

Headlights

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*Jewish Education
for Every Person*

New Year,

*New
Life!*



JEWISH EDUCATION FOR MEETING OUR DAILY CHALLENGES

Fall 2021

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Jewish Spiritual Tools for Meeting Life's Challenges

rabbi@jewisheducate.org 513-307-2386

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In order to respect individuals' privacy, names and details in some of the articles have been changed.

IN THIS ISSUE

4 Recovery
Emerging from darkness to new beginnings

6 Seniors
Awakening Memories, Sustaining Identity

7 Children
A Bar Mitzvah to Remember

8 Create Your Jewish Legacy

12 What's Happening at JEEP (list of classes)
In Tribute: Dan Rozin

14 JEEP News

15 Healing
Engaging with Blessings

16 Individuals with Different Abilities: Giving with Gusto

About JEEP

Jewish Education for Every Person

OUR VISION: A Jewish community in which **every person** has access to our spiritual inheritance and can use it to reach his or her full potential.

OUR MISSION: To help local individuals with challenges or disabilities access Jewish education and connections to empower them to better overcome their life challenges.

JEEP SERVES:

Children, youth, and adults who have learning differences, individuals who are patients in hospitals, are residing in senior care facilities, have substance abuse issues or similar challenges.

Please visit us at Jewisheducate.org

Feel free to contact us about Headlights, Jewish education or any of our programs.

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JEEP is an independent 501(c)(3) organization and is not affiliated with any other local or national organization.

WORDS FROM OUR RABBI AND PRESIDENT

THE HEAD OF THE YEAR-UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

From Our Rabbi



Rosh Hashanah is far more than just the first day of the Jewish Year. The words "Rosh Hashanah" actually mean "The Head of the Year." Just as our head and brain directs the entire body, Rosh Hashana and the entire first month of the year influence, lead and direct our whole year.

Our Sages teach, "The G-d life force which has kept our universe (and us) in existence and enlivened it throughout the previous year, ceases when that year ends--only to resume at the sounding of the shofar a new and more lofty life force than the has ever experienced before." (Tanya, p. 120-121)

with
universe

Wow! Just think: Each Rosh Hashanah we have, literally, a new universe; a new life. Truly endless possibilities wherever we turn, for G-d is literally renewing all of existence.

"But what if I woke up too late?" you may ask. "What if I didn't even know about this until after Rosh Hashanah passed?" Don't worry, it's not too late because when we zoom in on the above statement we see that our Sages teach us further that this renewal is actually taking place (albeit less dramatically) every moment of every day.

When we think this, how G-d is giving us and our universe new existence each moment, we can perceive life in terms of its endless possibilities for new growth, progress, learning, sharing, laughing.

In our fast paced 2021 life, it takes some effort to pause and designate a few minutes to think into such a deep idea but the effort can be surprisingly fruitful. In fact, such thinking can take the rush out of "Rush Hashanah" and transform it, or any day, into a deeper, more spiritually satisfying experience.

Bearing this in mind, the Days of Awe become more awesome, the days of joy, more joyful, with a new world of possibilities each day.

But let's be realistic, bad things do happen. Illness, loneliness, addiction, life can be overwhelming. That's why JEEP is dedicated to strengthening the lives of those of us who are faced with big challenges and need some help or encouragement to deal with everyday life.

Thank you for being our dedicated partners. JEEP can only accomplish what we do because of you.

May G-d bless you and all of us with a good and sweet New Year!

Rabbi Yaakov Karp
Executive Director

MESSAGE

From Our President

As we enter this Rosh Hashanah, no matter where we live, this tradition is felt deep within our souls.

This is a time for reflection, new beginnings, a time when we reunite with loved ones, reconnect with our families, old friends, our communities and take time to review our actions and deeds of the past year.

