

Hazon Monthly Report: February 2017

Dear All,

A busy month:

We launched our second cohort of JOFEE Fellows with a two-week orientation. Please take a moment to read through the bios of the [2017-'18 JOFEE Fellows](#) – a very lovely and impressive group of people. Kudos to Yoshi and Hannah for launching a second cohort while the first year Fellows are still underway.

It was tu b'shvat and we hosted, co-sponsored or produced resources for tu b'shvat all over the place. (Our Detroit one featured Abdul el-Sayed, an Egyptian American who announced three days before that he was running for Governor of Michigan – at the age of 30.... Nice video of him below.)

In Detroit, we found a site that could be a future physical home for Hazon Detroit – work space, live space, program space, and a piece of land almost perfectly sized for an urban educational farm. By month's end we were moving quite intently to see whether we'd actually be able to buy it. Too soon to tell, but the post-month-end update is that, with board approval, we've put in a conditional offer to buy it. Watch this space.

In San Diego, Gabi Charo – who has led our work there since the beginning – took a job at Jewish Family Service, running a range of their food programs. It's an amazingly perfect job for Gabi [working ultimately for Michael Hopkins, a former chair of the NY Ride] and she leaves with our immense gratitude and goodwill. When Gabi started there it was before Coastal Roots Farm had come into existence. Nearly four years on, CRF has become a significant institution, and at our instigation, and ultimately with the agreement of Leichtag [our lead-funder in Encinitas] we have decided to close our office there.

Finally: close readers of this monthly report (which we hope you all are) will notice that we're steadily trying to increase the usefulness of it. Historically we often didn't have sufficiently clean data to track what we're doing. That's not good – we can't get better if we can't see clearly how things are going. So, month by month, the quality of this data, the amount of comparative data, and the nature of the commentary, should steadily improve. There's evidence of that below. Although it's early in the year, it looks like we're on track to increase numbers and revenues at IF. We're not yet on track to deliver the NY Ride numbers we're aiming for – we had a strong December but tailed off in Jan and Feb. And there's useful qualitative reflection on specific aspects of the retreats. Thank you to David Rendsburg, for sterling work in helping to improve our data. And thank you to the many of our staff who are steadily pitching in updates, videos and news in a way that helps us both increase our impact and tell our story.

With thanks and best wishes to one and all,

Purim Sameach

Nigel

Videos

- The bike team launched a [fun new video](#) for the 2017 New York Ride & Retreat.
- Hazon Detroit held a superb Tu b'Shvat seder, here's footage from the speakers: Executive Director of Detroit Health Department [Dr. Abdul El-Sayed](#), President & CEO of We the People Detroit [Monica Lewis Patrick](#), Executive Director of Soulardarity [Jackson Koeppe](#), and State Representatives [Jeremy Moss](#) and [Robert Wittenberg](#).
- We partnered with Romemu to host a warm and well attended retreat, Everyday Mystic. Here's Rabbi David Ingber speaking about how [Romemu, Hazon, and Isabella Freedman are elevating through vision](#).

What You Can Do

- Please list yourself as "going" to the [Jewish Hub People's Climate Mobilization Facebook event](#) and invite your community. Keep an eye out for an e-mail with more ways to get involved with Earth Day Shabbat and the People's Climate Mobilization.
- Hazon is hiring 2017 summer interns. [Share our job descriptions](#) with any interested candidates, or post on your alma mater's job board.
- Applications for the Hazon Seal of Sustainability close on March 3, 2017. If you know an organization that should absolutely join the Seal this year, but missed the deadline, e-mail seal@hazon.org.
- Marketing is underway for many of our 2017 retreats. We would love for you to join us or spread the word about
 - The final days of [Passover](#) (whole retreat is Apr 10-19; the Seders/first days are all but sold out, but we have lots of room for the last days.
 - [Camp Isabella Freedman](#) is now two separate 1-week retreats (Jul 10-16 or 17-23) with the option to stay the whole time). 30 people are already registered.

