

# TRANS JEWS ARE HERE CONVENING MARCH 31, 2021

TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY

CBST.ORG/  
TRANSJEWS



Beit  
Simchat  
Torah  
קהל קדושה בית שמחת תורה



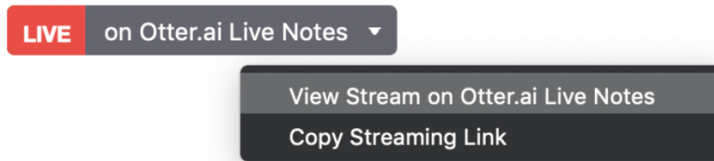
Beit  
Simchat  
Torah  
CONGREGATION

קהל קדושה בית שמחת תורה

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## Captioning and ASL

All programs feature live auto-captioning from Otter. To access the live transcript, meeting participants can open a live interactive transcript directly from Zoom. Follow along and scroll back to read at your own pace. (1) Join the Zoom meeting. (2) Click the red LIVE indicator and click View Stream on Otter.ai Live Transcript in the dropdown.



(3) The live transcript will open in a browser window.

## Livestream Links

The 12pm Welcome, 6pm Convening Plenary, and all Allyship Track programming will be accessible here: [cbst.org/convening](https://cbst.org/convening)

## Official 2021 Trans Jews Are Here Convening Merchandise



Matzah Cover

[bit.ly/matzah31mar](https://bit.ly/matzah31mar)



Kiddish Cup / Mug

[bit.ly/kiddish31mar](https://bit.ly/kiddish31mar)



T-shirt

[bit.ly/tshirt31mar](https://bit.ly/tshirt31mar)



Poster

[bit.ly/poster31mar](https://bit.ly/poster31mar)

Each item features art by Jess Nora (they/she; their/her), a disabled, non-binary, Jewish artist and art activist who uses their art to help bring attention to commonly dismissed and often painful realities that are so often overlooked by society. See more of Jess's fine art at [JessicaNora.com](https://JessicaNora.com). Read their artist statement about this work at [cbst.org/transjews](https://cbst.org/transjews).

*All proceeds from the sale of 2021 Trans Jews Are Here Convening merchandise will support the Convening, and/or future trans and trans-ally programming at CBST.*

# Schedule

🌟 *All times listed are in Eastern Standard Time*

🔴 **NOTE:** The main track is led by trans Jews for trans Jews, but you will notice some of the workshops have been listed as open to cisgender allies. We are aware that some of the main track programs were originally listed as open to cisgender allies, but please note that we have reached capacity of our Zoom rooms, so **cisgender folks are kindly asked to only participate via the livestreamed programs available at [cbst.org/convening](https://cbst.org/convening)** so that we can prioritize the main track space for trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming registrants. Allyship Track Zoom rooms are of course open to cisgender allies. Thank you for respecting these guidelines as we strive to preserve this holy space!

## 10:00am-10:50am

### **Avodat Lev (service of the heart)** ITAI GAL

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-ages cisgender allies*  
Let's gather for a moment of grounding and liveliness and send loving energy through our bodies with the vibrations of our voices. Sing your heart out, we can't hear you! Family, housemates, beloveds, cats, and any other dear ones at home are welcome. This workshop will be recorded.

### **Queer Kid Stuff Live!** LINDZ AMER

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews, OPEN to all-ages cisgender allies, kids and families!*

Lindz and their best stuffed-friend Teddy will sing songs and tell stories inspired by their popular webseries, Queer Kid Stuff celebrating all things social justice and LGBTQ+ for the whole family. This workshop will be recorded.

### **Stuck on TERF Island: how trans Jews are organising across the pond**

JONATHAN FERNANDEZ & EDEN LADLEY

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies*  
Responding to a meteoric rise in transphobia in the UK, Eden Langley and Jonathan Fernandez discuss the situation: how a hotbed of media disinformation has influenced transphobic organising, the TERF lobby's links to antisemitism and our experiences as trans people in the Jewish community. This workshop will be recorded.

11:00am-11:50am

**There's A Rainbow for Everyone!** STEPHEN FIGURASMITH

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews, OPEN to cisgender allies, kids ages 2-10 and their families*

This workshop will support children in tapping into their own agency to be advocates for trans rights. Through stories and music, participants will explore how gender stereotypes and heteronormativity impact their lives and ways they can disrupt these forces to create a world that is safe and free for all. This workshop will be recorded.

