



הבית הפתוח בירושלים לגאווה ולסובלנות (ע"צ)
البيت المفتوح في القدس للفخر والتسامح
Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance

JERUSALEM OPEN HOUSE FOR PRIDE AND TOLERANCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2013





OUR MISSION

THE JERUSALEM OPEN HOUSE FOR PRIDE AND TOLERANCE (JOH) IS A GRASSROOTS, ACTIVIST, COMMUNITY CENTER FOR PEOPLE OF ALL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS AND GENDER IDENTITIES IN THE HEART OF JERUSALEM. WHILE REACHING OUT WITH OUR MESSAGE OF EQUALITY AND ACCEPTANCE TO ALL THOSE THAT HOLD JERUSALEM AS A HOLY CITY, OUR MAIN FOCUSES ARE **COMMUNITY BUILDING, DIRECT SERVICES** AND **SOCIAL CHANGE**. WITH A CONSTITUENCY AS DIVERSE AS THE CITY ITSELF, JOH TRANSCENDS NATIONAL, ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS TENSIONS THAT ARE TYPICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH JERUSALEM, TO BUILD AND UNITE A COMMUNITY IN PURSUIT OF THE COMMON GOAL OF PLURALISM, TOLERANCE AND MUTUAL SUPPORT.

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A WORD FROM ELINOR

This is an exciting time for me, as I am celebrating two years as Executive Director of the Open House, and beginning my third year. This is a good opportunity for self-examination, both personal and professional, and a good time to send you an update.

I believe the biggest change in the last two years is the increased allocation of resources towards the community itself. In the last two years, the percentage of staff positions dedicated to the community department gradually grew from 25% to 150%. This has proven itself effective and we now see activities filling up JOH every evening. Actually, the only thing preventing more activities in JOH is, believe it or not, a lack of space!

Our two star projects, the Open Clinic and Bentz (our Teen and Youth project), are thriving. These two projects are operated by a record number of activists, and between them there are now more than 60 volunteers! Thanks to the outstanding dedication of volunteers, both projects have grown marvelously within the past two years. This is the continuation of a trend I have been working to implement following the JOH Board's reevaluation of our vision. I have put a major emphasis on returning to a format of volunteer-oriented work rather than relying upon paid employees. This is not only financially beneficial but also emphasizes our true grassroots nature.

This upcoming year, my main mission in managing these two projects will be expanding to populations that are not usually seen at JOH. We have begun

outreach to more marginalized schools, especially those within socio-economically challenged neighborhoods to expand our activities. It is critical for the growth and health of the organization to continue expanding our activities beyond our comfort-zone to new and challenging heights. In the same vein, the Open Clinic's staff will soon begin providing counseling services through "Atraf Dating," a popular Israeli dating site, bringing our services online for those individuals who are too afraid to seek help in person. This is a major development for the project and has exciting potential to both modernize the initiative and also reach out to many populations that were previously beyond our scope of influence.

The biggest challenge for the organization and for myself over the next year is to ensure that we keep this vital momentum going. We will never have enough money to carry out everything we want to do, and this year, like in the past, we still have financial challenges, but my challenge is to find new resources that will allow

us to continue growing and developing new ideas.

The organization's board has asked the staff and me to brainstorm how we can provide more resources to the ultra-orthodox communities, and I am thrilled to announce the start of a new project. Just today, an ultra-orthodox man made his first visit to the Open House: a sign of the urgency of this new initiative. The biggest question we are asking is what are the needs of ultra-orthodox population from the JOH, and how we can meet those needs. It is an exciting new chapter of our work, and I am inspired by its potential.

The JOH team and I are looking forward to expanding our work to new populations, while strengthening our ongoing activities and the community's volunteer base. It is my personal mission to ensure that 2014 will be even more innovative and impactful than my first two years as Executive Director.

**Sincerely,
Elinor**





DIRECT SERVICES

DUE TO DISCRIMINATION AND SOCIAL STIGMA, MANY BASIC NEEDS OF LGBTQ PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM, SUCH AS HEALTH AND SECURITY, ARE NOT BEING MET THROUGH GOVERNMENTAL BODIES. SHORTLY AFTER WE WERE ESTABLISHED, THE JOH BEGAN TO CREATE AN ARRAY OF SERVICES THAT DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE MOST URGENT OF PROBLEMS FACING THE COMMUNITY AND LENDING SUPPORT TO OUR MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

JOH SERVICES INCLUDE A HIV/AIDS HEALTH CLINIC, A YOUTH SUPPORT PROGRAM AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. ALL SERVICES ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND ARE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO CREATE A WARM AND COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE USE OF THEM. THESE SERVICES ARE UNIQUE IN THE JERUSALEM REGION AND CATER TO A DIVERSE CROSS SECTION OF ISRAELI SOCIETY INCLUDING HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS SUCH AS MSM, LGBTQ YOUTH, THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY, PALESTINIANS, AND MEMBERS OF ORTHODOX COMMUNITIES.



