



Welcome to the 11th Annual Eshel National LGBTQ+ Retreat

This year is a year like no other. For many of us, it has thrown into sharp relief what we all know deep down; there is nothing like being together in one physical space. G-d willing, we will be together next year in person, but in the meantime we are seizing on this opportunity to be together virtually and are zooming in speakers from as far away as Israel, the UK and Rwanda.

This weekend, we will hear from some exciting speakers, gather in smaller discussion groups (called "Chaburah Groups"), have an opportunity to learn, play, and continue to build this growing community that started to coalesce 11 years ago at our very first retreat.

We will be having a lot of fun opportunities to connect, make new friendships, and get back in touch with people we have not seen since last year.

With a click of a button we will all be together in the virtual space; this comes with some of the same expectations we have when we are together in the physical space. It also brings with it added concerns about confidentiality. Please read about them in our Confidentiality agreement.

This weekend would not be possible without our devoted staff and volunteers who have been meeting giving thought and attention to every detail. Special thanks to **Francesco DiMaio, Meira Davidowitz, and Leib Kaminsky** for all their effort and hard work. For many of us, this community is something we have all worked hard to build; your participation makes it a reality.

Eshel would like to also thank all of the individuals who contributed financial support; your generosity is so appreciated. Eshel's work in helping individuals and families with an LGBTQ child find a place and keep their home in Orthodoxy would not be possible without you.

BEST WAY TO PARTICIPATE

- i. [Update zoom](#). You will need this to be able to choose some of the breakout rooms
- ii. Use a laptop. You will not see all of the details on an iPad or a phone.

NEED HELP DURING THE RETREAT?

If you are having technical difficulties during the retreat, contact the Eshel Help Desk at #302-354-0705 or email [Francesco](#).

If you need to talk to someone on the team in between sessions, or if you feel "unsafe" during the retreat, reach out to [Shlomo](#) with the subject line: NEED HELP

We look forward to spending this time with you and building this community together.

With gratitude for this community,

Miryam Kabakov, Executive Director