

Hazon Monthly Report: June 2016

Dear All,

Please read this monthly report!!!!

I say that because this has been the most remarkable month in our history. In a single month – inter alia –

- We successfully launched the JOFEE Fellows program. We needed 15 Fellows; in fact we have 17 and, having met with them in the middle and at the end of orientation I can say, truthfully, that it is an *extremely* strong group, and that the orientation process went exceptionally well;
- And we did our first-ever JOFEE Network Gathering. It was extremely hard to plan for, and/but it went well – and creates a very strong base for the future;
- We did the biggest simcha we've ever done at IF – a bat mitzvah – and it went extremely well;
- A series of other strong retreats, including Shavuot which went well
- A strong new cohort of Adamahniks arrived
- A whole series of improvements at IF
- A kickoff webinar for the Hazon Seal of Sustainability
- Strong events in Detroit and CO
- A series of formal and informal meetings with board members – many people are stepping up and really putting in time in helpful and productive ways
- Ongoing conversations with both UJA-Federation of NY and JTS about significant partnerships
- Late stage conversations about expanding MH and bringing in 13 staffers from a strong organizational partner.
- *And* we closed a \$300k Campaign For The Future gift, which takes our running total up to \$560k in pledges
- *And* we had a superb meeting in Detroit which will lead to the largest grant request in our history (though it doesn't, of course, by any means, mean that we will *receive* the largest grant in our history – much work to do on that...)

This is not an exhaustive list!!!

So, as I say, please do read this report. (And if there are errors or omissions, please let me know.)

But, for now - genuinely – thank you to everyone. Every staffer and every board member plays some role in helping to make this all happen. We have a lot to do – a lot to do – and/but we are making really significant progress. Huge thanks.

External: Program Overview and Impact

JOFEE Fellowship

We officially started the first cohort of seventeen JOFEE Fellows! Our three week orientation and training intensive was overwhelmingly successful with lots of learning. Our Fellows are all now in their placements for

the remainder of the year - most jumped straight in to camp and other programming. We also had our first webinar on June 30 - this one was mainly a group check-in as our first time all online together and in placements. Subsequent webinars will be more content focused. Our JOFEE organization partners seem energized by the outcomes of Fellowship training and are enthusiastic to deepen collaboration on future trainings for both the first and subsequent cohorts.

"The JOFEE Fellowship training program was one of the most phenomenal training experiences I have been a part of. I feel deeply fortunate to have spent the last three weeks learning, challenging myself, and deepening my connection to Judaism and the natural world -- and even more fortunate to have spent this time in a supportive, passionate community of JOFEE educators... Before starting this training, I was unsure of how the program would go, or how committed I felt to the JOFEE world. After three weeks of a wonderfully planned, well-funded, and inspiring program, I can safely say that I have fallen in love with the JOFEE field and plan to stay in it for a long time. This work is essential to the modern Jewish community here in the US."

"There is a 100% chance that I will be a better educator for the rest of my life because of this fellowship training."

June Multi-Day Events

This past month saw 776 people visiting Isabella Freedman for 8 retreats.

June Events	Type	Start Date	End Date	People	People Days *
Our Place 2	Org Retreat	3-Jun	5-Jun	83	249
Itkoff Wedding	Simcha	5-Jun	5-Jun	150	150
JOFEE Network Gathering	Hazon	6-Jun	9-Jun	113	452
Shavuot	Hazon	10-Jun	14-Jun	164	820
Wallace Bat Mitzvah	Simcha	17-Jun	19-Jun	111	333
AMI Mini Vacation	Hazon	20-Jun	23-Jun	48	192
MJE	Org Retreat	24-Jun	26-Jun	90	270
LGBTQ Training	Hazon	27-Jun	29-Jun	17	51
June Sub Total				776	2517
2016 to Date				2547	10543

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

Our Place

Our Place has been running a winter programs for mostly Orthodox Jews in addiction recovery programs at Freedman for about 6 years. Last year they added a second program for family and friends which seems to be also very successful as it has continued for a second year. In addition, we were able to successfully work with them around an early departure time so that we could turn over the site for a Sunday wedding.

