

CONNECTIONS

News and information for a Jewish community that includes individuals with disabilities and special needs

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Kids Find Year-Round Success through Summer Quest Camp

By Patti Murphy

As Quest Camp prepares for its fourth summer in Pittsburgh, its young participants are collectively making tremendous strides every day because of what they learn through this unique therapeutic day camp experience.

Held at the Community Day School, Quest Camp serves children ages 6 to 18 who are coping with mild to



moderate social, emotional and behavior challenges associated with conditions such as attention

deficit disorder, anxiety, depression and autism spectrum disorders. With its emphasis on structured activities, positive reinforcement, making personal choices, belonging and improvement, the camp is growing in popularity.

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Jane Yahr named 2015 Shore-Whitehill Award recipient

By Debbie Friedman



This year, **Jane Yahr** has been selected as the recipient of the Shore-Whitehill Award. The award is presented to a volunteer who champions and promotes inclu-

sion of people of all abilities in the Jewish community. Verland, a non-profit organization that partnered with Jewish Residential Services to develop a new group home in Squirrel Hill for three young men with disabilities, nominated Mrs. Yahr for the award.

For at least a decade, Mrs. Yahr has had a very special interest in creating housing options for young adults with disabilities in the Squirrel Hill so that they can remain a part of Jewish life when it comes time to leave their family homes.

"One day, more than ten years ago, I was sitting in a coffee shop with a friend," she recalled. "My friend has a son with a disability who was in his late teens at the time and we were talking about what happens to people like him once they reach adulthood. I was astonished to learn that there were no residential options for young adults with serious disabilities within the Jewish community. We mused about how wonderful it would be to find a way to change that." For Mrs. Yahr, that conversation became more than idle musing. As a trustee of the Solomon and Sarah Goldberg Memorial Endowment, she played a significant role

in funding the purchase of the beautiful group home established last year through a Verland-JRS partnership, the Solomon and Sarah Goldberg House. Her contributions did not stop at the financial. Late last summer, as the house was being refurbished to meet licensing standards and to be comfortable for the three young men about to move in, Mrs. Yahr mobilized her personal friends, neighbors to the home, and fellow congregants from Beth Shalom to help. They contributed important household items, games and a large Sukkah to help celebrate the upcoming holidays. Mrs. Yahr and her friends hosted a lovely celebration during Sukkot to welcome the Goldberg House and its residents into the neighborhood, marking the first steps toward assuring the inclusion of the three young men into the life of the Jewish community. This special circle of friends Mrs. Yahr brought together continues to have an interest in the home and to reach out to its residents.

The Goldberg House is now well established, but Mrs. Yahr knows the community needs have not yet been met. She remains actively interested in advocating for additional housing for young adults with disabilities and she continues to be a role model for volunteerism and the promotion of inclusion of people with disabilities in Jewish community life.

Deborah Friedman is the executive director of Jewish Residential Services.

About Connections

Connections newsletter is published by a consortium of six agencies with the mission of encouraging, supporting and recognizing the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of Jewish life in the Pittsburgh community. *Connections* also provides information about a wide range of resources for individuals with disabilities and their families.

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The Rabbi's Message:

Struggle and Growth

By Rabbi Eli Seidman

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

—Frederick Douglass



In the Book of Genesis, we read an enigmatic passage. Jacob, about to return to his home and confront his brother Esau, encountered an angel with whom he wrestled.

Jacob was victorious in his wrestling with the angel. Afterwards, G-d told him his name would be changed to Israel "because you have struggled with the Divine and with man and have succeeded" (32:29).

In context, this statement alludes to the fact that Jacob struggled with his brother Esau and his uncle Laban. Nevertheless, he was able to maintain his religious identity and establish a family. This was quite an achievement because his brother wanted to kill him in his anger over the birthright, and his uncle tried many times to manipulate and to cheat him.

But Jacob remained faithful to his values and earned a new name. "Israel" means "struggle".

In our context, we see this whenever we work with students, who struggle to learn and to achieve. I have watched my own children grow up and become adults. There were many times that they tried, failed and had to learn from their mistakes. These inevitable growing pains reminded me of the way that a crab grows.

Crabs do not grow like most animals. Since they have a hard shell that does not grow, they must shed their shells. Just as we outgrow our clothes, crabs outgrow their shells.

