



2022 ECE-RJ Kallah Schedule (all times are ET)

Date: Wednesday, January 12th LISTEN

- **Time:** 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET
Title: Listening as Leadership: What Can We Learn from Encountering Others
Speaker: Leah Solomon (she/her), Encounter Chief Education Officer, Jerusalem
Bio: Leah has worked since 1997 in the field of experiential pluralistic Jewish education, most recently as Associate Director of the Nesiya Institute. She worked previously at Genesis at Brandeis University and Gann Academy in Boston. Leah holds a degree from Harvard University, completed advanced studies at the Conservative Yeshiva, Pardes, and the Hartman Institute, and is a Schusterman Senior Fellow. She has written for the Times of Israel, JTA, Lilith, and other outlets on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and is editor and publisher of the Anim Zemirot bencher. An L.A native, she moved to Jerusalem in 1999 where she lives with her family.
Description: Leah Solomon will share approaches, tools and insights from her work at Encounter, an organization that has brought over 2000 American and Israeli Jewish leaders into constructive engagement with Palestinians living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Join this conversation for practical skills and tools to bring home to your early childhood center.

- **Time:** 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm ET
Title: Justice Through Preschoolers' Eyes
Speaker: Tamar Ghidalia (she/her), Educator and Professional Musician
Bio: Tamar Ghidalia (she/her) is a Jew of Color of Sephardic (Spanish). heritage who was born in Tunisia, fled with her family to France, and subsequently immigrated to Israel and then to the U.S. She has a B.A. in Education and Hebrew Literature from Paris Sorbonne University and a B.A. in Music from the Conservatoire de Paris. Tamar is an educator and professional musician with 30+ years of experience in teaching, facilitating, leadership, mentoring, program building, curriculum development and program management. Most recently, she worked for six years as the Executive Director of Urban Arts Academy, a South Minneapolis non-profit serving diverse students and families through art-infused education. In 2018, Tamar was honored by congregation Shir Tikvah, Minneapolis, with the Radical Hospitality Award for her work with the Racial Justice Task Force. In 2005, she received the Paul Wellstone Call to Action Award for her work in racial justice. Tamar completed the 2019- 2020 URJ's (DEI) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion JewV'Nation Fellowship (she is now an alumni). Tamar is a leader in the racial equity, diversity, and inclusion (REDI) space, working through 3W Consulting, as well as with BI Collaborative, and Edot-The Midwest Regional Jewish Diversity and Racial Justice Collaborative. She has developed partnerships between organizations to collaborate for success. Tamar's most recent REDI trainings were for YIPA in MN (Youth Intervention Program Association) and for JPRO New York Network. She currently is on the RAC (Religious Action Center) Racial Justice Campaign Leadership Team which looks at systemic change at the community, State and Federal levels.

Description: The Jewish community is diverse and is becoming exponentially more so. Helping Jews of Color and White Jews build shared language to discuss issues of race, racism, and injustice from an early age will support racial equity efforts within the Jewish community.

We want to be raising young people who:

- know and are proud of who they are
- are able to engage in equitable relationships with others
- have the skills to recognize and name unfairness in the world around them
- are empowered to take action to address injustice

Let's explore how to do this together!

- **Time:** 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm ET

Title: Listening & Cultivating Words that Matter

Speaker: Karen Hoffman (she/her), Chief Executive Officer, Living on Purpose

Bio: Karen Hoffman has worked in the Jewish community for 35 years. Karen's commitment to helping people on their life journeys has always been central to the work she's done. She has worked with Jewish, non-profit organizations as an administrator, as well as program and community engagement director, and as an educator. For the past 14 years, Karen worked in several roles at Temple Emanu-El, Dallas, where she also had the unique opportunity to be President of Program and Engagement Professionals of Reform Judaism (PEP-RJ), an affiliate of the URJ. She also contributed to several URJ-sponsored Communities of Practice focusing on relational work in Jewish communities. This past summer, Karen was a first-time presenter to the NewCAJE community working with three different groups of educators. She has facilitated and taught groups for the past 12 years, trained by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and the Wise Aging program. Those who learn with her say they have grown in their own identity, which inspired Karen to launch a new educational program steeped in mindfulness, values, and words that matter. Karen earned a Bachelors in Psychology from UCLA and an MBA from the University of Judaism (now American Jewish University), with a focus on nonprofit organizations. Karen served as a licensed nursing home administrator at Jewish Homes for the Aging in Los Angeles, where she nurtured her passion for listening and working with elderly and their families. She enjoys working with individuals and groups, exploring different modalities and approaches to mindful living, bringing attention to intention - truly living on purpose. She brings her creativity, energy, empathy, and passion to everyone she works with. With her new company, Living on Purpose, Karen and her colleagues provided training, workshops, and retreats that focus on living a mindful and intentional life, with a strong focus on middot, soul traits, and universal values that are steeped in Jewish tradition and practice.

