



MyZuzah Moments - March 1, 2024

To close out **Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month**, MyZuzah joined the **Early Childhood Engagement and PJ Library Ambassador team** at the **Pozez JCC of Northern Virginia** to install a Braille mezuzah on the front door of the JCC. Crafted by a local artist, it features the Hebrew letters *shin*, *daled*, and *yud* in [Hebrew Braille](#). This additional mezuzah is also a nice feature for those who can't reach the other mezuzah positioned in the standard top third of the doorway. Here is **Jeff Dannick**, the Executive Director of the JCC, saying the blessing to affix the mezuzah with Alex, and **Julie Tonti**, the artist who designed and crafted the mezuzah.



pozezjcc
and
camp_achva
Pozez JCC of Northern Virginia



pozezjcc Tomorrow marks the last day of Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM), and we are thrilled to unveil a one-of-a-kind mezuzah (prayer case) with Braille inscription to the entrance of the Pozez JCC. To ensure inclusivity, the new mezuzah will be hung low on the front door so that children and those who cannot reach up can easily touch it as they enter the building. The word "Shaddai" is written in Braille on the outside of the mezuzah. "Shaddai" is an acronym for "Shomer Daitot Yisrael," meaning "Guardian of the Gates of Israel."

Please join us tomorrow, 2/29, in the lobby from 4-6pm for activities and to watch the installation. Our partners at MyZuzah will be here to help us install and celebrate our new mezuzah, created by local artist Julie Tonti (pictured here) of Claybrook Studios, who also used to be a J-Family Ambassador at the J.

The mezuzah derives its name from the Hebrew word for "doorpost." Traditionally, it's mounted on the doorframe at the entrance of a Jewish home, as well as on the doorposts of interior rooms (excluding bathrooms). Inside the mezuzah is a small parchment scroll inscribed with two biblical passages,



26 likes
1 day ago



The JCC team also had tables with art supplies available during daycare and preschool pickup for anyone who wanted to decorate their own mezuzah case. It was a lovely afternoon!



Individual Stories:

My old JLIC Rabbi at UMass Amherst told me about MyZuzah! Not only did I think that it was a clever name :,), I also thought that it was beautiful that there were Jews dedicated to ensuring everyone has a mezuzah in their home. I also loved that there was a detailed brochure explaining what a mezuzah is and how to put one up (especially for those more foreign to the concept and ritual). The colors and aesthetic of the website, packaging, and mezuzah were fun as well! I feel more connected to Hashem now that I have a mezuzah up and that He is watching over and protecting me. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity and experience!!!! Toby Volcovics, **Amherst, MA**



Olive Yale, **Bridgeport, CT**

*I really enjoyed the facilitator and the whole experience. Thank you so much for all that you do for the entire world. Atara Ashira bas Sarah and Channah Bracha bas Atara Ashira, **Oak Park, MI***



Hudson Hart, **Buffalo, NY**



And, in our recurring section highlighting how MyZuzah helps people stand up to antisemitism:

*I have decided to get a mezuzah due to the rising antisemitism - I want to be proud to be Jewish, not hide it. It also allows me to connect deeply to Judaism. In fact, this is the first mezuzah of my life and I am so glad I got it! I am feeling more proud to be Jewish, more resilient, and it brings a smile to my face everytime I pass the door. Thank you, MyZuzah, for making my first mezuzah possible! Sara Gschwind, **London, England***