**Obligation: Holy binds** RABBI BECKY SILVERSTEIN

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies*  
Halakhah (Jewish law) posits that Jews are obligated to perform mitzvot. As part of the launch of the Trans Halakhah Project, we will discuss obligation. To whom? To what? How does gender affect our lived experience of obligation? This workshop will be recorded.

**Insights in Jewish Disability and Aging** RABBAH RONA MATLOW

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies*  
In this workshop we will have a short period of presentation about disability and aging in current scholarship and Jewish tradition, as well as some polling, and then open the floor for various forms of discussions. The topic of disability, particularly neurodivergence, is a very hot-button topic in the trans community. This workshop will be only partially recorded.

12:00pm-12:50pm

★ **Welcome to the Trans Jews are Here 2021 Convening!** ASL INTERPRETATION: JULIÁN & JESSICA

Join Convening Director Ariel Zitny, Rabbi Mike Moskowitz, Senior Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, and Guest Cantorial Intern Ze'evi Berman as we gather for a very special Kedushat Hayom for Trans Day of Visibility! To sanctify this day, we will discuss the importance of TDoV, join together in song, and offer blessings for this holy day and this holy community. With remarks from New York Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul. This program will be recorded.

1:00pm-1:50pm

**Trans-ing the TaNaKh** MARTIN RAWLINGS-FEIN

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies*

This workshop will explore the TaNaKh as a literature work with a trans lens for the gender-nonconforming and G!d's ever-shifting fluidity of gender. We will identify gender transforming places in the text where we may read our story woven into the fabric of Biblical storytelling. This workshop is sponsored by Sha'ar Zahav Synagogue and will be recorded.

**Friendship as a Way of Life** RABBI MAX REYNOLDS

*Trans, non-binary, gender nonconforming, and queer Jews of all ages; CLOSED to cisgender allies*

Drawing off of Jewish tradition + queer theory, we will explore the role of friendship as a sustaining source of support and generativity for queer & trans people. This workshop will not be recorded.

**Building Online Community for Trans and Queer Jews** XAVA DE CORDOVA

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies*

Trans and queer Jews were already more likely to be excluded from Jewish community before the pandemic and COVID has only made things worse. This workshop will explore how we can use the lessons and experiences of my co-founding the first online-first queer yeshiva. We will discuss the ways that I and other trans people in the Shel Maala community have built the space and brainstorm together what the online communities of tomorrow might look like. This workshop will be recorded.

## 1:15pm-3:15pm (ALLYSHIP TRACK)

### **Keshet Allyship Training** RABBI MICAH BUCK-YAEL & DUBBS WEINBLATT

*Cisgender allies and OPEN to all*

By the end of this two-hour interactive training, participants will:

- Build a common definition of allyship
- Approach allyship with a growth mindset
- Approach allyship from a framework of authentic relationship with and accountability to LGBTQ people most impacted by bias and oppression.
- Recognize some ways in which biases around gender and sexual orientation impact LGBTQ individuals in communal or organizational settings (microbehaviors, barriers to access, etc).
- Begin to effectively intervene when witnessing microbehaviors, barriers to access, or homophobia/transphobia.

This workshop is sponsored by Keshet and will be recorded.

## 2:00-2:50pm

### **Exploring Trans Orthodox Lives: 2021** JOSHUA AVISHUR & DANA FRIEDMAN

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies*

A Meet, Greet, with and of Orthodox Trans Jews in exploration of how we negotiate living an Orthodox life as part of the Jewish community. Orthodox traditions and communities generally exclude and shun people who transgress the prescribed gender binary. Many trans and nonbinary individuals leave their Orthodox faith because of this unbearable rejection. Come meet with individuals who have chosen to remain Orthodox while embracing their inner truth as a trans human being. The panel will present a few important issues and take your questions. This workshop is sponsored by JQ International and will be recorded.

### **How Is This Fight Different from All Other Fights? A Trans Jewish Case for Abolition**

ENZI TANNER & JAMIE KAVANAH, ASL INTERPRETATION FROM JULIÁN & JENNIFER

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies — people who are interested in furthering the conversation around community safety and abolition, whatever their identities might be*

Join organizers for a conversation grounded in Jewish learning and tradition. Together, we'll examine the intersecting histories of anti-Blackness, anti-queerness, and policing. Then, we'll consider the responsibilities police have in our society and discuss other ways to meet those needs. Finally, we'll look at ways to move towards a police-free future. This workshop will be recorded.

