

# Hazon Monthly Report: November 2016

---

Dear All,

Both board members and staff members sometimes struggle to explain Hazon and what we do. This month's monthly report is one of the strongest in our history, and gives a sense of the extraordinary range of programs we have under way. They reflect our determination to effect change in multiple places, in different modes and with different populations – all focused both on enabling the Jewish community to become a force for good in the world, and on strengthening Jewish life in the process. Please do take the time to read through this report.

The month had many highlights but the most complex was the Israel Ride – the largest in our history, the highest-grossing and, very happily, the most successful: our participants had a great time, and our staff worked well and smoothly behind the scenes. Kudos to everyone involved, especially Jessie Karsif, Miriam Leichling and David Rendsberg (who successfully transitioned out of his lead-staff role).

Almost certainly the most significant event during the month was the election of Donald Trump as the next president. We discussed this informally as a staff; formally at our board meeting; and we're adding it to the agenda of some Hazon events. We agreed to host a conference call of JOFEE leaders to discuss the election: that call will be chaired by Jakir Manela and Ruth Messinger and, since we agreed to pull this together, Wilderness Torah, Urban Adamah, Pearlstone and COEJL have joined as co-partners. More on that next month.

Finally: Jon, Amy and Lisa debuted a new [About Hazon](#) video, which you should all take a look at. And check out these videos:

- The Israel Ride posted a ["memories" video](#) prepared for the closing ceremony.
- The Hazon Seal of Sustainability team ran their third and most successful [webinar](#).
- Hody Nemes, Rachel Aronson, and Jon Leiner visited a couple of Seal sites to document the programming underway. Here's [composting in action at Hannah Senesh Community Day School](#)

## What You Can Do

- It's year-end fundraising:
  - Thank you for all of you who have given 2017 pledges
  - Extra thanks to those of you who have paid 2017 gifts in '16 and restricted them for next year
  - If you haven't spoken to Nigel or Gina about your 2017 gift – please do so
  - If you have friends whom you think might like to give year-end gifts – please invite them to do so
  - If you're interested in making a few year-end calls to potential donors, please be in touch with Gina.
- Marketing is underway for our two final Hazon Retreats for 2016. We would love for you to join us or spread the word about [Silent Meditation](#) (Dec 18-25), and the [Food Conference](#) (Dec 28 – Jan 1).
- Registration is open for our Rabbis' Retreat in February and for the NY & Israel Rides in Fall '17. Feel free to sign up and to invite friends.

Wishing everyone merry Christmas, happy Chanukah, and a happy and healthy new year.

Nigel

# External: Program Overview and Impact

## November Multi-Day Events

This past month saw 528 people visiting Isabella Freedman for 3 retreats, and 4 Teva weeks – and 189 people participated in the Israel Ride.

November Events	Type	Start Date	End Date	People	People Days *
Dorot Foundation	Org Retreat	11/4/2016	11/6/2016	124	372
Teva Week 5	Teva	10/31/2016	11/3/2016	88	352
Teva Week 6	Teva	11/7/2016	11/10/2016	66	264
Teva Week 7	Teva	11/14/2016	11/17/2016	98	392
Teva Week 8	Teva	11/28/2016	12/1/2016	36	144
Kol Ami	Org Retreat	11/18/2016	11/20/2016	21	63
Jewish Men's Retreat	Org Retreat	11/11/2016	11/13/2016	95	285
Israel Ride	Hazon Ride	11/8/2016	11/15/2016	189	1,512
<b>November Sub Total</b>				<b>717</b>	<b>3,384</b>
<b>2016 to Date</b>				<b>5,707</b>	<b>23,898</b>

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

## The Israel Ride

The Israel Ride sold out for the second time in 3 years, and was the largest group in the 13 year history of the Israel Ride, 177 riders plus 12 non-riding participants, plus about 60 staff and hired crew. Amazingly, despite nearly 45,000 total miles ridden we had no major accidents (and barely any minor incidents) on the road. It is on track to gross \$1 million in revenues (\$100k more than last year), of which \$800,000 came from fundraising.