This year Rabbi Karp has continued to bring his energy, enthusiasm, and deep spirituality to JEEP. Under his tutelage JEEP has grown in many ways during these unprecedented times. In particular, I want to call out two programs that brought Judaism to the "Hidden Jew." Our Purim project allowed many isolated Jews in our community to experience the true joy of by celebrating with Mishloach Manot (Purim Food



Purim
Gifts.)

Rabbi Karp also figured out how to have a unique Megillah reading in a safe environment. A first for JEEP was to provide a Passover Seder experience for our fellow Jews who didn't have the ability to participate in a Seder or prepare a Passover meal. We created a ready to eat Seder meal that included all of the important mitzvah foods. JEEP provided over 125 Seder dinners to our community.

And this Rosh Hashana another 125 kosher Holiday dinners, complete with apples, honey, honey cake, grape juice and a brochure full of basic holiday information as well as wonderful insights on Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Sukkos, Shmini Atzeres and Simchas Torah were delivered to those who wouldn't have had them otherwise.

I can tell you that this energy is contagious; our board has stepped up to the plate and helped out in numerous ways. I would be negligent if I didn't call out the tremendous work our newest board member and Legacy Chair Marcie Cohen has provided. Marcie took over as Chair of the Legacy Committee this year; she has been instrumental in creating new cards, new programming, and so much more. Her energy has been an inspiration to us all.

Additionally, this year we realized that we had to do a better job of getting our story out and letting people know that we are here. We restructured Headlights Magazine, increased our circulation along with updating our website feel free to take a look www.jewisheducate.org please let us know your thoughts.

Of course the future of JEEP depends on the willingness of you, our participants and donors. This is the time of year when I remind you of the many ways you can get involved, both big and small. Whatever your interest, there is an activity, program or committee you may help out with. One immediate action you can take is to provide us with the names and addresses/emails of your family and friends so they too can see the wonderful work JEEP is doing and what inspires you!

JEEP is here for those who have very few people in their lives, our work is the difference between our fellow Jew, being known, loved and thought of, or that same individual being forgotten, alone and isolated.

As we reflect on this past year and look forward to the new year please consider making a gift to JEEP to ensure our work within the Jewish community continues. Please feel free to peel off the envelope found in the center of this magazine or donate online at www.jewisheducate.org/donate. JEEP is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your gift is tax-deductible as permitted by law.

I would like to thank you and look forward to a year of health, joy and success for you and your families.

Shana Tova u'Metuka – Happy and Sweet New Year

David H. Gershuny
President

RECOVERY

EMERGING FROM DARKNESS TO NEW BEGINNINGS

By Mendel Schoenes

A young man, 20 years old, feeling ultimate despair and hopelessness, stuck in the quagmire of addiction, about to jump off a school's roof

Fast forward eight years: A balmy August night in 2021. That same young man is beaming, standing under the chuppah next to his lovely bride. They look forward to building a life together full of hope and promise.

How did he recover from the abyss?

In a nutshell Mendel Schoenes says, "What saved me, was a rabbi who latched onto me and wouldn't let go."

The trauma started young. "My mother became very ill when I was three, and passed away when I was six. I had a very difficult childhood.

When I was around nine or ten, I started noticing that people around me became relaxed and happy after they had a few drinks. I wanted what they had and tried some, but even though I got very sick, I liked the feeling and tried to get my hands on it whenever I could. I don't even remember my Bar Mitzvah because I blacked out from the available liquor.

During the next few years, I drank more and more. I got caught with a water bottle filled with vodka, was being dragged to therapists, but heard a wall of denial from my father, who insisted that "Jews cannot have addictions."

I came to Cincinnati for two years of high school. At first I was able to keep things under control and was high functioning, showing up and doing what I had to do. Externally. But internally, I was slipping. It got to a point where the only thing that mattered to me was the next drink or the next pills, vicodin or whatever I could get my hands on. The staff knew that something was wrong and tried to get professionals involved, but I hid the true story.