External: Program Overview and Impact

February Multi-Day Events

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

February Events	Type	Start Date	End Date	People	People Days *
Moishe House - Retreatology	Org Retreat	3-Feb	5-Feb	40	120
Our Place	Org Retreat	10-Feb	12-Feb	75	225
JOFEE Fellowship Training	Hazon	12-Feb	23-Feb	17	204
DLTI (Winter)	Hybrid Retreat	15-Feb	20-Feb	55	330
Rabbi's Retreat	Hazon	21-Feb	23-Feb	27	81
Everyday Mystic	Hybrid Retreat	24-Feb	26-Feb	83	249
Beth El (Fairfield, CT)	Org Retreat	24-Feb	26-Feb	28	84
February Sub Total				325	1,293
2017 to Date				510	1,907

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

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

Moishe House

The Moishe House retreat participants were in an intensive educational program about how to run a retreat in their respective Moishe Houses throughout the country. Throughout the weekend they broke into discussion groups and regrouped in the Library for their main program. This is their second year at Isabella Freedman, and it seeds other smaller retreats that the Upper West Side Moishe House holds throughout the year.

Our Place

This is the 8th Our Place retreat at Isabella Freedman in the last few years. They are an addiction-recovery program for religious and formerly-religious Jews. Besides having trouble with many group members being heavy cigarette smokers and the challenges that poses to our site and staff, this is a good retreat - important work, steady revenue, healthy relationships.

DLTI Winter

This is the second of four weeks in the 10th installment of the Davennen' Leadership Training Program. Significant revenue and an excellent high-quality intensive learning experience for emerging leaders across the Jewish world who get fantastic exposure to Hazon while focused on their particular work.

Rabbis Retreat

This was the fourth Rabbis Retreat, and the largest yet at almost 30 rabbis. We plan to seriously revamp and upgrade the retreat for 2018, with funding being sought to bring high-powered teachers and underwrite the subsidized cost. This year, Rabbi David Jaffe was scholar-in-residence and provided a three-part Mussar workshop which was very well received. The individual impact on rabbis was very positive, but this retreat has yet to have the structural/communal impact that we envision and know is needed.

Everyday Mystic

This is a new retreat in our “hybrid partnership” model. Rabbi David Ingber and Shir Yaakov Feit davened together in their inaugural retreat for Romemu and Kol Hai. Delving into the ideology of Kabbalah through davening and Jewish studies, participants learned about Kabbalah in the 4 part series throughout the weekend. The musical service and intensive study gave participants an intro to Kabbalah and ways to incorporate ideas into their lives. It was very successful financially and experientially, and potentially the start of a new retreat franchise.

Beth El (Fairfield, CT)

This is the first time Beth El has been to Isabella Freedman. The intention of this program was to build a relationship for future partnership. There were only 9 families that attended the retreat. The group consisted of friends who enjoyed spending time together and the participants were pretty easy going. Unfortunately a family emergency came up for the group leader who had to leave midway through the retreat.

Education, One-Day Events & Regional Work

January One-Day Events	Region	Type	Start Date	People
Tu b'Shvat seder	Colorado	Program	10-Feb	80
Israel Ride informational meeting	Colorado	Presentation	16-Feb	11
Feed the Need	Detroit	Class	12-Feb	8
Deeper Roots, Wider Branches: A TuB'Shvat Celebration	Detroit	Program	11-Feb	80

Rabbinic Environmental Action Session	Detroit	Program	7-Feb	12
Oakland Ave Farm Water Project	Detroit	Program	12-Feb	15
Carmel Academy Program	New York	Teva	8-Feb	177
Tu B'Shvat Seder at Ramaz	New York	Teva	20-Feb	90
Hazon & Repair the World Tu B'svhat Shabbat Dinner	New York	Program	10-Feb	56
20s and 30s Tu B'Shvat Seder/Fundraiser for IF	New York	Program	11-Feb	30
Limmud NY	New York	Class	17-Feb	750
Presentation to Hornstein Students	New York	Presentation	22-Feb	11
Camp Isabella Freedman Presentation	New York	Presentation	22-Feb	20
Tu B'Shvat Seder	San Diego	Program	9-Feb	50
Online Gathering for Community Builders	National	Presentation	7-Feb	8
Feb Sub Total				1,398
2017 Total to Date			24 events	1,753
2016 Total through January			30 events	1,310