This year the Hazon staff worked very closely and very well with the Friends of the Arava Institute in Boston, and in Israel. Even though we had a geographically disparate staff, we communicated frequently and put together an incredibly smooth, well-oiled program. We hired a drone videographer for the first time, along with our two standard photographers, and have great material to help market the ride in the future. We already have this [10-minute compilation](#) of photos and video from the Ride now available, with more to come.

*"Many THANKS again to you and the crew staff for coordinating and supporting a wonderful Israel Ride trip this year! Your efforts were superb, and the team's efforts masked a lot of the complexities from those of us who participated. I know full-well how many 'moving parts' there are to pulling off a project such as this is, and you guys executed it flawlessly! Danielle and I both had a wonderful time on both the ride itself and the post-ride trip to Jordan. A big Todah Rabba to all of you!" - Dennis Kingberg, rider*

## Dorot Foundation

The Dorot Fellowship's annual alumni gathering was November 4th-6th. We enjoy a very good relationship with the organization in general as well as with the retreat director for Dorot, who has been coming to IF for over 10 years. The event is always full to capacity and populated by leaders of innovative projects across the Jewish world. We pull out all the stops for them, and the minimal additional expenses add up to very happy customers.

## Kol Ami

Congregation Kol Ami has had a longstanding tradition of a yearly retreat at Isabella Freedman, and they feel very comfortable with us. They know the site well and are a very respectful, easy to work with, and a spirited, if small, group of 25 people. The event went smoothly and the participants were happy. Ideally, we would be able to pair this retreat with another group to fill the weekend.

## Jewish Men's Retreat

Up until last year, and for 24 years previously, the JMR was a program of Hazon, Isabella Freedman, and Elat Chayyim before that. This year we helped JMR become an independent organization that rents Isabella Freedman for their retreat. The transition was smooth and the retreat was successful financially, logistically, and experientially. A good model for the future evolution of other Hazon retreats to become organizational retreats (i.e. rental groups).

## Teva Weeks

**Week 5: Barrack, Kellman Brown Academy, JDS Lehigh Valley, Schechter Manhattan** – This week went well overall in terms of communication with the schools and the chaperones in the face of housing challenges. Some of our educators have had a harder time with behavior management this week because these schools specifically tend to expect Teva to be more of a camp environment and view it as an opportunity for student bonding, rather than a learning-focused field trip.

**Week 6: Brandeis School, Maimonides** – This week was great, the students are generally excited about Teva. As Maimonides is one of the more Orthodox schools to come to Teva, many of the Teva educators struggled with the gender dynamics of the Orthodox culture at the school (among both students and chaperones) as well as some of the school policies around women, which are often not in line with the standard Teva practices.

**Week 7: SHAS, SSA New London, SSDS Hartford, Ezra Academy, LGA, Bet Shraga, JCDS Boston, JCDS Rhode Island, Beit Rabban** – This is a week with all of the small schools who come together. They are some of the schools that we have the best relationships with and do the coolest “Bring Back to School” projects.

**Week 8: Schechter Queens, East Midwood Hebrew Day School, Schechter Long Island** – Chaperones and schools have a positive attitude and realistic expectations of the program. We had 2 days of rain and went all out with cooking / pickling / creative activities, which the chaperones were super impressed by, both in terms of how much the kids learned and that they'd have tangible things to take back to their families. It was good to get EMHDS to come back and start rebuilding that relationship.

