



June 2026/Sivan/Tammuz 5786 Newsletter



Hello TCJRC Community,

I am excited to meet and get to know you as the new Managing Director of TCJRC. For our June newsletter, given that it is part of Pride Month, I thought I'd share both some personal and Jewish context relating to Pride.

Shehechyanu! I give thanks to the Source of Life who gave me life, sustained me, and allowed me to reach this new beginning. Stepping into leadership in a community so foundational in my growth is a great honor, and I look forward to building with you all thanks to all the groundwork laid by Sherry and the brilliant board. This month as we invite you to join us to celebrate Pride, I'm thinking of the ways Jewish Renewal influenced my journey with gender and sexuality.

One of the things that most attracted me to Renewal initially was its unique commitment to both tradition and spiritual lineage, and to progressive values - notably around feminism and LGBTQIA+ inclusion. Though I had suspected I was bisexual/queer since puberty, it wasn't until my first Kohenet training retreat that I was able to "come out" to myself and others. I still remember sitting in a circle in a Shevet/council with my cohort on gender, and being shocked to learn about all of the gender and sexual diversity in the room of what might appear to be all women. Through talking with Kohenet alumni, students and teachers about my own experiences and desires, I finally found the clarity and courage to embrace my queerness.

In the years that followed I would learn more about "queerness" in the more-than-human world: species that change genders, animals that engage in homosexual relationships, and more. I also discovered that in Judaism, the Talmud describes seven gender and sex categories based solely on biology - and we haven't even cracked the surface of gender as a social construct! Understanding that my natural instincts are just that - natural - has opened up a vast space of possibility, play, and personal growth that I wish for everyone regardless of gender and sexual identity.

I owe this crucial aspect of my spiritual liberation to so many ancestors and comrades - queer/trans/otherwise and allies - who fought for our rights with enormous personal risk. We must not forget amidst all of the celebrations and corporate displays of 'support' that the first Pride was a riot against police brutality in a time when being gay was illegal. These hard-earned rights to be who we are without fear of violence, workplace discrimination, healthcare inequality and more are heavily under attack. This poses a threat not only to the LGBTQIA+ community, but to all of us. None of us are free until all of us are free.

Local TCJRC Events

Especially in today's political climate, I feel extremely proud and grateful that my religious community is where I felt safe and seen enough to explore and celebrate my queerness. My Jewish and queer communities have been largely one and the same, and a source of immense nourishment for me in all of my layered identities. However we identify, Pride Month and Jewish Renewal both encourage us to be curious about who we are, to celebrate the ways we inhabit our bodies and connect with others, and to keep demanding a world in which all are free.

May you delight in all the nuance of who you are, this month and always!

L'chaim,

Riv

Resources:

History of Pride Month - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EQHqQEYgGc>

Stonewall Forever - A Documentary about the Past, Present and Future of Pride -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjRv7dJTYnc>

Genders in the Talmud - <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-eight-genders-in-the-talmud/>

Kohenet prayers - <https://hebrewpriestess.bandcamp.com/album/siddur-hakohanot-a-hebrew-priestess-prayerbook-companion-album>

June Events



June J-Pride Hub Activities Link

J-Pride is coming together for our historic 20th year anniversary, and you're invited to join us at events, volunteer at our festival booth, and march in the parade.

Highlights include:

- [June 27 Shabbat Service 10 - Noon](#)
- [June 28 Parade March](#)
- [J-Pride Booth](#)

TCJRC is a J-Pride partner during Pride month. Please contact Sherry at TCJewishRenewal@gmail.com if you are able to volunteer on behalf of TCJRC on Saturday, June 27 or Sunday, June 28.

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, June 15 from 7-8:30 PM CT on Zoom

Please read chapters 10 - 14 (pages 103 - 150). If you are new, RSVP with your name and email to TCJewishRenewal@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Save Monday, July 13 for our next 7 - 8:30 PM meeting.



July Events



[Heart Song Circle & Shabbat with Cantor Linda Hirschhorn](#)

Friday, July 24 at 4:45 PM and Service at 6 PM

at Mount Zion Temple

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 Shalom 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](#)

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.

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.

Adat Ha'araphel: Congregation of the Cloud Shabbat Services

Second and Fourth Shabbat mornings of the month, Gather at 9:15 AM CT and begins 9:30 AM

Join us in the cloud for a spiritually infused, musical service. Please contact Sherry at tcjewishrenewal@gmail.com for Zoom details. All are welcome to attend. Service leaders include Rabbi Marc Labowitz from Temple Adath Or in So. Florida, 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

Save the Date: Celebrating TCJRC: Tribute and Transformation

Sunday, August 9 Late Afternoon/ Early Evening

at a South Minneapolis Location

This event is to honor and say farewell to Sherry and to welcome Riv as they share their ideas for our TCJR Community's future.

If you can help sponsor this event and/or support TCJRC's new growth phase for our 8th Anniversary, please let Sherry tcjewishrenewal@gmail.com know. **Sponsorships Here** can be made through our connection with ALEPH, as our 501C3. All donations are appreciated.

TCJRC Membership

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

[Koleinu's Rosh Chodesh: Women's Mini Song Retreat](#)

Monday, June 15, 7 - 8:30 PM in South Minneapolis

For years, women around the world have welcomed Rosh Chodesh, the new month during the new moon, for reflection, connection, and renewal. Held in a softly lit space with twinkle lights, gather with us for an uplifting evening retreat filled with music, sound exploration, listening and connection. We look forward to sharing this night with you as we strengthen koleinu, our voice, and nourish our spirits. [Register Here](#)

ALEPH and National Events

Join Us!

ALEPH Virtual Cabaret: Ana Bekoach: A Portal to Creation

Sunday, June 7 at 3pm CT

[Register Here](#)

We are delighted to invite you to Aleph's legendary yearly gathering of our talented artists, sharing their voices and prayers to benefit our community and the world.

[Listen to the Cabaret Artists Playlist](#)

Study with ALEPH: Ordination Program

The ALEPH Ordination Program (AOP) opens a selected number of our graduate-level seminary courses to the general public. Each course has 13 weekly meetings and is conducted via live video conference using Zoom. Registration for Fall 2026 courses is open and classes will begin on August 23, 2026.

Courses include Biblical Hebrew, Introduction to Jewish Renewal, Foundations of Jewish Practice, Medieval Jewish History, Liturgy, Talmud, Modern Jewish Philosophy, Listening for God's Voice, and more. Some courses require prerequisites or instructor permission. [Register Here](#)

Silence is Praise

Weekly on Wednesdays, Time: 10:30 am-11:30 pm CT

Presenter: Rabbi Anne Brener, [Registration](#) Cost: Pay-what-you-can

Join Rabbi Anne Brener for a chanting and meditation service, using the structure of the morning service, to calm our bodies and connect our souls. There will be time for some check-in afterward.

Friday Healing Circle

Fridays, 10:30 to 11:30am CT with Rabbi Diane Elliot

The Friday Healing Circle, led online by R. Diane Elliot and friends, offers a weekly space to connect, to feel, to praise, to learn, to grieve and to love. Song, movement, Torah, poetry and healing prayers to expand your spirit and lead you into Shabbat. To sign up for the mailing list and receive the Zoom link email rabbi.diane18@gmail.com

Nechamah Minyan Every Evening (not Friday) at 8 PM CT

Led by Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael and friends. Please email ALEPH's Spiritual Arts Director (rreyzel@shechinah.com) for zoom room link. Providing nechamah (comfort) beyond time and space. Serving to connect people across denominational lines; people who need a place to pray; to heal; to grieve; to experiment with different forms and modalities of prayer.