computing. Schools involved include Moriah College, Emanuel School, Masada College, Kesser Torah, SCEGGS, Sydney Girls High School, Reddam, Randwick Girls High School, Balmain High School, St Ignatius College Riverview, St Aloysius’ College, Loreto Kirribilli and Meriden. In addition, preschool students from Moriah and Emanuel visit to take part in special Kabbalat Shabbat services. This year we also hosted 23 students from Bnos Kanfei New York, who visited as part of their overseas summer camp.



A beautiful donation

Thanks once again to our wonderful and valued Volunteer Manicurists at Hunters Hill, who recently made their annual donation to Montefiore. This year, their contribution was two IpadS for our Leisure and Lifestyle team, who will use them to help residents connect with family and friends via Skype and email. These devices will also give the residents a chance to enjoy the varied and fascinating world of Google and beyond.

2018 Ladies' Committee Elected

The Ladies' Committee held its Annual General Meeting on November 29. Mazel Tov to the incoming committee for 2018. The Ladies' Committee operates the Montefiore boutique and conducts other social and fundraising activities throughout the year, with all proceeds going towards the Staff Holocaust Awareness Training Program.

Co-chairpersons

Annette Joseph
Wendy Englander

Treasurer

Di Englander

Secretary

Railee Michelin

Existing Members

Carole Brickman
Hilary Fredman
Alma Goldman
Faye Green
Ros Hart
Gloria Isaacs
Lyn Kantor
Sandra Rosen
Cathy Shapiro

New Members

Suzy Altit
Sharon Opitz



Mammoth Clothing Sale

The Ladies' Committee's annual clothing sale for staff and residents was held at Hunters Hill in November. The sale was a great success, raising more than \$9,000.



Join us in 2018

Mark these Ladies' Committee events in your diary. To reserve tickets, contact Annette Joseph (0414 840 624) or Faye Green (0409 771 433).

Trivia Madness with Wayne Shapiro

Sunday, May 6, 2.30pm
Burger Centre, Randwick

Book of Mormon

Tuesday, June 19, 7pm
Sydney Lyric Theatre, Pyrmont



Vale

These dedicated volunteers served Montefiore with commitment, passion and dedication. May they rest in peace.



Harry Rosenthal

Harry assisted in the cafe and stores at Hunters Hill for more than 21 years. He was also a regular Montefiore member and will be sadly missed by all.



Jack Stern

Jack was a volunteer of more than 30 years, commencing in 1983. He assisted with the fete for many years and brought joy to Randwick residents.



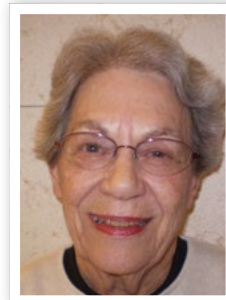
Alex Lowy

Alex had been a volunteer at Woollahra since 2010, and always enjoyed spending one-on-one time with the residents.



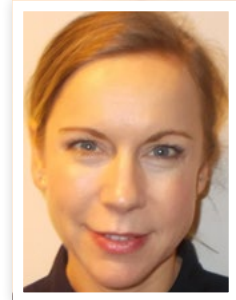
Victor Bear

Victor began volunteering in 2006, dedicating his time to the Life Story program as well as assisting many residents with transport.



Betty Symonds

Since 2010, Betty enjoyed spending time with residents and sharing the latest news, as well as singing in our volunteer production.



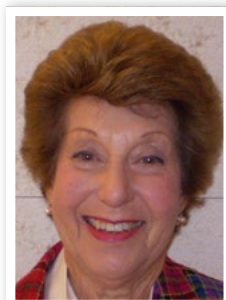
Samantha Rebellit

Samantha's caring and gentle interactions with the residents in the art room over the past few months were received with warmth and affection by all.



Zeita Rose

A Randwick volunteer since 2008, Zeita spent many hours visiting residents on Level 4, in Monte Terrace, and in hospital.



Shirley Cohen

Shirley commenced volunteering in 1983, and her service included 19 years as chair of the Ladies' Committee.

Shirley was an avid supporter of Montefiore and contributed endless hours to the fetes, Ladies' Committee and Boutique over decades. During her tenure, Shirley said: "Doing something tangible to help our aged community is deeply satisfying. The socialising that goes with it is a bonus".