

## Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month

### Film Suggestions

#### Short Films/Videos

- USCJ and Ruderman Family Foundation - [The Value of Inclusion](#) *Screen for Free*
- Ruderman Chabad Inclusion Initiative ["We All Belong,"](#) *Screen for Free*
- [Matan Webinars](#) - many topics on Jewish disability inclusion. *Screen for Free*
- [Ian](#) by Mundoloco CGI Ian Foundation *Screen for Free*
- [A Teen's Guide to Understanding and Communicating with People with Autism](#)
- [I am Here. Hear Me Bark: Comedy, Disability and the Inclusive Synagogue](#) - Pam Schuller shares her experience with Tourette's syndrome as it almost forced her out of the Jewish community completely. But a few lessons from Moses and improv comedy helped turn things around. In this personal, uproarious talk, Pamela shares her story and an important perspective on the role of difference. *Available on YouTube*
- [Float](#), Appropriate for all ages. *Available on Disney +*
- [Mayim Bialik](#) A series of videos highlighting her personal experience with anxiety and mental health challenges. *Available on YouTube*
- [Don't Laugh At Me](#) - Peter Yarrow performs his song as part of the Operation Respect program. *Available on YouTube*

#### Children & Teens

- [Dolphin Tale](#) A lonely and friendless boy finds and untangles a hurt dolphin that is caught in a crab trap. He becomes very attached to the dolphin when the tail must be taken off to save the dolphin's life. The boy believes the dolphin would be able to swim normally if it was given a prosthetic tail. *Available on Prime Video*
- [The Mighty](#) The story of a strong friendship between a young boy with Morquio's syndrome and an older boy who is always bullied because of his size. Adapted from the novel, Freak the Mighty, the film explores a building of trust and friendship. *Available on Prime Video*
- [The Point](#) A father tells his son a bedtime story about young Oblio, who believes that having no point in the fantastical kingdom of pointed heads and things, still has a point. *Screen for Free*
- [Praying with Lior](#) Lior has Down syndrome and has spent his entire life praying with utter abandon. Is he a "spiritual genius" as many around him say? Or simply the vessel that contains everyone's unfulfilled wishes and expectations? As Lior approaches 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 God? Told with intimacy and

humor, Praying with Lior is a family story, a triumph story, a grief story, a divinely-inspired story. *Available on Amazon*

- [Spectrum - A Story of the Mind](#) The film explores the inner sensory experience of autism. Spectrum reveals the underlying sensory differences that create an autistic perspective. Sensory issues render a world where vision, sound, touch and smell can be intense. The story is a series of character driven portraits beginning with Temple Grandin and followed by a non-speaking poet, painter, martial artist and group of children. *Available to stream on PBS*

### **Teens and Adults**

- [Angst](#) is a documentary designed to raise awareness around anxiety. The filmmakers' goal is to help people identify and understand the symptoms of anxiety and encourage them to reach out for help.. The film and corresponding materials provide tools, resources and above all, hope. *Available for online community screening*
- [Autism the Musical](#) Follows 5 children with autism as they work together to create and perform a live musical production. *Available on HBO Max*
- [Autism The Sequel](#) revisits the stars of this musical 12 years later as the original subjects, now in their early 20s, navigate what independence means to them as they manage both challenges and triumphs as adults living on the autism spectrum. *Available on HBO Max*
- [Blind Love](#) Blind Love recounts a trip to Poland of six blind Israelis and their guide dogs who took part in the annual March of the Living, where they visited once thriving sites of Jewish life and culture. *Available for purchase*
- [Deaf Jam](#) Follow Aneta Brodski, an Israeli-born teenager living in Queens as one of the first deaf youth to participate in a major poetry slam event. *Screening through PBS*
- [Extra Innings](#) Set against the enchanting backdrop of 1960's Brooklyn, Extra Innings tells the story of David Sabah, a young man who is caught between pursuing his dream of playing baseball and staying devoted to his Syrian Jewish family that is afflicted with mental illness, but a tragic loss makes reconciling the two worlds impossible. *Available on Prime Video*
- [Front of the Class](#) is about a young man who has Tourette's Syndrome. *Available on Prime Video*
- [Give Me Liberty](#) In this freewheeling comedy, medical transport driver Vic risks his job to shuttle a group of rowdy seniors and a Russian boxer to a funeral, dragging clients like Tracy, a young woman with ALS, along for the ride. *Available on Prime Video*
- [Keep the Change](#) When aspiring filmmaker David is mandated by a judge to attend a social program at the Jewish Community Center, he is sure of one thing: he doesn't belong there. But when he's assigned to visit the Brooklyn Bridge with the vivacious Sarah, sparks fly and his convictions are tested. Their budding relationship must weather Sarah's romantic past, David's

judgmental mother, and their own pre-conceptions of what love is supposed to look like.

*Available on Prime Video*

- [Life Animated](#) A coming of age story about a boy and his family who overcame great challenges by turning Disney animated movies into a language to express love, loss, kinship and brotherhood. *Screen for Free*
- [Mary and Max](#) A tale of friendship between two unlikely pen pals: Mary, a lonely, eight-year-old girl living in the suburbs of Melbourne, and Max, a forty-four-year old, severely obese man living in New York. *Available on Prime Video*
- [My Hero Brother](#) A group of young Israelis with Down syndrome embark on a demanding trek through the Himalayas with their siblings. As they deal with physical and emotional challenges, unresolved conflicts come to surface and heartwarming friendships develop.
- [No Letting Go](#) - A compelling film about one family's journey to understand and seek help for their son's emotional instability and erratic behavior. *Available to host virtual screening*
- [Peanut Butter Falcon](#) The Peanut Butter Falcon is an adventure story set in the world of a modern Mark Twain that begins when Zak (22), a young man with Down syndrome, runs away from the nursing home where he lives to chase his dream of becoming a professional wrestler by attending the wrestling school. Through circumstances beyond their control Tyler (32), a small-time outlaw on the run, becomes Zak's unlikely coach and ally. *Available on Prime Video*
- [Seize the Awkward](#) Having a conversation about mental health might be uncomfortable, but it can make all the difference. Check out these tools – from conversation guides to tips –that can help you help those in need. *Available for free online*
- [Shoelaces](#) (Israel) The ending is worth a discussion about better choices for a person's future. *Available on demand at iTunes and Amazon*
- [Wedding Doll](#) (Israel) another well-made Israeli film. Anita (Argentina). The story of a young woman with Down syndrome who lives a happy, routine life in Buenos Aires, meticulously cared for by her mother. One morning everything changes when Anita is left alone, confused and helpless after the nearby Argentine Israelite Mutual Association is bombed (the deadliest bombing in Argentina's history). As Anita wanders through the city, she learns not only to care for herself, but touches the lives of those around her. Anita is my all-time favorite film. The main actress has Down Syndrome. *Available on Prime Video*

## **Additional Resources**

The Religious Action Center, information on Disability Rights: [www.rac.org/issues/disability-rights](http://www.rac.org/issues/disability-rights)

The Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest's ABLE Initiative: [www.greatermetrowestable.org](http://www.greatermetrowestable.org)

Inclusion at Temple Ner Tamid: [www.nertamid.org/inclusion](http://www.nertamid.org/inclusion)

For more information about our inclusion work, email [inclusion@nertamid.org](mailto:inclusion@nertamid.org)