

Hazon Monthly Report: September 2017

Dear All,

Today marks another type of new beginning. The period of the haggim has ended, the work weeks without holidays return, and Nigel is transitioning back from his sabbatical.

I wanted to first take this opportunity to thank the board and staff who have been incredibly supportive of me, Jed, and Adam during this time. As the September report shows, this hasn't been a quiet time. This past month included successful Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur retreats at Freedman, the JOFEE Network Gathering at Pearlstone, and the first week of Teva under Arielle's, our new Director of Teva, leadership.

Nigel and Hazon were also featured in the new [PBS special focusing on UJA-Federation of NY](#). If you haven't seen it yet, I highly recommend that you watch it.

With the successes, the past four months have also had their share of challenges. Thank you, again, to the staff and board as you have been incredible in your commitment to our work together.

While I will turn the October report back to Nigel next month, I look forward to continuing to work with all of you.

Judith Belasco
Acting CEO & Chief Program Officer

Videos

- We launched a video for the [Sustainable Israel Tour](#).
- Hazon and Isabella Freedman were featured in a [PBS special focusing on UJA-Federation of NY](#) as part of their Treasures of New York program. Everyone should watch the episode, and the longer piece highlighting our work is around minute 48.

What You Can Do

- Join us or spread the word about our upcoming retreats:
 - Marketing is underway for the [Meditation retreat](#), our final major Hazon retreat of the year

External: Program Overview and Impact

September Multi-Day Events

This past month we had 733 people visit Isabella Freedman, balanced between Hazon retreats and organizational rentals and our first Teva week. In addition, the JOFEE Network Gathering was held at the Pearlstone Conference Center.

August Events	Type	Start Date	End Date	People	People Days
New York Ride	Hazon retreat	1-Sep	4-Sep	143	572

JDC Entwine	Org Retreat	8-Sep	10-Sep	31	93
Benefit Cosmetics	Org Retreat	11-Sep	14-Sep	35	140
Harvard Divinity School	Org Retreat	14-Sep	17-Sep	110	440
Base Hillel	Org Retreat	15-Sep	17-Sep	55	165
Rosh Hashanah	Hazon retreat	20-Sep	24-Sep	205	1,025
Ramah Berkshires Staff	Org Retreat	25-Sep	26-Sep	8	16
Teva Week 1	Teva	25-Sep	28-Sep	82	328
Yom Kippur	Hazon retreat	29-Sep	1-Oct	64	192
JOFEE Network Gathering (at Pearlstone)		14-Sep	17-Sep	116	464
September Total				733	2,971
2017 to Date				4,481	18,622

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

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

New York Ride

While fundraising and registration were lower than previous years and below budget, the NY Ride was a program success for all who participated. 142 participants joined us for the weekend, including 65 Riders and 38 Crew. At the end of September, the Ride had raised \$90,399. Despite rain and temperatures in the low 50s, the community kept an incredibly positive attitude and the energy was spectacular throughout the weekend. A highlight was Ruth's Gala Sunday, a joyous, dance-filled cocktail hour followed by a moving ceremony. [Some Facebook photo highlights](#)

JDC Entwine

JDC Entwine returned with their annual retreat after a great experience at Isabella Freedman last year. The group was extremely happy, polite, respectful, appreciative and just a pleasure to work with. While a smaller retreat, they paid to have exclusive use of the site along with an upgraded menu and various JOFEE infusions throughout the weekend.

Benefit Cosmetics

Benefit Cosmetics ran a staff retreat called "Camp I'm A Hottie". As a new group to Isabella Freedman, their staff arrived early to familiarize themselves with the site and turned the library into a corporate conference room feel. They had a good retreat and have expressed interest in returning in the future.

Harvard Divinity School

A retreat entitled "How We Gather" brought 110 guests including community leaders, ministers, rabbis and activists who work's work are spiritual in nature and blossoming just outside the denominational landscape. Overall, it was a successful retreat, the retreat managers went above and beyond to make sure they supported and at home and guests remarked about our warmth and hospitality.

