



Our Inclusion Journey

2014	
January	Group of parents get together and form the “Special Needs Working Group”, an ad hoc working group of the Education committee, co-chaired by Ilanah Milgram and Cynthia Davis.
	Received a grant from the Miriam Foundation of 12, 600\$ to hire an Special Needs Coordinator
December	Hired Rachel Desjourdy. Job titled changed to “Inclusion Specialist”
2015	
	Inclusion featured in every edition of the Voice
	Closed captioning added to all videos produced by Temple (YouTube)
	Recognized by the URJ as a “committed congregation”
	Torah School teacher training on Inclusion
February	Temple observes Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month for the first time. It’s a public lunch and learn featuring three speakers: Josh Lilliman, Temple teen; Joel Yanofsky, father and author of <i>Bad Animals: A Father’s Accidental Education in Autism</i> ; and Rachel Desjourdy, Inclusion Specialist. 30-40 people in attendance.
April	Worked with Rabbi Greenspan to develop an interactive family seder for Torah School
April/May	Edited the Torah School Registration form to reflect more inclusive language and to invite parents to discuss their child’s accessibility needs
June 19	Shabbat of Inclusion. The service was ASL interpreted.
June 29	Meeting with Professional staff re: inclusion at Temple
September 2	High Holy Day Usher training conducted by Rachel, under the direction of Head Usher, Irving Epstein.



October 8 th	Accessibility audit conducted by a representative from the MAB-Mackay Rehabilitation Centre.
October	Hired an Inclusion Aide to support students in Torah School
November	Tree of Peace room inaugurated
2016	
	Miriam Foundation renewed the grant of 12,600\$
	High Holy Day Inclusion Policy developed and published in the Voice. Accessible seating procedure developed.
	Inclusion featured in every edition of the Voice
February 19-20	Pamela Schuller, comedian and inclusion advocate, comes to Temple for the second annual observance of Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month. 50+ guests in attendance. Service was ASL interpreted.
March	Received 7,125\$ grant from Federation CJA to fund the Temple Art Hive
April	The Special Needs Working Group reorganized to a standing committee – the Inclusion Committee
April 15 th	Rachel Desjourdy invited to speak at Federation CJA’s <i>Changing Jewish Family</i> Symposium
April 26 th	Presentation to the Board of Trustees on Inclusion
June 5 th	Group of Temple members participate in the Autism Speaks walk, raising 1,990\$
September 27 th	High Holy Day Usher Training
October 1 st	Inclusion training at the Torah School teacher’s staff meeting
November 3 rd	Temple Art Hive officially launches, with 30+ people in attendance.
2017	
February 2017	Third Annual JDAIM celebration, with guest speaker David Lepofsky

