

Koleinu Shabbat – Take Action, Raise Our Voices

By Jennifer B. Kahnweiler

Last Friday night, I was privileged to attend the Koleinu Shabbat Service - Celebrating Jewish Inclusion Awareness. It was an incredibly moving service attended by a large crowd. Here are some highlights.

*Looking around, I saw people of all ages, several of them with visible disabilities, singing and worshipping together. The Koleinu Committee shared what inclusion means and how disabilities are often invisible. They shared the actions that have been instituted to create a learning and praying environment for all. Some of these include creating a Shalom Sanctuary (an alternative prayer environment), providing an automatic door opener in the restroom, offering visually adapted prayerbooks, and many others.

*The written program we received that evening highlighted the moving stories of TE members, Jacob Palmer, Parker Gordon, and Liam Denneen. Bill Gordon, Parker's Dad wrote, "There are no limits to what he will do. Especially with supporters like Temple Emanu-el and its extended family."

*Our featured speakers were brothers, Kyle and Brent Pease. They inspired us with their incredible journey of grit and resilience as well as the lessons they have taken from supporting each other through adversity.

Together Kyle and Brent have completed more than 75 races, including four IRONMAN triathlons and countless other endurance races. They are role models who encourage each of us to push beyond our self-imposed limits.

The Pease brothers have also been paying it forward. They empower athletes with disabilities to compete in multi-sport and endurance events. Founded 11 years ago, [The Kyle Pease Foundation](#) (KPF) has championed over 100 athletes across 60 events. They also provide grant and scholarship opportunities, purchase adaptive sports equipment, and participate in educational campaigns.

Do check out ways [to get involved with KPF](#), follow them on social media, come out to watch one of their local events, and/or consider a [donation](#).

*You can also contact the Koleinu Committee to get involved. Contacts are Co-chairs Mickey Rosner nomick7@bellsouth.net and Susie Davidow SusieDavidow1@bellsouth.net.

I encourage you to raise your voice and be an advocate in a way that works for you. I, for one, am grateful to know that Temple Emanu-el is a place that values inclusivity and supports all members in taking meaningful actions toward this goal.