

mazonews

Passover 2012

Vol. 24, No. 1

Message from the National Executive Director

In commemoration of MAZON Canada's 25th anniversary, we will be highlighting some of our archival newsletters on our website at www.mazoncanada.ca. There have been some notable contributors to the newsletters throughout the years. This edition of MAZONNEWS, features a sequel to an article entitled "Charitable Justice" written in December 1992 by Gerard Kennedy, the then executive director of the Daily Food Bank. Gerard subsequently went on to become the MP for Parkdale High Park in Toronto and currently is run-

ning his own firm—Enterprising for the Public Good. Additionally, there is an excerpt of an article written by Rabbi Dow Marmur in response to his article of April 1990 entitled "The Scandal of Hunger." Rabbi Marmur is the Rabbi emeritus at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto and is a Toronto Star columnist.

Both Gerard's and Rabbi Marmur's articles draw attention to the fact that there is so much more that should be done to alleviate hunger in Canada, and much that has been done has

fallen on the shoulders of charities like MAZON Canada and donors like yourselves. Although the insights of these two writers are different, the message is the same: It is a calamity that hunger still exists here in our "land of plenty."

Ida McLaughlin

SAVE THE DATE

Help us commemorate MAZON's 25th anniversary on: Tuesday Nov 27, 2012

Toronto:
Roy Thomson Hall

Montreal:
Shaar Hashomayim

Passover Message

As we prepare for Pesach, events in the Middle East today seem to be replicating what our ancestors experienced in Eretz Mitzrayim: the desire to be free, both spiritually and physically. The Exodus from Egypt is not only our holiday of freedom but also the beginning of our attempt at nation-building. Our sages tell us that we are obligated to picture ourselves as having once been slaves in order to appreciate the elation and gratitude that a life of freedom brings. As we sit down to the Seder this year and proudly declare "let all who are hungry come eat", your support for MAZON will ensure that you have done your part. Through your generosity, the hungry will have been fed; their exodus from slavery to freedom begins with the conquest of hunger. Chag Kasher V'Sameach to all!

Alan Burger and Murray Lukawitz Co-Presidents

NOW AVAILABLE



Perform a mitzvah by helping us feed the hungry. Let us send Passover greetings to your loved ones. Order Passover cards, by artist Irene Kott, online at www.mazoncanada.ca or call Daphne in Toronto at (416) 783 7554 or CC in Montreal at (514) 483 6234.

"I use the food bank for survival. I don't know what I would do without it. I am a sick person living on a fixed income. I live by myself."

Xavier Manuel

Recipient at Centre de Ressources Familiales Alnwick New Brunswick

Hunger and Social Progress

By Gerard Kennedy

In 24 hours before you read this article, some 3,000 fellow Canadians will have turned to a food bank for the first time in their lives. In writing for MAZONNEWS 19 years ago as executive director of Canada's largest food bank I called for "charitable justice" by food banks and their supporters on behalf of the poorest of the poor; those going without enough food in our land of plenty.

Then, as not long ago, Canada was going through a recession. Hungry kids and adults should not have to wait for the vagaries of economic policy to get real relief. Charitable meals and groceries should be supplemented by urgent focused efforts to prevent hunger and extreme poverty by government and community alike.

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TORONTO REPORT

MAZON participated in The Shores Food Conference held on February 5. The conference brought together diverse community members to consider, discuss and explore how communities can work together and affect change in local food systems. The conference brought like-minded people together; those that value ethical, good-quality food and want to create change. In her opening remarks, Risa Alyson Cooper spoke about how our community is struggling with food justice. “We live in an incredibly fertile part of the world, and yet there are people in our community who are hungry. And Jewish tradition teaches us that this is not okay.” Furthermore, she says, “we are commanded to take care of those in need, which means actively working for food justice in our own community.” MAZON’s National Executive Director participated in a panel discussion called “Tikkun Olam: Healing a Broken Food System,” which discussed how Tikkun Olam is part of daily and community work. Also, participants and panel members with varying opinions spoke about a variety of issues surrounding food. The sessions yielded intense discussions that were meant to profoundly change the face of the Jewish Food Movement in Ontario. The goal of the conference was to get the conversation started and this is precisely what took place.