Karen lives in Dallas with her husband, Alan. They have three adult sons, David, Brian, and Aaron, and an ever-growing family with their significant others. For information, resources, and opportunities to learn with Karen, you may contact her at karen@livingonpurpose.us.

Description: Through listening and cultivating practices that focus on universal values, middot, that matter in our everyday lives, we can live our lives more intentionally. Bringing these skills to our classrooms will help instill mindfulness and intentional living as part of everyday existence.

- **Time:** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm ET

Title: Black, Jewish and Queer: Navigating Judaism with Multiple Identities and Building Bridges

Speaker: Rabbi Sandra Lawson (she/her), Rabbi, Musician and Activist

Bio: Rabbi Sandra Lawson received ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in June 2018. She was born in St. Louis, Mo. and grew up in a military family. She graduated from Saint Leo University magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in Sociology from Clark Atlanta University. Rabbi Sandra has served in the United States Army, as a Military Police person with a specialty in Military Police Investigations, specializing in cases involving child abuse and domestic violence. Upon leaving the military she started a personal training business and later worked as an Adjunct Instructor of Sociology at local community colleges. She has also served as the Investigative Researcher for the Anti-Defamation League's Southeast Region, becoming the go-to person when Law Enforcement in the South needed information on hate groups. Rabbi Sandra uses her rabbinic training to bring Judaism to where people already are in their lives. As a rabbinical student Rabbi Sandra received a prestigious grant to lead shabbat services for unaffiliated Jews in a vegan cafe, she also received a grant to launch her podcast Minutes of Torah. Rabbi Sandra's vision as a Rabbi is to help build a more inclusive Jewish community where all who want to come are welcomed, diversity is embraced and we can come together to learn and to pray. This summer Rabbi Sandra starts the next chapter of her journey as an Associate Chaplain at Elon University, in Elon North Carolina.

Description: Sandra Lawson sees her multiple identities as an asset and uses her identities as a bridge builder. Her 21st century rabbinate takes her from nursing homes, to cafes, to the world of social media where she uses the aspects of her identity to connect with others.

- **Time:** 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm ET

Title: Listening Inward: Breath, Body & Song

Speaker: Batya Levine (they/she), Musician, Songleader, Shaliach Tzibur (Jewish prayer leader) and Cultural Organizer.

Bio: Batya Levine (they/she) uses song as a tool for cultivating healing and resilience in their work as a communal song leader, musician, shaliach tzibur (Jewish prayer leader) and cultural organizer. They believe in the liberatory power of song to untie what is bound within us, and sustain us as we build a more just and beautiful world. Batya is a founding core team member of Let My People Sing! and is a Cultural Organizer with Linke Fligl. She offers song, ritual, and workshops in a variety of communities, and composes original music made of Ashkenazi yearning, queer heart-medicine, and emunah (faith/trust). Batya recently released their first album, Karov. Learn more at www.batyalevine.com

Description: Singing opens us to a myriad of internal textures, emotions, and sensations in our bodies and in our felt experience. It also is a tool for regulating our systems, for bringing us back in touch with ourselves. In this session we will be merging embodiment and somatic tools with our singing practice to more deeply listen in to what is present. We will move slowly and spend time in song and silence, noticing and grounding in our bodies and our experience as we go.

