



REFORM JEWISH VOICE
OF NEW YORK STATE

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM
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September 27, 2011 | 28 Elul 5772

Shana Tova!

Wishing you a sweet and joyful New Year as Reform Jewish Voice embarks on its 10th year

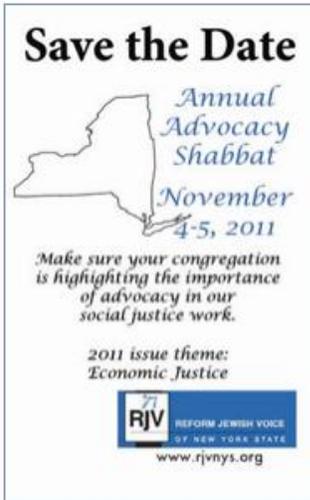


Shana Tova to all and a special welcome to RJV's new staff person, Molly Benoit. The beginning of a new year is a time for hope, renewal and gratitude for all that we have. As the year 5772 unfolds, we are excited to welcome Molly to RJV and all of you to our 10th year serving as a progressive Jewish voice in Albany.

Molly Benoit is a graduate of the University of Florida, where she studied Political Science. Born and raised until she was 12 outside of Albany, NY, she and her family were members of Congregation Beth Emeth; Molly still has family in the Capital area who are active with the congregation. She then moved to Palm City, FL, and attended Temple Beit HaYam in Stuart, FL, for the last nine years where she was actively involved in the synagogue youth group and NFTY.

From all of us, we wish you a very happy and healthy New Year and prosperous and successful 5772!

And Justice for ALL: A Reform Jewish Voice Shabbat



Reform Jewish Voice will partner with synagogues throughout the state during the weekend of November 4-5, 2011, to educate congregants about the pursuit of social justice in New York State.

Join us as we raise economic justice as the issue of the day and focus on how our communities can become successful advocates for a progressive faith agenda in our state's capital.

For more information, please visit the [Economic Justice advocacy page](#) and click on the [resources](#) for relevant text study and sermon templates.

Update on Hydrofracturing in New York State

On September 7, 2011, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation released a revised draft of the [environmental impact statement](#) regarding hydrofracturing in the Marcellus Shale (graphic to the left), which lies deep beneath much of southern and western New York State.

[Reform Jewish Voice](#) believes the hydrofracturing process must be proven safe and there must be a clear evaluation of the long-term environmental concerns and costs to society. Until these conditions are met and concerns about regulatory standards and monitoring protocols are addressed, RJV supports the moratorium on hydrofracturing.

Marcellus shale

This map shows the extent of the Marcellus shale in New York state. The area has the potential for natural gas drilling.



Source: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation The Post-Standard

The latest statement still leaves unresolved issues, including questions about the impact that rapid industrialization will have on local communities and continued threats to New York City and Syracuse's water supplies. The statement outlines the numerous negative potential environmental impacts on groundwater resources, ecosystems protected by the State Endangered Species Law, and air quality. The [public comment period](#) for the revised draft statement and the draft regulations is open until December 12, 2011 (for more information please [read Molly Benoit's latest RACblog post](#)).

Attention Rochester Area Advocates: What to learn more about the impacts of HYDROFRACTURING?

Temple B'rith Kodesh is a host of the upcoming fracking forum that is free and open to the public to discuss the impacts hydrofracking will have on the greater Rochester Area.

Where: Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester NY 14618

When: Sunday, October 16, 2011, 2-4 PM

Panelists:

Anthony Ingraffea, Ph.D., P.E., Engineer, Cornell University
Jannette Barth, Ph.D., Economist, President, J.M. Barth Associates
Roger Downs, Conservation Director, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

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