



I am thrilled to welcome you to the 13<sup>th</sup> annual NUJLS Conference! Since our founding in 1997 NUJLS has been a place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and intersex (LGBTQQI) Jewish students to feel proud of and affirmed in their identities. Our goal is to create a space where each of you can feel at home in your Judaism as well as in your sexual and gender identities. This amazing community could not exist without the hard work of our Conference Planning Committee and Conference Task Force: Dev Singer, Jay Stanton, Matt Feczko, Jason Goodman, Isaac Alkomber, Brittany Binler, and Jousha Milber, Emily Shaeffer, and others! A special thank you to Penn Hillel and the LGBT Center.

I hope that you will take this weekend to be yourself! NUJLS celebrates all of the different ways that we are LGBTQQI and Jewish, all of our struggles, and all of our joys. This is a rare chance to live free of closets, explore different ways of being (Jewish or LGBTQQI), and to learn from and with your peers.

You are NUJLS. We need you to succeed. This could mean anything from picking up trash you see lying around to joining next year's conference planning committee. You decide. If you feel we have a gap in the programming let us know and don't be afraid to use breaks and other times to create or continue discussions that matter to you.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to introduce myself. I first became involved with NUJLS in 2003, as a conference participant, and I was hooked. NUJLS is the first place I ever saw an LGBTQQI person be Jewish. It was the first place I felt I could be LGBTQQI and Jewish, and the place where I came to understand just how many kinds of Jews there are. After that first conference I became involved with NUJLS committees, joined the board, and helped plan the conference. Two years ago I became our first full time executive director. It is both humbling and daunting to be a professional Queer Jew: I have the power to make change and space for us, and the responsibility to be the true of student needs. I try to balance that with everyday things like crocheting, playing with my cat, cooking earth and people friendly food, reading sci-fi, and watching my partner's favourite TV shows.

I hope you'll take a moment (or more) to introduce yourself to me, and that you'll love NUJLS as much as I do.

In Peace,  
Vanessa "Vinny" Prell

## **NUJLS 2009 Conference Schedule**

### **Friday, April 3rd**

3-5PM Check-In, U Penn LGBT Center

6PM Dinner, Hillel Rotunda

7 PM Services

Separate by denomination

8:30PM Oneg, singing, and sweets, Hillel Rotunda

### **Saturday, April 4th**

Breakfast/snacks U Penn LGBT Center

10AM Services

12:30 Lunch, Hillel Rotunda

1:45PM Session Aleph, Hillel Center

3:15PM Session Bet, Hillel Center

Evening Service break/snacks

5:30PM Session Gimel, Hillel Center

7PM Dinner, Hillel Rotunda

8PM Create Your Own Session

Coming Out Session and more . . .

8:45PM Havdalah

Evening options:

1. Mixer 9:30 - music and dancing
2. Movie at LGBT center

### **Sunday, April 5th**

9AM Session Daled, Hillel Center

10:30AM Session Hay, Hillel Center

12:00PM Lunch and Keynote, Hillel Rotunda

2:30PM Goodbyes

## NUJLS 2009 Conference Workshops

### Session Aleph

Sexual Oppression, Beverly Lerner

Are we sexually oppressed? What do we do about it now? What can we do about it when we turn our eyes toward tikun olam / improving the world around us? Bartky writes about what it means to be sexually oppressed and what some common responses to that are. This workshop will use Bartky as a jumping off point from which we can discuss what kind of responses are healthy and unhealthy for us as individuals, as Jews, and as the other identities we each bring to the table.

Queer 101, Michael Weinberger

If you've ever wondered what all those letters after the GL in GLBTQQIA meant, this is the workshop for you! We will learn what "trans issues" are, who bisexuals fall in love with, and exactly what the difference between heterosexism and homophobia (after we've established what they mean!)

✧ Community Organizing 101, Orly Jacobovits

Ever wondered what community organizing is all about? This session will give you the basics on how to build a community, one person at a time.

LGBTQ Inclusion at Summer Camps, Mara Berde

Jewish summer camps are places that many of us call our home away from home. They are places where campers and staff members are typically free to express their whole selves, free to leave behind the pressures of school and home life and enjoy the community that's created at camp. But is that community one that is truly welcoming to LGBTQ campers and staff members? Come and share your experiences and ideas about how to make camps truly inclusive and welcoming to every individual. (Never been to Jewish summer camp?! That's okay-- come anyway!)

