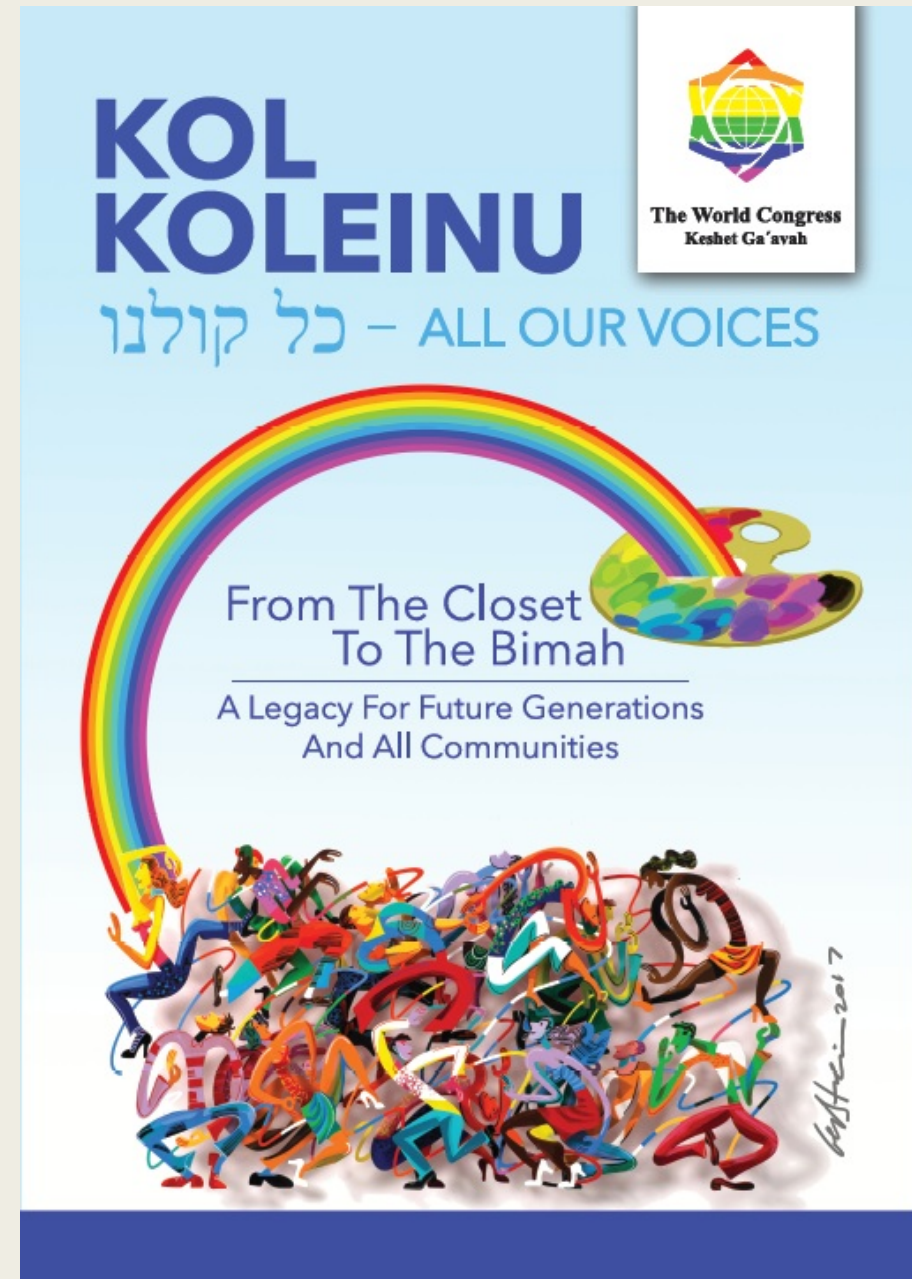


# *Kol Koleinu*

THE BOOK OF THE WORLD CONGRESS – KESHET  
GA'AVAH

You can donate 50 USD to the World Congress and get a free  
copy of Kol Koleinu!!



