

Hazon Monthly Report: October 2016

Dear All,

- we had a good month at IF – largest number of participants and participant-days of any month in 2016, successful retreats and joyous weddings (also joyous retreats and successful weddings)
- we had a good month in Colorado – new funding and a new advisory board
- we had a good month at Makom Hadash – agreement from the Forward to enlarge the space as of Jan 1st, and agreement from the Forward (CEO, Cheryl Cook) to move in as of Jan 1st
- during the month Rebecca Eisen joined as our first dedicated HR staffer. That’s an important hire, and it presages more work on supervision, staff training, reviews and benefits in 2017.

And with this monthly report, we’re inaugurating a new section, Things You Can Do:

- Val Yasner is looking for sponsors for the Philly Food Festival. If you have any leads, to [contact her](#). The Festival is on Dec 11, 2016.
- Marketing is underway for our three final Hazon Retreats for 2016. We would love for you to join us or spread the word about the [Jewish Intentional Communities Conference](#) (Dec 1-4), [Silent Meditation](#) (Dec 18-25), and the [Food Conference](#) (Dec 28 – Jan 1).
- You and your friends are invited to the Hazon Sustainable Israel Tour, March 13th – 19th, which is being co-chaired by Ellen Goodman and Bob Friedman. If you’re interested in joining us – or want to suggest friends who might like to come, please speak to Meredith Levick at Meredith.levick@hazon.org. Price is \$4,800, and it’s a very strong program.

Finally: November will be a significant month. We have a strong Hazon staff team at the Israel Ride, as we pick up ongoing responsibility for Israel Ride marketing and rider-relations (which was in recent years a complex split with FAI.) And of course there will be an election in the US. Don’t forget to vote...

Nigel

External: Program Overview and Impact

October Multi-Day Events

This past month saw 884 people visiting Isabella Freedman for 3 retreats, 1 wedding, and 1 Teva week. October was our busiest month at Isabella Freedman this year – the 884 guests and 3,400 person-days were significantly more than our next busiest month (June, with 775 guests and 2,500 person-days).

October Events	Type	Start Date	End Date	People	People Days *
Rosh Hashanah	Hazon Retreat	9/30/2016	10/5/2016	193	1,158
Katz/Sherman Wedding	Hazon Retreat	10/7/2016	10/10/2016	143	286
Sukkahfest	Hazon Retreat	10/16/2016	10/26/2016	363	1,398

Teva Week 4	Teva	10/19/2016	10/21/2016	26	78
BJ Family Retreat	Org Retreat	10/28/2016	10/30/2016	120	360
October Sub Total				884	3,397
2016 to Date				4,858	20,118

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

Rosh Hashana

Rosh Hashanah continues to be one of our stronger retreats - both programmatically and financially. We exceeded our budgeted revenue projection and got excellent feedback from participants. The davenen and Torah reading in the Orthodox minyan was particularly strong, led by Rabbi Avram Mlotek and Rabbi Aaron Potek respectively. The Renewal minyan leaders also got very good reviews.

It continues to be an interesting challenge to get the balance right for participants in relation to religious observance. Historically Pesach skews orthodox and Shavuot skews renewal. Both RH and Sukkot this year had stronger orthodox participation, which is good on one side, but it's important to us also to strengthen the non-orthodox side. We sold out Rosh Hashana very early and almost sold out the pre-holiday Shabbat.

"I felt connected to the natural world in a deeper way than I have ever experienced on Rosh Hashanah."

"The Renewal services were absolutely wonderful. The leaders were inspiring teachers and the singing and music were very moving. I attend a Reform congregation at home and I felt very strongly connected at the Renewal service, and I was not necessarily expecting that. Another great experience was HIKING and the new trail signs are AWESOME!"

Katz-Sherman Wedding

This was an inclusive and joyful celebration with current staff, Adamah and Teva educators celebrating the marriage of former Isabella Freedman residents over the course of the weekend. The couple arranged a talent show performed by their friends and family throughout the duration of their wedding celebration which was a big hit. As the final wedding of the season, our staff was well seasoned and familiar with standard procedures.

"Having the chuppah in the dining hall was the best decision. That room is beautiful."

Sukkahfest

This year, Sukkahfest 11, was the second year of our expanded schedule, a 10 day retreat broken into 4 sections: First days, Chol HaMoed, Shabbat, and Last days. As was the case last year, we were sold out for first days and last days, with a few rooms open for Shabbat, and many for Chol HaMoed. All of the Sukkahfest favorite programming was in full bloom - 3 minyanim, tons of JOFEE programming, a wide array of learning sessions, and of course joyous feasts in our gorgeous Sukkhas. A new kids Sukkah was a highlight for the many families who love the retreat. Also Chol HaMoed saw 2 nights of late-night parties and eccentric film screenings curated and sponsored by Jorian Polis Schutz. We had a number of key stakeholders at Sukkahfest.

