

Five Good Reasons Why People Who are Blind Should Own Their Own Cars Or: How To Think Mitzvahs By Danny Siegel

I. Cars for Blind People

First, we must begin with microwave ovens for blind people.

Blind people might benefit from having microwave ovens because:

1. They are safer.
2. They go “bing” when the cooking or defrosting or reheating is finished and the popcorn or soup or casserole or baked apple is ready.
3. Everyone else has microwave ovens.
4. Many new microwavable foods are coming out which allow for a wider range of nutritional benefits.
5. *Everyone* has microwave ovens.
6. It is easy to put Braille on the keyboard.
7. You don’t have to plan so far ahead, and why should blind people — just because they cannot see — have to plan their meals differently than people who can see?
8. There are probably 15 other good reasons why, which anyone can figure out if he or she just sits down and thinks about it or sits down with a friend and talks about it.

Solved by:

John Fling, Mitzvah hero, Columbia, SC, who tries to make sure his many blind friends have microwave ovens.

Who would have thought of it?

All of us.

Now, to the cars. Here are some reasons why blind people might want to own cars:

1. Everyone else has one.
2. They might need to go somewhere, and a friend or neighbor who usually drives them to that somewhere might have his or her own car tied up at that moment, and if the blind person didn’t have a car, he or she couldn’t

get to the right place at the right time. The most common example would be the friend's teen-age kid took the car out for a date or a night with friends down at the bowling alley, malt shoppe, or miniature golf course. This is by no means uncommon.

3. In case of emergency, there *has to be* an available car. It is life-saving, an issue of apb juehp-Pikuach Nefesh.

4. The blind car owner can lend the car out to someone else who needs it, just like everyone else does in similar situations. The right to lend is a matter of sucf-human dignity. The only difference is that one car owner can see and the other cannot.

5. One of the people in the audience once mentioned that this is a matter of personal property protection: when someone goes away on a week's vacation, he or she cancels the newspaper or asks the neighbors to take it off the lawn so a potential burglar won't come by and take out the TV, VCR, computer, and jewelry. If some disreputable persons cruise the neighborhood looking for a likely candidate for a break-in, if they see a car in the driveway of every house except for the one where the blind person lives, it makes the blind person a much more likely victim.

Solved by:

John Fling, Mitzvah hero, Columbia, SC.¹ He bought a car for his blind friend, Emily McKinsey (she could not afford one for herself), so she could do errands, go to the store, the movies, a picnic, anywhere she needed to go, without having to ask the neighbors to drive her around in *their* cars. It so happens he got there first, but —

Who would have ever thought of it?

Anyone of us.

II. Introduction, i.e., Conclusion

The answer to the question,

“Who would have thought of it?”

is not,

“Mr. Mitzvah Hero X or Ms. Mitzvah Hero Y.”

That is too easy an answer.

The correct answer is always,

“I would have thought of it.”

All of us could have thought of these things, these grand Mitzvah schemes, these solutions to problems, if we would only spend some time using our minds, imaginations, and talents thinking about them.

And once we *think* of these new ways to do some iueh, okug-Tikkun Olam, the next step — the critical one — is to *do* it, to make these imaginative breakthroughs happen in real life.

This article comes as a result of (1) spending time with people who think Mitzvahs and act on those Mitzvah thoughts, (2) mentioning these topics in my lectures, and (3) getting spontaneous responses from the audiences.

Read on, and see how it works.

III. Body Casts and Heart Attacks

The problem:

1. Someone, somewhere, sometime, somehow has an accident, falls, and breaks a bone in his or her back. It happens.
2. Prescribed therapy: a body cast.
3. Let's say the patient also has a bad heart.
4. And let's say that three weeks later the person has a heart attack.
5. And let's say that the average time to remove a body cast so that the emergency medical team can begin pounding the heart back to life or shooting epinephrine right into the heart muscle or using a defibrillator to give it the life-saving charge is 4 minutes and 29 seconds.
6. The result of the brain being deprived of oxygen for 4 minutes and 29 seconds: brain damage.

