



Advocacy Update

Sent October 6, 2010

Idit Klein, executive director of Keshet, a grassroots organization dedicated to creating a fully inclusive Jewish community for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) Jews in Greater Boston and across the country, writes, "...in the past month five teenage boys took their own lives due to homophobic bullying and harassment... The loss of a single life is cause for heartbreak. Five teen suicides in just one month, however, is a crisis."

Please sign the Do Not Stand Idly By pledge now. Keshet is asking all Jewish youth and adults to sign, so please forward widely.

Help Defuse The Cordoba House Controversy

The planning for the Cordoba House community center and mosque in lower Manhattan, near Ground Zero has engendered enormous controversy, throughout North America, and indeed around the world.

This is an important time to reach out to our Muslim neighbors to hold joint programming to foster understanding and build relationships.

You can also find helpful resources for discussing the Cordoba House controversy in your sisterhood and congregation as well as for developing Muslim-Jewish programming on the URJ website.

Sisterhoods Stand In Solidarity with Anat Hoffman

WRJ sisterhoods participated in a High Holy Day media campaign of solidarity and support for Anat Hoffman, who was arrested during the summer for carrying a Torah near the Kotel in Jerusalem. We thank all sisterhoods that took part in this campaign. The sisterhoods from the following congregations informed us about their actions: Temple Beth El (Hillsborough, NJ), Temple Chaverim (Plainview, NY), Temple Emanuel (Denver, CO), Congregation Shir Hadash (Los Gatos, CA), and Temple Shaari Emeth (Manalapan, NJ).

A Women of the Wall (WOW) press release in early September states: "The Jerusalem Police recommended this week that the Ministry of Justice press charges against Anat Hoffman for the felony of 'gravely obstructing a police officer in the performance of his duties,' in regards to her July arrest while holding a Torah at the Western Wall. The sentence ... is up to 3 years in prison."

WRJ stands with Anat Hoffman and with WOW. Moreover, we appreciate her courage and strength of mind in continuing IRAC's essential social justice work, as described in the October 4th issue of The Pluralist.

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