As people, we often must cast off old paradigms and ways of thinking to make way for new ones. This process is difficult. We often resist change because the growing pains are uncomfortable. But the process is necessary in order to evolve.

At JRS, we combine our strengths with others in the group to help each other. We are able to achieve more when we do things together. We are interdependent and support each other through the struggle and the growth that comes along with it. One loving G-d has created us all. Like children in a family, we support each other and help each other to succeed.

May G-d continue to help all of us to work together with our brothers and sisters. May G-d continue to bless our efforts with success.

Shalom u'vracha – peace and blessings,
Rabbi Eli Seidman

Rabbi Seidman is director of pastoral care for the Jewish Association on Aging. He is also a member of Jewish Residential Services' Judaic committee. In that role, and as a Jewish education teacher for JRS staff and program participants, he leads many of the agency's holiday celebrations.

Israel's Krembo Wings Movement Embraces Children of All Abilities

By Sue Linzer

More than 170,000 children across Israel cannot play outside, join their friends on the playground, or take part in youth movements with their peers. Those children have special needs stemming from a variety of disabilities, and the overwhelming and unnatural social isolation they face each day is often more difficult to bear than living with the disability itself.

Krembo Wings offers a welcome alternative for these children. The one-of-a-kind youth movement provides weekly social activities for young people with mental and physical challenges and their typical peers. The organization has numerous branches across Israel serving more than 700 young people, ages 7 to 21, from all cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, through a grant from its Overseas Funding Committee, supports the Karmiel branch of Krembo Wings. "We are delighted to support this innovative and much-needed program in Israel. Krembo Wings is the example of how we should all strive to live—working together, supporting each other, and having fun together, without the barrier of a disability or special need," says Josh Resnick, who chairs the committee.

Established in 2002, Krembo Wings is the creation of Adi, a remarkable 16 year-old girl, and Claudia Koby, the mother of Kfir, a young boy with cerebral palsy. While volunteering as a "big sister" to Kfir, Adi knew that Kfir had no framework for social



interaction outside of school hours and saw the consequential isolation he experienced. As a parent, Claudia naturally shared that concern. Seeing no reason for a child with special needs not to have a social life, friends and games to play, Adi and Claudia set out to make all of that possible and Krembo Wings was born. The name, chosen by Claudia, is taken from Krembo, the name of a popular Israeli candy.

The mission of Krembo Wings is to enable children living with any type of motor, cognitive or sensory disability to take part in enjoyable social interactions with each other and their able-bodied peers — and for the resulting friendships to become part of community life.

While Israel has a strong culture of youth movements with the Israeli Scouts and similar groups drawing a combined total of more than 300,000 active members, Krembo Wings is the only one known to be accessible to youth with severe special needs. Its goal is to open a branch in each city and town so that every young person with special needs throughout the country has the opportunity to join.

Participation is potentially life-changing. All week long, members can be found enjoying games, arts and crafts, music, drama and discussions together during sessions held at the Krembo Wings branches. "Together" is the key word. By expanding their social circles, participants develop self-confidence while gaining autonomy and independence from their families and caregivers, an important part of life that most people

take for granted. Session activities are carried out with the assistance of more than 2,000 youth counselors, aged 14 to 18, who learn the values of volunteering and leadership through their role.

"At Krembo Wings, everybody can. Blind children can see, mute children can shout, children in wheelchairs can jump and everybody can laugh and have fun," said Michael, a youth counselor at the Jerusalem branch. "Krembo Wings is a wakeup call for our community. Special needs children are no longer invisible."

Respite is available during branch sessions, giving parents an opportunity to care for themselves and other members of the family. Krembo Wings provides transport to and from sessions for participants with special needs. A qualified nursing care worker provides hygienic assistance at each branch.

Krembo Wings also offers a comprehensive training program and ongoing supervision for its youth counselors, an annual three-day summer camp for members and their families, and day trips for all members. The organization runs campaigns promoting the inclusion of people with special needs in community life.

Sue Linzer is the associate director of planning and director of overseas operations at the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh



Summer's Coming: Time to Plan a Trip!

By Linda Marino

Do you like traveling, sightseeing and exploring new places? Would you even like to venture to Europe, Hawaii, or other faraway destinations? How about a day trip in the tristate area, or a simple night of dancing and socializing? Most people would respond to at least one of these questions with a resounding "Yes!"—people with disabilities included.

There are a number of options for such individuals to consider when it comes to planning trips that will meet their needs in terms of accessibility, accommodations and having fun.

