



JQY
IMPACT
REPORT

2022

WWW.JQY.ORG

JQY supports and empowers LGBTQ youth in the Jewish community, with a special focus on teens and young adults from Orthodox, Chasidic, and Sephardic/Mizrahi homes.



JQY (Jewish Queer Youth) is a nonprofit organization that supports and empowers LGBTQ Jewish youth, with a special focus on teens and young adults from Orthodox, Chasidic, and Sephardic/Mizrahi homes.

We provide crisis intervention, support services, and educational resources, guided by the conviction that access to mental health support should not be contingent upon religious or political beliefs.

JQY honors the Jewish concept and philosophy of [Eilu v'Eilu](#) (both these and those), allowing us to create safe spaces where multiple truths are held and valued; at JQY, youth do not have to choose between conflicting identities: their whole self belongs.

2022 OVERVIEW



DROP-IN CENTER



CLINICAL & CRISIS MANAGEMENT

JQY EXPANSION



JQY APP



JQY ONLINE



JQYU

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMING



YEAR IN ISRAEL



COMMUNITY EVENTS



BOLD ADVOCACY

THE TEAM

2022 OVERVIEW

Even in the best of times, LGBTQ youth from Orthodox backgrounds are extremely vulnerable. While the youth mental health crisis is certainly widespread and deeply impacts those from every corner of the Jewish community, the [community impact study](#) commissioned by UJA-Federation of New York found that LGBTQ young people were of the populations most hard hit mental health-wise in 2021, and we know continue to struggle throughout 2022.



IN 2022, JOQY HAS EXPANDED TO MEET THIS GROWING NEED.

Over the course of a year, JOQY has more than doubled in size and budget, with the addition of a full-time psychologist, director of operations, two program managers, and a digital content manager. We've also hired two new Drop-in Center mental health professionals.

WITH THIS NEW CAPACITY, OUR PROGRAMMING HAS GROWN EXPONENTIALLY:

- We doubled the amount of JOQYers who attend our Drop-in Center weekly
- We now offer two Drop-in Center nights each week; virtual on Tuesdays and in-person on Thursdays in NYC
- We've reached double the amount of queer Jewish college campus communities
- We now offer free one-on-one consultations with our psychologist
- And much, much more!



DROP-IN CENTER



We've reopened and rebranded [The JQY Paul Austin & Dalip Girdhar \(The P. Austin Family Foundation\) Drop-in Center](#) in a brand new Manhattan location. We offer free transportation for teens from around New York. Equipped with a game room, quiet room, private intake/check-in rooms, and kosher pizza, the new Drop-in Center is a one-of-a-kind experience.



PAUL AUSTIN AND DALIP GIRDHAR
THE P. AUSTIN FAMILY FOUNDATION
DROP-IN CENTER

DROP-IN CENTER

The Jewish queer library at the Drop-in Center enables our teens and young adults to access books they might not be able to otherwise. NYC Drop-in participants are able to borrow books from our library. Virtual Drop-in participants can request a book to be discreetly mailed to their home – we ask that they pay it forward to someone else whenever they finish.



New Drop-in Center Tradition: On the first Drop-in of each month, we celebrate the birthdays of all the participants who will have birthdays that month. The monthly birthday celebration includes singing, party decorations, cake, and a gift for each birthday person.



^Birthday tradition at the NYC Drop-in Center



We recently launched an initiative where one can sponsor a drop-in event the way they might sponsor a kiddush.

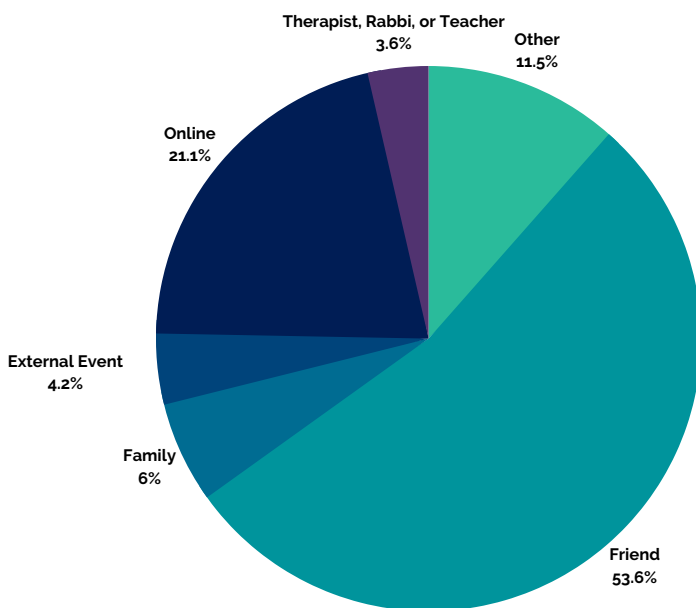
**SPONSOR JQY
DROP-IN [HERE](#)**

DROP-IN EXPANSION



^JQY participants at our first meeting in Chicago

HOW PARTICIPANTS FOUND OUR DROP-IN CENTER THIS YEAR



Since the JQY Virtual Drop-in Center has opened we have seen 170 unique JQYers participate over 70 sessions. Activities have ranged from virtual farm tours to sexual health workshops to virtual chanukah gift exchanges and more!

