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In the Crown

For Friends and Neighbors of The Gladys & Henry Crown Center for Senior Living

Issue #5

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Celebrating Jewish Life

For Crown Center residents, countless opportunities exist to participate in aspects of Jewish life. Among the challenges, though, is figuring out exactly what we mean when we say “Jewish life.”

If you ask five people, no doubt you’ll get at least six answers such as religion, culture, tradition, civilization, or commandments. Jewish life, at Crown Center at least, is a little more defined. Here it means *community*.

Whether one chooses to participate in a Shabbat or high holiday service, a festive meal in the sukkah, a Chanukah or Purim party, the Yiddish Club, a mitzvah project for the needy or the kosher dining experience, all these and more can be done in connection with the Crown Center community.

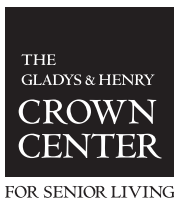
Shaare Emeth, United Hebrew, Shaare Zedek, BSKI, Reform Jewish Academy, Solomon Schechter Day School, St. Louis Hillel, Epstein Hebrew Academy, Kol Am, NCJW, as well as numerous individual and family volunteers, are among those who have chosen Crown Center as a destination to connect generational layers through Jewish programming. Crown Center’s Jewish programs are a forum for linking preschoolers, teens, young adults, college students, those in their middle years, and older adults. Open to all, these events and gatherings



Hannah Green (top, second from left) with Crown Center friends

bring together our diverse community for a deeper understanding of the many facets of Jewish life.

Hannah Green, daughter of Board member Randy Green and wife, Nancy, created “Hannah’s Friends” to involve residents with her in carrying out a community service mitzvah project to create blankets for ill children. She organized the project as part of her preparation for her bat mitzvah. Dr. Howard and Sally Goldstein of Young Israel conduct traditional Kabbalat Shabbat services once a month. Food is, of course, a big part of all Jewish life and Crown Center activities. Latkes, jelly donuts, apples and honey, hamantashen, wine,



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Our mission is a commitment to providing affordable, quality, senior living in a caring, secure and friendly atmosphere, honoring the Jewish tradition.

FROM NIKKI GOLDSTEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Build It and They Will Come

That famous line from the film *Field of Dreams* has provided inspiration for many organizations. At The Gladys & Henry Crown Center for Senior Living, it can certainly refer to the physical facilities, which currently provide housing for nearly 300 older adults. It can also refer to the number of programs and services that have been created to support seniors and their ability to live rich, meaningful, independent lives.

In both cases, we can also say “Once it is built, if it is maintained, sustained, and cared for, they will stay.” Buildings, programs, services, and a vibrant community require attention, updating, and improvements. Crown Center’s Board of Directors, staff, friends, and patrons take the challenge of building and maintaining quite seriously.

Physically, numerous projects have been completed to guarantee that Crown Center remains an attractive and well functioning home. These have included new roofs, boiler, hot water heater, and beautifully remodeled lobby and corridors in the Tallin building, which brought improved lighting, ventilation, new floor and wall coverings, and furniture. All were chosen and installed with

sensitivity to the special needs of seniors, such as low vision. Numerous bathtub “cutouts” and other accommodations for those with more limited mobility have been made. Some exterior changes to encourage residents who love to garden, or who just enjoy sitting outdoors, have done a great deal to enhance the day-to-day life of residents. Much of this is possible only because of the generosity of individual donors, who continue to invest in the vision and mission of Crown Center.

Significant grants from The Trio Foundation of St. Louis, the Mildred Simon Foundation, and a family wishing to remain anonymous will also make possible major renovations to the dining and

multipurpose rooms. This project will improve the function and aesthetic enjoyment of the kosher dining site and a variety of other gatherings held there.