Base Hillel

The Base Hillel International welcomed 40 community members from the Base Downtown and Brooklyn. The weekend included davening and learning and organic community connecting. Services were led by Avram and Yael Mlotek and Faith and Jon Leiser lead classes. The retreat organizers and guests were happy with their experience.

Rosh HaShanah

Rosh Hashanah is an immersive holiday experience with a traditional Orthodox service and a Kohenet Renewal service. Communal tashlich and havdalah were held outside on the patio on the first and last day of retreat. Guests enjoyed morning and afternoon yoga, daily JOFEE led hikes and farm tours, afternoon study sessions and an evening DIY JOFEE festival after havdalah. Delicious meals were served in the dining tent including Grow & Beholds Heritage chicken on the first evening of the retreat.

Ramah Berkshires Staff

Camp Ramah Berkshires joined us at Isabella Freedman for a one day overnight staff gathering which consisted of 9 guests. They had a great and productive stay.

Yom Kippur

The last Yom Kippur at Isabella Freedman was three years ago with only a handful of participants. We tripled our guest count this year and including staff had nearly 100 participants at the Yom Kippur services. There were two services - Orthodox and Kohenet Renewal. Guests enjoyed a delicious heritage chicken dinner on Friday and a large Break Fast on Saturday with a variety of bagels, salads, and veggies from the farm.

JOFEE Network Gathering

The second annual JOFEE Network Gathering brought over 50 organizations and 160 participants together for 4 days of learning and community building at Pearlstone Center. There were more than 30 speakers including past and present JOFEE Fellows and an incredible partnership with the Jewish Communal Farming Field Building Initiative. A closed session meeting was also held with the J4 and 10 people from key foundations who are interested and/or funding this space. Our conversations around gender in the JOFEE space were particularly well received, the open space dialogue session sparked conversation, and the representation of young voices both as speakers and participants was remarkable, although this resulted in not everyone being the highest caliber presenters. As the gathering moves to Detroit, we hope to continue to strengthen the content, increase the participation, and draw more funders to the event.

Teva

Teva week 1 was an excellent start to the Teva season, hosting Hannah Sennesh, Carmel Academy, Gerrard Berman, and SSDS of Greater Monmouth County. The educators were well prepared to lead their trail groups and implement large group programming, such as skits, song sessions and campfire. This was the first implementation of Teva's new, grant funded, ritual craft chuggim. Students and chaperones were both excited to make Jewish ritual crafts. Chaperones were particularly impressed by the new program. [Photos](#)
"We are very impressed with the quality of the educators. This did not feel like the first week of Teva"
- Chaperone who has been coming to Teva for over 8 years

Education, One-Day Events & Regional Work

September One-Day Events	Region	Type	Date	People
Topsy Turvy Bus at Temple Beth El	Detroit	Event	10-Sep	60
Adat Shalom Hebrew School Kick Off	Detroit	Event	10-Sep	55
Camp Hermelin - Topsy Turvy Bus Participation	Detroit	Event	17-Sep	1000
Tashlich on the River at Belle Isle	Detroit	Event	27-Sep	750

Hazon/ Romemu Sustainable Israel Tour Parlor meeting	New York	Meeting	27-Sep	25
Junior Philanthropy at HIR	New York	Class	5-Sep	15
NY Ride Reunion Bar Night	New York	Event	12-Sep	31
September Sub Total				1,936
2017 Total to Date			114 events	14,748
2016 Total through September			156 events	16,717

Adamah

- Shamu, Janna, and Rebecca traveled to Pearlstone to participate in and teach for the JOFEE Network Gathering. Adamah continues to provide leadership for the Jewish Community Farming field through sharing best practices, specifically around gender inclusivity work.
- Rebecca attended the Harvard Divinity School Formation Gathering that was hosted at Isabella Freedman.
- We attended the Berkshire Fermentation Festival in Great Barrington, MA.
- We accepted our first 2018 Adamah fellow.

