

MAZON NEWS™

FALL 2021



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LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

As MAZON celebrates 36 years since its founding, we are moved to reflect on all that has been, all that is, and all that could be. Working to address an issue as persistent and pervasive as hunger can be difficult. It's important to take stock, realize that much has moved forward, and find the resolve, the strength, and the courage to continue to push for change that truly will repair this broken aspect of our world.

MAZON is certainly not alone in its commitment to social justice — either in the nonprofit sector generally or in the Jewish community. We share much in common with other organizations that are founded on values, traditions, and ideals that shape the direction of their mission and the work that makes it possible to realize those missions. We strive to make programmatic, operational, and organizational decisions based on those values, lifting them up both in the public square and in our more internal-facing work. We are fully cognizant of the many competing needs in our broken world, but we remain steadfast in our commitment to our singular mission. Our priorities are shaped by a deep understanding of the needs we see in the U.S. and Israel, as well as 36 years of addressing these vital needs and realizing what is possible. In essence, this means that MAZON is a mission-driven organization.

Quite literally, it is our mission that frames and is reflected in all that we undertake:

Inspired by Jewish values and ideals, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger is a national organization fighting to end hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds in the United States and Israel.

When we commit to work that is inspired by Jewish values and ideals, we are committing to these values:

- We believe that all people are made in the image of God.
- We know we must not stand idly by while our neighbors struggle with hunger and poverty.
- We understand that while we are not obligated to complete the work of repairing our world, neither can we desist from doing all we can to do so.
- We do not judge others who find themselves struggling to make ends meet; we understand that they have faced choices, challenges, and barriers that we may have never known.
- We believe that all people deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

In partnership with you, we know that together we can change *how it is*, into **how it should be**.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky

Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky
BOARD CHAIR



Abby J. Leibman

Abby J. Leibman
PRESIDENT & CEO



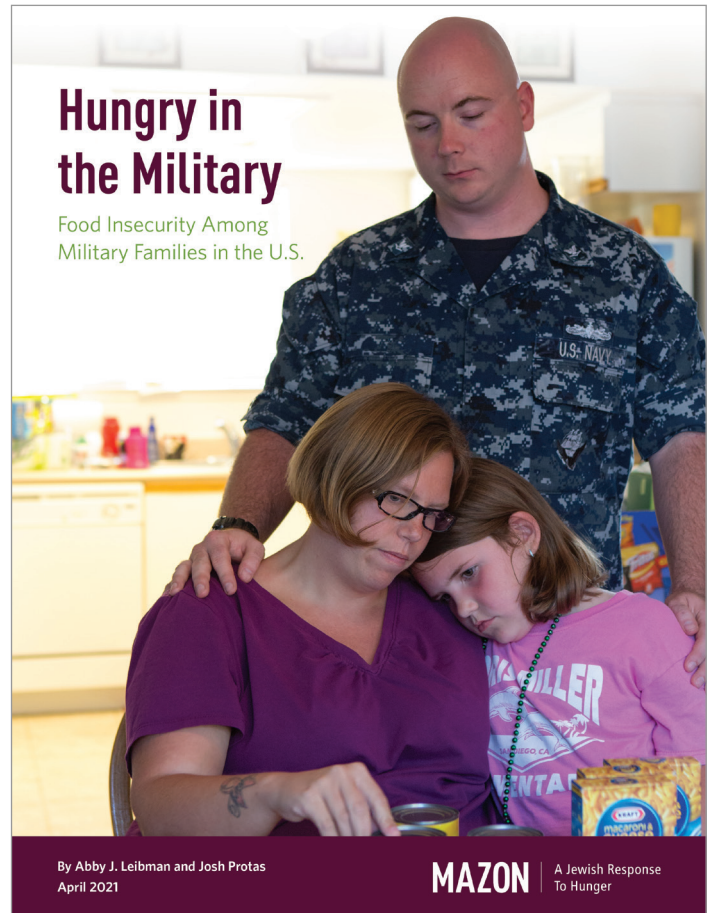
HUNGRY IN THE MILITARY

In April 2021, MAZON released a groundbreaking report to expose the staggering reality of military families facing food insecurity. “Hungry in the Military: Food Insecurity Among Military Families in the U.S.” details the persistent food insecurity among currently serving military families and offers concrete solutions for how Congress, the Biden-Harris Administration, and advocates can address the problem.

MAZON’s report culminates nearly a decade of exploring, exposing, and proposing solutions to address military hunger. It reveals the grim fact that food pantries operate on or near every military base in the U.S., quietly serving military families that struggle to keep nutritious food on the table. MAZON contends that addressing this long-overlooked problem must be seen as a matter of mission readiness, troop retention, and future recruitment.