Adamah

- We offered six workshops at Hillels in New York & Colorado for recruitment. We had successful markets at both Limmud NY, and the NYC Fermentation Festival. We are beginning to fill our Spring cohort, and continue to interview applicants. We tapped our sugar maples and have started the maple syrup season. ([two photos](#) of pickle making)

Colorado

- **Tu b'Shvat seder** – Nigel co-lead this seder, which was also a family celebration for a set of twins the evening before their b'nai mitzvah. Hazon's haggadah was printed and used.
- Sarah taught a seed making necklace activity the Denver JCC for 200 families and provided information about Hazon and ways to get involved.
- We had a visit from Adamah Associate Director Rebecca Bloomfield who did 3 different recruitment programs and had 3 meetings with Denver community leaders to let people experience a taste of Adamah and encourage people to join Adamah.
- Sarah is engaged in an 8 month executive program through UPenn on Social Impact Strategy. This program has weekly online classes and a week-long intensive at the end of March.
- Sarah and Becky each hosted Israel Ride parlor meetings (one in Denver and one in Boulder) with 10 participants in attendance at each.
- We convened a group of food entrepreneurs from the Harvest Gathering (a retreat we ran a year and half ago) to reconnect the group and talk about continued involvement in Hazon. Board members Marc Soloway and Julie Schaffer were in attendance.

Detroit

- **Feed the Need** – our monthly food justice leadership teen class
- **Deeper Roots, Wider Branches: A Tu B'Shvat Celebration** – Hazon ran an 8-organization activist **Tu B'Shvat**, bringing together young people from Repair the World, Moishe House, The Well, Shir Tikvah, Adat Shalom's Young Professional Group, Jewish Ferndale and NextGEN to hear from local legislators and activists about current threats to the environment and ways to be involved ([Video](#)) ([Press](#))
- **Rabbinic Environmental Action Session** – Nigel led a discussion with local rabbis on efforts to support the environment on **Tu B'Shvat** and on Earth Day. Great meeting supporting local Rabbis.

- **Oakland Ave Farm Water Project** – Hazon researched irrigation solutions for urban farms, and brought Cris Doby from the Erb Foundation to the farm for a working session on water issues, with the intent to go to Erb for funding at some future date

New York

- **Hazon & Repair the World Tu B'Shvat Shabbat Dinner** – We partnered with Repair the World NYC to host a Tu B'Shvat themed Shabbat Dinner with a focus on environmental justice.
- **20s and 30s Tu B'Shvat Seder/Fundraiser for IF** – Tu B'Shvat Seder/Parlor meeting for 30 young adults Initiated by Chavie and Yoni Stokar, a young couple, Sukkahfest attendees who wanted to create an event for their friends that fundraised for IF. Raised close to \$1,000 with all funds eligible for the JJF match.
- **Limmud NY** – Hazon staff led 6 sessions throughout the weekend. We had table tents at 3 different meals to encourage conversations around cage-free eggs, sustainability and fermenting. We had a successful table at the shuk which included the bike blender and promoted interest in our work in general and specifically, Food Conference, Sustainable Israel Tour, Rides, Rabbinical Council, Camp IF, hosting retreats at IF. Adamah sold products on Monday
- **Presentation to Hornstein Students** – Eli Massel and Hody Nemes presented to the 10 Hornstein graduate students about the philosophy of Hazon's work culture, how to get involved with our work, and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for Hazon and the Jewish nonprofit sector.
- **Camp Isabella Freedman Presentation** – Shira Sacks presented about Camp Isabella Freedman, our summer camp experience for seniors and baby boomers, to a group of seniors and aides.
- **Teva Carmel Academy Program** – In partnership with Eden Village Camp, Teva brought Tu B'Shvat programming to grades 1-8 at Carmel Academy in Greenwich, CT. We taught nature-based ritual crafts, such as candle making, kippah felting, salve-making, yad whittling, and tincture making.
- **Teva B'Shvat Seder at Ramaz** – We ran a beautiful Tu B'Shvat Seder for 90 9th grade students at Ramaz Academy with hands-on activities.

