



REFORM JEWISH VOICE
OF NEW YORK STATE

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM
633 THIRD AVENUE . NEW YORK, NY 10017
INFO@RJVNYS.ORG . 212.650.4272 . WWW.RJVNYS.ORG

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[RJV Welcomes New Members to the Steering Committee](#)

We are pleased to announce the addition of three new members to the Steering Committee. Linda Sosnowitz is an active member and past president of Brooklyn Heights Synagogue. She is also a new member of the URJ's Commission on Social Action. Cara Fisher, a member of Temple Shaaray Tefila in Manhattan, is a former employee of the Religious Action Center and current conference planner at the URJ. Estelle Winkleman, a rising senior at Hastings High School, is the Social Action Vice President of her NFTY chapter. We are delighted to welcome these talented women to RJV and look forward to benefiting from their added creativity and wisdom.

[Get Out the Vote, New Yorkers!](#)

Midterm elections are around the corner, are you registered to vote? On November 2nd, New Yorkers will head to the polls. Both of New York's U.S. Senate seats are on the ballot, as well as candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, Governor, State Senators, Assembly Members, and local leadership positions. If you're not registered to vote, [click here](#). To participate in the November 2nd election, your registration forms must be **postmarked no later than October 8, 2010**.

Reproductive Health Act Stalled in the Senate

Reform Jewish Voice of New York State has been working for the ratification of the Reproductive Health Act and is disappointed that the bill remains in the Senate Health Committee. RJV Co-Chair, Rabbi Marc Gruber, discussed the failure of this legislation to move with Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D/WF - 35th District), the primary sponsor of the bill. Sen. Stewart-Cousins has been working to secure the necessary votes for passage before moving the bill out of committee. She believes that it will be counter-productive if the bill is defeated by the Senate. Rabbi Gruber noted that this is an important piece of legislation for New York State, and RJV will activate congregations in the districts of undecided or borderline senators to try to secure the votes needed for passage. During the months approaching the elections, do not forget to ask candidates for state office about their positions on issues of concern to RJV.

[Steering Committee Member Addresses Planned Parenthood Benefit](#)

Donna Bascom, a tireless advocate for comprehensive sexuality education and reproductive choice, and a member of the RJV Steering Committee, was recently a featured speaker at the Mid-Hudson Valley Planned Parenthood Benefit hosted by Silda Wall Spitzer. Ms. Bascom's advocacy group One Voice to Save Choice is a faith-based pro-choice organization grounded in religious tradition, which aims to counteract the religious right's anti-abortion position. One Voice strives to be another voice in the debate: a voice that takes its inspiration from God's final admonition to Moses which, in a word, was "Choose." We are pleased to share Donna's presentation with you. [Click here to read her speech, "Health, Liberty and the Pursuit of Choice."](#)

Happy Anniversary, Medicare!

On Friday, July 30, universal health care advocates throughout the country will celebrate the 45th anniversary of the implementation of Medicare. Our tradition teaches us that human life is of infinite value and that the preservation of life supersedes almost all other considerations. Providing health care is not just an obligation for the patient and the doctor, but for society as well. In light of the recent passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act after a grueling fight in Congress, we are especially grateful for Medicare, the country's most successful example of public health care coverage for a wide segment of the population.

[New Resources on Marriage Equality Website](#)

Attention, Advocates! We have just updated our Marriage Equality Campaign website with article, movie and book recommendations for individuals interested in learning more about this important issue. [Visit the website today](#) to find an arsenal of useful materials.

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.

[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 in our newsletter! Please email submissions to Juliana at info@rjvnys.org.