



Advocacy Update

Sent November 21, 2012

Support Israel from Home

This week our thoughts have been with our sisters and brothers in Israel living under the constant threat of rocket attacks. We are deeply saddened by the loss of innocent lives, Israeli and Palestinian alike. Though the situation is many miles away, it affects all of us as Reform Jews very deeply. Here are some things you can do from home to support Israel and help attain peace.

Read: Stay informed about the issue. Stay updated on the latest news from [ARZA](#) and [ARZA Canada](#). The URJ website also has a [special section](#) dedicated to Israel that contains recent information and ways for you to get involved.

Donate: The entire Reform Jewish Movement is working together to provide support for Israelis who find themselves in the line of fire from Gaza rockets, including those in our communities. To that end, we are joining with partners from across the North American Jewish landscape in establishing an Israel Terror Relief Fund. This effort is being coordinated by the Jewish Federations of North America. All donations will go to direct aid, including to our community in Israel, through organizations such as The Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, as they work to provide respite and support to the thousands of children and families in Israel's southern region, food and emergency kits to the elderly and disabled, and many other relief and emergency services. [You can donate to this fund online.](#)

Take action: Tell your elected representative that you care about Israel, and that you support their active involvement in achieving peace. Reach out to members of Parliament, or [click here](#) to tell members of Congress how you feel.

Organize: Participate in Israel-related events in your local community. Check with your local federation about events, or plan one yourself! [Click here](#) for some Israel-related resources you can use in your planning.

Montreal's First Jewish Mayor

Last week, [Montreal elected its first Jewish mayor](#). Michael Applebaum, 49, will serve as interim mayor until the November 2013 election. He was chosen by the city council in a 31-29 vote on November 16. Applebaum has strong ties to the Jewish community, and has been a longtime supporter of Israel. "He has spoken eloquently about the Jewish state at the annual downtown Yom Ha'atzmaut rallies, has regularly attended Canadian Jewish Public Affairs Committee events, and, in 2006, refused a request by the pro-Palestinian group Tadamon for a minute of silence at a borough council meeting for a Montreal family killed in Lebanon by Israeli shelling during the conflict with Hezbollah," says the [Canadian Jewish News](#). Applebaum is also the first Anglophone mayor in over a century of the predominantly French-speaking city.

Remember Native American Women this Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to gather with family and to reflect on that for which we are grateful. However, it is also a time to think about the plight facing Native Americans and First Nations today—

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groups that remain systemically impoverished and underrepresented in contemporary North America. Native American women in the U.S. in particular face a series of issues regarding their access to health care and domestic violence services. For example, women living on tribal reservations who receive their medical care through Indian Health Services do not have proper access to emergency contraception. Moreover, many Native American women who are victims of domestic violence are not able to prosecute their cases due to loopholes in the Violence Against Women Act. As you sit around your Thanksgiving table, remember these women – and do your part to protect their basic rights.