Itkoff Wedding

This was a one-day wedding event (without a weekend retreat component). The couple was pleased with the event, although they critiqued a difficult planning process due to various handoffs between former staff. Vlastik did a good job to manage the relationship and ran a superb event even with limited time to set up the site.

JOFEE Network Gathering

This was the first Network Gathering retreat. The amount of sessions offered during each slot and the breadth of session offerings was very successful - everyone had a place to be during each time. Both keynotes were provocative and hit people in different ways. Some people wrote that each of those was the most inspiring part of the whole conference, and some people thought they were not quite right for the conference. Roughly half of the participants cited Rabbi Everett Gendler (grandfather of the Jewish environmental movement and colleague of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and the Dalai Lama) as the absolute highlight of the entire conference. The programming that the Jewish Institute for Animals (JIFA – cofounded by former staff member Sarah Chandler) sponsored was well-received across the board, and many of these sessions were noted as participants' highlights.

"The most powerful moment for me was sitting around the fire with everyone on the last night, singing songs together. After being a part of so many sessions that brought Judaism to life in a way I had not experienced before and feeling so connected to all others at the conference, it was at the fire that I had this a-ha moment -- that this is the field where I belong and will continue on in life."

Shavuot

The Shavuot Retreat continues to evolve in a post-Reb Zalman world. Revenue and attendance goals were exceeded (while down from previous Reb Zalman years, it was up from last year). The davenen was incredible - amazing, diverse, talented team of leaders led by Shir Yaakov Feit. Goat Parade, Bikkurim Ritual, and Adamah First Fruits Kiddush were highlights. Learning sessions were very strong and diverse. A strong partnership for this event with ALEPH Alliance for Jewish Renewal was established.

Wallace Bat Mitzvah

This was a huge bat mitzvah weekend. The retreat maximized the outdoor property - Hiking, farm tours, barn tours, outdoor movie watching, bonfires, pool, lake, and outdoor event on patio and tent. The ceremony was performed by former Freedman board member and Temple Eman-El senior staff Saul Kaiserman. Everyone lounged outside in an elaborately decorated tent in comparison to most retreats where people predominantly lounge indoors. The family brought in an outside event production team of nearly 30 people which were responsible for floral designs, tent setup, music, programming, etc. Their production staff worked efficiently as a liaison with the event coordination staff at Isabella Freedman. The food was abundant, beautifully presented and delicious! Every meal had an unprecedented amount of variety. The campus received a lot of upgrades ahead of the weekend, and small touches by housekeeping and others were added as well.

[Lots of photos online here!](#)

AMI Mini Vacation

Adults with Mental Illness is a legacy program, but it is not clear whether it fits our business model. While participants love the experience, especially the arts and crafts program, we see continued decline in participation and revenue. However, for lots of guests, who live in group homes for adults with special needs, this is the only opportunity to have a vacation and be in nature all year. *"I don't think heaven would be this good"*

Manhattan Jewish Experience (MJE)

This retreat was started last year by Miriam Leichtling before she began working at Hazon. The retreat had a lot of JOFEE programming and the group was eager to learn and experience more of IF/Teva/Adamah offerings. The MJE staff of Atara Neuer and Rabbi Davis Miller are big fans of Isabella Freedman. We had the very unusual occurrence of reported thefts from guest rooms during this retreat which were dealt with according to our protocols and that was appreciated by the participants.

LGBTQ Training (with Keshet)

Funded by a grant from the Carpenter Foundation, this program was a partnership between Hazon and Keshet focused and providing an opportunity for Jewish organizations to do action-planning to become more LGBTQ inclusive and embracing. Participating organizations included JOIN for Justice, Footsteps, The Beis, the Dorot Fellowship, Avodah, Big Tent Judaism, and the National Council for Jewish Women. Jaclyn and Rebecca from our staff also attended.