The solution:

1. Design a body cast that can be removed in 15 seconds.
2. Train emergency room staff to remove casts in 15 seconds just as you train people to cook extra-rich chocolate chip cookies or play clarinet or learn to become proficient at Microsoft Word 5.1 on the computer.

The result:

People who would have become brain damaged for the wrong reason, or who would have died for the wrong reason, would not have become brain damaged or died for the wrong reason. It didn't have to happen. People with brain damage and deceased human beings ought to be much fewer in number than the way things are in reality: namely, too high a percentage of people become brain damaged or die for the wrong reason, like being wrapped in the wrong body cast. The sentences are complex and convoluted, but the idea is simple — let's do all we can to prevent tragedy from happening, and let's start with simple solutions.

Solved by:

Dr. Jesse Lipnick, Rosemont, PA, Resident in Rehabilitative Medicine, who designed exactly what the patients needed: an easily-removable (15 seconds) body cast.²

Who would have thought of it?

Anyone of us.

(One would allow a certain kind of expertise on the details, but the broad strokes, the general picture — all of us could have figured this one out. In retrospect, it's so obvious.)

IV. The Mitzvah Menagerie

(Once you start on this one, there's no end.)

The Problem:

Finding ways to use animals to make the lives of human beings happier and healthier, and more fun, plus a few other ways to do some *okug iueh*,-Tikkun Olam with our furry, feathery, and scaly friends.

Bunches of Solutions:

1. Getting animals into residences for elderly people, either as part of a visiting or resident pet program. It is happening already in many old age homes. For example, Hannah Katz is a cat that lives at the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington.

The best of the best: 90 birds, 2 dogs, 4 cats, 2 rabbits, 1 rooster, many hens, plus hundreds of plants to take care of, plus an abundance visiting kids of all ages, plus a summer camp for kids *on the grounds of the residence*: Chase Memorial Nursing Home, "The Eden Alternative", Dr. William Thomas, 1-800-501-EDEN. *Of ultimate significance — and to be remembered when everything else in this article is forgotten: in less than 2 1/2 years, they have cut the quantity and cost of medications in half.* Any statistician or social scientist who would want to do a rigorous study of the relationship of pets, plants, children, etc. to a reduction of medication in old age homes is invited to start there, at The Eden Alternative.

2. Getting animals into hospitals

A. Visiting pets: Cindy Niemetz, 818-574-7194.³

B. A Pet Room, i.e., having a special room set aside so family members and friends can bring in *the patient's own pet*. (E. g., Beverly Hospital on Boston's North Shore; Dr. David Schwartz, 617-631-2540).⁴

3. Getting birds to lonely people (e.g., 317-633-7360, Carol Hutton).⁵
4. Getting videos of animal shows (*National Geographic*, *PBS specials*, *commercial movies on video*) to lonely individuals who love animals but (a) aren't well enough to care for them, or (b) are allergic to them. Bring popcorn, friends, the video, and make an afternoon or evening of it.
5. Training animals to assist individuals with disabilities —
 - A. Dogs (e.g., Canine Companions for Independence, 708-528-0830, or V/TDD 707-579-1985, Kathy Davis).⁶
 - B. Monkeys (Helping Hands, 617-787-4419, Dr. M.J. Willard).⁷
 - C. Horses (in Israel: The Therapeutic Riding Club of Israel, 08-967-705;⁸ in the United States and Canada, NARHA [North American Riding for the Handicapped Association], 1-800-369-7433).⁹
 - D. Dolphins (Clearwater, Florida).¹⁰
6. Giraffes, i.e., finding good people doing good things in this world, and who take risks while doing these good things for the benefit of others, designating them as Giraffes for sticking their necks out, and publicizing their work (The Giraffe Project, 206-221-7989).¹¹
7. Saving injured birds of prey (e.g., The Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Foundation, 303-460-0674, Sigrid Ueblacker).¹²
8. Saving all kinds of endangered species (call any animal shelter, any veterinarian, any wildlife foundation).

Solved By:

Many people whose lives and work we might want to study: Lis Hartel (founder of modern therapeutic horseback riding), Dr. Bonnie Bergin (founder of Canine Companions for Independence), Ann Medlock (founder of The Giraffe Project), and a few of the others listed above.

