



## Intensives 2026

This year, we introduced a class coding system to help you choose those you want to attend. While there is likely some overlap between categories and subject areas, the goal is to help make sure you're getting what you need from your Hava experience!

**Primary Subject Area:** Worship/Ritual · Early Childhood · School-Aged Children · Teens · Justice · Community Building · Israel/World Jewry

**Categories:** Skillbuilding · Repertoire · Lishmah (*for its own sake*) · Resources (specific tools to take home, and use in your own ways)

### Intensives I - Monday

#### **What Are Israelis Singing in T'filah Right Now?**

**Facilitated by Boaz Dorot and Cantor-Rabbi Shani Ben-Or**

**Primary Subject Area:** Worship/Ritual, Israel/World Jewry | **Category:** Repertoire

Which spiritual and popular songs are Israelis not only listening to, but praying with? What repertoire is shaping liberal, egalitarian services today—and what can you bring back to your own community? Join us to explore, learn, and leave with fresh music and practical tools to inspire connection through song.

#### **Songwriting**

**Facilitated by Cantor Natalie Young and Rabbi Noah Diamondstein**

**Primary Subject Area:** Community Building | **Category:** Skillbuilding

Discover the art of transforming sacred words into meaningful music in this immersive Songwriting Intensive with Cantor Natalie Young and Rabbi Noah Diamondstein. Together, we'll explore how to engage deeply with Jewish texts, uncover their emotional and spiritual resonance, and craft original melodies that can breathe new life into them. We will learn approaches for both liturgical and non-liturgical texts, discuss process and how to approach the craft, and how to approach Jewish songwriting in both Hebrew and English. Whether you're an experienced songwriter or just beginning, this workshop offers a supportive space to create, connect, and elevate tradition through song.

## **The Baby and Me in me, sees the Baby and Me in YOU**

***Facilitated by Jason Mesches***

**Primary Subject Area:** Early Childhood, School-Aged Children | **Category:** Skillbuilding

Fine tune the skills needed to teach songs to our humans who can't yet talk or walk. Bonus fun: we will also address how to teach the parents of the aforementioned small humans. Win over the adults, win over the room. Be ready to move and teach the group a song.

## **Song as a Channel for Blessing**

***Facilitated by Batya Levine***

**Primary Subject Area:** Worship/Ritual | **Category:** Lishmah

Drawing on the tradition of *aliyot* - being called up to bless and be blessed by the chanting of the *Torah* - we will co-create a ritual space utilizing the power of song to call in our prayers and receive blessings. We will explore the concept of blessing, learn melodies, and have space to give and receive blessings through song in a ritualized container.

## **The Magic & Music of High Holiday T'filah for Families**

***Facilitated by Eliana Light***

**Primary Subject Area:** Worship/Ritual, School-Aged Children | **Category:** Repertoire, Resources

In this fraught and fractured time, how can we nourish the souls of our adults and kiddos alike? The High Holidays is an incredible opportunity to spark hope, resilience, and sacred support for our families. We'll explore frameworks, tools, and repertoire to help make your family t'filah accessible, meaningful, and spiritually resonant- just what our people need.

## **Camp Songleader Track (ONLY for those who were in the Weekend Camp Track)**

***Facilitated by Deb Winter, Jacob Spike Kraus, 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).

## Intensives II - Tuesday

### **Songwriting: Seed to Forest**

**Facilitated by Elana Arian and Eric Hunker**

**Category:** Skillbuilding, Resources

Whether you're sitting down to write for the first time or you've been crafting songs for years, this is your space to explore the sacred art of songwriting. Supported by two experienced songwriters, this track will begin together and ultimately 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.

### **Creating a Healing Service**

**Facilitated by Rabbi Noah Diamondstein**

**Primary Subject Area:** Worship/Ritual, Community Building | **Category:** Skillbuilding, Resources

Many of us want our places of leadership--be they synagogues, camps, Hillels or some other container for Jewish life--to be a locus of healing for our people. We know the healing power of singing together, and of praying together, and we want to share that "musical medicine" with our communities. Building healing services that can crack open hearts and allow love to pour from one to another takes ritual creativity, knowledge of Jewish texts/liturgy of healing, diversity of repertoire, and willingness to break from usual minhag. Let's learn together, deepening our well of resources for building healing services for our communities.

### **Spiritually Accessible Invitations: A Small Change for Transformative T'filah**

**Facilitated by Eliana Light**

**Primary Subject Area:** Worship/Ritual | **Category:** Skillbuilding

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 to many. How can we help those in our kahal (praying community) do this spiritual work in a safe and supported way?

Together, we'll explore some t'fillahsophy and then zoom in on spiritual accessible invitations: what are they, what makes them such a powerful tool, and how can they be utilized in any style of service. Come learn more about a small change that can make a big difference.

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

**Facilitated by Carla Friend**

**Primary Subject Area:** Early Childhood, Worship/Ritual | **Category:** Skillbuilding

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.

### **One T'filah, Many Voices: Blending Mizrach (East) & Ma'arav (West) with Integrity**

***Facilitated by Cantor-Rabbi Shani Ben-Or***

**Primary Subject Area:** Worship/Liturgy, Israel/World Jewry | **Category:** Repertoire, Resources

A practical, musical approach to creating multicultural t'filah—honoring diversity while weaving *mizrach* and *ma'arav* into one cohesive, spiritually grounded experience. Drawing on her experience as an Israeli Reform clergy person in Jerusalem, Cantor-Rabbi Shani Ben-Or shares tools, frameworks, and repertoire to build a unified communal sound.

### **Get The Room Harmonizing... Without Anybody Needing to Already Know How To Do It**

***Facilitated by Mayta Cohen***

**Primary Subject Area:** Community Building | **Category:** Skillbuilding

Can you pick out a harmony line by ear? Does it come naturally to you to sing the 3rd above when your favorite song comes on the radio? Well... what if it doesn't? Or what if it does... but it doesn't for everyone in your community? Is there a way to inspire more harmony in ourselves and our communities when it doesn't come so naturally? In this intensive, we'll explore a new approach to harmonization - one that doesn't require an innate sense of music theory, or even learning how to develop one. What if we learned to harmonize, mostly just by listening? In this intensive, we will learn about this method, why it works, practice playing with it together, and discover how using it might benefit us and our communities. Then, we'll zoom out and talk about how we might teach this method to our communities in an accessible and inviting way so that everyone feels welcome to join in the music making!