

MEDIA ALERT

Calendar Event: Jewish Lesbian Retreat March 12-14

What: The Second Annual Nehirim Women's Retreat is a weekend of community and spirituality for self-identified lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Jewish women and their families. <http://www.nehirim.org/women>

Who: Presenters include **Rabbi Jill Hammer**, the Director of Spiritual Education at the Academy for Jewish Religion; **Professor Joy Ladin**, Professor of English at Stern College for Women – and Yeshiva University's first openly transgendered employee; **Rabbi Myriam Klotz**, Director of Yoga and Embodied Practices at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality.

Where: Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center

116 Johnson Road, Falls Village, CT 06031

When: Friday, March 12, 2:00pm – Sunday, March 14, 2:30pm

Cost: \$225-475, [Financial aid](#) is available

Child: \$100 includes a full children's program. Children 2 and under are free.

Media Contact: Marlene Rachelle 917.968.4595 marlene@nehirim.org

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Press Release as follows...



MEDIA CONTACT:

Marlene Rachelle, Nehirim: GLBT Jewish Culture & Spirituality
(917) 968-4595, marlene@nehirim.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Second Annual Women's Retreat on March 12-14 in Falls Village, Connecticut Creating Community for Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Women

(New York), (NY), (Feb 12, 2010) -- Nehirim, a national organization that builds community for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Jews, partners, and allies, will host over 100 Jewish women and their families at its second annual "Women's Retreat," March 12-14, 2010.

Presenters and topics include Rabbi Jill Hammer, co-founder of Kohenet Hebrew Priestess Institute, a training program in women's spiritual leadership and author of *Sisters at Sinai: New Tales of Biblical Women* (Jewish Publication Society, 2001); Rabbi Myriam Klotz, Director of Yoga and Embodied Practices at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality; and Joy Ladin, Professor of English at Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University – and Yeshiva University's (and the Orthodox Jewish world's) first openly transgendered employee.

Co-directed by Chani Getter (raised a Hasidic Jew and recently profiled in the *Forward* newspaper) and Becky Emet, the retreats' workshop titles include "Trans Jew 101," "Torah & Body Wisdom," and "Looking for a Nice (or Not Nice) Jewish Girl." The weekend will consist of traditional and innovative Sabbath prayers, as well as meditation, text study, Jewish culture and children's programs such as a children's parsha play and Sabbath services.

Retreat Co-Director Emet said, "After the success of last year's Women's Retreat, we look forward to another wonderful weekend. Our participants respond to this sort of utopian community where everyone is warmly welcomed without judgment. Plus, it's a great way to meet new people!"

Nehirim Assistant Director, Sasha T. Goldberg, also teaching at the retreat, said, "The organization is made up of a young, old, kosher, treyf eating, secular, religious, talented, culturally diverse, inspired bunch. We look at being Jewish and GLBT as a blessing."

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 www.nehirim.org.

For questions or excerpt and interview requests, please contact:
Marlene Rachelle, Communications Manager

(917) 968-4595

marlene@nehirim.org

www.nehirim.org