Note: Evaluation data will be included in the July report.

Education, One-Day Events & Regional Work

June One-Day Events	Region	Type	Start Date	People
Boulder Jewish Festival	Colorado	Event	19-Jun	150
Yad Ezra's Giving Gardens Grand Opening	Detroit	Event	3-Jun	100
Weekly Avodat Lev	Detroit	Event	16-Jun	20
JOFEE Fellow Work Site: Hillel Day School	Detroit	Event	21-Jun	28
JOFEE Fellow Work Site: Temple Beth El	Detroit	Event	21-Jun	38
Do It For Detroit!	Detroit	Event	23-Jun	100
Temple Israel Food Festival Promotional Event	Detroit	Event	28-Jun	35
Celebrate Israel Parade	New York	Event	5-Jun	35
UWS Jewish Green Action Circle	New York	Greening	20-Jun	15
Westchester Jewish Greening Group	New York	Greening	29-Jun	10
Tribe Ride: Ride with Romemu	New York	Ride	10-Jun	7
Bike to the Beach	New York	Ride	19-Jun	67
Tribe Ride: Schuylkill River	Philadelphia	Ride	26-Jun	27
Topsy Turvy Bus at Gan Israel Burlington	Other	Teva	28-Jun	40
Topsy Turvy Bus at Gan Israel Greenwich	Other	Teva	29-Jun	200
Topsy Turvy Bus at Gan Israel Westport	Other	Teva	30-Jun	200
June Sub Total				1,072
2016 Total to Date				5,944

Adamah

We welcomed 13 new Adamah Fellows for the 2016 summer cohort. We had successful first fruits and costumed goats parade during Shavuot. Rebecca attended the Keshet training and is working with Adamahniks on finding ways to make the program and facility more LGBTQ inclusive.

I feel like I grew and was molded in a deep and lasting way because of this experience. I'm deeply grateful for the love and support of the staff, and the safe, fun and supportive environment you all create. Thank you for being

incredibly accessible, for sharing you personal lives with us, for inspiring us, and for loving us for who we are. Thank you for working so hard and putting together a multi-experiential (mind, body and soul) You all work so hard and emanate life and vitality! Thanks for being truthful and kind, and for being great friends and teachers. I'm sad for Spring Adamah 2016 to end and I know I am moving on from this experience with SO MUCH that I can bring with me.

Colorado

- **Boulder Jewish Festival** – For the sixth year, Hazon was one of about 20 organizations to have a booth in the “Community” section of the festival, which had 7000 participants total. We always invite other organizations to share our "JOFEE" booth with us and this year the local Hazon CSA joined us, as well as a local project called Sustainable Israeli-Palestinian Projects. Our intern and two Advisory Board members helped table the booth and had a positive experience being ambassadors for Hazon. There are always a few really interesting people to connect with. A sampling: the father of a former Hazon employee (Alli Rosen's dad), a Jewish woman starting a community garden for people with ADD/ADHA, a woman who is about to move to Colorado and is doing her PhD dissertation on Jewish environmentalism, and a young woman who is just here for the summer and interning at a community garden and looking to do some serious volunteer hours with us.