## Education, One-Day Events & Regional Work

November One-Day Events	Region	Type	Start Date	People
The Sacred Jewish Spiral of Time - Fed Ed Class	Detroit	Class	2-Nov	25
Pursuit of Justice - Hillel program	Detroit	Class	3-Nov	6
Fall Fix Up	Detroit	Event	6-Nov	20
JSERV's Teen Fall Fix It	Detroit	Event	6-Nov	180
Farm to Table Dinner at Soul Cafe	Detroit	Event	12-Nov	50
Macabean Brew - ancient brewing with DJJ	Detroit	Class	13-Nov	8
Feed the Need - Teen Food Justice Leadership Class	Detroit	Class	13-Nov	11

JBaby Food Making Demo	Detroit	Class	15-Nov	30
Song and Spirits - Evening of Dance and Music	Detroit	Event	19-Nov	60
Temple Israel 8th grade Class - food justice	Detroit	Class	21-Nov	65
Tamarack Sustainability Committee meeting	Detroit	Class	30-Nov	15
Manhattan Day School Bnai Mitzvah Fair with Areyvut	New York	Event	16-Nov	85
Global Day of Jewish Learning	New York	Class	19-Nov	38
Cooking for Kids (Washington Heights Y)	New York	Event	20-Nov	11
Hazon San Diego Tribe Ride	San Diego	Ride	20-Nov	10
<b>November Sub Total</b>				<b>614</b>
<b>2016 Total to Date</b>				<b>22,558</b>

## Adamah

- For the first time we ended the Fall cohort before Thanksgiving, which gave us a strong and cohesive ending. Closing activities including Speak Your Truth and [Up the Mountain](#) were powerful.
- Once again we brought in Rabbis Linda Motzkin & Jonathan Rubenstein to lead a day-long Bread & Torah workshop. They are a wonderful fit for Adamah, and the program well well-received and loved by many.

*"For me, though it seems pretty simple is deeply profound - it is discovering a new/ancient way of living Judaism that breathes deep with its nose in the earth as much as the book." – Adamah Fellow*

## Colorado

- We continue to have a productive and excellent working relationship with the Boulder JCC as we plan the March food festival, called "Seed to Table: A Confluence of Gardening, Local Food and Jewish Community." We've recruited several volunteers and two interns and have a strong team in place to execute an excellent event.
- Becky O'Brien, Director of our Boulder office, taught a workshop at the Hillel at the University of Colorado at Boulder. With 25 students in attendance, we explored the intersection of Judaism, simplicity and sustainability. This teaching was part of their monthly series called "Scrolls and Rolls." You can read the Boulder Jewish News coverage of the session and see some photos here.
- Becky helped recruit 10 members from the Jewish community to participate in a community dialogue input session hosted by the City of Boulder to gather input on the City's Climate Commitment.
- Becky was interviewed by a documentary film-making class at Front Range Community College. The film's focus is on the farm to table movement and local food. It will air on PBS in 2017.

## Detroit

- **The Sacred Jewish Spiral of Time - Fed Ed Class** - A 4-class series on earth-based Jewish calendar, with DIY components. In partnership between JFMD, NIRIM and Hazon, taught at Yad Ezra. Very successful and have been asked to do another in the spring.
- **Pursuit of Justice –Michigan Hillel** - Facilitated a conversation about food justice and Detroit projects
- **Fall Fix Up** – ran a volunteer station at the Temple Emanuel Garden
- **JSERV's Teen Fall Fix It** – We greened the entire program, and ran one site for 20 kids
- **Farm to Table Dinner at Soul Cafe** – We greened the event, provided a connection point with a Detroit urban farmer, and made lip balm in a DIY station
- **Macabean Brew - ancient brewing with DJJ** – Based on Justin Sledge's food festival talk, he led a beer making class. beer will be ready for the DJJ Chanukah event 'festival of rights'