SAFE SPACE FOR YOUTH

“ What most struck me about the program was that we met all kinds of people struggling: Ultra Orthodox Jews, City Hall members, gays and lesbians. I love the fact that we encourage compassion and tolerance towards everyone, not only LGBTQs. ”

Participant in the youth leadership group

Bullying | Suicide prevention

Despite recent changes in attitudes towards LGBTQ youth in the education system, a high number of LGBTQ and questioning youth continue to face homophobic harassment in schools. Many of those who finish school and go on to fulfill their national service, continue to suffer from similar harassment, which only adds to the stresses of serving in an active conflict zone. It is these vulnerable individuals the JOH youth project has been supporting.

We provide a space for youth to meet and forge friendships, discuss daily struggles and support one another after formal school hours. It is here that they are finally able to let their guard down and relax, after a day at school or a week in the army. Through the facilitation of counselors, these groups become a strong source of support for young people grappling with their gender and sexuality, providing assurance that they are not alone with their experiences. For many, it is a lifeline until they are able to become independent.

The JOH youth project includes two weekly groups led by highly trained youth counselors:

- Teenagers aged 15 to 18 - Mid-week for school aged students
- Youth aged 18 to 23 - On Thursdays for soldiers and university students on weekend leave

Supporting Parent Dialogue

It is a common issue for many LGBTQ and questioning youth that they cannot approach their parents with issues regarding gender and sexuality, but still crave comfort and support from an adult source. To address their needs, we have implemented a program called “Horeh BeCafe” or “Parent for Coffee”. This program couples LGBTQ youth with members of Tehila, the Israeli equivalent of PFLAG, so they can meet over coffee and have a chat with a supportive parental figure.

Changing Reality in Schools

Focusing on communities that were traditionally out of reach, JOH has been reaching out to high schools with an offer to run a seminar on LGBTQ youth for teaching and counseling staff. During the last months of 2013, we have organized seminars in 10 high schools, providing information and tools for adults who are responsible for thousands of students on a daily basis. JOH is also working in partnership with “Hoshen” to arrange lectures on the LGBTQ community for high school students in Jerusalem.

Empowering Young Activists

Our Youth Leadership group is making exciting progress as new cadre of community leaders graduate the course every year. Equipped with the knowledge and tools to continue our struggle for equality and justice well into the future, these young people have begun to be role models for many throughout the community. Focusing on issues relevant to their own lives, each group completes a social change project following the completion of the project.



THE OPEN CLINIC

“ Our challenge is to balance the need to run the most professional and comprehensive HIV and STI clinic, with the desire to make people feel like they are not visiting a clinic at all. People come, have a little chat about sex over coffee and cookies, get tested and wait for their results in the sitting room. It is a simple but powerful concept. ”

Tsachi Vaknin-Hasday, the JOH Open Clinic manager

The JOH Open Clinic is the only HIV/AIDS testing center in Jerusalem other than of family physicians. Founded in 2007, the clinic provides the only free, anonymous, rapid-result HIV/AIDS testing service in the country. Jerusalem's conservative culture often deters at-risk populations from receiving HIV/AIDS testing, and the Open Clinic has created unprecedented accessibility to HIV/AIDS testing for the city's residents, whether they identify as LGBTQ or not. The Open Clinic offers a medical "safe space" where clients receive care and counseling from professional staff that are sensitive to their needs and concerns and are free of prejudice. The Open Clinic has shown a remarkable ability to reach at-risk populations, including ultra-orthodox men, new immigrants and Palestinians. The Open Clinic also serves as the JOH's health-related advocacy branch, dedicated to the belief that access to appropriate health care is a fundamental human right.

Anonymous PEP (Post-exposure prophylaxis) treatment

As well as HIV testing, during 2013 the Open Clinic has been given permission by the Ministry of Health to provide anonymous PEP treatment to people who have been exposed to HIV. This is the first time any institution in Israel has been allowed to provide such treatment anonymously and was granted after extensive work of the Open Clinic staff with health officials from the Ministry. This life-altering treatment is especially important for the ultra-orthodox and Palestinian populations in Jerusalem, who were previously required to seek treatment from their GP risking exposure to social stigma, often worse than the virus itself.