### Session Bet

The Torah of Poetry, The Poetry of Torah, Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell

The prize-winning *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* includes contemporary poetry for every Torah portion. Join us for an exploration of the queer voices from this collection that reflect both ancient and new readings and interpretations of our timeless texts.

## Queering Jewish American Culture, Warren Hoffman

We often think of queer Jewish American culture as a contemporary phenomenon with texts such as *Angels in America*, *Kissing Jessica Stein*, and *Trembling Before G-d*. But were there Jewish American texts before these, before Stonewall, that engaged queer sexuality? In this text-based study session, we'll look at excerpts from Abraham Cahan's 1917 novel *The Rise of David Levinsky* and Philip Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint* (1969) and see how sexuality, gender identity, and Jewishness were constructed in the first 2/3rds of the twentieth century.

## ✧ Queer and Jewish in the Workplace, S. Kahn, Matt K, Jerry Silverman, Ri Turner

There is queer Jewish life beyond college! Come hear from four people of varied professions and backgrounds as they share their experiences of being queer and Jewish in the workplace. Presenters will talk about being 'out', in terms of religion as well as sexual and gender identity.

## LGBT Issues in Healthcare, Yana Sigal

We will be examining why statistically LGBT patients do not receive equal and adequate health care and how you as the patient or the health care provider can make a difference in your own health and that of your patients. Everyone is welcome - whether you will one day be a patient or a health care provider - this workshop will give you the skills to improve health and wellness. Problems specific to LGBT people include lack of research regarding issues of LGBT health, Hep A + B vaccinations for gay men, anal pap smear not covered by insurance, testosterone and estrogen for off label use, reproductive healthcare (infertility for lesbians), high prevalence of heart disease, eating disorders, trans M to F breast cancer, substance abuse, etc. Judaism prioritizes healthcare and wellbeing over other obligations (according to the Shulchan Aruch). I will discuss briefly this priority in Judaism in the beginning of the workshop and then we will talk about the implications of being LGBT in today's health care system.

## Approaching the Orthodox Shtetl: Yeshiva students confronting homosexuality in Orthodox communities, Mordechai Levovitz and Moishie Rabinowitz

Former Orthodox Yeshiva students, who now are active in the gay community, confront orthodoxy: intellectually, religiously, philosophically, and emotionally. Stories, Q/A, and workshop.

## Session Gimel

Liberal Jewish Approaches to Same Sex/Gender Jewish Wedding Ceremonies,  
Rabbi Janice Elster

We will learn about the rituals, liturgy and parts of the ceremony of a "traditional" Jewish wedding and feminist critiques of it. We will then examine the approaches of the Reform, Reconstructionist and Conservative movements to same sex/gender weddings including, legal elements, language, and suggested rituals. We can also discuss what same sex/gender couples might want to consider when thinking about a Jewish wedding and speaking to a rabbi.

Let it all Hang Out: Queering the Media, Lauryn Kronick

Ourchart, Olivia, Jake, Glee, Facebook and Myspace. PlanetOut, Go, 2Be, Revolver, the Advocate, Fab, Curve, Out Mag, Diva, Qr. Some of the names ring a bell? That's because they are staples in the world of queer social networks and the media. We have to feel like a pretty blessed generation in some ways; not only do we have access to tons of queer literature but you can actually turn writing about queer issues into a career. How can you make queer issues more visible on campus? And while you're at it, how about making some extra cash on the side writing about queer issues of the media? There are so many opportunities to have your voice heard both on and off campus. Come discuss what your campus does to promote both queer and queer Jewish issues and discover creative and interesting ways of spreading the love.

Christian Privilege, Caiden R. Marcus

Often times in society we talk about race, class, gender, ability, but often times religion is left out of the mix, yet I'm sure as Jews we have all seen examples of Christian Privilege. Come discuss Christian privilege, learn more about Christian privilege, and how to have a conversation about it in your organization and/or at your school.