Lori Seligman usually turns to Exceptional Adventures, a McKees Rocks-based non-profit organization and self-described "travel agency for people with special needs who want to make new friends and see the world," according to its marketing materials. She feels comfortable taking all-inclusive trips booked through the organization because they are fun and very structured. An Exceptional Adventures traveler for more than 20 years, Lori especially enjoys its inexpensive day trips. Paid staff who accompany the guests are well-trained, well-dressed and extremely helpful, she said.

One staff person is assigned to three travelers per trip, providing assistance in a variety of ways—accompanying someone to the restroom, pushing a wheelchair, guiding someone who is blind in unfamiliar geographic areas, or as a sign language interpreter, for example. Staff also make sure that special dietary needs are met, and administer medications and insulin.

Travelers must have good self-care skills and are not permitted to leave the group to explore on their own.

In addition to day and overnight trips, clients also have opportunities to go dancing (there are teen and adult dances) or to other social events with the supports needed for an enjoyable experience.

If you want a more community inclusive experience, those with disabilities have options now that did not exist years ago.



Motels offer handicap parking, automated door openings, wheelchair-accessible rooms with wide entrances and bathroom doorways, roll-in showers, and many such amenities. Tripadvisor advises those who need accommodations on an upcoming trip to speak directly with hotel staff ahead of time and take good notes, carefully writing down all confirmation numbers. It is important to reconfirm the reservation before the travel date and check out the room before checking in. Make sure the hotel shuttle is accessible. If accommodations are not as promised, find out how the hotel plans to meet your needs. Kindly ask questions. Is a more accessible room or alternate transportation available?

Here's an interesting scoop: Travel Weekly reports that Las Vegas has more accessible hotels than any city in the country and a very accommodating transportation system.

Airline travel can bring concerns about boarding the plane, seating space and using the bathroom among other issues. Travel agents serving individuals with disabilities throughout the United States generally give high marks to domestic carriers for their efforts to accommodate this population. Federal law offers some protection. The Air Carrier Access Act, for instance, requires airline personnel to attend training programs in accommodating travelers with special needs. United Airlines' Autism Inclusive Resources (AIR) program is an example.

For folks who prefer taking the train, Amtrak has a 15% companion discount

for a person traveling with someone with disabilities.

Whether traveling alone, with a companion or a family member, careful planning is the key to a successful trip. Go on the internet to double check your plans and be sure that your flight, train, hotel and sights you plan to visit have the accommodations you need. Most of all, have fun with the planning as well as when you arrive at your destination.

I asked Lori, who lives at Kramer Hall in Squirrel Hill, what she likes best about her trips. She smiled and said, "Meeting new people, doing something different, and coming home!"

I would heartily agree!

Linda Marino is the critical/special needs coordinator at Jewish Family & Children's Service of Pittsburgh. She is also a seasoned traveler.

Resources:

To learn more about Exceptional Adventures, visit www.exceptionaladventures.com or call 412.446.0713.

Read more about United Airlines' AIR (Autism Inclusive Resources) program here: <https://hub.united.com/en-us/news/company-operations/pages/united-helps-autistic-children-and-their-families-fly-friendly.aspx>

For more information on The Air Carrier Access Act, visit <http://airconsumer.dot.gov/rules/382short.pdf> or www.disabilitytravel.com/airlines/air_carrier_act.htm for a summary.



The Friendship Circle bids congratulations and good luck to its high school seniors

By Rachael Shockey

This spring, The Friendship Circle celebrates an exciting milestone with 47 of its active participants: high school graduation. Many of these young people have been building community with The Friendship Circle since it was founded in 2006 by Rabbi Mordy and Rivkee Rudolph. The class of 2015 shared special memories and their plans for the future in reflective essays they submitted to The Friendship Circle staff. Here are some highlights:



"Friendship Circle gave me my first surprise birthday party. It was awesome," recalled **Brendan Clancy**, a graduate of City Connections East, who has been a member of The Friend-

ship Circle for nine years and volunteers at the office weekly. Because of the people he's met there, Brendan feels more connected. He wrote, "When I am out in the community I see friends from Friendship Circle and it's great. I have a place where I belong, I fit in and get to be me and it has made my world so much bigger and better."