On February 20, well over 100 people attended MAZON Canada’s first ever Family Day event. The event took place at Upper Canada College Arena in Toronto and was the perfect setting for a skating party. There was plenty of room for every type of skater on the Olympic-sized rink. Skaters ranged from age 2 – 82 and the attendees consisted of MAZON supporters in addition to recipients. The comfortable lounge with fireplace overlooking the rink had lots of activities for both children and adults. The catering, generously donated by Abe Levy of Taam Tov Catering, was suited to all age groups and choosy eaters. Participants had such a great time that they requested that the Family Day party become an annual event. Keep Family Day open for next year’s MAZON Family Day event.



The Scandal of Hunger of 2012

By Rabbi Dow Marmur

For the last dozen of the 22 years since I wrote my original piece for MAZONNEWS, my wife and I divide our time between Canada and Israel. What strikes me continuously is not only that child poverty has remained a tragedy in both countries, but also that neither government has done enough to eradicate the blight. As a result, volunteer organizations have to fill as much of the yawning gap between needs and resources as they can. So much has happened in the world in the last 25 years – and so little has changed.

To read this sequel in its entirety and Rabbi Dow Marmur’s original 1990 article, visit the news section at www.mazoncanada.ca

Stanley Public School

North York, Ontario

A child nutrition program addresses the needs of hungry children with a variety of different vegetables, fruit, grains, dairy products. Children may not have fruits and veggies at home but when they see other children eating, they eat.

As financial difficulties continue to arise with many families, your support along with the school’s support can build strong, healthier and brighter futures for children. Thank you for your continued support.

SET A TABLE FOR THE HUNGRY AT YOUR SIMCHA

MAZON Canada makes it easy to symbolically set a table at your event for the hungry. You can donate, in honour of your guests. We will be delighted to provide you with MAZON Canada place cards or table toppers. These will explain to your guests what MAZON Canada does and how you have honoured their presence at the simcha.

MONTHLY DONATIONS NOW POSSIBLE

Now you can support MAZON Canada year-round! Monthly donations are now possible through our website: www.mazoncanada.ca. Your monthly donations are greatly appreciated. Your gifts really add up!

In addition to posting archival material, there are many initiatives lined up for our 25th anniversary. Follow us on Twitter to take part in a “flash” event and become a fan on Facebook to be the first to know about our plans for our 25th anniversary commemorative event at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto and at Shaar Hashomayim in Montreal, on Tuesday, November 27th.





MONTREAL REPORT

On November 22, 2011, The Wave hosted "The Event," Montreal's 17th annual MAZON Canada fundraiser, attended by over 500 guests. Sporting a new look, The Event was spearheaded by our fearless Chairs—Sara and Jayne—who assembled an inspiring group of dedicated volunteers. It was once more a true testament to continued commitment in the fight against hunger, and we are proud to announce that we raised over \$182,000.

In addition to the tasty delicacies the caterers donated, an array of paper plates on which notable people such as the Dalai Lama, Deepak Chopra and Pinchas Zukerman had drawn or doodled were auctioned off by broadcaster Aaron Rand. The auction raised close to \$10,000. Visit www.mazoncanada.ca to learn more about the auction and view photos of these celebrity doodles as well as other notable celebrity plates.

In addition to the main goal of the evening—fundraising—The Event also helped raise awareness with our younger generation of what MAZON does. Students at Akiva School and Miss Edgars and Miss Cramps (ECS) were encouraged to doodle their ideas on hunger onto paper plates which have become part of our new greeting card selection. It was truly a pleasure working with these kids who are wise beyond their years.

Providing schools with breakfast and lunch programs; funding the programs that help shelters feed the homeless a nourishing meal and supporting the "meals on wheels" programs that distribute food to the aging and abandoned members of our community is why we work tirelessly. Together, we are responding to the needs of the hungry wherever and whoever they may be.



Kol Hachavod to

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The Wave

We appreciate all that you did for the cause and thank you mille fois.

