



Press Advisory **for Immediate Release**

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Families light the path to justice and speak out for marriage equality.

San Francisco, CA - Families, youth, and people of faith will lead the call for marriage equality at a special Chanukah candlelighting ceremony this Sunday, December 5, from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the James R. Browning Ninth Circuit Federal Courthouse, 95 7th Street, San Francisco. The event, celebrating the miracle of light and the call for equal rights for all, will be held the day prior to the Court's hearing of the Proposition 8 case.

A thirteen-year-old teenager will speak about growing up with lesbian parents in the Bay Area and the effect of Proposition 8 before lighting the menorah's flame of justice. Reverend Roland Stringfellow (California Faith for Equality), Margee Churchon (Jewish Community Relations Council), and Rabbi Sydney Mintz (Congregation Emanu-El) will celebrate, sing, and explain the Jewish and faith community's historic and current role in marriage equality.

According to exit polls, approximately 80% of the Jewish population of California voted No on Proposition 8. . During the 2009 San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade, Jewish community members wore t-shirts that said *B'Tselem Elohim- We are all created in God's Image*. The belief that all people are created in God's image and accordingly each person's life is of infinite value is a core value to Judaism. This principle leads the Jewish community to support the principle of equal opportunity under the laws for every individual, and to challenge unlawful discrimination regardless of a person's race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status.

The Jewish Community Relations Council is the central public affairs arm of the organized Bay Area Jewish community. It represents Bay Area synagogues and Jewish organizations on issues impacting the rights and protection of Jews as individuals and as a community.

This event is co-sponsored by: Bay Area Coalition of Welcoming Congregations, California Faith for Equality, Congregation Beth Israel Judea, Congregation Beyt Tikkun, Congregation Emanu-El, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Congregation Sherith Israel, JCC of the East Bay, Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay, Kehilla Community Synagogue, LGBT Alliance of the Jewish Community Federation, Marriage Equality USA, San Francisco Hillel, Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Temple Sinai, and Tikkun Magazine.

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