Date: Thursday, January 13th LEARN

- **Time:** 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET

Title: Building Inclusive Antioppressive Classroom Communities

Speakers: Rachel Hall (she/her), Program Manager, Audacious Hospitality / REDI (Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion), Union for Reform Judaism & Tani Prell (she/her), Chicago Community Director, 18Doors

Bios: Rachel Hall (she/her) serves as a Program Manager for the Union for Reform Judaism's (URJ) Audacious Hospitality team, where she reviews URJ content and programming through an anti-oppressive lens, striving to make our organization as inclusive as possible. Rachel is an openly queer Jewish woman from a working-class background who believes our early experiences with race, economic class, gender, ability, and access to power and privilege shape us individually as well as how we relate to various communities. Rachel has over 15 years of nonprofit experience related to racial equity, diversity, and inclusion, with 10 years focused on nonprofit management and leadership development. Rachel has a BA from Clark University in Psychology and Communications & Culture, with a focus in Women's Studies. She received her MA from Simmons College in Cultural Gender Studies, focusing on race, class, gender, and systems of oppression.

Tani Prell (she/her) has her life and career centered around Judaism, education, and the arts, with a commitment to equity and belonging as a thread throughout. She is the Chicago Director for 18Doors, formerly Interfaith Family as well as a racial diversity, equity, and inclusion educator and consultant. She has her BA in Creative Writing from Macalester College, focusing on Black Literature, and she is a recent graduate student at The Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning focusing on anti-racism in Jewish spaces. Tani is a former Teach for America Corps member, high school arts educator, synagogue education director, and fundraiser at the Art Institute. She has worked extensively with Jewish summer camps, youth groups, and teen programs. Tani also serves on the North American Board of Trustees for the Union for Reform Judaism, aiding in their commitments to DEI. In 2019 Tani was named one of the Jewish Federation of Chicago's "36 Under 36."

Description: North American Jewry is made up of people from a wide range of backgrounds with respect to faith, disability status, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and more. Learn how to create classrooms and communities that affirm and reflect the actual diversity of the Jewish people.

- **Time:** 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET

Title: LGBTQ+ Education 101 in the Classroom

Speaker: Eliana Rubin (they/she), Queer and Trans Artist and Educator

Bio: Eliana Rubin (they/she) is a queer and trans artist and educator. They aim to help people better understand themselves and the world around them through Jewish, LGBTQ+, and theatre education. Eliana is currently a candidate for a Masters of Educational Leadership at HUC-JIR, with an expected graduation date of May 2022. She received her BFA from NYU / Tisch (ETW). Eliana is a musician, playwright, and

screenwriter, and enjoys intertwining her artistic and Jewish passions through Jewish musicals (Jewish musicals), short musical numbers centered around Judaic texts. She will never say no to a bag of movie theater popcorn. elianashirarubin.com

Description: As educators, it is imperative we continue to foster safe and brave spaces for our students to learn. Join together to learn about LGBTQ+ terminology, history, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) practices to make our spaces LGBTQ+ affirming for all learners and their families. This is the first in a two-part session, the second of which will be led by Rabbi Micah Buck-Yael on January 14th from 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm ET. This is a judgment-free zone; all levels of understanding are welcome!

- **Time:** 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm ET

Title: Marginalized Voices within our Jewish Communities: A Panel Discussion

Panelists: Becca Taute (she/they), Assistant Director of cdc@cbi and Lexi Rolfe (she/her or they/them), Public Health Professional, Childhood Educator, and Tony Westbrook, Jr. Assistant Director, WashU Hillel (he/him/his)

Bios:

Becca Taute is the Assistant Director of the Child Development Center at Congregation Beth Israel in Austin, Texas.

Becca was born and raised in Austin, Texas, and grew up in the Congregation Beth Israel community, starting as a preschooler at cdc@cbi. She lived in Israel for seven years, during which she served as an Education Coordinator for a field reconnaissance unit in the I.D.F. and attended Tel Aviv University for one year. She has been an educator for 15 years, working with students ranging in age from infants to adults in a variety of educational settings.

She is passionate about Jewish education and is currently working towards a BA in Early Childhood Education at American Jewish University. In her spare time, Becca is an artist, musician, community organizer, and activist.