But we must remember, these programs had to start somewhere, sometime, had to get their first push into reality by

Some One.

Now, who would have thought of these things?

Any One of us.

V. Wheelchairs on the Beach

The problem:

Getting on to the beach — all the way to the water's edge — in a wheelchair.

The solution:

Make a wheelchair with giant, balloon-size wheels that roll easily on sand. One could, perhaps, even design easy-to-change wheels for a regular wheelchair; and, perhaps, if the person in the wheelchair doesn't want to be pushed by someone else, you could design a mechanism to allow the person to manage the wheels by himself or by herself.

Solved by:

Someone already. I have a picture of such a wheelchair, a sun-flooded picture from one of the beaches on the Maryland shore.¹³ Whoever did it simply got there before we did because —

**Who in his or her wildest imagination
would have thought of it?**

Anyone of us.

VI. Leftover Food from School Lunches

The problem:

1. The kid comes to school with a sandwich, a bag of pretzels, baggies of carrots and celery and other healthy munchies, and a big orange.
2. The kid loves the sandwich and snarfs it down, goes for the carrots and celery and orange, but decides not to eat the pretzels.
3. The kid throws out the bag of pretzels.

The solution:

1. A collection box in the cafeteria.
2. One person takes the leftovers at the end of the school day to a local shelter or soup kitchen.

The results:

1. Less food is wasted.
2. Many hungry people are less hungry.
3. Money used by shelters and soup kitchens for food can be saved for other things like job training, social workers working to find new living arrangements, computer equipment for re-training residents of the shelters, cars for transportation for people who need to get to their new jobs (whether or not they can see).

Solved by:

In a Jewish day school — four 5th graders at a Solomon Schechter Day School in Baltimore.¹⁴

In the public schools — David Levitt, a 6th grader from Pinellas County, FL, did it. From an article I read, it appears that it took less than six

weeks from the time David wrote to the Superintendent of Schools until the time the decision was made to change the school policy.¹⁵ Call him (813-398-1766) if you want to find out how to do it in your own community.

Who in his or her right mind would have thought of it?

They did.

But *anyone of us* could have.

Everyone is talking and writing about right brain/left brain performance. Perhaps it is time to talk about and write about The Right Mind and The Other Mind. The Other Mind is the one that deals with our everyday, familiar goings on. The Right Mind is the Mitzvah Mind.

Follow-up:

Once you get started with leftovers, the possibilities are everywhere....bakeries, grocery stores; the White House,¹⁶ Congress, and Supreme Court, the State Department, Treasury Department, and Pentagon dining facilities; the governor's office, the mayor's office, the city council dining room; stadiums¹⁷ and arenas; pizza parlors, greasy spoons and burger joints; university cafeterias and university Kosher eating clubs;¹⁸ hotels, motels, and resorts (we still have to do at least one Mitzvah while we are on vacation); catering halls; airlines, AMTRAK, and charter boat companies; art museum cafeterias, symphony hall cafeterias; corporate headquarters cafeterias; overnight camps, day camps, retreat and conference centers, and anywhere else there might be food and a likelihood of leftovers.

VII. Interlude: Some Historical Perspective

1. *Someone* had to be the first person to “invent” fire for heating and cooking. Now all of us take fire for granted.

2. *Someone* had to be the first person to invent a wheel. We take wheels for granted. Wheels — how could we live without wheels?

3. Along the way, Louise Braille (1809?-1852) took a previously-known system of raised dots, adapted it, and developed a method for blind people to read. Braille - we take it for granted....That's just the way many blind people read. And nobody flinches when he or she sees hearing-impaired people using sign language to carry on a simple or complex conversation. *Someone* had to invent it. Nowadays, it's just one of those “regular things” in life, just one of the ways things are.

4. Somewhere along the way someone figured that dogs could be trained to lead blind people. No one stares or flinches when a seeing-eye dog walks by with its owner.

5. Microchips. It's the same thing as fire, the wheel, Braille, and the seeing-eye dog. By using brain power, insight, imagination, people keep coming up with these astonishing breakthroughs.

