

Educational Resources

LGBTQIA+ AND PRIDE

While Pride Month is celebrated nationally every June, here at HMI we live **every day** by the motto "LOVE IS LOVE." Jewish tradition teaches us that each human being is created *B'tzelem Elohim*, or in the image of God, and that we're all beings of inestimable worth. We're committed to welcoming all couples of all sexual orientations and gender identities into our Jewish community and HMI family all year round!

Whether you're celebrating Pride this year for yourself or as an ally, we wanted to share some of the great resources in the Jewish space and greater community that you can use to educate yourself and acknowledge and celebrate Pride.



Books: Check out this [list from the Jewish Book Council](#) and reviews below of Jewish and secular narratives including fiction, non-fiction, and books for kids!

Fiction:

[Milk Fed](#) by Melissa Broder

"A scathingly funny, wildly erotic, and fiercely imaginative story about food, sex, and god from the acclaimed author of *The Pisces* and *So Sad Today*." - Goodreads

[When the Angels Left the Old Country](#) by Sacha Lamb

"A queer immigrant fairytale about individual purpose, the fluid nature of identity, and the power of love to change and endure." - Goodreads

[How to Excavate a Heart](#) by Jake Maia Arlow

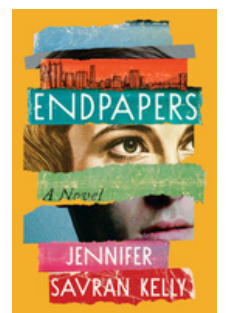
"Stonewall Honor author Jake Maia Arlow delivers a sapphic Jewish twist on the classic Christmas rom-com." - Amazon

[Endpapers](#) by Jennifer Savran Kelly

"A genderqueer book conservator feels trapped by her gender presentation, her ill-fitting relationship, and her artistic block until she discovers a...hidden queer love letter and becomes obsessed with tracking down its author." - Goodreads

[Dancing on Tisha B'Av](#) by Lev Raphael

"Whether bearing witness to the Holocaust and its aftermath, dealing with conflicts between being gay and traditional Judaism, or confronting anti-Semitism and homophobia, these passionate stories by a prize-winning author break new ground in contemporary fiction." - Goodreads



Non Fiction:

[Becoming Eve: My Journey from Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi to Transgender Woman](#) by Abby Stein

"The powerful coming-of-age story of an ultra-Orthodox child who was born to become a rabbinic leader and instead became a woman." - Goodreads

[Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders](#) by Joy Ladin

"After years of teaching literature at Yeshiva University, Professor Jay Ladin made headlines around the world by returning to the Orthodox Jewish campus as a woman: Joy Ladin... Joy Ladin takes readers inside her transition as she changed genders and, in the process, created a new self." - Goodreads



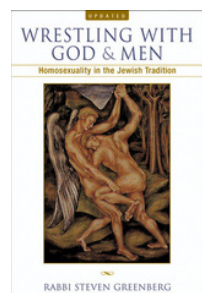
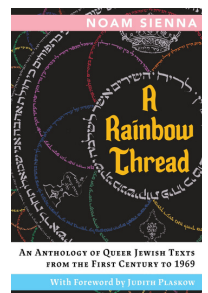
Jewish Learning:

[The Soul of the Stranger: Reading God and Torah From a Transgender Perspective](#) by Joy Ladin

"Reading...Torah stories through the lens of transgender experience, Joy Ladin explores fundamental questions about how religious texts, traditions, and the understanding of God can be enriched by transgender perspectives, and how the Torah and trans lives can illuminate one another." - Goodreads

[A Rainbow Thread: An Anthology of Queer Jewish Texts from the First Century to 1969](#) by Noam Sienna

"For many queer Jews, Jewish tradition seems like a rich tapestry which at best ignores them and at worst rejects them entirely. In reality, queerness and queer Judaism have been a constant subplot of Jewish history, if only we care to look." - Goodreads



[Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition](#) by Steven Greenberg

"Wrestling with God and Men is the product of Rabbi Steven Greenberg's ten-year struggle to reconcile his homosexuality with Orthodox Judaism." - Goodreads

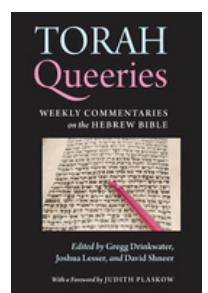
[Textual Activism](#) by Mike Moskowitz

"This collection of essays, articles, and speeches sits at the intersection of deeply traditional rabbinic texts and radically progressive Jewish values." - Goodreads



