

The Village News

9 Nisan 5780 | April 3, 2020



Shabbat Shalom

Chesed and Rachamim leads to Brightness and Love during Pandemic of 2020

I've noticed these past few weeks of social distancing, any chance my neighbors have to say hello, to smile, wave is happening 100X more than just a few weeks before. These troubling times have reminded people of the basic human needs for kindness and compassion. Treating people with chesed, kindness is something that should come naturally within a human being, but for many, the stresses of life may move acts of kindness to the back burner. The rabbis teach the Yetzer HaRah (evil inclination) which battles the Yetzer HaTov (the good inclination) on a daily basis. This is a healthy human exercise of what it takes to be a kind

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

As we all work hard to adjust to the Pandemic, I would like to extend my gratitude to:

Activities: for continuing to be creative in finding ways to entertain residents

Nurses, STNAs, and MSAs: for continuing to be dedicated to their work every day, and embracing the continuous changes

Department Managers: for being a good support for their teams to lean on, for keeping current with applicable

information and initiating discussions on what pertains to our campus practices from press conferences, ODH, CDC and CMS updates.

It makes my day to see staff laughing and have fun at work, and that is a result of everyone working together through this time.

Kim Fullerton

Administrator, Wexner Heritage House, Creekside, Cottage



Volunteer Spotlight

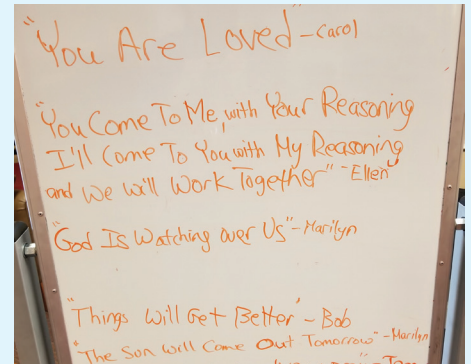
A huge shout out goes to Alyssa Russell of JewishColumbus, who along with her community partners, recruited over 100 volunteers to send Passover cards and make phone calls to our residents while their families cannot visit. What a mitzvah! Little Hannah Kaplan is hard at work making her cards extra special. ♥



SEEN IN THE VILLAGE



Painting class at Creekside



Sharing messages of hope at the Cottage



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Chesed and Rachamim (continued)

and independent person.

My mother in law used to say, "No one can do, what you can do to yourself." Meaning, we get into trouble because we forget to act compassionately towards ourselves and others. If we were to remember to be empathetic more often, some situations in our lives just may turn out differently! The importance of the values of compassion, dedication, and benevolence are so important, they appear multiple times in set daily Jewish prayer.

The Talmud reminds us of Rabbi Hillel's famous teaching:

A person came to him saying that he would convert to Judaism if Hillel could teach him the whole of the Torah in the time he could stand on one foot. Rabbi Hillel replied, "What is hateful to yourself, do not do to your fellow man. That is the whole Torah; the rest is just commentary. Go and study it." (Talmud Shabbat 31a). This idea of treating one's neighbor with kindness has biblical roots. It is found in the Torah describing the mitzvah; to love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18), which Rabbi Akiba described as the essence of the Torah.

Thus, during these days of unprecedented caution, life and death situations, loss of jobs, unusual closeness with our families and neighbors, if we go back to the very basic human need to be loved, to treat others with chesed and rachamim, kindness and compassion, we are doing what we are meant to achieve all along. May this Shabbat bring us closer to the people we love and live close to. By showing our neighbor, our families, and ourselves compassionate acts of goodness, only the best can be seen from this unusual and difficult Pandemic of 2020. Ken Yehi Ratzon, May this be G-d's will.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Debbie Lefton

Why is this Passover different than other Passovers?

At Wexner Heritage Village our plans for Passover have been underway for months and months. We pay close attention to detail concerning every aspect of Passover observance. In terms of the menu for special Yom Tov, holiday meals, Chef Mark Grant has worked closely with our team to create special upscale meals for Passover with special traditional touches. Activities has been planning seating charts, activities and Happy Hours to reflect Passover themes and requirements. Rabbi Epstein has been working with staff to clean and kosher for Passover, change dishes, and selling chametz to ready our kitchens.

There is nothing like having a whole community in our dining room at WHV sharing in rituals of the Hagaddah, reading different sections, laughing and singing together. We have modified our plans this year but know that our hearts are linked to each other. Our seniors, with their incredible wisdom, recognize the weight of the importance of social distancing at this time. Our elders are inspiring teachers as they model for our community what it means to follow the directives of the government and national health organizations. Your spirit of kindness and strength is inspiring! We all so look forward to future gatherings to be together socially, emotionally, and spiritually. We will not ever take moments together for granted!

May we not lose sight of the importance observing the festival of Pesach. We will celebrate, we will tell our story, we will taste the matzah, the maror, the charoset, and we will be with each other (even with distancing) in our hearts and souls. May we continue to celebrate even if modified, even if different, even if we are not at the seder table as we anticipated. We are forever connected to our history, by the Torah, by our faith as we all recline together, as one people all around the world. Chag Pesach Sameach, may this year have beauty and joy and deep meaning as we create new stories of celebration and renewal every moment of every day.

לשנה הבאה בירושלים,

"Next Year in Jerusalem!"

*Passover Sameach,
Rabbi Debbie Lefton*

THANK YOU

A big thank you to the family of a Heritage House resident who sent meals for the team, saying she is "thankful for the angels at Wexner for taking care of her mother!" Much appreciated!

And to the surprise lunches donated by Raising Cane's! That was one happy break room this week!



A volunteer brings her dog to visit at the Cottage.

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