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# THE TORONTO JEWISH DISABILITY RESOURCE GUIDE

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## *Dear Toronto Jewish Community,*

I truly believe that we are an extraordinary community. Sensitive to all members, we have developed many organizations that provide services for children and adults with disabilities.

A group of professionals from those organizations that support people with disabilities and their families identified the need for a comprehensive guide that would describe essential and relevant resources.

The Toronto Jewish Disability Resource Guide is the culmination of the dedicated efforts of many people; Judi Alter, Adina Breatross, Marion Finkelstein, Miriam Gofine, Rivka Jakubovic, Chaya Perman, Mary Richmond, Rachel Sokol, Heather Super as well as Robyn Naster ([www.editingbyrobyn.com](http://www.editingbyrobyn.com)) and Robin Gofine and the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto for valuable direction.

I thank everyone who responded to our request for submissions. Only material offered has been included and I offer a heartfelt apology for any unintentional errors or omissions.

Throughout this journey, I have discovered valuable information and I have had the privilege of meeting dedicated and passionate people. I am thoroughly excited to share this handbook with you. It is detailed with updated links, articles, inspirational pieces, quotes and more.

Apart from practical facts, our expectation is that the guide will enlighten and provoke discussion about communal responsibility and the significance of inclusion.

You will meet Jacob Artson, a young spirited adult who communicates through typing, read about the incredible 22,000 sq ft Meer Family Friendship Center / Weinberg Life Village / Farber Soul Center in Detroit, learn about the 'special in uniform' program of inclusion in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), observe accessible synagogue architecture, and read poignant thoughts and hopes for a respectful, loving and encouraging future.

As a parent and cofounder of DANI, I would like to share two accounts for your reflection that revolve around the concept of age and our children.

One narrative occurred when my daughter with disabilities was four years old. I reluctantly approached the local Jewish school to enroll Talya and I expected a rather disapproving reply. However, the teacher, who had taught for over twenty years without any personal or professional experience with children with disabilities, astonished me. "Yes, absolutely! Talya will be part of the preschool program. But not for Talya. For the rest of the class; they are our future doctors, neighbours, teachers, Rabbis, community, etc."

Efforts are informal and familiar when young, and I contend that authentic inclusion that is initiated at this early stage develops naturally and instinctively to adulthood.

The second one is the issue of barriers. One of the devastating barriers our adults face is ageism. They graduate from high school at the age of twenty-one and have very limited options. Their connections to the school community ceases and they are no longer surrounded by role models, peers and consistent support. Their cooperative placements end and the future does not hold promises of volunteering, work placement or other social and learning opportunities. The majority of our adults with disabilities then become captive to a segregated environment for most of the year and inclusion becomes a continuous struggle.

The Toronto Jewish Resource Guide is dedicated to **Eddie and Harriet Rice**, who have worked tirelessly with strength and determination to create a more inclusive and accessible society. Mr. Rice is an activist, who devotes time and energy championing the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and has been the chair for the Ontarians with Disabilities Sub-Committee of the League of Human Rights of Bnai Brith Canada since 1998. He has consulted on accessibility issues at three Jewish community centres as well as the following synagogues - Beth David, Beth Tikvah and Shaarei Shomayim.

In addition to the printed copies, the Toronto Jewish Disability Resource Guide may also be found online at [www.dani-toronto.com](http://www.dani-toronto.com) or other social service agencies.

Sincerely,

*Susie Mittelman Sokol*

September 2015

[ssokol@dani-toronto.com](mailto:ssokol@dani-toronto.com)

905. 889. 3264 ext 226

“As long as we regard our disabilities as tragedies, we will be pitied.  
As long as we feel ashamed of who we are, our lives will be regarded as useless.

As long as we remain silent, we will be told by others what to do.

Independent Living means that we demand the same choices and control in our every-day lives that our non-disabled brothers and sisters, neighbours and friends take for granted. We want to grow up in our families, go to the neighbourhood school, use the same bus as our neighbours, work in jobs that are in line with our education and interests, and start families of our own.”

(Adolf Ratzka)

“Disability is the inability to see ability”

(Vika Khanna)

“We all have gifts.”

(Jean Vanier)

“Nothing about us, without us.”

(origin; South Africa)

“If you have met 1 person with a disability;  
then you have met 1 person with a disability!”

It takes a village to raise 1 child,  
It takes 1 child with disabilities to raise a village!



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## CAMPS

### Camp Aim

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**Address:** 970 Lawrence Avenue West #400, Toronto ON M6A 3B6

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**Contact:** Yaffi Scheinberg, Executive Director / Yehudis Bergmann, Program Coordinator  
office@campaim.ca  
(647) 300-0985

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**Website:** [www.campaim.ca](http://www.campaim.ca)

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**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities, hearing and visual impairment, mental health problems, challenging behaviours, medical complications

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**Age Group:** Infants, toddlers, children

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**Program Description:** Camp Aim provides a summer camp opportunity with a unique blend of therapy, respite care and camp, to a wide variety of children with disabilities such as those who are medically fragile, are on the autism spectrum (ASD) or have a developmental delay. Integrative program includes dance class, swim clubs and sports teams that take place over the weekends throughout the year. We also have respite and recreational activities, bussing and dinner at our after-school activities.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible parking

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**Process:** Contact Program Director

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## CAMPS

### Camp George

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**Location:** 45 Good Fellowship Road, Seguin, ON P2A 0B2

**Mailing Address:** 3845 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M3H 3N2

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**Contact:** Jeff Rose, Director

jrose@urj.org

(416) 638-2635

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**Website:** [www.george.urjcamp.org](http://www.george.urjcamp.org)

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**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Mental health problems, challenging behaviours, hearing impairment, ADD, ADHD, anxiety

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**Age Group:** 8-12 years

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**Program Description:** Integration program where campers live in cabins. Additional staff if needed for the entire cabin, depending on the needs of the specific camper. Possible opportunities as staff for former campers; case by case is examined.

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**Accessibility:** Office is wheelchair accessible

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**Process:** Inclusion team meets with camper and family prior to summer to consider appropriateness for camp. If or when the child is accepted, a strategy for success is developed and shared with the counsellors.



## Camp Kadimah

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**Location:** 1681 Barss Corner Road, Barss Corner, Nova Scotia B0R 1A0

**Mailing Address:** 4600 Bathurst Street, #220, Toronto, ON M2R 3V3

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**Contact:** Phil David, Executive Director

director@campkadimah.com / info@campkadimah.com

(416) 634-3089

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**Website:** [www.campkadimah.com](http://www.campkadimah.com)

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**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Minor developmental or intellectual disabilities, or minor challenging behaviour.

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**Age Group:** 7-16 years old

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**Accessibility:** Office is wheelchair accessible, accessible parking

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**Process:** Online camper application and contact the camp director about whether the camp is suitable.





## CAMPS

### Camp Moshava Ba'ir

Day Camp, in conjunction with YACHAD

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**Address:** 252 Finch Avenue West, Toronto, ON M2R 1M9

**Mailing Address:** YACHAD, National Jewish Council for Disabilities  
15 Gorman Park Road, Toronto, ON M3H 3K3

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**Contact:** Mrs. D. Marmer  
torontoyachad@ou.org  
(416) 986-1985

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**Website:** [www.yachad.org](http://www.yachad.org)

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**Able To Accommodate Adults With:** Cognitive or physical disabilities

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**Age Group:** 22-30 years old

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**Program Description:** Work experience for young adults with disabilities; One-on-one experience with a worker; Camp tuition is required.

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**Accessibility:** Parking and building accessible

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**Process:** Each young adult is discussed case by case in order to ensure success.



## CAMPS

### Camp Moshava - Ennsimore

Overnight Camp, in Conjunction with YACHAD

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**Location:** 1485 Murphy Road RR#1, Ennsimore, ON KOL ITO

**Mailing Address:** YACHAD, National Jewish Council for Disabilities  
15 Gorman Park Road, Toronto, ON M3H 3K3

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**Contact:** Mrs. D. Marmer  
torontoyachad@ou.org  
(416) 986-1985

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**Website:** [www.campmoshava.org](http://www.campmoshava.org)

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**Able To Accommodate Adults With:** Cognitive or physical disabilities

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**Age Group:** 21-30 year olds

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**Program Description:** A vocational program for post-high school age. Camp tuition is required.

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**Process:** Contact office directly



## CAMPS

### Camp Northland-B'nai Brith

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**Location:** 4250 Haliburton Lake Road, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

**Mailing Address:** 1118 Centre Street #202, Thornhill, ON L4J 7R9

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**Contact:** [happycamper@campnbb.com](mailto:happycamper@campnbb.com)  
(905) 881-0018

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**Website:** [www.campnbb.com](http://www.campnbb.com)

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**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Developmental and intellectual disability, mental health problems, challenging behaviours, hearing impairment

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**Age Group:** 11-15 years old

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**Program Description:** Overnight camp has excellent programming for campers, staff, alumni and community.

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**Office Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking

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**Process:** Online registration and phone call



## Camp Ramah (Canada) The Tikvah Program

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**Location:** 1104 Fish Hatchery Road, Utterson, ON P0B 1M0

**Mailing Address:** 3845 Bathurst Street #310, Toronto, ON M3H 3N2

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**Contact:** Ron Polster, Director  
tikvahprogram@campramah.com  
(416) 789-2193

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**Website:** [www.campramah.com](http://www.campramah.com)

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**Able To Accommodate Children, Teens and Adults With:** Developmental disabilities

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**Age Group:** 12-22 years old

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**Program Description:** Children with disabilities ages 12-22. The program includes an “avodah” (vocational) component from ages 18-22.

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**Office Accessibility:** Office and camp are wheelchair accessible

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**Process:** An initial meeting with Tikvah directors who make a recommendation to the Admissions Committee, whose members make the final determination.



## CAMPS

### Camp Shalom

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**Location:** P.O. Box 790, Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1V1

**Mailing Address:** 788 Marlee Avenue #206, Toronto, ON M6B 3K1

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**Contact:** Adam Shulman, Camp Director  
info@camp-shalom.com  
(416) 783-6744

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**Website:** [www.camp-shalom.com](http://www.camp-shalom.com)

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**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Mental health problems, challenging behaviours and hearing impairment.

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**Age Group:** 7-13 years old

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**Program Description:** Camper possibilities are situational. No formal program. However, campers with disabilities are considered based on specific case and needs. Campers with disabilities are mainstreamed. One-on-one not regularly available, but accommodations can be made. Employment opportunities on a case by case basis.

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**Office Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking

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**Process:** In-home presentation is requested and required. Online camper registration form submission. Follow-up with senior staff and/or medical staff if further information is required.



## Camp Shomria / Hashomer Hatzair

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**Location:** Camp Shomria RR#3, Otty Lake, Perth, ON K7H 3C5

**Mailing Address:** 4700 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M2R 1W8

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**Contact:** mail@campshomria.ca  
(416) 736-1339

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**Website:** www.campshomria.ca

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**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Challenging behaviours

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**Age Group:** 8-16 year olds

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**Office Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking

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**Process:** Camp director and medical staff set up a meeting with the parents and potential campers to determine if staff and facility would be appropriate for the prospective camper. Both the family and the camp needs to feel assured that the child's needs can be cared for appropriately.





## CAMPS

### Camp Solelim

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**Location:** 6490 Tilton Lake Road, Sudbury, ON P3G 1L5

**Mailing Address:** 788 Marlee Avenue, Toronto, ON M6B 3K1

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**Contact:** Risa Epstein, Director  
director@campsolelim.ca  
(416) 781-5156

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**Website:** [www.campsolelim.ca](http://www.campsolelim.ca)

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**Able To Accommodate Teens With:** Mental health problems, challenging behaviours, hearing impairment

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**Age Group:** 14-15 year olds

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**Office Accessibility:** Office and parking are accessible

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**Process:** Each young adult is discussed case by case in order to ensure success.



## CAMPS

### The Jack and Pat Kay Centre Camp

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**Locations:** 401 Rosewell Avenue, Toronto, ON M4R 2B5  
9600 Bathurst Street, Vaughan, ON L6A 3Z8

**Mailing Address:** 4588 Bathurst Street #119, Toronto, ON M2R 1W6

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**Contact:** Lauren Grundland, Assistant Director  
lauren@centrecamp.ca / info@centrecamp.ca  
(416) 636-2267

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**Website:** [www.centrecamp.ca](http://www.centrecamp.ca)

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**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Physical, developmental, intellectual disabilities, mental health problems, challenging behaviours, hearing and visual impairment

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**Program Description:** Fully integrated and inclusionary camp program for campers and staff. All campers are welcomed into the camp community. General camp program, sports specialty staff and performing arts camp are available. One-on-one support workers are available for campers. Staffing positions for young adults with disabilities: must have finished grade 10.

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**Office Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking, braille and raised lettering for room numbers

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**Process:** All inquiries will be fielded by one of the full-time staff. A meet and greet is required before registration to assess the camper and match him or her with the appropriate program and one-on-one support worker if needed. Afterwards, all registration is done online at [centrecamp.ca](http://centrecamp.ca).



## 613th Thornhill Girl Guides

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**Address:** 613 Clark Avenue West, BAYT Synagogue

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**Contact:** Sara Silverman  
(905) 886-3810

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**Website:** [www.girlguides.ca](http://www.girlguides.ca)

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**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Will consider each young girl with special needs and determine if we can support her properly. Every effort will be made.

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**Age Group:** 7-14 years old females

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**Program Description:** Combination of Judaism and the valuable skills learned in girl guides

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**Accessibility:** Accessible parking, accessible building



## Birthright Israel: Amazing Israel-No Limits In Motion

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**Address:** Aryeh Dulzin 26, Jerusalem Israel

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**Contact:** Amazing Israel  
info@amazingisrael.com  
1-800-606-0416

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**Website:** [www.amazingisrael.com](http://www.amazingisrael.com)

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**Able To Accommodate Adults With:** Physical disabilities

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**Age Group:** 18-26

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**Eligibility Requirements:** Between 18-26, Jewish, and have not been on a Peer Israel Experience Program before

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**Program Description:** The No Limits: In Motion trip is a highly specialized program that we have been running for several years. It is the classic Birthright Israel itinerary adapted to be wheelchair friendly. The trip is for applicants from the US and Canada, ages 18-26, with a Jewish background, who are either wheelchair bound or have limited mobility, and are fully cognizant. Every participant will bring an aid/chaperone to help them throughout the trip. The aid/chaperone is not limited by eligibility requirements (Jewish background or age) and their trip will be covered by Birthright Israel.

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**Accessibility:** The trip is designed to be fully accessible to individuals with limited mobility.



## COMMUNITY

### Family Resource Centre

Under the auspices of Jewish Family and Child Services

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**Address:** 1 Promenade Circle #313B, Thornhill, ON L4J 4P8

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**Contact:** Shawna Ferguson  
shawna@thefamilyresourcecentre.ca  
(905) 882-8509

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**Website:** [www.thefamilyresourcecentre.ca](http://www.thefamilyresourcecentre.ca)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children With:** All children with disabilities are welcome.

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**Age Group:** 0-5 years old, but children who are chronologically older may benefit from the program.

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**Program Description:** Drop in centre for parents/caregivers and their preschoolers: music, arts and crafts, story time, parent networking. Since no pre-registration is required, some days are much more crowded than others.

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**Accessibility:** Mall has elevators, some aspects of the resource room are not fully accessible

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**Process:** Please phone to discuss how your child can best benefit from the program.



## Hillel of Greater Toronto

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**Address:** 36 Harbord Street, Toronto, ON M5S1G2

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**Contact:** Hanna Cohen  
info@hilleltoronto.org  
(416) 913-2424

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**Website:** [www.hilleltoronto.org](http://www.hilleltoronto.org)

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**Able To Accommodate Adults With:** Programs are open to university students with all types of abilities. Contact directly if you have special accessibility needs.

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**Age Group:** University students/young adults.

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**Our Program:** Hillel of Greater Toronto is the address for Jewish student life. Through exciting and creative programming and events, Hillel promotes Jewish identity, student leadership and religious and political diversity in a dynamic and inclusive environment for all Jewish students.

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**Program Description:** Through exciting and creative programming and events, Hillel promotes Jewish identity, student leadership, and religious and political diversity in a dynamic and inclusive environment for all Jewish students.

