



## **"Queer Shabbaton" Puts New Spin on Old Tradition: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Jews Come Together for Weekend of Culture, Spirituality and Community**

*Unique program features Rabbi Jacob Staub, Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad; takes place October 31st-November 2nd, 2008*

New York, NY, August 12th, 2008. Nehirim, a national organization that provides religious and cultural Jewish programming for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) Jews, partners, and allies, will host over 120 GLBT Jews for its second "Queer Shabbaton," a weekend of queer Jewish culture, spirituality and community, to be held in New York on October 31-November 2, 2008.

Nehirim's assistant director and co-director of the Shabbaton, Sasha T. Goldberg, says that the Queer Shabbaton, now in its second year, is "about creating our own inclusive, innovative, Judaism, full of queer sensibility, GLBT culture, and Jewish heart ."

Added Goldberg, "For so many of us, Nehirim is the Judaism that we have been waiting for, praying for, and hoping for. Finally, we are able to celebrate G-d and our biggest Jewish, queer, GLBT selves. It's good to finally have it all in one place."

This year, the Queer Shabbaton will host Rabbi Jacob Staub, Rabbi Jill Hammer, and Rabbi David Dunn Bauer as well as featured educators Shoshana Jedwab, Daniel Max, Chani Getter and Nehama BenMosche. **This graf is meaningless b/c these people aren't known, it's a list of random words. Pick one or two and explain who they are and what they are teaching. Mention the Nice Jewish Girls. We really do need an outside speaker for the shabbaton. What happens at the shabbaton? Why is it newsworthy? What's the angle for the reporter?**

### **Also mention NUJLS cosponsorship**

Founded in 2003, Nehirim is a pluralistic, independent organization under the fiscal sponsorship of the Jewish Funds for Justice, and supported by the Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and the Walter and Elise Haas Fund.

Said Goldberg, "Nehirim is a diverse gathering in age, gender, sexuality and levels of observance, but the common thread is a commitment to a Judaism that includes us all."

MORE INFORMATION: Sasha T. Goldberg, Assistant Director

[stg@nehirim.org](mailto:stg@nehirim.org), 415-871-7113

[www.nehirim.org](http://www.nehirim.org)

Nehirim: GLBT Jewish Culture and Spirituality ([www.nehirim.org](http://www.nehirim.org)) creates authentic spiritual and cultural community for GLBT Jews, partners, and allies. Nehirim is supported by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, and the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, and is under the fiscal sponsorship of the Jewish Funds for Justice.