Brendan's parents Ellen and Tom expressed appreciation for the community exposure and integration he has experienced. "Graduation is significant to Brendan as it celebrates years of hard work and dedication, as it would for any graduate," Ellen said. "But Brendan is fortunate to be surrounded by caring friends from The Friendship Circle to give him that sense of community recognition that he so rightly earned but would not have otherwise."



Rachel Herskowitz, a senior at Taylor Allderdice, reflected on the ways her three years of participation at The Friendship Circle taught her responsibility and shaped her adult self.

"I have learned how to be a good role model," she wrote. "Friendship Circle has made me a better person because I know how to meet new people and show them around." Rachel has attended new member nights at The Friendship Circle to teach new friends about the programs, and help them feel welcomed and appreciated.



One of the primary goals of The Friendship Circle's programming is to build confidence and enhance social skills for participants of all abilities.

Jerry Rutledge, a Mt. Lebanon High School senior who has been with The Friendship Circle for six years, wrote:

"Since joining The Friendship Circle, I have become more sociable. Everyone has been so welcoming and accepting."

Jerry's mother Jackie echoed his sentiments about this environment and his participation in the programs fostering his emotional growth. "All the wonderful people at Friendship Circle welcomed and accepted Jerry into fun and rewarding programs that have helped Jerry grow as a person and become more confident, social and outgoing," she said.



Some essays focused on the importance of the strong, long-term bonds the high school seniors have made with other participants.

Emily Tracey, a senior at The Watson Institute, who has been with The Friendship Circle for four years, wrote, "I enjoy making friends at The Friendship Circle. It's nice to be around my friends and see them again at different programs."



When asked about her plans for the future, **Cece Robinson**, a senior at Fox Chapel High School and dedicated participant for eight years, wrote, "Most im-

portantly, I want to stay connected to The Friendship Circle!"

After graduation, these five young adults plan to pursue various employment and higher education opportunities in the Pittsburgh area. Cece wrote, "I hope to attend a program on a college campus someday soon. I want to live independently and have a real job in the community." Emily plans to get a job at McGuire Memorial Employment Option Center in New Brighton. Jerry will be doing job training with Goodwill. Rachel plans to enroll in a two-year job training program at City Connections. Brendan will move on from City Connections to the UPMC Vocational Training Center at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic.

On Sunday, April 19, these senior participants, along with graduates of many local high schools, were honored at The Friendship Circle's annual Friends All Around event at The Westin Convention Center. More than 600 friends, family members, school representatives, and members of the community came out to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates.

They, and everyone at The Friendship Circle, wish these awesome young individuals the best as they begin an exciting new chapter in their lives.

Rachael Shockey is the development associate at The Friendship Circle.

Hebrew Reading Instruction Including All Learners

By Vita Nemirovsky

When you think about it, Jewish tradition takes a multisensory approach to religious instruction. It tells us that as a child learns to read, the teacher covers the letters in honey, making learning sweet. The student then traces the letters, tasting the sweetness of Torah and learning. Students with and without learning needs in Pittsburgh's Jewish community have experienced that sweetness over the past two years through the Dynamic Vision for the Active Study of Hebrew (DVASH) multisensory reading program.

Introduced during the fall of 2013 at Beth El in Mount Lebanon, and during the fall of 2014 at the Joint Jewish Education Program that services Congregation Rodef Shalom and Congregation Beth Shalom, DVASH is becoming a catalyst for inclusive Hebrew education and reading skills improvement for all students. As the DVASH pilot center, Congregation Beth El took

the lead in developing a data collection and feedback system that shows favorable results so far among the students in first through fourth grade. Instruction is provided in fully inclusive learning environments. Leveraging this success, the Joint Jewish Education Program (JJEP) has provided its second grade teachers with DVASH training to help support young readers in their classrooms. This professional development opportunity provides teachers with a road map of how to approach as well as what to say to students who may be struggling. Teachers using DVASH share that it allows them to be more effective as reading instructors. Students whose attention to task may be limited benefit from the program's multisensory component and quick pace. With its focus on guiding the child to correct answers instead of simply giving the answers away, DVASH ultimately empowers teacher and student alike.

This is encouraging at a time when learning presents many individuals with unique chal-

lenges. According to Learning Ally, a resource for educators and parents of children with learning needs in the area of literacy, 20 percent of the general population (or one in five individuals) struggles with learning disabilities, and 70 to 80 percent are diagnosed with dyslexia. Young Hebrew students are not exempt from such statistics, for learning a new language can be a real challenge for many people, whatever their cultural background. The good news: Research tells us that early detection and a multisensory approach to reading instruction are our best tools for helping students overcome such challenges. Pittsburgh's Jewish community is most fortunate that DVASH is part of its educational toolkit.