### **Trans Community in the US & Israel** NATE SHALEV & ELISHA (SHUKI) ALEXANDER

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies*

This conversation focuses on the connections between the trans community in Israel & the US. Topics include the lived experiences of trans folks, the fight for rights & inclusion as well as topics that may relate like pinkwashing, BDS, etc. Led by A Wider Bridge & Maavarim, the Israeli trans rights organization. This workshop is sponsored by A Wider Bridge and will be recorded.

### **Gender Euphoria & Dysphoria in Halakha/Jewish Law** LAYNIE SOLOMAN

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages; CLOSED to cisgender allies*

Drawing off of Jewish tradition + queer theory, we will explore the role of friendship as a sustaining source of support and generativity for queer & trans people. This workshop will not be recorded.

3:00-3:50pm

### **Navigating Being Bi+ and Trans Within Religious Contexts** MARTIN RAWLINGS-FEIN

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies*

This workshop will navigate religious contexts, especially those that have often attempted to negate our ingrained gender and sexuality. We will take a trans-affirming look at making space in religious communities accessible to us all. As activists, theologians, rabbis, clerics, and practitioners, we must do the work to “queer” religion. This workshop is sponsored by Sha’ar Zahav Synagogue and will be recorded.



**Creating Community Archives: How to Document Trans, Jewish Lives** SKY KARP

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies*

In this workshop, participants will learn how to use community-based archives to document Trans, Jewish lives. We will learn the principles of building a community archive and generate a virtual archive that commemorates the convening! We will also explore zines and oral histories as new ways to document our histories. This workshop will be recorded.

**Lift Up Our Gorgeous Trans Voices: A Community Sing!**

R' NOAM LERMAN & KOACH BARUCH (KB) FRAZIER

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages; CLOSED to cisgender allies*

If you want to sing old familiar songs, or learn new ones, help us co-create a trans-fabulous Let My People Sing-style community sing. Although we cannot be in the same physical space to hear our voices together, we can still sing over zoom. Teach us your favorite soul songs/melodies that have been getting you through this time of covid-19, and learn what songs have been supporting and nourishing others in our community! This workshop will not be recorded.

3:30-4:30pm (ALLYSHIP TRACK)

**Rabbis as Allies** RABBI GUY AUSTRIAN, RABBI MEGAN DOHERTY, MAHARAT RORI PICKER NEISS & RABBI BECKY SILVERSTEIN

*Cisgender allies and OPEN to all*

Jewish clergy have a unique ability to influence the individual lives of trans Jews and their families, and to set the collective tone of our communities. It's a power that can do much good, but can also cause damage--even or especially by accident. This panel of cisgender and transgender rabbis will share experiences and spark discussion about the role of clergy as allies across denominations and in a range of settings including camps, schools, congregations, and communal organizations. This workshop is sponsored by Fort Tryon Jewish Center and will be recorded.



4:00-4:50pm

**Change the World in Two Minutes: How to Share Your Story** RAKHEL SILVERMAN

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies*

In this interactive session, participants will pick a personal experience and develop it into an engaging narrative that can help move trans equality forward. Participants will discuss how and why personal stories are so effective in creating transformative change, identify, develop, and refine their personal stories, better understand the ever-changing relationship they have with their stories and their audience; and fine-tune their storytelling and public speaking skills. This workshop is sponsored by PFLAG National and will be recorded.

**Pastoral Care for Trans and Non-Binary Jews** RABBI JANE RACHEL LITMAN

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies*

Some Jewish observances and rituals have historically been gendered, and thus can provide challenges for trans and genderqueer Jews. Learn how Jewish clergy and communities have found creative ways to deal with milah (circumcision), mikveh (immersion), aliyot (torah blessings) and other historically gendered Jewish practice. This workshop is sponsored by The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion and will be recorded.

