



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**JQ International and Keshet Announce Partnership Bringing Safe Schools Training to the Los Angeles Area**

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California and BOSTON, Massachusetts, May 1, 2009

JQ International today announced a partnership with Keshet to bring Safe School Training programs to the greater Los Angeles area. As a result, Los Angeles area Jewish educational institutions are starting to incorporate Keshet’s Safe Schools Training curriculum, the Shalem Education Project, delivered by JQ International staff and board members. Students in trained schools will have access to all four components of the program: Training and Technical Assistance for Jewish Safe Schools & Supportive Communities, *Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School*, Hineini Curriculum Resource Guide, Capacity Building for GLBTQ Inclusion.

JQ International Executive Director, Asher Gellis, said: “This partnership will be a boost in terms of GLBTQ services offered to our Los Angeles Area Jewish academic and religious institutions, allowing them to create a safe space for GLBTQ dialogue, inclusion and workshops. Furthermore, I believe communication between students, instructors and parents will be enhanced as individuals have a common understanding and language off of which to create positive discussions on the GLBTQ Jewish experience.”

Adat Ari El, a Conservative Synagogue in Valley Village, will initially have access to the programming, while other institutions finalize their agreements to receive training. During the first year, ABC institutions in the Los Angeles area will have access to these services. A broader rollout will follow in Year 2 of the partnership.

Kevin Shapiro, Acting President of JQ International added: “JQ International has a simple mission – to create community space for GLBTQ Jews everywhere. I am delighted that we have created this partnership and look forward to working with Keshet to bring programs to institutions across the Los Angeles area.”

JQ International, with Keshet’s GLBT inclusion and Safe School Training program is custom tailored for the needs of each institution to suit its unique needs. More information may be found at [www.jqinternational.org](http://www.jqinternational.org) and [www.keshetonline.org](http://www.keshetonline.org).

*About JQ International*

JQ International is a membership-based organization dedicated to the advancement of Jewish equality of sexuality and gender identity via social and educational programming, community service and activism. Committed to providing quality programs and services catering to GLBT Jews in their 20’s and 30’s, JQ International creates an atmosphere that fosters understanding and tolerance under the realization that all Jews are a dynamic force in American society and a valued asset in the Jewish communal and spiritual worlds.

Visit JQ International online at [www.JQInternational.org](http://www.JQInternational.org)

JQ International is proudly funded by



*About The Foundation*

Established in 1954, the Jewish Community Foundation is the largest manager of charitable assets and the leader in planned giving solutions for Greater Los Angeles Jewish philanthropists. The Foundation currently manages assets of \$790 million and ranks among the ten largest Los Angeles foundations (based on assets). In 2007, The Foundation and its 1,200-plus donors distributed \$77 million in grants to more than 1,700 organizations with programs that span the range of philanthropic giving.

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