DVASH is funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh Foundation. Please call 412.521.1101 or 412.303.8351 for more information.

In her role as special needs consultant for the Agency for Jewish Learning, Vita Nemirovsky supports DVASH teachers with professional development and classroom modeling.

Calendar

May 2014

Thursday, May 14 - 6:30 PM - dusk
Shalom Pittsburgh Spring BBQ
At: Vietnam Veterans Pavilion, Schenley Park
Sponsors: Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh's Shalom Pittsburgh
For more information, visit www.shalompittsburgh.org or email mfranzos@jfedpgh.org or call 412.992.5204.

Thursday, May 14 - 7:00 PM

Celebration of Friends
Sponsor: Friendship Circle
At: Jewish Community Center/Squirrel Hill
For more information, visit www.fcpgh.org, email info@fcpgh.org, or call 412.224.4440

Thursday, May 21

2015 Annual Meeting, Jewish Family & Children's Service
At: Rodef Shalom, 4905 Fifth Avenue (Shadyside)
Free and open to public. RSVPs are requested and may be made online at bit.ly/JFCSAM15 or by calling 412.422.7200.

Saturday, May 23 - 10 PM to

Sunday, May 24 - 1:30 AM
Tikkun Shavuot: Night of Learning
Sponsor: Agency for Jewish Learning
Jewish Community Center/Squirrel Hill

Thursday, May 28 - 7- 8:30 PM

Newcomer's Sunset Segway Tours
At: 125 West Station Square Drive (Station Sq.),

Sponsors Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh's Shalom Pittsburgh
For more information, visit www.shalompittsburgh.org or email mfranzos@jfedpgh.org or call 412.992.5204.

Sunday, May 31

Planting Day
Sponsor: Friendship Circle
For more information, visit www.fcpgh.org, email info@fcpgh.org, or call 412.224.4440



June 2015

Thursday, June 11 - 6:30-8:30 PM

Social Escape Room
At: 569 Greenfield Ave. Floor 1
Pittsburgh PA 15207,
Sponsors: Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh's Shalom Pittsburgh
For more information, visit www.shalompittsburgh.org or email mfranzos@jfedpgh.org or call 412.992.5204.

Monday, June 15

Summer Meet & Greet
For more information, visit www.fcpgh.org, email info@fcpgh.org, or call 412.224.4440

Tuesday, June 23 - 6:30-9:30 PM

Ladies Night: Terrarium Making
At: greenSinner Flower and Garden Center 5232
Butler St, Pittsburgh, PA 15201,
Sponsors: Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh's Shalom Pittsburgh

For more information, visit www.shalompittsburgh.org or email mfranzos@jfedpgh.org or call 412.992.5204.

July 2015

Thursday, July 9

Mom's Night Out
Sponsor: Friendship Circle
For more information, visit www.fcpgh.org, email info@fcpgh.org, or call 412.224.4440

Sunday, July 12

Summer Meet & Greet
Sponsor: Friendship Circle
For more information, visit www.fcpgh.org, email info@fcpgh.org, or call 412.224.4440

August 2015

Friday, August 15

Summer Meet & Greet
Sponsor: Friendship Circle
For more information, visit www.fcpgh.org, email info@fcpgh.org, or call 412.224.4440

Sunday, August 30 - 1 to 4 PM

5th Annual Apples and Honey Fall Festival
At: Anderson Shelter at Schenley Park, Oakland
Sponsors: Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh's Shalom Pittsburgh
For more information, visit www.shalompittsburgh.org or email mfranzos@jfedpgh.org or call 412.992.5204.

It combines fun with the therapeutic goals of progressing toward better emotional management and social relationships. There were 17 campers during its inaugural season in 2012, 33 in 2013 and 40 last year. Quest Camp is now a qualified extended school year program. Five area school districts—Avonworth, Fox Chapel, Shaler, the Pittsburgh Public Schools and South Allegheny—refer students. “Once they send one or two, they usually send another camper the subsequent year,” said camp director April Artz. Students may attend an afterschool version of the camp on Fridays throughout the school year.