**Making Halachic Decisions Involving Trans People? A Case Study From Tahara and Burial**

RABBI EMILY AVIVA KAPOR-MATER

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages; CLOSED to cisgender allies*

In this seminar, we will review the recent teshuva regarding tahara (purification of the body) and burial for transgender people, published by the Community Hevra Kadisha of Greater Boston. I will discuss the process of writing this teshuva, and how I came to the decisions I did. We will discuss some of the challenges in the current state of trans halacha, and how this teshuva can serve as a model for more trans-affirmative halacha in the future. This workshop will be recorded.

## 4:45-5:45pm (ALLYSHIP TRACK)

### **The Place of Trans Torah in Jewish History** DR. DAVID ZVI KALMAN

*Cisgender allies and OPEN to all*

Some Torah is designed to be eternally relevant. Other Torah just tries to speak to what happened yesterday. But Torah built for posterity sometimes fades, while Torah of the moment sometimes lasts forever. This class, given by an ally primarily for other allies, will talk about how this paradigm helps us understand the project of Trans Torah. This workshop will be recorded.

## 5:00-5:50pm

### **Trans Jewish Podcasting** LULAV ARNOW, JAZ TWERSKY, ELIJAH BLUE REEVES, XAVA DE CORDOVA & MICHAEL SOKOLOVSKY

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages; CLOSED to cisgender allies*

The co-hosts of the three major trans Jewish podcasts will host a panel in which they discuss their process of podcasting, why podcasts work as a Jewish medium, and how other people could host their own queer trans Jewish podcasts. A Q&A section will be included. This workshop will be recorded.

### **Be'sha'a Tova: Trans Temporalities in Israeli Media** DR. SLAVA GREENBERG

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages; CLOSED to cisgender allies*

Is there a "good time" to transition? What is trans time and how it relates to both queer and crip time? In the workshop, we'll discuss the connections between our temporal experiences and their artistic expressions. This workshop will be recorded.

### **Mya Byrne & Fureigh: Songs & Stories** MYA BYRNE AND FUREIGH

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages; CLOSED to cisgender allies*

Award-winning songwriter Mya Byrne and indie rocker Fureigh trade songs, share stories, and lead a Q&A about writing for self- and community empowerment.

**Genderqueer Torah** JERICHO VINCENT

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages; CLOSED to cisgender allies*  
What does Judaism have to teach us about gender? In what ways might understanding genderqueer identities expand and deepen the spiritual lives of all people? Drawing together ancient sources, personal stories, and a provocative series of paintings, Jericho will offer new pathways to authenticity and connection through gender and Torah. This workshop will not be recorded.

6:00-6:50pm

★ **Trans Jews are Here 2021 Convening Plenary** SY GITIN, RABBAH RONA MATLOW, RAKHEL SILVERMAN & ENZI TANNER; MODERATED BY CONVENING DIRECTOR ARIEL ZITNY, WITH ASL INTERPRETATION FROM JULIÁN AND CRAIG

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages, OPEN to all-age cisgender allies*  
A panel discussion on Intersectional Trans Jewish Identities featuring some of our amazing convening workshop leaders from the day. Our panelists will discuss how other marginalized identities can intersect with trans identity, and how we all can create more accessible and safe spaces of belonging. This program will be recorded.

7:00-7:50pm

**How to navigate religion, gender, and College life** AJ MCCORMICK

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages; CLOSED to cisgender allies*  
This will be an affinity group for gender non-conforming Jewish College students. We will discuss what it's like being on our own, and how to come to terms with our own identity of gender and Jewishness. This workshop will be partially recorded.

**Sustaining our Spirits** RABBI MICAH BUCK-YAEL & DUBBS WEINBLATT

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages; CLOSED to cisgender allies*  
Transgender and nonbinary people often find ourselves educating, and advocating for our own dignity and safety. This work is sacred, and it can take a toll. We will reflect on the value of self- and mutual care, and encounter Jewish tools for spiritual healing and care to sustain us. This workshop is sponsored by Keshet and will be only partially recorded.

**Affinity Group for Disabled Trans, Non-Binary, and Gender Nonconforming Jews**

SY GITIN & RAKHEL SILVERMAN, WITH ASL INTERPRETATION FROM JULIÁN AND CRAIG

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages; CLOSED to cisgender allies*

This will be a space for community and discussion among trans, non-binary, or gender nonconforming Jews who identify as Disabled, chronically ill, neurodivergent, and/or d/Deaf or hard of hearing. This program will not be recorded.