Rabbi Karp from JEEP visited the school regularly. He did a lot to raise awareness about alcoholism and addiction. He had speakers come, including people in recovery. I confided about a tiny bit of my struggle with him and he kept reaching out to me, trying to make sure that I realized that my drinking was an issue, that when I was ready I would know there was help out there, and to encourage me not to give up. He wanted me to get to the point that I would first of all, survive. And not just continue existing-- but fully living, and even growing from this experience.

At one point he gave me a copy of Shais Taube's book on spirituality and recovery, G-d of our Understanding, strongly suggesting that I read it. I started but I just couldn't stick with it. However, the mere existence of such a book planted an important seed in my mind. Maybe not consciously, but I knew: There was help. For the most part, I was still in heavy denial, and tried to push the rabbi away. One time I even cursed him out and told him to get away from me and never talk to me about this stuff again.

I didn't understand that I was an alcoholic. I just knew that I had tried all kinds of ways to change and nothing worked, I couldn't stop. Alcoholic; recovery; none of these terms meant anything to me. I never thought, 'Hey, reach out for help.'

I ended up on the roof of a school in New York, six flights up, ready to jump, the only solution I knew. The principal hung with me, and trying to relate to me, told me some fabricated stories about addiction. I was angry that he was lying, and wanted to push him away, except for one thing. I remembered from my talks with Rabbi Karp, real help that was available. So I eventually let the principal talk me down. He made some calls, and connected me with a guy in the program, who brought me to my first Alcoholics Anonymous "12 step" meeting that night.

I walked in thinking 'these guys are insane.' But I was given my first copy of "Alcoholics Anonymous," known in the recovery world as The Big Book, the basic guide book for recovery from alcoholism. After the meeting two observant guys took me out to dinner, and kept a close relationship for quite a few years. They called some connections, and a week after that I was in the Chabad Rehab Center in LA, where I spent a month inpatient and another month in the halfway house. I had a long phone conversation with Rabbi Karp while I was in LA, and he kept encouraging me. I suddenly looked back at that fateful night, my rock bottom, and realized that he was the one who had planted the seeds, and really helped save my life.

As he hoped, I have definitely grown from this experience. Nothing about me is the same person, in any way shape or form. I have relapsed a few times. Every time, it was because I put my spirituality on the back burner. When I do that, everything comes crumbling down

I realize that if I keep my story to myself and try to hide it, it's not gonna help anybody, not me, and not anyone else. I've seen that when I share my story it can save lives. A neighbor reached out to me when he hit rock bottom, only because he knew about my



Mendy and Ariella Schoenes

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story: a real person that he knew had been there and pulled out of it. Today he is in solid recovery. And maybe re-telling my story here will end up saving someone else's life."

And now for the happy ending/beginning:

"If it wasn't for how recovery has changed me overall as a human being, I would not be the type of a person who would be able to be married, or to find someone as special as my wife, who is focused on what is deep and real."

Contact Mendyschoenes@gmail.com for additional support

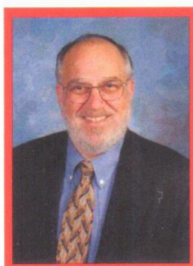
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SENIORS

AWAKENING MEMORIES, SUSTAINING IDENTITY

By Janyce Katz

Covid has taught us all: isolation is painful.

Seniors, vulnerable after a lifetime of working and giving, especially need connection.

Some are isolated geographically.

Some suffer the ravages of Alzheimer's: isolated from their own selves.

Caring companionship, a touch of Jewish warmth, stirring memories, sometimes can work wonders.

Lou Katz, of blessed memory, was one such man. A warm, engaging Cincinnati native, Lou lived in his Roselawn home until 2011.

His daughter Janyce shares some memories of her father: "Before Alzheimer's, Louis had been a creator of advertisements. He loved being around people. He always had a joke or a story. He could walk into a room of conservatives and be arguing as a liberal or walk into a room of liberals and argue as a conservative. He just enjoyed the argument itself and the responses of others.

