

Hazon Monthly Report. March 2016

This is/was a month with intimations of spring and looking to the future.

The process of strengthening our systems, in all respects (including aspects of this report itself) is in better shape than we were in 6 months ago – not yet where we’d like to be six months from now.

We partnered with CLAL, Bend the Arc, Hadar and the Institute for Jewish Spirituality on a retreat [that made the front page of the Jewish Week](#) on the development of “new paradigm Jewish spiritual communities.”

In San Diego, Gabi Scher led a successful pilot “Hazon Food Project” – a series of events in different places which went well and which we’ll look to extend next year, not only in San Diego but perhaps in other locations also.

In Israel we led a second successful Israel Sustainable Communities tour.

Internally, we began the month with a fairly successful and well-attended board retreat, and ended it with a series of all-staff retreats at Isabella Freedman.

We’re trying to use video more. Check out a few of these videos below to get some recent clips.

- Rabbi Sid Schwartz sat down for an interview during the New Paradigm Spiritual Communities Initiative Retreat, speaking about [creativity on the growing edge of communities](#), [the nature of the NPSCI retreat](#), [covenantal community with sacred purpose](#), and [hosting a retreat at Isabella Freedman](#).
- [Rabbi Elie Kaunfer](#), Executive Director of Mechon Hadar, and [Jakir Manela](#), Executive Director of Pearlstone Center, also shared their reflections at the retreat.
- FRD and Programming departments teamed up with MarCom to make a [video supporting a grant application](#), bringing innovative Jewish life to college campuses. The video features footage from the Jewish Intentional Communities Tour of Israel.

Finally – this monthly report is still evolving and being tweaked. It is in some sense a record of who we are and what we do – if you have or see errors or omissions, please let David Rendsburg and me know. This is already somewhat late, but we will steadily seek to improve accuracy and usefulness over time.

External: Program Overview and Impact

March Multi-Day Events

227 people visited Isabella Freedman through four retreats from outside organizations and our Staff Gathering. 12 people visited Israel this past month and 552 people partook in 16 single-day events and programs across the country.

March Events	Type	Start Date	End Date	People	Days *
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Hillel International Base	Org Retreat	4-Mar	6-Mar	66	198
Moishe House	Org Retreat	4-Mar	6-Mar	38	114
Midreshet B'erot Bat Ayin	Org Retreat	18-Mar	20-Mar	28	84
Congregation Habonim	Org Retreat	25-Mar	27-Mar	31	93
Hazon Ride Planning	Hazon	25-Mar	27-Mar	9	27
Hazon Staff Gathering	Hazon	28-Mar	30-Mar	55	160
Jewish Intentional Communities Tour	Hazon	13-Mar	20-Mar	12	96
March Sub Total				239	772
2016 to Date				618	2,163

**People days equals number of people times number of days*

Hazon Retreats, Dec 2015 – Mar 2016	# of Survey Responses	Connected with Jewish tradition	Sustainable Jewish Future	More informed about JOFEE	Hope for the Jewish people
Jewish Intentional Communities Tour	8	n/a	100%	n/a	63%
Let My People Sing	6	100%	100%	50%	100%
Kohenet, DLTI, and Torah Yoga	5	100%	100%	40%	100%
Food Conference	21	81%	100%	95%	90%
Meditation	13	85%	85%	46%	85%
Totals to Date	53	74%	96%	58%	87%

Hillel International Base

This was the first retreat for Hillel's 'Base' project - and it turned out to be larger than originally planned, bringing in significant and needed additional revenue above what was budgeted to come in. They were extremely happy at IF. They were on site with Moishe House and sharing the space worked very well as both group leaders planned activities that they could do together.

Moishe House

Moishe House's 'Brooklynsh' retreat was a new way to engage young adults (20's & 30's) and came with fully branded tee-shirts, posters and lots of group spirit. Many folks who are in the Hazon demographic but had never been to IF before were in attendance - a testament to the potential of organizational retreats to expand our core constituency.

