



# Advocacy Update

Sent May 11, 2011

## **Rabbi Jacobs Speaks of Love for Israel at Consultation on Conscience**

WRJ President Lynn Magid Lazar was among the many WRJ and URJ leaders participating in the May 1-3 Consultation on Conscience, held by The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), during which the RAC's fiftieth anniversary was celebrated. WRJ representatives to the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism (CSA) took part in its meetings, held alongside the consultation and concluding on May 5th.

One of the highlights of the consultation was the speech by Rabbi Richard Jacobs, who has been nominated to succeed Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie as URJ president in 2012. Rabbi Jacobs spoke of the RAC as "a crucial pillar of our Union for Reform Judaism." He also talked about his social justice commitment, which began when he was a youngster at the URJ's Camp Swig in California, and his love for Israel, developed during his junior year of college in Jerusalem. [Read and view](#) Rabbi Jacobs' moving words – "My Heart is in the East: My Zionist Commitments."

## **CSA Chair Condemns House Vote on Abortion**

On Wednesday, May 4th, the House of Representatives passed the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 3)," a bill that harshly limits access to abortion. Dr. Cheryl Gutmann, chair of the CSA stated, "This bill threatens to roll back the clock to before Roe v. Wade, when many women were forced to risk their lives and seek unsafe abortions, and we condemn the House of Representatives for sanctioning such an unconstitutional and unjust move backward."

Call your senators to urge them to support women's reproductive rights by voting against any bills that limit women's access to abortion and reproductive health care. You can reach them through the Capitol Switchboard at 202.224.3121.