

# professional workshop

## 'Coming Out' Teens: Are We Ready?

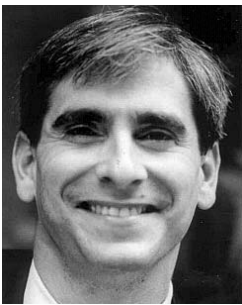
Workshop for Mental Health Professionals, Teen Workers, Clergy and Educators

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2004 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Presenter: Rabbi Steven Greenberg

Gay and Lesbian youth face a daunting array of challenges. They typically suffer from isolation, fear, and enormous anxiety. The burden of carrying this most dangerous secret leads to academic problems, social and familial problems, health risks, and even substance abuse and suicide. Teens dealing with issues of sexual orientation can turn to educators, religious leaders, youth workers or mental health professionals and when they do the responsibilities are enormous. How can an atmosphere of tolerance and safety be engendered in a school? in a youth group or camp? When teens come out, how should professionals respond? Rabbi Steven Greenberg will address these and other questions.

### RABBI STEVEN GREENBERG



is a Senior Teaching Fellow at CLAL -- The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership based in New York City. He received

his B.A. in Philosophy from Yeshiva University and his rabbinical ordination from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. Since 1985 Rabbi Greenberg has served as a senior educator for CLAL, a think tank, leadership training institute and resource centre.

In 1996, Rabbi Greenberg was recognized as a master educator and was awarded a prestigious Jerusalem Fellowship which provided him two years in Jerusalem to study educational policy issues and to research the biblical and rabbinic attitudes towards sexuality. During his stay in Jerusalem, Rabbi Greenberg helped found Jerusalem's first gay and lesbian community centre. It was in Jerusalem that

he also founded a gay men's study group, Moah Gavra through which he met filmmaker/director Sandi Simcha DuBowski and so began their collaboration. After being featured in DuBowski documentary film, *Trembling Before God* in 2001, Greenberg joined the filmmaker to create a worldwide outreach project employing the film as an educational tool. The duo have conducted over 500 post-screening community dialogues in the US, Canada, Israel, UK, Germany, Mexico and South America. Under the direction of Rabbi Greenberg and Tanya Zion, screenings and dialogues were conducted in Israel's religious school system, reaching over 2,000 principals, educators and school counselors and opening up a conversation that had not been previously entertained.

In November, 2003, DuBowski and Greenberg partnered with therapist Naomi Mark to organize the first *Orthodox Mental Health Conference on Homosexuality*. The Conference brought together for the first time Orthodox therapists from all over

North America to openly address the issues faced by gay and lesbian clients and their families.

The culmination of ten years of struggle, research and thought has come to fruition in Rabbi Greenberg's recently finished book entitled: *Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition*, University of Wisconsin Press (February 2004).

LOCATION : L'Chaim Lounge at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver, 950 West 41st Avenue.

COST: \$20 for workshop plus \$12 for 'paper bag dinner' (salmon, assorted salads, beverage) *Dinner is optional but remember to pre-order.*

DEADLINE for registration for workshop and advance dinner orders is Monday, November 15 2004.

TO REGISTER, visit Jewish Community Centre reception or call 604 257 5111. [www.jccgv.com](http://www.jccgv.com)

Presented by the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver  
in association with Jewish Family Service Agency  
as part of The Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival



Twice Blessed:  
The Jewish  
LGBT Project

# literary event

## Can one achieve social change through writing and filmmaking?

An Interview with Joel Bakan and Rabbi Steve Greenberg

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2004 7:00 pm

Interviewer: Jerry Wasserman

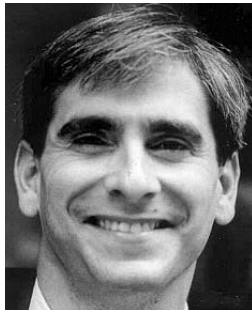
Join Jerry Wasserman as he explores with guest authors, Joel Bakan and Rabbi Steve Greenberg the potential for books and film to stir readers and audiences to social action. The authors will read excerpts from their books and show clips from the films with which they have been associated.

### JOEL BAKAN



is the author of *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power* and co-creator of the film of the same

name. Bakan is professor of law at UBC and an internationally recognized legal scholar. Bakan's previous book, *Just Words: Constitutional Rights and Social Wrongs*, was widely and favourably reviewed. A former Rhodes Scholar, he has law degrees from Oxford, Dalhousie and Harvard Universities. He has won numerous awards for his scholarship and teaching, has worked on landmark legal cases and government policy and frequently serves as a media commentator. Bakan's work examines the social, economic and political dimensions of the law.



**RABBI STEVE GREENBERG** is the author of *Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition*. A well known

educator and presenter on gay issues, Rabbi Greenberg has conducted hundreds of programs for communal lay and professional leaders of Jewish Federations, synagogues and philanthropic institutions in over fifty cities in North America. He was featured in the acclaimed documentary film, *Trembling Before God*, by Sandi Simcha DuBowski. Greenberg came out publicly as the first openly gay Orthodox rabbi in March 1999 and has since become a public advocate for ending the silence in the Orthodox community on the issue of homosexuality in the US and abroad.



**JERRY WASSERMAN** has wrestled with corporations public (UBC, CBC) and private (*Paramount, Disney, Fox*) in

his roles as English professor, theatre critic, and actor. He is editor of *Modern Canadian Plays*, and last summer he trembled before Will Smith in *I, Robot*.

LOCATION: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCC, 950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver

TICKETS: Advance: \$10; At the door: \$12.

For TICKETS visit JCC reception or call 604 257 5111.

For INFORMATION go to [www.jccgv.com](http://www.jccgv.com)

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