

Intergenerational Volunteer Programs with Holocaust Survivors

Presented by DOROT

Sima Kelner, MSW
Coordinator of
Adult Volunteer Services



Naomi Singer, LMSW
Social Worker,
Community Services

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DOROT = “generations”



We believe:

- Visiting the Elderly is a Privilege
- Bringing the Generations Together Benefits Everybody

Program Models

Considering volunteers' scheduling needs

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Occasional Volunteering
- Seasonal Opportunities



Program Models

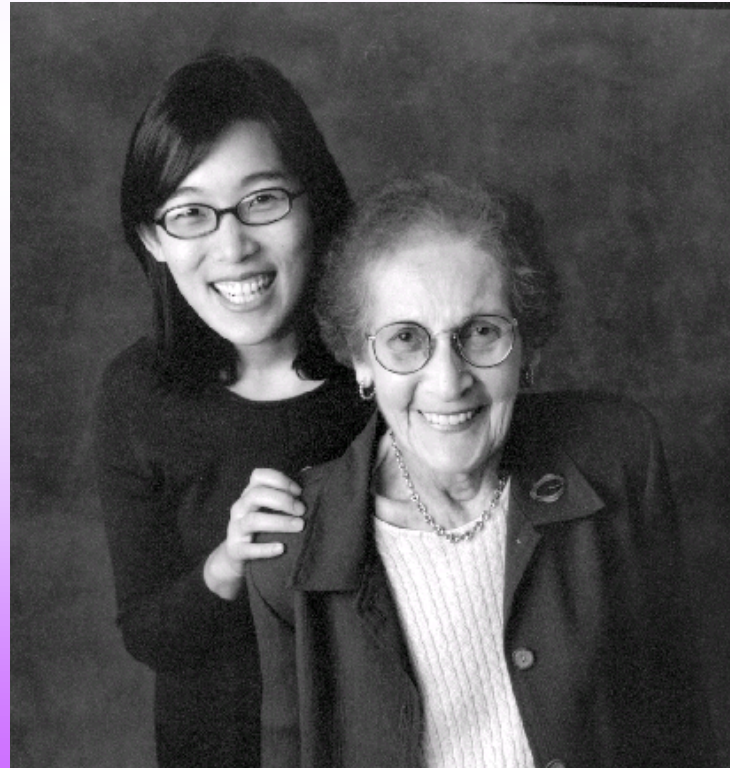
Considering volunteers' ages and stages of life

- Children
- Families
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah Programs
- Tweens
- Teens
- College
- Young Professionals
- Adults
- Older Adults



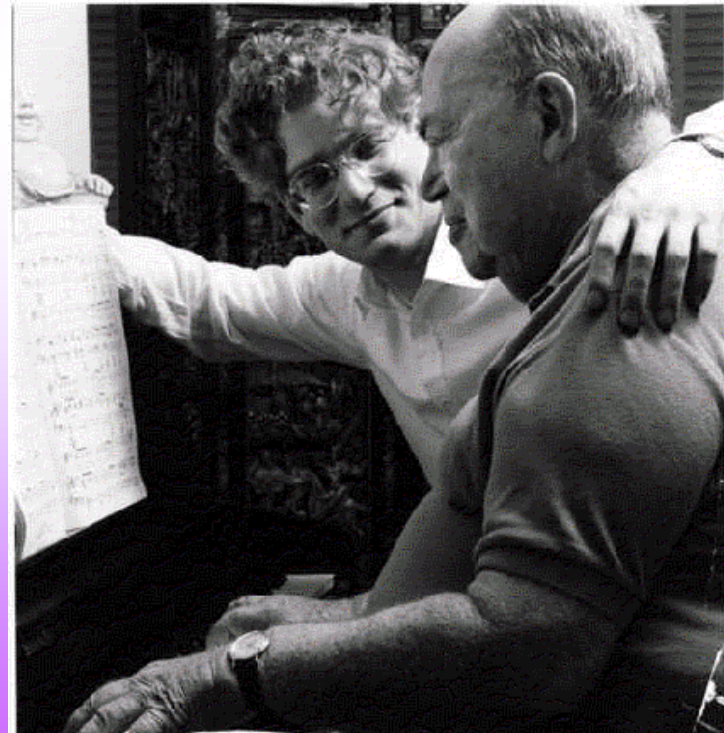
Seniors

- Assessment
- Matching
- Special Considerations



Seniors - Assessment

- Assessment / home visit required for all in-home programs
- Identify needs, strengths, interests
- How does the senior see him/herself ? What role can you see him/her in?
 - Mentor
 - Educator
 - Bubbe/Zayde
 - Recipient





Seniors - Assessment

Coding:

- What age visitors are appropriate?
- Based on senior's preferences, physical and cognitive abilities, physical environment
- Additional codes: pets, smoking, 5th floor walk-up
- Gender of visitor: based on preference, or determined by staff in some circumstances
- Consider needs of both senior and potential volunteer

Seniors - Matching

Based on:

- geography, schedule, preferred frequency and purpose of visits
- physical considerations (of home or of senior or volunteer)
- level of sociability
- interests!!





Seniors – Special Considerations

Balance of strengths and needs

- Extremely hard of hearing
- Dementia
- Emotionally labile

Survivor as Volunteer – in office, schools,
other seniors' homes

Fluidity of roles as both Client and Volunteer

Volunteer Orientation Topics

1. Understanding your role / the goal of the particular program
2. Challenges Survivors face
3. The first visit: What to expect
4. Communication
5. Gifts and Money
6. Confidentiality
7. Emergencies and Advocating
8. Endings and saying goodbye

Summary

Holocaust Survivors (assessed, interested)

+ **Volunteers of All Ages** (screened)

+ clear expectations + staff support

+ attitude of respect, flexibility, and creativity

= Meaningful,
Mutually Beneficial
Relationships