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**Available Opportunities:** Volunteers with disabilities are welcome to help plan programs as well as take part in the events.

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**Accessibility:** Our building is fully wheelchair accessible with free parking available.

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## Itanu Toronto

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**Address:** 4600 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario M2R 3V3

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**Contact:** Robin Gofine, Vice President, Strategic Community Planning and Engagement, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto  
rgofine@ujafed.org  
(416) 631-5832

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**Program Description:** Itanu Toronto is UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's strategic initiative to lead and promote full participation in Jewish life for people with disabilities and their families. It is accomplished through planning, raising awareness, public education, and programs such as Shabbat Itanu and the Community Inclusion Award of Excellence.



## Ma'avar Transitional Program for Young Adults

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**Contact:** Robert Silverman  
Robert\_Silverman@hotmail.com  
(647) 895-6616

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**Able To Accommodate Teens and Adults With:** Learning and emotional issues

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**Age Group:** 17-30

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**Program Description:** Basic skills such as money math, reading, writing and interpersonal skills are taught; instruction can be directed towards emphasis on vocational training and work placement; independent study such as GEDs or online courses are available. Emphasis placed on individual needs, wishes and motivation while drawing from other professionals as well.



## Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre

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**Address:** 750 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, ON M5S 2J2

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**Contact:** Liv Mendelsohn  
inclusion@mnjcc.org

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**Website:** [www.mnjcc.org](http://www.mnjcc.org)

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**Able To Accommodate Children, Teens and Adults With:** All abilities

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**Program Description:** Contact Liv about general programs. The following are specifically designed to be inclusive: accessible yoga; accessible and inclusive Jewish holidays and Jewish life celebrations; mixed abilities ballroom and latin dance (Wheel Dance); adaptive sportball; mixed abilities basketball (Ontario Basketball Association, Wheelchair Sports Association); inclusive MNJCC Day camps (Reach for the Rainbow); integrated swim lessons (Down Syndrome Association of Toronto); post-rehab fitness; arts and culture programs (Ryerson School of Disability Studies, Tangled Arts and Disability). Financial accessibility is built into all of our programming.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible subway station (Spadina); building and salt water pool are accessible.

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*MNJCC's statement of commitment to accessibility and inclusion mandates that we "ensure that dignity, integration and equality of opportunity are embedded in all aspects of MNJCC culture" and that "diversity and social inclusion are at the heart of what we do". Every event and program is open to all and our goal is that with the right supports anyone can share in a meaningful experience. Our initiative includes programs, but goes beyond individual programs - it's about creating a culture of respect for difference.*



## Prosserman Jewish Community Centre

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**Address:** 4588 Bathurst Street, Toronto ON M2R 1W6

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**Contact:** Jennifer Appleby-Goosen  
jennifer@prossermanjcc.com  
(416) 638-1881 ext. 4275

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**Website:** [www.prossermanjcc.com](http://www.prossermanjcc.com)

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**Able To Accommodate Children, Teens and Adults With:** Physical, developmental, and intellectual disabilities, challenging behaviours, chronic illnesses

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**Age Group:** Infants, toddlers, children, adults, older adults

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**Program Description:** Programs are inclusive and supports are available to integrate children and adults successfully. Integrated programs including Centre Camp or opportunities in weekly recreation and leisure programs for a wide range of interests.

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**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking, elevator, accessible washrooms, power operators at entrance

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## Schwartz / Reisman Centre

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**Address:** 9600 Bathurst Street, Vaughan, ON L6A 3Z8

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**Contact:** Karina Klier- Bogomolsky, Program Consultant, Inclusion Services  
kklier@srcentre.ca  
(905) 303-1821 ext. 3042

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**Website:** [www.srcentre.ca](http://www.srcentre.ca)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children, Teens and Adults With:** Physical or cognitive disabilities, autism spectrum disorder (ASD), mental health issues, hearing or vision impairment

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**Age Group:** Infants, toddlers, children, teenagers

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**Program Description:** Recreational activities, social skills groups, music club, swimming

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**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking



## Shoresh's Kavanah Garden

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**Address:** Lebovic Campus Drive, Vaughan ON L6A 3Z8 (west of Ilan Ramon Blvd.)

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**Contact:** Risa Alyson Cooper  
info@shoresh.ca  
(416)-805-8382

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**Website:** [www.shoresh.ca](http://www.shoresh.ca)

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**Able To Accommodate Children, Teens and Adults With:** Learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder(ASD), behavioural issues, physical and or cognitive challenges

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**Age Group:** All ages

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**Program Description:** Children and adults participate in episodic experiential programs rooted in Jewish text, tradition, and values, and designed to elicit experiences of awe in response to the wonders of the natural world! All of the food grown at the Kavanah Garden is used in programming or donated to community members in need through our community tzedakah partnerships.

Over 100 varieties of organic vegetables, herbs, fruits, and wildflowers, havdallah spice garden; community orchard; nature pavilion; compost demonstration site; native pollinator garden spaces; educational signage in Hebrew and English; meditative prayer spaces and more.

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**Accessibility:** Garden is wheelchair accessible with paved central garden pathway and raised wheelchair accessible garden beds.





## The House

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**Address:** 4600 Bathurst Street, Lipa Green Centre, 4th Floor, Toronto, ON M2R 3V3

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**Contact:** info@thehousetoronto.com  
(416) 482-9025

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**Website:** www.thehousetoronto.com

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**Able To Accommodate Adults With:** The House is happy to chat with interested individuals about how best to accommodate their needs.

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**Age Group:** 22-35 year olds

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**Program Description:** The House inspires young adults through dynamic and creative programming, fostering a deepening appreciation of Jewish wisdom, values and tradition by highlighting their relevance for navigating life's important decisions and everyday life.

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**Accessibility:** Office and parking are accessible; programs are held at various locations throughout the city.



## COMMUNITY

### The Jewish Self Advocacy Group

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**Address:** The Hub; 540 Finch Avenue West, Toronto, ON M2R 1N7

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**Contact:** Galya Ouanounou  
jewishselfadvocacy@gmail.com

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**Program Description:** The group empowers adults with disabilities to make decisions about their lives. Discussions involve employment, social inclusion, sexuality, living accommodations, independence and navigation around government regulations and resourceful agencies. Methods include active discussions, art projects, interactive games, watching videos, community outings and more.

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**Accessibility:** Parking and building are wheelchair accessible.

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### Additional Toronto Links

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[www.connectability.ca](http://www.connectability.ca)

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[pdpresources.blogspot.com](http://pdpresources.blogspot.com) - *person directed planning / Tammy McCauley: Griffin Centre / over 40 pages of resources*

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[www.dsontario.ca](http://www.dsontario.ca) - *Developmental Services of Ontario*

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[www.abilitiescentre.org](http://www.abilitiescentre.org)

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Echo Tanenbaum Jewish Institute for Health - Medical referral service (416) 256-0081



## COMMUNITY

### Additional Toronto Links

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#### **Aptus Treatment Centre (Muki Baum)**

*Provide people who have developmental and emotional disabilities with opportunities*

40 Samor Road, Toronto, ON M6A 1J6

(416) 633-5775

[www.mukibaum.com](http://www.mukibaum.com)

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#### **Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital**

*Canada's largest children's rehabilitation hospital, providing treatment, research and education services in the area of childhood disability*

150 Kilgour Road, Toronto, ON M4G 1R8

(416) 425-6220

[www.hollandbloorview.ca](http://www.hollandbloorview.ca)

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#### **Hospital for Sick Children**

*Ashkenazi Jewish Screening Panel: Screening available for the following 7 disorders:*

*Bloom syndrome (BLM), Canavan disease (CVN), Familial dysautonomia (FD),*

*Fanconi anemia group C (FA-C), Mucopolidosis type IV (MLP4), Niemann Pick disease type A & B (NP) and Tay-Sachs (TSD) disease*

555 University Avenue, Toronto, ON M5G 1X8

Jewish Chaplain: (416) 813-7189

Genetics Department: (416) 813-1500

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#### **Jacob's Ladder**

*The Canadian Foundation for the Control of Neurodegenerative Disease*

716 Gordon Baker Road #210, Toronto, ON M2H 3B4

(416) 485-0078

[www.jacobsladder.ca](http://www.jacobsladder.ca)

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#### **Spark Therapy**

*Therapeutic services in schools, day programs and group homes. Thornhill facility includes therapy rooms and a sensory gym*

66 Centre Street, Vaughan ON L4J 1E9

(905) 709-1806



## SCHOOLS

### Ahavat Yisrael Hebrew School

#### Supplementary School

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#### **Locations:**

Westmount Collegiate - 1000 New Westminister Dr., Thornhill, ON L4J 8G3

Stephen Lewis Secondary - 555 Autumn Hill Blvd., Vaughan, ON L4J 8X2

Bais Yaakov Elementary School - 15 Saranac Blvd., Toronto, ON M6A 2G4

Forest Hill Jr. & Sr. Public School - 78 Dunloe Road, Toronto, ON M5P 2T6

**Mailing Address:** 54 Glen Park Avenue, Toronto, ON M6B 2C2

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**Contact:** Leslie Shapiro, Principal

ahavatyisrael@sympatico.ca

(416) 781-8088

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**Website:** [www.ahavatyisraelhebrewschool.com](http://www.ahavatyisraelhebrewschool.com)

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**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Physical, developmental, intellectual and learning disabilities, mental health problems, challenging behaviours, hearing and visual impairment

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**Age Group:** Junior kindergarten - Grade 7

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**Program Description:** The school has a self-contained classroom for some children who need a smaller setting. Ahavat Yisrael also offers shadows for children who need more individualized attention.

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**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking, elevator

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## SCHOOLS

### Beit Rayim Hebrew School

#### Supplementary School

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**Office Address:** 9600 Bathurst Street #224, Vaughan, ON L6A 3Z8

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**Contact:** Kevin Knopman, Principal  
principal@beitrayim.org / school@beitrayim.org  
(905) 303-5471

---

**Website:** [www.beitrayim.org](http://www.beitrayim.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Physical, developmental, intellectual and learning disabilities, challenging behaviours, hearing and visual impairment

---

**Age Group:** Junior kindergarten - Grade 7

---

**Program Description:** Shadows if needed, teacher and assistant in the class, fully qualified resource department and consultants available if needed.

---

**Accessibility:** Office and school are wheelchair accessible, accessible parking



## SCHOOLS

### Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue

#### Supplementary School

---

**Address:** 100 Elder Street Toronto, ON M3H 5G7

---

**Contact:** Rabbi Leslie Lipson  
Rabbilipson@beby.org  
(416) 633-3838

---

**Website:** [www.beby.org](http://www.beby.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children, Teens and Adults With:** All are welcome

---

**Program Description:** Kadima Educational Centre operates every Sunday afternoon from 2:00pm to 3:30 pm for adults with volunteer and professional staffing available. There is also a Bar and Bat Mitzvah tutor available for children with disabilities to ensure successful celebration.

---

**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible bimah, elevator



## SCHOOLS

### Beth Sholom Hebrew School

#### Supplementary School

---

**Address:** 1445 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto, ON M6C 2E6

---

**Contact:** Karen Goodis  
karen@bethsholom.net  
(416) 630-6772

---

**Website:** [www.bethsholom.net](http://www.bethsholom.net)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Developmental, intellectual, and learning disabilities

---

**Age Group:** Junior Kindergarten - Grade 7

---

**Program Description:** Special education classroom for children with learning disabilities, autism (ASD) and developmental delay. All students are integrated until grade three. There is support for students integrated into regular classrooms, one-on-one withdrawal for Hebrew. Classroom shadows are available as needed. Beth Sholom has computers and iPads.

---

**Accessibility:** Accessible parking. School wing only accessible by stairs.

---



## SCHOOLS

### Beth Tzedec Congregational School

#### Supplementary School

---

**Address:** 1700 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5P 3K3

---

**Contact:** Daniel Silverman, Director of Education & Family Programming;  
dsilverman@beth-tzedec.org  
(416) 781-3514 x231

---

**Website:** [www.beth-tzedec.org](http://www.beth-tzedec.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Physical, developmental, intellectual and learning disabilities, challenging behaviours

---

**Age Group:** Junior kindergarten - Grade 7

---

**Program Description:** One-on-one aids for students in need of extra assistance. Beth Tzedec also runs a Bat and Bat Mitzvah program for children who have difficulties with social situations.

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking





## SCHOOLS

### Bialik Hebrew Day School

---

**Address:** 2760 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M6B 3A1

---

**Contact:** Danielle Waltman, Admissions Manager  
dwaltman@bialik.ca  
(416) 783-3346 x285

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**Website:** [www.bialik.ca](http://www.bialik.ca)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Physical and learning disabilities

---

**Age Group:** Junior kindergarten - Grade 8

---

**Program Description:** Resource teachers available to support learning in all grades in both general and Jewish studies, full-time school counsellor, partnership with Jewish Family & Child Services for social work support and partnership with Jewish Vocational Services for psych-educational evaluations.

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking



## SCHOOLS

### Bnei Akiva Schools of Toronto

---

**Address:**

Yeshivat Or Chaim - 159 Almore Avenue, Toronto, ON M3H 2H9

Ulpanot Orot - 45 Canyon Avenue, Toronto, ON M3H 3S4

---

**Contact:** Mrs. Miriam Klein, Director of Student Services

[mklein@bastoronto.org](mailto:mklein@bastoronto.org)

(416) 638-5434

---

**Website:** [www.bneiakivaschools.org](http://www.bneiakivaschools.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Teens With:** Learning and other disabilities. Resources are limited, but each student is considered on an individual basis.

---

**Age Group:** Grades 9-12

---

**Program Description:** Limited facilities, but will accommodate as best as possible.

---

**Accessibility:** School is not accessible, but students in wheelchairs have been helped by their peers.



## SCHOOLS

### Centre for Jewish Learning and Living

Supplementary School at Temple Emanu-El

---

**Address:** 120 Old Colony Road, Toronto, ON M2L 2K2

---

**Contact:** Jenn Katz, Director of Education  
jenn@templemanuel.ca  
(416) 449-3880

---

**Website:** [www.templemanuel.ca](http://www.templemanuel.ca)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Physical, developmental, intellectual and learning disabilities, mental health problems, challenging behaviours

---

**Age Group:** Junior kindergarten - grade 10 and programming for ages 0-3 once each month

---

**Program Description:** Special education teachers or consultants on site, differentiated curriculum, flexible programs / schedules, individual education plan accommodation, one-on-one support.

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking

---



## SCHOOLS

### Chabad Romano Centre

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**Address:** 10500 Bathurst Street, Maple, ON L6A 0H2

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**Contact:** Rebbetzin Toby Bernstein  
(905) 303-1880

---

**Website:** [www.chabadrc.org](http://www.chabadrc.org)

---

**Program Description:** Gan Shalom Preschool and daycare (ages 1½ -5 years old) are offered. Children with disabilities are accepted on a case by case basis in order to properly accommodate and support him or her. Chabad in Maple also has a Hebrew School and Bar and Bat Mitzvah club with limited assistance for youth with disabilities. Chabad Romano has an in-house behaviour specialist who works with the teachers to deal with behavioral issues. Parents may provide shadows or occasionally shadows may be available through the York region, which also assists with therapists and early interventionists. Each child is assessed on an individual basis.

