

# Hazon Monthly Report: January 2017

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January was a busy month for us, and/but it saw the inauguration of Donald Trump as President of the USA. His inauguration has had an immediate and multiply-complex impact on almost every subset of which we are part – the Jewish community; the environmental movement; the non-profit sector; the USA; the world.

For those organizations which have a strong and narrow focus that is clearly at odds with the goal of his administration, this has generated considerable energy (I include in this category organizations like T’ruah or Bend The Arc, for instance.) For organizations that have a wider wingspan – including federations, synagogues and JCRCs – this has made existing tensions with our communities immeasurably worse, and has made the task of leadership even more complicated. There are extensive ongoing conversations happening amongst organizational leaders, both formally and informally, as people try to figure out what to do and not do in this fast-changing environment.

For us, I would say there are a few different threads to our ongoing response to what is happening:

1. **Business As Usual / Being Part Of The Solution.** The educational work we do, the experiences we provide, are important and arguably more important than ever. The long-term task of building and strengthening that work – including rebuilding our balance sheet and rebuilding Freedman – continues as before, regardless of a new administration. The values that underpin our work – inspiration, inclusion, learning, striving to do good – these and many others are and should be an anchor for our staff and participants and stakeholders, going forwards in time;
2. **Strengthening the Jewish community’s voice in relation to sustainability.** During January we called on the American Jewish community to celebrate the special shabbatot of April 22<sup>nd</sup> (the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day) and April 29<sup>th</sup> (the People’s Climate March). We put out a joint email with Pearlstone, Urban Adamah and Wilderness Torah, saying that and we put up a new jofee.org website. We need to figure out what role we can or should play in relation to these issues longer-term;
3. **Maintaining a big tent, and/but encouraging and supporting idealism and activism where we can and where it is mission-aligned, and/but remaining an organization in which multiple voices and perspectives are heard.**

If any of you has suggestions or questions on these topics, feel free to be in touch.

The one other event I want especially to mention in January was the senior staff retreat that we held. It was a 48-hour offsite, and it was incredibly useful and productive. We will only get better, as an organization, if we steadily try to clarify goals, and work together to improve what we do. The offsite was a good step towards those goals.

## Videos

- We launched our marketing campaign for the [2017 Food Conference with a new video](#).

## What You Can Do

- Applications are open for the 2017 Hazon Seal of Sustainability until February 24. Please spread the word to any organizations that may be a good fit for this program. [More information](#).
- Ask your rabbi or Jewish organizational leader what they plan to do on the shabbatot of April 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 29<sup>th</sup>. Put them in touch with [Hody.Nemes@hazon.org](mailto:Hody.Nemes@hazon.org) if they have questions or ideas;
- Marketing is underway for many of our 2017 retreats. We would love for you to join us or spread the word about
  - [Every Day Mystic: An Intensive Kaballah Weekend](#) (Feb 24-26) – *almost sold out!*
  - [Passover](#) (Apr 10-19, with options to join for the whole week, first days, or the end) – *already 100 people registered!*

# External: Program Overview and Impact

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## January Multi-Day Events

This past month saw 171 people visiting Isabella Freedman for 2 organizational retreats.

January Events	Type	Start Date	End Date	People	People Days *
Eshel Orthodox Retreat	Org Retreat	13-Jan	16-Jan	112	448
Bronfman Fellows	Org Retreat	5-Jan	10-Jan	59	278
<b>January Sub Total</b>				<b>171</b>	<b>726</b>
<b>2017 to Date</b>				<b>171</b>	<b>726</b>

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

*For financial information and comparisons to previous years, please see "Internal" section below*

## Eshel

Eshel is an organization doing important work in the world, providing much-needed welcoming space for LGBTQ Orthodox Jews. Rabbi Steve Greenberg, a notable leader in this area, and friend of Hazon, provides leadership on this retreat. We are aligned on values.

## Bronfman Youth Fellows

Bronfman Youth Fellows has been holding retreats at Isabella Freedman for over a decade. This year they added a Sunday-Tuesday staff training after the main retreat concluded. This is a perfect example of a program model that we want to develop aggressively in the future. Nigel taught a session for the Fellowship retreat Friday morning, which was very well received.

## Education, One-Day Events & Regional Work

January One-Day Events	Region	Type	Start Date	People
NY Ride Committee Kickoff Meeting	New York	Other	30-Jan	16
Eco Kashrut Cooking Class, 2 classes	San Diego	Class	7-Jan	26
Tribe Ride	San Diego	Event	15-Jan	19

Climb It for Climate: Ice Climbing Adventure and Learn	Detroit	Event	29-Jan	20
Be the Light: Hazon's Gathering of Holy Sparks	Detroit	Event	25-Jan	42
Feed the Need: Teen Food Justice Leadership Pro	Detroit	Class	22-Jan	7
Tamarack Farm Planning Summit	Detroit	Class	4-Jan	150
<b>January Sub Total</b>				<b>280</b>
<b>2017 Total to Date</b>				<b>280</b>
<b>2016 Total through January</b>			<b>20 events, 1033 people</b>	

*Note: many of the 2016 January events were Tu B'Shvat related, which fell in February, 2017*

## Adamah

- January was very quiet. We have a few winterniks here to help take care of goats & chickens and to keep the compost cycle going. Shamu traveled to Wake Forest University to present about Adamah and to teach an Intro to Jewish Spirituality & Ecology. Rebecca taught Nonviolent communication to the New York Hazon staff, building off of experiences from the Adamah fellows. We painted the doors in our Cultural Center ([photo](#)).

