

Access Workshop
Removing the Stumbling Block:
Welcoming and Opening a Path for All
January 22, 2006

What can the Temple do to be more accessible?

- Meeting, worship, and programming spaces that are accessible
- Set the rooms and furniture for maximum accessibility
- Creating spaces that feel warm and welcoming and homey. Often homes are not accessible but people want to meet there because the Temple does not feel cozy.
- Comfortable and welcoming spaces to hang out in and just relax.
- Difference between compliance and optimal design of building
- A checklist for those planning events and meetings
- Check food allergens in menus, snacks and food items served at meetings and events.
- Remember to clear spaces from areas where people pass through (hallways, doors, elevators, etc.).
- Let more people know that there is an access committee and how they can serve as a resource
- Disability education at all levels of education (preschool, religious school, midrasha, adult education, etc.)
- Placing a symbol or description in publicity pieces to let people know when an event is wheelchair accessible or accessible in other ways, etc.
- Sign language at services.
- Large print books readily available.
- For new building – visit other sights where things have been well-designed and incorporate those ideas.
- Stop thinking “well this would only serve a small group of people so we don’t do it”. Maybe if you offered those services or accessible options then more people would come and use them.
- Speakers should use microphones, repeat questions and comments that comes from a crowd.
- All staff should carry lift keys and know how to operate it.
- All staff should know where assisted hearing devices are and how to use them.
- Sermons on access issues and articles in the bulletin
- Publicize access improvements to the public to let them know that we are doing and to let people with disabilities know that they would be welcomed here.
- Work with the access committee – call and ask them questions, have them come to a meeting, etc.
- Have an access section on the website – with etiquette tips, comments about what we are doing here, how to report a problem or an issue, etc.
- Provide the disability etiquette booklets to staff, teachers, and committee chairs. Maybe place them in the employee handbooks that people receive when they start working here.
- Have Access Report posted on website and given to all committees and new board members