■ OPEN COUNSELING

“
For many people, the Open Counseling service is the first time they are given the opportunity to determine their own path. It is simply a place “to be”. wether you are straight, gay, transgender or questioning.
”

*Binyamin Rose,
JOH social worker*

The Open Counseling service offsets the mental distress and anguish often felt throughout our community by providing guidance and a listening ear to anyone who identifies as LGBTQ or those questioning their sexuality. With the social marginalization they face, LGBTQ individuals are also more reluctant to seek psychological services. This is especially a problem in Jerusalem, as few medical or therapeutic professionals in the city receive training on LGBTQ issues, causing therapists to fall short of meeting the needs of the community. In fact, many Orthodox and even secular therapists in Jerusalem continue to believe that homosexuality is a mental illness and therefore refer individuals to “reparative therapy” or “aversion therapy” to stop same-sex attraction.

In order to combat the lack of sufficient counseling for the LGBTQ community in Jerusalem, the Open Counseling service support those in the community who cannot afford counseling or who feel they could benefit from an LGBTQ friendly therapist. We offer twelve free in-house therapy sessions, and often make referrals to outside therapists at significant discounts. Our counselors specialize in the issues facing the Jerusalem LGBTQ community, such as coming out, gender reassignment, queer parenting and sexual trauma. Since members of the LGBTQ community are vulnerable to violence and abuse, our open counseling service is one of the most crucial forms of care that we can offer to the LGBTQ community. Our counselors’ queer-friendly, client centered approach is an essential resource in a city in which many therapists tell their LGBTQ patients that their sexual orientations and gender identities are disorders that can be altered through reparative therapy. For 2014, JOH has budgeted a 25% increase in counseling hours, as part of the service in order to meet a larger demand.



COMMUNITY BUILDING



BEFORE THE JOH WAS FOUNDED IN 1997, FEW EVEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LGBTQ PEOPLE LIVED IN THE CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS HUB OF JERUSALEM AND EVEN FEWER BELIEVED THAT A LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER COULD THRIVE IN THE HEART OF THE CITY. NURTURING JERUSALEM'S LGBTQ COMMUNITY HAS BEEN AT THE CENTER OF OUR WORK SINCE OUR INCEPTION. JOH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES OFTEN FALL ON THE LINE BETWEEN THERAPEUTIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMMING. IN ADDITION TO SOCIAL SERVICES, JOH ALSO FACILITATES SOCIAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. FOR MANY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, IT IS HELPFUL TO BE ABLE TO PARTAKE AND GAIN SUPPORT FROM STRONG SOCIAL NETWORK IN ADDITION TO, OR INSTEAD OF TRADITIONAL SOCIAL SERVICES. TO THIS END, THE JOH OFFERS A LIBRARY, SUPPORT GROUPS, SOCIAL GROUPS, LECTURES, COURSES, EXHIBITS, PICNICS, HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS, AND MUCH MORE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE OFFER A SPACE WHERE MEMBERS OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY MAY CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH ALLIES, REGARDLESS OF RELIGION, ETHNICITY, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION. EVERY DAY, WE ARE OPEN TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO STOP BY, NESTLE INTO ONE OF OUR COUCHES, CHAT, AND HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE. THROUGH OUR HIKING TRIPS, SPORTS ACTIVITIES, MOVIE SCREENING, ETC WE PROVIDE A SAFE SPACE FOR PARTICIPANTS TO ENGAGE WITH THEIR PEERS.

**“IN MARCH, THE JOH
WAS A WARM, DRY
PLACE TO BE WHEN
I DIDN’T HAVE A ROOF
OVER MY HEAD.”**

Daniel, participant in the JOH youth program



GROUPS

Shabentz Teenagers’ Saturday Night
Let it Bi
English Speakers →
Queer Women over 45
Trans Meeting



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Geek Night
Family Day
Lecture on Homosexuality in Jewish
Tradition
Nature Hikes →
Volunteer Picnic
Kabalat Shabbat
Jewish Holidays



GROUPS



ENGLISH SPEAKERS' GROUP

The English Speakers' group is one of the JOH's many community building social activities. It meets biweekly, providing a space for Jerusalem's many bilingual citizens, expatriates, olim (new immigrants to Israel), exchange students and migrant workers. The group is a warm and welcoming space for those far from home.