**It's Not All Rainbows and Butterflies: Parenting Caucus** RAFI DAUGHERTY

*Trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming Jews of all ages; CLOSED to cisgender allies*

This year has been an enormous stressor for everyone but most parents have been hit harder because of the lack of childcare options and total absence of community supports. Let's get together to recognize the ways this year has impacted our parenting, the ways we have survived, and how we hope to thrive moving forward as the incredible families we are.

## Convening Leaders



**RABBI GUY AUSTRIAN** serves as spiritual leader of the Fort Tryon Jewish Center, an independent traditional egalitarian community in Washington Heights-Inwood, NYC. After a stint as a Cooperberg-Rittmaster Rabbinic Intern at CBST, he completed his studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary with rabbinic ordination and an M.A. in Liturgy.



**RABBI MICAH BUCK-YAEL** is Keshet's Director of Education & Training, where he works to build LGBTQ-affirming Jewish institutions. They have worked as a chaplain, educator, and teacher, and believe that learning together is how transformative change happens.



**RABBI MEGAN DOHERTY** (she/her) is the Director of Hillel and Campus Jewish Life at Oberlin College. Previously, she was an Associate Rabbi and Senior Jewish Fellow at the Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale. Rabbi Doherty is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and serves on the board of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association. Originally from Seattle, she now lives in Oberlin, OH with her partner, her daughter, and their dog.



**RABBI EMILY AVIVA KAPOR-MATER** focuses her work on creating innovative yet traditional Jewish law, liturgy, and ritual for transgender Jews, their communities, and the entire Jewish world. She is the author of several new rituals and Halachic works regarding the broader obligations of the Jewish community towards its transgender members.



**RABBI NOAM LERMAN** is one of the organizers and co-founders of Let My People Sing!, an intergenerational and liberatory Jewish singing retreat. They appreciate holding ritual space for trans people in their monthly Trans Rosh Khodesh group, and they also facilitate Tzelem Boston, a spiritual group for trans, non-binary, and genderqueer teens. Noam is a teacher, musician, Hebrew scribe, Restorative Justice Circle Keeper, and they deeply enjoy spending time in nature.



**RABBI JANE RACHEL LITMAN** has served Conservative, Reconstructionist, Reform and LGBTQ Outreach congregations. Jane co-founded the Queer Studies Institute at Cal State Northridge. Jane's work includes Krovai Elohim: All in God's Family for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Judaism in Struggling in Good Faith: LGBTQI Inclusion from 13 American Religious Perspectives. Jane's latest book is Transkeit, co-edited with Reverend Jakob Hero-Shaw, due out later in 2021 by Cambridge Scholars Press.



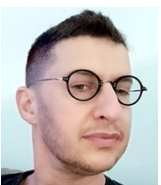
**RABBAH RONA MATLOW** is a retired Navy officer, disabled veteran, non-binary genderpunk trans woman ordained rabbi. R'Matlow works in community engagement, activism, education, trauma and crisis counseling and scholarship at the intersection of gender identity and Judaism. R'Matlow serves the Jewish, LGBTQ+ and veteran communities.



**RABBI MAX REYNOLDS** is a Brooklyn-based rabbi and chaplain. Max's areas of interest in spiritual care include: palliative and end-of-life care; the spiritual and existential care of non-religious people; trauma and moral injury; the integration of disability and transformative justice practices in spiritual care; the spiritual care of transgender and gender non-confirming people; the role of ritual in healing and justice work. He has been a Musar (Jewish ethical tradition) practitioner since 2009. Max is a member of the What Would an HIV Doula Do? collective.



**RABBI BECKY SILVERSTEIN** (he/him) believes in the power of community, Torah, and silliness in transforming the world. He strives to build a Jewish community and world that encourages and allows everyone to express their full selves. You can find Becky teaching a variety of Torah in a variety of settings.



**ELISHA (SHUKI) ALEXANDER**, 45, lives in Giva'ataim, is a trans activist for the past 15 years. Elisha served as the manager of the trans program of the Tel Aviv LGBTQ center since 2008 until 2019, and he is co-CEO and founder of Ma'avaram - Israeli Trans Community NGO.



