

Jewish  
Disability  
Awareness  
Month



# JEWISH DISABILITY Awareness Month

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***FEBRUARY 2010***

## ***Calendar of Events & Awareness Programming***

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### **Kick-off Event – Showing of Autistic License**

***Sponsored by the Coordinated Network for People with Disabilities***

Sunday, January 31, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm, The Marcus Jewish Community Center

The Coordinated Network for People with Disabilities, which is comprised of representatives of Jewish Family & Career Services, The Amit Program and The Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, is screening ***Autistic License***. This docudrama is a true-to-life play that takes audiences on the rollercoaster ride of raising a child with Autism. It is a sometimes exhausting, sometimes exhilarating and frequently terrifying trip that informs, enlightens and entertains. Following the film, there will be a panel discussion about the movie, as well as services and supports in Atlanta's Jewish community. To see a trailer of the movie click here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AZAXVP12I4>.

There is no charge, but seating is limited so reservations are required. For reservations or more information, email [info@amitatlanta.org](mailto:info@amitatlanta.org) or call (404) 961-9966.

### **The Taylor Family Speaker Series**

**“Challenges of Gifted Children with Learning Disabilities and  
ADD/ADHD” Guest Speaker Dr. Judy Wolman**

***Presented by The Amit Program/Sponsored by The Day School Council***

Wednesday, February 3, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, The Epstein School

Learning disabilities affect people of all ability levels. Sometimes, learning disabilities are experienced by extremely gifted people who have average abilities in academic areas and are, therefore, functioning below their potential. These people are often referred to as “twice exceptional”. Their learning disability hides their giftedness and their giftedness hides their learning disability. These children often fall through the cracks of the system, and as a result fail to qualify for gifted programs or for special education services. The secret to educating twice exceptional children is teaching to their strengths. Teachers and parents of gifted children with LD can learn to implement the interventions necessary for the learning disability while still providing opportunities for enrichment.

## **Early Childhood Directors Council Annual Preschool Kallah** *Sponsored by the Early Childhood Directors Council (ECC)*

Monday, February 15, Temple Beth Tikvah

This annual Kallah will have many opportunities for professional development for staff in our Jewish preschools. Two sessions will be led by staff of The Amit Program, one on Early Signs of Developmental Delay and one on Using Occupational Therapy to Promote Fine and Gross Motor Skills.

## **Larry Bregman, M.D. Educational Conference** *Sponsored by Jewish Family & Career Services*

February 20, 7:30 P.M., Dance (hosted by Down Syndrome Association)

February 21, registration 8:00 AM Conference held at The Selig Center

For information, to register, or to volunteer, please visit [www.bregman.org](http://www.bregman.org) or call Brenda at 770-677-9345

## **Disabilities Day at the Capitol**

February 25, at the Capitol

For additional information, please visit the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities website: [www.gcdd.org](http://www.gcdd.org)

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# **SYNAGOGUE PROGRAMS**

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## **Praying With Lior**

On January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Temple Sinai, Rabbi Levenberg will be moderating a viewing and discussion of the film "Praying with Lior". The film focuses on a young man with Down's Syndrome struggling to become a Bar Mitzvah.

*"Praying with Lior" asks whether someone with Downs Syndrome can be a spiritual genius. Many believe Lior is close to God – at least that's what his family and community believe- though he's also a burden, a best friend, and inspiration and an embarrassment, depending on who is asked and when. As this documentary moves to its climax, Lior must pass through the gateway to manhood- his Bar Mitzvah.*

More information can be found on the temple's website [www.temple Sinai atlanta.org](http://www.temple Sinai atlanta.org) and you can RSVP online or by calling the office at 404-252-3073.

## **Special Needs Shabbat**

On Friday, January 15, 2010 at Congregation B'nai Torah, individuals with disabilities will participate in the Friday night service. The service will be followed by a dinner. Reservations required. Contact (404)-257-0537.

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# ***ON-GOING PROGRAMS***

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## **Amit University**

Amit University is an on-going program offering a range of stimulating courses geared to educators working in diverse classrooms. The classes are open to the entire community and each course offers 1 PLU credit towards teacher certification. On February 9, a three part course titled, "*Using Technology to Enhance Student Learning*" will begin and on February 17, a three part course titled, "*Darkness to Light: An Educational Program About Child Safety and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse with a Session on the Unique Issues Faced with Children with Disabilities*" will begin. Also, in February a course titled, "*Understanding and Managing ADHD for Success in Academics and Life*" will be offered.

## **Ability Awareness Program**

The Coordinated Network for Persons With Disabilities offers an Ability Awareness Program to promote acceptance of people with disabilities in schools, faith institutions, community programming and businesses.

## **B'Yachad Teen Buddy Program**

This program is geared for middle and high school age teens both with and without disabilities to interact in social monthly activities. The program includes a supervision of a social skills facilitator and is open to the community at no charge. Upcoming programs include:

Hip Hop at Beth Tikvah, Sunday, January 24, 2010 from 1:30 - 3:00 PM  
Chattahoochee Nature Center, Sunday, March 21, 2010  
Circus Arts - Sunday, April 25, 2010

## **Debra "Debbie" Sonenshine SOAR Program**

SOAR is offering basketball practices and games during the winter of 2010. For specific practice and games times during February please contact Sammy Rosenberg at 678-812-4092.

## **MJCCA Inclusion Program**

An inclusion program for children, youth and young adults on the Autism Spectrum as well as those with other developmental disabilities has been launched at the MJCCA. The Inclusion Specialist, Jennifer Lieb, will work with staff, parents, and educators to facilitate the best possible placement for each individual.

## **Autism Walk -TEAM Amit**

Join us for our Kickoff Meeting on Tuesday, January 12 at 9:30 at the Amit office. Be a part of TEAM AMIT, sponsored by Amit, JF&CS and the Marcus Jewish Community Center, proud affiliates of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, at this year's WALK FOR AUTISM, Sunday May 23, 2010 at Atlantic Station. Join us for a kickoff meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 9:30 AM at the Amit office, 6255 Barfield Road, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30328. Families, schools, synagogues, agencies and businesses are invited to create individual teams to join together under TEAM AMIT. For more information or to join TEAM AMIT contact Karen Paz [kpaz@amitatlanta.org](mailto:kpaz@amitatlanta.org) or 404-961-9963.

## VSP (Very Special People)

VSP is a social group for adults with developmental disabilities that meets several times each month for dinners, movies, trips, and other recreational activities. To be included in our monthly mailings, please contact Susie Davidow at 678-812-4091

For more information on any of these programs or other services offered through the Atlanta Jewish Community contact:

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