Serving the Jewish Community since 1996 by building bridges between Jews who are deaf and hard-of-hearing and the individuals and organizations which serve the Jewish community throughout North America.



www.jdrc.org P O Box 318 Hartsdale, NY 10530

FORMING A JEWISH ADULT EDUCATION CLASS IN NYC

WHERE WE COMMUNICATE IN ASL

Have you ever thought about your Jewish roots? Do you identify your Jewishness as part of who you are? If you do, do you wonder why you really don’t celebrate it or understand it. Maybe you settle for, “it is what it is.” And go about your merry way.

A group of us, deaf and hearing got together to try to find a way to make the Jewish experience more accessible for those who communicate in American Sign Language. Even though we may have arrived here from different places, the questions remain: Where did we originate from? What is our history? What defines our culture and traditions. Do deaf people and those who communicate in ASL have a Jewish community that we can call our “home?”

Up until now, there have been individuals who connect to the larger Jewish community through the use of interpreters. In partnership with The Jewish Deaf Resource Center, Inc. with funding from UJA-Federation of New York, Jessica Ames and Naomi Brunnlehrman, both respected interpreters in the Jewish community, have worked to open doors for us. They initiated a dialogue between a small group of deaf Jewish people and interpreters to see if we can create something that will be our own, to see if we can create a “signing” Jewish community.

What we found is that there is a desire to create our own signing community where we can learn about and celebrate Judaism. We also think we will enjoy each other’s company to the point where we may want to come together on a regular basis. We will also, with the interpreters, integrate ourselves into the larger Jewish community. The possibilities are endless.

BUT we cannot do it without you! Now that the seed is planted, we need help to make it grow and become a reality. It will take time but with your enthusiasm, support and interest, we hope to offer different course topics, Jewish events and holidays, Shabbat services, and eventually, create a place for Jewish Deaf people or is it Deaf Jewish people to go to. A place we can call home. A place where hearing signers and deaf people can become one Jewish community.

If interested, please fill out the form on JDRC’s website so we can be sure to include you in the process of creating something wonderful for ourselves, our children and the future of the Jewish deaf community. Thank you.