In 2022, the Virtual Drop-in Center became its own entity with its own night of the week and dedicated virtual Drop-in Center staff.

We started a national expansion planning process and are researching the best next steps to expand the in-person Drop-in Center.

JQY took its first trip to Chicago in April where we hosted a mini Drop-in Center. We met JQYers whom we've known only over Zoom for 2 years! We had an amazing meeting with a room full of youth from various denominations, representing at least 6 different schools. We had a pizza tasting contest and debated the best kosher Chicago pizza while discussing what JQY in Chicago could be and how to best support the community.

CLINICAL & CRISIS WORK

JQY HOPELINE AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

When in need of support, JQYers can always call or text JQY's Hopeline to speak with a social worker.

(551)JQY-HOPE

(551-579-4673)

AVERAGE OF

35

CALL & TEXT
INTERACTIONS PER
MONTH

26.5%

INCREASE IN CRISIS
CALLS AND TEXTS
*COMPARED TO 2021



ONE ON ONE COUNSELING

In 2022, JQY began offering free counseling services with our new full-time psychologist.

CLOSEUP CONVERSATIONS

Guided closed small group discussions over the course of 6-8 weeks on issues relevant to growing up queer in Orthodox families.

42

WEEKLY FIRESIDE
CHAT MEETINGS

FIRESIDE CHATS

Think of it as "office hours meets Zoom & shmooze!" Come with questions for JQY staff (or come with answers!), hear what's coming up, update us on your life, chill with new and old friends, or just pop in and say hey.

JQY APP

**A PLATFORM TO CONNECT
THE GLOBAL JEWISH
QUEER COMMUNITY**

Meet queer Jews from all over the world through our community groups, keep up to date on the Jewish and queer calendars, and get exclusive Jewish queer content.

NACHAS NOMINATOR

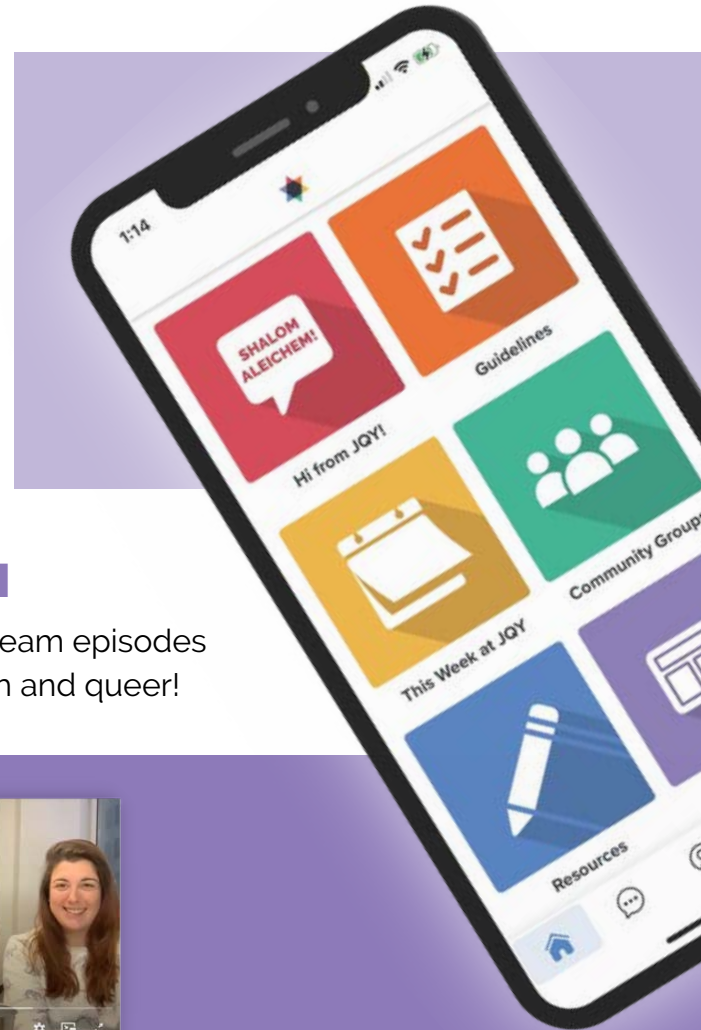
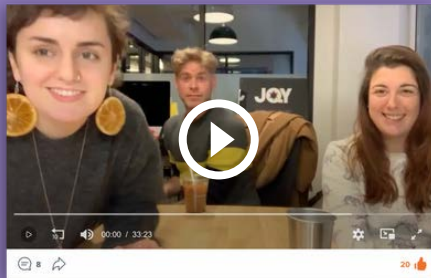
[Nominate](#) your friends, teachers, loved ones, and especially yourself for some queer nachas!

