



# Advocacy Update

Sent June 9, 2010

## **Were Shakespeare's Plays Written by a Jewish Woman? – A Good Summer Program**

The cover of *Reform Judaism's* summer issue poses the question “was the greatest canon of Western Judaism written by a Jewish Woman?” The fascinating and provocative article “Unmasking Shakespeare” by Michael Posner that follows (pp. 34-39, 46) presents a cogent case that Amelia Bassano Lanier is a significant candidate for the authorship of Shakespeare's works. She was the daughter of a musician of Venetian converso origin in the Elizabethan Court (conversos are descendants of Spanish and Portugese Jews who were converted to Christianity under pressure in the 14th and 15th Centuries).

This article would be a delightful subject for a summer afternoon or evening discussion. Set up a one-time program to read this tantalizing mystery article and chat about whether you and your members think Michael Posner makes a good case.

Joy Weinberg, managing editor of *Reform Judaism* magazine, has provided discussion questions to help begin your conversations.

## **Say "Yes" for Family Reunification**

Go to the [Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism website](#) for full background on immigration issues.

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition has initiated an e-postcard campaign to inform our legislators and the administration that the grassroots faith community supports comprehensive immigration reform.