Midreshet B'erot Bat Ayin

This was the second year that Midreshet B'erot Bat Ayin came for a retreat.

"I'd like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the great and organized way you welcomed our group. Thank you for your unbelievable care, kindness and extra work you had to accommodate our need to eat separately in the lounge. We really appreciate that you went into this extra effort to ensure that we would be comfortable. The emunahealing seminar was a great success and we thank you so much and already look forward returning next year!"

Congregation Habonim

Congregation Habonin is a small Upper West Side synagogue that has been coming for about 10 years for a family oriented retreat. This year they shared the space with the Hazon Ride planning retreat, which worked well. Rabbi Josh Katzan is their Rabbi and knows and loves Hazon.

"Just wanted to thank you for another terrific weekend at Isabella Freedman. Everyone had a great time and the staff was especially friendly and helpful this year. In particular, Chavi went out of her way to make sure everything ran smoothly and anticipated all of our needs."

Hazon Ride & Retreat Planning Weekend ([Photo](#))

The Planning Team truly came together over the weekend and has a renewed sense of excitement about the Ride & Retreat. They learned about Hazon's latest endeavors, including the Hazon Seal, which everyone was very excited about. They also have whole new branding for our free summer training rides, "Tribe Rides", which we hope will help yield greater success in this area.

"I love The Breakfast Club-esque moments where friends and strangers come together, learn about one another, and bond in a short amount of time. By turning off our tech and spending time focusing on planning the ride, playing games, eating Shabbat meals, practicing Shabbat rituals, taking long hikes, and talking for hours on end, we got to know each other so much better. Before Shabbat ended, we had a havdalah ceremony. As we sang, held hands, and swayed I was a little bit sad about turning my technology back on."

Education, One-Day Events & Regional Work

February One-Day Events	Region	Type	Start Date	People
Seeds at B'nai Torah	Colorado	Class	11-Mar	35
Avodat Lev	Detroit	Series	15-Mar	5
Nature Education with Hillel Early Childhood Center	Detroit	Series	17-Mar	24
Table at the MakerXpo Festival	New York	At Event	6-Mar	80 (500)
Pickle Workshop with Adamah & One Table	New York	Class	10-Mar	30
Suffolk Y JCC	New York	Class	18-Mar	20
Eco-Friendly Event planning	New York	Event	22-Mar	45
Harvard Divinity School - Keynote	Other	Talk	17-Mar	40
Hazon Food Project - Jam Making	San Diego	Class	15-Mar	10
Hazon Food Project - CJC In the Mix Passover Pastry Workshop with Pastry Chef, Jean Marie Verhoeven	San Diego	Class	15-Mar	35
Hazon Food Project - Shabbat in an Hour	San Diego	Class	17-Mar	20
Hazon Food Project - Meditation Shabbat	San Diego	Class	19-Mar	40
Hazon Food Project - Annual For Hadash Hamentashen Bake	San Diego	Class	20-Mar	60
Hazon Food Project - Hamentashen Bake	San Diego	Class	21-Mar	15
Hazon Food Project - Torah on Tap	San Diego	Class	21-Mar	50
Hazon Food Project - Purim Basket building	San Diego	Class	22-Mar	19
March Sub Total				552
2016 Total to Date				1,854

Hazon Seal of Sustainability

- This month brought continued work with our advisory board, including a terrific meeting of the Health and Healthy ecosystem subcommittee with 10 experts in attendance.
- We have made substantial progress on the web platform – the design and functionality is mostly set, and we just need to start entering in the questions for the audit. <http://seal.hazon.org>.

Adamah

- We are expecting 7 Spring fellows for the season, and welcomed Eric as a new apprentice. Our transplants are healthy and growing, although the belated winter put a damper on some things.
- We currently have 7 Spring, 7 Summer, and 2 Fall fellows registered.

Colorado

- **Seed Planting at Bnai Torah** - planted literal seeds during their family Shabbat service by making seed necklaces. During the adult service we planted figurative seeds by introducing the Food Audit and then actually taking it mid-service, which worked surprisingly well.

