

Josh Protas
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Vice President of Public Policy, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, December 2012–present

- Develop and advance MAZON’s advocacy agenda, public policy priorities, and legislative strategies in collaboration with MAZON staff and Board of Directors, including efforts to protect and strengthen the federal nutrition safety net, with particular emphasis on the food security needs for seniors, veterans, military families, Indigenous Peoples, and resident of Puerto Rico.
- Monitor, respond to, and craft federal anti-hunger legislation, providing technical assistance on Capitol Hill and with Administration officials
- Offer guidance and create supporting materials such as action alerts, memos, background reports, and presentations to engage key stakeholders in MAZON’s advocacy work
- Coordinate MAZON’s Help our Heroes initiative aimed at removing barriers that prevent military families and veterans from accessing needed nutrition assistance and assert MAZON’s roles as national leader on military and veteran hunger issues, including leading the effort to establish a Memorandum of Agreement between MAZON and the Department of Veterans Affairs, representing MAZON at the 2022 White Oak Retreat, and serving on the advisory committee for a VA researcher investigating issues related to veteran food insecurity
- Establish and cultivate strong relationships with issue-based and interfaith partners and represent MAZON at national coalitions and stakeholder convenings
- Serve as key member of MAZON’s senior management team, provide leadership for MAZON’s advocacy work, staff the Board of Directors’ Government Affairs and Public Policy Committee, and oversee operation of Washington office

Vice President and Washington Director, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, October 2009–December 2012

- Coordinated the legislative work for the JCPA, working in partnership with professional and lay leadership from the JCPA’s national member agencies and network of local Jewish Community Relations Councils
- Oversaw the programmatic, advocacy, and community-building elements of the JCPA’s Confronting Poverty campaign
- Gave professional leadership for the JCPA’s Equal Opportunity and Social Justice Task Force, including setting the agenda for priority issues, creating strategy for advocacy and programming efforts, and representing the JCPA in various coalitions of faith groups and social justice organizations
- Supervised the operations of the JCPA’s Washington office and served as part of the JCPA’s Management Team and Executive Committee

Senior Vice President for Planning and Community Affairs, Jewish Federation of So AZ, 2007– October 2009

- Continued to serve as Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (duties described below)
- Coordinated Federation strategic planning and general Jewish community planning efforts
- Represented Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona (JFSA) to the media and public entities and served as liaison to other nonprofit organizations and faith communities
- Supervised staff and operations of JFSA program departments, including JCRC, Coalition for Jewish Education, and Outreach Connections
- Provided professional leadership for Young Men’s Group, Young Leadership Cabinet, and organized first Men’s Night Out community event
- Participated as part of JFSA senior management team and Federation Board and Executive Committee
- Initiated and facilitated partnerships in strategic areas with synagogues, Jewish agencies, community organizations, and public entities and staffed Federation-Synagogue Dialogue committee

Director, Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of So AZ, March 2004 – October 2009

- Coordinated, collaborated, and facilitated wide variety of programs and activities in areas of social justice, community awareness, government relations, and Israel advocacy

- Advocated with elected and public officials on a broad range of issues impacting the Jewish community and reflecting Jewish values
- Worked with lay leadership to set priorities and goals for JCRC, develop action plans, cultivate community support, plan marketing and outreach strategies, facilitate programs, conduct program evaluations, and develop new organizational leadership
- Oversaw budgets, coordinated Friends of JCRC Campaign, wrote grants, obtained program underwriting, and maintained relationships with supporters

Executive Director, Historic Stone Avenue Temple, December 2001 – February 2004

- Coordinated programs and activities of non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the first synagogue in the Arizona Territory as a community resource, to the interpretation of the Jewish experience in the American Southwest, and to fostering intercultural dialogue
- Provided leadership in development and implementation of business and strategic plans
- Wrote and administered grants and coordinated organization's development program
- Provided budgets, projections, and financial statements to the Board of Directors on a regular basis and worked closely with board committees to facilitate organizational operations
- Collaborated on programs and activities with other historical and cultural organizations, with particular emphasis in the downtown area, and maintained ongoing public relations activities for the organization
- Initiated, coordinated, and directly supervised the use of the Temple by community and private groups

Assistant Director of Education, Arizona Historical Society, Southern Division, June 2000 - December 2001

- Organized and taught the museum docent training course and coordinated museum volunteer activities
- Managed school and group museum tours, outreach activities, lecture series programs, and the Museum Discovery summer camp
- Researched and designed new museum exhibits and public programs
- Developed history-related curriculum materials and teacher training workshops
- Supervised Education Department staff and over 100 museum docents

COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENTS

- Food Policy Action, Vote Advisory Council member, 2014-2018
- Daisy Girl Scout Troop 2474, Co-Leader, 2015-2017
- Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, Shabbat Breirot Planning Committee, 2015-2016
- Grant Selection Committee, Senior SNAP Outreach Project, National Council of Aging, 2014, 2016
- Habitat for Humanity International, Interfaith Engagement Advisory Group member and contributor to Interfaith Advocacy Toolkit, 2012-2014
- Selection Committee, Selah Jewish Leadership Program, 2013
- Takoma Park Silver Spring Baseball, Little Leach Coach, 2011-2012
- Coalition on Human Needs, Board of Directors, 2011-2012
- Silver Spring Nursery School, Treasurer, 2012-2013
- Pima County FEMA - Emergency Food and Shelter Board, 2006-2009
- Tucson Regional Visioning Project, Initiating Committee Member, 2009
- Jewish Council for Public Affairs Plenum Planning Committee, 2006-2009
- Interfaith Community Services, Member of Board of Directors, 2004-2009
- Primavera Men's Shelter, Meal Team Volunteer, 2000-2009
- Commissioner, Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission (Appointed Historian), 2001-2006

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Co-author of Hunger Seder Haggadah programs, awarded in 2014 and 2015 by Jewschool: Progressive Jews & Views as one of Top Social Justice Haggadot
- Selah Leadership Program, member of 2011 National Cohort
- 2007 Tucson Jewish Community Professional of the Year
- 2007 Community Spirit Award from the Tucson Chapter of the NAACP
- "40 Under 40" – recipient of *Tucson Business Edge* award, 2006
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) / FBI award, 2006
- Emerging Preservation Leader – recognition and award selection by National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2002

PRESENTATIONS AND WRITINGS

Presentations

- Presenter at Keeping America's Commitment: Ensuring Our Veterans Are Food Secure – Congressional Briefing, November 2015
- Presenter, Food Insecurity Among Veterans Families – webinar training for VA chaplains, June 2015
- Presenter on session, "Thinking Outside of the Food Collection Box" at Consultation on Conscience, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism conference, April 2015
- Presenter on panel, "Funding Anti-Hunger Work" at the Fighting Hunger in Maryland Conference, November 2014
- Moderated "Integrating Schools and Communities" session at CNR 2015 Briefing on School-Based Nutrition Programs, September 2014
- Reader at 24th Annual National Homeless Persons Memorial Service, December 2013
- Presenter on panel on anti-hunger priorities and legislative opportunities at Corporate Coalition Against Hunger Summit, October 2013
- Presenter in workshop, "A Faithful Commitment to Advocacy" at Habitat for Humanity International's Annual Legislative Conference, February 2013
- Presenter on panel, "Exploring Resources and Best Practices for Successful Interfaith Relations" at the Islamic Society of North America annual convention, September 2012, Washington, D.C. 2012
- Presenter on panel, "Meet the Change: Jews Battling Hunger" at the Jewish Federations of North America's Tribefest conference, March 2011, Las Vegas, NV
- Moderator of panel, "The Jewish Community Response to Poverty and the Recession" at the General Assembly of The Jewish Federations of North America, November 2010, New Orleans, LA
- Presenter on panel, "The Faith Community and the NAACP" at the NAACP Western Regional Conference, April 2006, Tucson, AZ
- Presenter on panel, "The Power of Voice: Communities, Interpretation, and Public Agencies," sponsored by the National Council on Public History at the Oral History Association Annual Meeting, October 1999, Anchorage, Alaska

Books

- *A Past Preserved in Stone: A History of Montezuma Castle National Monument*, Western National Parks Association, 2002
- "The Straw that Broke the Camel's Back: Preservation of an Urban Mountain Landscape," published in *Suburban Sprawl: Politics, Ecology, and Culture*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2003
- Contributor to *Studies in Arizona History: Teacher's Manual and Classroom Activities*, Arizona Historical Society, 2000

Articles

- "Reflections from the Borderlands," *Sh'ma Magazine* (special issue on immigration), March 2007.
- "The Straw that Broke the Camel's Back: Preservation of an Urban Mountain Landscape," *Journal of the Southwest*, Autumn 2001
- "For the Work We Have Done: Frank Pinkley and the Transformation of Montezuma Castle National Monument," *Journal of the Southwest*, Winter 1998
- "Preservation in a Rapidly Changing World: Montezuma Castle National Monument," published in *Making Protection Work: Proceedings of the Ninth Conference on Research and Resource Management in Parks and Public Lands*, George Wright Society, 1997
- Review of *Wilderness By Design: Landscape Architecture & the National Park Service* by Ethan Carr, *The Journal of Arizona History*, Spring 1999

EDUCATION

Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

Master of Arts degree in Public History and Western American History, December 1997
Course of Study concentrating in Historic Preservation and Cultural Resource Management
Certified Community College Instructor of History in Arizona

Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut

Bachelor of Arts, May 1994 - Graduated Phi Beta Kappa
Double Major - American Studies and French Literature

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST