

February: A Major Month for Inclusion Activities

The Or Hadash Inclusion Committee is pleased to bring the Congregation three activities the Committee and the entire OH community is aware of the imperative of including all this year for Jewish Disability Awareness Inclusion Month (JDAIM) in February. While people in our congregation all year long, February is the month that has been chosen internationally to highlight efforts and education in this realm.

In cooperation with our Education Committee, the Inclusion Committee is participating in a new opportunity to engage in an exciting project about disability inclusion from a Jewish-values perspective. Or Hadash students, parents, and members of the Inclusion Committee will have the opportunity to become voices in their communities by advocating for inclusion for themselves and their peers with visible and invisible disabilities. Artist and Therapeutic Art Studio Manager, Gal Senderowitsch, along with JFCS and JLV experts, and Or Hadash's own Wendy Elliott-Vandivier (a gifted artist) will lead students in a learning activity and experiential art project focused on the concept of inclusion.

The project will take place on Sunday, January 27, 2019, just prior to JDAIM month, at the Jewish Family and Childrens' Service (JFCS) Office in Bala Cynwyd. Art that is created in the workshop will become part of a large community exhibit to be held at JFCS' Barbara and Harvey Brodsky Enrichment Center on April 7th.

On February 15, Sara Crimm will speak at Kabbalat Shabbat services as the keynote speaker of Inclusion Shabbat at Or Hadash. Sara is the co-founder of Families Creating Communities for Adults with Special Needs (Families CCan) and chair of the Inclusion Committee at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El. She is the parent of an adult with special needs and will be sharing personal stories and helpful hints on making a synagogue welcoming to people with mental and emotional illness from her experience. The Makaylah will also sing that night, adding to the joy of Shabbat.

On Saturday, March 23 at 7:30 pm, the Inclusion and Adult Education Committees will cooperate once again to show a movie. *OC 87* has been called "the obsessive compulsive, major depression, bipolar, Asperger's movie." It describes the real life experiences of Bud Clayman, whose dreams of a filmmaking career were interrupted soon after college by mental illness. Thirty years later, however, he's made the movie of his life. OH's own Rich Davis, a member of the Inclusion Committee, will lead a discussion about the movie and refreshments will be served. It is free for OH members and open to the public.

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