

Jewish Disability Awareness Month

February 2012



February 2012 is Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month!

UJA-Federation of New York is at the forefront of ensuring that network agencies, Jewish community centers, synagogues, and other Jewish communal organizations are inclusive of people with disabilities. UJA-Federation's Caring Commission is asking YOU to highlight disabilities during Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month (JDAM).

The mission of JDAM is to unite Jewish communities and organizations for the purpose of raising awareness and supporting meaningful inclusion of people with disabilities and their families in every aspect of Jewish life.

During JDAM, UJA-Federation can be an idea-generating resource for synagogues, community centers and lay leaders to:

1. Lead or participate in a community wide disability awareness event or, galvanize your synagogue or community agency to attend an event at the [ReelAbilities: New York Disabilities Film Festival](http://tiny.cc/dd2r5), Thursday, February 9 - Tuesday, February 14, 2012. (type into your browser this URL: <http://tiny.cc/dd2r5>)
2. Organize a Shabbat worship service dedicated to inclusion, and incorporate contributions of children and adults who have disabilities. Consider honoring families and individuals with disabilities by creating opportunities for them to lead segments of the Shabbat service.
3. Hold a rabbinic sermon on the topic of disabilities.
4. Start a committee to focus on inclusion. If you would like to pursue this idea and request a thought-partner, please contact Diane Scherer at schererd@ujafedny.org.
5. Provide sensitivity and skills training for synagogue staff and volunteers, as well as teachers and youth group directors.
6. Join the [Facebook](#) page celebrating Jewish Disability Awareness Month. Over 1,000 fans are sharing ideas and resources to celebrate diversity within the Jewish community. (<http://tiny.cc/5xalc>)

[More information about the wide variety of other ideas, please visit: www.ujafedny.org.](http://www.ujafedny.org)

FYI: We've created a [Synagogue Inclusion Award](http://tiny.cc/o259t) (<http://tiny.cc/o259t>), for synagogues who have demonstrated exemplary inclusion efforts.

UJA-Federation is organizing a community calendar, highlighting all activities occurring in February in celebration of JDAM. Once your synagogue or agency organizes a program, kindly e-mail Diane Scherer at schererd@ujafedny.org.



Through UJA-Federation, you care for people in need, inspire a passion for Jewish life and learning, and strengthen Jewish communities in New York, in Israel, and around the world.