6. Take, for instance, the story of Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis (1818-1865).¹⁹ In the late 1840's, childbed fever was killing mothers at a frightening rate in the hospital where he worked in Vienna. Indeed, it was happening everywhere. The joy of giving birth was being destroyed by the tragedy of the mother's death, again and again and yet again. Semmelweis urged the doctors to wash their hands. The number of deaths from childbed fever went down dramatically. Some members of the hospital staff listened to him, and some didn't. Semmelweis spent years fighting to prove his theory. He eventually died in a mental institution, driven mad by the resistance to this incredibly simple idea.

To wash their hands! What doctor in his or her right mind nowadays, what doctor who wants to keep his or her license would ever begin any medical procedure or examination without washing his or her hands?

Such a simple thing.

VIII. The Little Shampoos

The problem:

1. In any given town of 50,000 people or more, there are lying around the house at least 47,983 little shampoo bottles, hair conditioner bottles, soaps, sewing kits, shoeshine rags, shower caps, hand lotion bottles, and other tiny useful items people pick up at hotels.

2. They are just sitting there in the closet or medicine chest or in a cute little display on the sink in the bathroom.

The solution:

1. Gather all these items.

2. Distribute them to individuals on limited income through food banks, shelters, and soup kitchens.

3. Save thousands of dollars, which can be used for all kinds of things.

(See VI: The results, 3 above.)

Solved by: Elana Erdstein, Detroit, MI, age 12-13,²⁰ but —

Who would have thought of it?

Anyone of us.

IX. The Chilean Children

The Problem:

In Chile in the 1950's, for every 1,000 live births, more than 130 infants died before their first birthday.

In Chile in the 1950's, more than two-thirds of Chile's children age six and under were undernourished and, as a result, suffered some mental damage.

The solution:

Set up nutrition centers and intensive children's treatment programs throughout the country to solve this one very specific problem.

The results:

By 1992, the infant mortality rate had fallen to less than 16 deaths per 1,000 live births.

By 1992, less than 8% of Chile's children were undernourished, and those Chileans growing up are virtually free of mental disabilities due caused by hunger and undernourishment.

Since the 1960's, the average height of Chilean children is six inches greater than the children of the previous generation.

Solved by:

Dr. Fernando Monckeberg and the thousands who joined him in his work. (The title of the article²¹ about Dr. Monckeberg runs, "One man widely credited with saving Chile's children".)

Without even asking the question,

"Who would have....?"

we know that

anyone of us

could have thought of the solution. And — once we thought of the solution — we could have solved the problem ourselves, if we had the time, the energy, the guts, and the persistence to make it happen.

X. Mitzvah Clowning

The problem:

Unhappy kids, sad kids, kids whose hair has fallen out because of chemotherapy, unhappy adults, sad adults, adults whose hair has fallen out because of chemotherapy, all kinds of other sad and unhappy people in hospitals and institutions.

The solution:

Learn clowning, dress up as a clown, and go into the hospitals and institutions and make people happy.

Solved By:

Many, many clowns, including Debbie Friedmann, 301-365-4140.²²

Solution #2:

Teach clowning in the religious school. Have the graduates go into hospitals and institutions to make people happy.

Solved by:

Sweet Pea and Buttercup, 201-376-2885.²³

Follow-up:

1. Make a study of accelerated recovery rates.
2. Calculate the millions of dollars saved by earlier release from the hospital, savings in cost of medications no longer needed, reduction of hospital staff, and all other related costs.
3. Get reduced insurance rates for people, hospitals, and institutions who have clowns on staff.
4. From there, it is one easy step to solving all the medical problems in the world. Dig in: pick another area of health care and solve it, then another, then another, until health care is solved and you can move on to some other piece of okug iueh,-Tikkun Olam.

XI. The Elbow Brace:

The problem:

Someone with cerebral palsy has a problem with her arms' ability to tense and flex. Whatever it is going wrong neurologically, it is interfering with this woman's daily activities and is damaging to the person's general welfare. And it is most certainly detrimental to her sense of sucf-human dignity.

