



Dear partners, friends, and supporters of ARSP,

Magda Brown was a beloved and highly active 93-year old Holocaust survivor from Skokie, IL. We at ARSP are deeply saddened by Magda's passing on July 7, 2020. Her soul and spirit have been aligned with ARSP for decades. She has been a close mentor, friend, and companion to generations of young ARSP volunteers at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center (IHMEC). Nobody knows her better than former ARSP director Mark McGuigan whose [eulogy](#) underscores that Magda lived the message of reconciliation to the fullest and, thus, was one of our closest, finest, and most trusted allies. Educating, sharing painful memories, and giving young people hope, guidance, and inspiration was her passion. In these impressive [youtube interviews](#) recorded by her granddaughter, Magda shares her story. Her painful experiences caused by those responsible for the Holocaust will never be forgotten as her standing up to deniers.

**ARSP's peace service is more important than ever** Magda's testimony lives on in our hearts, minds, and memories as we prepare to welcome a new generations of volunteers. Our young volunteers need to hear as many Holocaust survivors' stories as they can. They need to form friendships, continue with friendly visiting, assist with daily tasks and so much more. There are too many isolated elderly seniors, children, families, or homeless people in need of school books, clothes, or human contact. In these exceptional times where many people have been affected hard by the Covid-19 epidemic, depression rates sore and unemployment rates spike, ARSP's international peace service is most relevant. Meet Stephanie Grioryants-Iskhakov, Project Coordinator at Project Ezra, who talks about the challenges a small but vital organization located in New York's Lower East Side faces every day and shares [an inspiring note of encouragement](#). *As soon as international transatlantic travel will resume—we are planning with March 1, 2021—we hope to have 13 or more volunteers join us in the US!*

**What are our outgoing volunteers up to?** Our current volunteers left their projects heartbroken. They had developed friendships, got the “hang” of their job, enjoyed to discover their cities, and were eager to start traveling. Then, Covid-19 hit. After their abrupt return to Germany, a few were able to continue helping out their projects remotely. Franka at the *AJC*, Margo and Bruno at the *IHMEC*, Emma at the *USHMM*, and Felix at *Selfhelp Home for the Aged in Chicago* contributed from the distance. At home, many shifted their focus to applying for university and volunteering locally. At the end of this month, we will gather virtually for the last time to reflect, cry, and say goodbye during our final three-day seminar. Sadly, we are unable to meet in person in the beautiful Chamounix Mansion in Philadelphia to hug everyone and thank our hosts, project supervisors, donors, supporters, former volunteers, and longtime friends.

**Invitation** To hear from the volunteers directly and to socialize, I would like to invite all our “Friends of ARSP” as well as board members, and project partners to the **ZOOM GOODBYE HAPPY HOUR ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 FROM 12:45 - 2:15PM ET** [18:45 - 20:15 CET]. Please join us through [this Zoom link](#) and spend time with our 2019/20 volunteers. If you experience technical problems send me a text at 570-301-3910.

**News from Berlin & Personal Thanks** The Board of *Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste* (ASF) is pleased to announce that **Jutta Weduwen** continues to be the managing director of ASF/ARSP. After the departure of co-managing director Dr. Dagmar Pruin, Jutta Weduwen will be supported by Michael Säger and Thomas Heldt, two deputy managing directors. Here is a link to [the most recent ASF newsletter](#) (in German). Lastly, as my first memorable bitter-sweet year as US director comes to a close, I feel the need to thank my colleagues, partners, our host families in the different cities, and everyone who believes in ARSP's mission! Please continue to support a great organization that makes a difference in people's lives.

For news updates please visit us on [Facebook](#)! Hope to “see” you on August 27 - be safe and have a restful summer,

*M. Meyer*

**To Donate by Check:** Make checks out to **American Friends of ARSP** and send to our office: 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. **To Donate On-Line and by Credit/Debit Card:** Go to our web site at [www.actionreconciliation.org](http://www.actionreconciliation.org) and click on the Donate link. From there you can follow the on-line instructions. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**