"In today's society the glorification of perfect bodies through social media and celebrities has driven people to unrealistic expectations... Let's discuss and share our feelings on this issue, and then we will all go together to grab a drink or dinner!" JOH English Speakers' Group invitation



COMMUNITY EVENTS



HIKING TRIP

Israel is a hiker's paradise and Jerusalem is perfectly situated to take advantage of some spectacular trails. Hiking trips are a great way for members of the community to come together through their common love of nature. This year, the JOH community organized several hiking trips, including a hike on one of the most beautiful trails in the Judean desert - Nahal Darga.

"I love hiking, and when I started organizing the JOH hiking trips, I thought it would be a great place to meet like minded LGBTQ people. It turned out that my intuition was right, when I met my future husband of one of these trips." Eitan Schechtman, JOH activist and former board member.





AS FIERCE ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE WITH THE COMMON GOAL OF LGBTQ SAFETY, JUSTICE AND FULFILLMENT, THE JOH HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS A LEADING HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, CONDUCTING RESEARCH, LEADING CAMPAIGNS AND LOBBYING FOR LGBTQ RIGHTS AND PROTECTION IN ISRAELI SOCIETY AT LARGE. OUR WORK DRAWS STRENGTH FROM INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN ISRAEL AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THAT RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JERUSALEM TO ISRAELI DEMOCRACY AND TO WORLD RELIGIONS. IN TURN, JOH OFFERS RESOURCES TO THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY THROUGH SEMINARS, SPEAKING TOURS AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY. WE ARE GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY OUR COMMUNITY'S ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE YEARS IN COUNTERING VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION, BUT UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE TO LIVE OUR LIVES TO THE FULLEST.

MILITARY

“40% of LGBTQ soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces were verbally harassed during their service. 20% experienced sexual harassment.”

According to the 2011 survey “Proud in Uniform: The State of LGBT Soldiers in the IDF”

POLITICS

“Most homosexuals are people who were sexually abused at a very young age.”

Knesset Member Anastasia Michaeli.

HEALTH CARE

“The health ministry changed the protocol (for approving sexual reassignment surgery) following an unpleasant incident where an unsatisfied patient attempted to murder her doctor, following her surgery.”

A false story told by Dr. Haim Kaplan, chair of the sexual reassignment approval committee, to channel 10 news.”

EDUCATION

“80% of LGBTQ youth hear homophobic remarks from their peers on a regular basis and that in 55% of cases, school staff chose to ignore such remarks.”

The 2008 National School Climate Survey: the School Related Experiences of Israeli LGBT Youth.

MEDIA

“You are destined to die alone because you’re a woman in a man’s body”.

Contestant on the Israeli reality show “Big Brother”.

□ Endangering the physical and mental health of LGBTQ people everywhere, homophobia continues to fester in society. We were sadly reminded of the dangers of prejudice when three members of our community were stabbed in the 2005 Jerusalem March for Pride and Tolerance, and again when two members of our community were murdered in a hate crime in Tel Aviv during 2009. The ongoing effort to create **SOCIAL CHANGE** is our response to hate and violence.





◻ CHANGING JEWISH DISCOURSE

“
*We believe that
Judaism is not an
enemy of tolerance,
nor is Judaism
contradictory
to pluralism.
Homophobia is an
illness that infects all
segments of Israeli
society.*
”

*JOH Director Elinor
Sidi in “Standing Up
for Tolerance on Tisha
Be’Av.”
editorial in Jerusalem
Post 7/16/2013*

The JOH is in the heart of Jerusalem, an ancient city central to Judaism, Islam and Christianity. The city is greatly influenced by religious institutions and communities, and many in the JOH community have deep religious commitments. The JOH seeks to carve a space where religion and sexuality may exist in harmony. We are committed to religious pluralism as well as the inclusion of religious and nonreligious individuals. In that spirit, the JOH is often home to religious events such as Kabbalat Shabbat services, Rosh Hashanah dinners, Christmas celebrations and more. We offer opportunities to discuss and navigate the religious LGBTQ identity, and defend the compatibility of religion and LGBTQ identity in the public sphere. The JOH strives to be a resource for the global Jewish community, and in that spirit we presented our particular model of community building. We are proud to help build LGBTQ-inclusive spaces throughout the Jewish world.