We are fortunate to have building patrons who are investing in Crown Center. Recent contributions have included funding of the

open-air gazebo by the family of Art Monsey, a donation to the outdoor living fund by the family of Della Epstein, remodeling of the beauty salon in memory of Molly Bell, sponsoring monthly birthday celebrations with the establishment of the Martin & Ethel Wishnuff fund, providing cultural events with the newly established Marie Chused

Fund, and ongoing physical fitness programs with the Lucy & Stanley Lopata Exercise Fund.

On page 3 of this newsletter you will learn how the Chused and Borowsky families are helping us build for the future. Endless support from the Benjamin Tallin Program Fund, the Gladys K. Crown Fund, the Lawton Foundation, the Messing Family Fund, and hundreds of individuals participating in the annual FRIENDS campaign, build our capacity to achieve excellence in serving senior adults.

These donors are not only building a place for people to feel proud to call home, but are also truly fostering the hopes, dreams, and dignity of our elders.



Patti Wolkowitz (center) sponsor of the Marie Chused Fund with Joe Chused and Merle Miller.

Caring Couples Launch Crown Partners

Chuseds and Borowskys Ensure the Future of Crown Center for Senior Living

Joseph Chused's connection with Crown Center dates back 50 years when his late wife Marie and a group of women at NCJW came up with the concept of building The Delcrest. Marie became president of the Board and devoted her life to this project now known as The Gladys & Henry Crown Center for Senior Living's Tallin Building.

Les Borowsky was one of the board presidents during the second phase of Crown Center's development: fundraising and the application process to HUD for construction of the Weinberg Building. He remains an active Board member. Wendy, Les's wife, has been a supportive partner, adding to the success of the center.

Joe believes it's important that the legacy of the Crown Center continues. "Crown Center is a success story. People living here are happy, Marie and I decided long ago we would do something to make certain that continues. We knew of no other organization more deserving of our help and assistance," Joe said.

Wendy and Les have always been impressed by "how much residents love living at Crown Center. There are so many programs and activities that add to their lives and experiences." The couple believes the need for affordable older adult housing is on the increase.

"It is very important that we set up a secure endowment," they said, "so that Crown Center can carry out its mission to provide affordable housing for older adults." Les believes Crown Center will continue to "exceed expectations in providing the best place possible for a warm, secure, and

cares home for future generations."

Thanks to the commitment and generosity of Joseph and Marie Chused and Les and Wendy Borowsky, Crown Center will be the beneficiary of planned gifts. Taking the lead as the first "Crown Partners,"

these couples want to guarantee the future of The Gladys & Henry Crown Center for Senior Living, in the Jewish tradition of leaving a legacy that will enhance lives and preserve the world.

Their pledges are examples of *tzdekah* at a higher level: for half a century their personal involvements with Crown Center have already left a mark. These couples want to do more. They have accepted the responsibility to reach out to other generations.

The Chuseds and the Borowskys were honored at a Crown Center recognition event in June. If you are interested in ensuring the future of Crown Center, please consider becoming a Crown Partner. For more information, call Nikki Goldstein, executive director, at (314) 991-2055. ■



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and challah become part of many celebrations.

An original series at Crown Center, *The Power of Jewish Women*, attracted top-notch community educators who explored the timeless topic of Jewish womanhood from a variety of perspectives. *Unsung Heroines*, facilitated and taught by independent Jewish educator Ronit Sherwin, explored the lives of Eve, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Lilith, and the wife of Rabbi Akiva using interactive dialogue. Rabbi Max Weiman of the St. Louis Kabbalah Center discussed the hidden qualities of Queen Esther. Judaism and feminism were the focus with Esther Zimand of the Central Agency for Jewish

Education, and Jewish women and humor highlighted the session with Barbara Raznick of the Brodsky Library. Rabbi Hyim Shafner from Bais Abraham Congregation shared an interpretive painting by his mother, artist Janet Shafner, when teaching about Ruth.

"Having participated in this wonderful series, we can now find inspirational power within ourselves," said Maxine Nickerson. Residents also believe there is really no way to capture the depth of joy, warmth, and kinship felt by those sharing in the amazing bounty of these programs celebrating Jewish life, and celebrating our community. ■