Reparative Thearapy: The research, the science, the politics, and the emotional fallout,  
Erez Harrari, Moishie Rabinowitz, and Jayson Littman

Erez Harrari, PhD student at Fordham U. who has published on the topic, will present his article, accompanied by the personal reparative therapy experience accounts of Moishie Rabinowitz and Jayson Littman.

### Survival Tips for Sex and Gender Outlaws, Kate Bornstein

Sometimes, whatever it is that gives you the most joy, pleasure or relief also gets you into the deepest trouble -- especially when you try to explain it to other people. Like when you love someone you're not supposed to love. Or when the way you express yourself makes other people queasy. As harmless as you feel you're being, people may still think you're bad, wrong or immoral. There are far too many people who are in that position in life, and it goes far beyond simply sex and gender. This workshop is me talking with you about doing anything it takes to make your life more worth living. Anything. With the single rule: Don't be mean.

### **Session Daled**

#### Prop 8 and Beyond: Grassroots and Netroots Student Activism, Greg Goldgof

This workshop features Greg's reflections on his experience organizing activism against California Proposition 8 this fall at Stanford University. Topics include: how to create grass-roots student political organization on college campuses; how to engage the campus as a whole; how to attract hundreds of volunteers, organize protests, and connect to external organizations. It will also include discussion on the future of grassroots and netroots LGBT activism nationwide.

#### The Environment, Jewish Social Justice, and You, Ariel Naveh

We as Jews have a unique perspective and an even more unique imperative to help lead the way for environmental advocacy and change. In this session, we'll look at what Tikkun Olam really means, what the Torah has to say about the environment and our role within it (believe me, it has A LOT) to say and how we as the LGBTIQQ community fit into it.

#### Leadership Forum, Chris Bartlett

What's needed and wanted for both a new generation and the existing generations of leaders in LGBT movements? Join a dynamic conversation about the next steps for the LGBT movement in terms of leadership. Where do we see ourselves 10, 20 and 50 years down the line? What will it take to both maintain existing leaders and create new ones? Is there more to being a leader than being an Executive Director? How do we support community leaders who may be overlooked? What lessons does Jewish leadership have for LGBT leadership, and vice versa? Lend your voice to this crucial discussion about the future of our movement.

✧ Creating the Future of NUJLS, Vanessa Prell and Orly Jacobovits

NUJLS is an organization for and by you: the students! So, come to this session to have a say in NUJLS future. Anyone can attend and share their thoughts. Part of this will be open brainstorming about how NUJLS can be most helpful to you, part how you imagine NUJLS (If money were no object, NUJLS would . . .) and part creating connections with people who want to lead NUJLS.

## **Session Hay**

Jonah as a Queer Figure: Finding Examples of and for Ourselves in the Text, Jay Stanton

In this workshop, we will engage in a discussion of Jonah on the fringes of and outside society, a reading of Jonah as a coming out story, and an examination of Jonah as unique among the Prophets. As well, we will discuss several broader questions, such as "Can Biblical Texts be "Queered"?", "What does "Queering" a text mean?", and "What kind of example is Jonah for LGBTQQI persons?"

Jewish Concepts in Bisexuality and Polyamory, LynleyShimat Lys

This workshop will make use of theory, film and literature to explore Jewish expressions of the Poly/Bi spectrum. Texts will range from the Bible to modern film and literary theory. In examining these materials we will explore how these possibilities have been presented in the various texts and how we can use these as a jumping off point for discussing and forming our own ideas and theories about the intersections of Jewishness, Bisexuality and Polyamory.

Queer and Jewish on Campus: Starting and Maintaining Student Groups, Ri Turner

Do you belong to an LGBTQQI/Jewish campus club? Do you want to start one? Are you a leader in one or have you led one in the past? Nothing can quite substitute for the wisdom of others who have been there and done that. Thus, the goal of this workshop is to create space for students to talk to each other about what works, what doesn't work, and what you'd like to see happen on your campus. Another important topic that we'll consider together is the following: What do you do if a Queer/Jewish campus club is just not feasible or practical at your school? What does coalition building look like and how can it be useful to us? How do we work towards Jewish inclusion in Queer clubs, and Queer inclusion in Jewish clubs and Hillels?

Current issues: LGBTQ Law and Policy in Pennsylvania, Amy Laura Cahn

In - This workshop will cover a variety of current legal and policy issues facing LGBTQ Pennsylvanians. In particular, it will address advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ youth in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems in Philadelphia, current litigation regarding gender markers on transit passes, and some emerging complexities surrounding cross-state recognition of marriages/civil unions.

## NUJLS 2009 Conference Workshop Leader Biographies

CHRIS BARTLETT is a gay men's health community organizer from Philadelphia. He directed the SafeGuards Gay Men's Health Project for ten years, and has acted as lead consultant to the LGBT Community Assessment in Philadelphia, a project that gathers data about LGBT communities in order to make recommendations regarding community organizing, health, housing, and economic development. He co-facilitates the Gay Men's Health Leadership Academy, a national meeting of leaders in the field of gay men's health and wellness. Most recently, he has received support from the Arcus Foundation to develop a strategic plan for LGBT leadership development. He's a regular tweeter at <http://www.twitter.com/harveymilk>.

MARA BERDE (pronounced "birdie") is studying Informal and Experiential Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary. She moved to NYC from Spokane, WA in September of 2002 to attend college but still considers herself a true Pacific Northwest girl and loves being outdoors, recycling, ultimate frisbee, and wearing sandals. Her past work experiences include many summers at camp, and a variety of jobs in Jewish educational organizations in NYC and Israel. For more information, visit [maraberde.com](http://maraberde.com).

KATE BORNSTEIN is an author, playwright and performance artist whose work to date has been in service to the radical left wing of sex positivism and gender anarchy. Her work recently earned her an award from the Stonewall Democrats of New York City, and two citations from New York City Council members. Her latest book, *Hello, Cruel World: 101 Alternatives To Suicide For Teens, Freaks, and Other Outlaws*, is a runaway underground best-seller. Other published works include the books *Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women and the Rest of Us* and *My Gender Workbook*. Kate's books are taught in over 120 colleges and universities around the world; and she has performed her work live on college campuses and in theaters and performance spaces across North America, Europe, and Australia.

AMY LAURA CAHN is a third year law student at the University of Pennsylvania Law School currently interning with Equality Advocates Pennsylvania. Prior to law school, Amy Laura worked as a community organizer with the ACLU of Pennsylvania, founded the New Orleans Dyke March and co-founded New York City's Bluestockings Women's Bookstore. While at Penn Law, Amy Laura has worked with Advocates for Environmental Human Rights (New Orleans, LA), Natural Resources Defense Council, and Penn Law's Transnational Legal Clinic, as well as serving as a Arthur Littleton and H. Clayton Louderback Legal Writing Fellow.

RABBI JANICE ELSTER is Jewish Student Life Coordinator at Hillel at the University of Pennsylvania. She was ordained from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 2007 and graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in Jewish studies and women's studies in 2002. She likes to cook and craft and learn and teach about Judaism.

RABBI SUE LEVI ELWELL, PhD. Director of the Pennsylvania Council of the Union for Reform Judaism, has served congregations in California, New Jersey, and Virginia. A Senior Rabbinic Scholar of the Shalom Hartman Institute, Elwell edited *The Open Door*, served as the Voices editor of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*, and is one of the editors of *Lesbian Rabbis: The First Generation*. Elwell and her partner, Nurit Levi Shein, live in Philadelphia are the parents of two adult daughters.

GREG GOLDFOF organized the No On Prop 8 campaign at Stanford University, described by the dean of student life as the largest social movement on campus since the 70s, in Fall 2008. The campaign broke new ground in LGBT campus activism by mobilizing over five hundred students, creating the biggest phone bank in the state, flyering thirty campuses, contacting thousands of voters, protesting with a 350 person sit-in, and staging mock marriage proposals around the SF Bay Area He also co-founded Stanford's queer rights group, the Emma Goldman Society for Queer Liberation, which he hopes will become a leader in grassroots and netroots LGBT activism.

EREZ HARRARI is a PHD Student at Fordham U. who has published on the topic. He is also one of the founders of JQYouth in NYC.

MINDY HIRSCH After 8 years of work in the Hillel world, Mindy Hirsch now serves as the Associate Director of American University Hillel. She is a native of the east coast, but after 4 years in Wisconsin, her heart remains in the Midwest. Her favorite foods include macaroni and cheese, hamantaschen, Dr. Brown's Black Cherry Soda and hamburger's from Burger's Bar in Israel. Mindy recently finished her MFA in Film and Electronic Media at American University's School of Communication. When not on campus you can find her relaxing in her garage (ask her about it), exploring Maryland, or taking in a local rugby match.