**LINDZ AMER** is an activist, creator, and performer spreading queer joy through queer-centered media for all-ages.



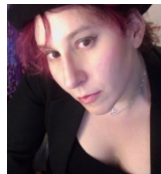
**LULAV ARNOW** co-hosts the parshacast "Kosher Queers", featuring queer takes on Torah and jokes about Judaism.



**JOSHUA AVISHUR** is a transgender Orthodox Jew, a parent to four cherished children, and enjoys connecting with people and embracing the beauty in all individuals. Joshua facilitates Eshel's Support Group for Orthodox+ People of Trans Experience, JQ's Orthodox LGBTQ+ Group, and is actively working to normalize the trans experience.



**ZE'EVİ BERMAN** (they/them or ze/zem/zer) is a fourth-year student at HUC-JIR working toward a masters in Jewish education and cantorial ordination. With roots in song leading and music education, Ze'evi believes in the power of communal music and prayer to create social change. As one of the first trans cantorial students at HUC-JIR, ze works toward expanding the vision of our collective future to encompass those who have been routinely marginalized in Jewish life. Ze'evi currently lives in LA with zer fiancé Ariel and their two cats.



**MYA BYRNE** is a published poet, actor, award-winning songwriter, and activist. Featured on official Spotify playlists, terrestrial radio, SingOut!, Advocate, New York Magazine, MSNBC, and NPR, other highlights include lecturing at colleges and performing at many folk festivals, Berkeley Rep, Z Space, San Francisco Trans March, and Folsom Street Fair.



**RAFI DAUGHTERTY** currently lives in Denver, CO, and works as a psychotherapist for an organization called Queer Asterisk. Rafi became a single dad by choice, first as a foster father in 2014, and then by conceiving and birthing a biological child in 2015, and again in 2018. Rafi is passionate about queer families and intentional parenting.



**XAVA DE CORDOVA** is a trans, Sephardi woman who got her start as a teacher by creating a Jewish learning program in Washington prisons. She went on to found the first ever Queer Talmud podcast, “Xai, how are you?” and co-founded the first online-first queer yeshiva, Shel Maala.



**JONATHAN FERNANDEZ** (he/him) is a Masorti Jew living in London and convened the first Trans Day of Remembrance Shabbat service led by trans Jews in the UK.



**STEPHEN FIGURASMITH** is a non-binary Jewish early childhood educator who specializes in children’s music as a vehicle for social change. They live in Valley Stream, NY with their wife and two children. Stephen believes deeply in the capacity of young children to challenge injustice and transform the world.





**KOACH BARUCH (KB) FRAZIER** is a transformer, heartbeat of movements, healer, musician and cofounder of the Tzedek Lab, a network of practitioners working at the intersection of dismantling racism, antisemitism and white supremacy. A collaborative leader, rooted in tradition, curiosity and love, Koach strives to dismantle racism, actualize liberation and transform lives both sonically and spiritually. Koach lives with their wife, LaJuana in Philadelphia where he is a student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.



**DANA FRIEDMAN** is an Orthodox trans woman, comedian, board member of Eshel, general annoyance.



**FURLEIGH** “shreds melodically” (*Rolling Stone*) but has a not-so-secret tender side. Fureigh sings about hopeful love, collective grief, and staying alive even when it hurts. After five years in the critically acclaimed queer rock band the Shondes, they co-founded the Homobiles, “the Bay’s mainstay queer party punk supergroup.” 🎧: [soundlikefury.com](https://soundlikefury.com)



**ITAI GAL** (they/them/he/him) is a singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and davening leader. They have released one album, “Arise,” with their band Itai and the Ophanim, and has slowly been working on their next one through this pandemic. The Ophanim are the wheels within wheels in Ezekiel’s vision, which has been the spark of inspiration behind this particular chapter of music-making. When not making music, Itai works as a Jewish educator and connects with the forest. Itai has been a part of various East Coast Jewish communities and currently lives on unceded Abenaki land now known as Brattleboro, VT.



**SY GITIN** is a Clinical Data Specialist at Fenway Health, an LGBTQ health, research, and advocacy center in Boston. Sy recently graduated from Brown University, where Sy majored in Applied Math and Biology. Sy also works at a camp for trans and gender expansive kids, and is passionate about trans public health and disability justice.



