



INTENSIVES - HAVA NASHIRA 2025

Intensives occur twice during Hava Nashira - for an hour and 45 minutes each morning. There are two blocks for you to choose what topic you'd like to spend an in depth amount of time engaging with. You will sign up through a Wufoo form so we know the size of the room and the amount of materials to prepare.

Intensive Session #1 - Monday Morning - Choose one of 6

Songs, Stories, & Props: Tools for Engaging Families & Young Children

Facilitated by Carla Friend

Explore some tools that will make your experiences for young children and their families more engaging, welcoming, and inspiring. We'll dive into Tkiya's methodology, including the theory behind an intentional use of props such as puppets, scarves, parachutes, bubbles, and more, in a way that flows with attention span and provides access for different learning styles. We will also explore the magic of transitions and how they can level up your early childhood experiences. This intensive is applicable to anyone working with toddlers, families, preschoolers, and early elementary, in both tefillah and/or classroom settings.

Crafting Meaningful Worship: Creating and Leading with Intention and Presence

Facilitated by Elana Arian and Cantor Rosalie Will

With decades of experience leading in diverse communities around the country, in permanent congregations, and at HUC-JIR, Elana and Rosalie will share best principles and practices for leading meaningful worship in a variety of different settings, with different types of services, and diverse team configurations and community needs.

Together we will explore:

- Planning with intention: balancing the familiar with opportunities to experience liturgy in new ways
- Knowing before whom you stand: being "attuned" with what the congregation needs while at the same time being your authentic self
- Co-creating with other worship partners: clergy, lay leaders, musicians
- Keeping your leadership fresh: incorporating the improvisatory and an organic ability to pivot when needed

Spiritual Translation: Liturgical Interpretation and Inspiration for Composers and Poets

Facilitated by Cantor Ellen Dreskin

Beginning with the idea that our prayers are filled with poetry and metaphor, and that there is no such thing as a “literal translation,” we will go below the surface of prayers, names for g?d, and even the act of prayer itself, in order that our word-painting might more authentically reflect the significance of the liturgy in our own hearts and today’s world. Our time together will include learning from text and others, individual writing invitations, and opportunities to share new ideas.

Wade in the Water

Facilitated by Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell

The idioms of Black music are a profound element of American expression, history and culture. Even so, does that necessarily mean its sounds have a place in American Jewish prayer spaces? What is its relationship to American Jews and the music already heard in American synagogue spaces? And—what about issues of tokenizing, appropriation and theology? In this session, through conversation, exploration and song, join Anthony in an interactive attempt to find out.

Vocal Harmony 101

Facilitated by Mayta Cohen

Does your cup fill up from prayer at Hava Nashira, when you hear 100 voices singing in harmony at services? Do you think to yourself, “This is incredible, and so natural to this community - if only this could be the case back home.” What if... it could be? Come explore five accessible ways of using vocal harmony (rounds, contrapuntal repertoire, communal improvisation, circle singing, and sound collages) as a means of connection, self expression, and creativity in Jewish spaces. Holding each other in thoughtful reflection and discussion, we will push ourselves beyond our comfort zones while exploring our voices and abilities in new harmonic contexts.

Camp Songleader Track Intensive

Facilitated by Jacob Spike Kraus and Deb Winter and Eric Hunker

A final session as a continuation of the two days of Camp Songleader Track learning over Shabbat before Hava Nashira began, the Camp Songleaders will bring the learning together, finalize preparations for the summer, reflect on ways to continue to support one another and connect in a meaningful siyyum. Required for those from the Camp Songleader track (or connect with a facilitator to talk about other Intensives you might need for your year-round work).

(next page for Intensives #2 descriptions)

Intensive Sessions #2 - Tuesday Morning - Choose one of 6

Student Centered Music Curriculum Building

Facilitated by Shira Kline

In order to reach our children in their diverse learning modes as well as ever-evolving environmental contexts, we must build a music program to meet them where they are. This intensive will explore the developmental psycho, social, spiritual and faith characteristics of each religious school age group. It will guide us to choose music that grows conscious, positive Jewish identity from the essential ingredients of our Judeo tool box. A combo of practical theory and repertoire, participants are invited to bring their musical curriculums to share best practices.

Ayeka: Using Song to Find Ourselves

Facilitated by Aly Halpert

Ayeka is a song based on our oldest story of murder, between two ancestral siblings. In this workshop we will use Aly's song "Ayeka" (Where are you?) and the two texts on which it is based, to dive deep into our grief and reckoning in this post October 7th time. We will use song and Torah to ground ourselves in the value of all human life and continue to ask the questions - where are we? And what can we do now?

Finding Your Authentic Prayer Leader Voice

Facilitated by Chava Mirel

How can Jewish liturgy help us build a bridge between our ancient traditions and our modern lives? The class will explore different approaches to praying and prayer leading that make space for our own authentic expression and the experiences of our community members. We will use liturgy as a framework for embodied practices, meditations and intention setting. We will also explore the use of both familiar and new musical settings, and other dynamics that help deepen connection and prayer.

Spiritual Accessibility: Small Changes for Transformative T'fillah

Facilitated by Eliana Light

The siddur is full of simple spiritual wisdom, tools of resilience to live in the world as it is and inspiration to change the world for the better. We urgently need this wisdom, and yet the siddur remains inaccessible for many. How can we help those in the kahal (praying community) do this spiritual work in a safe and supported way? Together, we'll explore the what, why, and how of spiritual accessibility, with a focus on the transformative potential of the transitions between prayers. These are small changes that can add depth to services (without adding a ton of time!) Together, let's unlock these crucial tools for our people.

Songwriting: Kindling to Fire

Facilitated by Elana Arian and Eric Hunker

Whether you're sitting down to write for the first time or you've been crafting songs for years, this intensive is your space to explore the sacred art of songwriting. Supported by two experienced songwriters, this track will split into two unique tracks—Songwriting Fundamentals and Advanced Songwriting. Participants will dive into melody, lyricism, and spiritual expression with guidance from Eric and Elana.

Music Theory

Facilitated by Jacob Spike Kraus and Deb Winter

Music is certainly a powerful form of art, but in many ways, it is also a science. By demystifying some of the basics for how music works, we come closer to understanding why music works — deepening our musical and spiritual practices as we do so. Why do transitions work better between some keys than others? How do I transpose songs with (and without) a capo, and why would I choose to? When can I substitute a chord from the original to something creative, and what chord do I choose? Why did Spike spend an entire summer playing 'Sweet as Honey' on capo 10? Join us as we explore the essential building blocks of chord structures, keys, scales, and harmony, focusing on real-world applications that directly apply to your role as a musical leader in Jewish worship and songleader settings. This intensive is designed to be accessible and practical and assumes the guitar as a primary instrument.