

Accessibility and Inclusion at Har Shalom

Wheelchair Access

- Permanent handicapped-designated parking spots in both front and back of the building next to a wide access aisle for side-loading vans
- An accessible path from the designated parking spots to the doors
- Automatic door-openers to the building on front doors to the old and new wings of the congregation and on the rear door to the new wing
- Automatic bathroom door openers near the Burke Sanctuary and the Social Hall
- Wide hallways throughout the building
- A Coat Room near the Burke Sanctuary with coat hooks at a wheelchair - accessible height
- Ushers on duty for the main Shabbat service to open the doors for everyone
- Space for wheelchairs in the Burke Sanctuary seating configuration
- Ramps to both sides of central bema of main sanctuary
- Ramp to the front bema (and Ark) in the Burke Sanctuary
- Doors to the Ark able to be opened and closed from a wheelchair
- Shulchan (reader's table) that can be extended to wheelchair height
- Accessible bathrooms with extra-wide stalls and "grab" bars
- A large accessible bathroom adjacent to Bride's Room designed for guests in wheelchairs that have attendants
- Water fountain at appropriate height (next to the bathrooms across from the Burke Sanctuary)
- Elevator access to second floor
- First-floor meeting room accommodations for wheelchair users

Additional Non-wheelchair Physical Accommodations

- Benches in both lobbies and outside, near the entrance to the Main Office, that can serve as resting points
- Flat walking surfaces with either carpet or tile that is not slippery
- Comfortable couch in the Bride's Room near the Burke Sanctuary
- Wheelchairs available in Coat Rooms, if needed
- Additional parking spaces set upon request for special events

Accommodations for Those Who Have Trouble Sitting

- Space in the rear of the main sanctuary toward the back that has room for people to stand and move around without distracting others
- Comfortable seating with lumbar supports in the Burke Sanctuary
- Padded chairs in the Library

Accommodations for Those Who Cannot Attend Services

- Ability to view Burke Sanctuary services off-site by prior arrangement with the Main Office (301) 299-7087

Accommodations for Hearing Loss

- Individual hearing-assistance devices available from our ushers that work in the Burke Sanctuary
- A sound system for the Burke Sanctuary that can be used in the Gathering Hall and in the “Quiet Room”
- An emergency evacuation system with strobe lights for notification
- Sign-language interpreters provided, as needed, for major events
- Reserved seating, as needed, upon request to the Main Office

Accommodations for Blindness or Low Vision

- Large-print *siddurim* and *machzorim*
- Photocopies of large-print Shabbat prayer books in sections by service type to make them easier to hold (Spring 2010)
- Large-print Shabbat portions of the Torah and Haftarah in both English and Hebrew with vowels *upon request to the office*
- Braille signage in the new wing
- An emergency evacuation system with sirens for notification
- Reserved seating, as needed, upon request to the Main Office

Cardiac Equipment

- An automatic external defibrillator located in the Gallery (Spring 2010)

Early Childhood Education Center Accommodations

- Contracts with the Ivymount CORE program and the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning Special Needs Department as resources to parents and teachers

Religious School Accommodations

- Resource specialist available as needed for students with special needs
- Weekly Hebrew tutoring program at no cost for students with learning disabilities
- Student “shadows” in classrooms

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Accommodations

- Availability of specialized tutoring for students with disabilities
- Extreme flexibility in creating an appropriate B'nai Mitzvah service based on the child's abilities

Library Resources

- Children's books related to various disabilities
- County disability resource list
- Large print books
- Books on tape

Scholarship Funds Available for Special Needs Students in the ECEC and Religious School