Lexi Rolfe (she/her or they/them) is new to both early childhood education and Reform Judaism, but she has been welcomed warmly by the ECE-RJ family. She is a queer and trans woman who received her Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health from Texas A&M and developed a passion for health policy. She has a background in epidemiology, disease prevention, and environmental health. Lexi wants to help everyone better understand the importance of caring for the health of our natural environments as well as our own physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. She cares deeply for all living creatures on earth, from the largest blue whales to the tiniest ants, but her favorite animals are undoubtedly orangutans.

Description: This panel discussion will provide participants with an opportunity to hear from members of the Jewish community who hold one or more marginalized identities. We will learn about each panelist, their personal experiences in Jewish communal spaces, and the different ways they navigate these intersectionalities. The panel will begin with introductions and a few opening questions, followed by an audience Q&A session (via Zoom chat).

- Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm ET
Title: Cocktail/Mocktail Social Hour
Speaker: Shelly Sender (she/her), Senior Director of Early Childhood Education, Temple Emanu-El
Description: Let's keep our conference traditions alive! Please join us for a social hour where you can let down your hair and have some fun. Grab your favorite beverage, doesn't have to be alcohol, and let's connect with old and new friends, get to know each other, play some games, share some stories, dance, and laugh the hour away. You don't want to miss this!

Date: Friday, January 14th ACT

- Time:** 12:30 pm-2:00 pm
Title: The Core Beliefs of Supportive Social Learning - Rights and Responsibilities
Speaker: Alison Maher (she/her), Executive Director, Boulder Journey School Boulder, CO, Andrea Sisbarro (she/her), School Director, Boulder Journey School and Fara Cortez (she/her), School Director at Boulder Journey School
Bios:
Alison Maher is the Executive Director at Boulder Journey School, where she has worked since 1993. Alison has presented at numerous national and international conferences and has worked as an educational consultant in a wide variety of public and private preschool and elementary schools in the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, and Ireland. She currently instructs two graduate courses in partnership with the University of Colorado Denver and serves on the board of Hawkins Centers of Learning, and Watershed School, as well as on the Advisory Committee for Ideal Learning.

Andrea Sisbarro is one of the School Directors at Boulder Journey School, where she has been employed since 1995. Andrea works closely with classroom communities supporting curriculum development, family partnerships, organizational systems, licensing requirements, relationships, and learning environments. Andrea has a BA in Psychology from the University of Colorado Boulder and a MA in Early Childhood Education from the University of Colorado Denver. Andrea has more than 15 years of experience as an educational consultant in a wide variety of public and private preschool and elementary schools in the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, and Ireland. She has presented the work of Boulder Journey School at conferences throughout the US and around the world.

My name is Fara Cortez and I am one of the School Directors at Boulder Journey School. I have the honor and privilege of working with our school's youngest citizens. I began my career at Boulder Journey School in 1998 and was a member of the 2000 Resident Teacher class. Supportive Social Learning is the reason I became a teacher and I am so excited to share through stories how Supportive Social Learning comes to life in the classroom.

Description: The Core Beliefs of Supported Social Learning

1. Children are born capable and competent.
2. Children have a strong desire to connect with others.
3. Children live in a complex world.

4. Children have inherent rights, including the right to participation.
5. Children possess qualities that are of value to the world.
6. Children thrive in a supportive social environment.

How can we more fully realize and live these core values in schools? What are the barriers and how can we overcome the barriers to living these values in schools?

- **Time:** 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm ET

Title: LGBTQ-Affirming Early Childhood Practices

Speaker: Keshet- Rabbi Micah Buck-Yael (he/him or they/them), Director of Education and Training, Keshet

Bio: Rabbi Micah Buck-Yael (he/him or they/them) serves as Keshet's Director of Education and Training. Before Keshet, Micah served as the Coordinator of Community Chaplaincy with Jewish Family Services of St Louis, providing spiritual care for individuals throughout the St. Louis community. Micah has a BA in Islamic and Near Eastern Studies from Washington University in St Louis and Rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Micah enjoys cooking and baking, and lives in St. Louis with his wife Aviva, four children, and assorted pets.

Description: Together, we can build Early Childhood experiences in which children of all genders and family backgrounds can thrive, develop empathy, and celebrate diversity. In this session, we will explore age-appropriate LGBTQ-affirming educational practices, using and modeling LGBTQ-affirming language, answering questions, and navigating pushback as we build LGBTQ-affirming classrooms. This is the second of a two-part session, the first of which will be led by Eliana Rubin on January 13th from 3:00-4:00 PM ET.

