

Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month Opening the Doors Partnership Program

Date: Sunday, February 8-Praying with Lior

Presenter: Ilana Trachtman, Director/Producer of film

Opening the Doors sponsored a special screening of the film, *Praying with Lior*, a story about a young man with Down Syndrome, and the triumphant journey he and his family take towards his Bar Mitzvah. The screening was preceded by a presentation given by Ilana Trachtman, who shared with us her unique experience, and how her work impacted many around the world. The screening was followed by a q & a session with Ilana.

Date: Tuesday, February 24-Teacher Workshop at Adat Shalom Nursery

Presenter: Ellen Yashinsky-Chute, LMSW

Topic: *Delivering Difficult News: Empowering Families*

The preschool period in a family's development can be a difficult time. Early socialization experiences and adaptation to school structure are difficult for some children, and it becomes the responsibility of the preschool teacher or administrator to intervene with families. Understanding the dynamics of families during these times of stress can help facilitate their movement from reaction to action!

Date: Wednesday, February 25-Parent/ Teacher Workshop at Adat Shalom

Autism: The Musical

The movie follows 5 Los Angeles children with Autism over the course of 6 months as they write, rehearse, and perform their own full length musical under the direction of director, Tricia Regan. The movie captures the struggles and triumphs of their family lives and portrays how the human spirit can overcome any challenge. The screening will be followed by a discussion of the film.

Date: Thursday, February 26-Day School Teacher workshop at Akiva

Presenter: Dr. Daniel Klein, Psy.D

Topic: *Using Various Behavioral Techniques to Resolve Challenging Classroom Behavior*

Through an explanation of strategies, interventions, and role playing scenarios, teachers will have a better understanding and awareness of how to use conflict resolution techniques, as discussed by Dr. Ross Greene, to be used for children who exhibit challenging behavior in the classroom.

Date: Thursday, February 26-Professional Development at Temple Israel
Nursery

Presenter: Robyn Glickman, psychologist

Topic: *Act Don't React: Handling Challenging Behavior with Dignity and Diplomacy*

Gives teachers strategies and problem solving interventions to help children become more responsible, and have alternate ways to improve their behavior and resolve conflict.