"But, when the Alzheimer's started, he became more isolated. He would go to the store with his wife Ida, and, bless her heart, she let him drive while she directed. Thankfully, no one was hurt," she recalls. When Ida died in 2008, his daughters Janyce and Sandy (S. Lee Manning) were hesitant to move him from his familiar home, so supported him with around the clock help and frequent visits. In 2011 the sisters moved him to NJ, where he died in September 2014.

Janyce describes her Dad's Jewish identity. "He didn't attend synagogue regularly after his Bar Mitzvah, but was a proud Jew. In his youth he had studied with Rabbi Eliezer Silver. Lou's mother was the Sisterhood President of Kneseth Israel, Rabbi Silver's synagogue, where Lou had his Bar Mitzvah.

"Dad once worked someplace where someone made a few anti-semitic cracks about him. He waved his baseball bat around and never was bothered again. He was drafted for either the Cincinnati Reds or the Pirates farm team about the time WWII was starting. He never played professional ball because he hurt his back during his army service. He did, however, pitch for Ohio State after the war ended.

"Somehow, Rabbi Yaakov Karp found out about my dad and started visiting him early in 2009. Rabbi Karp's visits became incredibly important to him. Rabbi Karp talked with Lou and made him feel as if he was still a person with a working mind. Lou would say that he and the Rabbi had a great discussion about Judaism. Then, he started saying that Rabbi Karp was his rabbi. He would remember Rabbi Karp's visits for much longer than he remembered other visitors. I think this was because Rabbi Karp treated him as if he was 100 percent healthy and engaged seriously with him.

"Lou had been intelligent, well-read and had closely followed issues, politics and sports. By the time Rabbi Karp had come into the picture, Lou had moved beyond the moments of realizing that he was losing his identity and understanding of the world. He basically lived in his mind with ghosts of dead relatives appearing to him and sometimes even mistaking a daughter for one of these long dead people.

But, his discussions with Rabbi Karp kept him closer to reality, because Rabbi Karp validated him as a human being and acted as if whatever they were talking about made perfect sense and was absolutely significant information shared by a fellow person. When he was moved to New Jersey, he lost that meaningful contact.

"Dad was a combination of outgoing and quiet, the life of the party and a bookworm; athletic, but also a couch potato sitting before the television set watching a sports event. He had a great sense of humor. Dad had

tremendous compassion and love, not only for all of the family, but also for all of his friends. And he had many friends. There were the guys at the gym with whom he played volleyball until he was into his 70's, his JCC buddies, the guys at the restaurant, friends from the army, friends he made when he sold them advertising and more. Even during the last few years, as Alzheimer's robbed him of more and more of his memories and personality, he never lost his concern and compassion for those he loved.

"He is missed every day. My sister and I firmly believe that Rabbi Karp's validation of our father as a human being helped him push back the disease a bit and gave him more quality time with us."

Lou's presence lives on in JEEP. The Arthur and Edith Schreiber Jewish Education Building was dedicated in honor of Lou's sister-in-law and brother-in-law, who did so much for the Jewish community and people who needed help or support, and because of the Schreiber's gratitude for JEEP's meaningful visits with Lou. The building was generously dedicated by the Samuel S. and A. Irma Cohon Memorial Foundation.



Lou and Ida, 1945



Lou in later years, suffering from Alzheimers

CHILDREN

A BAR MITZVAH TO REMEMBER

Mark's Bar Mitzvah took place about a month ago.

It was an event to remember, uniquely precious. And not because of the trappings.

The venue? The shelter at the top of French Park. Menu? Twizzlers, potato chips and cookies

Music? Heartfelt singing by the rabbi And the Bar Mitzvah boy wore? Jeans, T-shirt and sneakers.

But the smile on Mark's and his mom's faces as he said Shema, put on Tefillin and recited several Torah verses, were priceless.