REPLACING HARM

The Struggle for the Regulation of Jewish Reparative Therapies

Reparative therapy is a pseudoscientific method that seeks to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBTQ individuals. The American Psychiatric Association and many other leading health organizations have condemned this process, but it remains prevalent in Israel and among the rightwing Jewish communities abroad. It is widely held that this practice is largely harmful to the individual in question causing self-hatred, loneliness and depression. It furthermore delegitimizes homosexuality as a characteristic that needs to be changed.

The JOH provides mental health care and legal counsel to those harmed by their experiences while undergoing conversion therapies. In addition, the JOH is leading a national coalition of organizations to confront this practice. In Israel, conversion therapy is entangled in religious discourse and we are dedicated to educating religious officials about the harm that comes from these practices. We work with orthodox LGBTQ organizations including Havruta, Hod, and Bat Kol to collect the testimonies of those who have gone through conversion therapy. Our actions against conversion therapy in the Israel are a testament to the significance of Jewish pluralism. In the face of an organization called "Jews Offering New Alternatives to Homosexuality" (JONAH), which suggests that same sex attractions can be changed and transgender identities are disorders, we believe that Judaism is rich enough to allow for a multitude of gender identities and sexual orientations.

2013 was the first year of the project, which was mainly dedicated to initial research, which included extensive legal research lead by the Hebrew University legal clinic on human rights, interviews of individuals who have gone through reparative therapy and field research. During this initial investment of resources, the JOH had been able to identify the individuals and organizations that practice reparative therapy and their methods, in Israel.

Even though the project is currently suffering a severe lack of financing, JOH is very much committed to this project and has already invested 70,000 NIS in its initial stage through self-financing. Budget constraints will not allow us to continue in this method during 2014, and we are currently seeking new supporters to allow us to initiate the lobbying and advocacy stages of the project.



Political debate hosted by JOH

POLITICIANS ADDRESSING LGBTQ ISSUES

“
At the end of the day the Knesset is about legislation, and not talking... I really hope we'll be able to work with them, she said, noting all of the panel participants are expected to become MKs.
”

Quote from Jerusalem Post by Elinor Sidi.

Before the last round of elections, the Jerusalem Open House invited Knesset candidates for a lively debate focusing on issues important to the LGBTQ community. Party representatives included Shlomo Molla (Hatnua Party), Dov Henin (Hadash), Adi Kol (Yesh Atid), Nino Abesadze (Labor), Michal Roisin (Meretz), and Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin (Likud). Rivlin's decision to attend was especially significant given his affiliation with Israel's conservative party. There were 150 people in attendance at the event, which focused on many issues facing our community.

STUDENT RIGHTS BILL

In June, the Knesset introduced a crucial amendment to the existing Student Rights Act that would ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the education system. The Jerusalem Open House is promoting this bill vigorously through editorial opinion pieces, lobbying, and testimony before the Knesset. When government representatives from the Knesset's Ministerial Committee for Legislation wanted to postpone consideration of the bill, our Social Change Coordinator Elinor Dori spoke before the Ministerial Committee for Legislation at the Knesset. She urged them not to delay the amendment saying, "This law cannot wait. We are talking about children. They are going to begin their studies in a month." Dori described the stories of discrimination, bullying and abuse that young people have shared at the JOH. The efforts to postpone the amendment were dropped and the amendment made it out of committee. We are dedicated to continue our activism to ensure that students are able to study in a safe and respectful environment.



🟩 COUNTERFEIT CONDOMS

“
These are mainly condoms being sold in the city's convenient stores. The main implication: They may not provide protection against pregnancy and STI's.
”

Yfat Reuven, front page of the Kol Ha'Ir newspaper

We recently launched an effort to combat the proliferation of counterfeit condoms in Israel. Early in 2013, JOH volunteers spread out through Jerusalem in search of substandard condoms and submitted a report to the Ministry of Health. Counterfeit condoms were falsely being sold as Durex in Southern Israel. The oil-based lubrication on these condoms rendered them ineffective, causing a major threat to unknowing consumers. The JOH found false condoms being sold in Jerusalem as well. Most alarmingly, these false condoms were sometimes advertised as being “Durex Extra Safe,” the condom most popular and effective for people living with HIV and AIDS. As a result, those individuals who were taking the extra step to most protect themselves from threat were unknowingly putting themselves and others at risk. The JOH wrote articles in both LGBTQ and mainstream news sources, raising awareness of counterfeit condoms, and providing guides to verifying that a condom is real. The JOH also informed the unit for pharmaceutical crime of the Ministry of Health of two false condom products of which they had previously been unaware.



