

Notes From the Director

“The Irreverence of April”

There's a French expression *Au mois d'avril n'enleve pas un fil*. Translation: “When April comes around, resist the temptation to pack away all your winter clothes and walk around in a tee shirt with no coat or hat or you'll get a cold or even the flu which, if you're foolish enough to do this, you'll most surely deserve.” Or something like that.

So yesterday morning, which was indeed blustery and chilly, here comes Rose into the Center for exercise class, 91 years and not that many pounds, with a light sweater at best and no hat. After all, why bother with a hat when it would probably just blow away anyway? Besides, it would hide her hot new “do.” Rose chats with us for a few moments at the reception desk and then says, “Well, I guess I'll go down and jump around for a little while,” and heads down the hall to exercise.

This, dear friends, is a snapshot of the Center – sprightly energy, a bit irreverent, little respect for the dictates of weather or gravity or sensible behavior. People walk around as if they have tenure and can do or say pretty much anything they want. There is even a decided lack of proper deference to the director. And it is all very contagious. So my advice is to stay away from here if you know – or think you know - what's good for you. But if you don't know what's good for you, then by all means come – you'll fit right in. It's great good fun.

That said, I'd like to welcome you to our “new” newsletter. Apologies to those who were thrown by the reduced size of our last issue. April Fools! The truth is that we are shifting some roles and responsibilities and weren't able to pull off a full eight page issue. But we are back to our old tricks this month, albeit with some changes.

In particular I want to welcome Diana Hardina, friend and neighbor, who brings wonderful experience and creativity as our new layout editor. Consider the newsletter a work in progress, and please feel free to weigh in with constructive feedback and suggestions. We will continue to provide information on our various programs, events, and services, but we also want to make room for other voices and perspectives from our communities. Stay tuned for more about this in our next issue.

This month we have expanded our mailing list and we welcome our new readers warmly. As a way of keeping costs down while expanding our reach, we are in the process of creating an online version of the newsletter for those who are comfortable with computers and the internet. We'll be sending out a simple survey in the next issue to get a feel for those who prefer the online version.

Finally, I leave you with food for thought - a quotation from Abraham Joshua Heschel.

By what standards do we measure culture? It is customary to evaluate a nation by the magnitude of its scientific contributions or the quality of its artistic achievements. However, the true standard by which to gauge a culture is the extent to which reverence, compassion, justice, are to be found in the daily lives of a whole people, not only in the acts of isolated individuals. Culture is a *style of living compatible with the grandeur of being human*.