



Attention to Food Insecurity and other social issues are informed by our Jewish ethics and are acted upon by us as individuals or through collaborations with others. Members of WLCJ and the Rabbinical Assembly have a unique opportunity to affect our communities. I joined the RA Social Justice Committee last year and am the only non-rabbi in the group. Rabbis who sit on the committee come from all over the United States and Israel. The committee is composed of several components (sub-groups) including food insecurity, environment, women's reproductive rights, strengthening democracy (involving voting rights, health and reproductive rights,) Systemic racism (anti-racism work, and criminal justice reform and justice. All the sub-committees are interrelated: while we cannot do everything we should do what we do well. Our activities amplify the voices of Conservative Judaism. Previous actions are reflected in resolutions on these topics which give the committee (and WL and the RA) a voice.

Women's League has taken on the Stock the Shelves project on a national level.

It is important to note that we have partners: NCJW and MAZON to name just two. Over this past summer, the RA has signed onto the following: Dorian Karp letter to the United States Congressional Appropriations Committee to increase the GVP funding in the 2022 FY (JWI); A letter to President Biden to advocate to do more to help Afghans come to safety (HIAS); Spoke to the FY 2023 Global LGBTQI+ Budget request to OMB (AJWS); the Dobbs amicus

brief re: the Mississippi abortion law (NCJW) and the Freedom to Vote Act (NCJW).

In October, Indigenous Peoples' Day, was an opportunity to recognize not only Native Americans and their long often turbulent history, but to make other Americans aware of the food insecurity issues plaguing them.

Of particular interest to many WL members is the work done by MAZON, the Jewish Response to Hunger. There is much data which supports the knowledge that programs such as SNAP are incredibly successful at preventing poverty and fighting hunger. Working in collaboration with MAZON on a local level is extremely effective. I quote: "Grounded in our Jewish values and traditions that command us to care for those in need..." I urge you to go to the MAZON website for more information.

One of the most important facts for you to know is the information published this past year in "Hunger in the Military," an expose of the "Shonda" that is the story of hunger in our military forces. Few people know of this alarming situation and here is what you can do: Contact your Congresspeople and urge them to take immediate action to resolve this shameful and overlooked situation. **YOU CAN DO IT!**

Although one might feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the issue of Food Insecurity, if each of us does our own part, taking action, it will ultimately make huge strides to resolving Food insecurity. We need to inform ourselves and make our communities aware of these issues and then take action. Developing programs is one of the

best ways to educate our members to encourage their involvement. There are many resources –all we have to do is avail ourselves of them. Resolutions are fine but it's the action that counts.

Ardis Wexler, Social Justice Co-Chair