

# Awareness And Education

## Jewish Gay Network plans weekend with Rabbi Steven Greenberg.

**T**he Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN) will host an awareness-raising and education weekend featuring Rabbi Steven Greenberg, the world's first openly gay Orthodox rabbi. The events are scheduled from March 5-8.



Rabbi  
Greenberg

Greenberg is director of the diversity project at the Center for Learning and Leadership (CLAL) and author of

*Wrestling with God and Men*, which won the Koret Book Award for Philosophy and Thought. He was ordained as a rabbi at Yeshiva University, New York. He also serves as scholar-in-residence to Keshet, a grassroots organization that works for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in Jewish communities all over the country. Last year, JGN became an affiliated partner of Keshet.

• Thursday, March 5, 7 p.m.: Greenberg will meet with JGN patrons at a private home in Bloomfield Hills with wine and dessert. For patron opportunities, contact JGN, (248) 432-5661.

• Friday, March 6, 3 p.m.: Greenberg will lead a discussion for teens at the JCC's Beverly Prentice Wagner Teen Center. The program, "Gay? Jewish? Orthodox? All of the Above — A Conversation with Rabbi Steven Greenberg," co-sponsored by Temple Israel, BBYO, JGN and the Teen Center. Open to all teens.

• Friday, March 6, 6 p.m.: Shabbat dinner for the Jewish LGBT community at a home in West Bloomfield. Greenberg will lead the meal with songs and words of Torah. Reservations are required. \$18.

• Saturday, March 7, 8 p.m.: Greenberg will lead a discussion following the Michigan premiere of a film by Chaim Album. *V'ahavta — And Thou Shalt Love* depicts the turmoil of a yeshiva student who falls in love with his *havruta* (study partner). After the film will be discussion about the ways faith encounters gayness and the ways gayness can challenge and also deepen faith. This event is located

at and co-sponsored by Affirmations, the community center for LGBT people and their allies (290 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale). Open to the public. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Beverages and dessert included.

• Sunday, March 8, 1:30-7:30 p.m., JCC, West Bloomfield: JGN will host a training institute on the Hineini Education Project curriculum at



Idit Klein

the JCC in West Bloomfield. Trained participants will be able to then facilitate Keshet's Jewish Safe Schools & Supportive Communities training with staff members at local

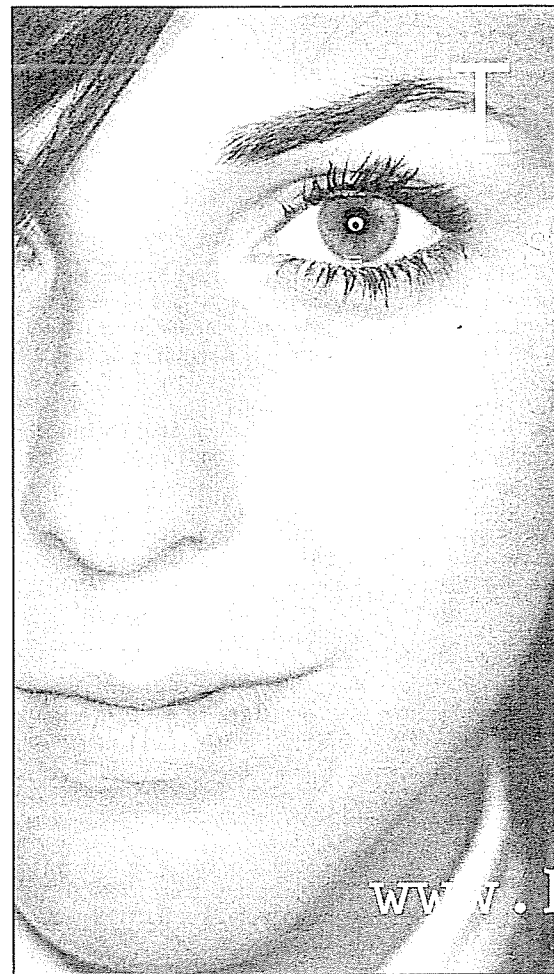
schools and camps. Facilitators are Keshet Executive Director Idit Klein, Greenberg and JGN Program Director Kim Phillips-Knope. Advanced registration required. Training is free. Contact Phillips-Knope for details.

• Sunday, March 8, 6:30 pm: Greenberg will be at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for a speaking event titled "What if God was Fabulous? The Story of a Gay Orthodox Rabbi." The event will be in the Great Lakes Room in the Palmer Commons (100 Washtenaw Ave.). Co-sponsors are Ahava, U-M Student Assembly, U-M Hillel, U-M LGBT Commission, Spectrum Center (U-M Student Affairs Division) and JGN.

Co-chairs for the event are JGN board members Michelle Passon of Commerce Township and Gail Katz of West Bloomfield.

"I believe wholeheartedly that the way to full inclusion of LGBT citizens will come about through persistent education and advocacy by the gay and straight community," said Passon, community activist and former ORT America regional director.

"This important JGN educational weekend will expand the minds of our teens and the Jewish educators that instruct our teens about the inclusion of LGBT individuals in the context of social justice and basic human rights, and I am passionate about this," said Gail Katz, retired Berkley Public Schools teacher and community activist. □



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