“Thank you for sharing your passion for the earth and its bounty with us today, and for charging our students to be aware of the majestic beauty that surrounds them, a beauty that is at risk unless they become far more proactive in caring to employ personal energy to protect the environment. Several students came to speak to me about starting a terrace (3rd floor) garden, and of mobilizing more students. Even with those few, we can make a difference and perhaps they will be the catalyst for greater change here at Ramaz.”

San Diego

- **Tu B'Shvat Seder** – Former Adamahnik, Steven Wynbrandt, led our group in a Tu B'Shvat Seder and evening of song, connection, and community.

Hazon Seal

- The 2016 Seal sites are wrapping up their first year and planning to continue their sustainability work in 2017. We have supported sites in picking three new projects, including switching from disposable to reusable plates, starting a bike share, moving to zero waste, installing aerators on water faucets, and more. Applications are open for the 2017 cohort until March 3, 2017.

“Hazon’s directions helped shape our plan. At their suggestion we formed our Green team and this helped those who were committed to the idea of improving sustainability divide the work load. With a group of individuals working towards the stated common goals, the institution began to take steps towards raising awareness, taking actions, and moving the school towards improved sustainability.” -Anne Lilly, Hannah Senesh Community Day School

JOFEE Fellowship

18 JOFEE mentors are matched up for the second cohort representing 14 sites/organizations. 12 are returning mentors; 6 are new to the mentor program. The Fellows came together for Cohort 2 Orientation and Training at Isabella Freedman February 12-26th. We were joined by both Hazon staff and outside experts as faculty throughout training. [\[photo album\]](#)

“I have been on a journey for quite some time in developing and learning specific skills as well as more deeply understanding what my values are and the types of communities I want to be a part of going forward. JOFEE really feels like a convergence of most or all of the things that I find truly meaningful in life. It has been an incredible experience so far, being able to feel supported and empowered to be able to go out into various Jewish communities and be able to share and communicate Hazon’s values in a way that allows my authentic self to shine through.” – Fellow 1

“The JOFEE fellowship training has solidified for me the fact that I am meant to be a Jewish educator. It has helped me uncover my strengths and find my power, and surrounded me with a community of 18 creative, inspiring, intelligent, generous, and supportive friends.” – Fellow 2

Education and advocacy in the wider JOFEE Field

- Hazon published an updated 2017 version of our Tu B'Shvat Haggadah, now available for download online. We also published and distributed a Tu B'Shvat 2 page guide to sustainability.
- Hazon is working with JCAN, Interfaith Power and Light, and others to bring the Jewish community to the People's Climate Mobilization in Washington, DC on April 29. We are participating in weekly organizing calls with JCAN. Hazon is continuing to convene leaders across the JOFEE space and convened a second call for leaders of JOFEE organizations on February 9.
- Following the Jewish Intentional Communities Conference, Hazon hosted a webinar to discuss best practice in building community among our partner organizations.

Video and News

Video

- The bike team launched a [fun new video](#) for the 2017 New York Ride & Retreat.
- Hazon Detroit held a remarkable Tu b'Shvat seder, here's footage from the speakers: Executive Director of Detroit Health Department [Dr. Abdul El-Sayed](#), President & CEO of We the People Detroit [Monica Lewis Patrick](#), Executive Director of Soulardarity [Jackson Koeppe](#), and State Representatives [Jeremy Moss](#) and [Robert Wittenberg](#).
- We partnered with Romemu to host a warm and well attended retreat, Everyday Mystic. Here's Rabbi David Ingber speaking about how [Romemu, Hazon, and Isabella Freedman are elevating through vision](#).

News

- [Nonprofits decry potential Trump cuts](#) by George Altshuler, *Washington Jewish Week*, Feb 8
- [Deeper Roots, Wider Branches](#) by Sue Salinger, *myJewishDetroit*, February 2017