

Hazon Monthly Report. February 2016

Dear All,

One new feature of the monthly report, which I commend to everyone, is a section from Mike Davino listing work done on the IF campus. In this report we've covered both Jan and Feb, and as of the March report this will be included each month. We hope and intend that these monthly reports, as of this month, will show steady multi-month and multi-year progress towards the refurbishment, fixing and rebuilding of Isabella Freedman.

A second one is that we're trying to use video more systematically. This is important to support all of our work, so that we not only *do* great things but so that we can also give a sense of that, viscerally, to other people. This will be especially important as we start the multi-year process of renewing Isabella Freedman: amazing things happen at IF, and/but it's a fair distance from NYC. So here are just two very short recent clips that give a sense of the impact of IF over time. This is [Jakir Manela](#), the Executive Director of Pearlstone and a Hazon board member. And this is [Rabbi Dr Elie Kaunfer](#), the founder of Hadar.

Finally:

Board members, thank you so much for a great board retreat at the start of this month.

Staff: looking forward to seeing you at staff retreat, at the end of this month.

To one and all: I wish you a happy Purim. Spring is in the air. The sun is starting to shine. There is much good work to be done to make the world healthier and more sustainable. May this be a period of increasing light and joy – I think we can all agree that that is much needed right now, in the world and in America...

Nigel

External: Program Overview and Impact

February Multi-Day Events

247 people visited Isabella Freedman through three Hazon Retreats and three retreats from outside organizations. In addition, 331 people partook in 11 single-day events and programs across the country.

Of the 247 multi-day participants, including 122 who were at Hazon retreats, we had only 3 eval responses during the month. Obviously something went wrong there, and as I write I'm not sure exactly what this is/was. We're going to figure out what happened and fix that going forwards. We can't do what we do without consistent eval data, both to explicate to individuals and institutions why they should come to Freedman, and to help us improve anything that is less than excellent.

January Events	Type	Start Date	End Date	People	People Days *	# of Survey Responses	Connected with Jewish Spirituality	Sustainable Jewish Future	More informed about JOFEE	Hope for the Jewish people
Amir Gardens	Org Retreat	31-Jan	3-Feb	12	48					
UJA Ruskay Institute	Org Retreat	31-Jan	4-Feb	31	155					
Our Place	Org Retreat	5-Feb	7-Feb	82	246					
Davennen Leadership Training Institute and Torah Yoga (<i>concurrent</i>)	Hazon Retreat	10-Feb	15-Feb	60	360	3	100%	100%	67%	100%
Let My People Sing	Hazon Retreat	26-Feb	28-Feb	62	186					
Feb Sub Total				247	995					
2016 to Date				379	1391					

*People days equals number of people times number of days

Amir Gardens

A small but powerful retreat brought together educators from across the JOFEE field to draft a comprehensive Jewish curriculum around animal welfare and food practices for Amir Gardens’ work in Jewish summer camps nationwide this summer.

UJA Ruskay Institute

This new initiative from UJA brought together key emerging leaders in the Jewish organizational world to engage in an in-depth leadership and organizational development training program, facilitated through the same Rockwood method that forms the foundation for the highly impactful Selah program.

“Thank you for your gracious hospitality this week. I appreciate the warm welcome you extended to the Ruskay Fellows. Isabella Freedman provided a wonderful setting for the opening retreat of the Ruskay Institute for Jewish Professional Leadership. I am only disappointed that you don’t have availability for the dates of our closing retreat.”

Our Place / TLR

Our Place focuses on counseling, rehabilitating, and guiding troubled youth in the Jewish community. The participants are mostly within the orthodox, ultra-orthodox, and formerly orthodox communities. The wonderful slogan printed on their souvenir sweatshirts for the retreat was “You can’t save your tuchis and your punim at the same time”. We have hosted retreats produced by Our Place for the last 5 years, and starting last year they run two retreats yearly at Isabella Freedman, including a winter retreat which generates good revenue at an otherwise slower time of year.

