



Advocacy Update

Sent May 26, 2010

Nashville – Flood Relief Needed

Much of the south has recently suffered from storms, flash floods, and tornados. More than half of Tennessee's counties have been declared disaster areas. Nashville, TN, one of the most heavily impacted areas, has been devastated by floodwaters from the Cumberland River which deluged some of its important tourist sites, including the Grand Ole Opry House and the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center.

The URJ reports that “within the [Nashville] Jewish community, fifty to sixty families suffered catastrophic losses of homes or businesses, including fifteen-eighteen within our own Reform family.”

Please contribute to help the members of the Nashville area Jewish community impacted by the flood. You can send donations designated for flood relief to the rabbis' discretionary funds at the two congregations listed below:

The Temple Congregation Ohabai Sholom
5015 Harding Pike
Nashville, TN 37205-2801

Congregation Micah
2001 Old Hickory Blvd
Brentwood, TN 37027-4032

New and Exciting: Muslim-Jewish Interreligious Dialogue Programming

Act on WRJ resolutions on Muslim-Jewish dialogue and Dr. Izzeldin Abuellaish's inspiring comments at WRJ's 47th assembly in Toronto to invigorate your sisterhood's interreligious programming by reaching out to Muslim women in local mosques or Islamic Centers! You can find a helpful resource for doing so in the current issue of Reform Judaism, summer 2020/5770. Reform Judaism is featuring “The Art of Muslim-Jewish Dialogue.” pp.58-61.

The article includes interesting descriptions of several congregational programs which could be adapted for sisterhood use with a Muslim women's group, such as: services and holidays; study programs using the curriculum developed by the Union for Reform Judaism and the Islamic Society of North America entitled, “Children of Abraham: Jews and Muslims in Conversation”; different formats for structured dialogue; travel to the Middle East; and presentations in public schools.

An important Jewish-Muslim program at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion is also discussed, as is a discussion of the resources available through the URJ's Commission on Interreligious Affairs.

Closely Related.....Radio Canada International Interview with Dr. Abuellaish

Alexis Rothschild, president, Temple Sholom Sisterhood, Vancouver, British Columbia, CA, brought a new book, I Shall Not Hate, by Dr. Izzeldin Abuellaish, to our attention. She included a link to a Radio Canada International interview of Dr. Abuellaish and noted that his words are very powerful.

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