



Twin Cities  
Jewish Renewal  
Community

# January 2026/Tevet 5786 Newsletter



Hello TCJRC Friends,

Here we are together. A new book, a new chapter.

We enter together into the book of Shemot. There arose a new king over Egypt who did not know Joseph. Here our story begins, how tender the conditions of how humans treat one another is relative to relationship. Our liberation story is bound to the human condition of a power source. We are conversely quickly introduced to Shiphrah and Puah, the Hebrew, midwives, who see the true power of the divine over the power source of the king. How brave and holy, these women are, these savers of lives.

We live in a time where we are told not to trust the stranger, that we do not know one another. We must ask who are we? Do we look for the divine in our fellow humans? Do we find the connections and seek to make our world more whole. How do we learn in these chapters, in these retellings from Shiphrah and Puah? To not look far and closely hold the sacred humanity that is all around us.

With blessings and care,  
Student Rabbi Shosh Madick  
Social Media and Events Director  
[shoshtcjc@gmail.com](mailto:shoshtcjc@gmail.com)

## Local TCRJC Events

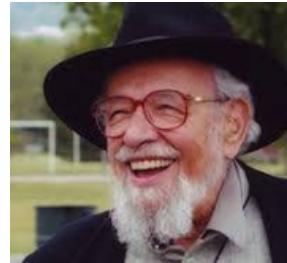
### Documentary Style Interviews of Reb Zalman's Life in Review

by his daughter, Chana Tina Duskis

### Documentary 3: Turning Points & Paradigm Shifts

Monday, January 12, 6:30 - 8:30 PM CT on Zoom

Two major turning points that led to the Jewish Renewal and the Sage-ing movement. There is a real-life background story to Reb Zalman's well-known exercise, "The Testimonial Dinner: A Banquet for Our Severe Teachers." We will also hear about personal insights contributing to his move in 1956 which led to his 40- day retreat at age 60.



The Schachter family's passage through post-war trauma, grieving for their lost home and family, and adaptation to a new life in a new world. We discover that the same people and issues that inspired the US Civil Rights Movement and Peace Movement also shaped young Zalman himself, as well as Jewish Renewal and the global Sage-ing that he conceived and founded.

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

### TCJRC Jewish Spiritual Book Meeting

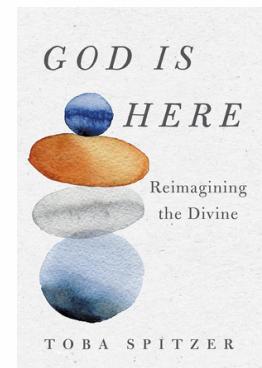
#### God is Here: Reimagining the Divine

Sunday, January 11th from 7-8:30 PM CT on Zoom

We will discuss chapters 8 and 9, 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.

Please RSVP with your name and email to [TCJewishRenewal@gmail.com](mailto:TCJewishRenewal@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.



### TCJRC Rosh Chodesh

Sunday, January 18th, 7 - 8 PM

Rosh Chodesh embraces the new moon with prayer, song and poetry. Bonnie Resnick will lead a meaningful ritual centering on the feminine, remembrance and renewal. Please bring a candle to light so we share the light with each other and the world as we celebrate Rosh Chodesh, Shevat. RSVP to [Shoshtcjrc@gmail.com](mailto:Shoshtcjrc@gmail.com) by Thursday January 15th.



Bonnie Resnick is a psychologist and spiritual seeker who considers herself post-denominationally Jewish. She is a member of Jewish Renewal and enjoys celebrating the new moon.

### Gathered in Love: A Service of Trans Solidarity

Thursday, January 22, 2026 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT

Creekside United Church of Christ

106 E Diamond Lake Rd, Minneapolis, MN 55419

[Register Here](#)

On January 22, 2026, Gathered in Love: A Trans Solidarity Service will welcome people of faith and allies into a shared space celebrating the beauty, courage, and sacredness of trans and nonbinary lives. The free service, offered in person and online, will include music, poetry, reflection, and pathways to stand together in care and solidarity. TCJRC is a cosponsor of this event with J-Pride and JCA.