Though overall solid, there are many improvements to be made on the foodservice side of things. Food needs to stay hotter, be more plentiful, and more varied particularly for those with special food needs, and non-festival meals need more attention. The other major aspect of the program that needs attention is our approach to pluralism/diversity/inclusivity. There were a number of intense discussions among teachers and guests

throughout the retreat about how to improve this dimension of our work, which is central to Sukkahfest. The first nights sold out very quickly and Shabbat and the Last Days were almost entirely full as well.

“It is a practically unparalleled experience to have so many Jewish identities come together for a Havdalah, a Shabbat meal, or a sing-along. The experiences where I witnessed such a diversity of lifestyles coming together to create meaningful moments and memories were the most poignant and memorable, and give me a taste of the Jewish world-to-come.”

“I climbed a trail with my four-year old daughter as part of the Camp Teva program. It was much more challenging for her, and thus for me too, than we expected, but she rose to the occasion beautifully, with strength and grace and humor.”

BJ Family Retreat

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun (Upper West Side major shul) has been one of our most consistent retreat partners for many years, running two if not three retreats per year at IF. Their annual families retreat is a part of their Hebrew School program and brings over 160 people to IF, over 60 of them children under 13. We provided a nice array of JOFEE programming for them and everything went well despite a few hiccups in planning due to a new event planner on the BJ end and our reticence to let 60 kids camp out in the main building... which ended up happening without any problem.

Teva Weeks

Week 4: Golda Och Academy

This is one of our only schools who do a 3-day program, so scheduling is often a bit difficult. This year they squeezed into the middle of Sukkot, the only school that came up in the middle of the holidays. It was great to have them eat in the Sukkah as part of the program.

Education, One-Day Events & Regional Work

October One-Day Events	Region	Type	Start Date	People
Sukkot Mishpacha	Colorado	Event	19-Oct	50
Post High-Holidays Hike for Jewish Professionals	Colorado	Event	26-Oct	11
Tashlich at the River with The Well	Detroit	Event	9-Oct	1,200
Tot Shabbat with IADS and J-Baby	Detroit	Event	22-Oct	18
Bike the Belle! Explore the Shore!	Detroit	Event	23-Oct	17
Sacred Jewish Spiral of Time - Class 1 of 4	Detroit	Class	26-Oct	25
Michigan Good Food Summit	Detroit	Event	28-Oct	65
Bioneers in Detroit	Detroit	Event	29-Oct	100
Feed the Need - Teen Hunger Leadership Series	Detroit	Class	30-Oct	9
SAR Teva Sukkot Program	New York	Teva (Class)	20-Oct	302
Bike Blender Station at Sukkot Harvest Festival	San Diego	Event	23-Oct	400
October Sub Total				2,197
2016 Total to Date				17,406

Adamah

- We went on a field trip to Soul Fire Farm, Linke Fligl, Rock Steady, and Wildseed. It was an inspiring and growthful experience for Adamahniks. We also collaborated with Hevreh in Great Barrington to offer Sukkot programming-- pickling, cheese making, bike blender smoothies, and goat meet & greet.
- We ran pickle workshops at Tufts & Harvard for recruitment.
- We irrigated the most of any season so far, and had no issues with the new well pump, and had a bumper crop of tomatoes & eggplant!

From Jonah at Soul Fire Farm: "Thanks again for coming today. It was wonderful having you all. It really seemed folks were deeply invested in this work and grappling with what our roles are as farmer activists. While I may be a little further along the path here than some (and well behind others), I continue to feel humbled by the amazing learners that come here, and stand along you all in moving all this work forward." [Photos](#)

Colorado

- **Sukkot Mishpacha** - Hazon leads one of three activity stations at this Sukkot event for young families held on an organic farm.
- **Post High-Holidays Hike for Jewish Professionals** - Each year, in Boulder we host a hike for Jewish professionals who, because of their work obligations, have a compromised experience of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. It's a hike with experiential, educational aspects connected to nature and new year themes. [Photo](#). *"Thank you for organizing and leading such a nice hike yesterday. Getting to know people in the community and being outdoors was a great way to wrap up the chaggim."*
- The term year for the Colorado Advisory Board runs October through September to align with the Jewish calendar year. So, this month we held our first meeting of the new year ([photo](#)) and welcomed 7 new members! The group represents people in their 20s - 60s, from different cities/towns, different Jewish identities/affiliations, and different passions within JOFEE. We met in the sukkah of the Boulder Moishe House. One new member wrote, *"Thank you for a wonderful meeting and wonderful meal. I left there feeling nourished on many levels and super excited to be a part of such a fantastic organization."*
- It has been a very good month for fundraising. We received notice that we have been awarded a \$45,000 grant from Emanuel J. Friedman Philanthropies. The anonymous donor who has been given \$30k/year for the last couple of years has increased the gift to \$35k. And, a new anonymous donor is making a donation of \$25k. So a total of \$75,000 in new income.