Report authors Abby J. Leibman, MAZON’s President & CEO, and Josh Protas, MAZON’s Vice President of Public Policy, offer several recommendations for how U.S. government leaders must address this problem, such as encouraging President Biden to ensure housing allowances do not count as income in determining eligibility for federal nutrition programs like SNAP (formerly food stamps). Leibman and Protas also urge Congress to prioritize solutions immediately through this year’s National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

This report not only struck a nerve — it also created a spotlight moment where the issue of military hunger became elevated in mainstream media, on social media platforms, and among policymakers. Shortly after the report launched, it began to gain attention on Capitol Hill as policymakers turned their attention to this critical issue facing military families. Bipartisan



legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate, and these bills are advancing through this year’s NDAA process. MAZON’s leadership on this issue continues to be featured in media outlets such as the *Washington Post*, *Politico*, *Military Times*, and *ABC News*.

Please read the full report at MAZON.org and join us in urging the U.S. government to address military hunger at MAZON.org/TakeAction.

“I’m shocked that so many military families are standing in line at the food pantry because they really need help. Many of us struggle for months before finding out that there are services for us, and then it’s pretty much word of mouth.”

— Ashley, a military spouse whose family is stationed in San Diego, California

To Life!

CELEBRATE
MAZON AT 36



JOSHUA MALINA



JOAN NATHAN

On June 8, 2021, MAZON celebrated our 36th anniversary of anti-hunger action with a virtual event, *To Life! Celebrate MAZON at 36*. Actor Joshua Malina, a cast member of *Scandal* and *The West Wing*, baked MAZON's 36th birthday cake alongside his daughter Isabel and Joan Nathan, a Jewish food expert and columnist for *The New York Times*. The event raised nearly \$200,000 to continue MAZON's work to end hunger in the U.S. and Israel.

Then, attendees watched as Malina and Nathan discussed MAZON's mission to end hunger while preparing a Roman ricotta cheese crostata. "I like the fact that MAZON has a Jewish inspiration for justice but works against food insecurity on behalf of people who are food insecure in Israel and the United States, regardless of religion and denomination or any other way of categorizing people," Malina shared. Nathan agreed, "I like the fact that MAZON is an organization for everybody."



GAIL SIMMONS

Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky, chair of MAZON's Board of Directors, greeted our community of virtual attendees with a call to action. "Thirty-six is an important number in Judaism," he said. "Double chai—double the numerical value of the Hebrew word for life: chai. That number should cause all

of us to ask the question of what we can accomplish in our one lifetime: How will this world

be a better place because I lived in it? Perhaps our work with and support for MAZON can be part of the answer."

After Malina and Nathan finished baking the cake, chef and television personality Gail Simmons toasted to our double-chai birthday. Simmons said, "On this Double Chai birthday, let's raise our glass and make a life-affirming toast to MAZON. Let's make a toast to 36 years of MAZON building an anti-hunger movement in America. Let's raise a glass to MAZON's 36 years of challenging a system in the U.S. that allows *anyone* to go hungry. And let's raise a glass to you—to joining [together] on this 36-year journey with a common cause: ending hunger in this land of plenty. L'Chaim, happy birthday MAZON!"

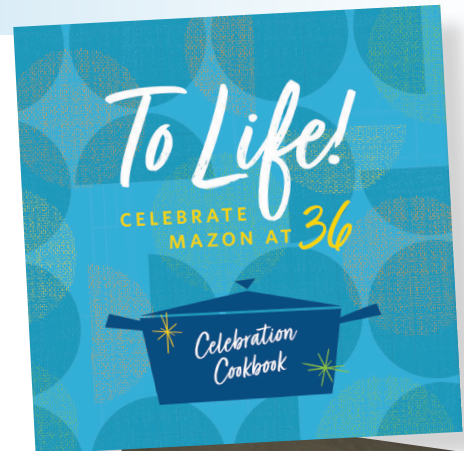
Abby J. Leibman, President & CEO, concluded the birthday event, reflecting on the evening and thanking

everyone for their support: “Even as we enjoy this evening together, we are focused on our commitment to those who are struggling with food insecurity and the significant systemic challenges that are imposed on them. With your help and your support, MAZON will be able to continue to fight for them to get the kind of stability in their lives to not only survive, but to thrive. On behalf of all of them and all of us, thank you for being a part of our 36th anniversary.”

To Life! attendees also received MAZON’s Celebration Cookbook, featuring recipes from **Einat Admony, Hugo Bolanos, Maneet Chauhan, Josh Kulp, Joan Nathan,**

Minh Phan, Andrew Philips, Vivian Ku, Barbara Sibley, Sarah Stegner, Adeena Sussman, Jeffrey Yoskowitz, Liz Alpern, and Michael Twitty. We are grateful for their generous and delicious contributions!