17 EPISODES
IN 2022

JEWISH/QUEERISH

Watch one of our many livestream episodes where we talk all things Jewish and queer!

**EPISODE 2:
BEING CLOSETED
IN JEWISH DAY
SCHOOLS →**



“ THE VIDEOS ON THE APP HAVE GIVEN ME SUPPORT SINCE I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYONE AND REALLY HAS HELPED ME FEEL LESS ALONE... **THE FIRST TIME I WATCHED [A VIDEO] I STARTED CRYING.** I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS ABOUT BUT WATCHING QUEER PEOPLE TALK WITH SO MANY ORTHODOX JEWISH REFERENCES (WHICH I DIDN'T THINK WAS POSSIBLE) MADE ME FEEL AT HOME. ”

- JQY APP USER

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

**A [web version](#) of the app also exists for those who don't have easy access to a smartphone.

JQY ONLINE

**FIND US ON YOUR FEED
ON INSTAGRAM,
TIKTOK, FACEBOOK,
LINKEDIN & MORE**

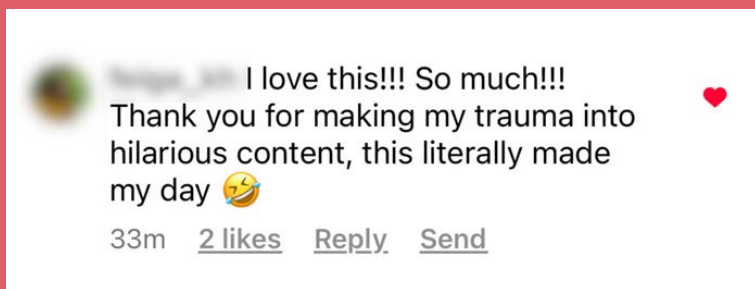
64 new Jewish queer
conversation-sparking short
videos on both our Instagram
Reels and TikTok with over
1 million total views
in 2022 alone

64
VIDEOS

1
MILLION
VIEWS IN 2022



Jewish queer influencers,
celebrities, and artists answer JQY
ice breaker questions for Pride 2022





JQYU

JQYU (JQY UNIVERSITY)

is a cross-campus network for LGBTQ Jewish college students. [JQYU](#) serves as an umbrella community for queer Jewish campus organizations as well as queer Jewish individual students.

GESHER FELLOWSHIP

The Geshher Fellowship is a one-year fellowship for a select group of queer Jewish college leaders. The fellowship empowers students to build bridges across campus. Our current cohort has fellows from Queens College, Yeshiva University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Princeton University, Hunter College, and Bergen Community College



^JQYU participants at a Geshher Fellow-led cooking event with Jake Cohen, Jewish food influencer

SUPPORTING STUDENTS AT YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

In 2022, JQY supported and/or facilitated 15 events for queer students at Yeshiva University with a total of 233 attendees via funding, mentorship, logistical planning, and more. These events ranged from book clubs to self-care package creation and delivery to group processing sessions, and beyond. JQY is the primary funder of the [YU Pride Alliance](#), an unofficial student club at YU for LGBTQ+ students and allies.

I think having events in a space like this is really great...**I felt really comfortable and safe by the end of the night** with the people and environment around me. It's important for a club like this with people who have been through so much to have a place where they can go to feel supported.

-PARTICIPANT AT A JQY EVENT FOR QUEER YU STUDENTS

JQY IN HIGH SCHOOL

Our teens are heroically starting official & unofficial [GSA's](#) (Gender and Sexuality Alliances) at their Yeshiva high schools, and JQY is there to help with funding, resources, guidance, mental health support and advocacy. Currently we support four unofficial GSA's at Orthodox high schools in New York.