Detroit

- **Tashlich at the River with The Well** – Helped green the event with water bottles, recycling stations, and healthy snacks as well as ran a table making local lulavs
- **Tot Shabbat with IADS and J-Baby** - We were the sukkot nature activity for the event - we made birdfeeders from natural cheerios and pine cones for the sukkah. we also greened the event
- **Bike the Belle! Explore the Shore!** - Hakafah Around Belle Isle with a Naturalist on bikes for Shmini Atzeret and Hoshanah Rabah
- **Sacred Jewish Spiral of Time** - Sue developed and led this series of hands-on, Earth-Based annual holiday class for the public and for NIRIM's ongoing supplemental teacher education
- **Michigan Good Food Summit** - Sue and Rev Nurya Parish were panelists at the first ever faith and farming panel at this conference

- **Bioneers in Detroit** - We sponsored this conference, and our staff were active participants in sessions and made connections with local environmental groups and activists
- **Feed the Need - Teen Hunger Leadership Series** - Sue and Carly developed a curriculum based on the San Diego food pantry program. Partnered with RTW's Peercorp's middle school program to get students.

New York

- **SAR Teva Sukkot Program** - Ran a program with 5 harvest-themed stations for the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. It was great that so many stations had food. The kids really liked the hands-on components, and it was great for kids to try smashing wheat berries with bricks, the cider making and butter making were new and exciting.

San Diego

- **Bike Blender Station at Sukkot Harvest Festival** - We ran a bike blender smoothie station, talked about SD Ride in March.

Hazon Seal

- Over 20 people and 1 organization signed our new cage-free egg pledge, pledging to only buy cage-free eggs in the future.
- Hazon staff helped coordinate with the NYC Dept of Sanitation to set up post-sukkot composting for 12 UWS synagogues, diverting about one ton of lulav and schach waste from landfills.
- Nigel had [an op-ed in the Forward](#) about the vote on animal welfare in Massachusetts.

JOFEE Fellowship

- Ran webinar co-facilitated by the Tisch Center for Food & Nutrition on Food Justice: Advocacy and Policy from the Grassroots Level Up. We were joined by Diana Robinson, Campaign and Education Coordinator at Food Chain Workers Alliance; Qiana Mickie, Policy & Advocacy Director/ Network Manager at Just Food, NYC; and our own Michael Fraade, JOFEE Fellow, Louisville JCC.
- Fellows led or were involved with Sukkot programming in at least 12 locations.
- With the accelerated timeline it's been a hefty task to simultaneously recruit both sites and fellows. Next year we will ideally be set up to stagger our timelines for recruitment pushes and processing for sites first followed by fellows staggered second.

Video and News

Video

- Here are just a few snippets of the rousing [davening](#), [singing](#), and [dancing](#) at Sukkahfest.
- We continued our video campaign featuring Meditation Retreat teachers, with insights from [Beth Resnick-Folk](#).
- And back on the farm, our happy healthy Adamah chickens [went for a morning stroll](#).

News

- [Alan Greenberg: Vote yes on 2H](#) by Alan Greenberg, *Daily Camera*, October 27, 2016

- [Berkeley urban farm moves to permanent West Berkeley location](#)
by Parth Vohra, *The Daily Californian*, October 26, 2016
- [Ever cycle across Israel?](#) by Ken Toltz, *The Times of Israel*, October 26, 2016
- [The Super Important November 8 Vote That Nobody's Talking About](#)
by Nigel Savage, *Forward*, October 13, 2016
- [First UK Jewish farm community of our generation](#) by Sadeh, *Chuffed*, October 2016
- [Why Fast?](#) by Yedidya Julian Sinclair, *The Times of Israel*, October 9, 2016
- [Sustainability at the JCC](#) by JR Rich, *medium*, October 6, 2016
- [Food For Thought: Jewish Community Members Fight Hunger](#) *Detroit Jewish News*, October 5, 2016