



Letter From Our Rabbi

“Let All Who Are Hungry, Come And Eat”

April 2011

Dear Haverim,

Hunger hurts. Poverty overwhelms men, women and children and makes everything about life cruel and unbearable. For over a quarter of a century, Mazon: A Jewish Response To Hunger has brought together a thousand synagogues and a hundred thousand annual donors to fight against hunger and to give meaning to the opening words of our Pesach Seder: “Let all who are hungry, come and eat.”

We Jews know slavery and we know the joy of freedom. We are not only supposed to recite the Haggadah, but to internalize its message. Break chains, lift up the poor, feed the hungry and create a society that liberates everyone.

Recently, CBS’ *60 Minutes* aired a segment about the increased number of children who go to bed hungry every night in America.

Listen to the voices of these children and your heart will break. [Click here](http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7358670n&tag=related;photovideo) or go to: <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7358670n&tag=related;photovideo>.

Hunger and poverty shouldn’t exist in America, but they do and government alone can’t solve the problem. Consider watching this video, or a part of it, at your personal Seders and see where the discussion leads. That’s what a Seder is supposed to be – not just feasting, singing and camaraderie, but discussion and debate on how to free people from their chains today. Discuss and then please give a gift to Mazon so that others may eat and live (www.mazon.org).

At University Synagogue, from April 1-18, we will be collecting food, as we do each year, for the poor of Orange County. You’ll see barrels in the foyer. Bring your chametz – the food that we traditionally forgo at Pesach – and anything else that is non-perishable. Let’s clean out our kitchens and open our hearts.

Have a joyous, thoughtful and liberating Pesach.

Chag Sameach,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arnold Rachlis".

Rabbi Arnold Rachlis