WARREN HOFFMAN is the Director of Arts and Cultural Programming for the Gershman Y in Philadelphia. Prior to that, he served as the literary manager and dramaturg for Philadelphia Theatre Company. In New York, Warren was the Associate Artistic Director of Jewish Repertory Theatre in New York where he produced and dramaturged a season of Jewish musicals in concert. Warren was also a writer and reviewer for TalkinBroadway.com where he covered the Off-Broadway and cabaret scene. In addition to working in the theater community, Warren holds a Ph.D. in American Literature from the University of California-Santa Cruz and currently teaches at Temple University. His first book, *The Passing Game: Queering Jewish American Culture*, is forthcoming from Syracuse University Press. Warren is also a playwright and his new play *The Last* was recently named a recipient of the 2008 Foundation for Jewish Culture Theatre Projects Grant and was a finalist for the Dorothy Silver Playwriting Competition. His first play, *New Words*, received a reading at Philadelphia Theatre Workshop and was a finalist for the Christopher Brian Wolk Playwriting Award in New York. Warren is currently writing a book about race and the American musical along with a new translation of Jacob Gordin's Yiddish drama *Mirele Efros*.

ORLY JACOBVITS is a community organizer at Keshet, a queer Jewish organization based in Boston. She graduated from New York University in 2006 with a B.A. in Sociology, after which she came to Keshet as a Jewish Organizing Initiative Fellow and was hired as a regular staff member after the completion of her fellowship year. Orly works with Keshet members to build GLBT Jewish community through cultural, social, and educational programming and organizing for GLBT rights.

S. KAHN has been an out Queer Jew since attending their first NUJLS conference in 2006. They have been out as Queer and Jewish as an educator since their student teaching. S. Kahn currently teaches elementary school computers and middle school math on Long Island and taught high school chemistry in the Boston area previously.

MATT K has worked in the airline industry for about 10 years doing everything from setting the prices, to answering complaint letters, to deciding (and taste-testing) the meals that would be served, to training executives and corporate staff... basically everything but work as a Flight Attendant. He has worked and gone to school in four countries: US, UK, Canada, Switzerland and I've traveled to 78 countries so far. He attended George Washington University for undergrad, received his MBA from Richmond University of London and currently resides in Chicago.

LAURYN KRONICK was on the executive committee of NUJLS 2007-2008. She graduated from Concordia University in Montreal, Canada with a B.A. in Journalism and Sexuality Studies. In February 2009, Lauryn returned from a seven-month human rights media training contract in Zambia. She is also a freelance journalist and writes for the queer press in Canada.

BEVERLY LERNER is a Masters student at the University of Pennsylvania in Religious Education. She graduated from the University of Maryland at College Park in 2008 with a Bachelor's Degree in Jewish Studies. She hails from Marietta, GA, and loves to hike, sing, make music, and dream.

MORDECHAI LEVOVITZ – Former Orthodox Yeshiva students, who now are active in the Gay community, confront orthodoxy, intellectually, religiously, philosophically, and emotionally. Stories, Q/A, and Workshop.

JAYSON LITTMAN spent 5 years in therapy with one of JONAH's sexual reorientation therapists. While in JONAH, Jayson served on its board of directors and helped initiate their mentor/mentee program that matched new joiners to JONAH with men who were far along in their journey of change. Jayson completed multiple experiential weekends designed to mitigate and eventually, free one from homosexual feelings. Jayson has since left JONAH and began He'bro, an organization that promotes the celebration of one's Jewish and Gay identities. Jayson currently works in strategic marketing for a global wealth management organization where he also chairs its LGBT Employee Resource Group.

LYNLEYSHIMAT LYS is an award winning essayist and poet. Lynley has studied Comparative Literature (Hebrew, Russian, English) at UC Berkeley and Film Preservation and Archiving at NYU and hopes to continue Comparative Literature studies in Fall 2009 with a focus on Jerusalem Literature and identity.

