

Building Communities One Lecture at a Time

A synergistic offering to address special needs in the Westchester Jewish Community

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Program (WAHS and WATE Educators)

at Congregation Sons of Israel
1666 Pleasantville Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY

BRINGING THE SIBLINGS' VOICE INTO THE CLASSROOM: an important resource for understanding differences in a family.

Participants will view *The Sibling's Voice* documentary, discuss case studies in groups and receive resources on ways in which to better support students and families.

Much has been written about ways the Jewish community can make their schools and synagogues more inclusive of people with disabilities. Growing numbers of Jewish synagogues have become more accessible to the disabled and many school programs have been created to be more inclusive to children with special needs. There is a commitment to make Jewish communities more "diversity sensitive" and efforts to make parents feel more welcome for their child with a difference.

Presenters:

Joan Chess and **Meryl Schaffer** have facilitated groups and workshops for siblings of children with special needs since 1996. They have been listening to children and young adults talk about their experiences. Throughout this process they have collected data in order to better understand what it means to be a sibling of a brother or sister with special needs. Meryl and Joan both work for the Mamaroneck Public School District in Westchester County, New York. Meryl is a licensed clinical social worker who has worked extensively with families of children with special needs. Joan is a certified school psychologist whose connection to this work comes from professional and personal experiences. She is the mother of four children, one of whom is severely disabled.

Event is free, but please RSVP to Roni Shapiro, 914-762-2700
Please consider making a donation to support future enriching events.



CONGREGATION B'NAI YISRAEL OF ARMONK

