



RUDERMAN SYNAGOGUE INCLUSION PROJECT



WHAT INCLUSION MEANS

In general, inclusion is the opportunity for people of any and all abilities to participate in meaningful ways within their community. Inclusion is also recognizing that we are “one” even though we are not the same.

RSIP’s Partner Congregations and inclusion consultants define inclusion like this:

At Temple Emunah of Lexington, Inclusion Means:

Creating a community where people are welcome because of who they are, not in spite of who they are

- Shifting the conversation on inclusion from “tikkun olam – social action” to “kol yisrael arevim zeh bazeh – All of Israel is responsible for each other”
- Creating programs that target a variety of demographics, that are inclusive of all and that are integrated community-wide

At Congregation Shaarei Tefillah, Inclusion Means:

Supporting all our members, and our guests, in their efforts to participate in our religious, spiritual, social and community life

- Living by the maxim: “Who is wise? One who learns from all people.” (Avot 4:1)
- Accepting the individual, respecting difference and being open to change
- Collaborating with members of our community to develop systems and programs that reduce barriers to participation
- Striving to optimize opportunities for engagement in Torah and mitzvot in our capacity as a Modern Orthodox, halakhic community



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At Temple Beth Elohim Inclusion Means:

- Recognizing, admiring, respecting and actually including every member or invitee to fully and comfortably participate in each class, meeting, and/or event
- Inclusion is not a 'disability' issue. Rather, it means ensuring that every single person matters in our diverse and sacred community

“Inclusion is something of a misnomer. True inclusion is the restructuring of our world, from synagogue to society, to allow full and dignified participation of all people, regardless of disability or any other difference from the hypothetical norm which might present a barrier.”

*- Matan Koch
Inclusion Consultant for the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project*