



Advocacy Update

Sent February 24, 2010

Rally, March, and Conference Call for Immigration Reform

Save the date, if you can, to come to Washington on March 21, 2010 to march for comprehensive immigration reform. You are invited to be part of an event, called March for America: Change Takes Courage and Faith.

The day will begin with an informational Jewish bagel brunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at which the “We Were Strangers, Too” campaign (in which WRJ participates) will be discussed. The brunch will be followed by an interfaith prayer service for immigration reform from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

The group will then rally with other immigration advocates on the National Mall.

The sponsors of “We Were Strangers, Too: The Jewish Campaign for Immigration Reform” are organizing a national grassroots conference call following the rally for the entire Jewish community. It will be held at 7 p.m. EST. Participants will be able to hear about the DC rally, get a legislative update from Jewish members of Congress (tentative), and hear talking points for a national call-in day to Congress on March 22. This is a great opportunity for those who cannot participate in the march.

Full details will be sent as soon as they are available.

WRJ Leader Advocates Immigration Reform

On Wednesday, February 18, 2010, Joanne Goldsmith, a WRJ board member, had the opportunity to join her rabbi for a visit to Senator Ben Cardin's office, along with Stephanie Grosser, Assistant Director of the Washington Office of The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and representatives of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and the American Jewish Committee. They met with one of Senator Cardin's staff members, Andrew Remo, Legislative Correspondent. Joanne said “we were there to discuss immigration reform with emphasis on the family and asked that Senator Cardin sign on as a co-sponsor of the Reuniting Families Act (S.1085). WRJ has signed a letter of support for this legislation as one of 17 national Jewish organizations, so I introduced myself as a member of WRJ.”

Celebrate International Women's Day – See the Film Half the Sky

In her installation speech at the 47th WRJ assembly, WRJ president Lynn Magid Lazar spoke of the book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn as essential to understanding the plight of women world wide and why women's activism is essential. A film made about this book will be shown for one night on Thursday, March 4, in several theaters around the North America.

For information about the film, a trailer, and where it will be shown go to [this website](#).

We urge sisterhoods to see the film if it is available in their communities or, if not, to select the book *Half the Sky* for a discussion in the coming months. Go to <http://www.halftheskymovement.org/> for information about this important and fascinating book.

The book, which was published in September 2009, focuses on discrimination, violence against women, maternal mortality, and poverty. Kristof and WuDunn call for empowering women as the key to combating poverty and enabling sustainable community development in the poor nations of the world.

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home