Detroit

- **Avodat Lev** at the new farm, outdoors was lovely, but we need to work to attract more people.
- **Nature Education with Hillel Early Childhood Center** – a 6-part series with a Conservative day school, where kids learned about the planet we live in and did a forest activity to search for signs of spring

New York

- **MakerXpo** – led a microgreens planting at a large festival in Paramus NJ. Met lots of Orthodox people and made connections a few day schools that do not come to Teva.
- **Pickling Workshop with One Table** ([photo](#)) – experimental event to continue the relationship with One Table, which was able to reach an audience of 20s-30s that we tend to not reach.
- **Eco-Friendly Event Planning** – a half-day session on green event planning for Jewish institutions. Had a keynote speaker from Sustainable America, great sessions, lots of great networking and peer support.

Other

- **Harvard Divinity School** – Nigel gave a keynote address entitled *Jewish Tradition & Contemporary Life: Lessons from the Evolution of the JOFEE Movement*

San Diego

- The **Hazon Food Project** had 8 projects over the course of a week:
 - **Jam Making**, partnering with Hillel at CSUSM
 - **CJC In the Mix Passover Pastry Workshop** with Pastry Chef, Jean Marie Verhoeven, partnering with JCC's Center for Jewish Culture and In the Mix
 - **Shabbat in an Hour**, partnering with San Diego Jewish Experience (SAJE)
 - **Meditation Shabbat**, partnering with Federation's Next Gen
 - Dor Hadash Hamentashen Bake, partnering with Dor Hadash
 - **Hamentashen Bake**, partnering with Torah High School

- [Torah on Tap](#), partnering with Federation's Next Gen
- **Purim Basket building**, partnering with Soille San Diego Hebrew Day School

Makom Hadash

- An interview with Gina Schmeling about our walking work culture was featured in [Beth's Blog](#).
- Lunch & Learn about Purim costumes with teacher Laynie Soloman had 8 attendees.
- Makom Hadash hosted a megillah reading with 7 staff attendees.

Israel

- The Israel Ride had information sessions in Minneapolis, Acton MA, Fremont CA, Pittsburgh, Santa Monica CA, Longmeadow MA, and Northfield NJ. There were also 2 training rides in Washington DC and Baltimore.

Videos

- Rabbi Sid Schwartz sat down for an interview during the New Paradigm Spiritual Communities Initiative Retreat, speaking about [creativity on the growing edge of communities](#), [the nature of the NPSCI retreat](#), [covenantal community with sacred purpose](#), and [hosting a retreat at Isabella Freedman](#).
- [Rabbi Elie Kaunfer](#), Executive Director of Mechon Hadar, and [Jakir Manela](#), Executive Director of Pearlstone Center, also shared their reflections at the retreat.
- FRD and Programming departments teamed up with MarCom to make a [video supporting a grant application](#), bringing innovative Jewish life to college campuses. The video features footage from the Jewish Intentional Communities Tour of Israel.
- Nigel gave the [opening keynote address](#) of the "Spirit of Sustainable Agriculture" conference at Harvard Divinity School, March 31, 2016. Here's a clip highlighting [lessons learned from the JOFEE movement](#).

In the News

- [The New Paradigm Spiritual Communities Initiative](#)
by Rabbi Sid Schwarz, *e Jewish Philanthropy*, March 30, 2016
- [Make Way For 'Earthodoxy'](#)
by Gary Rosenblatt, *New York Jewish Week*, March 30, 2016
- [Kid Tested, and Now Adult Tested: a Grown-up Taste of Jewish Summer Camp](#)
by Deborah Fineblum, *JNS.org*, March 23, 2016
- [In Landmark Announcement, Largest Welfare Certification Addresses Genetic Health](#)
PR Web, March 17, 2016
- [Eleven Communities Across Canada Go Wild for Nature](#)
Northumberland View, March 8, 2016