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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nehirim Hires Rabbi Steven Greenberg as Director of Orthodox Programs
Openly gay Orthodox rabbi seeks to promote dialogue, understanding

(New York, NY, September 1, 2010). Nehirim, the leading national provider of community programming for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) Jews, today announced that it has hired Rabbi Steven Greenberg as Director of Orthodox Programs.

Rabbi Greenberg is widely known as the first openly gay Orthodox rabbi. He is the author of *Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality and the Jewish Tradition*, winner of the Koret Book Award in Jewish Thought and regarded as the leading scholarly work on homosexuality and Judaism. Greenberg was featured in the film *Trembling Before G-d* and has appeared before hundreds of congregations and communities around the world in conjunction with the film.

Said Greenberg, "Expanding Nehirim's programming for Orthodox and traditional Jews is a wonderful opportunity. I look forward to partnering with Orthodox gay organizations and reaching out to our allies in the Orthodox community."

Jay Michaelson, Executive Director of Nehirim, said that "Rabbi Greenberg is a hero to thousands of GLBT Jews around the world. We are honored to have him join our team."

Greenberg identified his top priority as creating dialogue and understanding within the Orthodox world. Noting that over 90 Orthodox rabbis recently signed a statement supporting greater sensitivity to the pastoral needs of gays and lesbians, Greenberg said that "this work is about people, not ideology. We want to create a safe space to be gay and Orthodox, and to create dialogue within Orthodox communities regarding the needs of their gay and lesbian members."

Nehirim ("Lights") builds community for GLBT Jews, partners, and allies. Nehirim's retreats and other programs celebrate GLBT Jewish culture and

spirituality, and empower GLBT Jews to become agents of change in their communities. Greenberg's hiring was supported by a grant from the Arcus Foundation's Religion and Values program to support greater dialogue and understanding of LGBT people within Orthodox Judaism.

Nehirim is a nondenominational, independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and is supported by The Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, The Arcus Foundation, The Dorot Foundation, the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, The Rose Foundation, The Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston, and The Jewish Community Foundation of San Francisco, as well as individual supporters.

For questions or excerpt and interview requests, please contact:

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