JDAIM Thoughts
by Jonathan Brody

February is JDAIM month. As we close out this month, I'd like to share some research about this Patriarch that JDAIM probably had in mind when it was founded.

Moshe was never a man of many words; he was slow of speech and tongue. Aaron accompanied Moses to speak with Pharoah, as he set about freeing the Israelites, because Moshe had a speech impediment, Aaron spoke for him.

We as Jews are taught not to put a stumbling block in front of a blind person. When we read and learn about Moshe and all his achievements, being slow of tongue and speech is not the first quality we think of when we describe him. Moshe was able to achieve status as the greatest prophet in the Torah. Moshe, who had a disability, was able to achieve this status. From everything Moshe went through in his life, we look at him as the greatest prophet and leader.

I found out a lot about Moshe.

You may know some facts or maybe you will learn some new insights into his life.
Did you know!!!

- The greatest prophet who ever lived. Moses' two older siblings were Miriam and Aaron. His mother Yocheved hid him from the Egyptians and put him in the Nile River. He was named by Pharaoh's daughter. Moshe means "drew from the water."
- G-d revealed himself to Moshe at a burning thornbush and instructed him to liberate the children of Israel. Did you ever wonder Why a thornbush, Many explanations are given to explain why G-d chose a fiery thornbush to catch Moses' attention.
    - For one, Moses was worried that the Egyptians would destroy the Jewish nation entirely. G-d showed him the bush to demonstrate that although the Jews would suffer at Egypt's hands, they would not be annihilated.
    - Another tradition explains that G-d chose a lowly thornbush to symbolize that He was together with Israel in their pain

- He was born circumcised. One interpretation, cited in several classic sources, is that he was circumcised and knew that there was greatness in store for him.
- When Moses was born, the whole house was filled with light.
- He was on Mount Sinai for 40 days, at 3 different times, in connection with the giving of the Torah. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai bearing the two tablets, Aaron and all the Israelites saw that the skin of Moses' face was radiant.
- His cousin Korach led an uprising against him and Aaron.
- Moses was not allowed to enter the Holy Land because of the incident where he did not speak to the rock after Hashem told him to, he hit the rock.
- He is buried somewhere on Mount Nebo.

We always need to support people with disabilities and mental health conditions in all aspects of communal life—as they choose. Moshe was the greatest prophet and leader in the Torah, imagine he was not supported or chosen by Hashem, because of his disability. The fact Hashem chose someone with a disability to lead the Jewish people is very important. We need to embrace people with disabilities.