- **Time:** 3:30pm – 4:30 pm ET

Title: Confronting our Disability Biases: Moving Beyond Low Expectations

Speaker: Emily Ladau (she/her), Disability Rights Activist, Writer, & Storyteller

Bio: Emily Ladau is a passionate disability rights activist, writer, storyteller, and digital communications consultant. She is the author of *Demystifying Disability: What to Know, What to Say, and How to be an Ally*, published by Ten Speed Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House. Emily's career began at the age of 10, when she appeared on several episodes of *Sesame Street* to educate children about her life with a physical disability. A native of Long Island, New York, Emily graduated with a B.A. in English from Adelphi University in 2013 and now serves on their Board of Trustees. In 2017, she was named as one of Adelphi's 10 Under 10 Young Alumni. In 2018, she was awarded the Paul G. Hearne Emerging Leader Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities. Emily is the Editor in Chief of the *Rooted in Rights Blog*, a platform dedicated to amplifying authentic narratives on the disability experience through an intersectional lens. She also provides communications and social media strategy consulting as well as editorial services for multiple disability-related organizations and initiatives. And, she co-hosts "The Accessible Stall Podcast," a show that dives into disability issues. Emily's writing has been published in outlets including *The New York Times*, *SELF*, *Salon*, *Vice*, and *HuffPost* and she has served as a source for outlets including *PBS NewsHour*, *NPR*, *Vox*, and *Washington Post*. She

has spoken before numerous audiences, from the U.S. Department of Education to the United Nations. Central to all of her work is harnessing the power of storytelling as a tool for people to become engaged in disability and social justice issues. Follow Emily on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. More about her work can be found on her website, WordsIWheelBy.com.

Description: Holding low expectations for people with disabilities is a form of prejudice that's all too common. Even as informed, empowered advocates and allies, we can still fall into the trap of making assumptions about what we, or the people we love, teach, and/or support, are capable of doing. This can cause a cycle of self-doubt within people with disabilities, and lead to unintentional barriers. Together, we will explore the biases we have about disabilities, talk about how to move beyond them, and embrace the importance of having high expectations for all of us.

- **Time:** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm ET

Title: Shabbat Experience

Speaker: Rabbi Sandra Lawson (she/her), Rabbi, Musician and Activist

Bio: Rabbi Sandra Lawson received ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in June 2018. She was born in St. Louis, Mo. and grew up in a military family. She graduated from Saint Leo University magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in Sociology from Clark Atlanta University. Rabbi Sandra has served in the United States Army, as a Military Police person with a specialty in Military Police Investigations, specializing in cases involving child abuse and domestic violence. Upon leaving the military she started a personal training business and later worked as an Adjunct Instructor of Sociology at local community colleges. She has also served as the Investigative Researcher for the Anti-Defamation League's Southeast Region, becoming the go-to person when Law Enforcement in the South needed information on hate groups. Rabbi Sandra uses her rabbinic training to bring Judaism to where people already are in their lives. As a rabbinical student Rabbi Sandra received a prestigious grant to lead shabbat services for unaffiliated Jews in a vegan cafe, she also received a grant to launch her podcast Minutes of Torah. Rabbi Sandra's vision as a Rabbi is to help build a more inclusive Jewish community where all who want to come are welcomed, diversity is embraced and we can come together to learn and to pray. This summer Rabbi Sandra starts the next chapter of her journey as an Associate Chaplain at Elon University, in Elon North Carolina.

Description: Participants will connect closely with one another, as we enjoy meaningful music and Shabbat prayer to help guide our spirits and inspire us to continue our strong, important, and necessary educational journey together -- led by Rabbi Sandra Lawson.

