



Advocacy Update

Sent September 7, 2011

9/11 – Tenth Anniversary

September 11th will be the tenth anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. as well as the attempted attack on the Capitol or White House, courageously prevented in the air over Pennsylvania. The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) has developed a 9/11 resource page to help congregations and their affiliates commemorate this tragedy. It includes sermons, conversation-starters for discussion groups, URJ readings, and prayers for use in congregational worship and interfaith assemblies, as well as a range of other related opportunities for commemoration.

Please look over the RAC's 9/11 resource page and select materials to circulate to your members or devote some time at your September meeting to commemorate the anniversary of this tragedy with your members.

Four-Hundred Thousand Israelis Marching For Social Justice

We alerted you in early August about the many thousands of Israeli demonstrators going out to the streets of Tel Aviv and other Israeli communities to call for affordable housing, fair prices for food and gas, and social justice, as well as the support provided them by rabbis from the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ).

In a special edition of the Israel Religious Action Center's (IRAC) e-newsletter, The Pluralist, yesterday, IRAC's Field Organizer Motti Bebchuk described the 400,000 people marching for social justice throughout Israel this past Sunday as "the climax of a summer filled with the spirit of activism, change, and promise."

Bebchuk asks, "How did we get to the largest rally in Israel's history?" He goes on to say that "It started with a Facebook event, calling on people to live in tents on the streets of Tel Aviv to demand more reasonable housing prices. In the following two months, tent cities sprung up across the country, and the activists' demands expanded to demand a more just society for all people."

He tells us that the government responded by setting up the Trajtenberg Committee to develop recommendations for resolving issues raised by the protesters. Following an invitation by the committee to organizations to submit proposals on dealing with problems in the areas of education, employment and housing, IRAC submitted such a proposal. "We outlined our stand on poverty, equality and justice, and made specific suggestions dealing with equality in housing, employment, and education." Read Motti Bebchuk's passionate and eloquent article, distribute it to your members, and forward it to your temple's newsletter editor for publication.

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