

July 2026/Tammuz/Av 5786 Newsletter



American Redstart

photo by TCJRC member Brian Shapiro



J-Pride contingent at the 2026 Pride Parade

Hello TCJRC Community,

July brings us into deep summer, traversing the Hebrew months of Tammuz and Av. Amidst the abundance of fruits ripening and summer rain, the Hebrew ecospiritual calendar calls us to remember our vulnerability and begin the heart-opening work of the High Holidays through the doorway of grief. The 9th of Av arrives on July 22-23, followed by *Shabbat Nachamu*, a Shabbat of extra comfort as a balm to our broken hearts. We are blessed to have two incredible visiting artists coming to lead us in song that weekend: Cantor Linda Hirschhorn (Friday, July 24) and Rabbi Shefa Gold (Sunday, July 26).

Don't miss these opportunities to learn and sing with nationally-acclaimed teachers! Then, gather a few friends and plan to attend our **Sunday, August 9 Tribute and Transformation** celebration where we will honor Sherry Stern's seven years of service and welcome new Managing Director Kohenet Riv Shapiro, with special guest Michelle W. Malkin, Executive Director of ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal.

Warmly,
TCJRC

July Events

Volunteers needed for events - please email Sherry at SLSternMN@gmail.com with interest.



Heart Song Circle & Shabbat with Cantor Linda Hirschhorn

**Friday, July 24 at 4:45 PM and Service at 6 PM
at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave., St. Paul**

Join Cantor Linda Hirschhorn for an evening of song! Co-sponsored by [Mount Zion Temple](#) and the [Twin Cities Jewish Renewal Community](#). This will be a fun and meaningful way to lead into and celebrate Shabbat. Those who participate in the song circle are invited to sing what they learned during our Shabbat service. [Register Here](#)

Cantor Linda Hirschhorn is a performing singer/songwriter/composer and storyteller. She travels around the country working with or creating community choruses. She has released 11 recordings of original songs and published hundreds of songs that have been covered by other artists, used in movies, choreographed by dance companies and sung in synagogues throughout the world. Linda has been the Cantor at Temple Beth Sholom in San Leandro since 1988.

The Magic of Hebrew Chant with Rabbi Shefa Gold

**Sunday, July 26 from 6:15 - 8:15 PM
at Adath Jeshurun Cong., 10500 Hillside Lane W., Mtka.**



Chant is a meditative practice that fully engages the body, heart and mind, and facilitates healing and expansion of consciousness. Rabbi Shefa Gold, beloved teacher of chant, Jewish mysticism, prayer and spirituality, guides you through this transformative spiritual practice as a way to unlock the power of sacred texts and take prayer and meditation into the delight of your life.

In this evening of participatory practice, Rabbi Shefa will illuminate the benefits and blessings of chant and unlock deep wisdom buried in our sacred texts.

Living Mussar, TC Jewish Renewal Community and Adath Jeshurun Congregation as cosponsors are blessed that Reb Shefa Gold will again grace our Twin Cities this summer. [Register Here](#)

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July Events (cont'd)



Rabbi Shefa Gold is a leader in ALEPH: the Alliance for Jewish Renewal. She is the director of C-DEEP, The Center for Devotional, Energy and Ecstatic Practice in Jemez Springs, New Mexico. She teaches workshops and retreats on the theory and art of Chanting, Devotional Healing, Spiritual Community-Building and Meditation.

Rabbi Shefa composes and performs spiritual music, has produced ten albums, and her liturgies have been published in several new prayerbooks.

[Register Here](#)

Exploring the Magic and Medicine of the Psalms! with Reb Shefa Gold

Week Retreat Registration - July 28 - August 2

at Episcopal House of Prayer, 14215 Fruit Farm Rd, Collegeville, MN 56321

The Psalms are an ancient treasure that must be excavated, refined, polished, and made useful in meeting the challenges of our day. On this retreat of deep inquiry and profound celebration, we will journey through eight themes that represent the means by which we meet those challenges on the path of Love: Gratefulness, Praise, Lament, Supplication, Exaltation, Revelation, Comfort, and Encouragement.

TCJRC Jewish Spiritual Book Meeting - Heart of a Stranger: An Unlikely Rabbi's Story of Faith, Identity, and Belonging by Rabbi Angela Buchdahl

New Date: Monday, July 13 from 7-8:30 PM CT on Zoom

Please read chapters 15-29, pages 150-200. If you are new, RSVP with your name and email to TCJewishRenewal@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Save Monday, August 10th for our next 7 - 8:30 PM meeting.