# MORE THAN 65 CONTRIBUTORS WORLDWIDE

RABBIS, ACTIVISTS, ARTISTS, SCHOLARS AND LAYWERS FROM THE U.S.A., CANADA, THE U.K., ISRAEL, PAKISTAN, MOROCCO, THE NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, AUSTRALIA, SINGAPORE, MEXICO, COLOMBIA AND ARGENTINA



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# KOL KOLEINU

כל קולנו – ALL OUR VOICES

From The Closet  
To The Bimah

A Legacy For Future Generations  
And All Communities

*"The objectives of Kol Koleinu are threefold: Compiling key milestones of The World Congress - Keshet Ga'avah since the 1970's, recognizing the contributions of major LGBTQ Jewish organizations in 15 countries and 5 continents, and documenting current issues of our communities for the benefit of future generations.*

*Current polarizing issues include religious marriage, Jews by Choice, LGBTQ parenthood, interfaith engagement, gendered segregation in public spaces, and hate speech, among others. It is hard to predict which of these issues will fade away with time and which will transform society. Kol Koleinu is a witness and a contributor to our current time.*

*By conceiving and publishing this book, The World Congress - Keshet Ga'avah seeks to build a legacy for future generations and all communities. This legacy will be built by creating something that will outlive us. We hope Kol Koleinu will become a timeless piece".*

Frank Giaoui  
President of The World Congress – Keshet Ga'avah



The World Congress  
Keshet Ga'avah

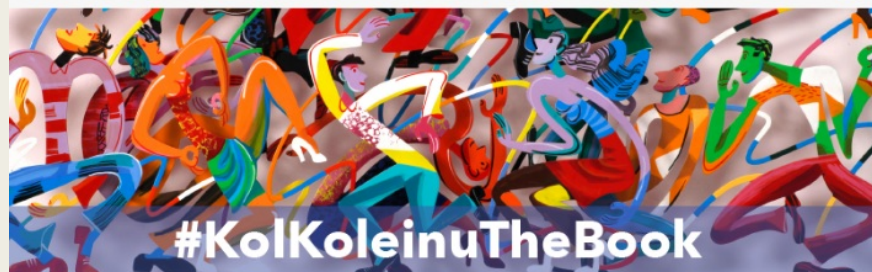
## INTRODUCTION - *The People Of The Book*

The objectives of **Kol Koleinu** (in Hebrew All Our Voices) are threefold: compiling key milestones of *The World Congress - Keshet Ga'avah*, recognizing the contributions of major LGBTQ Jewish organizations, and documenting current issues in our communities for the benefit of future generations.

Since the 1970's, *The World Congress* has promoted LGBTQ inclusion and fought anti-Semitism throughout the world. We have also supported our member organizations and allies who have been doing similar work in 15 countries and 5 continents. Forms of this activism have ranged from very visible conferences to discrete one-on-one meetings, from press releases to field initiatives, from training programs to shabbatonim, from fundraising to cultural events. Kol Koleinu is a tribute to those who made history as they proudly made our history.



**It is time to give**



## San Francisco : Sha'ar Zahav *Gregg Drinkwater (Denver)*

### **In the Beginning...**

In July 1977, three gay men seeking a spiritual home in San Francisco founded the city's first "gay synagogue", Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (CSZ). Thirty people showed up for the first service, and from there CSZ grew rapidly, with 80 members by late 1978, 150 by October 1979, and a mailing list of 1,000 by 1981.

While CSZ affiliated with the Reform Movement (now URJ) in 1981, the congregation has long maintained a Jewishly-diverse membership and has seen itself as filling a broader role in the Jewish and LGBT worlds. Particularly in its early years, CSZ critiqued and challenged Jewish communal norms by offering an egalitarian, non-hierarchical community that invited participation from those normally pushed to the margins of Jewish life.



**It is time to give**



**#KolKoleinuTheBook**

## Thoughts From An LGBTQ Zionist

*Arthur Slepian (San Francisco)*



*"I want to be present and celebrated as my true whole self, LGBTQ and Jewish".* For decades, with that goal in mind, LGBTQ Jews in North America have struggled to transform Jewish spaces –communal organizations, synagogues, schools, community centers and camps– into places where we could participate fully and authentically. So it is no small irony that having largely succeeded in that effort, many LGBTQ Jews, especially those of us who care deeply about Israel, now find that it is in LGBTQ spaces that we are either unwelcome or forced to hide who we are. I have heard too often from young queer Jews who love Israel that they feel much safer being queer in a Jewish community than they do being Jewish in a queer community.

**It is time to give**

