

Supplications (Tkhines)



Chava Weissler

Recovery of the Shekhinah in modern Judaism required the skills and dedication of rabbis, laypeople, and scholars from all over the United States. Chava Weissler, Professor Emeritus at Lehigh University and a scholar of folklore and folklife, has been central to these efforts, documenting the Jewish Renewal ceremonies that have come to mean so much to American Jews.

In particular, Weissler examines what are known as Tkhines (Yiddish, from Hebrew *tehinnot*, “supplications”), in which women expressed their belief in and devotion to Shekhinah. In these private prayers in Yiddish, popular among women in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in Central and Eastern Europe, we hear the voice of the Shekhinah loud and strong.