DLTI & Torah Yoga

These two retreats have run concurrently together for a few years – both drawing similar crowds and in partnership with ALEPH, as DLTI is a requirement of ALEPH’s ordination program. This DLTI retreat was the culminating retreat for DLTI cohort 8. Cohort 9 starts in July 2016.

"Some powerful moments included witnessing Dinner and Kabbalat Shabbat as an inter-generational experience, and watching the pride and commitment of the young people of Adamah and Hazon." "Over the last 2 years, I have experienced a great improvement in the food, the quality, the availability of a balance diet, I was able to find foods that met my health needs and the cooking and preparing of the foods all were superbly developed." "The hospitable warmth of your welcoming reflects the best of our Jewish tradition. Your staff's graciousness make up for any of the moaning and groaning of the pipes. Thank you all."

Let My People Sing (Winter)

This was a winter edition of a new retreat that was a huge success in summer 2015 - it was more modest but still substantial success both communally and educationally. Largely lay-led and with educators sourced from the participant pool, the LMPS leadership is committed to promoting the value of non-professional music as a communal practice and the representation of non-Ashkenazi Jews, non-cis-men, and Jews of color in the programming. We are evaluating the future viability of the winter edition of this program in light of its lower numbers.

Education, One-Day Events & Regional Work

February One-Day Events	Region	Type	Start Date	People
Sunday School Presentation on Climate Change & Water - Congregation Hakafa	Chicago	Class	21-Feb	14
Colorado Advisory Board Annual Retreat	Colorado	Program	21-Feb	12
Detroit JOFEE Educators' Cohort for Federation's NIRIM Professional Development	Detroit	Program	7-Feb	11
What's Jewish about Food Justice? Shir Tikvah 8th Grade	Detroit	Series	22-Feb	17
Teen Leadership Food Justice Program with ATID	Detroit	Class	22-Feb	32
Sustainable Shabbaton at Joey Weisenberg Shabbaton	Detroit	Program	26-Feb	121
Adamah Market @ Limmud NY	New York	Market	15-Jan	62
Upper West Side Jewish Green Action Circle	New York	Meeting	1-Feb	15
Westchester Jewish Greening Group	New York	Meeting	8-Feb	12
Beacon Hebrew Alliance Green Kiddush	New York	Program	20-Feb	35
Hakhel/ JICI welcome meeting/ pre-trip orientation		Meeting	21-Feb	0
Feb Sub Total				331
2016 Total to Date				1282

Hazon Seal of Sustainability

- This month saw many effective smaller meetings with lay leaders involved in the project.
- USCJ (United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism) is interested in partnering with us on a Conservative movement cohort.
- We also had expressions of interest from both UJA-Federation of New York and JTS; we're having an internal conversation as to whether it makes sense for us to bring in such major organizations in the pilot phase.
- We signed a contract with a developer to create the new Hazon Seal website which will hold the audit, resource bank, and other tools.

Adamah

- We had 11 application downloads this past month. For comparison, in Feb 2015 we had 8. This month we received 3 completed applications and have conducted 6 interviews.
- We currently have 6 Springniks, 7 Summerniks, and 2 Fallniks.
- We produced a chart comparing the timeline and trends in which people download the application and submit the application so we can see how this year's interest and application rates compare to previous years.

Teva

- Teva is making progress on our educator manual as well as a compendium of shorter Teva activities. We are hoping that these will be invaluable for Hazon staff, and that some part of the materials will be made available for external distribution.
- Teva is currently recruiting educators for the summer Topsy Turvy Bus Tour, which will be traveling the northeast and the midwest, as well as for our fall Shomrei Adamah season.
- We are looking forward to debuting the Topsy Turvy Bus in the New York Region in April, with programs at various synagogues and after school programs in Brooklyn and Westchester.