The solution:

1. Get an engineer or work groups of engineers together to talk to the woman, to take into account her human needs, and to work on the mechanical problem.
2. Figure it out and do it, do it right, and do it inexpensively.
3. Let the person with cerebral palsy go her merry way living an easier, more pleasant, and more dignified life

4. Just out of curiosity, submit the project for bids to commercial firms that develop and manufacture these devices for profit.
5. Publicize the results to make a good point about

Who would have thought of it?

Solved by:

Some graduate of Case Western Reserve University's School of Engineering, a member of the Case Engineering Support Group, founded by one Jack Daly (216-368-6045).²⁴ The purpose of the group is to solve problems exactly like the elbow brace, or, in our terms, to do some okug iueh,-Tikkun Olam — World Fixing.

1. The elbow brace designed by the Case group member cost \$16.
2. The commercial firm put in a bid for \$80,000 to design and produce a device similar to the one designed by the Case graduate.

Now, who would have thought of it?

Anyone

with a good eye for mechanics,
some training in engineering,
a fine and fine-tuned human heart,
and a little time, insight, will, good will, and will power
to make it happen.

Follow-up:

1. Think of ways to use the other \$79,984 for Tzedakah.
2. Have the engineering graduate teach the commercial firm how to do it the right way: simply and cheaply.
3. Electrical engineering students at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell are doing similar Mitzvah work: using their talents to design devices that will be of benefit to individuals with disabilities.²⁵
4. There's even a national non-profit organization called Volunteer Medical Engineering that provides all kinds of technical aid to disabled individuals.
5. IBM has a number (1-800-IBM-2133) to call if someone needs booklets listing hardware and software for people with disabilities.
6. "Handy technology" (or "universal design") is a rapidly-growing line of products. Bathroom scales with large numbers for visually-impaired people is one solution to one problem. Another is a bathtub with a door in its side, so the person doesn't have to climb over the side if his or her mobility is limited. A third example is a pill bottle that has a cap that records the time the medication was taken.²⁶

Surely, we could ask,

“Who Would have thought of these things?”

Obviously, many people are thinking of these things., and it would be good to meet some of them and learn from them

XII. Interlude #2: The Optometry of Mitzvahs

1. We ought to train ourselves to look at any given object and think, “Aha! This is how it can be used for Mitzvahs.”

A. They can be real or imagined objects, including strange looking things that just pop into our heads. They can be big or small, ugly or beautiful, normal or weird: airplanes, candy bars, erasers, trees, parking lots, inner tubes, tubes of toothpaste, the human face, old tires, bread crumbs, movie houses, gum wrappers, Karate uniforms in the closet, spatulas, balls of string, rubber bands lying around in a drawer, toothpicks and umbrellas, to name a few, each one with Mitzvah potential. Dollar bills, \$50 bills, pennies and quarters are also among those objects, of course.

B. We should exercise our Mitzvah imaginations by taking any given object and juxtaposing with any person or any situation and seeing what this proximity might yield in the way of new Mitzvahs. A particularly juicy example would be: Mitzvah Manicures, i.e., getting manicurists to donate their time, come down to the synagogue, and donate all proceeds of the event to Tzedakah. (Call Ethel Shull, 813-960-1321.)²⁷

2. We ought to look at any given human situation and think, “Is this, can this be, or can it become, a Mitzvah situation, an opportunity for some act of vesm-Tzedakah-Justice to occur?”

3. We ought to take any moment, beginning with Now, on to One Moment From Now, all the way to Way Into The Future, and consider the possibilities for Mitzvahs that could happen at any of those times.

4. Consider, for example, all the human hours poured into solving theoretical higher math problems. If we asked 21 mathematicians to take 9-17% of the time they spend thinking math and to transfer it to solving Mitzvah problems, we’d be ahead — we, all of us, the human population, the earth itself, Life. Or, for just one more example: if we took 3-12% of the time we spend on crossword puzzles, board games, or tinkering with our many toys, and applied Mitzvah principles to a human situation....Or think of what we might come up with just .639 of 1% of the time spent on watching TV...if we did some Mitzvah thinking and planning and acting instead.

