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Federation Blog about Ida and Yale Schulman

Through my years of volunteer and organizational work I have come to believe in “the principle of thirds.” Whether it be a congregation, a parents support group, a committee, or a board of directors, one third of the group does not participate, one third will get involved on a periodic basis, especially when asked, and one third is committed and enthusiastic to getting things done. On a percent basis, in whole numbers, each third would be 33% and add up to 99%, slightly less than 100% because not everybody was involved. Lately I have come to wonder if there is a fourth group, a 1% which could also be called a “special one percent.” We all know these people who are self-less, and tireless in pursuit of the greater good. They are able to rise above self-interest, they lead by example and raise the level of all. We admire their devotion and effort and we aspire to be like them. They are mentors and they leave a mark on our lives. They motivate us to do more and be better when they are present. They also inspire and motivate even when they are no longer around. They can also be called pillars or cornerstones, as they carry the weight and shoulder the responsibilities of many.

When you lose a pillar, an organization or group is forced to deal with this new weight no longer carried by these “one percenters.” Hopefully, others will rush in to carry the load. Hopefully, your top third will generate new “one percenters,” people ready to serve at the next level. Our community has been blessed to have had many “one percenters” over the years. Yale and Ida Schulman are “one percenters” and while we are very happy for them to be moving to be closer to family, we are also very sad to be losing them from our lives and our community. On behalf of the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation, we wish them the best.