



# RUDERMAN SYNAGOGUE INCLUSION PROJECT



## SCENARIOS FOR DISCUSSION

Marsha Frankel, LICSW

#1

David is the principal of the religious school of a fairly large suburban congregation. He contacts Rabbi Cohen to report that several parents of religious school students have spoken to him about seeing a rather disheveled looking man in his late 20's hanging around the outside of the building, and they are concerned about safety issues. David indicates that the man is outside now.

Rabbi Cohen investigates and discovers that the man is Simon, a man who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah 15 years earlier at the synagogue and was diagnosed with schizophrenia 9 years ago while a student at an Ivy League college. He is the only child of parents who were once active members of the congregation, but no longer belonged.

#2

Judy schedules an appointment with Rabbi Brown to discuss a "family problem." She reports that her husband, Bob, is sleeping a great deal, yelling at her and their teenage children constantly, and telling her that she should leave him as he's "good for nothing." Several months ago Bob was passed over for a promotion and he keeps focusing on that. She is worried that he will be fired as he has been going in late and calling in sick to spend the day sleeping. Bob has multiple physical complaints but has refused to make an appointment with his physician. Judy is distraught and doesn't know where to turn. Rabbi Brown has only a vague idea of who Bob is as he only attends services on holidays. Judy tells the Rabbi that Bob would never agree to see him.

#3

Ida is an older member of the congregation who has been active in synagogue life for over 50 years. She is a past president of the Sisterhood and could always be counted on to help. In the past year she has been slowed down by hip replacement surgery and arthritis. Rabbi Klein noticed her quietly crying during a Shabbat service, but she left before the Kiddush and the Rabbi had no chance to speak with her. Rabbi Klein is struggling with whether to call her or not.



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#4

Joey is a 10-year-old boy whose parents are prominent members of the congregation and have recently pledged a generous sum to needed renovations. The head of the School Committee and the principal ask for an appointment with Rabbi Winn to discuss problems with Joey. Joey is a large child and is prone to temper outbursts. Other children in his classroom are afraid and report bullying. The teacher is an experienced educator with a reputation as having good classroom control. She is at her wit's end and is threatening to quit. Rabbi Winn recalls the parents discussing their decision to move to their current community for the school system as they described Joey as being very bright and not sufficiently challenged in his former community school. They also described him as high energy and needing little sleep.