5. The end result will be a new and astonishingly impressive sum of Mitzvahs, and, without a doubt, a staggering number of Mitzvah breakthroughs: new ways to fix up the world no less significantly than when life changed when the light bulb was invented, or the internal combustion engine, or the telephone.

6. In another context, the Shulchan Aruch Code of Jewish Law says that giving away less than 10% of our income to Tzedakah is considered “vgr ihg-Ayin Ra’ah”, which may be translated as “weak eyesight”. Using our eyes to consider objects, time, and human situations as possibilities for Mitzvah work would help us overcome that same visual problem, and it would most certainly save us many hours filling out the medical insurance forms when we visit the Mitzvah optometrist in our neighborhood.

XIII. A Bunch of Miscellaneous Items (In No Order of Importance)

Problem #1:

Integrating individuals with Down Syndrome into the army.

Solved By:

k”vm-Tzahal, The Israeli Army. Thirty young people, in uniform, work on army bases once a week.²⁸

Who would have...?

Any one of us.

Problem #2:

Using an enormous amount of paper in our business uses up too many trees.

The Solution:

Plant trees to replace the paper the company uses.

Solved by:

Working Assets, 1-800-788-8588. They do it figuring a ratio of 17 trees/ton of paper.²⁹

Who would...?

Any one....

Problem #3:

What to do with prom dresses the day after the prom.

The Solution:

1. Get people to donate them.
2. Open a second-hand prom dress store for next year's proms, with discounts, and a portion of the profits donated to Tzedakah.
3. Call it Project Promise or whatever you like, but have a catchy phrase to advertise the project, like "A second chance at the dance."

Solved by:

Ellen Barth, high school junior, Howard County, MD.³⁰

Who...?

Any....

Problem #4:

How to inform the Jewish community (or any community for that matter) about what facilities and services are available for individuals with disabilities.

Solution:

Hold a Disabilities Faire (they spelled it that way in LA), with displays, booths, programs, and speakers to inform, teach, and publicize the services and facilities.

Solved By:

The Commission on Jews with Disabilities of the Council on Jewish Life of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles. (Call Elaine Albert, 213-476-0512.)³¹

...?

...us/we/I/me.

Problem #5:

Channukah presents.

The Solution:

Mitzvah Mall or, How to give Mitzvah Channukah Presents Instead of Silly or Useless Toys — e. g., Shabbat dinners for people who are unable to leave their homes, inoculations for children in danger of the most common diseases, shares of a cow on a Kibbutz, food for guide dogs, etc. The Mitzvah Mall is connected to a group called The Committee for the Prevention of the Purchase of Tchatchkas.

Solved By:

Sharon Halper, 914-723-7727.³²

...?
...any ONE...

Problem #6:

The high cost of catering Mitzvah meals.

The Solution:

Set up a co-op of families to do the catering themselves.

Solved By:

A certain Marilyn Moses and her friends, 617-598-4331.³³

?
!

XIV. Pre-conclusion.

And now we say, “It’s so obvious.”

The Torah lesson would then be: let us do some cosmically and universally astounding things with our lives that will have students and observers think — “How obvious! Now, why didn’t I think of that?”

To which we can reply —

**“Who would have thought of it?
Anyone of us.”**

And, if someone wanted to, she or he could do some of this professionally, becoming:

1. Lawyers doing a nice percentage of free (*pro bono*) work, or
2. Omboudspersons for a variety of institutions or agencies, to cut through bureaucracy and snarled-up communications lines, or
3. Radio, TV, newspaper, or magazine “Action Lines” — the reporters and columnists who get complaints that “Merchant Ploni sold me a faulty blender and wouldn’t refund the money when I brought it back to the store.” Or worse: The medical team refuses to allow X, Y, or Z. Or, less seriously, “I went to Melbourne, FL, but my suitcase went to Melbourne, Australia, and the airline says it’ll take 6 days to get them back to me,” or
4. Employees of Better Business Bureaus or watchdog organizations that keep tabs on anything from crooked government contracts to the honesty of charitable organizations or the fair labeling of food and drugs.

And this is just to mention a few possibilities of how to be a full-time okug ie,n-Tikun Olamnik. And, of course, you could bring some refreshing creativity to the job, using your Right Mind all the time while on the job.