It’s not too late to join the 36th birthday celebration! Make a gift of \$180 today and we will send you a copy of MAZON’s Celebration Cookbook in recognition of your essential partnership in our work. give.mazon.org/tolife



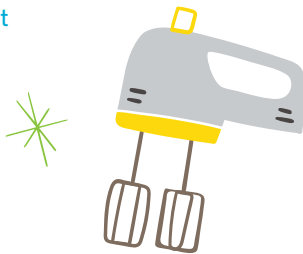
Roman Ricotta Cheese Crostata with Cherries or Chocolate

JOAN NATHAN

SERVINGS: ABOUT 12

CRUST:

- ½ cup (100 grams) sugar
- 12 tablespoons (1 ½ sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 2 large egg yolks
- 1 ½ cups (200 grams) unbleached all-purpose flour
- Pinch of salt



FILLING:

- 2 ½ cups (560 grams) whole milk ricotta
- 4 large eggs, separated
- ¾ cup (150 grams) sugar
- 1 tablespoon unbleached all-purpose flour
- Grated zest of 1 lemon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ to 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup (130 grams) fresh, frozen, or dried cherries, defrosted and drained if using frozen
- ½ cup (170 grams) good quality dark chocolate broken into small pieces
- ½ cup (126 grams) sour cherry preserves



For the crust:

- Put the sugar, butter, egg yolks, flour, and salt in a large bowl and either rub everything together with your fingers, or quickly pulse the ingredients in a food processor fitted with a steel blade until the dough forms a ball. Either way, do not overwork the dough. Cover in plastic wrap and chill in the refrigerator for a half hour.
- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees, place the rack in the top third of the oven, and grease a 10-inch tart pan with a removable bottom.
- On a lightly floured surface roll out the dough into a 13-inch diameter quasi-circle. Fold the dough gently and press into the pan. Trim and flatten the edges with a knife. You want this to be quite rustic. Prick with a fork and bake for 15 minutes, then remove from the oven and set aside.

To make the filling:

- Stir together the ricotta, egg yolks, sugar, flour, lemon zest, vanilla, and cinnamon with a spoon in a medium mixing bowl.
- In the bowl of a standing mixer with a whisk attachment, beat the egg whites until almost stiff peaks form and fold gently into the ricotta mixture with all the cherries and the chocolate.
- Spread the cherry preserves over the entire crust, then spoon on the ricotta mixture, smoothing over the top with the back of a spoon. Bake in the top third of the oven for 40 to 50 minutes, or until the center is set and golden brown; or do as the Romans do, and let it get slightly burnt on the top.

Note: I like mixing the chocolate and the cherries, but if you prefer, use just one or the other.

HANUKKAH E-CARDS

Hanukkah starts early this year — Sunday, November 28th. Honor your loved ones with a MAZON e-card or printed tribute card, and make a difference in the lives of those who struggle with hunger. Your support lights our way toward a future where everyone can feed themselves and their families with dignity. Donate today by visiting mazon.org or calling us at (800) 813-0557.



DONATE TO MAZON'S NEW "SPOTLIGHT FUND"

Your support allows MAZON to be the national Jewish voice dedicated to fighting hunger. Together, we are able to spotlight issues and populations where larger organizations and the government have yet to turn their focus. **Your partnership in launching MAZON's Spotlight Fund will further this work, by allowing us to fight to end hunger among military families, veterans, Native Americans, single mothers, LGBTQ seniors, the people of Puerto Rico and the territories, and all who struggle.**

Your gift today will further strengthen our work and help to build a community dedicated to ending hunger. Join us by becoming one of the Founders of the Spotlight Fund by making a donation of \$1,000 or more. Contribute to the Spotlight Fund by visiting mazon.org or calling us at (800) 813-0557.



10850 Wilshire Blvd #400
Los Angeles, CA 90024
mazon.org

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR!

Invest in the fight to end hunger. Please call us at
(800) 813-0557 or visit mazon.org to join our
monthly giving program today!

LEGACY GIVING AND GIFT PLANNING

Find out about giving through your will, life-income
gifts, or other creative ways to support MAZON.
Please contact Sarah Pratter at spratner@mazon.org
or by phone at (424) 208-7228.

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WHO IS MAZON?

Inspired by Jewish values and ideals, MAZON is
a national advocacy organization working to end
hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds
in the United States and Israel.

REACH US

mazon.org
(800) 813-0557
hello@mazon.org

JOIN US ON SOCIAL

@MAZONusa

