



## MyZuzah Moments - March 23, 2023

On Sunday morning, our team was double-booked in a good way! We had simultaneous programs in **Chicago** and **Washington, DC**, on Sunday morning— working with both **small children** and **Holocaust survivors**.

**Anshe Emet** and **Holocaust Community Services** in Chicago hosted their event, where synagogue members joined for learning about the work of HCS, shared their personal stories, and then went off to place mezuzahs on the apartments of local Holocaust survivors. One of the community members who helped to make visits and place mezuzahs with the survivors shared her feelings: *This is such a gift to be able to participate in— to connect to survivors, to help connect them to their Judaism, especially if they weren't able or comfortable before. Mezuzahs are particularly special, and really imbue the place with a different feeling.*



After the event, **Maya Gumirov, Survivor Services Director at HCS**, provided this recap:

*Thank you for everything you've done for this project that came alive for our dear survivors. It was a beautiful day filled with tears of joy and happiness on our survivors and volunteers faces. Everyone we visited today was enormously thankful and proud to receive a mezuzah. We've heard survivors' stories, unexpectedly were treated with cookies and sweets; no one wanted to have us in the hallway- survivors insisted we should be coming inside their apartments to spend time talking and making a meaningful connection.*

A recap from last Sunday's **PJ Library mezuzah-decorating workshop**, where we teamed up with **Honeymoon Israel, PJ Library**, and the **Edlavitch DCJCC** to host **20+ families and children** for a spirited mezuzah-decorating and book-reading brunch:



## Partner Updates:

In **Ghana**, our local contact Angel Wilberforce Tetteh of **Beth HaArizal** has begun distributing mezuzot to families. Through the Kulanu network, we just received a pledge of **\$1,000 to support our growing work in Africa**. More pictures and good news to come :-)

**Rabbi Arye Merckhasin** of the community in **Hamburg, Germany**, shared *more* pictures from the recent mezuzah project he undertook. You can see how happy he is to be reaching so many people!



## Individual Stories:

*I really appreciate the mezuzah, and more than you might imagine. I am disabled and can't drive right now. The nearest shul is 30 miles away, and I don't know another Jewish person near me. The mezuzah you sent is my only connection to Jewish life, outside of the internet. I try to do what I can, and the mezuzah reminds me when I go out that as a Jew it is my responsibility to act well and help others any way that I can. When I get home I know I live in a Jewish home and can relax knowing who I really am. I can't wait for Passover and the counting of the Omer. Nobody I know knows I do that, but for me that is when I feel closest to my roots. So, once again I thank you. Everyone has liked it as well as what I told them. Bruce Ulanet, **Brisbee, AZ***

*I am so happy to receive this mezuzah!  
My mother is a teacher at the Mt Zion  
preschool, and her colleague Velvel  
arranged this mezuzah as a gift for me.  
Jessica Lobel, **Sydney, Australia***



Michelle Cossette, **Astoria, NY**