Colorado

- **Colorado Advisory Board Annual Retreat:** This was a 5-hour retreat that was focused on planning for this year's food festival, while strengthening personal relationships and commitment to Hazon and its mission. We did two DIY activities: making our own flavored salt, and making tote bags out of old T shirts. Since our retreats are consistently run well and experienced positively, we are considering opening them up for a limited number of outsiders (e.g., prospective Advisory Board members, stakeholders) in the future.

Detroit

- **Detroit JOFEE Educators' Cohort for Federation's NIRIM Professional Development:** Used a variety of Hazon curricula including Min HaAretz, Food for Thought, and Fit to Eat.
- **What's Jewish about Food Justice? Shir Tikvah 8th Grade:** A 4-part series of student-centered classes on food justice and Judaism. They loved this program and we are training their teacher to run this four-class module for the rest of their high school this year.
- **Teen Leadership Food Justice Program with ATID:** part of our ongoing curriculum and programming partnership with Yad Ezra - together we are developing next fall's 10-week teen leadership program that ATID (the Conservative joint high school) will run. Modeled on San Diego's food pantry program
- **Sustainable Shabbaton at Joey Weisenberg Shabbaton:** We came in as the sustainability partner, creating informational table tents, posters, and purchasing the compostable plates and flatware, and taking the refuse to D Town Farms to be composted.
- **The Detroit Spring JOFEE Fellowship began,** with two fellows.

New York

- **Adamah Market @ Limmud NY:** Set up a sales market on the last day of Limmud NY
- **Westchester Jewish Greening Group:** Discussed how synagogues can support each other's greening work and hear new JOFEE ideas for kids from Teva Director Elan Margulies. The group is very excited to continue on the theme of JOFEE education for their Hebrew schools.

- **Upper West Side Jewish Green Action Circle:** Bimonthly greening meeting of reps from Jewish institutions in Manhattan / UWS. We met with a staffer from City Council Helen Rosenthal's office to discuss collaborative neighborhood greening projects. We consistently see that bringing in an outside guest to discuss a greening topic was very successful, stimulated good conversation, etc.
- **Beacon Hebrew Alliance [Green Kiddush](#):** Supported BHA running a green vegetarian kiddush, through our Green Kiddush grant program. Professor Alison Spodek, an environmental chemist, spoke about agriculture from a "macro" perspective, and Jennifer, who covered the "micro" level by discussing and debunking best buying practices when shopping for food.

Other

- **Sunday School Presentation on Climate Change & Water - Congregation Hakafa (Chicago):** 30 minute presentation (by skype) on climate change and water for 8th grade Sunday school students

Makom Hadash

- The Weekly Afternoon Walk, a 20-minute walk on Tuesdays led by Gina Schmelling, first met in mid-January, is steadily gaining steam.
- Sarah and Elisheva met with two leaders from Beit Midrash Elul who, together with Rashut HaRabim (the umbrella body of Jewish renewal organizations in Jerusalem), are planning to open a hub, similar to Makom Hadash. They came to visit our space and learn from our experience. It was very interesting, and certainly very useful for them.
- Moving Traditions ended their membership at Makom Hadash after a year of not using the space very much at all. Rabbi Daniel Brenner, the staff member who had been based here, lives in NJ, travels a lot, and often needs to go to their office in Philadelphia. We like Daniel a lot and are sad to see him go.
- We're in an interesting moment for MH, strategically – we have a/ privately had an expression of interest from another significant group about coming in, and we're also discussing future locations both with the Forward and with one other potential landlord/partner.

Israel

- **Hakhel/ JICI welcome meeting/ pre-trip orientation**
- **Israel Ride Information Sessions** were held in Philadelphia (11), Cherry Hill (11), Washington DC (13), Boulder (11), Denver (10), Fort Collins (7), West Hartford (10), Boca Raton (6), Tampa Bay (16), Twin Cities (7)