### Tu Bishvat Seder led by Rav Michaela Brown

Sunday, February 1st at 1:30 - 3:00 pm

St. Louis Park location given after registration

In the Talmud, we learn that the 15th of Shevat is the New Year for the Trees. In medieval times, Kabbalists created a seder for the holiday modeled after the Passover seder, imbuing the rituals with an exploration of the Four Worlds of Creation. During this seder, we will learn, eat, and explore the wisdom of the Tree and her many fruits as taught by the Jewish mystics. Cosponsored by JPRide.

[Register Here](#): Write Trees in the anything else box. Limited Space so please RSVP by Wednesday, January 28.

\$15 TCJRC Members, \$20 Non-Members, and \$5 Children Age 10+

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.

## Local TCRJC Events

### **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](mailto: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.

## 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 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

### **Art Materials Swap + Collage Drop-In for Jewish Creatives**

**Sunday, January 18, 2026, 2:00-4:00pm**

**SABES CENTER MINNEAPOLIS**

Join us for four FREE community art materials swaps! Drop in for collage workshops led by local artists from the Jewish Arts Collective—no cost, no experience needed. Just come create!

### **Klezmer on Ice**

**Jan 31 - Feb 1**

Get ready for the 4th annual Yiddish festival celebrating Eastern European Jewish Music and Culture in the Twin Cities. Multiple events indoors and outdoors including concerts and workshops. More details to be announced soon at [klezmeronice.com](http://klezmeronice.com)

### **“The Secret of the Possible” 2026**

**Instructor: Joy Gordon**

**Classes are via Zoom Wednesday evenings February 4 through March 11 from 7:00 – 8:30 CST and are recorded for later viewing**

“The Secret of the Possible” is a six-week Zoom course with Joy Gordon (Joy of Kabbalah) exploring creativity as a spiritual practice through teachings from the Zohar, applied to everyday life. The class invites you to shift from literal to possibility thinking, discover hidden potential, and inspire positive change in yourself and others.

Contact Joy Gordon at [joyg33@gmail.com](mailto:joyg33@gmail.com) for more information or to register.

Tuition: \$85.

## Local Mitzvah Request

### **Mitzvah Request**

Kathilyn Solomon 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; easiest by text (612 267-1981), then email ([jhoff3@gmail.com](mailto:jhoff3@gmail.com)), or call. She is handling the overall calendar and food preferences and can possibly arrange for pickup and delivery to Kathilyn in St. Louis Park if needed.

**Save the Date: ALEPH Ordination Program Smicha/Ordination Ceremony**

**Join the AOP in celebrating the upcoming ordination of our new rabbis, cantors, and rabbinic chaplains!**

**Sunday, January 11 at 3:30 pm Eastern Time**

We are thrilled to honor our largest ordination class EVER—17 graduates! Look for the virtual link in your future ALEPH newsletter.

**Save the Date!**

**January 29th, at 7pmET, on Zoom**

**ALEPH Organizational Update**

With Dean Rabbi Laura Duhan-Kaplan, Incoming Executive Director Michelle W. Malkin, and Board Chair Hazzan Stephanie Weishaar. Learn behind the scenes information about ALEPH. Welcome both our new Dean and new Executive Director. Look for the virtual link in your future ALEPH newsletter.

**The Magic and the Medicine of the Psalms App Launch**

**with Rabbi Shefa Gold**

**Wednesday, February 4th, 8pm ET / 5pm PT**

ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal will be sponsoring an event to celebrate the Launch of a new app for spiritual practice, created by Rabbi Shefa Gold, called: The Magic and the Medicine of the Psalms. [Registration](#)

**“Excavating the BeShT” with Rabbi Diane Elliot**

**Every other Wednesday, January 7th - April 22, 7-8:30 CT**

Join this eight-session series based on Rabbi Burt Jacobson’s masterwork, Living in the Presence, A Personal Quest for the Baal Shem Tov. [Registration](#)

**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. Join us each Friday at 10:30am CT 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

**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.