---

**Accessibility:** Building has ramps, accessible parking available. Washrooms are accessible.



## SCHOOLS

### City Shul Supplementary School

---

**Address:** 26 Harbord Street, Toronto, ON M5S 1G2

---

**Contact:** Rabbi Elyse Goldstein  
rabbi@cityshul.com  
(647) 799-3557

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**Website:** [www.cityshul.com](http://www.cityshul.com)

---

**Program Description:** City Shul works with kids with disabilities in the school.

---

**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible bimah



## SCHOOLS

### Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto

The Anne and Max Tanenbaum CHAT

---

**Address:** Wallenberg Campus - 200 Wilmington Avenue, Toronto, ON M3H 5J8

---

**Contact:** [info@tanenbaumchat.org](mailto:info@tanenbaumchat.org)  
(416) 636-5984

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**Website:** [www.tanenbaumchat.org](http://www.tanenbaumchat.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Teens With:** Physical, developmental, intellectual and learning disabilities, mental health problems, challenging behaviours, hearing and visual impairment

---

**Age Group:** Grades 9-12

---

**Program Description:** Additional experienced and trained teachers

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking, elevators



## SCHOOLS

### Congregation Darchei Noam

#### Supplementary School

---

**Address:** 864 Sheppard Avenue West, Toronto, ON M3H 2T5

---

**Contact:** (416) 638-4783

---

**Website:** [www.darcheinoam.ca](http://www.darcheinoam.ca)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Physical, developmental, intellectual and learning disabilities, mental health problems, challenging behaviours, hearing and visual impairment

---

**Age Group:** Junior kindergarten - Grade 7

---

**Program Description:** The school is happy to work with any individual to make sure his or her needs are met.

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking, braille and raised lettering for room numbers, elevators, accessible washrooms



## SCHOOLS

### Downtown Jewish Community School

#### Supplementary School

---

**Address:** 750 Spadina Avenue, Toronto ON M5S 2J2

---

**Contact:** Belinda Keshen, Principal  
principal@djcs.org  
(416) 924-6211 ext. 112

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**Website:** [www.djcs.org](http://www.djcs.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Learning disabilities

---

**Age Group:** JK-High School

---

**Program Description:** Accommodations are made in the Jewish studies and Hebrew literacy programs.

---

**Accessibility:** DJCS is housed at the Miles Nadal JCC, which is an accessible building close to an accessible subway station (Spadina).





## SCHOOLS

### Eitz Chaim School (Boy's Branch)

---

**Address:** 475 Patricia Avenue, Toronto, ON M2R 2N1

---

**Contact:** patricia@eitzchaim.com  
(416) 225-1187 ext. 321

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**Website:** [www.eitzchaim.com](http://www.eitzchaim.com)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children With:** learning disabilities, challenging behaviours, hearing and visual impairment

---

**Age Group:** Nursery - Grade 8 males

---

**Program Description:** A branch of the Zareinu Educational Centre.

---

**Accessibility:** None



## SCHOOLS

### Gan Yeladim Daycare

---

**Address:** 100 Elder Street, Toronto, ON M3H 5G7

---

**Contact:** Melanie Boldovitch  
administrator@ganyeladim.com  
(416) 638-1796

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**Website:** [www.ganyeladim.com](http://www.ganyeladim.com)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Autism. Small premises means that there is little room for children with physical disabilities

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**Age Group:** 18 months-5 years

---

**Accessibility:** Accessible parking, elevator, daycare on second floor



## SCHOOLS

### Holy Blossom Temple Religious School

#### Supplementary School

---

**Address:** 1950 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5P 3K9

---

**Contact:** Debbie Spiegel, Director of Education  
dspiegel@holyblossom.org  
(416) 789-3291 ext. 239

---

**Website:** [www.holyblossom.org](http://www.holyblossom.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Learning disabilities and challenging behaviour

---

**Age Group:** Junior kindergarten - Grade 10

---

**Program Description:** Specialized learning program for students with learning challenges by means of one-on-one Hebrew tutor and specialized staff who can create learning programs tailored to children's needs.

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking, elevator



## SCHOOLS

### Jewish Russian Community Centres (JRCC)

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#### JRCC DAYCARE

**(North Toronto)** 5950 Bathurst Street #110, Toronto, ON M2R 1Y9  
(416) 222-7105 ext. 501 [www.jrccdaycare.org](http://www.jrccdaycare.org)\*

**(West Thornhill)** 1136 Centre Street #2, Thornhill, ON L4J 3M8  
(416) 222-7105 ext. 502 [www.jrccwestthornhill.org](http://www.jrccwestthornhill.org) \*

**(East Thornhill)** 7608 Yonge Street #3, Thornhill, ON L4J 9J5  
(416) 222-7105 ext. 227 [www.jrcceastthornhill.org](http://www.jrcceastthornhill.org) \*

**(East Thornhill)** Yorkhill Public School - 350 Hilda Avenue, Thornhill, ON L4J 5K  
(416) 222-7105 ext. 227 [www.jrcceastthornhill.org](http://www.jrcceastthornhill.org) \*

**(South Thornhill)** 1 Cordoba Drive, Party Room, Thornhill, ON L4J 8S3  
(416) 222-7105 ext. 254 [www.jrccsouththornhill.org](http://www.jrccsouththornhill.org) \*

\* wheelchair accessible. Each child will be assessed on an individual basis.

---

#### SENIORS' BUILDING

**(Bathurst & Sheppard)** 4455 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M3H 5X7

**(Bathurst & Lawrence)** 3174 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M6A 2B1

Wheelchair accessible community centres. Programs and minyanim vary at each of the 2 locations above.

---

#### HEBREW SCHOOL

**Forest Run Public School:** 200 Forest Run Blvd.

Special education teachers have been hired in the past to teach children with learning disabilities. Wheelchair accessible. Children are considered on a case by case basis.



## SCHOOLS

### Kol Ami

#### Supplementary School

---

**Address:** 36 Atkinson Avenue, Thornhill, ON L4J 8C9

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**Contact:** Judy Silver, Director of Education  
educator@kolami.ca  
(905) 709-2620

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**Website:** [www.kolami.ca](http://www.kolami.ca)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Developmental, intellectual, and learning disabilities

---

**Age Group:** Prekindergarten - Grade 10

---

**Program Description:** Special needs coordinator on staff is available to support families and teachers

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking, braille and raised lettering for room numbers



## SCHOOLS

### Leo Baeck Day School

---

**Address:** 501 Arlington Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 3A4  
36 Atkinson Avenue, Thornhill, ON L4J 8C9

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**Contact:**

Mrs. Danielle Applebaum (416) 787-9899 [dapplebaum@leobaeck.ca](mailto:dapplebaum@leobaeck.ca) (South)  
Mrs. Bev Gitter (905) 709-3636 [bgitter@leobaeck.ca](mailto:bgitter@leobaeck.ca) (North)

---

**Website:** [www.leobaeck.ca](http://www.leobaeck.ca)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Intellectual and learning disabilities

---

**Age Group:** Junior kindergarten - Grade 8

---

**Program Description:** Remedial support in all subject areas, enriching support in language arts and math: access to occupational and speech therapy, mainstream academic accommodations and modification for learning disabilities as well as other mild exceptionalities in the core subject areas.

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible

---



## SCHOOLS

### Netivot HaTorah Day School

---

**Address:** North Campus: 18 Atkinson Avenue, Thornhill, ON L4J 8C8  
South Campus: 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto, ON M5N 1V8

---

**Contact:** Lauren Korzinstone, Director, Podolski Netivot Educational Support Services (NESS)  
lkorzinstone@netivot.com  
(905) 771-1234 Ext. 236

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**Website:** [www.netivot.com](http://www.netivot.com)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Learning disabilities, physical and cognitive issues as well as sight and hearing impairments.

---

**Age Group:** 2 years -teens

---

**Program Description:** The mandate of Podolski NESS is to support students' academic, social, emotional and spiritual well-being through a wide range of services to support the growth of the child. Kimel Centre for Inclusion, differentiated curriculum, individualized programs with accommodations and modifications, small group and Judaica studies curriculum support, enrichment, school social worker, psycho-educational consultant, occupational, physiotherapy and speech therapy, professional staff development, Zareinu classroom satellite.

---

**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible parking



## SCHOOLS

### Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School

---

**Address:** 750 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, ON M5S 2J2

---

**Contact:** Pauline Landen, Supervisor of Student Services  
pauline@djds.ca  
(416) 928-3537

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**Website:** [www.djds.ca](http://www.djds.ca)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Learning disabilities

---

**Age Group:** Senior kindergarten - Grade 6

---

**Program Description:** Remedial assistance to students in small groups, accommodations provided to help each child attain success in a very caring and nurturing environment.

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible





## SCHOOLS

### Prosserman JCC Daycare & Preschool

---

**Address:** 4588 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M2R 1W6

---

**Contact:** Kailah Rubin  
kailah@prossermanjcc.ca  
(416) 638-1881 ext. 4351

---

**Website:** [www.prossermanjcc.com](http://www.prossermanjcc.com)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Physical, cognitive disabilities, hearing or vision impaired, mental health, challenging behaviours

---

**Age Group:** 18 months-5 years old

---

**Program Description:** Inclusive community-based childcare and preschool includes Judaic traditions and Hebrew instruction.

---

**Accessibility:** Accessible building



## SCHOOLS

### Robbins Hebrew Academy

---

**Address:** 1700 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5P 3K3

---

**Contact:** Claire Sumerlus, Head of School  
csumerlus@rhacademy.ca  
(416) 224-8737 Ext.125

---

**Website:** [www.rhacademy.ca](http://www.rhacademy.ca)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Hearing and/or vision impairment, and those with mental health disabilities or challenging behaviours. May be able to expand accessibility on a case by case basis.

---

**Age Group:** Children and teens

---

**Program Description:** Accommodations are made on a case by case basis.

---

**Accessibility:** Accessible parking, Elevator from lower level to second floor (no elevator access to the third floor), a braille and a sound field system



## SCHOOLS

### Solel Synagogue

---

**Address:** 2399 Folkway Drive, Mississauga, ON L5L 2M6

---

**Contact:** Arlene Botnick  
amora@solel.ca  
(905) 820 5915

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**Website:** [www.solel.ca](http://www.solel.ca)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children With:** learning disabilities behavioural issues and hearing impairment.

---

**Age Group:** 3- 15 years old

---

**Program Description:** Sunday school

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**Accessibility:** Ramps, parking spaces, signing upon request, accessible bimah



## SCHOOLS

### Temple Sinai Supplementary School

---

**Address:** 210 Wilson Avenue, Toronto, ON M5M 3B1

---

**Contact:** Bobbie Lynn Brass, Education and programs  
education@templesinai.net  
(416) 487-3281 ext. 227

---

**Website:** [www.templesinai.net](http://www.templesinai.net)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children With:** Physical, intellectual and learning disabilities, hearing and visual impairment

---

**Age Group:** Junior kindergarten - Grade 10

---

**Program Description:** Shadows or trained education assistants are used when appropriate.

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking, elevator



## SCHOOLS

### Tiferes Bais Yaakov

---

**Address:** 85 Stormont Avenue, Toronto, ON M5N 2C3

---

**Contact:** Lynn Lichtenstein  
lynn@tiferesbaisyaakov.com  
(416) 785-4044 ext. 231

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**Website:** [www.tiferesbaisyaakov.com](http://www.tiferesbaisyaakov.com)

---

**Able to Accommodate Teens With:** Learning disabilities

---

**Age Group:** Grades 9-12, females

---

**Program Description:** Instruction at three levels (academic, applied, essential) to gain high school credits, IEP for students, peer tutoring and mentoring program, note buddies, modified and alternate tests (oral, scribing)

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking



## SCHOOLS

### Yeshiva Darchei Torah of Toronto

---

**Address:** 18 Champlain Boulevard, Toronto, ON M3H 2Z1

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**Contact:** Rabbi Meir Joshua, Assistant Principal  
joshua@darchei.ca  
(416) 782-7974

---

**Website:** [www.darchei.ca](http://www.darchei.ca)

---

**Able To Accommodate Teens With:** Learning disabilities, mental health problems, challenging behaviours

---

**Age Group:** Grade 9 - 12

---

**Program Description:** Very few supports, but some parents bring in supplementary resources.

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible



## SCHOOLS

### Yeshivas Nefesh Dovid

**The International Yeshiva for Young Men with Hearing Loss**

---

**Address:** 77 Stormont Avenue, Toronto, ON, M5N 2C3

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**Contact:** Mrs. Chaya Skaist  
Info@nefeshdovid.com  
(416) 630. 6220

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**Website:** [www.nefeshdovid.com](http://www.nefeshdovid.com)

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**Able To Accommodate Teens With:** All levels of hearing loss, whether profoundly deaf or mildly hearing impaired and using hearing aids or cochlear implants

---

**Age Group:** Teen and adults, males

---

**Program Description:** Nefesh Dovid is the only high school and bais midrash program that serves Jewish young men with hearing loss. It is fully accredited with a complete Hebrew and secular studies curriculum, and accepts young men regardless of Jewish observance, background or mode of communication. Under the dynamic leadership of Rabi Chaim Kakon who is hearing challenged as well, Nefesh Dovid includes a full-time dormitory and well-rounded program to serve the population that is hearing challenged. It has become a powerful resource for individuals dealing with hearing loss of any kind, whether providing shidduchim, emotional and spiritual support, halacha or advice. Hearing loss is described as a silent disability, but Nefesh Dovid is bringing attention to a very underserved and misunderstood segment of the community.

---

**Accessibility:** Visual aids, sign language and closed captioning are used.

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## SCHOOLS

### Zareinu Educational Centre

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**Address:** 7026 Bathurst Street, Room 108, Thornhill, ON L4J 8K3

---

**Contact:** info@zareinu.org  
(905) 738-5542

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**Website:** www.zareinu.org

---

**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities, hearing and visual impairment

---

**Age Group:** 3 weeks - 18 years

---

**Program Description:** Zareinu Educational Centre is a school and treatment centre for children with developmental and physical challenges. Speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, music therapy and behavioral therapy are both in class and in individual sessions. All services are offered within a Jewish cultural context. Zareinu Educational Centre operates an early childhood program in Thornhill and Satellite classes at **Eitz Chaim School** and **Netivot HaTorah Day School**. New satellites will open in the fall of 2015 at **Yesodei HaTorah** and **Ner Yisroel Yeshiva**.

---

**Process:** Families may call for an interview and tour. Once registration forms are completed, a clinical intake will be arranged.

---

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking, Braille and raised lettering for room numbers

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# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Bikur Cholim

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**Address:** 506 Coldstream Avenue, Toronto, ON M6B 2K6

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**Contact:** info@bikurcholim.ca  
(416) 783-7983

---

**Website:** www.bikurcholim.ca

---

**Able To Accommodate People With:** We serve those in the community with health issues and/or in family crisis

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**Age Group:** Seniors and families in crisis

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**Service Description:** Socio/educational programs for seniors and healthy workshops. Gemach for the free lending of medical equipment, including wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, bathroom equipment and more. Support offered for individuals who are homebound: hospital visitation with meals and personal visits.



# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Chai Lifeline

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**Address:** 258 Wilson Avenue, Toronto, ON M3H 1S6

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**Contact:** Mordechai Rothman, Executive Director  
mrothman@chailifeline.org  
(647) 430-5933

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**Website:** [www.chailifelinecanada.org](http://www.chailifelinecanada.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Physical disability, serious medical illness

---

**Age Group:** Infants, toddlers, children, teens

---

**Service Description:** Social and recreational program, financial program, respite and camp. Families of children with serious illness face many challenges that add to the difficulty of combating the disease themselves. Chai lifeline addresses the full spectrum of needs from logistic and psychological to social and recreational, reaching out to patients, siblings, classmates, school faculty as well as the community.

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**Accessibility:** N/A

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# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Chai-Tikvah Foundation

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**Address:** 4600 Bathurst Street #313, Toronto, ON M2R 3V2

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**Contact:** chaitikvah@chaitikvah.org  
(416) 634-3050

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**Website:** www.chaitikvah.org

---

**Able To Accommodate Adults With:** Mental health problems

---

**Age Group:** Young adults to older adults

---

**Service Description:** Weekly social recreational program, counseling and support. Supportive housing for adults who have mental health problems.

---

**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible parking



# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Circle of Care

---

**Address:** 4211 Yonge Street #401, Toronto, ON M2P 2A9

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**Contact:** (416) 635-2860

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**Website:** [www.circleofcare.com](http://www.circleofcare.com)

---

**Able To Accommodate Adults With:** Physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities, hearing and vision impairment, mental health problems and challenging behaviours

---

**Age Group:** Older adults (50+) and caregivers

---

**Service Description:** Home support services, personal support and respite care, caring for people with dementia and Alzheimer’s, community support services, counseling, transportation, meals and nutrition, day centre for seniors, end-of-life care, volunteer-supported services, family caregiver connections.