XV. Introduction, i.e., Conclusion

The answer to the question,

“Who would have thought of it?”

is not, “Mr. Mitzvah Hero X or Ms. Heroic Person Y.”

That answer is too easy, and much too costly for all of us.

The correct answer is always,

“I would have thought of it.”

All of us could have thought of these things, these grand Mitzvah schemes, these solutions to problems, if we would only spend some time using our minds, imaginations, and talents thinking about them.

There are many pieces of reality that are beyond our powers to change. So let's:

1. Determine which ones they are (e.g.,....Well, I can't think of any at the moment)
2. Take on one of those we thought was beyond us, and sit with some friends and solve that one problem.
3. And after the first one is laid to rest, solved, done, and the solution is out there in reality doing wonders, let's pick another, and then another.
4. After three of them, take a vacation for a week-end up in the mountains or down at the shore. Have fun, nothing but fun.
5. Then come back and start all over again, now that we know that the answer to the question,

“Who would have thought of it?”

is,

“Anyone of us.”

¹Personal conversations, newspaper articles, television coverage. In February, 1994, I was with Mr. Fling once again, and he reminded me of a child, about 11 or 12, who was dying of a brain tumor. She had said she really wanted a TV. (She was already blind.) When Mr. Sig Friedman, one of Mr. Fling's friends offered to donate one, it was a black and white set, but she said she would prefer a color TV. Her reason was that the sound was better on the color set, but Mr. Friedman and Mr. Fling both understood she it was really for her parents. It was both heartbreaking and eye-opening to hear the story told to me. Many similar tales come from the Make a Wish Foundation.

-
- ²Personal conversation on a Shabbat walk.
- ³Personal correspondence.
- ⁴Personal conversation, Shabbat (prime Mitzvah-thinking time), Dr. Schwartz's kitchen. David is a former International President of USY.
- ⁵Personal conversations.
- ⁶Personal conversations, personal contact with dog owners and their dogs.
- ⁷Meeting, personal conversations, demonstrations.
- ⁸Personal visits.
- ⁹The 800 number will provide you with the location of your nearest rehabilitative riding organization.
- ¹⁰The Full Circle Program, Marine Science Center Aquarium, Ms. Marianne Klingel, 813-441-1790.
- ¹¹Personal contact, contact with many Giraffes.
- ¹²Personal contact, on-site visit.
- ¹³*The Baltimore Sun, Ocean City Supplement*, May 16, 1993.
- ¹⁴*The Baltimore Jewish Times*, January 29, 1993. On May 18, 1993, one of the administrators at Ramaz Yeshiva in New York reported that the students there are saving 60 pounds of food a day.
- ¹⁵*The St. Petersburg Times*, November 9, 1993 and November 11, 1993.
- ¹⁶Ari Newman called the White House kitchen to begin working on their leftovers. Contact him during the 1993 school year at Boston University, 617-731-6391; otherwise at 401-861-3474.
- ¹⁷Steve Chaikin did it for Orioles Park. 410-528-1637.
- ¹⁸Ari Newman has the leftovers taken directly to hungry Jews in the Boston area. (To contact him, see footnote 16.)
- ¹⁹For a fictionalized biography, read *The Cry and the Covenant* by Morton Thompson.
- ²⁰*Reform Judaism Magazine*, Winter, 1992, and personal conversations.
- ²¹*The Toronto Star*, March 21, 1992.
- ²²Personal conversations.
- ²³*First Magazine*, April 27, 1992, personal conversations.
- ²⁴*The New York Times*, February 24, 1993.
- ²⁵*The Boston Globe*, January 30, 1993.
- ²⁶*The Denver Post*, March 31, 1993.
- ²⁷Flyer, personal conversations.
- ²⁸*In Jerusalem*, October 1, 1993; *The Canadian Jewish News*, March 15, 1993.
- ²⁹*The New York Times*, November 7, 1993.
- ³⁰*The Washington Post*, March 21, 1993
- ³¹Flyer, personal conversations, personal participation in the first Faire
- ³²Flyer, personal conversations.
- ³³Flyer, personal conversations.