Date: Saturday, January 15th SHABBAT

- **Time:** 11:00-11:30am ET, followed by ten minute "Oneg Shabbat" with the little ones until 11:40 am ET

Title: Shabbat ShaMorning followed by an ECE Shabbat Experience Conversation

Speakers: Shira Kline (she/her), Performance and Queer Ritual Artist, Educator and Musician and Ellen Allard (she/her), Recording Artist, Performer, Music Educator, Composer, and Success Coach

Bios: Shira Kline is an internationally acclaimed performance and queer ritual artist, recognized as a revolutionary educator and named one of the new re-engineers of Jewish life today. She is a weaver of sacred story and song, known on the kiddie-rock stage as ShirLaLa and in the sanctuary as a spiritual adventurist. Shira tours extensively locally and globally with a vibrant invitation to audiences of all ages to connect, bringing ritual and art together for a new and realized conscious world. A co-founder and Spiritual Leader of Lab/Shul NYC, she grew up right here in the ECE-RJ.

Ellen Allard, multi-award-winning Recording Artist, Performer, Music Educator, Composer, and Success Coach, is one of the most sought after performers in Jewish music. With a strong commitment to nurturing community through music, Ellen has a unique, charismatic, charming, and heartwarming way of inviting audiences to join in playful singing, whether she is performing a concert, presenting a workshop, or conducting her interactive, engaging worship services for young children through senior citizens. Traveling throughout the US and abroad, Ellen has been performing and teaching music to young children, adults and families for over 40 years. Her catalog includes 14 CDs and 7 songbooks; her repertoire of over 350 songs are considered the gold standard when it comes to engaging and empowering people to strengthen their Jewish identities and have been published by fellow singer-songwriters on 31 recordings and 11 songbooks. Ellen's songs are sung in schools, synagogues and summer camps worldwide, and are part of the curriculum at Hebrew Union College, Hebrew College, Jewish Theological Seminary and Aleph. In addition to teaching music classes and presenting workshops and keynotes on the importance of music in the lives of young children, Ellen is a regular faculty member and presenter at Hava Nashira, Song Leader Boot Camp, NewCAJE, and the Hebrew College Early Childhood Conference; she has been privileged to regularly present workshops, lead family worship, and perform on the Jewish Rock Radio stage at the URJ Biennial. She is a cantorial soloist at Mishkan Tefila in Brookline, MA. Ellen holds a BA in music from Boston University and a master's degree in early childhood education from Arcadia University. Ellen is also certified as a holistic health coach, baby/toddler yoga teacher, Kidding Around Yoga and Yoga Yeladim teacher and Rhythm 'n' Ruach teacher. She lives in Boston, MA and has two daughters and sons-in-law who have blessed her with six grandchildren and two rambunctious grand-dogs. If asked, she will extoll the virtues of eating dark chocolate daily.

Description: Join ShirLaLa, Ellen Allard, and Storahteller Stephanie Guedalia in the Shabbat ShaMorning Garden for the best wiggle giggle love fest in town. Recently described by a parent as "human, touching, magical, kind and loving," this program has been unexpectedly nourishing for everyone involved. We began in the first week of Covid quarantine, March 2020. This Shabbat marks our 70th gathering. Along the way, there have been many learnings about human nature, collective grief, and celebration, seasons, and story. The Shabbat ShaMorning model is aptly a practice for both our very youngest and for ourselves. It is a practice of rest and renewal, safety and tender care. Come for the imaginative prayerful play, stay for the Sabbath bliss. [As featured on NPR.](#)

All are invited for a short talk-back with Ellen and Shira after Shabbat ShaMorning, to unpack ideas, ask questions and share wisdoms of the ins and outs of the early childhood Shabbat experience.

