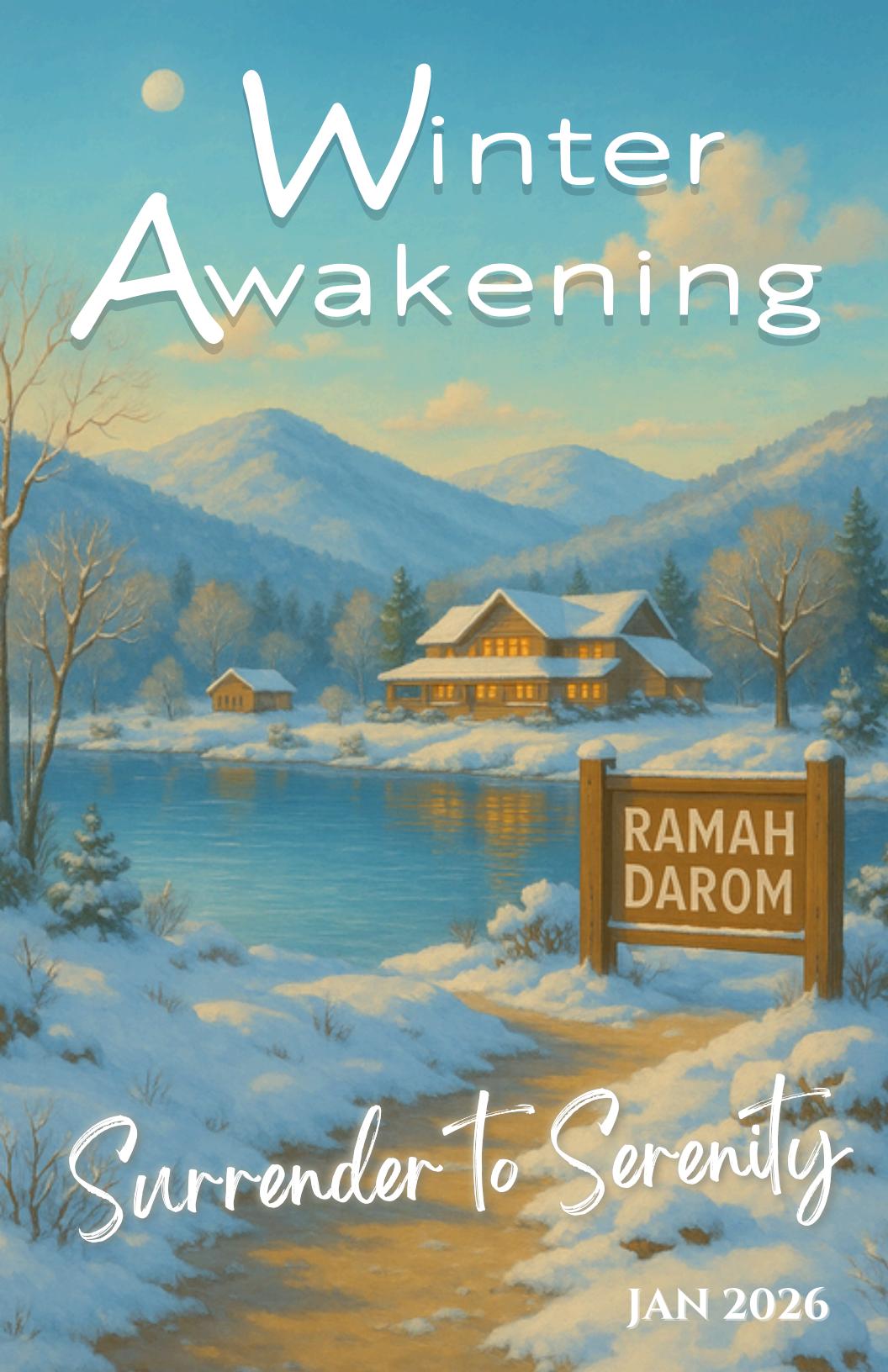


Winter Awakening

A winter landscape painting. In the foreground, a wooden signpost stands on a snow-covered path, with the words "RAMAH DAROM" written on it. The path leads towards a lake. On the opposite bank of the lake, there is a large, cozy wooden cabin with snow on its roof and some lights on inside. Smaller buildings are visible in the background. The background features majestic, snow-capped mountains under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds and a bright sun.

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
A
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.



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

Winter Awakening 2026 Committee

Amed O.

Finger

Michael L.

Cedric G-P.

Jason D.

Scott M.

Chris G.

Jess J.

Sean R.

Daniel S.

Jen K.

Darrius W.

Kaushal V.

WA 2026

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	Registration	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	Welcome Meeting	Mountainside
5:30 – 6:15	Intention Meeting	Mountainside
6:15 – 6:30	First Year Orientation	Mountainside
6:30 – 7:15	Dinner	Center Dining
7:30 – 7:45	Service Orientation	Mountainside

NIGHT FRIDAY

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

1 | **THE TIES THAT BIND** DANIEL S.

Mountainside

BUILDING BETTER HOBBIES AND HABITS SHANNON S.

Center Dining

CONTINUING TO SEEK BLAKE W.

Multipurpose

AFTERNOON

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

2 | **BEING THOROUGHLY CONVINCED** PHIL B

Multipurpose

CREDIT TRIVIA Brett P

Vista Community

UNTANGLING CODEPENDENCY: RECLAIMING SELF ERIC R

Mountainside

SCHEDULE

Jan 31

SATURDAY

AFTERNOON

3:30 – 3:45 Break / Stretch

3:45 – 5:15 **WORKSHOPS**

FINDING YOUR HIGHER POWER

GREGORY L

Vista Community

HOME GROUP SERVICE

JESS J

Multipurpose

GRIEF IN RECOVERY

KAUSHAL V

Mountainside

5:15 – 6:00 Break / Stretch

EVENING

6:00 – 7:00 **Dinner** Center Dining

7:00 – 7:30 Silent Auction Perusing Lakeside

7:30 – 8:00 **Sobriety Countdown** Vista Community

8:00 – 9:00 **Speaker Meeting** Paul O. Vista Community

NIGHT

9:30 *Silent Auction & Raffle
Prizes Ends* Lakeside

10:00 – 11:00 Bonfire & S'mores Fire Pit

11:00 – 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

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

AFTERNOON

12:00 – 1:00	Lunch/Clean up	Center Dining
1:00 – 2:00	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.

A trivia game teaching people how to manage and repair their credit from Poor to Excellent.

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

MAP



ACCOMMODATION
MEETING SPACES
RECREATION

WA 2026