---

**Accessibility:** Most are accessible



# SOCIAL SERVICES

## DANI Developing and Nurturing Independence

---

**Address:** 501 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill, ON L4J 4E5

---

**Contact:** info@dani-toronto.com  
(905) 889-3264

---

**Website:** www.dani-toronto.com

---

**Able To Accommodate Teens and Adults With:** Physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities, hearing and visual impairment, mental health problems and challenging behaviours

---

**Age Group:** Teens and adults

---

**Service Description:** Adult day program - includes literacy, life sciences, greenhouse, self-advocacy, music, art, yoga, movement, cooking, drama, Judaica, Hebrew, Israel, Winter, Spring and Summer camps, after school integrated music program, dinner 'n chillin, Sunday recreational program. Social Enterprise includes vocational training, placement and volunteering, work at the Centre or at various businesses. Catering service, DANI Dairy Delights (COR), DANI Café and newly designed venue.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible parking



# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Friendship Circle

---

**Address:** 770 Chabad Gate, Thornhill, ON L4J 3H9

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**Contact:** Esty & Goldy Grossbaum, Program Coordinators  
friendshipcircle@chabad.ca  
(905) 731-7000

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**Website:** [www.fctoronto.org](http://www.fctoronto.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities, hearing and visual impairment, mental health problems, challenging behaviours

---

**Age Group:** Infants, toddlers, children, teenagers

---

**Service Description:** The Friendship Circle pairs teenage volunteers with children with special needs for weekly visits at home. The teens engage the children in a variety of fun activities, while forging lasting bonds of friendship. There is also a 2-hour Sunday morning recreation and cultural program available with one-on-one shadows, as well as holiday programs.

---

**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible parking

---



# SOCIAL SERVICES

## JACS Toronto Jewish Addiction Community Services Toronto

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**Address:** 858 Sheppard Avenue West, Toronto, ON M3H 2T5

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**Contact:** info@jacstoronto.org  
(416) 638-0350

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**Website:** www.jacstoronto.org

---

**Able To Accommodate Teens and Adults With:** Substance use problems (drugs, alcohol) and process addictions (gambling, overeating, internet, sex)

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**Age Group:** 12+

---

**Service Description:** In-house programs and services: Individual, family, couples counseling, facilitated group meetings, referrals to treatment centers, legal services, info line

Outreach program: Workshops at schools, camps, synagogues, presentations for businesses, associations and organizations, participation in public panel discussions and private family homes

---

**Accessibility:** Building accessible, automatic door opener, ramp at the main entrance and back entrance

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**Process:** Phone or email



## SOCIAL SERVICES

### Jewish Family and Child Services

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**Address:**

(Central Office) 4600 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M2R 3V3 (416) 638-7800  
(Downtown Branch) 35 Madison Avenue, Toronto, ON M5R 2S2 (416) 961-9344  
(Jerome D. Diamond Adolescent Centre) 196 Keewatin Avenue, Toronto, ON M4P 1Z8  
(416) 482-3023  
York Region 1 OPEN DOOR Joseph & Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Centre  
9600 Bathurst Street #242, Vaughan, ON L6A 3Z8 (905) 303-5838

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**Website:** [www.jfandcs.com](http://www.jfandcs.com)

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**Able To Accommodate People With:** Physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities, challenging behaviours, complex medical issues

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**Age Group:** Infants, toddlers, children, teenagers, parents of children with special needs up to 18 years old

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**Service Description:** The Family Support Program (FSP) provides a range of case management services to families with children who have with developmental disabilities. It works to help parents enhance their children’s quality of life by accessing appropriate community resources services and supports, as well as agency services when required. There is no cost to the family for the FSP services.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible parking, braille and raised lettering for room numbers

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## SOCIAL SERVICES

### JVS

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**Address:** 74 Tycos Drive, Toronto, ON M6B 1V9 (416) 787-1151  
2700 Dufferin Street #90A, Toronto, ON M6B 4J3 (416) 782-3976

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**Website:** [www.jvstoronto.org](http://www.jvstoronto.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children, Teens and Adults With:** Learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD), developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder (ASD), mental health issues, physical challenges and more.

---

**Service Description:** Project GOLD – generating opportunities for young adults with learning disabilities or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD) job readiness program. In partnership with Kerry’s Place Autism Services, this program is designed for individuals with ASD between the ages of 18 and 30 years. Al Green Resource Centre; Path 2 Work Program; YCCS (Youth Community Choices for Success) Program; Support program for youth between the ages 18 and 30 with a dual diagnosis (mental health issues coupled with a developmental disability). Services include vocational planning; DWC (Developing Work Connections) Program; The Workshop (In partnership with the Reena); Person Directed Planning (PDP) Initiative. Assessment services; psychoeducational assessment – for children, adolescents, adults. Psychovocational assessment; vocational assessment. (see website for full details)

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**Accessibility:** Parking and building wheelchair accessible



# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Kadima Centre

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**Address:** 100 Elder Street, Toronto, ON M3H 5G7

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**Contact:** Marcel Cohen

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**Website:** [www.beby.org/kadima\\_centre.html](http://www.beby.org/kadima_centre.html)

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**Able To Accommodate Adults With:** Physical, developmental and cognitive disabilities, hearing and vision impaired, challenging behaviours

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**Age Group:** 25+

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**Service Description:** Social, spiritual and educational programming that is designed to promote successful inclusion within the larger community through social skills development.

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**Accessibility:** Elevator and ramp



# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Kehilla Residential Programme

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**Address:** 262 Ridley Boulevard, Toronto, ON M5M 4N6

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**Contact:** kehilla@rogers.com  
(416) 932-1212

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**Website:** [www.kehilla.ca](http://www.kehilla.ca)

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**Able To Accommodate:** Families, single moms, developmentally disabled, seniors

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**Service Description:** Kehilla is both a non-profit housing provider and developer of affordable housing with a focus on the Jewish community. It also delivers rent assistance programs through its own fundraising and with assistance from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Kehilla strives to educate the community through its Bagels and Bricks Symposium and organizes a successful annual international sukkah design competition (Sukkahville) to raise awareness for permanent affordable housing.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible parking



# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Reena

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**Address:** Reena’s Toby & Henry Battle Developmental Centre  
927 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill, ON L4J 8G6

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**Contact:** Arlene Margolese, Supervisor  
amargolese@reena.org / info@reena.org  
(905) 889-6484

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**Website:** [www.reena.org](http://www.reena.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children, Teens and Adults With:** Developmental and intellectual disability; must have a developmental disability, but may have other challenges as well.

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**Age Group:** Children, teenagers, young adults (19-24), adults (25-50), older adults (50+)

---

**Service Description:** Social and recreational program, vocational and day program, counseling and support services, housing, camp, faith and cultural services, outreach and respite services, respite, pathways to the community, and developmental disability counselor program.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible parking, braille in elevator



# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Regesh Family & Child Services

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**Address:** 149 Willowdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M2N 4Y5

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**Contact:** (416) 495-8832

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**Website:** [www.regesh.com](http://www.regesh.com)

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**Able To Accommodate Children, Teens and Adults With:** Mental health issues

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**Age Group:** Children, teenagers, young adults (19-24), adults (25-50), older adults (50+)

---

**Service Description:** Family support program, anger management, Get Off The Street (GOTS) summer program for teens. Reconnecting Youth program, agency consultation and staff training.

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**Accessibility:** House is not accessible



## SOCIAL SERVICES

### Relief Resources Canada

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**Address:** 2788 Bathurst Street #302, Toronto, ON M6B 3A3

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**Contact:** info@reliefhelp.ca  
(416) 789-1600

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**Website:** www.reliefhelp.org

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**Able To Accommodate Children, Teens and Adults With:** Mental health issues

---

**Age Group:** All

---

**Service Description:** Relief Resources is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide clients with the best mental health resources available. Relief believes that each person and each case is unique, and that every client deserves to have access to the best available options to meet the specific needs of their unique challenge. Mental health recommendations and referrals are offered.

---

**Accessibility:** n/a



# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Three To Be

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**Address:** 452 Wilson Avenue, Toronto, ON M3H 1T6

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**Contact:** Amanda Jodoin, Director of Operations  
amanda@threetobe.org |  
(416) 898-2766

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**Website:** [www.threetobe.org](http://www.threetobe.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children and Teens With:** Neurological disorders and their families.

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**Age Group:** Birth – 18 years

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**SERVICE DESCRIPTION:** The organization invests in cutting edge research that looks at therapies to repair the brain, and technologies that make communication possible for children who can't speak. The organization operates the very critical Parent Advocacy Link (PAL) program which is a community of parents and family members of children with various brain disorders. Through PAL, THREE TO BE makes available relevant, up to date resources that our families need to navigate. Additionally, through our PAL Assist program, we make small subsidies available for access to therapy and recreation programs for children and a Give Me A Break program that gives parents and families a chance to get away or do something special for themselves. Support is offered to the whole child which involves their families, their communities and their health care practitioners.

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**Accessibility:** Parking and office; wheelchair accessible

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# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Yachad

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**Address:** 15 Gorman Park Road, Toronto ON M3H 3K3

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**Contact:** Mrs. D. Marmer, Director, YACHAD, National Jewish Council for Disabilities  
torontoyachad@ou.org  
(416) 986-1985

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**Website:** [www.yachad.org](http://www.yachad.org)

---

**Able To Accommodate Children, Teens and Adults With:** Physical and cognitive disabilities, hearing and vision impairments, mental health issues and challenging behaviours.

---

**Age Group:** Children, teens and adults

---

**Service Description:** Inclusive weekly and monthly programs, holiday celebrations and shabbatons throughout the year. There are also inclusive camper and vocational summer possibilities.

\*\*Please see YACHAD New York, USA





## SYNAGOGUES

### Adath Israel Congregation

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**Address:** 37 Southbourne Avenue, Toronto, ON M3H 1A4

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**Contact:** Rabbi David Seed  
rabbiseed@adathisrael.com  
(416) 635-5340

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**Website:** [www.adathisrael.com](http://www.adathisrael.com)

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**Available Opportunities:** Adath Israel works directly with families who have members with disabilities; various supportive services may be available.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible bimah



## SYNAGOGUES

### Aish Thornhill Community Shul

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**Address:** 949 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill, ON L4J 8G6

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**Contact:** theshul@aish.com  
(905) 764-1891

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**Website:** thornhillshul.com

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**Able To Accommodate People With:** All

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**Age Group:** All

---

**Available Opportunities:** Open to Jewish individuals of all backgrounds, observance levels and abilities. Everyone is welcome. The “family shul” offers programs for the entire family. It is essential that all members feel at home, enjoy themselves and grow “Jewishly.”

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**Accessibility:** Accessible parking, accessible building, elevator



## SYNAGOGUES

### Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto

---

**Address:** 613 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill, ON L4J 5V3

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**Contact:** baytadmin@bayt.ca  
(905) 886-3810

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**Website:** [www.bayt.ca](http://www.bayt.ca)

---

**Available Opportunities:** Dedicated Inclusion Committee; synagogue hosts annual shabbatons for children and adults with disabilities; committed youth director extends integrated opportunities for holiday celebrations, events or other occasions.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible bimah, elevator, sanctuary has moveable seats to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers, sign language available upon request, open to accommodations



## SYNAGOGUES

### Beth David Synagogue

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**Address:** 55 Yeomans Road, Toronto, ON M3H 3J7

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**Contact:** Cheryl Katz – Chair of Itanu Committee (Accessibility Committee)  
lckatz@sympatico.ca  
(416) 633-1740

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**Website:** [www.bethdavid.com](http://www.bethdavid.com)

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**Available Opportunities:** The synagogue will work with individuals on a case by case basis to try to accommodate needs.

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**Accessibility:** Building is accessible with a new elevator, ample accessible parking, the bima has been moved to the main level for accessibility for aliyot, mezzuzot have been lowered



## SYNAGOGUES

### Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue

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**Address:** 100 Elder Street Toronto, ON M3H 5G7

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**Contact:** Rabbi Leslie Lipson  
Rabbilipson@beby.org  
(416) 633-3838

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**Website:** [www.beby.org](http://www.beby.org)

---

**Available Opportunities:** Kadima Educational Centre operates every Sunday afternoon (2:00 pm to 3:30 pm) for adults with disabilities, including volunteers and professional staffing, Aleph Bais Yehuda Supplementary School includes classes for children with disabilities on Sunday mornings, Bar and Bat Mitzvah tutor to ensure celebration of the milestone.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible bimah, elevator



## SYNAGOGUES

### Beth Sholom

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**Address:** 1445 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto, ON M6C 2E1

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**Contact:** Naomi Haworth, Program Director  
naomi@bethsholom.net  
(647) 873-1238

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**Website:** [www.bethsholom.net](http://www.bethsholom.net)

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**Available Opportunities:** Supplemental Hebrew school has special education classes; newly-formed inclusion committee.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible bimah



## SYNAGOGUES

### Beth Torah Congregation

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**Address:** 47 Glenbrook Avenue, Toronto, ON M6B 217

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**Contact:** Rabbi Yossi Sapirman  
rabbiyossi@bethtorah.ca / yourshul@bethtorah.ca  
(416) 782-4495

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**Website:** [www.bethtorah.ca](http://www.bethtorah.ca)

---

**Available Opportunities:** Comprehensive Bar and Bat Mitzvah program customized for the child's circumstance and designed to create a positive event for both the child and the family.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible bimah

*\*\*Please see accessible synagogue architecture on pages 78-80 for picture of sanctuary and description by Rabbi Yossi Sapirman.*





## SYNAGOGUES

### Accessible Synagogue Architecture

Beth Torah Congregation; Rabbi Yossi Sapirman



Our new sanctuary, stunningly simple, is designed to still echo the Mount Sinai principle, with a minimalist environment, illuminated primarily with natural light, a not overly adorned or iconized design and primarily employing basic construction materials, wood, stone and metal. The architects developed many of the design elements based on the traditions of the past and sensibilities of our rich heritage and warm community.

The bimah is built to allow for maximum accessibility and participation. Young and old alike will find its wide stairs easy to traverse and its height elevated but not lofty.

Traditionally when one is called for an “Aliyah”, one arrives at the bimah via the shortest possible route as though showing anticipation towards the Torah and leaves the bimah by a long route indicating reluctance to leave.

In the temple in Jerusalem the stairs leading to the temple were smooth and evenly spaced,



those leading a way were uneven and of varying heights to ensure a quick ascent and a measured slow and careful descent, offering a chance to contemplate the extraordinary stage upon which one had just been an actor.

To the left of the bimah, there is a glass enclosed ramp. The inspiration for a ramp was drawn from the construction of the Mishkan (the tabernacle) and later the Temple altar itself. You shall not ascend to my altar with stairs so that your frailty shall not be revealed. The original intent of the verse undoubtedly referred to the modesty of the priests, however clearly forcing those who are frail or disabled to walk upstairs and perhaps their only access is via a ramp would be revealing their frailty and we insisted that our sanctuary not have stairs only, but also be accessible to all and none would have to worry about ascending stairs if they were unable to.

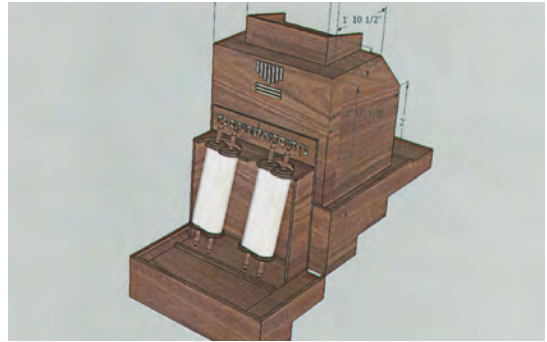
For a fully detailed description, please see [www.bethtorah.ca](http://www.bethtorah.ca)



# SYNAGOGUES

## Accessible Synagogue Architecture

Shaarei Shomayim: Rabbi Noah Cheses



A flexible shulchan stands on the new bima. An accessible Aron Kodesh (above right) will sit at the front of the lower bima. One of the guiding values for the renovation of our shul has been the integration of people with physical challenges into our sacred space. The new shulchan can be easily lowered to allow a bar mitzvah boy in a wheelchair to chant his Torah portion. The new Aron Kodesh will allow the elderly and those using wheelchairs to have the honour of being able to open the ark. The plan is to use the accessible ark once a month in order to integrate it into the choreography of a regular Shabbat morning service and so as not to draw unnecessary attention to an individual with a disability using it.