Mark and his mom Danielle just moved back to a Cincinnati neighborhood after many years out of state. Danielle is a native Cincinnati and as her mom ages, she wanted to be close by. She met Rabbi Karp one Sukkos when he visited her mom to bring some of the holiday spirit and Sukkos mitzvos. Danielle's dream of giving her children a Jewish education suddenly seemed like a reality.

Danielle and Mark's Jewish involvement had been minimal. He'd been the only Jewish kid in his school. And Jewish education just seemed out of reach. But Danielle had fond memories of her times at Camp Livingston and the JCC, and tried to give her son a sense of Jewish pride and share the bits and pieces of Jewish knowledge she still remembered.

After many years, Danielle had an opportunity to bring Mark back to Cincinnati and she asked Rabbi Karp to introduce Mark to the Judaism she had heard about from her own grandfather. The rabbi started at the beginning with some stories, songs, lunch at the JCC and little by little Mark began to become aware of the Jewish world.

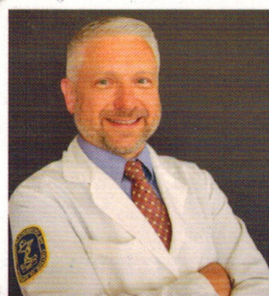
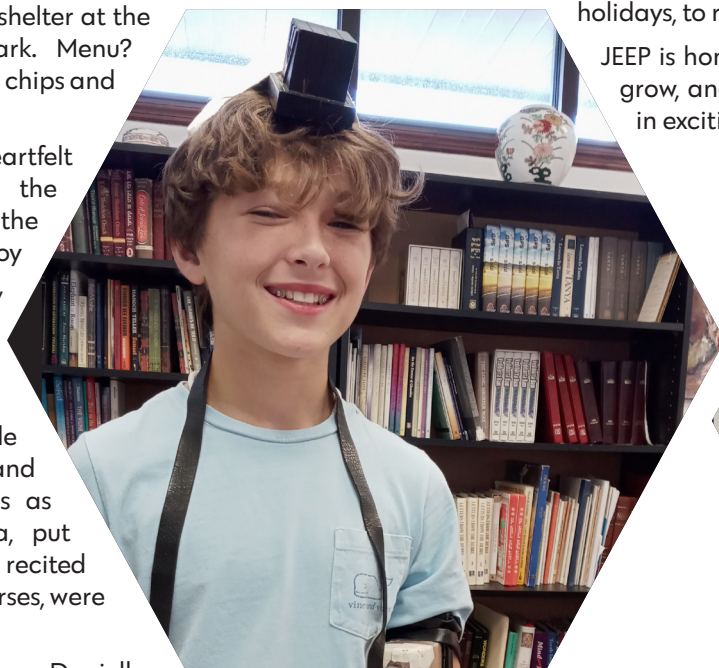
Stripped to its essence, becoming Bar Mitzvah means turning 13, the age the Torah defines as the maturity to be responsible for the fulfillment of mitzvot. And the quintessential mitzvah that a young man can't do when he's 12, but only as an adult Bar Mitzvah, is the donning of Tefillin.

So, up in the picnic shelter, with a beautiful view of the rolling

Cincinnati hills, Mark celebrated his new manhood, as well as his growing connection with his meaningful heritage. He was excited to put on the tefillin and said, "This feels really special. It's so cool!" The rabbi shared some explanations and stories.

Mark's Jewish education has only just begun. They continue to meet periodically for stories, learning about and celebrating holidays, to rap and to wrap (tefillin.)

JEEP is honored to help Mark's Jewish identity deepen and grow, and looks forward to seeing it continue to blossom in exciting ways.



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CREATE YOUR JEWISH LEGACY

MEET MARCIE COHEN, LEGACY TEAM LEADER

JEEP is honored to welcome Marcie Cohen to the JEEP board as our Legacy Team Leader. A vivacious, friendly businesswoman, tennis and fitness aficionado, Marice is a busy woman.

