

How Chelm Became the World Center for Alzheimer Patients

By Philip Fishl Kutner

While sitting around the big mahogany table, the Chelm City Council (CCC) was lamenting the lack of revenues and the high unemployment rate. Suddenly Hymie slammed his fist hard on the mahogany table and said, "Ikh hob di entfere tsu undzere tsores." Yup, I have the solution.

If you want to be a winner, do what the winners do. America is the number one country in the world and they got there by using slick slogans. Emma Lazarus said, "Give me your tired.... President Bush himself a *Compassionate Conservative*. We can call ourselves *Compassionate Chelm*."

Who would think they would want the misfits. Chelm Common Sense would say give me your rich and talented people. By taking in the ones no one else wanted, they became the richest country in the world.

Councilwoman Shoylee said, "You are right. Let's take in all of the Alzheimer patients. We can afford to house and care for them much cheaper than they can in America. Our housing and labor costs are much less."

Councilman Hymie said, "See, we can put our idle teenagers to work and rake in all those taxes from the rich Americans. There are 4,000,000 Americans who are demented. If we had only one percent, it would be 4,000. That would be more than we could possibly handle."

It was decided then and there that there would be a retraining program so that there would be a pool of Chelm Caregivers and the patients would be housed in the Chelm Homes of the unemployed. This would take care of the housing problem.

"Shah" said Mayer the Mayor "First we must learn all about the many forms of Dementia and about the main form, Alzheimer's. I know that the mild form lasts about 3 years, the medium form can last 2 to as long as 10 years and the severe form about 2 years." Most likely we won't get patients with the mild form."

Then the discussion turned to selection.

- Should they take only male patients?
- Should they take only Jewish patients?

Other questions arose

- How much should they charge?
- How were they going to get the patients?
- Who was going to train the caregivers?

- Who would handle the medications?
- Where would the relatives be housed when they came to visit the patients?
- Who would handle the payments?

It was already near midnight and the council decided to end the session and that a committee of the council would visit The Lublin College of Physicians to learn more about Dementia.

The mayor headed the committee to Lublin, and the meeting with the dean of the college went well— until... Yes, until the dean asked "Why do you want to bring over here meshugane amerikane mentshn? The mayor replied, "They are no different than the rest of the amerikane. Ale amerikane zenen meshuge."

With this assurance the committee was satisfied, and with the cooperation of the Dean assured, the next step was to contact amerike and line up the flow of clients (It had been decided not to call them patients).

The next day Mayer the Mayor e-mailed Fishl fun *Der Bay* and asked him to contact Nar in Yenemsville and ask if Our Yiddish Club would handle the details on this side of the Atlantic. He said that they would pay a commission of 6% for each client, and that it would be split evenly between the club and *Der Bay*.

Fishl was ecstatic, for it meant that *Der Bay* would be free to everyone and Our Yiddish Club from Yenemsville could send all of their members to the next International Association of Yiddish Clubs Conference.

The mayor then asked Fishl if the next conference might not be held in Yenemsville and Our Yiddish Club could be the sponsoring host and Nar would be the chairperson and coordinate the conference.

Fishl decided it was an excellent idea, but first there had to be a constant stream of demented clients. It was decided to ask the readers of *Der Bay* to cooperate in this worthy cause. If you are or know someone who is demented and would like to have or your loved one have the kind and loving care that only can be found in Chelm immediately contact Fishl at FISHL@derbay.org.

Please include in your message; Yiddish name, size of the client's bank accounts, value of the portfolio and a medical certificate certifying dementia.