In Parshat Emor, we encounter the startling command that “any man of your [Aharon] offspring throughout the generations in who there is a physical deformity should not come near to offer the bread to G-d (21:6). In trying to make

sense of this seemingly discriminatory legislation, Rabbi Shmuel Goldin suggests based upon the commentary of the Abarbanel that if the blemished Kohen had been allowed to assume a public role within the Temple, the attention of the Jewish people would have been drawn to the Kohen instead of a given ritual. The distraction would likely undermine the necessary focus to complete the Temple service.

This approach suggests that the exclusion of a Kohen with a physical deformity is not for G-d but for human beings. G-d does not see the service of a person with a disability as problematic; it is the surrounding culture that determines what is normal and abnormal. For this reason the Talmud in Megillah 24b states that a Kohen with a blemish that is culturally normalized may still bless the congregation with the priestly blessing.

Considering that a disability lies in the eye of the beholder, I believe that we should try and get beyond the “disabled” vs. “abled” language.\*

continued...



## SYNAGOGUES

### Accessible Synagogue Architecture contd.

All of G-d's creations are both abled and disabled in some way and we cannot allow societal conventions dictate that certain people are identified by their disabilities and others by their abilities. Granted that it can be useful to name certain obstacles that someone might have, which make them more vulnerable or that inhibit them from certain types of functionality, but this cannot

continue to justify our condemning categorization of "people with disabilities." All people are equally endowed with the divine blueprint and ought to be identified based upon their talents and strengths.

May we be continue to be inspired by the values that radiate from the new furniture in our sanctuary.

*\* Proper language is an essential component in the respectful discussion of inclusion. Rabbi Cheses strongly believes that we should be directed away from the terms of abilities and disabilities.*

*However, Shelly Christensen presents another view for your consideration. "It is important that we move away from thinking people with disabilities are "special" or "challenged" which is an indirect way of saying that having a disability is challenging and implies that people should somehow be regarded as heroes or trying to overcome something because they have a disability. People adapt to living in the world with disabilities, certainly, but having a disability and being perceived as someone special because of it takes away from what we have in common-our humanity-and again places people with disabilities in categories that are not useful or helpful to bring meaningful person-centered participation and inclusion about."*



## SYNAGOGUES

### Beth Tzedec Congregation

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**Address:** 1700 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5P 3K3

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**Contact:** Rabbi Adam Cutler, Inclusion Committee  
ravadam@beth-tzedec.org  
(416) 781-3514 ext. 219

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**Website:** [www.beth-tzedec.org](http://www.beth-tzedec.org)

---

**Available Opportunities:** The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Club is a program for kids with autism, or who are non-verbal, have learning disabilities and more.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible parking, building is largely although not yet fully accessible, large print siddurim, FM broadcast hearing devices, willingness to move Torah reading from bimah



## SYNAGOGUES

### Chabad Lubavitch of Markham

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**Address:** 83 Green Lane, Thornhill, ON L3T 6K6

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**Contact:** Rabbi Avraham Plotkin, Rebbetzin Goldie Plotkin (Pre-School)  
(905) 886-0420

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**Website:** [www.chabadmarkham.org](http://www.chabadmarkham.org)

---

**Available Opportunities:** Shul for the entire family; children with disabilities are included in preschool and camp programs with the help of shadows. Chabad in Markham is also working to develop a Sunday program for children with disabilities.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, one small step up to bimah, parking is close to entrances



## SYNAGOGUES

### City Shul

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**Address:** 26 Harbord Street, Toronto, ON M5S 1G2

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**Contact:** Rabbi Elyse Goldstein  
rabbi@cityshul.com  
(647) 799-3557

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**Website:** [www.cityshul.com](http://www.cityshul.com)

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**Available Opportunities:** City Shul will work with children with disabilities in the school.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible bimah



## SYNAGOGUES

### Congregation Darchei Noam

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**Address:** 864 Sheppard Avenue West, Toronto, ON M3H 2T

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**Contact:** Tema Smith, Manager of Community Outreach and Engagement  
info@darcheinoam.ca  
(416) 638-4783

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**Website:** [www.darcheinoam.ca](http://www.darcheinoam.ca)

---

**Available Opportunities:** Support offered to children with disabilities in the Hebrew school and Bar and Bat Mitzvah program. Ushers and greeters can greet individuals with disabilities at all programs and services.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible bimah, accommodating of wheelchairs and other mobility devices.





## SYNAGOGUES

### Holy Blossom Temple

---

**Address:** 1950 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5P 3K9

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**Contact:** Russ Joseph  
rjoseph@holyblossom.org

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**Website:** [www.holyblossom.org](http://www.holyblossom.org)

---

**Available Opportunities:** Signing upon request

---

**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible bimah



## SYNAGOGUES

### Kol Ami

---

**Address:** 36 Atkinson Avenue, Thornhill, ON L4J 8C9

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**Contact:** Rabbi Micah Streiffer  
rabbistreiffer@kolami.ca / admin@kolami.ca  
(905) 709-2620

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**Website:** [www.kolami.ca](http://www.kolami.ca)

---

**Available Opportunities:** Religious school is committed to inclusion with a coordinator who works with families of students with special needs to determine each student's path to success.

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, sanctuary has moveable seats to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and more; sign language available on holidays and other requested occasions





## SYNAGOGUES

### Neshamah Congregation of York Region

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**Address:** 56 Lindvest Crescent, Maple, ON L6A 4N2

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**Contact:** Rabbi Erin Polansky  
rabbi@neshamah.ca  
(647) 930-1709

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**Website:** [www.neshamah.ca](http://www.neshamah.ca)

---

**Available Opportunities:** Bar and Bat Mitzvah specialist is equipped to tutor students with disabilities: accommodations are available for classes.

---

**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible bimah, sign language available upon request



## SYNAGOGUES

### Shaarei Shomayim

---

**Address:** 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto, ON M5N 1V8

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**Contact:** Rabbi Chaim Strauchler  
RabbiStrauchler@shomayim.org  
(416) 789-3213

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**Website:** [www.shomayim.org](http://www.shomayim.org)

---

**Available Opportunities:** Strong inclusion committee, integrated bar mitzvah/bar mitzvah programs, regular Shabbat morning youth programs with Camp Aim, annual Shabbat Itanu program.

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**Accessibility:** Fully accessible building, accessible bimah and ark in chapel and main sanctuary

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*\*\*Please see accessible synagogue architecture on pages 78-80 for picture of the sanctuary and description by Rabbi Noah Cheses.*



## SYNAGOGUES

### Shaarei Tefillah

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**Address:** 3600 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M6A 2C9

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**Contact:** Rabbi Rafi Lipner  
rabbilipner@shaareitefillah.com  
(416) 787-1631

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**Website:** [www.shaareitefillah.com](http://www.shaareitefillah.com)

---

**Available Opportunities:** All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Open to accommodations.

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**Accessibility:** Last row taken out for women, sign language upon request, other accommodations possible



## SYNAGOGUES

### Shomrai Shabbos Chevrah Mishnayos

---

**Address:** 583 Glengrove Avenue West, North York, ON M6B 2H5

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**Contact:** office@sscm.ca  
(416) 782-8849

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**Website:** [www.sscm.ca](http://www.sscm.ca)

---

**Available Opportunities:** Classes may be integrated with supports. Bar Mitzvah teacher with special training (from elsewhere) may be requested by the family to assist with preparation for milestone.

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**Accessibility:** Ramp available at entrance as well as 2 wheel chairs available if needed, accessible bimah in the Marder Beis Midrash, siddurim available with bigger print (not specialized for those with vision impairment)



## SYNAGOGUES

### Temple Emanu-El

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**Address:** 120 Old Colony Road, Toronto, ON M2L 2K2

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**Contact:** Jenn Katz  
jenn@templemanuel.ca  
(416) 449-3880

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**Website:** [www.templemanuel.ca](http://www.templemanuel.ca)

---

**Available Opportunities:** Bar and Bat Mitzvah tutor for children with disabilities

---

**Accessibility:** Accessible building



## SYNAGOGUES

### Temple Har Zion

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**Address:** 7360 Bayview Avenue, Thornhill, ON L3T 2R7

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**Contact:** Carol Handelman  
carolhandelman@templeharzion.com / info@templeharzion.com  
(905) 889-2252 x4

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**Website:** [www.templeharzion.com](http://www.templeharzion.com)

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**Available Opportunities:** Large print siddurim and hearing devices for individuals who are hearing impaired. Temple Har Zion is an accessibility community; accessibility committee

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**Accessibility:** Ramp to lower bimah; fully accessible auto-door washroom on the main floor, elevator to lower floor and the library, office, cloakroom and additional meeting spaces

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**THZ Accessibility Committee Mission Statement** *"To guide the synagogue in supporting meaningful inclusion and participation for all its members in all areas of synagogue life."*

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**THZ Accessibility Committee Vision Statement** *"The Accessibility Committee will pursue its mission by supporting people with disabilities in the congregation, educating lay leaders, volunteers, staff and congregants in order to promote a synagogue where all members share a sense of dignity, respect and inclusion."*

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thzaccessibility@gmail.com

Temple Har Zion's Accessibility Policy is available upon request.



## SYNAGOGUES

### Temple Sinai

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**Address:** 210 Wilson Avenue, Toronto, ON M5M 3B1

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**Contact:** Rayner Conway, Executive Director  
Rayner@templesinai.net

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**Website:** [www.templesinai.net](http://www.templesinai.net)

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**Available Opportunities:** Bar and Bat Mitzvah teachers; religious school and Hebrew classes are open and supportive to accommodate students with disabilities; Accessibility Committee, all staff and volunteers have AODA \*customer service regulation training.  
*\*AODA - Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. See legal section.*

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**Accessibility:** Accessible building, accessible bimah



# SYNAGOGUES

## Inclusion Priorities and Sample Ideas for Setting Goals

| Communication  | Policies  | Resources   | Training/Support  |
|--|---|---|---|
| Our organizations mission statement reflects inclusion of people with disabilities                       | Food containing nuts, gluten, dairy or other allergens is clearly marked at all events                              | We have an inclusion committee to guide our organization  | Staff members have attended conferences/workshops on disabilities and/or inclusion                              |
| We have an accessibility statement on our website, in all written and electronic communication           | We have a fragrance-free policy   | We utilize secular and Jewish community resources to provide information on inclusion                               | Staff have attended training to support people with disabilities in their particular area of work               |
| Membership or registration packets include disability inclusion policies                                 | We ask people if we can be of assistance to them at services, events and programs rather than assuming that they do | We use resources provided by organizations of which we are members (AJFCA, OU, USCJ, URJ, Chabad, JCCA, JFNA, etc.) | We provide internal training to each department on inclusion and supporting people with disabilities            |
| We have at least one person designated to respond to accommodation requests                              | We use person-first language when speaking about someone who has a disability or uses adaptive equipment            | We are aware of grants and other funding mechanisms offered by the province or national government                  | People with disabilities (and family where applicable) participate on personal plan development                 |
| Materials are available in adaptive formats (e.g. large print, ASL, interpreter avail. on request, etc.) | We reviewed our policies and by-laws and have made changes that support inclusion.                                  | We have completed an assessment of the physical plant and have made changes or have a plan to make changes          | We provide board training on inclusion  |
| We inform members, staff, constituents on inclusion efforts in our organization                          | All staff are trained to take accommodations requests   | We have a designated endowment fund(s) for inclusion/support of people with disabilities                            | Inclusion is part of our volunteer training   |
| Our committees receive information about inclusion from leadership and/or inclusion committee            | People with disabilities sit on our board   | We know what the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) is and how it applies to our organization | Our organization participates in Jewish Disability Awareness Month and/or community-wide inclusion programming. |

Shelly Christensen, MA, Minneapolis Inclusion Program Manager

### Best Practices for Successful Inclusion in Synagogue Life

- The Rabbi(s) must be on board and set the tone for their congregation on how to relate to people with special needs. Explanations include that it is a moral imperative that all members of our community need to understand and learn lessons of inclusion of Klal Yisroel. Without the Rabbi's active involvement, there can be little chance of success.
- Establish a buddy-system with members of the congregational family. These 'buddies' provide them with someone to sit with, perhaps invite over for Shabbat, Holidays or life-cycle events meal or visit.

For the rest of the article, or more information, please contact Marcel Cohen, Program Director, Kadima Centre, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue Bar Mitzvah tutor (including special needs), marcelcohen2003@yahoo.ca





## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### Canada

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#### Montreal, Quebec

##### **The Jewish Special Needs Network**

Information and referral service

(514) 736-2273

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##### **Miriam Home**

The organization strives to ensure that persons with intellectual disabilities are seen and treated as people first, afforded personal security, adaptively cared for, treated with respect and dignity, and given means to compensate for their deficiencies and disabilities. It also strives to ensure that they experience love and friendship and continuity, learn skills, have access to opportunities to make choices and exercise their rights, and have a decent and appropriate place to live, meaningful employment or occupation, and lifelong opportunities for growth.

8160 Chemin Royden, Ville Mont-Royal, QC H4P 2T2

(514) 345-0210

[mircea.bruj.miriam@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:mircea.bruj.miriam@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)

[www.centremiriam.ca](http://www.centremiriam.ca)



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### Canada

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#### Ottawa, Ontario

##### **Tamir**

This proud and caring team consists of participants, families, volunteers and professionals who are dedicated to helping people with developmental disabilities realize their potential in a supportive Jewish environment through opportunities for personal growth and community involvement.

11 Nadolny Sachs Private #218, Ottawa, ON K2A 1R9  
(613) 725-3519  
[info@tamir.ca](mailto:info@tamir.ca)  
[www.tamir.ca](http://www.tamir.ca)

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#### Vancouver, British Columbia

##### **Yaffa Housing**

The Jewish group home and centre assists adults with mental health issues and developmental disabilities by providing care, opportunity and support within the context of Jewish values and practice.

1077 East 48 Street, Vancouver, BC V5X 1W8  
(604) 321-0464  
[info@yaffahousing.ca](mailto:info@yaffahousing.ca)  
[www.yaffahousing.ca](http://www.yaffahousing.ca)



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### Canada

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#### **Vancouver contd.**

##### **Kehila Society of Richmond**

A strategic planning society that strives to strengthen Jewish life, develop services and initiatives for the present and future needs of the Richmond community in an accessible and inclusive manner.

10691 Shellbridge Way #130, Richmond, BC V6X 2W8

(604) 241-9270

kehila@uniserve.com

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#### **Winnipeg, Manitoba**

##### **Shalom Residence Inc.**

This is a non-profit organization that provides care and support, in community based homes for adults with intellectual disabilities in a Jewish milieu.

1033 McGregor Street #100-1010, Sinclair St, West Kildonan, MB R2V 3H4

(204) 582-7064

shalom@mts.net

www.shalomresidences.com



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### Israel

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#### **Aleh**

Israel's largest network of residential facilities helps children with severe physical and cognitive disabilities.

12 Aharonovitz, P.O. Box, Bnei Brak 51103

972-03-671-1888

[info@aleh.org](mailto:info@aleh.org)

[www.aleh.org](http://www.aleh.org)

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#### **Alyn**

The hospital is Israel's only pediatric and adolescent rehabilitation centre for the physically disabled. It offers all of the services necessary for rehabilitation under one roof.

82 Shmaryahu Levine Street

972-2-6494222

[www.alyn.org](http://www.alyn.org)

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#### **Beineinu**

The organization connects parents of children with disabilities.

972-72-230-5368

[deena@beineinu.org](mailto:deena@beineinu.org)

[www.beineinu.org](http://www.beineinu.org)



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### Israel

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#### **Beit Issie Shapiro**

The organization partners with people with disabilities, families and allies from different sectors to provide state-of-the-art services and changes to social structures so people can live, learn and pursue their desired quality of life in the communities of their choice.

Issie Shapiro Street, P.O.Box 29, Ra'anana 431000

972-9-770-1222

[info@beitissie.org.il](mailto:info@beitissie.org.il)

[www.beitissie.org.il](http://www.beitissie.org.il)

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#### **Darkaynu**

Midreshet Darkaynu and Yeshivat Darkaynu are new and innovative programs developed for religious young women and men with special needs who are looking for the perfect way to spend a year in Israel.

