

Welcome to Judaism & Current Events

Social Action in Action

**CEEW's Social Action Committee
with Sandy Villa and Mark Levy**

Moderators: Pati Allen Brickman and Marcy Hotz

8/11/2020

CEEW wishes you to note:

- By consensus, the board recognizes that a group of members decided to hold their own forum on Judaism and Current Events.
- Views expressed during conversations may not necessarily be those of CEEW.

Opening Prayer

A prayer for peace in times of trouble

Lord, give us peace that we may shine brightly in a dark world. Grant us the courage to live faithfully to our highest values even in the midst of hard times. Let our faith in each other be the beginning of wisdom and compassion rather than allowing fear to drive our actions.

Help us to live strongly in the midst of a world that needs to know peace. We pray for all our sisters, brothers and LGBTQI siblings of the world, for we are of one family.

Show us mercy and heal those who are suffering in times of trouble and plague. Most of all, inspire us to restore the world and make all things new.

Amen.

Discussion Guidelines

1. **This is a discussion, not a debate.** The purpose is not to win an argument, but to hear many points of view and explore many ideas.
2. Everyone is encouraged to participate but feel free to just listen.
3. No one or two individuals should dominate a discussion. If you have voiced your thoughts, let others speak.
4. **Raise your hand to signify your wish to speak.** The moderator will call on you. Keep interjections to a minimum. If you think you will forget your idea, write it down.
5. **Please fact-check your sources.** We don't want to give oxygen to unverifiable information.
6. **Listen to and respect other points of view.**
7. Do your best to understand the pros and cons of every opinion and be as open-minded as you can be.
8. Seek first to understand, not to be understood. Ask questions for clarification.
9. **Be thoughtful. Be kind.**

Upcoming Topics:

**Aug 18 Every Voice, Every Vote: with Julie Webb
of RAC and URJ**

Aug 25 The Back to School Dilemma

**Sept 01 Bridging Divides: How to talk to people who
don't agree with you.**

URJ Perspective on Tikkun Olam

•Social Justice

"It has become axiomatic that to be a Jew is to care about the world around us. To be a Reform Jew is to hear the voice of the prophets in our head; to be engaged in the ongoing work of tikkun olam; to strive to improve the world in which we live."

Through advocacy campaigns, hands-on volunteering opportunities, and training for leaders, the URJ galvanizes people throughout North America to ensure religious freedom, pluralism, acceptance, and justice.

Reform congregations and their leadership are strengthened and emboldened as they enlist the support of their members to repair the world. Acting together with our congregations, other Reform institutions, and with partners of all faiths, we can work to make a difference by leveraging our collective power.

Jewish Perspective on Helping Others

- **Mitzvah Corps organization:**

The words *tikkun olam* themselves refer to responsibility we have as a Jewish community to help fix the world around us, to right the wrongs we witness, and to stand up for injustices.

- **Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism (CSA):**

The CSA is a deliberative, policy-development and leadership body, bringing the vision of Reform Judaism to issues of social justice; it is involved with education, programming, advocacy, leadership development and engagement on behalf of the positions which it and/or the URJ and the CCAR have adopted; and it encourages, supports and enhances the social action and social justice work of URJ congregations and CCAR rabbis.

Waukesha Women's Center

Sandy Villa

Food Insecurity

Mark Levy

Questions and Suggestions

References and Resources

The Women's Center of Waukesha: twcwaukesha.org

Food Pantry of Waukesha County: waukeshafoodpantry.org

Mitzvah Corps organization:

<https://mitzvahcorps.org/2012/06/27/finding-our-purpose-in-helping-others/>

Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism (CSA)

<https://rac.org/about-rac/commission-social-action-reform-judaism-csa>

Ways Your Congregation Can Act Now for Racial Justice

<https://urj.org/justiceforall>