Why are you carving out the time to help JEEP grow its legacy program?

I love the passionate work and services that JEEP does for our community.

How did you learn about JEEP?

The Headlights publication exposed me to all that JEEP does and

how necessary their work is.

Is there something about Legacy giving in particular that interests you?

I was first introduced to Legacy gifting while in the Life Insurance Business. I was always touched when an individual assigned a Life insurance benefit to an organization. As a newly elected JEEP board member, The Legacy Team Leader position felt like a necessary and good fit for me.



Marcie Cohen

The Legacy Circle



We salute and thank our dedicated partners for supporting JEEP through the Create Your Jewish Legacy program:

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Create Your Jewish Legacy

Marcie Cohen, Team Leader

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Why we Raise Money

These uncertain times underscore and highlight that investing in Family and Community continues to be the very best way forward. Supporting JEEP during this New Year season will continue to grow our organization for years to come.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT JEEP

CLASSES BY PHONE, ON ZOOM OR IN PERSON, CONDITIONS PERMITTING:

Daily, any time Chassidic stories: <http://www.shiurenjoyment.com/rabbi-yaakov-karp/>

Monday-Friday 5:55-6:25 AM: Early start Chassidic insights

Sunday 10:AM Jewish law and Chassidic philosophy

Sunday 6-7:00 PM How to serve G-d with our mind, heart and action

Monday 7-8:00 PM The Seven Laws of the Children of Noah

Tuesday 7:00-8:00 PM Torah basics for every person

Wednesday 1:00 PM Torah portion of the week

Wednesday 7:00-8:00 PM Open Jewish Recovery Meeting

Thursday 7:00-8:00 PM Women's Parsha class

Please contact JEEP for details: jewisheducate@gmail.com or 513-307-2386 call or text

IN TRIBUTE:

Dan Rozin

The JEEP family mourns the passing of Daniel Jay Rozin, on June 23, 2021, age of 66, after valiantly battling a lengthy illness. Dan was a beloved community member and dedicated JEEP advocate. He served on JEEP's board for many years, lending his support and quiet wisdom.

Dan, a proud veteran and Cincinnati native, was beloved for his sweet generous nature, upbeat spirit and gentle humor. He took an active interest in the families in the community that he befriended. He was a dedicated Torah student, always asking questions, reading, growing and learning. He donated his personal library to JEEP, and we are honored to have Dan's legacy and gentle spirit enrich all who use these wonderful resources. May his memory be for a blessing



The Wolf and Goldstein Jewish Recovery Library

This book was bequeathed by

Dan Rozin, may he rest in peace

לעילוי נשמת

דניאל יוסף בן אברהם ע"ה

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JEEP NEWS

Better Together

As things continue to open up (hopefully!) and people start to gather in person, JEEP is thrilled to do the same. Zoom is a great tool, but personal real-life connection means so much, especially to our friends who tend to be more isolated because of their challenges.

Lighting up with Lag B'Omer

Our annual Lag B'Omer BBQ and Bonfire seemed a great place to start. Gathering outdoors with social distancing, we were so happy to see each other and enjoy a hearty meal. A drizzle kept the Bonfire on hold, but not till catching up, words of inspiration and proper celebrating took place.

Sober Shabbos

A socially-distanced, spaced around the table, Sober Shabbos was shared and enjoyed. Just being together was delightful, and greatly appreciated by all. The warm Cincinnati Jewish Recovery community has persevered over Zoom, but we look forward to continued get-togethers as the mandates and conditions permit.

In the meantime, continued personal and Zoom classes, with lots of one on one support and visits continue full steam ahead.



