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Rabbi Michaelson has been a progressive Jewish educator and leader for over twenty years. A frequent commentator on emerging forms of Jewish identity, he founded three Jewish nonprofits: Zeek, the first Jewish online magazine; Nehirim, a national LGBT Jewish community; and Eshel, an LGBT Orthodox organization.  He has been included on the *Forward 50* list of influential American Jews, and has been a scholar in residence at over 100 synagogues, Hillels, and other institutions.

Jay holds a Ph.D. in Jewish Thought from Hebrew University, a J.D. from Yale, B.A. from Columbia, and nondenominational rabbinic ordination.  He has held teaching positions at Boston University Law School, City College of New York, and Yale University, and lives in Brooklyn.