

MEDIA ALERT

Calendar Event: Gay/Lesbian Jewish Retreat June 4-6

What: Nehirim East brings together over one hundred GLBT Jews from around the country for a weekend of community and spirituality. <http://www.nehirim.org/east>

Who: Presenters include Huffington Post columnist, **Jay Michaelson**, Founder of the Los Angeles Jewish Feminist Center, Rabbi **Sue Levi Elwell**, and ordained Orthodox out rabbi, **Aaron Katz**.

Jay Michaelson, Nehirim founder and executive director was recently named to the “Forward 50” list of the 50 most influential Jews in America. Michaelson is a writer, scholar, and activist whose work addresses the intersections of Judaism, sexuality, spirituality, and law. He is the author of *Everything is God: The Radical Path of Nondual Judaism* (Shambhala, 2009). Michaelson is **available for interviews** regarding Judaism, sexuality, spirituality, and law.

Where: Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, Falls Village, CT

When: Friday, June 4, 2:00pm – Sunday, June 6, 2:00pm

Cost: \$225-500; Child \$50; \$100 Early Bird Discount before May 5; [Financial aid](#) is available

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Press Release as follows...



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**You Can Come Home Again: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Jews
Celebrate a Spectrum of Loves & Identities at the Sixth Annual Nehirim East
Retreat on June 4-6 in Falls Village, Connecticut**

“We see being queer and Jewish as a blessing,” says Nehirim founder Jay Michaelson

(New York), (NY), (April 20, 2010) -- Nehirim, a national organization that runs Jewish cultural and spiritual retreats for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Jews, partners, and allies, will host over one hundred people at its sixth annual “Nehirim East Retreat,” June 4-6, 2010.

Nehirim’s flagship retreat offers a unique weekend of spirituality and community: dynamic spiritual and intellectual workshops, inspiring prayer services and a pluralistic community -- Orthodox to atheist, teens to 70s, with non-Jewish partners welcome -- and plenty of time to connect and meet new people.

This year’s retreat will be directed by Dr. Zvi Bellin, who was raised an Orthodox Jew and now holds a Ph.D. in Pastoral Counseling. Presenters include Nehirim’s Jay Michaelson, named to the “Forward 50” list of the fifty most influential Jews in America, Founder of the Los Angeles Jewish Feminist Center Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, and out gay Rabbi Aaron Katz who was ordained and worked for many years in the Orthodox community.

According to Michaelson, “Nehirim is a place to erase those false divisions between spirituality and sexuality, gayness and God. We see being queer and Jewish as a blessing, not a predicament.”

The weekend retreat, now in its sixth year, features an array of workshops, religious services, and social activities.

Founded in 2003, Nehirim is a pluralistic, independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and is supported by the Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston, and the Jewish Community Foundation of San Francisco, as well as a network of individual supporters. For more information, please visit our website www.nehirim.org.

For questions or excerpt and interview requests, please contact:

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