

Accessibility & Inclusion Committee

Our Mission

To help ensure that Har Shalom welcomes and offers support to all congregants with disabilities by striving to eliminate all barriers, whether structural, communicative, or attitudinal, so that those with disabilities may experience the full richness of synagogue life.

***This is the perfect Committee to join if** you would like to devote some time and energy to helping to ensure that the lives of those with disabilities are as satisfying, meaningful, and productive as they can be, especially by living Jewishly as part of the Har Shalom community!*

Our Goals / Examples of our Events

- The Committee sponsors and plans a special Shabbat service each February during Jewish Disabilities Awareness Acceptance and Inclusion Month (JDAAIM). Each year the Committee secures a speaker or speakers that deliver remarks consistent with the overriding purpose of JDAAIM to focus on the need for awareness and inclusion of those with disabilities. This year the speaker was Judy Woodruff, the well-known long-time former anchor of the PBS NewsHour. In several years, the Committee has sponsored other pertinent programs during JDAAIM, such as a film with an appropriate theme, an evening speaker, or a discussion group.
- Until the pandemic, each month we regularly hosted four residents from the Jewish Federation for Group Home's Kay House for Shabbat services. JFGH has been reorganized and is now part of Makom. Committee members, and Carly Litwok, met recently with Makom staff to discuss getting residents of Makom homes to join the Har Shalom community once again for Shabbat services. More importantly, Committee members, along with Har Shalom staff, are now engaged in discussions to involve Makom residents more broadly in the Har Shalom community, such as by attending various social and educational events, participating in religious services or activities, or assisting the staff in carrying out certain synagogue tasks. Deepening the relationship with Makom to more broadly include those with disabilities is expected to be a major focus of the Committee's efforts during 2023-2024.

How often do we meet?

The Committee meets as a whole approximately every six weeks, or more frequently if necessary. But as JDAAIM approaches each February, those committee members who wish to be specifically involved in that endeavor may meet weekly or more.

Who do I contact for more information?

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