

***The Jewish Special Needs Consortium of Greater Philadelphia is proud to offer these dynamic speakers to come to your synagogue!***

***To arrange a speaker, contact “Whole Community Inclusion” Director Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer at 215-320-0376 or [gkaplan-mayer@jewishlearningventure.org](mailto:gkaplan-mayer@jewishlearningventure.org).***

**Rachel Buxbaum**

Topics: Sibling support, Sibling relationships, Caregiver self-care, The benefits of support groups

Bio: Rachel Buxbaum Levy is the Licensed Social Worker at JAFCO (Jewish Adoption and Family Care Options). Established in 1992, JAFCO’s mission is to care for abused and neglected children and those with disabilities in the Jewish community and to work in partnership with families and the entire community. We believe that the care of children in our community is our responsibility, one we accept with joy, pride and love. JAFCO is currently serving over 500 children and their families in the Philadelphia and South Florida communities through our complete continuum of services. Rachel is a proud Philadelphia native who has dedicated her career in social work to children and families. Rachel is available to give presentations on inclusion, sibling relationships, self-care of the caregiver, child abuse and neglect in the Jewish community and how to become a foster/adoptive parent.

**Rabbi Michelle Greenfield**

Topics: D'var Torah--Tying the Parasha into disability awareness, Disabilities and Jewish Lifecycle, Congregational Inclusion

Bio: Rabbi Michelle Greenfield is a 2012 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She earned her BA at Brandeis University and has also taken courses in Special Education through Hebrew College and Arcadia University. Before entering Rabbinical school, she worked as an Assistant Teacher at the Kennedy Day School in Boston, a school for children with special needs. Michelle is currently the Education Director at Kol Tzedek as well as a chaplain for Jewish Family and Children's Services. She also teaches at Celebrations! And Mitzvah Mensches at Mishkan Shalom. Michelle has experience working with people with special needs in a variety of settings, including religious schools, camps, and residential facilities as well as experience training both teens and adult teachers to work with students with special needs.

### **Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer**

**Topics:** Disability and Family Life, Disability Inclusion and the Jewish Community, [The Little Gate-Crasher](#): The Story of my Great Uncle Who Never Let Society's Prejudices Stop Him

**Bio:** Gabby is an experienced Jewish educator, having worked as an education director, curriculum writer, teacher, author and youth director/advisor in various capacities for over 20 years. At Jewish Learning Venture, she works as Director of Whole Community Inclusion. Her most recent book *The Little Gate Crasher* is a memoir of her Great-Uncle, who overcame society's prejudices about dwarfism to lead a remarkable life. She's also written *The Kitchen Classroom*, a children's cookbook designed for children of all abilities. Gabby holds a B.F.A. in theatre and creative writing from Emerson College and an M.A. in Jewish Studies from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

### **Beth Rosenwasser**

**Topics:** Inclusion and adaptations for teens and adults with Autism &/or Intellectual Disabilities in a variety of settings (synagogue and Jewish teen/YA programs, workplace, independent living). I often co-present with JCHAI members who share about their lives.

**Bio:** JCHAI, Judith Creed Homes for Adult Independence, was built by local families who wanted their young adult family members (18 & up) having disabilities to have the range of post High School opportunities for employment, friendship, community and independent living that all young people desire. As JCHAI's Director of Community Engagement & Program Development, Dr. Beth Rosenwasser engages Philadelphia region businesses to learn about the benefits of employing people with disabilities and people at local synagogues and organizations to facilitate inclusion of people with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities. A behavioral clinician and President of Philadelphia Behavior Therapy Association, before joining the JCHAI team, she designed and directed treatment programs for children and adults with a range of developmental and behavioral health needs.

### **Rabbi Margot Stein**

**Topics:** Awakening the Spirituality of Your Special Needs Child; How Rabbis and Parents Team Up To Include Those With Disabilities; Filling the Well: Spiritual Nourishment for Parents with a Special Needs Child.

**Bio:**

Rabbi Margot Stein is the Music and Liturgy Resource Specialist at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Pa. She trains kids with special needs for their bar/bat mitzvah, but wisely chose a colleague to train her own son. She is a consultant for Jewish Learning Venture's "Whole Community Inclusion."



**Rabbi Philip Warmflash**, Chief Executive Officer  
**Michael Paul**, President

**Jewish Learning Venture innovates programs that help people live connected Jewish lives.**  
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