51 Leib Yaffe, Jerusalem, 93390

Elana Goldscheider, Director

972-2-671-0043

[mydarkaynu@gmail.com](mailto:mydarkaynu@gmail.com)

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#### **Haboydem**

A self-sustaining second hand clothing store which is serviced by people with disabilities who are being trained and empowered to maximize their potential, and integrate back into the competitive workplace.

Tzeret 15, Talpiot, Jerusalem

972-2-579-8567

[www.haboydem.org](http://www.haboydem.org)

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## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### Israel

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#### **Kishorit**

The permanent home for adults with disabilities includes a supportive community in which its members can live full, independent lives, and mature and grow old with dignity. The Kishorit framework provides the members with employment opportunities, leisure time activities, private living quarters, medical supervision and care, nursing care when necessary and opportunities for integration into the broader community. Most importantly, Kishorit provides the members with a deep sense of social belonging and full membership in a community.

Mobile Post Office Bikat Beit Hakerem, 2012300  
972-4-908-5110  
[kishorit@bezeqint.net](mailto:kishorit@bezeqint.net)

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#### **Mercaz Harmony – The International Centre for Inclusion**

This non-profit educational organization enables children with disabilities and their typical peers grow and learn together. The goal of Mercaz Harmony is to include children with disabilities in mainstream life in a variety of settings-including their homes, educational institutions and the entire community.

Jerusalem  
972-2-651-9234  
[mercazharmony@netvision.net.il](mailto:mercazharmony@netvision.net.il)  
[www.mercazharmony.org](http://www.mercazharmony.org)



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### Israel

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#### **Shalva**

These programs and services are designed to help create an individual treatment program for children, while simultaneously strengthening the fabric of their families.

Ibn Danan 6, P.O.Box 34449, Jerusalem  
972-2-651-9555  
[johanna@shalva.org](mailto:johanna@shalva.org)  
[www.shalva.org](http://www.shalva.org)

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#### **Shutaf**

Shutaf - Inclusion Programming for Children and Teens with Special Needs

Shutaf Inclusion Programs in Jerusalem offer year-round, inclusion programs for children and teens ages 6-21 with and without special needs, including day camps and activities during Pesach and August vacations; twice weekly after-school activities; Young Leadership Program for Teens; parent and family gatherings. It is inclusive, committed to a teaching model that welcomes and includes all children – with and without disabilities – regardless of educational, religious and socioeconomic differences.

[www.uscj.org/jewishlivingandlearning/inclusioninitiative.aspx](http://www.uscj.org/jewishlivingandlearning/inclusioninitiative.aspx)



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### Israel

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#### **Sulam**

Its goal is to enable children with disabilities to achieve their maximum functioning potential and to enrich their quality of life. SULAM works with children with a range of challenges including cognitive and/or motor dysfunction, developmental delays, learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder (ASD), emotional problems, and other issues.

Sanhedria Murchevet 116, P.O. BOX 18206 Jerusalem, 9118102  
972-2-532-6527  
[sulam@sulam.net](mailto:sulam@sulam.net)

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#### **Yad Leyad Hameyuchad**

“SPECIAL IN UNIFORM” Program - Integrate Youth with Disabilities in the Israel Defense Forces and Israeli Society. Lt. Col. (Res.) Ariel Almog decided to establish Special in Uniform project to enable youth with disabilities to fulfill a dream and to be like their peers. Service in the IDF is a normal part of Israeli life. At the same time it promotes a more inclusive society and shifts attitudes about people with disabilities and their ability to more fully participate and contribute to society. The program has integrated hundreds of youth with disabilities in the IDF and later into community and the work force.

Israel: 38 Katzanelson Street, Beit Dagan 50200  
972-3-717-4460  
[www.special.org.il](http://www.special.org.il) / [info@special.org.il](mailto:info@special.org.il)

USA: 580 Crown Street #007, Brooklyn, NY 11213  
[www.special.org.il](http://www.special.org.il) / [yossi@special.org.il](mailto:yossi@special.org.il)  
(347) 563-0784





## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### South Africa

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#### Cape Town

##### **Astra Centre**

The centre provides a sheltered work environment for adults with disabilities. Dignity is rewarded as the adults complete contract services and craft projects. The Astra Centre has been an international model and leader in the field of disability.

20 Breda Street Gardens #8001, Cape Town  
+27 21 465-4200  
[jsec@iafrica.com](mailto:jsec@iafrica.com)  
[www.astrajse.com](http://www.astrajse.com)

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#### Johannesburg

##### **Kibbutz Lubner and Selwyn Segal**

Adults with disabilities thrive on the dignity of their work and the genuine pride and joy they derive from producing food from the earth. Kibbutz Lubner gives them the chance to give back to the community by making and selling jams as well as Pesach teiglach and imberlach.

(011) 483-7530  
[www.selwynsegalgifts.co.za](http://www.selwynsegalgifts.co.za)



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### United Kingdom

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#### London, England

##### **Lemos and Crane**

This organization identifies ways of improving access to the arts, museums, galleries for people with learning disabilities.

[www.lemosandcrane.co.uk/home/index.php?id=235006](http://www.lemosandcrane.co.uk/home/index.php?id=235006)

020-8348-8263

[info@lemosandcrane.co.uk](mailto:info@lemosandcrane.co.uk)

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##### **The Judith Trust**

The organization works to assist those with learning disabilities and mental health issues, especially those of women and the Jewish community. Goals include working towards full inclusion.

Jo Richler: Coordinator & Policy Manager

020-7266-1073

[jo@judithtrust.org.uk](mailto:jo@judithtrust.org.uk)

[www.judithtrust.org.uk](http://www.judithtrust.org.uk)



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### United States of America

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#### **Berkeley, California**

##### **Rosh Pina**

The organization supports Jewish institutions in becoming special needs certified, leading them through a year-long journey that includes aspects of community building, program modification and development, and engaging in deep study on the board, clergy, lay leader and teacher levels. During the certification process, the organization will engage in conversations about all facets of its institutional life, including but not limited to: physical structure, curriculum, family programming, language use and leadership.

1680 Short St. Berkeley CA 94702

Elana Naftalin-Kelman, Founder and Executive Director

(510) 495-0851

[elana@rpcornerstone.org](mailto:elana@rpcornerstone.org)

[www.rpcornerstone.org](http://www.rpcornerstone.org)

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#### **Los Angeles, California**

##### **Etta Israel Center**

The centre provides educational, educational, clinical, social and support services for Jewish youth with special needs.

12722 Riverside Drive #105, Valley Village, CA 91607

(818) 985-3882

[info@etta.org](mailto:info@etta.org)

[www.etta.org](http://www.etta.org)



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### United States of America

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#### Atlanta, Georgia

##### **Camp Yofi / Camp Ramah Darom**

Bringing together families with children with children on the autism spectrum (ASD) from North America for a fun week of Jewish living and learning in the North Georgia Mountains.

70 Camp Darom, Clayton, GA 30525

(404) 531-0801

[communications@ramahdarom.org](mailto:communications@ramahdarom.org)

[ramahdarom.org/programs](http://ramahdarom.org/programs)

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#### Chicago, Illinois

##### **Keshet**

Keshet is the premier provider of educational, recreational, vocational and social programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities that operates according to traditional Jewish values.

3210 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL 60062

(847) 205-0274

[www.keshet.org](http://www.keshet.org)



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### United States of America

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#### **Detroit, Michigan**

##### **Meer Family Friendship Center/ Weinberg Life Village**

The 22,000 square foot centre gives children and their friends the opportunity to practice activities such as banking, scheduling and keeping appointments with the salon, dentist or doctor, navigating traffic signals and buying tickets for the 22 seat movie theater.

6892 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
(248) 788-7878

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##### **Farber Soul Center**

The center will include The Dresner Soul Studio, the Soul Café, an Art Gallery and Venue for events.

5586 Drake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
(248) 788-7878  
[www.friendshipcircle.org/soul/](http://www.friendshipcircle.org/soul/)

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##### **Friendship Circle, International**

With over 79 locations worldwide the Friendship Circle has cultivated friendships between 5,000 special children and close to 11,000 teen volunteers. These shared experiences empower the children, while enriching the lives of everyone involved. In addition, parents and siblings receive much-needed respite and support. Each independent Friendship Circle is operated by its local Chabad Lubavitch Center, Chapters may be found in Israel, Australia, Montreal, Toronto, US- Los Angeles, Cleveland, NY, NJ etc..



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### United States of America

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#### New Jersey

##### **Round Lake Camp**

This camp is operated by New Jersey YMHA and designed for children with ADHD and social skill problems.

(973) 575-3333 ext. 145

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#### New York

##### **Camp HASC**

This unique summer program provides a camping experience for over 300 children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. Camp HASC serves the social, therapeutic, academic, recreational, and medical needs of the campers.

1563 49th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219

(718) 686-2600

[info@camphasc.org](mailto:info@camphasc.org)

[www.camphasc.org](http://www.camphasc.org)



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### United States of America

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#### **New York contd.**

##### **Matan**

The organization advocates for Jewish students with special needs, empowers their families and educates Jewish leaders, teachers and communities so that all Jewish children have access to a rich and meaningful Jewish education.

520 Eighth Avenue, 4th floor, New York, NY 10018  
1(866) 410-5600  
[info@matankids.org](mailto:info@matankids.org)

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##### **OHEL**

It offers services for people with disabilities of all ages: including foster care, residential, mental health, support for seniors, caregiver encouragement, etc.

4510 16th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11204  
1-800-603-OHEL or (718) 851-6300  
[access@ohelfamily.org](mailto:access@ohelfamily.org)  
[www.ohelfamily.org](http://www.ohelfamily.org)



## CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL

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### United States of America

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#### **New York contd.**

##### **Congregation Rodeph Sholom**

The synagogue has a long commitment of meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities in order to make the synagogue community as accessible as possible. Visit the microsite: [shireinu.rodephsholom.org](http://shireinu.rodephsholom.org) to learn history (videos) of inclusion through music and tefillot.

7 West 83rd Street, New York, NY 10024  
(212) 362-8800  
[info@crsnyc.org](mailto:info@crsnyc.org)  
[www.rodephsholom.org](http://www.rodephsholom.org)

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##### **YACHAD, International**

This international organization promotes inclusion for children and adults with disabilities in the broader Jewish community throughout the year, summer vocational programs throughout the USA and Canada, and an integrated YAD B'YAD trip to Israel. YACHAD offers vocational and day programs, a lecture series, school programs, support groups, help with dating and relationships, an annual family Shabbaton, and community education.

333 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10001, United States  
(212) 613-8229  
[www.njcd.org](http://www.njcd.org)





## INSPIRATIONAL WORDS

### *Vision for our children and our community*

*I was asked to pen a few thoughts on my hopeful vision for the world my daughter lives in. Unlike some topics, where you have to work hard to find the right thoughts this isn't one of those topics. In fact, it's not the thoughts that are difficult to find, but the words. In some ways I could not ask for a better world for my daughter who is blessed with a remarkable brain that makes her different and special. I continue to marvel at the way that she has grown, now into a 17-year-old woman, and how she fills her world with a unique, quirky and full-of-love passion for life and people. Most of the people who meet her are kind, and understanding. Inevitably there will always be "someone" who fails to understand differences – but the world we increasingly see is a world that not only respects but also is beginning to embrace differences. In the past individuals who fell "out of the bell curve" were a source of shame, and horribly segregated but today we see passionate exploration for the gifts found in such differences. My wish for the Jewish and larger world beyond is that this continues. That we invest in these differences, supporting and nurturing them because these are the values that define our humanity. In Tehilim, the Book of Psalms, it says; "G-d heals the broken hearted, and He binds up their wounds..." (147:13) Saying that G-d binds and heals our wounds, but the medicine He sends are the loving people we find in this winding, hilly road of life.*

**Aaron Flanzraich**, Parent, Senior Rabbi, Beth Sholom Synagogue, Toronto, ON



*Accessibility and inclusion are not just about wheelchair accessibility. The disability itself and accommodations for individuals with cognitive disabilities, sensory issues and developmental delays are often neglected but needs greater consideration. There*



## INSPIRATIONAL WORDS

*are many individuals who cannot handle excessive noise, small claustrophobic rooms, crowded places, intense or any smells, or busy and confusing situations. Medical facilities and doctors' offices, programmes, restaurants, and even synagogues are some examples which may be troublesome and cause sensory overload, anxiety, discomfort and misery for these individuals. To be truly accessible, accommodating and inclusive, a special bright, open area with windows and soft lighting can be a special waiting area for comfort and a quiet escape if needed. There are many ways to accommodate special individuals with thoughtful creativity, and the community can be a more inclusive environment for everyone.*

**Stacy Markin,** *Parent*



*It's a boy! At that moment I was so full of joy and happiness, full of hope and promise and dreams for my child. And then, my world came crashing down; joy and happiness replaced by fear, despair and disbelief. I'm told my child isn't "normal", he's disabled, he's special needs, he's exceptional, he's delayed, prognosis unknown....but he's mine. What doesn't change however is the love, the hope, and the dreams I have for my child. When I thought about my dreams for my son, were they any different from the dreams I have for my other children? The answer is a resounding NO! What do I want for my child? I want him to be healthy but of course the definition of healthy is different now. I want him to be as healthy as he can be which means countless doctors' appointments, vigilant monitoring and medication schedules that run like a swiss watch. I want him to be happy, I want him to wake up with a smile, to feel good about himself, to be a good person, to do Mitzvot and Tzadaka, to be motivated and productive. Yes, he can do all of those things, he can be all of those things. That's what we want as parents so does it matter if*



## INSPIRATIONAL WORDS

*he's my "normal" child or my "special needs" child? Absolutely not! I want my son to be a valued and a productive member of society. My other children are in health care, they are productive, they are making a difference in the lives of others. My son tells you how beautiful you are, how smart you are, he makes you feel better about yourself. You walk away smiling. In his own way, he is also making a difference in the lives of others, just like his siblings. The most challenging dream I have for my son is for him to be safe, happy and well looked after when I am no longer around. That is what keeps me up at night. Turning that dream into a reality will take a "village" but that dream will be fulfilled by family, friends, the community and with the help of G-d.*

***Anonymous***



*I dream that he lives a life surrounded by those that love, accept and respect him; that he lives a life of fulfilment, being able to achieve goals, have confidence, and feel proud that he has made a personal mark on the world. That he remains healthy and happy until 120. My dream for Daniel is no different than any sibling may have for one another. This dream for his happiness is no different because of his disability, despite the fact that his achievements may look different and may be perceived by some as minor. It is my dream for this world, which is different than other siblings. My dream is that the world becomes an environment where people will love my brother, accept and respect him; where he be given the opportunities for fulfilment, goals to achieve, and people identify his personal mark as significant. My dream is that this world becomes a place where people don't pity Daniel for his disability and his differences, they embrace him.*

***Sabrina Barell, Sister***



## INSPIRATIONAL WORDS

*Jesse is a smart, sweet, funny and capable person who deserves every opportunity in life. Each day, he says or does something to show us there are no limits to his potential. My hope for his future is that he will be in a home type environment with his friends, run by people who value and treat him with respect, kindness and love. They will encourage and support him in all areas, ensuring he has a meaningful and happy life. As well, they will help Jesse to maintain and nurture the relationships that are so important to him-family, friends and workers. I hope that this home be within a community that welcomes, accepts and supports him. He will be happy, active, involved and visible.*

**Gail Saperia, Parent**



*Guitti is my never say never girl! She was told so often that she would never walk, never talk, never see, or hear, never be much of anything. She never let that message define her. Guitti has invested so much time and effort as well as resources to come as far as she has. I pray that she will continue to be afforded the opportunities that will allow her to maximize her potential and build on her abilities. Guitti works hard to meet expectations and she will do her utmost to work through her limitations to meet the goals she set for herself. We are appreciative of all of the special people we have met along the way that believed in Guitti and her potential. Thank you for your faith and support.*

**Chaya Perman, Parent**

# Opening The Gates of Torah

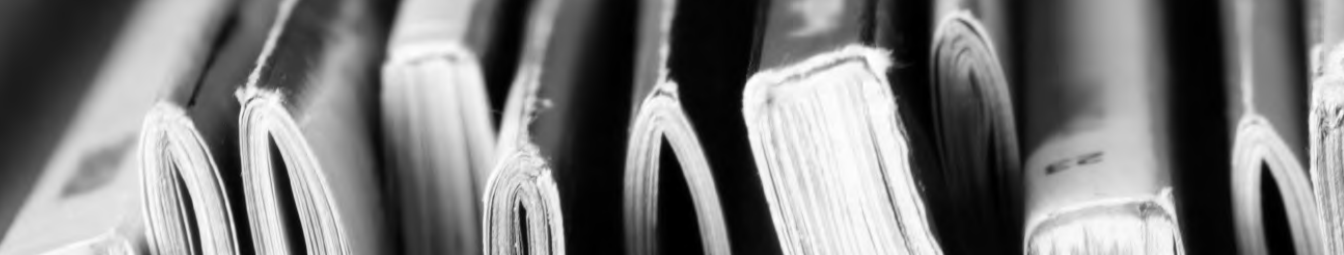
**By Jacob Artson**

*Jacob Artson's Keynote Address: Matan Institute for Education Directors, 2012*

You have probably never met anyone like me before who cannot speak but who can communicate by typing. I am a perfect example of how someone can be very impaired in one area but have great strength in other areas. Actually, I think that is true of all people, but it is especially true about people with autism. When I was diagnosed with autism at age 3, I could not speak or move my body properly, and 12 years later that remains true. However, if success and worth are measured by being a mensch and giving back to others, then I would classify my life as a success. You can be the judge.