CAIDEN R. MARCUS received his bachelor's degree in communications from Michigan State University, where he worked to end social injustices occurring in Michigan, across the nation, and globally. He continued his education at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse to receive his Masters in Student Affairs and Administration and worked in the Campus Climate office working to create a safer climate for all students and employees at UWL. Currently, he works on Western Washington's campus as a resident director and advises Transport a transgender/genderqueer and allies support group. He has presented on Christian Privilege and facilitated discussions in many different student spaces at Western Washington's campus.

ARIEL NAVEH was born and raised on the mean streets of Wantagh, NY in the heart of Long Island. He has been deeply (sometimes too deeply) involved in the Jewish community for as long as he can remember. Ariel graduated from SUNY Binghamton in 2006 with a degree in English/Creative Writing & Judaic Studies. After that he worked as a JCSC Fellow (z"l) at Goucher College in Baltimore, MD where his job consisted primarily of incentivizing Judaism with free food. In July 2009 Ari will be entering Hebrew Union College as a first year rabbinical student in their year-in-Israel program. Currently he is working at Starbucks as a barista/professional mood leveller.

VANESSA "VINNY" PRELL has dedicated one quarter of his life (and counting) to anti-oppression work, and continues these efforts as the Executive Director of the National Union of Jewish Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, and Intersex Students (NUJLS). An old hand at program development and workshop leading, she has conducted workshops on topics as varied as becoming an ally, sex education, religion and abortion, rape culture, and identity politics. Her background in youth empowerment has led him to work with high school and college aged youth. She graduated from UC Santa Barbara with honors, and degrees in Literature and the Study of Racism and is honored to be a member of Bet Mishpachah, Washington DC's egalitarian Synagogue embracing a diversity of sexual and gender identities.

MOISHIE RABINOWITZ – Former Orthodox Yeshiva students, who now are active in the Gay community, confront orthodoxy, intellectually, religiously, philosophically, and emotionally. Stories, Q/A, and Workshop

YANA SIGAL is a senior nursing student at the University of Pennsylvania and founder and executive chairperson of Nurses PUSH (Nurses at Penn Understanding Sexuality in Healthcare). She is also enrolled in the Penn Nursing Masters Program for Adult and Geriatric Health Nurse Practitioners, where she hopes to gain the knowledge and practice of treating patients independently. Most importantly, Yana looks forward to improving the health of LGBT patients by modifying the education for health care providers to include a more comprehensive curriculum discussing LGBT specific care.

JERRY SILVERMAN just retired as a public high school math teacher and sponsor the the gay straight alliance there. Until 5 yrs ago, he was the educational director of a conservative shul in center city Philly and was openly gay. He has degrees in math education as well as bachelor of Hebrew literature and master's in Jewish ed. He has been teaching Hebrew school for over 30 years and is co-founder and first president of Philly's LGBT synagogue, cong Beth Ahavah.

JAY STANTON will graduate in June from the University of Chicago. His hometown is South Bend, Indiana. His first NUJLS conference was at the University of Chicago in 2005, and he has served on the NUJLS board in the past. He is a math nerd studying religion, and wishes to someday become a rabbi.

RI TURNER has been involved with Queer/Jewish student communities since 2004, when ze arrived at Cornell University and joined Ga'avah. Ze attended NUJLS for the first time in February 2005, and served as a NUJLS Executive Board member for 2008. Ze has now graduated from college and works for Nehirim: GLBT Jewish Culture and Spirituality, an organization that runs spiritual retreats and other programming for LGBTQQI Jews.

MICHAEL WEINBERGER is currently the Graduate Assistant Coordinator of Lesbian. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Student Involvement & Advocacy at the University of Maryland. Beyond working with the LGBT Queer Jewish group on campus called 'Hamsa,' Michael's job is to ensure that all LGBT student voices are heard in the greater campus environment through leadership development and advocacy. Michael is also currently working on his Masters in Community Planning at the University of Maryland, building upon the work completed in the Bachelors he received in sociology at The American University. In past research, Michael was given the opportunity to analyze and create a Jewish education program for Israeli LGBT youth to build positive self-esteem through Jewish education at the Jerusalem Open House in Israel. Beyond his academic and professional accomplishments, Michael also voluntarily coordinates the Queer young professional men's group in Washington, D.C. called 'Nice Jewish Boys.'

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