



# Winter Awakening

RAMAH  
DAROM

*Surrender to Serenity*

JAN 2026



# Welcome to WA 2026!

## Dear Friends,

We are grateful to welcome you to **Ramah Darom** for Winter Awakening 2026! This year marks the **19th anniversary** of WA, our LGBTQIA+ 11th Step Spiritual Retreat. Our theme, *"Surrender to Serenity,"* encourages us to explore spiritual practices that promote letting go, trust, focus, and acceptance—all key paths to inner peace.

Whether you're attending WA for the first time or a returning, each participant brings unique insights and experiences to share. It's natural to feel nervous yet excited as we embark on this journey together. We believe that discomfort often leads to the greatest opportunities for growth. Keep your heart open, and if you feel overwhelmed, take a moment to pause and connect with an attendee. WA provides a sanctuary for a safe space to express emotions, lower defenses, and connect deeply with others on similar journeys. Here, your feelings are recognized and embraced, fostering healing and growth.

Thanks to our wonderful committee and volunteers, we offer diverse workshops to nourish your spirit. While participation is encouraged, prioritize your self-care; attending every session is not required. Trust yourself to honor your needs.

If you need support, please reach out to a committee member. We are here to listen and ensure this retreat continues to be a nurturing space for connection.

Thank YOU for being here. Whether you're well along your spiritual path or just beginning, you are exactly where you need to be. May this weekend bring growth, serenity, and connection.

**With gratitude and in service,**  
*The WA Committee, 2026*

Winter  
Awakening



# Welcome

## **50/50 Raffle**

Support the Scholarship Fund, and also have a chance to win half the money!

## **Silent Auction**

Checkout the Silent Auction in the Lakeside Room. Proceeds to help the Scholarship Fund.

## **Quiet Hour**

A silent hour of reflection. Whether you go for a walk, meditate, or write mailbox notes. Please respect the quiet hour.

## **Winter Awakening 2026 Committee**

Amed O.

Cedric G-P.

Chris G.

Daniel S.

Darrius W.

Finger

Jason D.

Jess J.

Jen K.

Kaushal V.

Michael L.

Scott M.

Sean R.



## **Overwhelmed?**

The Synagogue is a designated quiet space for the entire weekend.



**If you have a question—**ask any of the committee members— signified by the Rainbow Bandana :) )

## **Thank you for respecting the Kosher Guidelines**

Please do not bring outside food into any part of the Levine Center

# Our Donors

These donors allow us to give dozens of scholarships each year.



**TWIRL** to the **WORLD**



THE **PLUS** COLLECTIVE

Charlotte-Mecklenburg's LGBTQ+ Community Fund



Please send your love and sign our Thank You card!

THANK  
YOU!

*Looking to be of Service?*

Join the Winter Awakening Planning Committee!



# SCHEDULE

Jan 30

## FRIDAY

### AFTERNOON FRIDAY

2:00 – 4:00	<b>Registration</b>	Welcome Center
	Settle In, Unpack, Fellowship	Levine Center
2:00 – 5:00	Alumni – New Badges & Mailboxes	Lakeside
4:30 – 5:00	Workshop Facilitator Orientation	Mountainside

### EVENING FRIDAY

5:00 – 5:30	<b>Welcome Meeting</b>	Mountainside
5:30 – 6:15	Intention Meeting	Mountainside
6:15 – 6:30	First Year Orientation	Mountainside
6:30 – 7:15	<b>Dinner</b>	Center Dining
7:30 – 7:45	Service Orientation	Mountainside

### NIGHT FRIDAY

8:00 – 9:00	<b>Speaker Meeting</b> Russell G	Vista Community
9:30 – 10:30	Labyrinth Walk	Basketball Court
11:00 – 12:00	Late Night Candlelight Meeting	Multipurpose

#### 50/50 Raffle

Support the Scholarship Fund, and also have a chance to win half the money!

WA 2026



# SCHEDULE

Jan 31

## SATURDAY

### MORNING

7:00 – 8:00	<b>Morning Meeting</b>	Multipurpose
	Yoga & Meditation	Library
8:00 – 8:45	<b>Breakfast</b>	Center Dining
9:00 – 10:15	Spirituality Workshop	Vista Community
10:30 – Noon	<b>WORKSHOPS</b>	

1

<b>THE TIES THAT BIND</b> DANIEL S.	Mountainside
<b>BUILDING BETTER HOBBIES AND HABITS</b> SHANNON S.	Center Dining
<b>CONTINUING TO SEEK</b> BLAKE W.	Multipurpose

### AFTERNOON

12:00 – 1:00	<b>Lunch</b>	Center Dining
1:00 – 1:45	Quiet Hour	
	Nature Walk	Center Dining
2:00 – 3:30 pm	<b>WORKSHOPS</b>	

2

<b>BEING THOROUGHLY CONVINCED</b> PHIL B	Multipurpose
<b>CREDIT TRIVIA</b> Brett P	Vista Community
<b>UNTANGLING CODEPENDENCY: RECLAIMING SELF</b> ERIC R	Mountainside



