



July 27, 2011 | 25 Tamuz 5771

[Marriage Equality's Arrival](#)

On Sunday, July 24, 2011, one month after the New York State Senate passed the Marriage Equality Bill, couples from Niagra Falls down to Long Island lined up for marriage licenses on the first day they were legally issued for same-sex unions. In New York City, 823 couples registered to obtain licenses, some from as far away as Hawaii and Alabama. In Albany, Mayor Jerry Jennings began performing weddings at 12:01 am, and preliminary surveys of clerks offices throughout New York State indicate that approximately 1200 couples recieved marriage licences this past Sunday. RJV congratulates all these newlyweds and expresses our gratitude to all the advocates who helped make July 24th possible.

Additional Marriage Equality News:

- [A Turning Point](#), blog by RJV Co-Chair, Donald C. Cutler
- [Temple Israel of New Rochelle Celebrates Marriage Equality](#), *Patch.com*
- [My Fight for Marriage Equality](#), blog by Linda Barat
- [RJV Applauds Historic Passage of Marriage Equality Act](#)

Partnering with URJ's Urban Mitzvah Corps for Disability Program

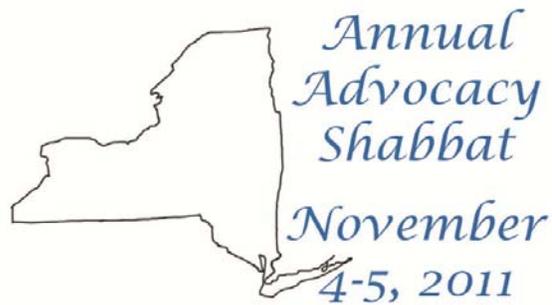
On Thursday, July 7, fifteen campers participating in the Union for Reform Judaism's Urban Mitzvah Corps (UMC) Program at Camp Kutz in Warwick, NY traveled to Manhattan for a day of learning and good old fashioned tourism. Stopping for a few hours at the URJ's 633 Third Avenue headquarters, these adolescent social justice leaders-in-training met with NYS Assemblyman Micah Kellner, as well as activists T.K. Small and Edith Prentiss to learn about disability rights advocacy. The program, coordinated by RJV, engaged these campers in conversation with Assemblyman Kellner, Mr. Small and Ms. Prentiss about their legislative priorities -- i.e. assisted living facilities, accessible taxis, accessible public schools -- and personal stories. The

UMC participants then joined Ms. Prentiss on a tour of the neighborhood, during which she pointed out the many challenges of navigating New York City.



UMC Campers with Assemblyman Kellner, T.K. Small and Edith Prentiss

Save the Date



*Make sure your congregation
is highlighting the importance
of advocacy in our
social justice work.*

*2011 issue theme:
Economic Justice*



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[RJV Joins with the NIF to Sponsor Tu B'Av](#)

Following the recent victory for marriage equality in New York, you're invited to celebrate and support freedom of marriage for all on the Jewish holiday of love, Tu B'Av. On this day, hundreds of supporters of marriage equality will gather in Tel Aviv for a public wedding serving as a protest against the country's lack of civil marriage that leaves 300,000 Israelis unable to marry. Join the award-winning Amy Klein and other storytellers for an evening of celebration and hope for a future when everyone can choose who and how to marry!



Co-sponsored by the 92Y Tribeca, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, the Foundation for Jewish Culture, Keshet, Kol Zimra, Nehirim, the Reform Jewish Voice of New York State, and more.

Are you Hosting a Social Justice Event in New York?

If so, tell us about it! If you're planning to host an event related to the issues on which RJVNYs advocates, let us know a month in advance and we'll help you publicize it. Please send flyers and other information to Juliana at info@rjvnys.org.

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.

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