- **Feed the Need - Teen Food Justice Leadership Class** – a middle school leadership program with Yad Ezra. This program meets once a month and is based on the San Diego food pantry leadership program.
- **JBaby Food Making Demo** – we provided a baby food making demo and facilitated a discussion on what's Jewish about food
- **Song and Spirits - Evening of Dance and Music** – we greened the event, managed the food, created the atmosphere, created Havdalah spice bags. In conjunction with ALEPH, with various rabbis and board members present.
- **Temple Israel 8th grade Class - food justice** – we were invited to teach food justice - we created engagement opportunities that placed the individuals in the food system, brought awareness and gratitude into the discussion on food
- **Tamarack Sustainability Committee meeting** – facilitated a sustainability committee meeting

## New York

- **Manhattan Day School Bnai Mitzvah Fair with Areyvut** – Met 15 students & parents who signed up to receive more info about Hazon and the ride, with about one third particularly excited about the Ride & Retreat.
- **Global Day of Jewish Learning: Does Caring About Creation Mean Caring About Climate Change?** – Hazon board members Rabbi Josh Ratner and Jessica Haller taught an online session about our Jewish relationship to nature. They discussed key Jewish texts like *bal tashchit*, exploring how text learning directly connects to and informs our response to climate change today. They discussed how stewardship of the environment is both profoundly modern and deeply traditional in Judaism.
- **Cooking for Kids (Washington Heights Y)** – Rachel Aronson led a class for preschoolers and parents about cooking and Judaism for the Global Day of Jewish Learning. The kids really enjoyed making no-bake, homemade granola bars, and several of the parents took home recipes to make this healthy alternative to processed snacks at home. The kids also colored their own *bracha* cards to remember what *brachot* Judaism tells us to use over each of the ingredients in the granola bars.

## San Diego

- **Hazon San Diego Tribe Ride** - A group of ten participants rode 25 miles to Coastal Roots Farm on San Diego's first Hazon Tribe Ride. Participants were able to meet each other and connect over their love of biking and being outdoors. We shared information about the upcoming Hazon San Diego bike ride in April.

## Hazon Seal

- We visited New York sites Hannah Senesh Day School and Bnai Jeshurun to provide one-on-one consultation, see the projects in action, and film for the upcoming Seal mini-video. We also visited Hannah Senesh a second time to assist in running their kindergarten garden day. The third and final webinar, which featured a presentation on using PR and media to further sustainability work, was a success!

*"The kindergarteners and their families had a great day for gardening at Senesh on Sunday! About nine families came out and we had over twenty participants. They planted and gardened in the back and front lots and planted their own succulents in pots to take home. Anne did a fantastic job organizing as always! Then we*

*shared some snacks together afterward in the gym. I heard feedback that the parents and the kids enjoyed this event and their time together as families- this was the k class first family event." -Parent at Hannah Senesh*

## JOFEE Fellowship

- Over 25 JOFEE Fellowship applications for the second cohort were received for approximately 10 spots (as some sites already have fellows)
- Nearly 30 institutions expressed strong interest in hosting a JOFEE Fellow. We have selected sites to start the match process.
- Judith, Yoshi, and Hannah met with JCCA staff to reflect on the cohort partnership between the JCCA and Hazon. While everyone agrees that good work is happening, as JCCA completes a strategic review and looks for a new ED, they will be supportive, but not a lead partner on the fellowship for the second cohort.

## Video and News

### Video

- The Israel Ride posted a ["memories" video](#) prepared for the closing ceremony.
- The Hazon Seal of Sustainability team ran their third and most successful [webinar](#).
- Hody Nemes, Rachel Aronson, and Jon Leiner visited a couple of Seal sites to document the programming underway. Here's [composting in action at Hannah Senesh Community Day School](#).
- And the Marketing and Communications team debuted a new [About Hazon](#) video

### News

- [Learning at Hillel: Scrolls and Rolls](#), by Ayla Lieberman, *Boulder Jewish News*, Nov 16, 2016
- [Join the fourth Jewish Intentional Communities Conference](#), by Rachel Aronson, *Jewschool*, Nov 4, 2016
- [Four Steps to a Stronger Community](#), by Meredith Levick and Aharon Ariel Lavi, *eJP*, Nov 3, 2016