

**High Holiday Kit for
Synagogue Professional Staff, Lay
Leadership & Volunteers**



We Welcome People Of All
Abilities!

<http://RespectAbilityUSA.com/resources/Jewish-inclusion>

RESPECT/ABILITY

**RespectAbility Offers Synagogues Free Toolkit for High Holidays;
Invites People with Disabilities and Their Loved Ones to Express
Their Needs So They Can Participate**

Washington, DC. As the month of Elul is upon us, RespectAbility is delighted to offer synagogues around the world our free toolkit to ensure that Jews with disabilities and their families can participate fully in High Holiday services. Said Shelley Cohen, co-founder of RespectAbility and director of the Jewish Inclusion Project, “This momentous time is a perfect opportunity to show community members with disabilities how important they are to the fabric of your spiritual community and how you have given forethought to making their time in the synagogue walls as accommodating as possible.”

The toolkit offers tips and ideas to help with language, signage, seating assignments, ushers, and more. By being explicit and intentional in their inclusion efforts, synagogues can ensure that people with disabilities are fully welcomed.

They can also raise awareness throughout the community that their house of worship is open to one and all equally. Fully one-in-five Americans have a disability. Jews, because of a combination of genetic disorders and the fact that we have children far later in life than other demographic groups, have a greater risk for some disabilities.

Said Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, RespectAbility's president, "If you have a disability or a loved one with a disability who wants to fully participate in Jewish life, let the Congregation and Rabbi know in advance what you need to fully participate in Jewish life. Most of them WANT to be completely inclusive – but many don't know how. Take the time to let them know what to do -- and help them if needed. You will generally be very warmly received."

RespectAbility wishes people of all abilities a Shana Tova! We sincerely hope you will find this free packet helpful. We have a lot more free tools and materials online at: <http://RespectAbilityUSA.com/resources/Jewish-inclusion>

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