



REFORM JEWISH VOICE  
OF NEW YORK STATE

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM  
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## [Reform Jewish Voice Launches Marriage Equality Website!](#)

Reform Jewish Voice has launched a multi-year campaign to establish marriage equality in New York State. The home of this campaign, [www.MarriageforAllNY.org](http://www.MarriageforAllNY.org), is a fully-functioning action center where New Yorkers can read position papers, get updates on the latest developments from around the state, and send letters to their legislators in Albany. "Our new site provides our members and like-minded New Yorkers with the tools to take informed action," explained Donald C. Cutler, RJV steering committee member and coordinator of RJV's marriage equality campaign. "Moving forward, we believe this website will become a hub of progressive religious action for marriage equality in our state."

### **RJV Co-Sponsors Marriage Equality Rally at Temple Israel, New Rochelle**



Donald Cutler, Assembly Member Amy Paulin, Steve Cotton and Juliana Schnur



Keynote Speaker, Mayor of Ossining, Bill Hanauer

On Sunday, June 13th, more than 100 people met at Temple Israel in New Rochelle for a Marriage

Equality rally led by Rabbi Scott Weiner and the congregation's Kulanu committee, which offers support for and advocates on behalf of the LGBT community. RJV was represented by Juliana Schnur, Stephan Cotton and Donald Cutler, who was the lead-off speaker. Temple Israel's message was heard across Westchester (especially by the mayors of New Rochelle and Ossining, both speakers) and in Albany by Assembly Member Amy Paulin, a strong supporter of Marriage Equality who was inspired by the turnout to fight harder for this issue.

RJV extends special thanks to Rabbi Weiner and his hard-working and committed Social Action committee for joining us in this civil rights effort.

### ***And Justice for ALL - A Reform Jewish Voice Shabbat***

Reform Jewish Voice will partner with synagogues throughout the state during the weekend of October 22nd-24th, 2010 to educate congregants about the pursuit of social justice New York State. Join us as we raise Marriage Equality as the civil rights issue of the day and focus on how our communities can become successful advocates for a progressive faith agenda in our state's capital.

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## **Call for submissions!**

Are individuals in your congregation engaged in an interesting advocacy-related project? Are they lobbying for immigrants' rights? Starting letter writing campaigns? Marching for reproductive choice? Whatever the issue, we want to hear about it and showcase this valuable work! Starting this summer, RJV will showcase the project(s) of various advocates throughout New York in each newsletter. Please email submissions to Juliana at [info@rjvnys.org](mailto:info@rjvnys.org).

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## **Advocacy Toolkit**

We are pleased to announce the addition of an Advocacy Toolkit to our website! Are you interested in educating your congregants about how to advocate on the pressing social justice issues of our day? [Click here](#) to find a series of resources to help you lead an effective advocacy training seminar in just 7 steps! With flexibility for small and large groups, this toolkit is an essential resource for rabbis and educators looking to influence public policy at the local, state or federal level.

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## **Great Response to Advocacy Day**

Several of the legislators we had hoped to meet personally during Advocacy Day on April 12th were called into

emergency budget sessions, but they were ably represented by their staff members. One of those legislators, Assemblyman Fred Thiele of Suffolk County, took the time to call our member who met with his staff not once but twice to thank us, discuss his positions on our issues and most importantly encourage us to continue our work in bringing to Albany the views of our Reform movement.

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## **Be a CHAI-Powered Lobbyist:** **Successful Skills for Congregational Social Justice Advocacy**

Would you like to be an advocate for change locally or nationally but don't know where to begin? Interested taking your congregation's hands-on social action work to the next level? By listening to this webinar, you'll discover how you can join the great tradition of Jewish social justice advocates from Moses to Heschel. Learn from Barbara Weinstein, Legislative Director of the Religious Action Center and Naomi Abelson, Social Action Specialist for the Union for Reform Judaism, how to help your congregation raise its voice and speak truth to power. The webinar can be found under "Social Action."