

Coming to  
you weekly!



# RABBI'S RAMBLINGS...

February 6, 2019  
א' אדר-א תשע"ט

Shalom,

## **This month in Jewish life**

In February 2009, Jewish communities throughout North America celebrated **Jewish Disability Awareness Month**, for the first time. It has since become an annual event as its organizers reached the important understanding that it's not enough for us to be aware of those in our community who have disabilities, one month every year. Rather, we need to take responsibility for making lasting changes to the Jewish community; Jews everywhere need to make room in their facilities, services and events to include all Jews at all times, no matter what difficulties they may have.

The name of this public awareness campaign has therefore been transformed to reflect its enhanced mission, as it is now known as **Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month**. If you look around the Jewish world today, you will notice that many more individual communities have responded by removing physical barriers and obstacles that used to prevent both members and would-be members from participating. One example of this is the ramp to the bimah that one is likely to find inside many synagogue sanctuaries these days, which makes it possible for most Jews to access the Torah, to receive an *Aliyah* and even to read for the community.

## **Inclusion at Temple Beth David**

During the recent renovation of Temple Beth David's new sanctuary, the decision was made to include a hearing loop (also known as an "induction loop"), which allows hearing aid users to pick up sound directly from the microphone system. Well, just a few months ago, we were honored to receive guests from a congregation elsewhere in upstate New York who visited us one Shabbat so that they could test our loop and see if it would be a worthwhile addition to their own sanctuary! We were delighted to discover that we have a reputation for our use of this technology.

On the other hand, the issue of accessing our second-floor space remains a struggle for several of you. The truth is that we have not yet found a suitable answer to this pressing need and we are aware of the urgency of finding a solution.

### JDAIM at Temple Beth David

It has become customary in many congregations to celebrate Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month with the presentation of sermons on related topics. We are proud to announce that Temple Beth David will join the ranks of these congregations:

- **Saturday, February 9:**

I will focus on the relationship between disabilities and Jewish life, in my sermon.

- **Saturday, February 16:**

In place of a traditional sermon, we will discuss some of the real-world implications of disabilities and inclusion, as well as the range of disabilities that people experience. I will moderate a discussion, giving those who wish to speak a brief(!) opportunity to educate us about their own respective disabilities, or the disabilities of their loved ones. If you are comfortable sharing your story, then we look forward to hearing from you. (By the way, did you notice how many verbs in that last sentence alone describe actions and abilities which most of us take for granted?) On the other hand, if you would prefer not to speak but to learn, then please join us too. In the words of the Talmud: **תא שמע!** / Come listen and learn!

As always, feel free to come by yourself or to bring a friend ☺.

Kol Tuv / כל טוב / May all be well for you,

Michael

Rabbi Michael Silbert

## SHABBAT THIS WEEK

Friday, February 8 – Saturday, February 9, 2019



Candle lighting: 5:14pm  
Shabbat ends: 6:17pm

Torah reading: *Parashat Terumah*  
Triennial Year 3: Ex. 26:31 – 27:19