- **Time:** 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET
Title: Jewiscal Workshop with Eliana Rubin
Speaker: **Eliana Rubin** (they/she), Queer and Trans Artist and Educator
Bio: Eliana Rubin (they/she) is a queer and trans artist and educator. They aim to help people better understand themselves and the world around them through Jewish, LGBTQ+ and theatre education. Eliana is currently a candidate for a Masters of Educational Leadership at HUC-JIR, with an expected graduation date of May 2022. She received her BFA from NYU / Tisch (ETW). Eliana is a musician, playwright and screenwriter, and enjoys intertwining her artistic and Jewish passions through Jewscals (Jewish musicals), short musical numbers centered around Judaic texts. She will never say no to a bag of movie theater popcorn. elianashirarubin.com
Description: The Torah holds many stories that can be interpreted and reinterpreted over and over. Let's write some musical theatre based around some of these stories! Join together in groups to learn about what a Jewscal (Jewish musical) is, how we can interpolate stories within one another, and create our own *midrashim*. No musical theatre experience is necessary!
- **Time:** 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm ET
Title: Kneading Strength? - How Bread has Fortified us Throughout History
Speaker: Dr. Tamar Andrews (she/her)
Bio: : Dr. Tamar Andrews has been working in the field of early childhood education for over 30 years. She began her career as a classroom teacher and then moved into early childhood administration working in schools that were affiliated with Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox philosophies, and has served as the early childhood education director at Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles since 2003. As a university professor, Dr. Andrews has taught courses ranging from the theoretical foundations of growth and development to how social policies affect children and their education. As a consultant and trainer, Dr. Andrews has spoken at over 400 conferences and symposia where she has presented on curriculum models, theory and administration issues. A California Mentor Director and international consultant and trainer, she has worked both extensively in California, the United States as well as in countries as far away as Azerbaijan and China. Dr. Andrews was born in Israel and raised in Los Angeles and educated in our Jewish schools. She is married to Edward Andrews and is a mother and Savta.
Description: Do you know the difference between a bagel and a bialy? Babka or bereketi? Join a culinary adventure as we explore the recipes and traditions for Jewish breads around the world. Recipes will be provided, techniques demonstrated, and history shared. Feel free to bring your own favorite Jewish bread tradition to share with the group. Recipes and techniques will be shared after the session.
- **Time:** 4:30 pm –6:00 pm ET

Title: Havdallah and Kallah Reflection with Shira Kline and Zoë Miller

Speakers: Shira Kline (she/her), Performance and Queer Ritual Artist, Educator and Musician, and Zoë Miller (she/her), Director of cdc@cbi, and Shelly Sender, Senior Director of Early Childhood Education, Temple Emanu-El (she/her)

Bios: Shira Kline is an internationally acclaimed performance and queer ritual artist, recognized as a revolutionary educator and named one of the new re-engineers of Jewish life today. She is a weaver of sacred story and song, known on the kiddie-rock stage as ShirLaLa and in the sanctuary as a spiritual adventurist. Shira tours extensively locally and globally with a vibrant invitation to audiences of all ages to connect, bringing ritual and art together for a new and realized conscious world. A co-founder and Spiritual Leader of Lab/Shul NYC, she grew up right here in the ECE-RJ.

Zoë Miller (She/Her) is the Director of cdc@cbi, a child development center and preschool at Congregation Beth Israel in Austin, Texas. Zoë grew up in Los Angeles and has many years of experience in Jewish Education, starting as a preschool teacher in both Los Angeles and New York City. She earned her BA at The New School University and her graduate degree from the University of Minnesota. She holds an Early Childhood Teaching Certification from UCLA and a National Director Credential from McCormick University. After moving to Austin in 2014, Zoë was awarded a Fellowship through the Sheva Center Leadership Institute for Early Childhood Professionals, providing her the opportunity to travel, explore, and study with a variety of Early Childhood programs across North America and Israel. She is excited to be pursuing a second graduate degree in Innovative Early Childhood Education, with a strong emphasis on the Reggio Emilia approach at the University of Denver in collaboration with the Boulder Journey School.

Shelly Sender has been dedicated to the field of early childhood education for 37 years. She has an undergraduate degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Education Administration and Early Childhood Disorders. She has served as the Early Childhood Education Director at Temple Emanu-El Dallas for the past 14 years, where 337 children and 96 staff members are a vital part of her life. Shelly lives in Dallas, has three amazing children, ages 34, 32, and 26. She has owned and operated an early childhood school for seventeen years, as well as owned and operated a farm business where children were strongly connected to nature. Shelly believes that children are competent, and their opinions are very important. Therefore, she is very passionate about the Reggio Emilia methodology, which aligns with this belief. Strong relationships and inquiry-based learning are very relevant in her work with children. Shelly has served on several child advocacy boards, the VP of learning on the ECE-RJ board as well as the CJE – Center for Jewish Education, in Dallas. She is very committed to her volunteer work in the Jewish community in Dallas. Shelly wants to instill in every child a lifelong desire to learn, as well as inspire the educators she is blessed to work with, to continue to grow and learn professionally.

Description: Havdallah and Kallah Reflection with Shira Kline and Zoë Miller