Congregation Shaarei Simchah Shabbat Services

Second and Fourth Shabbat mornings of the month, Gather at 9 AM CT and begins 9:15 AM

Join us in the cloud for a spiritually infused, musical service. Please contact Riv at tcjewishrenewal@gmail.com for Zoom details. All are welcome to attend. Service leaders include Rabbi Miryam Wolfson, Rabbi/Chaplain Leon Olenick, Jackie Olenick, and a host of other talented Jewish Renewal leaders such as our own TCJRC member, Chaiya Isenberg.

August Events



TCJRC Celebrates: Tribute & Transformation

Free

[Register today!](https://tinyurl.com/tributetransformation)

Join us to honor Sherry Stern's seven years of service and welcome Kohenet Riv Shapiro as our new managing director. Featuring remarks from Sherry, Riv, and special guest Michelle W. Malkin, Executive Director of ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal.

Light Refreshments 3:30 pm | Program 4pm

Feel welcome to stay and socialize with more refreshments until 5:30pm.

Please consider **becoming a Host** for this event by contributing financially and/or bringing 3-5 friends or family that you think would enjoy what we are doing. Select the Add-on when you register or email tcjewishrenewal@gmail.com for details and shareable materials. Hosts are invited to stay for a special dinner with Michelle W. Malkin.

Contributions to this event are welcome [here](#) with the note "Transformation". Thank you to our supporters so far: ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, Stern-Snyder Family Tikkun Olam Philanthropic Fund, Terry Gips, Laurie Savran and Anonymous.

We are also seeking 4-6 volunteers to help make this event happen! Please email tcjewishrenewal@gmail.com with interest.

Please join us or renew as a [TCJRC/ALEPH Member](#)!

Your \$72 yearly (or \$6/month) membership includes immediate family members and enrolls you in both [TCJRC](#) and [ALEPH](#) (our national organization). We are able to bring in talented national leaders and grow with your support. Plus, you get a discount on many of our events and activities while helping us offer even more.

Now is the time to embrace that personal connection to God by reaching beyond religious boundaries and institutional structures. We offer a contemporary egalitarian approach, which includes Jewish mystical/Chasidic traditions and social transformation. Come immerse yourself in a different, joyful way of experiencing Judaism.

Various opportunities include designated ALEPH courses, free community webinars, resource sharing, Shabbaton with Renewal leaders, network community open houses, Rosh Chodesh participation, our national biennial Kallah conference and scholarships through grants.

Local Events

[Shabbaton with Koach Baruch Frazier: Centering JoC in the Twin Cities](#)

Friday, July 17 - Sunday, July 19

A collective effort is being made to hold space for Jews of Color in the Twin Cities, and you're invited! Featuring [rabbi dr. koach baruch \(kb\) frazier](#), (they/he), this Shabbaton includes events exclusively for Jews of Color as well as events where all are welcome.

Join Now: **Sign-ups Close Tuesday, June 30th!**

[Register Here](#)

ALEPH and National Events

*Silence is Praise:
Metivta-Style Morning
Meditation Service*
Led by Rabbi Anne Brener

Wednesdays
11:30am ET /
8:30am PT

**Friday
Healing Circle**
Led by Rabbi Diane Elliot

A weekly virtual gathering to prepare for Shabbat through song, movement, Torah study, and prayer. A supportive space for healing, reflection, and community, including a Kaddish prayer for mourners.

Fridays
11:30am ET /
8:30am PT

Live on Zoom

All are welcome.

LIGHT YOUR CANDLES AT HOME,
SHARE IN THE BLESSINGS,
AND EXPERIENCE THE WARMTH OF TRADITION,
EVEN FROM AFAR.

Virtual Candle Lighting
Fridays | 6-6:30pm

TORAH OF AWAKENING
The Jewish Path of Presence

YOM RISHON
Sing, Pray, Meditate
Journey through the Tree of Life & Shakharit
Sundays: PT: 9:30am, MT: 10:30am, CT: 11:30am, ET: 12:30pm

Nechamah Minyan
Every evening (except Friday)
9 pm Eastern | 6 pm Pacific
Led by Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael and friends

ALEPH
Alliance for Jewish Renewal

[Weekly Virtual Jewish Renewal Connections - ALEPH: Alliance For Jewish Renewal](#)