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

September 22, 2010 | 14 Tishrei 5771

Shana Tova!

Wishing you a joyful and just New Year



Additional Resources on Marriage Equality Website

Attention, Advocates! We continue updating our Marriage Equality Campaign website with resources for next month's Advocacy Shabbat. <u>Visit the site</u> to access new sermon templates, talking points and an advocacy packet. You can also find a list of local partner organizations dedicated to fighting for LGBT rights and we urge you to visit their websites as well.

And Justice for ALL - A Reform Jewish Voice Shabbat

Reform Jewish Voice will partner with synagogues throughout the state during the weekend of October 22-24, 2010 to educate congregants about the pursuit of social justice New York State. <u>Join us</u> 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.

Gov. Paterson Signs the Dignity for All Students Act

On Wednesday, September 8, Governor Paterson signed the Dignity for All Students Act into law, which prohibits and combats bullying and discrimination in public schools, including bias harassment based on traits like race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression. It requires teacher training on how to discourage incidents of bias harassment, inclusion of discrimination and harassment awareness in student curricula, and the reporting of bias incidents to the State Education Department. Passage of this bill symbolizes a great step forward in the fight to protect the rights of all New Yorkers regardless of sexual orientation or identity.

Gov. Paterson Signs a Gay-Inclusive Adoption Bill

On Tuesday, September 21, Governor Paterson signed an adoption bill that mends Section 110 of the domestic relations law to allow gay couples to jointly adopt a child, regardless of their marital status. In addition, by replacing current references in the law to husband and wife with the gender neutral term "married couple", this proposal also clarifies that all married couples may adopt a child together. We applied the passage of this bill, which ensures children receive lifelong support, including insurance and benefits, from both of their parents.



Spend the day in Albany lobbying your State Senators & Assembly Members on the most pressing social justice issues of today!

We'll give you the tools and the confidence - all you have to do is show up.

As Advocacy Day approaches, please visit our websites for more information of the property occurrence occ

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, <u>click here</u>. To participate in the November 2nd election, your registration forms must be **postmarked no later than October 8, 2010**.

Steering Committee Members Celebrate Medicare at 45

On Friday, July 30, Steering Committee Members Arleen Urell (far right) and Barbara Zaron (second from right) joined the Capital District Alliance for Universal Healthcare in rallying to support Medicare on its 45th birthday! As advocates for progress, RJV knows the bulk of our work is focused on demanding change. We are delighted that Barbara and Arleen were able to represent New York Reform Jews in celebrating this essential program in our social safety net that has lasted almost half a century.



Social Action Training in Chicago, IL

Join Jewish social justice activists from around the country this November in Chicago, IL at the 2010 URJ North American Forum. Learn from the Movement's social action experts about how to take your social action agenda to the next level. Register here.



URJ North American Forum

Three Exciting Days of Learning and Networking

Hosted by the URJ Central District November 5–7, 2010 • Chicago, IL

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.