THE JERUSALEM MARCH FOR PRIDE AND TOLERANCE

On August 1st, 2013, Jerusalem was covered in rainbow flags. They proudly welcomed JOH's 11th annual Jerusalem March for Pride and Tolerance. In past years, rainbow flags were posted hours before Pride, and taken down by the municipality soon after the parade marched across the city. This year, after much pressure and yet another threat of taking the case to court, the Jerusalem municipality granted our request to raise the flags a day before the parade. This was a wonderful achievement for LGBTQ visibility in the public sphere.

Five thousand members of our community, allies, and friends gathered in Independence Park and marched to the Knesset to demand justice, united under the slogan "We Want Change." The crowd protested the lack of legislation enacted to protect the safety and equality of the LGBTQ community.

The women were arrested after brawling with the marchers. An Ultra-Orthodox man hurled a stink bomb at the marchers and he was arrested as well. Despite these incidents, the march was largely hailed a success. JOH management is considering filing a lawsuit against stink bomb throwers next year.

"We in the gay community have had enough of talk and promises," said Elinor Sidi, JOH director.

The Jerusalem March for Pride and Tolerance drew participants from all over the world. This year, we welcomed Russian LGBTQ activist Natalia Tsymbalova to share her experiences under the violently homophobic legislation recently enacted in her country. She shared her experience of peacefully marching in the St. Petersburg Pride while homophobic protesters hurled rocks at her. Tsymbalova traveled to Jerusalem specifically to march in Jerusalem Pride explaining that, "the situation in Jerusalem is closer to Russia than Tel Aviv."

"For so many, Jerusalem is an incredibly holy place. These little glimmers of pride around the city remind us that bigotry cannot destroy Jerusalem's sanctity." Maya Felman, JOH Intern

Despite the progress we have made, opposition still exists. One Ultra-Orthodox woman confronted the marchers in an ape costume and another wore a donkey costume and carried a sign reading "I'm a proud donkey" in an attempt to equate homosexuality with bestiality.



Zehava Galon, Chairperson of Meretz



Yael German, Minister of Health



IN THE MEDIA



FINANCIALS

During this last year, JOH is continuing a 5 years trend of reducing expenses and increasing efficiency. Since the global financial crisis of 2008, JOH has been implementing significant changes to its programming and in the way it is allocating funds. These steps have proved very effective and JOH continues to be a stable and financially healthy organization, despite being effected by the crisis and the general instability in the field of human rights.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Income	\$433,501	\$532,386	\$386,568	\$440,435	\$421,545	\$378,251
Expenses	\$449,642	\$429,735	\$441,023	\$384,084	\$387,332	\$378,251
Total	\$-16,140	\$102,650	\$-54,454	\$56,351	\$34,212	-----

In an effort to increase financial stability, the JOH is working to diversify the sources of incoming currency we rely on. Whilst the USA will continue to be a critical source of support for us, the JOH management is working tirelessly to expand our sources of income to other countries. The main sources of incoming Shekels are generated through donations by community members, by renting out some of our available spaces and through the Jerusalem Municipality. This is an important step to protect the organization from fluctuations in currency values.

	2011	2012	2013	2014
USA	\$301,287	\$355,162	\$336,898	\$257,794
Israel (in USD)	\$78,282	\$80,274	\$79,647	\$87,200
Othr (in USD)	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$7,500
Total Income	\$386,569	\$440,436	\$423,545	\$354,508

BECOME A SUPPORTER



Feel free to contact Tom Canning, the JOH Director of Development with any questions or suggestions you may have. We would love to hear from you.

All services and activities at the Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance are provided with lots of love and are free of charge. We rely on the generosity of our supporters and community to continue fulfilling our mission.

Please make a generous donation today to ensure that we continue our important work to build a vibrant and colorful home for the LGBTQ community in Jerusalem.

The New Israel Fund (NIF) accepts donor-advised gifts to support the Jerusalem Open House. Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Please indicate that your gift is donor-advised to support the Jerusalem Open House, and make your check of \$100 minimum (smaller amounts are permitted for honor or memorial gifts) to the order of the New Israel Fund and mail to:

New Israel Fund
PO Box 96712
Washington DC 20077-7438

Once you mail your gift, please send an e-mail to: development@joh.org.il with your gift's details, so that we know to expect it.

If you are outside of the USA or have any questions, please contact us for more details at: development@joh.org.il

