



Advocacy Update

Sent May 4, 2011

Yom HaShoah

Today falls mid-week between two of the most significant modern commemorative dates of the Jewish year. Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), our memorial for those who perished in the Holocaust, is observed annually on the 27th of Nissan, which is May 1st – May 2nd this year. The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) website, provides a [history of Yom HaShoah](#) and well as materials and suggestions for its commemoration.

Although the actual date of this year's Yom HaShoah has passed, words of memory have meaning throughout the year and can be included as an introduction your meetings later this month. Or you can plan now to hold a program on January 27th the annual [UN international day](#) of commemoration of the Shoah or on Yom HaShoah, April 18-19 2012. Make sure to go to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum website for additional program ideas.

[Yad Vashem](#), the memorial to the Holocaust in Jerusalem, is “the world center for documentation, research, education and commemoration of the Holocaust.” Established in 1953, Yad Vashem today reaches out to be “a dynamic and vital place of intergenerational and international encounter.” The April 2011 Yad Vashem newsletter describes the core themes and highlights of several undertakings that were implemented this past year. Read the newsletter and check with your sisterhood board about participating in one of the Yad Vashem projects.

Yom Ha'atzma-ut

Yom Ha'atzma-ut, Israeli Independence Day, which celebrates the 1948 establishment of the modern state of Israel, will be observed on May 10th this year. Join celebratory events in your congregation and community. You can also take this opportunity to celebrate the state of Israel throughout the year.

- [Twining](#) sisterhoods can hold joint programs with their Israeli twins for the congregation or other sisterhoods in the area.
- Look over the [Association of Reform Zionists of America \(ARZA\)](#) website to be current on issues in Israel
- Check the [Israel Religious Action Center](#) and [Women of the Wall](#) websites for needed action or possible programming.

Review the [URJ Yom Ha'atzma-ut page](#) which has a wealth of program resources from which you can draw ideas.