

October 2025/Tishrei 5786 Newsletter



Hello TCJRC Friends,

The chaggim greets us with intensity. We acknowledge our failings, and yet we commit to deep trying, to true Teshuvah. This year has been one of trials; we have collectively faced a world on fire. Staying engaged, staying embodied in these conditions, is nearly impossible.

So what is the point of ritual in these times?

We cannot change the world on our own, we cannot pray on our own, Jewish ritual reminds us we need each other and humility. We have to keep working and we have to rest. We have to trust each other. This season offers a host of ways to be present, forgive, take accountability and know our flaws. We are set up to ask, how do I really live? How does one take their life seriously and with great importance?

May this season open you up to your flaws. May your flaws not lead you to despair but to

Student Rabbi Shosh Madick
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Expanding Gender in Kabbalah

Sunday, October 26 from 2:45 - 4:15 PM

Led by Rav Michaela Brown

Highland Park area of St. Paul

RSVP for exact location - No fee with **REGISTRATION**

\$10 Donation Appreciated (Use [this LINK](#))

Sponsored by TCJRC and J-Pride by means of a St. Paul Jewish Federation Ignite Grant.

Kabbalah the core of Jewish mysticism and many of its texts, including the Zohar, are historically linked to medieval times. The 10 Sephirot ("Eminences") that make up the Divine are the building blocks of Kabbalistic thought. The rabbis' descriptions of the Ten include their associations with a distinct duo of Masculine and Feminine.

What does it mean to engage with these concepts in the 21st century, where we have scholarship that dismantles gender binaries and broad acceptance of romantic/sexual intimacy between people of the same gender?

Let's embark on the messy work of making sense of an old, yet rich mystical system, while bringing our own modern sensibilities. We'll learn some basics of the Sephirot system and notice how the gender binary of Kabbalah isn't as static as it first appears.

People of all genders and sexualities welcome; all participants must participate in a way that affirms LGBTQ+ identity.

Jewish Journeys: A Soulful Evening of Havdalah, Food, Music, and Conversation

Saturday, November 1 @ 5 - 7:30 PM

Join Twin Cities Jewish Renewal Community (TCJRC) in a joyful natural setting to celebrate Havdalah with food, learning, and singing.

We'll unpack the theme of journeys through study, conversation, and music, discovering how we each connect our personal journey to the journey of the Jewish people. The program will include supper, Havdalah led by **Rabbi Jill Avrin of YourJewish** and songs led by **Koleinu**, a new band that celebrates contemporary Jewish living through communal singing.

TCJRC will provide a main vegetarian dish and drinks. Vegetarian or vegan potluck items appreciated.

Rabbi Jill Avrin is the founding Rabbi of YourJewish, a Twin Cities Jewish organization serving those who are unengaged or under-engaged in Jewish life. She is also the Director of Campus Affairs at the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas. Following ordination from Hebrew Union College in 2013, she spent 10 years working as a congregational rabbi at Bet Shalom Congregation in Minnetonka, MN.

Sponsored by TCJRC by means of a St. Paul Jewish Federation Ignite Grant.

Cosponsors: J-Pride, YourJewish and Koleinu



EXPANDING GENDER IN KABBALAH WORKSHOP

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26
2:45 - 4:15 PM
RSVP FOR ST. PAUL LOCATION

RSVP

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Rabbi Michaela Brown (she/her) is the associate chaplain for Jewish (and Interfaith) Life at both Carleton College and St. Olaf College. She participated in the joint Hebrew College and SVARA Talmud Pedagogy Fellowship where her capstone learning project at Hebrew College was reading about the creation of the first man and woman in the Zohar and analyzing it with queer theory.

TCJRC

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St. Paul Jewish Federation

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TC Jewish Renewal's JEWISH JOURNEYS
A Soulful Evening of Havdalah, Food, Music and Conversation

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from 5 - 7:30 PM

Join Twin Cities Jewish Renewal Community (TCJRC) in a joyful natural setting to celebrate Havdalah with food, learning and singing.

Rabbi Jill will unpack the theme of Jewish journeys. Connecting Personal to Peoplehood through study, conversation, and music, discovering how we each connect our personal journey to the journey of the Jewish people. The program will include supper, Havdalah led by **Rabbi Jill Avrin of YourJewish** and songs led by **Koleinu**, a new band that celebrates contemporary Jewish living through communal singing.

