



Belonging in Community

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Past

- Lived in Private Institution
- Worked in Sheltered Workshop
- Not part of local Synagogue
- Treated as child by family

Today

- Live in Apartment
- Married for 13 years
- Work full time as part of AUCD's Policy team
- Member of B'nai Israel
- Working to be a more fully included part of my family



Inclusion

- Sitting at table
- Having a job
- Going to Synagogue and sitting at the services

Belonging

- Be a part of the discussion that happens at the table
- Being a part of a work team where your talents are making a difference
- Having friends to share the Kiddush with



My Definition

Belonging is having
people that support
and care about you.



Joanne Weaver's definition

Belonging means that your place in a group is just as important as everyone else's. If you really belong you're not just there to make people feel good. You actually have an equal contribution



Making a Community where people belong

- Agreement that belonging is our priority
- Plain language
- Finding the things we have in common
- Accommodations and supports as needed
- Time
- Rights that help protect people's chance to belong



Advocate for Policy that Helps People Belong

- Disability Integration Act
- Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment
- Access to Free Speech for All



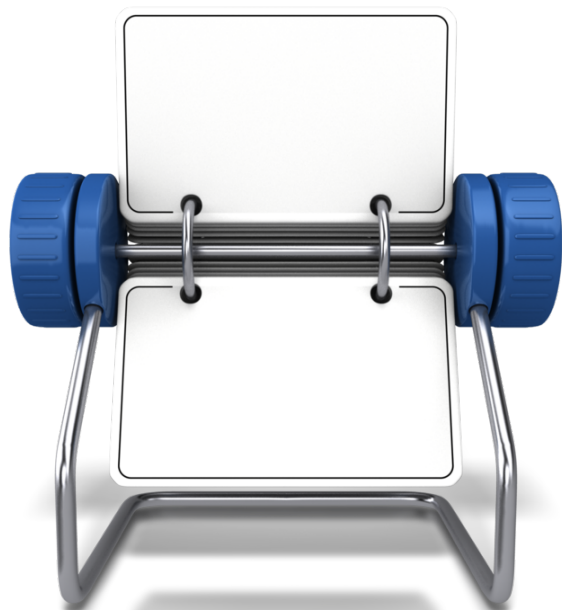
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How to Contact me?



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