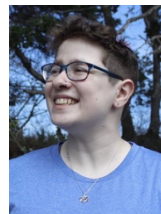
**LT. GOV. KATHY HOCHUL (NEW YORK)** began her career in public service on her local Town Board before serving as Erie County Clerk, and then as a member of Congress for New York's 26th Congressional District. Since 2015, she has served as the highest-ranking female elected official in New York State government. She has successfully spearheaded numerous initiatives and leads the administration's economic development and job creation efforts across the state, working every day to advocate for policies that help all New Yorkers make ends meet.



**DR. SLAVA GREENBERG** is a postdoctoral teaching fellow at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts and Casden Institute. His researches explore the potential of mainstream and emerging media forms to offer transformative experiences in reference to disability studies, trans\* studies, and gender. He is the author of *Animation and Disability: Crippling Spectatorship* (under contract with Indiana UP 2022) and co-editor of *Fireflies: Journal of Film and Television II*. His articles have appeared in *Review of Disability Studies*, *Animation*, *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*, *Jewish Film and New Media*, and *Frames Cinema Journal*. He has also contributed to anthologies on disability, documentary, queer media, and Israeli new media.



**DR. DAVID ZVI KALMAN** is Scholar in Residence and Director of New Media at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. He is the owner of Print-O-Craft Press, a publisher of Jewish books, and KLMNOPS, a producer of modern Jewish art. His work can be found at [davidzvi.com](http://davidzvi.com).



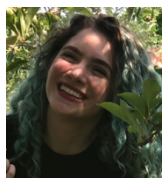
**SKY KARP** is a senior at Smith College where they study History and Gender Studies with a focus on Trans Archives. Sky has worked with organizations including Keshet, Freedom for All MA, and the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria to organize for trans liberation and preserve trans history.



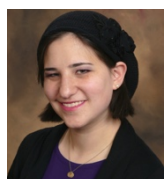
**JAMIE KAVANAH** is a community organizer at Jewish Community Action, where they work primarily on housing justice. Jamie came to abolition after recognizing the inherently abusive dynamics of policing and the impossibility of real safety while they exist.



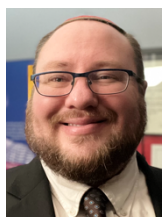
**EDEN JANE LADLEY** (xe/xem/xyr and she/her) is a professional LGBT advocate and a member of the Jewish community in Manchester.



**AJ MCCORMICK** is a junior at Sarah Lawrence College, and spent most of high school and college doing advocacy work and leading LGBTQ+ informational workshops. AJ has also had numerous Jewish community leadership experiences.



**MAHARAT RORI PICKER NEISS SERVES** as the Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St Louis. She is one of the first graduates of Yeshivat Maharat, a pioneering institution training Orthodox Jewish women to be spiritual leaders and halakhic (Jewish legal) authorities. Rori is the Chair of the Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis, a David Hartman Center fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute, and co-editor of "InterActive Faith: The Essential Interreligious Community-Building Handbook." Her passions center on Judaism, feminism, interfaith dialogue, social justice, and her three children.



**MARTIN RAWLINGS-FEIN** is a Jewish, bisexual, transgender, father of two, filmmaker and educator, and adapter and writer of trans inspired liturgy. Martin's Jewish liturgical work "Westward Amidah," the "Blessing for the Bisexual Community," and writings about Bisexual Visibility in Ruth, "On Gender, Generations, and Care," are available through CCAR and Ritualwell.

**ELIJAH BLUE REEVES** hosts Sefirat Homoer, a queer spiritual podcast about omer counting.



**NATE SHALEV** is the Senior Director of Programs & Strategy at A Wider Bridge. Their focus is education & advocacy for lesbian, trans, & non-binary folks. They hold a B.A. in English, Creative Writing & Human Rights from Barnard College/Columbia University and an M.A. from NYU in Sociology of Education.



**RAKHEL SILVERMAN** is a proud fat disabled trans Jew. They are a Chapter Engagement Coordinator for PFLAG National and organizer for Judaism On Our Own Terms. They majored in Religious Studies and Sociology at Bryn Mawr College, and have organized with the Religious Action Center, Keshet, IfNotNow, and Jews United for Justice.

**MICHAEL SOKOLOVSKY** co-hosts "Xai, How are You?" playing with the multi-millennial dialectic of Talmud.



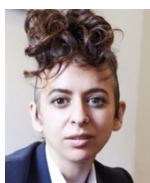
**LAYNIE SOLOMAN** (they/them) is the Associate Rosh Yeshiva at SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva, where they direct SVARA's Teaching Kollel. They love facilitating Jewish learning that uplifts the piously irreverent, queer, and subversive spirit of rabbinic text and theology.