Detroit

- **Yad Ezra's Giving Gardens Grand Opening** – our capacity building work with Yad Ezra, and Adamah Alumna Carly Sugar - Director of the Giving Gardens Project - was successful. Garden and greenhouse and collaborations are thriving. Hazon was well represented among other metro Detroit fellowships at the event and Yad Ezra was generous in their public recognition of our work with them.
“With funding in place, we turned to a new partner in town, Hazon, a Jewish environmental non-profit to offer guidance, support and programming ideas. Thanks to Sue Salinger, Director of Hazon [Detroit], Carly Sugar, our Giving Gardens Director, hit the ground running before the first brick was laid. Carly’s enthusiasm, integrity, knowledge and willingness to do whatever it takes to make this effort exceptional is greatly appreciated! With Sue and Hazon’s help, Carly has forged relationships with neighborhood gardens, urban farmers, schools and organizations throughout SE Michigan.”
- **Weekly Avodat Lev**, led by Fellows. Nigel and Repair the World Fellows joined for one week this month.
- **JOFEE Fellow Work Site: Hillel Day School** – Caleb's JOFEE site at the summer pre-k program
- **JOFEE Fellow Work Site: Temple Beth El** – Rebecca’s site, in the garden at the summer pre-k
- **Do It For Detroit!** – Hazon created the Farmer's Market Educational section of this micro fundraiser for Detroit Farmers. Made real connections for NextGen to local urban agriculture movement.
- **Temple Israel Food Festival Promotional Event at Green Space Café** - We presented on Food Justice and Blessings along with two Temple Israel Rabbis while participants enjoyed vegan food and a discussion with Dr. Joel Kahn.

New York

- **Celebrate Israel Parade** – Hazon and the Topsy Turvy Bus marched in the Celebrate Israel Parade, in partnership with Romemu
- **UWS Jewish Green Action Circle** - We held another fruitful meeting of the Green Action Circle, with attendees from SAJ, Romemu, BJ, and JCC Manhattan. Despite our GrowNYC guest speaker not

appearing (due to a flat tire), the group had plenty to discuss. We explored expanding the Sukkot composting pickup and e-waste pickup.

- **Westchester Jewish Green Action Circle** - The speaker, Hugo Jules of Rupco, did a fine job of explaining residential energy improvements and was peppered with questions. Group members shared helpful updates about greening at their institutions and were eager to learn from one another. There was excitement about the July 24 climate march in Philadelphia.

Tribe Rides

This is the new name of the various free local rides that we are running in various cities across the Northeast

- **Ride with Romemu (NYC)** – A lovely Friday afternoon ride in Central Park followed by snacks and drinks at Romemu before services.
- **Bike to the Beach (NYC)** – In partnership with MetCouncil, over 60 riders cycled to the beach at Coney Island from 4 points around the city, and packaged food for over 300 people in need.
- **Schuylkill River (Philadelphia)** – In partnership with the RRC team for the NY Ride, we rode along the Schuylkill river, were given a tour of South Philly through a Jewish lens, and stopped at Jewish bakery for some delicious babka.

Seal of Sustainability

The Seal pilot gained momentum this month with a kickoff webinar for the two dozen institutions participating in our Seal. In the webinar, we explained how to take one of our Seal audits and choose three substantive sustainability projects to carry out over the next half-year. Hazon staff are providing consulting support via phone calls and site visits during this process. Several institutions held green team meetings for the first time in their history. We continue to upgrade and improve our audits platform (seal.hazon.org), and expand an accompanying online bank of sustainability resources useful to Seal pilot organizations.

Teva

Topsy Turvy Bus Tour kicked off for the summer with a few New England stops. Details of the full trip will be in the July and August reports.

Video and News

Video

During June we showed a [JOFEE Network Gathering video](#) to the board, produced by Jon Leiner.

MarCom has been promoting the Let My People Sing! Retreat with videos produced by the LMPS organizers. Here is the planning team [announcing the teacher lineup](#), and here is [Cantor George Mordecai](#), one of the lead teachers.

And the trailer for [Baby Goats of Fire](#) was released to much fanfare.

In the News

[Centre for Sustainable, Land-based Judaism Opens in Ontario](#)

by Jordana Skurka, *Canadian Jewish News*, June 30, 2016

[In a Yiddische Green Acres, Old McDovid has a Farm, E-I-E-I-Oy](#)

by Cathryn J. Prince, *Times of Israel*, June 21, 2016

[JOFE Network Gathering](#)

Jim Joseph Foundation, June 16, 2016

[How I Got Hired: A Conversation With Morgan Dorsch](#)

by Victoria Crispo, *Idealist Careers*, June 14, 2016

[Feed the Soil, Not the Plants](#)

by Rebecca Bloomfield, *eJP*, June 13, 2016