

# DARE TO DREAM **A Campaign for the LGBTQ Jewish Future**

Celebrating Idit Klein's 20 Years of Leadership at Keshet



**September 2001:** "How is what you are doing a Jewish issue? And are there really so many of you gay and lesbian Jews?"

Twenty years ago, Idit Klein became the head of Keshet, previously an all-volunteer, Boston-area LGBTQ Jewish organization. Early skeptics didn't understand why Keshet needed to exist and minimized the many ways LGBTQ Jews were excluded from Jewish life. Undeterred, Idit and other early Keshet leaders showed through their words and actions that vibrant Jewish life and meaningful Jewish values demand the full embrace of LGBTQ Jews, our families, and communities.



**Fall 2021:** Taking up the work that began in earlier generations, Idit's unique leadership has built Keshet into a powerful national organization that is making it possible for LGBTQ Jews to thrive in every Jewish community.

Keshet changes and saves lives, making an impact on hundreds of thousands of people every year. Through programs with synagogues, schools, camps, JCCs, and an array of Jewish organizations, we train, support, and mobilize Jews to be allies and leaders for LGBTQ equality and belonging.

To celebrate and honor 20 years of Idit's leadership, Keshet is raising funds to fuel the next chapters of our work. Your gift to *Dare to Dream* will support Keshet to:



**Expand and strengthen our online and in-person youth programs.** The pandemic brought hundreds of new youth into Keshet's programs. We must continue to serve them even as we relaunch and expand our signature in-person programs. *When you contribute to Dare to Dream, you are ensuring these programs are accessible and investing in more robust outreach efforts to reach even more youth, particularly the most vulnerable.*

**Build our presence in cities and states with thriving Jewish communities but anti-LGBTQ political climates.** Hundreds of thousands of LGBTQ Jews live in states where their rights and safety are under threat. Keshet must have the resources to mobilize those communities to fight for LGBTQ rights. *When you contribute to Dare to Dream, you help Keshet show up for thousands of LGBTQ Jews in states like Florida, Texas, and Ohio, creating change and mobilizing where the need is greatest.*



**Seize exciting new opportunities.** When Idit started leading Keshet in 2001, no one could have predicted where we'd be today. Idit always looks to take the next strategic leap. *Your support of Dare to Dream provides the resources for Idit and Keshet to take on new challenges with boldness and a visionary commitment to equality and belonging for us all.*

Learn more and give at [keshetonline.org/daretodream](https://keshetonline.org/daretodream)

## EMPOWERING LGBTQ JEWISH YOUTH

Early on at Keshet, Idit supported organizing efforts for the first Gay-Straight Alliance at a Jewish high school. We told this story in Keshet's 2005 documentary film, *Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School*, which has reached hundreds of thousands of viewers. Idit understood that Jewish leaders, teachers, parents, and youth all needed to start talking about what was right in front of them: that LGBTQ Jews are in every Jewish community and every family. Today, ¼ of all Jewish high schools in the United States have Gender-Sexuality Alliances.

Keshet creates spaces where queer Jewish youth can breathe. Through in-person immersive programs and now online programs, Keshet offers spaces where queer youth can be their full selves, where they feel powerful, beautiful, and fully seen. Idit dreams of a day when our youth no longer must retreat from their home Jewish communities to feel affirmed.

## STANDING UP FOR LGBTQ EQUALITY IN EVERY JEWISH COMMUNITY

Idit believes that LGBTQ equality should be on the social justice agenda of every synagogue and Jewish organization. In 2018, Keshet mobilized Massachusetts Jewish communities in the "Yes on 3" campaign, to fight attempts to repeal trans rights in the state. With Idit's leadership, Keshet engaged over 70% of Massachusetts synagogues and other Jewish institutions. This organizing effort marked the single largest mobilization of any faith or ethnic community for trans rights in American history.

Just as our Jewish communities should stand up for LGBTQ rights, Jews must be proactive about embracing – not just tolerating – LGBTQ Jews in every Jewish community, even where it is most challenging. Idit has prioritized expanding Keshet's presence nationwide in parts of the country where our work is most needed, starting with Florida. Keshet's mission, always, is to reach the day when all LGBTQ Jews will feel at home in their communities.

*Idit Klein has been at the forefront of all this work, leading with chutzpah, vision, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to LGBTQ Jews and the Jewish community.*



Ten years ago, when I was 16, I reached out to Idit at 10pm on a Sunday. It was the night before I would meet with the dean of my school to pitch the idea of a GSA. Late on a Sunday night, Idit helped me focus my arguments and strategize. It was her guidance that helped us start the first GSA at a Modern Orthodox day school. I then attended Keshet's first LGBTQ Youth Shabbaton in 2012. It was the first time I was in a space that was both *Jewish* and *queer*.

Now, on staff at Keshet, I get to lead those same Shabbatonim. Through Idit's vision, leadership, and deep commitment to young people, year after year we host the largest gatherings of LGBTQ Jewish teens in the Western Hemisphere. Because of Idit and Keshet, I carry a deep feeling of unconditional belonging—that the Jewish community is mine and always will be.

—AMRAM ALTZMAN, Associate Director of Youth Programs

We hope you will support *Dare to Dream: A Campaign for the LGBTQ Jewish Future*, which will raise \$250,000 in honor of Idit's bold leadership and support Keshet in taking on the next challenges facing LGBTQ Jews.

Give online at [keshetonline.org/daretodream](https://keshetonline.org/daretodream), or via a DAF designation to Keshet, or a check made out to Keshet and mailed to 284 Amory St, Boston, MA 02130.

Please contact [lenny@keshetonline.org](mailto:lenny@keshetonline.org) to make a stock donation or with any questions.

Send a *mazal tov* or your well wishes to Idit and Keshet, or join the Dare to Dream campaign committee, by emailing [daretodream@keshetonline.org](mailto:daretodream@keshetonline.org).

Learn more and give at [keshetonline.org/daretodream](https://keshetonline.org/daretodream)