## SCHEDULE

Jan 31

# SATURDAY

## AFTERNOON

**3:30** – 3:45 Break / Stretch

**3:45** – 5:15 **WORKSHOPS**

3	<b>FINDING YOUR HIGHER POWER</b>	Vista Community
	GREGORY L	
	<b>HOME GROUP SERVICE</b>	Multipurpose
	JESS J	
	<b>GRIEF IN RECOVERY</b>	Mountainside
	KAUSHAL V	

**5:15** – 6:00 Break / Stretch

## EVENING

<b>6:00</b> – 7:00	<b>Dinner</b>	Center Dining
<b>7:00</b> – 7:30	Silent Auction Perusing	Lakeside
<b>7:30</b> – 8:00	<b>Sobriety Countdown</b>	Vista Community
<b>8:00</b> – 9:00	<b>Speaker Meeting</b> Paul O.	Vista Community

## NIGHT

9:30	<i>Silent Auction &amp; Raffle Prizes Ends</i>	Lakeside
<b>10:00</b> – 11:00	Bonfire & S'mores	Fire Pit
<b>11:00</b> – 12:00	Late Night Candlelight Mtg.	Multipurpose

WA 2026

# Winter Awakening



**Order Merch**



Visit the Bonfire Store. Support the Scholarship Fund

# You Belong!

## ***Anonymity & Social Media***

Be mindful of photos you take. *Get permission from **all** individuals in a photo before sharing publicly on social media.* Also check out our private Facebook Group: "Winter Awakening 2026"



## SCHEDULE

Feb 1

# SUNDAY



### MORNING

<b>7:00 – 8:00</b>	<b>Morning Meeting</b>	Multipurpose
	Yoga & Meditation	Library
<b>8:00 – 8:45</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	Center Dining
<b>9:00 – 9:45</b>	Pack-up	
<b>10:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Gratitude Meeting</b>	Vista Community

### AFTERNOON

<b>12:00 – 1:00</b>	<b>Lunch/Clean up</b>	Center Dining
<b>1:00 – 2:00</b>	Depart	

# Winter Awakening

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING  
WA 2026

WA 2026

# WORKSHOPS

## The Ties That Bind

**Sat 10:30am | Daniel S**

Do you find yourself questioning in the rooms of recovery “What could I possibly have in common with these people?” Do you tell yourself “My problems are much bigger and to unique for anyone to relate?” Do you struggle with authentic connection and empathy? If you answered YES to any of these questions – this is the workshop for you! Through group and one on one interaction - we'll explore just how much we have in common, how to show empathy without saying a word, and truly discover The Ties That Bind.

## Building Better Hobbies & Habits in Recovery

**Sat 10:30am | Shannon S.**

This workshop will be on finding new, healthy hobbies or strengthening existing ones in recovery. I will utilize small LEGO sets provided for each participants in the workshop to demonstrate how following steps—in both hobbies and the Big Book—can result in building something of value.

## Continuing to Seek

**Sat 10:30am | Blake W.**

Focuses on various paths an addict/alcoholic might take in developing their spiritual practice and deepening (or uncovering, or even making peace with) their connection to a higher power.

## Credit Trivia Game

**Sat 2:00pm | Brett P.**

This workshop will be on finding new, healthy hobbies or strengthening existing ones in recovery. I will utilize small LEGO sets provided for each participants in the workshop to demonstrate how following steps—in both hobbies and the Big Book—can result in building something of value.

## Untangling Codependency: Reclaiming Self

**Sat 2:00pm | Eric R.**

To help participants recognize codependent behaviors, understand their emotional roots, and begin reclaiming a healthy sense of self through awareness, boundaries, and self-compassion



## WORKSHOPS

### Letting Go of "God"

**Sat 3:45pm | Gregory L.**

*Moving Beyond Limiting Beliefs  
to Connect With a Power  
Greater Than Ourselves*

We know that in order to build meaningful recovery we must be willing to trust in a higher power. But what do we do with notions of "God" that may leave us feeling less-than, unworthy, or altogether "wrong" for being who we are? Through stream of consciousness writing, meditation, and open, honest discussion, we'll create a safe space for sharing feelings and fears around the concept of God, challenge ourselves to let go of ideas that don't serve us on our recovery journey, and find strength to connect with a truly loving, accepting higher power of our own understanding.

### Being Thoroughly Convinced

**Sat 2:00pm | Phil B**

What does God (higher power/universal spirit) being everything mean to you?

### Grief in Recovery

**Sat 3:45pm | Kaushal V.**

In this workshop, we will share how we have used the tools of sobriety to walk through grief rather than run from it. Together, we'll talk about the challenges that come when we don't face our pain and how recovery can help us heal with honesty and hope.

## Winter Awakening

### Home Group Service

**Sat 3:45pm | Jess S.**

This workshop will focus on the service aspect of the triangle - specifically, home group service. What is a home group? How do I become a member? What is a service commitment? All of these questions and more will be answered in this workshop by playing a jeopardy like game utilizing a pamphlet published by Alcoholics Anonymous

