

Rabbi Yoel H. Kahn, Ph.D.
Selected Publications & Talks
www.rabbiyoelkahn.net

I have spoken and written over the years about the history of Jewish liturgy; challenges and creativity in creating new liturgy for communal prayer and life cycles; the place of LGBTQ Jews in the rabbinate and the Jewish community, spirituality, theology; and other issues. I have listed below a selection of my writings and publications, old and more recent, including articles, sermons and short essays, along with two scholarly articles that discuss my teaching. You are welcome to download any of them. Please be in touch if you would like more information about any of these pieces, about an invitation to teach or speak or to schedule an appointment.

The links below are organized into general categories; several pieces appear in more than one.

- [Jewish Liturgy](#)
- [Faith, Spirituality & Theology](#)
- [LGBT Jews and the Jewish Tradition and the Jewish Community](#)
- [Grief](#)
- [Mental Health](#)

Jewish Liturgy

The Three Blessings: Boundaries, Identity and Censorship in Jewish Liturgy

[New York: Oxford University Press, 2011].

Ordering from Amazon or the publisher is outrageously expensive; if you would like a copy, please [contact me](#) directly.

Hineini! Here I Am! Jewish Liturgy Old and New in Celebration of LGBTQ Pride

Center for LGBTQ Studies at the Pacific School of Religion, June 11, 2024

Watch [video](#); access [texts](#).

[The Liturgy of Gay and Lesbian Jews](#)

RABBI YOEL H. KAHN

Twice Blessed: On Being Lesbian, Gay and Jewish, edited by Christie Balka and Andy Rose [Boston: Beacon Press, 1989]

The Mi Shebeirach Prayer

Kol Nidre Sermon at Congregation Beth El, Berkeley, California [October 4, 2011].

The history of the inclusion of the Mi shebeirach in queer and liberal synagogues is the subject of this article by Gregg Drinkwater: [Queer Healing: AIDS, Gay Synagogues, Lesbian Feminists, and the Origins of the Jewish Healing Movement](#). American Jewish History 104:4 [October 2020].

Wrestling with God's Image in the High Holy Day Liturgy

CCAR Journal: *The Reform Jewish Quarterly* [Spring 2009]

Faith, Spirituality & Theology

My Spiritual Journey: A Coming Out Story

Jewish Spiritual Journeys: Twenty Essays Written to Honor the Occasion of the 70th Birthday of Eugene B. Borowitz, edited by Arnold J. Wolf [Behrman House, 1997]

This essay is about "coming out" theologically as well as personally.

AIDS is Our Earthquake

Yom Kippur sermon, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, San Francisco. Sept 23 1985.

This sermon is the subject of this article by Gregg Drinkwater: [AIDS Was Our Earthquake: American Jewish Responses to the AIDS Crisis, 1985-1992](#)

Jewish Social Studies 26:1 [Fall 2020]

The Mi Shebeirach Prayer

Kol Nidre Sermon at Congregation Beth El, Berkeley, California, October 4, 2014.

The history of the inclusion of the Mi shebeirach in queer and liberal synagogues is the subject of this article by Gregg Drinkwater: [Queer Healing: AIDS, Gay Synagogues, Lesbian Feminists, and the Origins of the Jewish Healing Movement](#). American Jewish History 104:4 [October 2020]

Din and Rachamim - Limits and Compassion

Kol Nidre sermon, Congregation Beth El [Sept. 27, 2009]

Wrestling with God's Image in the High Holy Day Liturgy

CCAR Journal [Spring 2009]

[On Humanity](#)

Paul Citrin, ed. *Lights in the Forest: Rabbis Respond to Twelve Essential Jewish Questions*. [New York: CCAR Press, 2014]

[Making Love as Making Justice: Towards a New Jewish Ethic of Sexuality](#)

Gay Affirmative Ethics, edited by Michael L. Stemmeler and J. Michael Clark [Monument Press, 1993]; reprinted in *Sexuality: A Reader*, edited by Karen Lebacqz and David Sinacore-Guinn [Pilgrim, 1999]; *Sexuality and the Sacred: Sources for Theological Reflection*, edited by Marvin M. Ellison [Westminster John Knox, 2010]

LGBTQ Jews, the Jewish Tradition and the Jewish Community

[The Kedusha of Homosexual Relationships](#)

CCAR Yearbook XCIX [New York, CCAR, 1990]; reprinted in *Same-Sex Marriage: Pro and Con*, edited by Andrew Sullivan [New York: Vintage, 1997]

[“Those Who Sowed in Tears Shall Reap with Joy” \[Psalm 126:5\]: Marking the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Acceptance of Openly Gay and Lesbian Rabbis in the Reform Movement: An Address at the 2015 CCAR Convention](#)

[Philadelphia, March 16, 2015]

CCAR Journal: The Reform Jewish Quarterly [Winter, 2016]

[Va'yeitzaei Ya'akov: And Jacob Came Out](#)

Gregg Drinkwater, ed. *Torah Queeries: Weekly Commentaries on the Hebrew Bible*. [New York: New York University Press; 2012]

[Hannah, Must You Have a Child?](#)

Out/Look 12 [Spring 1991]

Originally a Yom Kippur sermon at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, September 28, 1990.

[Making Love as Making Justice: Towards a New Jewish Ethic of Sexuality](#)

Gay Affirmative Ethics, edited by Michael L. Stemmeler and J. Michael Clark [Monument Press, 1993]; reprinted in *Sexuality: A Reader*, edited by Karen Lebacqz and David Sinacore-Guinn [Pilgrim, 1999]; *Sexuality and the Sacred: Sources for Theological Reflection*, edited by Marvin M. Ellison [Westminster John Knox, 2010]

Judaism and Homosexuality: The Traditionalist/Progressive Debate

Journal of Homosexuality 18:3-4 [1989]; reprinted in *Homosexuality and Religion*, edited by Richard Hasbany [New York: Haworth Press, 1989]

A survey of pre-1985 Jewish sources and modern discussion on Judaism and homosexuality; initially prepared for the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Please contact me for a copy of this essay..

Grief

[Grief is Like the Ocean](#)

A short reflection on the importance of naming and embracing grief.

Mental Health

[Mental Health & Our Community: A Healing of Body, A Healing of Mind, A Healing of Spirit](#)

Rosh HaShanah sermon, Congregation Beth El [September 30, 2011]

End-of-Life Decision Making

CCAR Journal [Summer 1994]; reprinted in *Wrestling with the Angel: Jewish Insights on Death and Mourning*, edited by Jack Riemer [Schocken, 1995]; excerpted in *Journal of Psychology and Judaism* 20 [Spring 1996]
Please contact me for a copy of this essay.