



KAVANNAH



Queer and trans Jews recognize the gaps that currently exist within our community with respect to Chevra Kadisha education, participation, access to ritual, and inclusion. Despite this we are already a large and meaningful part of end of life care for their loved ones and community. We believe that when anyone moves through the deeply vulnerable end of life transitions they are cared for in a way that has the deepest possible respect for them. This care is for the health and wellbeing of everyone in the community.

We came together to create a space for healing and building progressive and Queer and Trans affirming Chevra Kadisha. The Kavannah behind this work is a deep commitment to the rights of all people to culturally appropriate and deeply informed end of life care, and all Jews to Jewish end of life care and participation in end of life ritual.

This was made possible by our supporters and mentors both within the queer and trans Jewish community and outside of it. A special thank you to our supporter and my mentor Nina Rubin.



THE PROJECT

We organized what may be the first ever QT (QT stands for Queer and Trans) Zayin Adar event, an online event intended to specifically support our community to inspire and learn from one another. We raised funds from entirely within our grassroots community and distributed them to everyone involved in the project. Over 50 people attended from all over Turtle Island // The United States and Canada// land known by many different names to many different Peoples since time immemorial. It was a successful and generative event.

COMMUNITY CHEVRA PRESENTS

QUEER & TRANS

JEWISH END-OF-LIFE, DEATH,
& GRIEF SUPPORT WORK GATHERING

CAN I ATTEND?

We extend a warm welcome and invitation to **queer and trans folks + allies** participating or interested in progressive Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Sacred Burial Community) and end of life and death support.



WHY ZAYIN ADAR?

This event is held on **Zayin Adar**, the anniversary of the **birth and death of Moses in the Jewish tradition**, and a day **traditionally for this focus**.

We are so grateful for everyone doing this work and are looking forward to hanging out, connecting, supporting, and learning from each other.

REGISTER & MORE INFO:
tinyurl.com/QTZayinAdar



Poster by Anna Goodman Herrick



THE TEAM

COMMUNITY CHEVRA PRESENTS

QUEER & TRANS

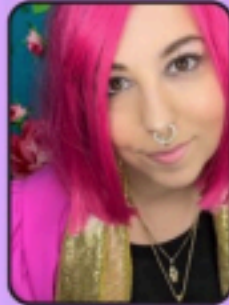
JEWISH END-OF-LIFE, DEATH, & GRIEF SUPPORT WORK ONLINE GATHERING

SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024
(ZAYIN ADAR II 5784)
2-5 PM PST / 11AM-2PM EST

>>> REGISTER: tinyurl.com/QTZayinAdar



SYL



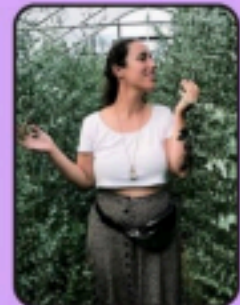
ANNA
GOODMAN
HERRICK



LILY SAGE
WEINREB



RAE
GAINES



MALKA
ROTH



SPONSORED BY COMMUNITY CHEVRA & NEW SYNAGOGUE PROJECT

Poster by Anna Goodman Herrick

I hosted, did fundraising, organized speakers, brought folks together, paid everyone, curated visioning, and led communication

COMMUNITY CHEVRA PRESENTS

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JEWISH END-OF-LIFE, DEATH,
& GRIEF SUPPORT WORK GATHERING

HOST SPOTLIGHT



SYL שפרה מלכה

Syl founded the Community Chevra, Vancouver's Progressive Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Burial Society) and learning community, with the goal to make our rituals accessible to all within the Jewish community. They study Jewish end of life and death rituals with Kavod V'Nichum. They are curating a book about using herbalism to support end of life and death (check out the open call for submissions - tinyurl.com/jewishherbalismsubmission!).

They enjoy organizing with the Yiddish Collective *Knobl un Honik Kollektiv*, and practising their best broken Yiddish with anyone.

Bisel a bisel mach de fulla schissela.

IG: @communitychevra

SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024
2-5 PM PST / 11AM-2PM EST
REGISTER:
tinyurl.com/QTZayinAdar

Poster by Anna Goodman Herrick

Anna Goodman Herrick did marketing, visioning, social media, supported planning, and taught on the day-of about inclusive chevra Kadisha work.

PRESENTER SPOTLIGHT

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ANNA GOODMAN HERRICK חנה בת פנינה

Anna works at the intersection of spirituality, sacred words, and human rights. She is the author of *A Speaker is a Wilderness: Poems on the Sacred Path from Broken to Whole* (Monkfish Publishing, 2024). Anna serves on staff as Grief Support and Spiritual Counselor for hospices and is an educator and advocate for inclusive Jewish practices, including end-of-life. She has performed her poetry across the U.S., including at the Emily Dickinson Museum and the Artist Uprising at the El Paso border. She has shared her work at the Library of Congress, the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum, Bloomsday on Broadway, and the Oprah Winfrey Network, among others.

SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024
2-5 PM PST/ 11AM-2PM EST
REGISTER:
tinyurl.com/QTZayinAdar

More: annagoodmanherrick.com
IG: @annagoodmanherrick



Poster by Anna Goodman Herrick
Rae Gains did planning, visioning, outreach, and facilitated a workshop. Jeremy co-facilitated a workshop with Rae

PRESENTER SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY CHEVRA PRESENTS

QUEER & TRANS

**JEWISH END-OF-LIFE, DEATH,
& GRIEF SUPPORT WORK GATHERING**



RAE GAINES

Rae is a queer, Jewish grief and death doula based in the Washington, DC area. Rae is currently in the process of building a chevra kaddisha with Rae's emergent shul, the New Synagogue Project.

More about Rae at deathcaredc.com

**SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024
2-5 PM PST / 11AM-2PM EST**

**REGISTER:
tinyurl.com/QTZayinAdar**



Poster by Anna Goodman Herrick
Lily taught on the day-of about chevra kadisha and mentored and inspired everyone.

PRESENTER SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY CHEVRA PRESENTS

QUEER & TRANS

JEWISH END-OF-LIFE, DEATH,
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LILY SAGE WEINRIEB

Lily Sage Weinrieb (they/she) is a funeral director and death doula based in New York City. After studying bereavement trajectories and funeral rituals through the lens of anthropology, Lily decided to go back to school and get licensed as a funeral director. They have worked to create participatory models of grief work that are designed to interrupt cycles of generational trauma. Lily's experiences as a queer Jew led them to ask where they, along with so many others, would fit in among the highly gendered Jewish funeral tradition. Their curiosity led them to help start New York's first Reform Chevra Kadisha. Lily works closely with clergy, community members, and allies to bring meaningful end of life rituals to as many folx as they can.

SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024
2-5 PM PST / 11AM-2PM EST
REGISTER:
tinyurl.com/QTZayinAdar

More: lilysagestudio.com
IG: @oldbitchyoubury



Poster by Anna Goodman Herrick

Malka is an herbalist who did a grounding exercise for all of us.

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PRESENTER SPOTLIGHT



MALKA ROTH

Malka Roth (she/her) is an educator, herbalist, organizer and co-founder of the DC Mutual Aid Apothecary where she has worked to shape the mission and vision since its start in 2020. She organizes locally in DC and in the national landscape. Malka's work is profoundly influenced by abolitionism, her queer and Jewish identities, and an enduring conviction that new worlds are possible.

IG:
@malkaeve and
@dcmutualaidapothecary

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REGISTER:
tinyurl.com/QTZayinAdar

Poster by Anna Goodman Herrick



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

The event feedback was very positive! Here are some of the things participants said were most valuable:

“[I got] to not be alone and [got] a spark of ideas around how we can really serve our community and grow our ideas into existence.”

“It was all just so delightfully queer and real and practical and spiritual and deep and fun. We want more of that here, locally, and came away inspired to create it.”

“Finding community with other folx who desire to do this work”



- 1) It is vitally important that queer and trans people, and anyone with specific lived expertise, are paid properly, acknowledged, and attributed for their work and wisdom.
- 2) Nothing about us without us. We should aim to center grassroots organizing and folks doing the work and meet each community and person where they are at with deep listening and care.
- 3) The issue is often not about just changing a pronoun in a ritual guide. We need deeper community level engagement to really understand how to build supportive and

consensual ritual for everyone. Many questions and feelings were brought up that require more extensive unpacking.

- 4) Building a support network is valuable in and of itself.
- 5) We don't have all the answers yet, but we are figuring it out slowly together.
- 6) We need to enable transcription before sending out the Zoom link next time
- 7) This type of event is very needed and appreciated!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR US

This event built momentum to start a Community Chevra QT Taharah ritual study group, which has been a very healing space for sharing in a smaller group. A consistent group of us have gotten together every two weeks since the end of the QT Zayin Adar event to study the Taharah ritual together, figure out building our own manual, and support each other in our journeys to build and participate in chevra kadishas in our geographic communities.

Community Chevra @communitychevra is being built slowly and steadily. We are looking to build our own ritual guides together, continue to offer trainings, workshops, and supports, and be a balm we all need during this grief-filled time. We are also planning to organize QT Zayin Adar again next year.