[Torah Queeries](#) by Gregg Drinkwater

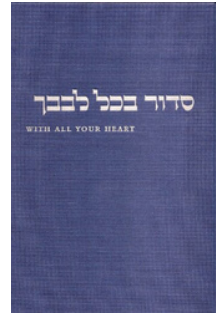
"A modernized, queer reading of the Torah...Torah Queeries brings together some of the world's leading rabbis, scholars, and writers to interpret the Torah through a 'bent lens.'" - Goodreads



Prayer Book:

[*With All Your Heart: The New CBST Siddur Bchol Lvavcha for Friday Night*](#) by Sharon Kleinbaum

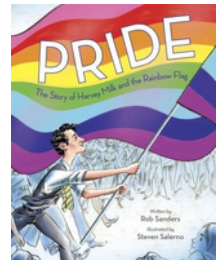
"Created for individuals coming from a broad spectrum of Jewish practice and tradition, this siddur [prayer book] introduces numerous liturgical innovations that expand definitions of Jewish family and community to explicitly embrace lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) families." - Goodreads



Children's Books:

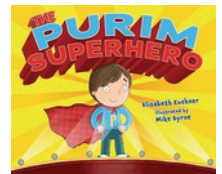
[*Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*](#) by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Steven Salerno

"The very first picture book about the remarkable and inspiring story of the Gay Pride Flag!" - Goodreads



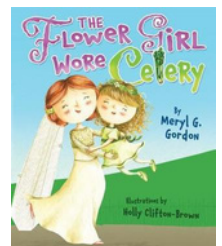
[*The Purim Superhero*](#) by Elisabeth Kushner, illustrated by Mike Byrne

"Nate loves aliens and he really wants to wear an alien costume for Purim, but his friends are all dressing as superheroes and he wants to fit in. What will he do? With the help of his two dads he makes a surprising decision." - Goodreads



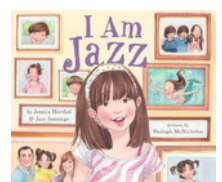
[*The Flower Girl Wore Celery*](#) by Meryl G. Gordon, illustrated by Holly Clifton-Brown

"When Emma's cousin Hannah gets married, Emma is thrilled to be the flower girl. However, nothing is quite as she expected it to be, from the ring bearer whom she expected to be a bear, to her celery-colored dress, which she expected to be covered in real celery, to the wedding's two brides." - Goodreads



[*I Am Jazz*](#) by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas

"Jazz always knew she was different from other kids. She had a girl's brain and a boy's body. This is her story." - Goodreads



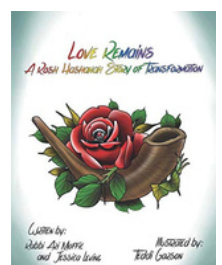
[*Heather Has Two Mommies*](#) by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Laura Cornell

"Heather's favorite number is two. She has two arms, two legs, two pets—and two mommies. When Heather goes to school for the first time, someone asks her about her daddy, but Heather doesn't have a daddy. Then something interesting happens. When Heather and her classmates all draw pictures of their families, not one drawing is the same." - Penguin Random House



[*Love Remains: A Rosh Hashanah Story of Transformation*](#) by Rabbi Ari Moffic and Jessica Leving, illustrated by Teddi Garson

"It's Rosh Hashanah, and that means one thing. The family is headed to the grandparents' house for a special holiday dinner! Take a seat with this family over the years and see what changes and what stays the same. This is a story about love, transformation, and acceptance." - Goodreads



Movies and Podcasts: Check out the lists below for more options for learning and entertainment!

Movies:

[Shiva Baby](#)

"At a Jewish funeral service with her parents, a college student runs into her sugar daddy and ex girlfriend." - IMDb

[Kissing Jessica Stein](#)

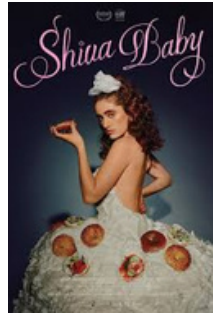
"A woman searching for the perfect man instead discovers the perfect woman." - IMDb

[Minyan](#)

"A young Jewish man is caught between thrilling private trysts and his repressive family in this thoughtful drama set in 1980s Brooklyn." - IMDb

[Yentl](#)

"A Jewish girl disguises herself as a boy to enter religious training." - IMDb



Podcasts:

[Making Gay History](#)

"Bringing the voices of LGBTQ history to life through intimate conversations with champions, heroes, and witnesses to history." - Making Gay History

[Thank You for Coming Out](#)

As queer people we are constantly coming out and each coming out story is unique in its blend of humor, heartache, worry, and wonder. Host Dubbs Weinblatt (they/them) creates a warm and inviting space for members of the queer community to share their coming out and coming-into-self stories & experiences and discuss identity, family, community, and whatever else organically appears."

- Thank You For Coming Out