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RSVP Here

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TCJRC and Cosponsor Members \$12
Nonmembers \$18
Everyone \$22 after Tuesday, October 28

*After registering, we'll send the Roseville location closer to the event.

Sponsored by TCJRC by means of a St. Paul Jewish Federation Ignite Grant.

St. Paul Jewish Federation

J-Pride

yourJewish

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Nonmembers \$18

Everyone \$22 after Tuesday, October 28

Financially accessible option available.

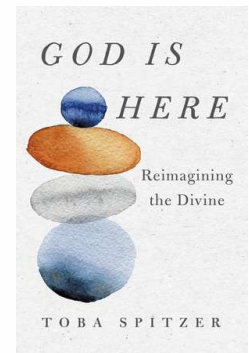
After registering, we'll send the Roseville location closer to the event date.

TCJRC Jewish Spiritual Book Meeting **God is Here: Reimagining the Divine** **Sunday, October 12 from 7-8:30 PM on Zoom**

Please RSVP with your name and email to TCJewishRenewal@gmail.com for the Zoom link as we begin to discuss, God is here Reimagining the Divine by Toba Spitzer |March 2022

New participants are welcome! Join us even if you do not have the book.

Our plan is to meet the second Sunday of the month:
October 12 - Read Chapters 1 - 3
November 9 - Read Chapters 4 and 5



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.

Documentary Style Interviews of Reb Zalman's life in Review by his daughter, Chana Tina Duskis **Documentary 1: The 18-Miracle Escape** **Monday, November 10, 6:30 - 8:30 PM CT on Zoom**

Reb Zalman's family harrowing escape from the Holocaust, the extraordinary and miraculous journey full of interventions by human "angels."

This is a great opportunity to learn about Reb Zalman Schacter-Shalomi and the founding of the Jewish Renewal movement. This is the first of three 1.5 hour documentaries. Members who knew Reb Zalman please join us the last half hour to contribute your first hand knowledge to our discussion.

RSVP to Shoshtcjr@gmail.com for the link. TCJRC Members free and nonmembers \$5.00 at [this link](#).



TCJRC Membership and Donations

We hope you decide to join us or renew as a TCJRC/ALEPH Member! Your \$72 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'll 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.

Sukkot in Harmony: Songs of Shelter and Abundance with Koleinu

Oct 12, 2025, 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

West Twin Cities Metro- [RSVP Here](#) and address will be provided the week of the event.

When Sukkot season approaches, we may think of eating warm soup in the sukkah or shaking the lulav. With Koleinu, we invite you to reflect more deeply on the holiday's meaning through its names: Chag HaSukkot (Festival of Booths), Chag HaAsif (Festival of Harvest), and Zman Simchatenu (Time of Our Happiness).

In modern day, how do we balance finding joy in the places we inhabit, the abundance life has granted us, and impermanence of it all? Come to sing, listen, and be in community for a musical exploration of these themes as we gather to celebrate the holiday.

Koleinu, is a new musical initiative in the Twin Cities that celebrates contemporary Jewish living through communal singing. They create modern, joyful, and heartfelt musical experiences that cultivate spirituality and strengthen connection to our Jewish community. Questions? Contact us at hello@koleinumusic.com.

Sukkot in Harmony is sponsored by the Young Adult Leadership Action (YALA) MPLS Mini-Grant from the Minneapolis Jewish Federation.

Local Mitzvah Request

One of our members is receiving medical treatment dissolving cancer in the bone marrow. If you are willing to make a Friday Shabbat meal for her, please contact Jeanne of the Chesed Committee of Mayim Rabim at jhoff3@gmail.com. Jeanne is handling the overall calendar and food preferences and can possibly arrange for pickup and delivery in St. Louis Park if you need that.

ALEPH Events

Friday Healing Circle

Fridays, 11:30am to 12:30pm ET

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. Join us each Friday at 8:30am PT / 11:30am ET for an hour of song and movement, Torah, poetry and healing prayers to expand your spirit and lead you into Shabbat. Gatherings are recorded and a link sent to all on our mailing list, so you can partake at your convenience. The Circle is freely offered; contributions are appreciated. 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 (rrayzel@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. Please bring your prayers and songs for peace.

Silence is Praise, Date: Weekly on Wednesdays, Time: 10:30 am-11:30 pm CT

Presenter: Rabbi Anne Brener

Cost: Pay-what-you-can

Description: Overwhelmed with stress from social distancing, quarantine, and COVID-19? 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.