Denise Zunenshine's Frozen Fruit Dessert



Pecan Crust:

- 1 1/2 cups ground fine pecans
- 2 T. Sugar
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) melted butter

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

In a bowl mix the ground pecans, sugar and butter until combined. Press the mixture into the bottom and a bit up the sides of a 9 or 10 inch springform pan. Bake in preheated oven until lightly toasted, about 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from oven, cool and then put in freezer for about 30 minutes before layering the sorbets.

This is not your traditional Passover dessert, but a little something out of the ordinary and a favourite in our home.

Filling:

- 1 pint mango sorbet, softened
- 1 pint raspberry or strawberry sorbet, softened
- 1 pint lime sorbet, softened
Blueberries, raspberries, and strawberries enough to cover top of dessert (about 3 cups of fruit)
- Shredded coconut, toasted

Starting with the mango sorbet, spread over baked crust, freeze till firm, about 30 minutes. Spread raspberry/strawberry sorbet over mango layer; freeze about 30 minutes till firm. Top with the lime sorbet and freeze till firm, again about 30 minutes.

If prepared in advance, cover and keep frozen. Combine mixed berries; blueberries, raspberries, and cut strawberries in a medium bowl. Let sit about 30 minutes till it becomes juicy. At serving time unmold frozen dessert, spoon berries over the top and sprinkle with the toasted coconut.

At Nazareth House we feed our men to the best of our ability, but in these difficult times, as well as the rising food costs, this is becoming more and more challenging. MAZON Canada's donation allows us to buy milk and orange juice which they so deserve and enjoy; as opposed to powdered milk and powdered juice which unfortunately is completely lacking in nutritional value.

Nazareth House *Montreal*





Fall 2011 Allocations

MAZON Canada allocates funds to agencies across Canada that fight hunger on the front lines. Since its inception in 1986, MAZON Canada has allocated over \$7,000,000 dollars to hunger programs across the country. Some of the organizations we supported in Fall 2011 are:

- Alberta – Boys and Girls Club of Wetaskiwin
- British Columbia – Jewish Family Services of Vancouver Island
- New Brunswick – Mapleton Teaching Kitchen
- Nova Scotia – Digby and Area Food Bank
- Ontario – First Nations School of Toronto
- Ontario – Beth Sholom Synagogue Out of the Cold
- Quebec – Maison Shalom
- Quebec – Westmount High School Breakfast Program
- Saskatchewan – Melville and District Food Bank

For a complete list of Fall 2011 Allocations please visit on our website: www.mazoncanada.ca

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On the surface it may not seem evident that there was much justice to go with the charity of the past two decades. In fact there was some progress. Gradually and almost unnoticed today, one group in particular is much less prominent. By 2007 the number of single parents and their children living in poverty in Canada was reduced by more than half compared to 1996. A change in attitudes allowed more of them, mainly women, to participate in the workforce through better education, childcare and a federal child benefit that helps support their kids even when off government assistance programs.

Part of that shift came thanks to the biggest “constituency of concern” this country has: the same selfless people who, drawing on a variety of faith and social formations, write cheques and tote groceries to support food assistance.

Last year’s Occupy movement hit a nerve with the simple insight that we have let our social cohesion fray. People were left frustrated wondering what could be done to prevent large divisions in society from growing.

Start with hunger. Food is often the occasion that brings us together as a society. Major progress in eliminating hunger could be one of Canada’s more worthwhile gifts to itself for its 150th birthday in 2017.

With one hand we need to continue to support emergency food efforts: 55% of food banks needed to cut back on the amount of food provided to each household last year. With the other hand we need to help to craft the solutions that can reduce the need for them and enhance dignity—getting work for more job ready people with disabilities, and help with rising rent and utilities costs are just two of many possibilities. An organized action effort that engages large segments of the giving public and of people needing help should emerge in every community in Canada, around food banks or alongside them as local circumstances permit.

It is both a testament and a challenge to our common humanity that we have supported domestic food relief in Canada for such a long time. It is now time for a fresh, compassionate and intelligent effort to move beyond it.

MAZONNEWS is a publication of MAZON Canada, A Jewish Response to Hunger.

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