Dr. Robert Field, the clinical psychologist and Pittsburgh native who founded Quest Camp in San Francisco in 1989, partnered with Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Pittsburgh and Squirrel Hill Psychological Services to bring it to the local community three years ago. Mrs. Artz attributes its success to the collaboration among the agencies, families and schools.

“These are some of the kids who, at school, people aren’t sure what to do with them,” said Mrs. Artz, a licensed professional counselor at JF&CS. To an outsider, they may often seem like typical children because their disabilities are hidden, she said. The reality is that they’re dealing with hard inner challenges. “A lot of times, getting them to participate (at camp) is a really big deal.”

Most end up loving it and based on Mrs. Artz’s conversations with parents and school professionals, the payoff is huge. It is apparent that students are transferring skills and strategies learned at camp to everyday activities at home and in school, she said. “They are able to sit at their desk and work, they’re not wandering around the classroom or engaging in behavior that disrupts the class.”

While there is no magic formula for achieving such outcomes, the busy and caring camp environment has a lot to do with it. Campers move through the day in approximate age groups of 6-8 years, 9-12 years, 11-14 years, and 15 years and up. Each morning brings a series of activities—from fun/interactive group therapy, to structured run-around activities and gym and playground time facilitated by counselors—that participants choose themselves.



Campers are encouraged to stick with the activities they pick to be better integrated into the camp dynamic.

Then there is a lunch break (campers bring their own lunches) followed by community outings that include swimming at Highland Park pool, visits to Frick Park’s blue slide playground and field trips to favorite Pittsburgh attractions.



Prospective campers are screened for a nominal fee to see if the program is a good fit. Each registered child is required to attend for a minimum of three consecutive weeks with a maximum of 40 campers attending per week “I think it’s important that we not grow too quickly so we can maintain the quality of the program,” Mrs. Artz said.

Steady encouragement and compliments for positive behavior are a hallmark of the camp. Students earn points for making good choices (healthy snacks, for instance) or simply acting in prosocial ways (being flexible instead of seeking their own way in difficult situations) and are awarded bonus when caught “spontaneously doing the right thing” when they may think nobody sees them, Mrs. Artz said. On Fridays, the kids visit the Camp Store where they can exchange their points for items that they request—such as action figures or gift cards to their favorite store. Those in the after-school program have two monthly store visits.

Camp Quest maintains a student-to-staff ratio of at least 10 to 2, sometimes 10 to 3, Mrs. Artz said. The staff have typically have backgrounds in education, counseling, and social work. Camp ends with a family picnic each summer.

Mrs. Artz said there is a core group of returning participants who go out of their way to make each new camper feel welcome and safe. Max Fisher is part of that group. The twelve-year-old Avonworth student likes to refer to himself as a Quest Camp veteran. His mother Heather appreciates that.

“He’s been going since day one. They bring out the best in him,” she said, promising to make the daily trip across town for years to come because of Max’s success. “If he knows you care about him, he will want to do well.” Max is not one to initiate social conversation and struggles when things do not go as he expects them to, tendencies related to an autism spectrum disorder. “He’s very concrete,” his mother said. At the same time, he is “very genuine, very good-hearted” and likes people. Quest Camp has a positive ripple effect for her son that comes out in the classroom, at home and in community settings. She replied quickly when asked for examples. Max is now more apt to try new things, ignore what bothers him and remove himself from situations he finds unpleasant. He took a big and welcome social step by politely asking a friend not to touch him.

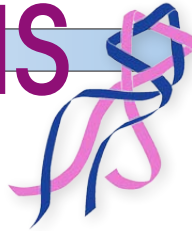
Mrs. Artz also had a ready response when asked the most rewarding part of the camp director’s job.

“I see a lot of people who leave camp with friends.”

Quest Camp 2015 runs from Monday, June 22 to Friday, August 7. Hours are 9 AM to 3:30 PM weekdays. Scholarships are available. Email aartz@jfcspgh.org or for more information call (412) 877-7528.

CONNECTIONS

News and information for a Jewish community that includes individuals with disabilities and special needs



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"Welcome everyone... with joy."
— Pirkei Avot 1:15

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GOT AN EVENT COMING UP?

Please send the event name, host organization, date, time, a brief description of the event and contact information (email/phone) to connectionsppittsburgh@gmail.com. Events considered for listing must be pertinent to Pittsburgh's Jewish and disability communities, and will be placed in the newsletter as space allows.