When I moved to Los Angeles at the age of 6, I was a classic case of severe autism. My behavior was so awful, I hated myself. Almost everyone I met gave up on me almost immediately and believed I would never amount to anything. But there was one doctor who saw the gem locked inside my prison of autism. She smiled at me in a way that reflected her belief that I was a worthy person with the ability and desire to engage, and she waited the very long time it took for me to smile back. That was the beginning of my long and wonderful relationship with Dr. Ricki Robinson, who has been my guide as I struggle to reach my goals of becoming a productive member of society and a person worthy of respect.

Many purported experts claim that individuals with autism are not interested in socializing. This is totally ridiculous. I love people, but my movement disorder constantly interferes with my efforts to interact. I cannot start and stop and switch my thinking or emotions or actions at the right time. As a result, I am often

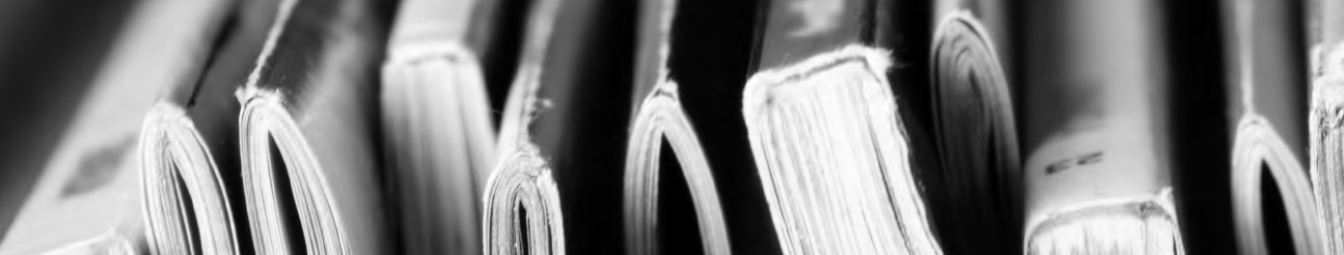


## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

very lonely and this is the worst thing about autism. I get very sad when I watch my wonderful twin sister going off to do fun things that I cannot do. At moments like that, I passionately hate autism. So next time you see someone like me at your synagogue or at your event, remember that they probably feel really lonely and you could be the person to make their day by smiling at them and letting them know that they exist.

Although I have often felt invisible because I can't speak I have also learned that autism is not entirely negative. For example, I get a VIP pass at Disneyland, and I also get to kiss all the beautiful counselors at camp and pretend I don't know any better. On a serious note, not being able to speak means that you spend lots of time listening. In fact, most of what I know I've learned from listening to conversations that other people didn't think I could hear. I've also observed that people with autism support each other in ways that typically developing people do not. My friends and I have all known the horrible embarrassment of having an autistic episode, so we really understand and support each other through triumphs as well as tribulations. Finally, because I have had to struggle every day of my life to do things that other kids take for granted, I think that I have experienced God's love in a way that most kids have not. I used to get very offended at the notion of being someone's community service project. But then I realized that while my buddies were teaching me how to be like other kids, I was teaching them how to appreciate the beauty of God's world in a new way. All in all who gets the greater benefit?

All of you here made a commitment to come today and spend an afternoon and evening understanding what it is like to live with a disability. To be honest it is hard. It is an enormous effort for me to do the simplest tasks like writing my name or tying my shoe. In my daily struggle, Judaism has been a constant source of hope, comfort and guidance. From my earliest experiences in our synagogue preschool to my more recent experiences at Jewish summer camps and youth groups, I have had wonderful



## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

peers who have seen me as a person made in God's image, with the same dreams and concerns as other kids. And while everyone else may be sleeping during the rabbi's sermon, I am always listening because I need all the help I can get in finding the strength to make it through each day.

I want to thank all of you for inviting me to participate today and for being pioneers because I have never been a keynote speaker before. It has often been my experience that people with disabilities, especially those of us who are nonverbal don't get an opportunity to speak for ourselves. Our parents or our therapists or self-proclaimed experts speak for us. By including me as a presenter today, you are already light years ahead of many other communities. So thank you for believing in me and all the other kids like me.

For the past two years, I have been part of a musical theater program for kids with special needs called the Miracle Project. It was very aptly named because many miracles happened there that make the parting of the Red Sea pale in comparison. For one, I met my wonderful girlfriend Lexi, who also has autism and has the most beautiful voice and smile in the whole world. For another, I wrote a song that we used in the show and Lexi sang it. Most miraculously of all we all accomplished far more than we ever expected because we were a team - autistic kids, siblings, volunteers and acting coaches. People with special needs don't need to be spoken to like dogs with "good job" and "good listening" and similar phrases used to train animals to do tricks. All we need is someone patient who believes that we can fly and notices our hard-earned little accomplishments. When all those little accomplishments accumulate over days and weeks and months and years, the results can be truly miraculous!



# My Son, My Rebbe

**Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson**

*Jacob and Shira Artson are twin children of Rabbi Brad and Elena Artson*

“A person’s rebbe is one who teaches wisdom, and not one who taught the Written and Oral Torah” – this is Rabbi Meir’s opinion. Rabbi Yehudah taught, “Whoever has taught most of the student’s wisdom.” Rabbi Yosi says, “Even if the rebbe did no more than make the student’s eyes light up from an explanation of a single selection from the Oral Torah, that teacher is still considered to be the student’s Rebbe.”

Bava Metzia 33a

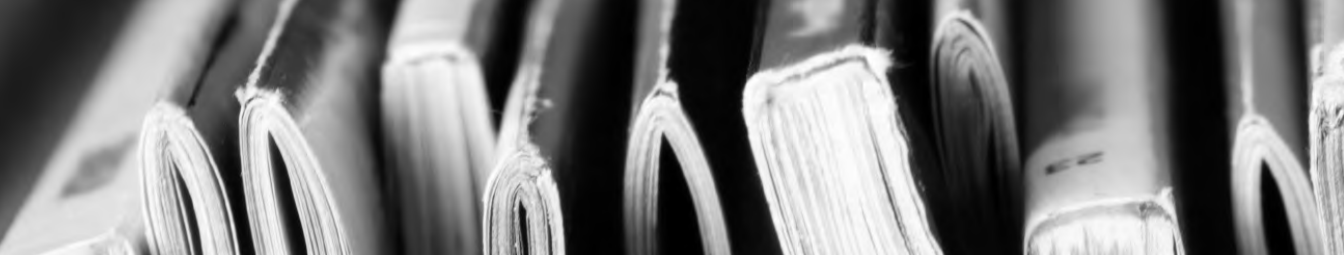
The scene: one Shabbat morning. As the Shaliach Tzibbur was replacing the Torah Scrolls into the Ark, a member of our congregation whispered to me, “I want you to know that from now on, whenever I see a Torah service, I will always think of your Jacob. The way he dances before the Torah makes me smile.”

Her remark went straight to my heart, not merely because Jacob is my ten-year-old son, but because Jacob has autism. Autistic kids don’t often get noticed for what they have to teach. They don’t often get a chance to see just how much they give to other, less autistic people. They are not often praised as teachers of Torah.

My Jacob is a teacher of Torah. He makes my eyes light up. He is my Rebbe.

Jacob teaches me to rejoice in the Torah. Every Shabbat, Jacob awakens asking to see the Torahs. Once we are at the synagogue, he waits as patiently as he can for the morning prayers to finish so the Torah service can commence. As they open the Ark to remove the Holy Torah, Jacob’s excitement and glee sweep him away. He leaps,



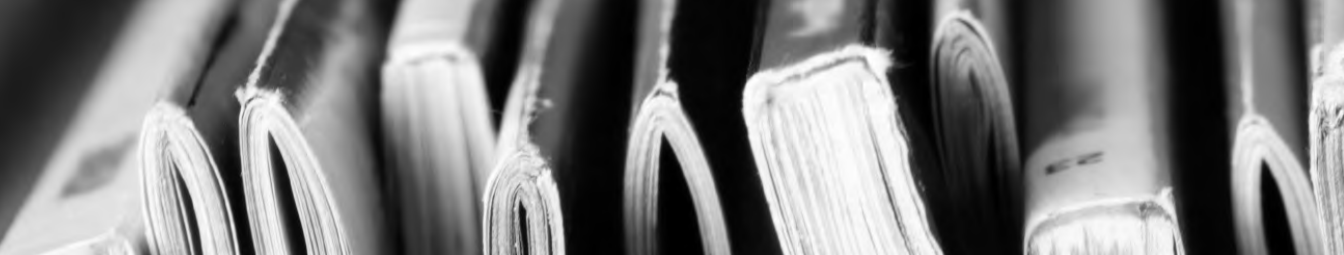


## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

he squeals, he smiles and runs over to hug me and his mother before he cavorts away to spin, squeal and dance some more. He repeats this dance to the Torah when they return the scroll to the Ark. As Jacob dances, I look nervously around the room, worrying that someone would tell me to stop him. In our minyan, the Library Minyan of Temple Beth Am, that never happens – others smile along with him. Some even clap to his rhythm. Like King David before him, Jacob reminds us to dance before G-d, that the Torah is a gift, that joy is a mitzvah. The author Rebecca Goldstein writes, “The dance was absurd, and the dance was the truth.” Jacob dances truth.

Jacob reminds me to bring music into my spiritual life. During the Festival of Sukkot (Booths), there is a kabbalistic custom of inviting Ushpizin, holy guests to symbolically sit in the Sukkah with us. Traditionally these guests are the Patriarchs and Prophets. My family – along with many other moderns – also invites the Matriarchs and great women of Biblical and Rabbinic antiquity. This year, I asked my children who they would want to invite if they could invite any person – living or dead – to join us in the Sukkah. Jacob (who uses Facilitated Communication, a cooperative typing technique, to speak) told us that he would invite King David. When I asked him why, he responded, “Because the music would be beautiful.” The Tikkunei Zohar teaches, “There are palaces that open only to music.” Jacob’s music opens celestial palaces.

Jacob shows me the power of faith. At Valley Beth Shalom’s Tikvah Program, Jacob and his class were taught an abridged version of the Exodus story. Elana (my wife/his mother) told him that part of the original narrative that had been omitted, so she explained that the reason Moses had to leave Egypt was that he had killed an Egyptian. Moses had been so inflamed by the injustice of the taskmaster striking an Israelite slave, so filled with solidarity for his people, that he had struck down the Egyptian. That was why Moses fled to the wilderness. Jacob asked Elana where that story came from, and she explained that this more complete version was from the



## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

Torah. Jacob typed, “I like the movie version better.” Elana asked him why, and he said, “Because in the movie, Moses doesn’t get to be Pharaoh; his brother does. And that’s more like my life.”

Elana said, “Yes, but in the Torah, Moses has difficulty speaking, yet G-d chooses him anyway, even though Aaron speaks better.”

Jacob responded, “Maybe I do like the Torah version better after all.”

At which point, Jacob’s autistic friend and classmate took the keyboard and typed, “If I had to appear before Pharaoh, he wouldn’t have listened to me.”

Jacob retrieved the keyboard and typed, “If you went before Pharaoh, G-d would make Pharaoh listen.”

I carry that piece of Torah into every struggle for justice, for decency, for inclusion. G-d will make Pharaoh listen.

I know that is true because my Rebbe told me so. My Rebbe is my son.

*Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson (<http://www.bradartson.com>) is the Dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at American Jewish University. He is the author of *The Bedside Torah: Wisdom, Dreams, & Visions* (McGraw Hill) and *Jewish Answers to Real-Life Questions* (Alef Publishing).*



## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

### **Disability Inclusion: Resource Guide for Rabbis**

*A comprehensive 21-page guide to community inclusion*

Can be found online @ [www.ou.org/community/files/2013/10/Hineinu.pdf](http://www.ou.org/community/files/2013/10/Hineinu.pdf)

Or contact Batya Jacob: [Batyaj@ou.org](mailto:Batyaj@ou.org) (212) 613-8127

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### **Hineinu: An Inclusion Resource Guide for Congregations**

[http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/public/social\\_action/inclusion/hineinu-inclusion-resource-guide.pdf](http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/public/social_action/inclusion/hineinu-inclusion-resource-guide.pdf)

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### **From Invisibility to Visibly In**

*Community-Program-Ignited Change in Awareness and Attitudes Toward Jews with Disabilities*

**Shelly Christensen, MA, Minneapolis Inclusion Program Manager  
and Margie Weil, MPNA, Jewish Family and Children's Services of  
Minneapolis Community Services Director**

When approached by parents of children with disabilities who were denied access to religious school and synagogue programs, Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis (JFCS) considered the leadership role it could take. The result was a community-wide response, launching the Jewish Community Inclusion Program for People with Disabilities to ensure a more inclusive Jewish community.