126

Number of Rosh Hashanah Dinners Jeep gifted this year to individuals and families in need



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*Wishing you a good and sweet new year,
overflowing with blessings of health, happiness,
peace and prosperity*

Rabbi Yaakov Karp
Executive Director

John Stillpass
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Marcie Cohen
Legacy Chair

David H. Gershuny
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Executive Committee

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HEALING

ENGAGING WITH BLESSINGS

Bringing joy and connection to the ill and to isolated seniors has been an important JEEP activity.

George Stewart, a resident of the Kenwood by Senior Star is a long time, valued friend that Rabbi Fuss enjoys visiting.

"George is a kind and sweet man," Rabbi Fuss says. "I've really enjoyed getting to know him. He can't always communicate that clearly, but I do know about his great interest in trains and locomotives."

Mr. Stewart comes to JEEP's bi-monthly Shabbat and holiday gatherings. The residents enjoy a warm story, songs, learning about the relevant points about the upcoming holiday or season, and participating in related mitzvot, such as hearing the shofar, lighting

the menorah, sitting in a sukkah, shaking the lulav and esrog.

"Annette DeCamp, the activities director, is an amazing support. She always makes sure a beautiful Shabbos party is set up, with candles, grape juice and challah. Mr. Stewart will say the blessing along with me, and really engage during these special Friday afternoon sessions.

"George sometimes seems quiet, but he really responds when memories are touched. You can see how much it means to him, and that he really enjoys being there and part of it. On several occasions a mitzvah experience touched him deeply and he cried with happiness," Rabbi Fuss related. "It's exciting to see him engage so fully."



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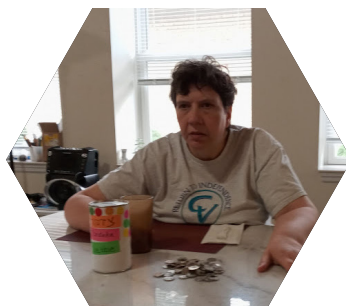
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INDIVIDUALS WITH DIFFERENT ABILITIES



L to R: Sue, Amy, Paul and Debbie working on the Tzedaka Project



Becky, a regular Tzedaka participant



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GIVING WITH GUSTO

Giving tzedaka/charity can be a fun and meaningful group activity. Many people think of it as writing a check for a favorite organization. Which is, of course, one excellent way to give tzedaka.

But the daily giving of a few coins into a tzedaka can or box is a very visceral, tangible way of giving. You hold the coin, insert it in the slot, have to let it go, and hear the resounding clink as it hits the bottom of the tin. Taking the time in the midst of the day to think of another in need, and actually having to give away a coin, can in some ways feel more real than the more abstract way of writing a check.

JEEP has been involved with the wonderful Halom House residents for over 15 years, starting in their original home on Section Road in Roselawn, and continuing in the Blue Ash home. We enjoy bi-weekly crafts, a weekly Friday afternoon Shabbos party, and a weekly drumming circle. Giving tzedaka, putting a few coins in the tzedaka box and singing a song about this important mitzvah, is a cornerstone part of our gatherings. Paul is the self-appointed tzedokah shamesh/manager and proudly offers to distribute coins to each resident and waits patiently as they insert it into the slot.

Two cans were recently filled, and another exciting activity took place. The residents opened up the can, poured it out on the table, counted up the money (approximately) and had a discussion about where they should donate it to.

"What about American Red Cross? They do good work."

"I'd like to give the money to the JCC. We go there every week."

Other organizations were suggested as well until a consensus was reached to send half of the money to the Red Cross and half to the JCC. And now the charity boxes are beginning to fill up again.

We appreciate the gusto of this giving, and look forward to doing many more meaningful mitzvahs with these delightful friends.



Dr. Richard Cohen

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JEEP brings some Jewish New Year joy and a delicious rosh Hashana dinner to two happy sisters, approximately 90 years old, residents of Kenwood by Senior Star



Rabbi Karp
exchanges
Rosh Hashanah
greetings with
a resident of
Wellsprings-
Evergreen who
also received a
delicious Rosh
Hashana dinner.



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