

## Transgender Programs at CBST

### ❖ 1994

- Journalist Donna Minkowitz speaks at services about Brandon Teena's life and tragic death, a story which she broke in *The Village Voice*

### ❖ 1996

- "Bisexual & Transgender" added to CBST tagline

### ❖ 2002

- Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum & Rabbi Roderick Young present "Transgender issues and Judaism" at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. This seminar (and one at RRC in 2003), organized by Rabbi Margaret Moers Wenig, was the first in any rabbinical school to address psychological, legal and religious issues affecting people who are intersex, transgender or transsexual.

### ❖ 2003

- CBST hosts exclusive after party for Dana International, Israeli Transgender singing sensation and Eurovision winner, after her NYC debut concert at the Beacon Theater

### ❖ 2004

- CBST hires transgender rabbinical student Reuben Zellman as Children's Educator.
- CBST publishes a detailed guide to address practical transgender issues at CBST and in the broader Jewish community
- Guest Speaker: Dr. Barbara E. Warren, Director for Organizational Development, Planning and Research at The LGBT Center, developer of the Gender Identity Project, the Center's peer empowerment program for transgender and transsexual people.

### ❖ 2005

- Reuben Zellman hired as CBST's first transgender Cooperberg-Rittmaster Rabbinical Intern and first transgender rabbinical intern in any synagogue.
- CBST adopts an all-gender restroom policy at the synagogue and designation at all off-site events.
- Post Shabbat service talk on the film *Transamerica*. One of the actors, a CBST member, shares impressions.
- Trans Brunch. Panel and Exhibit: God created them male and female [and every combination in between]: Gender Identity, Intersexuality, and Transsexuality: Rabbi Kleinbaum moderates, Panelists: Rabbi Margaret Moers Wenig, Donna Cartwright, Paisley Currah
- Special Performance for CBST members of *Somewhere In Between*: a play about gender identity by Transgender Israeli playwright Ronny Almog, part of the Fresh Fruit Festival.
- CBST commemorates Transgender Day of Remembrance at Shabbat services, reciting a prayer for the occasion composed by CRRRI Reuben Zellman

### ❖ 2006

- Cooperberg-Rittmaster Rabbinical Intern Reuben Zellman teaches a 3-session course entitled *Gender, Transgender, and Intersex People: What Jewish Texts Have to Say*
- Prof. Jillian T. Weiss teaches: *The Gender of Gay: Transgender Inclusion in US Gay Identity and Politics*
- Post-Shabbat Service Talk with NYU Law School Professor Arthur Leonard on *Legal Issues Facing Transgender people*
- Cooperberg-Rittmaster Rabbinical Intern Reuben Zellman facilitates Confidential Discussion Group for Jews of Transgender, Gender-Queer, or Intersex Experience (3 sessions)
- CBST co-sponsors the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trans Day of Action, including Rally to Stop the Murder of Trans People

### ❖ 2007

- Gender Diversity Post-Shabbat Service Talk with CRRRI Rachel Weiss, Mike Waldman, Aari Ludvigsen, Rabbi Elliot Kukla sponsored by the Trans Working Group

- Rabbi Elliot Rose Kukla teaches “Toward a Jewish Liberation Theology for Men, Women and Everybody Else”: mining Jewish sacred texts for spiritual implications of expanding our understanding of sex and gender in Judaism
- Transgender Remembrance Shabbat; Aari Ludvigsen delivers the drash.
- Transgender Informal Dinner following Friday night services. The email address trans@cbst.org added.

#### ❖ 2008

- Trans Working group forms a book club
- Publication of trans inclusive CBST siddur, including blessings for transition.
- Jacob Lieberman gives membership talk at Rosh Hashanah
- Yeshiva University Professor, trans poet/author Joy Ladin is Scholar in Residence

#### ❖ 2010

- Trans Working Group changes its name to Trans Empowerment Coalition
- Social Justice Rabbinical Intern Cecilia Beyer speaks about Trans issues at CBST Congregational Retreat
- Trans Open Mic for self-identified Transgender, Transsexual, Trans, Genderqueer, Gender Benders or Gender Performers
- Joy Ladin teaches at 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Transforming Beitecha Conference: finding inspiration in Psalms as a Trans person
- High T: Perspectives on Trans Lives - CBST’s Trans Empowerment Coalition hosts a panel discussion with Jillian T. Weiss, transgender legal expert, Rafi Daugherty, a local trans activist, Shelley and Steve Schwartz, parents of a transgender son, and Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum.
- Trans Empowerment Coalition hosts Trans Pride Performance open mic night.
- Trans Empowerment Coalition Havdalah and Picnic
- Trans Empowerment Coalition joins the 6th Annual Trans Day of Action March & Rally at City Hall
- Torah service language changes
- Trans Chanukah party

#### ❖ 2011

- CBST screens Gen Silent as part of a collaboration between Chesed, Trans Empowerment, and Koleinu Committees to discuss issues of aging in the LGBTQ community. The film features the story of a trans woman and her (lack of) access to quality, respectable healthcare.
- CBST member, Rabbi Joanne Hirschmann speaks at JTS about Gender Transitions as part of the Topics in LGBTQ Pastoral Care series for clergy and students, presented by CBST.
- CBST Congregational Retreat has Trans-Only safe space workshop. Pronoun preference stickers are instituted as part of retreat name tags – a process which has continued.
- CBST Assistant Rabbi Rachel Weiss speaks on an Interfaith panel at the National Trans Health Conference in Philadelphia on Gender and Spirituality and Trans identities in religion.
- S. Bear Bergman TransPride Performance

#### ❖ 2012

- Kate Bornstein is the guest speaker for Pride Shabbat Service.
- New York City Department of Buildings grants approval for all-gender restrooms in new synagogue.
- Jewish LGBTQS Families Book Fair and Gender Fabulous Storytime with author S. Bear Bergman

#### ❖ 2013

- S. Bear Bergman performance
- Trans flag dedicated on Transgender Day of Remembrance.

#### ❖ 2017

- Dr. Jillian T. Weiss is Trans Pride speaker

#### ❖ 2018

- Rabbi Mike Moskowitz is appointed CBST Scholar-in-Residence for Trans & Queer Jewish Studies.