Please read the full descriptive article to explore the Inclusion Program's development.  
[www.bjpa.org/Publications/downloadFile.cfm?FileID=3609](http://www.bjpa.org/Publications/downloadFile.cfm?FileID=3609)



## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

### **Jewish Community Guide to Inclusion of People with Disabilities**

*An essential resource for Jewish organizations seeking to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for people with disabilities.*

**Shelly Christensen, MA Minneapolis**

Jewish Inclusion Program for People with Disabilities @ \$45.00 each

Please contact Shelly directly for shipping and handling to Canada

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### **Inclusion Innovations LLC**

*Inclusion innovations features information on many different initiatives that provide support to organizations on journeys of inclusion and links to others who provide a variety of resources.*

**Shelly Christensen, MA Minneapolis**

shelly@inclusioninnovations.com

www.inclusioninnovations.com

(612) 965-0432

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### **Facebook Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Jewish-Disability-Awareness-Month/294162779208?ref=ts>

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### **Bet Shalom Inclusion**

*Congregants share why they feel that they belong at Bet Shalom, a Reform Jewish congregation in Minnetonka MN. Created for JDAM 2009, this always-relevant snapshot reveals that inclusion is woven in many aspects of congregational life. It's inspiring and motivating.*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D72NKCZINNA>



## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

### **Jewish Perspectives on Theology and the Human Experience of Disability**

**Rabbi Judith Z. Abrams, PhD, William Gaventa, MDiv**

February 22, 2007 Haworth Press

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### **Toward an Orthodox Community that is More Responsive to People with Special Needs**

**Howard Blas**

June 2009 Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals

Please see website for more articles [www.howardblas.com](http://www.howardblas.com)

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### **Inclusion Camping Guide; Inclusion Training Guide for Jewish Summer Camps**

<http://www.jewishcamp.org/inclusionresources>

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### **Ruderman Family Foundation**

*Guided by Jewish values, the foundation advocates for and advances the inclusion of people with disabilities throughout the Jewish community; fosters a more nuanced understanding of the American Jewish community among Israeli leaders; and models the practice of strategic philanthropy worldwide.*

[www.rudermanfoundation.org](http://www.rudermanfoundation.org)

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### **Ruderman Chabad Inclusion Initiative**

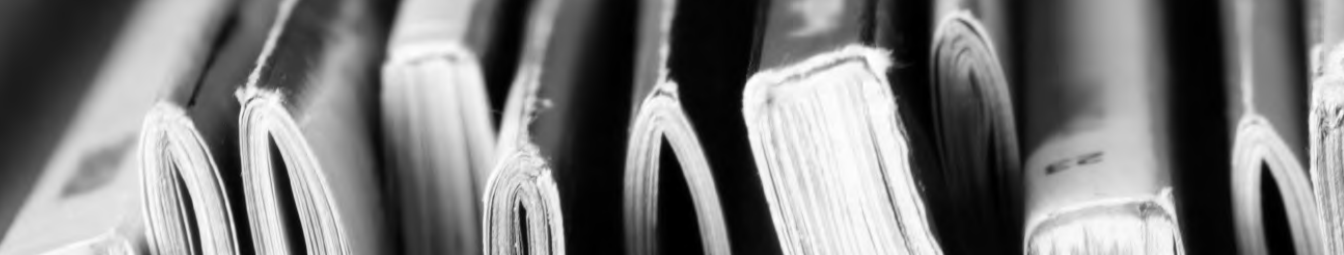
[www.rcii.org](http://www.rcii.org)

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### **Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Disabilities Mini Course**

[www.rrc.edu/re4sources/disabilities-mini-course](http://www.rrc.edu/re4sources/disabilities-mini-course)

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## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

### **Reform Jewish Synagogue-Congregational Inclusion Initiatives**

*Anyone can use this site which has videos and study sessions on many aspects of disability inclusion and best practices in a number of areas for synagogues, schools, camps, etc. which can be adapted in many different situations.*

The Disabilities Inclusion Learning Centre  
[disabilitiesinclusion.org](http://disabilitiesinclusion.org)

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### **United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism Disability**

[www.uscj.org/JewishLivingandLearning/SocailAction/Accessibility](http://www.uscj.org/JewishLivingandLearning/SocailAction/Accessibility)

Edward Frim; USCJ Ruderman Inclusion Specialist

412-951-5415

[inclusion@uscj.org](mailto:inclusion@uscj.org)

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### **Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies**

Older Adult and Disabilities services

[lwoodward@ajfca.org](mailto:lwoodward@ajfca.org)

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### **Jewish Federations of North America**

[http://www.jewishfederations.org/local\\_includes/downloads/68175.pdf](http://www.jewishfederations.org/local_includes/downloads/68175.pdf)



## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

### **Jewish Leadership Institute on Disabilities and Inclusion**

*Provides leadership training and support to prepare participants to promote and support inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community and Jewish life.*

<http://www.nlcdd.org/jli.html>

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### **Planning a Special Bar/Bat Mitzvah**

**Becca Hornstein and Shelley K. Rosenberg, Ed.D.**

[www.jewishfederations.org](http://www.jewishfederations.org) › Jewish Life

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### **Bar Mitzvah for Special Needs - on Pinterest**

[www.pinterest.com/claudineintner/bar-mitzvah-for-special-needs/](http://www.pinterest.com/claudineintner/bar-mitzvah-for-special-needs/)

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### **Action: Welcoming People With Disabilities**

**Renee Gherl-Zand**

Union for Reform Judaism

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### **Judaism and Disability: Portrayals in Ancient Texts from the Tanach through the Bavli**

**Rabbi Judith Z. Abrams**

1998 Gallaudet University Press, Washington, DC

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## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

### **The Broken and the Whole: Discovering Joy after Heartbreak**

*A wise, uplifting memoir about a rabbi's search for understanding and his discovery of hope and joy after his young son suffered a catastrophic brain-stem stroke that left him a quadriplegic and dependent on a ventilator for each breath.*

**Rabbi Charles Sherman**

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### **Disability in Jewish Law**

**Tzvi Marx**

2002 Routledge, London

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### **Journal of Religion, Disability and Health**

*Seminal Jewish Attitudes Towards People with Disabilities*

**Morton K. Siegel, PhD., M.A.**

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### **Disability? What Disability?**

*Overcoming the Reality, Stigma and Pain*

**Jerry Farris**

Chabad.org

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### **A More Welcoming Shul**

*Program that teaches Rabbis the how and why of inclusion poised to grow.*

**Shelley Cohen; a parent advocate extraordinaire**

Helen Chernikoff

February 13, 2013

[www.thejewishweek.com](http://www.thejewishweek.com)





## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

***The following relevant links were found in HINEINU;  
An Inclusion Resource Guide for Congregations***

[www.rabbinicalassembly.org/.../hineinu-inclusion-resource-guide.pdf](http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/.../hineinu-inclusion-resource-guide.pdf)

### **Down Syndrome Amongst Us**

[www.dsau.org](http://www.dsau.org)

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### **Opening the Gates of Prayer So That All May Worship**

*Judaism speaks of empowering the individual. Conservative congregations that serve as models of best practices*

<http://www.uscj.org/JewishLivingandLearning/SocialAction/Accessibility/OpeningtheGatesofPrayerSoThatAllMayWorship.aspx>

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### **Look Into My Eyes: Coming Face to Face with Disability**

*A mini-course held at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College designed to help participants increase their capacity to work with people of differing abilities and offering insights from Jewish tradition, explorations of the heart, and teachings from rabbis who are leaders serving diverse communities.*

<http://www.rrc.edu/node/1330>

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### **URJ Resources for Special Education**

*Articles, podcasts and quick tips for improving and supporting learning opportunities for all Jews.*

<http://urj.org/learning/teacheducate/specialneeds/>



## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

### **V'khol Banayikh: Jewish Education for All**

*A Jewish special needs resource handbook that describes various disabilities and provides an array of options, including program models, professional development, interventions and resources (Material and organizations)*

**Edited by: Sara Rubinow Simon, Linda Forrest and Ellen Fishman**

<http://www.torahaura.com/ItemDetails.aspx?ItemNo=VKORBAN>

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### **Disability and Judaism: Society's Influence on Halacha**

*A commentary on the Jewish law and modern developments surrounding halacha and disability*

**Rabbi Dr. Benjamin Lau**

January 28, 2010 Jewish Dis/Ability Unite

<https://jewishdisabilityunite.wordpress.com/2010/01/28/disability-and-judaism-societys-influence-on-halacha-rabbi-dr-benjamin-lau/>

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### **Jewish Braille Institute**

JB International is a non-profit organization dedicated to meeting the cultural needs of the visually impaired, blind, physically handicapped and reading disabled of all ages and backgrounds. Siddurim in braille (*Artscroll, Birnbaum and more*), digital braille library, large print Hagaddah. (Catalogue on line).

110 East 30th Street, New York, NY 10016

(212) 889-2525 / Toll Free: 1-800-433-1531

[admin@jbilibrary.org](mailto:admin@jbilibrary.org)



## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

### **Jewish Children's Adoption Network (JCAN)**

*A recruitment and referral organization, primarily of parents for children with disabilities.*

P.O. Box 147016, Denver, CO 80214-7016  
(303) 573-8113  
jcan@qwestoffice.net

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### **Hebrew Seminary of the Deaf**

*A rabbinical school for the hearing impaired.*

4435 West Oakton Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076  
Voice: 847-677-3330 VP: (224) 534-0029  
[www.hebrewseminary.org/](http://www.hebrewseminary.org/)

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### **Praying with Lior**

*Lior has Down syndrome and lost his mother at age six. As he approaches his Bar Mitzvah, different characters provide a window into life spent "praying with Lior". The movie poses difficult questions such as what is "disability" and who really talks to G-d? Told with intimacy and humor, it is a story about family, triumph, grief, and divine inspiration.*

The DANI Centre, The Dr. Lazar and Shayna Friedman Resource Library  
501 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill, ON L4J 4E5  
(905) 889-3264 ext. 226



## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

### Libraries and Printing Press

#### **Roeher Institute**

*A leading non-governmental non-profit policy-research and development organization that aims to generate knowledge and skills to secure the inclusion, citizenship, human rights and equality of people with intellectual and other disabilities; part of the International Independent Living and Disability Rights Movement.*

York University, Kinsmen Building  
4700 Keele Street, North York, ON M3J 1P3  
(416) 661-9611  
[info@roeher.ca](mailto:info@roeher.ca)

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#### **Inclusion Press**

*Producing books and videos to promote inclusion in school, work, and community: includes workshop summary and schedule, and online ordering of materials*

47 Indian Trail, Toronto, ON M6R 1Z8  
(416) 658-5363  
[www.inclusion.com](http://www.inclusion.com)

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#### **Gallaudet University Press**

*It strives to disseminate knowledge about deaf and hard of hearing people, languages, communities, history, and education through print and electronic media*

800 Florida Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695  
(202) 651-5488 (Voice) / (202) 651-5489  
[www.gupress.gallaudet.edu](http://www.gupress.gallaudet.edu)



## ARTICLES, TEXTS, RESOURCES & LINKS

### **Ryerson University**

*Extensive undergraduate and graduate studies in disabilities with resources open to the public*

Ryerson University Library and Archives

350 Victoria Street, Toronto, ON M5B 2K3

(416) 979-5055

Access Librarian; Kelly Dermody

[kdermody@ryerson.ca](mailto:kdermody@ryerson.ca)

(416) 979-5000 ext. 4120

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### **Parentbooks**

*Selection of books related to special needs, parenting, mental health, education and more*

121 Harbord Street, Toronto, ON M5S 1G9

(416) 537-8334

[www.parentbooks.ca](http://www.parentbooks.ca)

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### **Dr. Lazer and Shayna Friedman Resource Library**

*Collection of books written by parents and professionals*

DANI Centre - 501 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill, ON L4J 4E5

(905) 889-3264 ext. 226

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### **Geneva Centre for Autism**

*Small lending library available for parents and professionals as well as permit to sit and read books from our staff section (reference library) when they are in the library.*

*Open on Wednesdays. Annual cost to access the library*

112 Merton Street Toronto, ON M4S-2Z8

(416) 322-7877 ext. 204

[www.autism.net](http://www.autism.net)

[www.autism.net/joinus/supporting-membership.html](http://www.autism.net/joinus/supporting-membership.html)



## LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

### **ARCH Disability Law Centre**

This specialty legal aid clinic is dedicated to defending and advancing the equality rights of people with disabilities in Ontario. ARCH legal services are provided by lawyers and articling students who report to a volunteer-elected Board of Directors, at least half of whom are people with disabilities.

425 Bloor Street East #110, Toronto, ON M4W 3R4

1-866-482-2724

TTY 1-866-482-2728 (for the hearing impaired)

[www.archdisabilitylaw.ca](http://www.archdisabilitylaw.ca)

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### **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act**

AODA came into effect in 2005 with the aim to create a fully accessible province by 2025. The rules are for all businesses and organizations to follow to identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility in Ontario. The AODA provides training and consulting services to the public and private sectors and non-profit organizations in the disability field.

AODA Hotline: 1-866-515-2025

TTY: (416) 325-5408

TTY Toll Free: 1-800-268-7095

[info@aoda.ca](mailto:info@aoda.ca)

[www.aoda.ca](http://www.aoda.ca)

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### **Ontarians with Disabilities; League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada**

Edward Rice; chair of the Ontarians with Disabilities Subcommittee,  
League Committee (OWDLHR-BBC)



## LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

*The Resource Guide presents a panel of legal and financial experts in the world of special needs. We do not endorse a specific specialist and there are many more professionals in the GTA who are also available for consultation.*

### **Rachel Blumenfeld**

Partner, Miller Thomson LLP

Tax and Estate Planning for Individuals with Special Needs / Henson Trusts

(416) 596-2105

rblumenfeld@millerthompson.ca

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### **Arthur Fish**

Barrister / Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

Estates and Trusts / Planning and Administration / Henson Trusts

Mental Capacity and Substitute Decision Making / Guardianship

(416) 367-6178

afish@big.com

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### **Brendon Pooran**

Barrister and Solicitor

Estate Planning / RDSP / Taxation / Government Regulation / Henson Trusts

(416) 617-6805

bpooran@pooranlaw.com

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### **Graeme Treeby**

Special Needs Planning Group

RDSP / Henson Trusts / Future Planning

(905) 640-8285

graemetreeby@sympatico.ca

[www.specialneedsplanning.ca](http://www.specialneedsplanning.ca)



## QUOTES AND NOTES

### Say It Like You Mean It!

First and foremost, those with disabilities are people, and not conditions or diseases. As you would guess, they prefer to be referred to as PEOPLE first, with the disability listed second.

girl with autism

child with a disability

non-verbal

person with cognitive delays

person who has a hearing loss

person who has mental illness

person with Down Syndrome

nondisabled

student who has \_\_\_\_\_

*instead of*

*instead of*

*instead of*

*instead of*

*instead of*

*instead of*

*instead of*

*instead of*

*instead of*

autistic girl

handicapped child

dumb, mute

retarded, slow

deaf, mute child

mentally ill, insane, crazy

mongoloid, Down Syndromed

normal healthy

\_\_\_\_\_ student

If in doubt, ask. Most people with a disability will be more than willing to help you find the right language. Being sensitive with your language is the first step toward increasing kedushah קדושה.





## QUOTES AND NOTES

*Please do not assume!*

**Passing a child or adult who is sitting in a wheelchair?**

**Passing a child or adult who is non-verbal?**

Do not assume that understanding is limited  
and exclude in direct conversation!

*Please talk with,  
smile at,  
joke with,  
touch with sensitivity,  
discuss with,  
schmooze with,  
share with,  
enjoy with...*



## QUOTES AND NOTES

### 50 Ways to Build Inclusion

Do not judge  
Listen to music together  
Take a friend who is special for ice cream  
Look at the gifts of a person  
Visit your neighbourhood group home  
Play in the snow together  
Walk around the neighbourhood  
Learn sign language  
Fly a kite together  
Visit each other's school, program  
or workplace  
Introduce your friend to your peers  
Do not assume; Ask!  
Proper language please; People FIRST!  
Disability last!  
Volunteer somewhere worthwhile  
Sit together at your synagogue  
Do not pity!  
Share a pizza and a drink at the  
local restaurant  
Persevere! Building relationships takes time  
Go window shopping  
Sing out loud together  
Read to a person who is blind  
Honour differences  
Start a hobby together  
Talk WITH your friend, not AT your friend

Bake challahs together  
Offer a voice when needed  
Share your time  
Just laugh and giggle together  
Have a sleepover and watch a movie  
Hire a young adult who is challenged  
Go for a drive and pick the sunflowers  
Count your blessings  
Light Hanuka candles with a group of friends  
Dance to your spirit  
Bake chocolate chip cookies together  
Create scrapbooks and share family secrets  
Play a board or card game together  
with buddies  
Teach your friend a new skill  
Go swimming or just build castles on the beach  
Be open to new possibilities  
Involve your siblings  
Respect diversity  
Makeovers! Redo each other's hair  
Dress up in a costume and enjoy Purim together  
Have tea with the seniors down the street  
Go on a picnic at the local gardens  
Play basketball or watch a sport  
Look at books and learn together  
Visit the pet store or walk a dog  
Just celebrate life together!

*Elegant wall-sized poster available at [www.dani-toronto.com](http://www.dani-toronto.com)*



## QUOTES AND NOTES

"So G-d created man in His image, in the image of G-d He created him,  
male and female He created them."

*(Genesis, 1:27)*

"Ben Azzai taught; Do not disdain any person; do not underrate the  
importance of anything - for there is no person who does not have  
his hour and there is no thing without its place in the sun."

*(Pirkei Avot 4:3)*

"Do not look at the container, but what is in it."

*(Pirkei Avot 4:27)*

"Every member of the People of Israel is obligated to study Torah -  
whether one is rich or poor, physically able or with physical disability."

*(Maimonides, Mishne Torah, Hilchot Talmud Torah, Ch. 10)*

"All of Israel is responsible for one another."

*(Shavuot 39a)*

"Good intentions alone not accompanied by action are without value.  
The main thing is the action as this is what makes the intention so profound."

*(Chasidic master, Yehudi Hakadosh)*

"Children learn to read by reading,  
Children learn to write by writing  
Children learn to include by including"

*(Jack Pearpoint, Marsha Forest, Judith Snow)*





## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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