QUEER SHMEAR

Queer Shmear is a lively interactive moderated WhatsApp group where high schoolers can meet, support each other, and share their daily adventures, both good and bad.

Have a gn
Was rllly gr8 talking to
everyone today
This all made my day
Don't think I've smiled this
much and this genuinely in a
very long time

10:04pm

^New Queer Shmear participant at the end of their first day in the chat

GAP YEAR IN ISRAEL



JQY in Israel provides a safe and welcoming community, free of judgment and pressure, where gap year students can connect, find friends, and seek support. Resources include a WhatsApp group, restaurant get-togethers, connections to queer-friendly shabbos hosts, and access to JQY mental health professionals.

^JQYers on their seminary and yeshiva gap years together at a JQY sponsored lunch in Jerusalem

JQY PURIM

This year, we celebrated Purim with a Megillah reading alongside our first ever drag performance of the story of Esther. The one of a kind show and reading was followed by a community party and costume contest at House of X.



Ty to JQY for hosting an amazing purim night!!!
Made my frum queer heart very happy 😊



JQY PRIDE

Each year, JQY celebrates our Pride=Nachas event followed by a Jew York Pride brunch and marching in the Parade on Pride Sunday.



JQY SUKKOT

JQY celebrates Sukkot each year by gathering as a community at the JCC Manhattan's rooftop sukkah, overlooking the New York City skyline.



JQY CHANUKAH

We celebrated Chanukah at the LGBTQ Center with our amazing community, music, lighting, and unparalleled fried Chanukah treats.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

JQY ADVOCACY

JQY IS BOLD

On September 16, Yeshiva University chose to suspend all student clubs rather than recognize the Pride Alliance officially. On September 19, JQY offered to sponsor all YU undergraduate clubs while the temporary freeze was in effect.



“ YU is halting all clubs because of its queer students. So JQY will fund all clubs in honor of its queer students. Instead of dangerously pitting students against each other, we want to send a message of unity and fairness. ”

-RACHAEL FRIED, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JQY

The Miami Boys Choir churned out generations of child stars. Where are they now?

Times of Israel, October 3, 2022

Some LGBTQ believers stick with faiths that repudiate them

US News & World Report, December, 6 2022

FILM & TV
Haredi Jews won a legal battle against conversion therapy — a new film shows the fight's not over
'Queer and Frum' explores life after coming out



Forward, November 29, 2022

Jewish Queer Youth praises YU pride ruling as 'victory for human dignity'

The Jerusalem Post, June 17, 2022

Many Jewish high schools lack Pride clubs. Here's where Orthodox LGBT teens in NYC go for community.

Jewish Week, July 1, 2022



Jewish Queer Youth is growing. For closeted Orthodox and Sephardic teens, that 'means the world'

Forward, May 21, 2022

THE JQY TEAM



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

JQY STAFF

RACHAEL FRIED

Executive Director

MARIS KRAUSS

Expansion & College Program Manager

MORDECHAI LEVOVITZ, LMSW

Founder & Clinical Director

DAVID NEWMAN

Director of Operations

JEREMY NOVICH, PsyD

Psychologist

GILA ROMANOFF

Teen & Community Program Manager

BETH WEISS

Digital Content Manager

DROP-IN CENTER SPECIFIC STAFF

TAMI ADELSON, LMSW

Virtual Drop-in Social Worker

TALI BENKOE, LMSW

Drop-in Social Worker

DENAH EMERSON

Designer & Drop-in Admin

DR. SARA GLASS

Clinical Supervisor

DR. DANI ROSENKRANTZ

Virtual Drop-in Psychologist

ARI WEITZ

Teen Outreach Coordinator

JOSH ZIMMERMAN, LCSW

Drop-in Social Worker

THANK YOU to all who have supported JQY throughout this incredible year of growth. We are blessed to have support from foundations and many individuals and alumni who make this work possible. **22% of our 2022 \$1,000,000 budget comes from personal donations under \$5,000, with an average gift of \$129.89.** We invite you to join us and support the continuation of this life-saving work by making a donation at jqy.org/donate. We are forever grateful for your generosity.

JQY IS GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS:

ANONYMOUS FOUNDATION

AVIV FOUNDATION

CHARLES AND LYNN SCHUSTERMAN FAMILY PHILANTHROPIES

CROWN FAMILY PHILANTHROPIES

THE HARRY AND JEANETTE WEINBERG FOUNDATION

THE P. AUSTIN FAMILY FOUNDATION

POLIS-SCHUTZ FAMILY FUND

PROJECT ACCELERATE

UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

UPSTART

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ALAN STADTMAUER

*UJA OBSERVERSHIP PARTICIPANT