Colorado

- We had a wonderful cohort of 8 Coloradans at the JOFEE Network Gathering, including a funder (who is also a board member), two JOFEE Fellows, a JOFEE mentor and a JOFEE supervisor. It was a great way for us to network with the wider JOFEE world, and also strengthens our relationships with each other. Colorado is definitely benefiting from this high and engaged level of participation!
- Hazon was asked to sit on the newly formed Intergenerational Collaborative--a collective of Jewish organizational direct service providers looking to do intergenerational work around Food. They invited us to the table as a content provider. This is an excellent group of organizations looking to make very meaningful community change. Right now, we are helping to select their pilot project and then will consult on the best content and ways to roll it out. This will also, hopefully, lead to new funding opportunities for us locally.

Detroit

- **Topsy Turvy Bus at Temple Beth El and Adat Shalom** – Bike Blender Smoothies and Bus Tours by Hazon as part of their Hebrew School kick off
- **Camp Hermelin** - Topsy Turvy Bus Tours (and dancing on the roof!) along with Bike Blender Smoothies for this camp-style fundraiser for ORT
- **Tashlich on the River at Belle Isle** – We made local lulavs and taught kids to put themselves in the center of the circle of weather and environmental protection -- creating a personal connection to the shaking of the lulav on sukkot.

New York

- **Hazon/ Romemu Sustainable Israel Tour Parlor meeting** – Hazon and Romemu partnered to host a parlor meeting for about 25 people at the home of Romemu board member, Angie Atkins. This event served to promote the Sustainable Israel Tour slated for April/ May 2018.
- **Junior Philanthropy at HIR** – Rachel presented about Hazon to a group of 15 students in a "Junior Philanthropy" B'nai Mitzvah class at HIR.

- **NY Ride Reunion Bar Night** – The 2017 NY Ride community reunited for a fun bar night on the Upper West Side.

Teva

- Teva spent the majority of September in staff training. We brought a variety of voices to the table, returning educators, former Teva staff, and Adamah staff. Topics covered include, ecology cycles, carbon, air, and water cycles, Jewish ecological text study, play practice, and Jewish ritual crafts. Educators also had time to develop new curriculum for chuggim and evening programming. This autonomy and ownership over program pieces led to an amazing first week of students! Teachers were very happy with the knowledge and dedication the educators had towards the program as a whole and to individual students. Teva staff training concluded on Wednesday 9/20 with a visioning for our perfect year, an activity we do with Teva students to encourage them to vision the perfect sustainable world. This led right into Rosh Hashanah. Teva educators ran Camp Teva for both our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur retreats.

Hazon Seal

- Nine new sites nationwide have been accepted into the Hazon Seal cohort starting right after the Jewish holidays. Current Seal sites participated in a webinar on "Creating a Food Policy for Your Organization," led by experts at the Jewish Initiative for Animals.

Education and Advocacy

- We distributed mini-grants to two organizations to serve higher-welfare eggs at their events going forward. We also highlighted animal welfare at the JOFEE Network Gathering, and served heritage chicken at Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the JOFEE Network Gathering.

JOFEE Fellowship

- See JOFEE Network Gathering, above.

Video and News

Video

- We launched a video for the [Sustainable Israel Tour](#).
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News

- [Milk and Honey Farm Donates Half-ton of Organic Vegetables](#), by Becca Weaver, Boulder Jewish News, September 13, 2017
- [Hug a chicken and 4 other twists on traditional High Holidays rituals](#), by Ben Sales, JTA, Sept. 8, 2017
- [Immersing Ourselves In Culture: Savorfull Hits The Michigan Jewish Food Festival & Hears From Joan Nathan, Author Of King Solomon's Table](#), by Stacy Goldberg, Savorfull, September 6, 2017
- [Hazon Food Conference Focuses On Farm-To-Synagogue Greening](#), by Shira Hanau, Jewish Week, September 5, 2017
- [Video Highlights of Jewish Food Festival](#), The Jewish News, September 1, 2017