**ENZI TANNER** is a licensed social worker and a healing centered coach. Enzi currently works at Jewish Community Action in Minnesota as the Community Safety Organizer. As a Black trans Jew, Enzi enjoys reimagining community safety as a way to transform our communities.



**JAZ TWERSKY** co-hosts the parshacast “Kosher Queers”, featuring queer takes on Torah and jokes about Judaism.



**JERICHO VINCENT** holds a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University and is the author of the memoir *Cut Me Loose*. Named to the Jewish Week's 36 Under 36 and to The Forward 50, Jericho lectures on Judaism, trauma, gender, and transformation.



**DUBBS WEINBLATT** (they/them) is Keshet's Associate Director of Education & Training for Metro New York where they work to better integrate LGBTQ-inclusive policy, programming, culture, and leadership in Jewish institutions. They are also the founder and executive producer of Thank You For Coming Out, a podcast and queer improv show.



**ARIEL ZITNY** (he/they) is a queer/trans rabbinical and education student at the Reform seminary, Hebrew Union College. Ariel has received a BFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia, and an MFA in Creative Writing from Chapman University. He's passionate about poetry, feminism, and cats. When he's not working, studying, or thinking of ways to make Judaism more trans-inclusive, he enjoys watching Netflix and baking with his fiancé Ze'evi and their two cats.

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*This program is made possible in part by a generous legacy gift  
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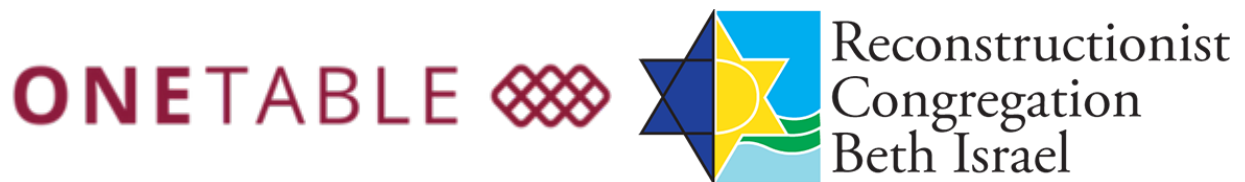
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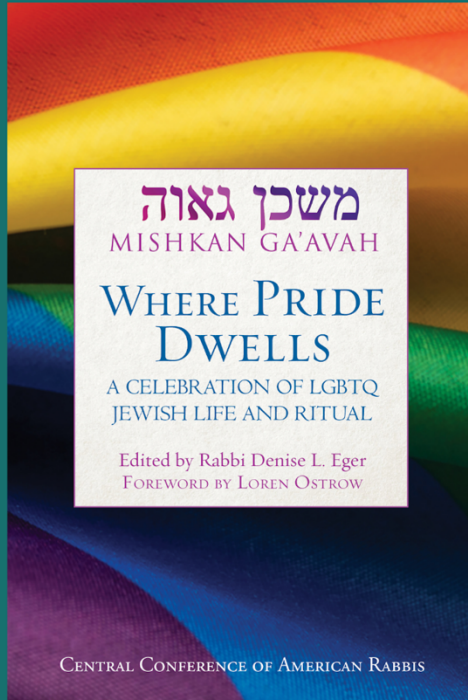


Kehilla Community  
Synagogue



*With special thanks to Convening Director Ariel Zitny, Guest Cantorial Intern Ze'evi Berman, Jason & Rose from Better Events, Bruce & Babette Roberts, Andy Austin, Lex Rofeberg, our ASL Interpreters Jessica Ames, Jennifer Bowser, Craig Fogel, & Julián Sánchez, and the CBST Staff, Clergy, and Board*

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**Allyship is a deeply Jewish value.** In this book, 49 diverse Jewish spiritual leaders grapple with the complexity, messiness, and human fallibility of allyship, as well its beauty, holiness, and power to restore good. Wise, searing, and emotional, this book invites you to create new paths of human kindness and action. It challenges us to *Chaver Up!* and see allyship as a powerful way to repair our humanity and activate our empathy. Learn more about the book: <https://bit.ly/chaverup>