## Colorado

- In January, Sarah Kornhauser returned to work after maternity leave and it's been a great month of reintegration. In a very short she has caught up and we are operating at full speed.
- Much of the work in January was behind the scenes, with major ongoing preparations for our food festival, including the launch of the website and opening of registration. Check it out at [www.SeedtoTableColorado.org](http://www.SeedtoTableColorado.org).
- There are two major institutional partners committed to working with us to explore the viability of switching to purchasing high welfare eggs. Combined, the two (Kavod Senior Life and Ramah in the Rockies) use more than 42,000 eggs a year, so the prospects for impact are significant

## Detroit

- **Climb It for Climate: Ice Climbing Adventure and Learn** – Hazon gathered 20 of Detroit's hardest young adults for a day of ice climbing, Jewish learning about protecting the Earth, and discussion with the founder of EMEAC (Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council) to find out how Detroiters can work on climate change issues.
- **Be the Light: Hazon's Gathering of Holy Sparks** – Hazon created a collaboration with the Downtown Synagogue; Grace in Action (a church in Detroit's Southwest neighborhood - an immigrant area); and the Michigan Muslim Community Council to bring people together across difference just after the inauguration. We had deep discussion, made herbal candles for relaxation, and set up coffee-dates between participants.
- **Feed the Need: Teen Food Justice Leadership Pro** – Our monthly Food Justice Teen Leadership gathering, where Repair the World's PeerCorp cohort meets to learn about Food Justice, and their role in creating a more just system. This week, they also pickled beets!
- **Tamarack Farm Planning Summit** –Three day Farm Summit with funders, staff and stakeholders. Hazon has consulted on this emerging 20+ acre Jewish Farm, and Tamarack took our advice and hired Farmer D as a consultant!

## New York

- **The NY Ride Event Committee** held its first meeting to discuss recruiting, roles and responsibilities, and upcoming events.

## San Diego

- **Hazon San Diego Tribe Ride** - 19 cyclists rode 22 miles on a Sunday morning, as part of the ongoing smaller events leading up to the larger ride.
- **Jewish Community Farming Gathering** was held at Leichtag Commons. Nigel and Judith attended the annual gathering that is a collaboration in field-building within the Jewish farming space. Steven Green, our officer from JJF, joined for the first half and was pleased with the gathering although pointed out the importance of clarifying the relationship between this work and the JOFEE field. After this gathering, the J4 (Hazon, Pearlstone, Wilderness Torah, and Urban Adamah) held a day of meetings primarily focused on our collaboration around a potential JOFEE leadership training.

## Israel Ride

- We have 123 people signed up currently. We had 137 signed up at this point last year.
- Since December we have produced 12 info sessions and have 19 more confirmed upcoming, through the end of March, with more in the process of being confirmed. Over 120 people have attended these sessions so far this season. Last year we had produced a total of 32 info sessions between December - April, with over 240 people attending overall.

## Hazon Seal

- Sites that participated as part of the 2016 Pilot Cohort in the Hazon Seal of Sustainability are now reflecting on their progress over the past year and planning to launch three additional sustainability projects for the future.
- Applications are now open for the 2017 cohort until February 24th

*"The support [from the Hazon Seal] was great – being able to pick up the phone and bounce ideas off of Hazon staff, whether it was language for emails or general ideas." -Larissa Wohl, B'nai Jeshurun*

## JOFEE Fellowship

- We have a full second cohort of 18 JOFEE Fellows placed at 14 different JOFEE organizations and Jewish institutions around the country, set to start training on Feb 12.
- Many organizations are hosting Fellows in the first cohort. New organizations are: Atlanta Federation, JCC of Greater Boston, Edlavitch DCJCC, Ekar Farm, Milk & Honey Farm at the Boulder JCC, Abundance Farm, and Camp Tawonga.

## Education and advocacy in the wider JOFEE Field

In partnership with the Pearlstone Center, Urban Adamah, and Wilderness Torah, Hazon sent out a first-ever joint e-mail. We also launched JOFEE.org, a new website that will serve as a field-building resource and platform, for and by a growing movement of JOFEE leaders. Hazon also build on its legacy of advocacy by calling for the Jewish world to question the EPA nomination of Attorney General Scott Pruitt.

Hazon is partnering with 350.org , a leading advocacy group in the climate change space, to support bringing a Jewish contingent to the upcoming People's Climate Mobilization on April 29th.

We created a new, 2017 edition of the Tu B'Shvat Hagaddah and a Tu B'Shvat 2-pager. Those are both available on our [website](#).

## Video and News

### Video

- We launched our marketing campaign for the [2017 Food Conference with a new video](#).

### News

- [Tu B'Shvat is an Opportunity for Vital Civic Education on the Climate Crisis, Let's not Lose it!](#)  
by Rachel Makleff, *eJewish Philanthropy*, January 29, 2017
- [Helping the Homeless One Slice of Pizza at a Time](#)  
by Marissa Stern, *Philadelphia Jewish Exponent*, January 28, 2017
- [Limmud: Food for thought at America and UK initiatives to encourage 'ethical eating'](#)  
by Simon Rocker, *The Jewish Chronicle*, December 27, 2016