



REFORM JEWISH VOICE  
OF NEW YORK STATE

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM  
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## *And Justice for ALL- A Reform Jewish Voice Shabbat*

**"Well-attended" "People were excited"**

Rabbi Jennifer Jaech, of Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, shares her testimony about last weekend's RJV Advocacy Shabbat: "We publicized the 'And Justice for ALL' Advocacy Shabbat in our newsletter and our weekly e-mail communication to the congregation. Our publicity included an announcement of my sermon on Marriage Equality and Jewish views on homosexuality. As the sermon promised to address a controversial topic, the program was well-attended. After the service, I talked with people who were excited about Marriage Equality about my sermon and about the work of Reform Jewish Voice. Several individuals made commitments to advocate on Marriage Equality and we posted the sermon on our website with a link to RJV's [Marriage Equality campaign](#) so others in the community could learn more."

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## **RJV Co-Chairs Pose "Four Questions" for New York's Candidates**

With election day around the corner, RJV co-chairs Rabbi Marc Gruber and Honey Heller pose four vital questions to candidates running in the 2010 elections. From the environment to same-sex marriage, government ethics to the social safety net, [click here](#) to find out what we're asking before we head to the ballot box.

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## **RJV Endorses Anti-Bullying Pledge**

Following our committed advocacy on behalf of the recently passed Dignity for All Students Act, which prohibits and combats bullying and discrimination in public schools and requires teacher training on how to discourage incidents of bias harassment, RJV has joined the Religious Action Center, the Union for Reform Judaism and hundreds of Jewish, Christian and secular organizations in signing onto a pledge to end "homophobic bullying or harassment of any kind in our synagogues, schools, organizations, and communities." Signatories promise to speak out when witnessing anyone being demeaned for his or her actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, and commit themselves to ensuring that each person in their community is treated with dignity and respect. Individuals can [sign up here](#).

## [Reform Jewish Movement Condemns Homophobic Violence](#)

Reform Jewish Voice is outraged by the recent spate of homophobic violence that has plagued our state and our country. Now, more than ever, we are reminded of the urgent need for marriage equality legislation that protects same-sex couples and normalizes and humanizes their commitments and relationships, and we are grateful for the passage of the Dignity For All Students Act, which protects all LGBT students from discrimination. From hate speech to violence, we refuse to sit silently while intolerance threatens to poison our communities and our nation. In response to the tragic anti-gay bullying that resulted in the death of Tyler Clementi and others, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, released a statement.

[Read Rabbi Yoffie's statement here >>](#)

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## **Midterm Elections TOMORROW!**

Don't forget to head to the polls tomorrow, **November 2nd** and place your vote in what promises to be an exciting election. 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. Make your voice count this year and GET OUT THE VOTE!

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## [Celebrate the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's 50th Anniversary!](#)

Celebrate the Religious Action Center's 50th Anniversary with social justice programs, conferences & events that address public policy concerns and train your congregation's social justice leaders to enhance your congregation's, and our Movement's, advocacy work. Learn more at [www.rac.org/50](http://www.rac.org/50).

## [Shabbat Tzedek: 50 Years in Pursuit of Justice with the RAC](#)

**Jan. 14-17, 2011:** Join congregations across North America in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the RAC and the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Transform your congregation's MLK weekend into a special Shabbat Tzedek with our extensive programmatic and liturgical materials—materials will be available starting this week so [check back here!](#)

## **Social Action Briefing: A Conference Call for Congregational Leaders**

Hear Rabbi David Saperstein's post-election analysis and get ideas for events and programs that will enhance your congregation's social justice engagement and action. Learn about the diverse educational and programmatic opportunities available to you and your congregation during the RAC's 50th Anniversary year!

[Thursday, November 4, 2010, 1:00pm ET via webinar](#)  
[Monday, November 8, 2010, 9:00pm ET via conference call](#)

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## *Save the Date!*

Reform Jewish Voice of New York State & Interfaith Impact of New York State invite you to join them for a

**Joint Advocacy Day on May 16, 2011**

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:



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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 in our newsletter! Please email submissions to Juliana at [rjvnys@urj.org](mailto:rjvnys@urj.org).

You are receiving this email because jschnur@rac.org is registered in our system for Reform Jewish Voice of New York State updates. To stop these, please [unsubscribe](#). Thank you.