



A Blessing for Pride

***Mekor HaChayim*, Source of Life, You have blessed each of us with Your Spirit. In Your Wisdom, you have made each of us a unique treasure. *M'ayan Chayeinu*, Wellspring of our Lives, cause us to flow with courage, strength, and compassion to live our stories openly, proudly, and joyfully.**

***Shekhina shel Ahavah*, Presence of Love, You embrace us with Your Love. May we embrace ourselves, our partners, our lovers, our friends, our children, our dear ones with the power of Your *Ahavah Rabbah*, Your Unending, Boundless Love.**

***Ru'ach HaShalom*, Spirit of Peace and Wholeness, open our eyes to the gifts and blessings we offer and receive from each other; open our hearts to welcome each other fully and truly; open our hands to embrace, to support, to lift each other *b'geela, b'reena, b'shalom, uv'rei-ut*—with joy, with song, with peace, and with deep friendship.**

Today, [on this Shabbat], as we celebrate renewal, Pride, and community, let us walk together with strength, compassion, and love.

נְבָרֵךְ אֶת מְעַיִן חַיֵּינוּ תְּקַדֵּשׁ וּתְשַׂמַּח אוֹתָנוּ [וְאֶת הַשַּׁבָּת].

***N'varech et Ma'a-yan Chayeinu, T'kadesh u'T'Sa'me'ach Otanu
[V'et HaShabbat]. Amen.***

We bless You, Wellspring of our Lives; May You fill us [and Shabbat] with joy and sanctity. Amen.



Shalom Clergy, Administrators, Educators, Community Leaders & Allies:

Nearly six months ago, a group of local Jewish agencies came together to discuss the current unmet needs of one of our most vulnerable and underserved communities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals and their families. We formed an LGBTQ Consortium devoted to raising awareness, educating and advocating for the diverse needs of the Jewish LGBTQ community in the Greater Philadelphia area.

Philadelphia's LGBTQ Pride is right around the corner, June 6-June 8, 2014. Pride provides an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to creating inclusive, compassionate, healthy communities. It is a time to stand alongside and with our Jewish LGBTQ friends, family, colleagues, and congregants. It is a time to speak up for equal rights for all; to celebrate our diversity and unity; and to celebrate Life.

On behalf of the Consortium, Rabbis Joshua Zlochower and Erica Steelman, of the Abramson Center, and Dr. Gloria Becker of the Jewish Learning Venture composed a Pride Blessing. It is our hope that you will consider sharing this Blessing for Pride with your congregants, schools, colleagues, families and friends. For instance, you can incorporate it in a Shabbat service during Pride, send it via email to members of your organization, read it in your homes, and send it to family and friends among many other ideas.

Please join us as we celebrate LGBTQ Pride and Jewish LGBTQ Pride. Join us in the sacred work of creating spaces that are welcoming and affirming for all in Philadelphia and across the nation.

If you have any questions or want to let us know how you shared the blessing at your Shabbat service, please email pschneider@jfcshilly.org. We would love to hear from you.

L'chaim!

The LGBTQ Consortium of Jewish Agencies in Philadelphia

Members include:

Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Philadelphia

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life

Jewish Learning Venture

JEVS Human Services

Hillel of Greater Philadelphia

Spectrum Philly

InterfaithFamily/Philadelphia

Attachment: Blessing