

requires us to take immediate action to heal the sick, and after services we stood with clipboards and petitions in the temple parking lot collecting signatures.”

Once the healthcare initiative campaign had gained sufficient momentum, another Boston-area temple, Congregation Beth El in Sudbury, called a press conference and invited local government officials to attend. “We announced to the officials: ‘We are doing our part, now it is time to do yours,’” recalls Rabbi David Thomas. “We spoke not only with the moral convictions of our religious tradition, but with the knowledge that we had done everything in our power to help solve the problem.”

In April of 2006, thanks to the work of Temple Israel, Congregation Beth El, and their coalition partners, Chapter 58 passed, reducing the number of uninsured people in Massachusetts by as much as fifty percent.

For the past fourteen years, more than 300 members of Congregation B’nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim in Chicago’s north side have been working with United Power for Action and Justice, a group of churches, mosques, synagogues, and other communities dedicated to making healthcare services more available to at-risk populations in Illinois. So far they’ve succeeded in obtaining insurance coverage for more than 30,000 people and induced the state legislature to commit \$2 million annually for new expanded affordable community health centers.

Now, the congregation and its coalition partners are writing letters, organizing phone banks, and traveling to Springfield in a campaign to urge their senators to support the Insurance for Young Adults bill, which would provide health insurance to the half mil-

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HAPPENINGS For Adults & Youth

➔ For Adults

Feb. 6-14: Attend the **Pacific Central West Regional Biennial**, the **Pacific Northwest Regional Biennial**, or the **Pacific Southwest Regional Biennial**. www.urj.org/offices

March 18-23: Join Reform Jews from around the world in Israel for **Connections 2009**, the World Union for Progressive Judaism’s convention. www.wupj.org

April 19-21: Learn political engagement at the RAC’s **Consultation on Conscience** in Washington, D.C. www.rac.org/consultation



REP. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (D-FL) IN 2007

May 12-May 15: Learn how to create a culture of welcome and to retain members at the **Schindler Fellows Membership Certification** program for both lay and professional leaders. www.urj.org/outreach/classes/workshops

May 14-May 24: Join dedicated adult learners for the **2009 Israel Kallah**, a ten-day adventure of learning, touring, and celebration of the State of Israel.

➔ For Youth

Feb. 13-17: Join thousands of NFTYites at the **2009 NFTY Convention** in Washington, D.C. www.nfty.org

June 18-August 5: Travel with fellow teens on the **NFTY in Israel** four-week outdoor Israel adventure program or the five-week Europe and Israel experience. www.NFTYinIsrael.org

June 24-July 19: Train to become part of the next generation of Reform leaders at the teen-only **NFTY Leadership Academy**. www.kutz.urjcamps.org

June-August: Take part in a summer of *tikkun olam*, fun, and education in the San Francisco, New York, New Jersey, or New Orleans at the **Mitzvah Corp** program. www.mitzvahcorps.org □

NOTEWORTHY

First-Ever Reform-Conservative Rabbinic Training Partnership:

Funded by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, eight rabbinic students from both the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Reform) and the Jewish Theological Seminary (Conservative) are receiving instruction in three major areas: Jewish communal trends, organizational leadership, and inclusion, with an emphasis on the intermarried. Leaders of both institutions agree that certain communal challenges transcend Movement differences and should be addressed jointly.

Reform Judaism: 30 Stories:

The guide to Reform Judaism (which appeared in the Summer '08 edition of *Reform Judaism* mag-

azine) has been reprinted as a stand-alone study and discussion guide.

Designed for temple and family discussion of what it means to be a Reform Jew and for distribution to prospective and new members, it is available at cost. hkorn@urj.org, 212-650-4210



1st Reform Rabbis Ordained in Holland:

On August 27, 2008, the Robert A. Levisson Institute in Holland ordained its first class of graduates at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue of the Liberal Jewish Congregation in The Hague.



RABBI MARIANNE VAN PRAAG

Rabbi David Lienthal founded the institute in 2004 to encourage Dutch Jews to become rabbis within Holland. Some 40,000 Jews live in Holland today; about 4,000 are Reform congregants.