

Hazon Monthly Report: April 2018

Hi All,

The month of April started with a powerful, successful Pesach retreat at Freedman, with Jacob Weiss as the lead program staff, and 49 days later, we are looking ahead to hosting our largest-ever Shavuot with over 300 people, with Jess Berlin as the lead staff. These events bookmark a busy April at Freedman where the staff has been working incredibly hard and supporting each other as we experience another kitchen transition, in particular.

Our Colorado Food Festival also saw new growth with over 900 people attending this one day event that was done in partnership with Milk and Honey Farm, currently led by a former Adamahnik, Becca Weaver, at the Boulder JCC. Becky O'Brien and Sarah Kornhauser did a wonderful job with their team of local lay leaders and thank you to Julie and Marc as our CO board members for their support.

Finally, April ended with the first day of our Hazon-Romemu Sustainable Israel Tour. While a complete report will be included next month, Nigel and David Ingber led the trip with exceptional organizational support from Meredith Levick.

While we might be challenged by the current news from Israel, we hope that our work together will continue to move us closer to a healthier world for all.

Best,
Judith
Executive Vice President

What You Can Do

- Join us or spread the word about our upcoming retreats:
 - Registrations for most of our [summer and early fall retreats](#) are now open, including the Food Conference, Let My People Sing, Rosh HaShanah, and Sukkahfest.
 - Join us on the [New York Ride](#) over Labor Day Weekend!

External: Program Overview and Impact

April Multi-Day Events

This past month over 700 people visited Isabella Freedman from 10 different programs. We also had 31 people visit Israel on the Sustainable Israel Tour at the very end of the month.

| Events | Type | Start Date | End Date | People | People Days |
|--|---------------|------------|----------|--------|-------------|
| Passover | Hazon Retreat | 30-Mar | 8-Apr | 322 | 1,844 |
| Yachad | Org Retreat | 11-Apr | 12-Apr | 61 | 122 |
| MH: Mizrahi Queer Network | Org Retreat | 13-Apr | 15-Apr | 30 | 90 |
| MH: Tell Me More: Storytelling Retreat | Org Retreat | 13-Apr | 15-Apr | 12 | 36 |
| Jewish Voice for Peace | Org Retreat | 20-Apr | 22-Apr | 18 | 54 |
| MH: Wandering Jews | Org Retreat | 20-Apr | 22-Apr | 12 | 36 |
| MH: Sustainable Activism | Org Retreat | 20-Apr | 22-Apr | 15 | 45 |
| MJTI Study Group | Org Retreat | 22-Apr | 25-Apr | 17 | 68 |
| Schechter Westchester | Teva | 24-Apr | 26-Apr | 58 | 174 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------------|--------------|
| Cong. Beit Simchat Torah | Org Retreat | 27-Apr | 29-Apr | 121 | 363 |
| Inst. of Jewish Spirituality | Org Retreat | 30-Apr | 6-May | 48 | 336 |
| Monthly Total | | | | 714 | 3,168 |
| 2018 to Date | | | | 1,198 | 5,132 |

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

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

Passover

We had 320 guests stay with us over the course of the entire holiday, our largest group in recent history and our highest grossing retreat ever. For the first two evenings, guests had the option of attending a large communal seder which was held in the dining hall or breaking off on their own to form semi-private seders in the lounge. This year we tried something new with the communal seder, incorporating our very own JOFEE leaders into the second seder program, and guests really seemed to enjoy this new infusion.

We had our usual, incredible lineup of rabbis, teachers and prayer leaders, and had pretty straight forward programming running throughout the first and last days of the holiday. There was yoga offered twice per day, various lectures and sessions, as well as our full JOFEE programming lineup. This year we also received funding to plan a "festival" during Chol Hamoed (the intermediate) days of Passover. We still had all of our initially planned programming happening, and additionally brought in musicians for two evening concerts, as well as a Kaballah magic show on one of the nights. It was a very busy program, and we look forward to building on the Chol Hamoed programming, and hopefully be able to offer something similar and expanded during our upcoming Sukkahfest Retreat this year.

Yachad

Due to a storm in March we had to postpone to April. The group came to do community service in the area, and we provided JOFEE programming while on site. This was their first time staying at Freedman. They had a positive experience and are looking to book again next year.

Sefardic / Mizrahi Queer Network

One of four Moishe House funded retreats in April. 30 queer Sephardi and Mizrahi participants spent the weekend discussing and supporting their varied identities. They very much appreciated our kitchen preparing culturally thematic menus, and are hoping to come back next year.

[Photo and very moving reflections from the organizer](#)

Tell Me More: A Storytelling Retreat

A second Moishe House retreat, at the same time as Mizrahi Queen Network. 12 participants learned how to craft and relay compelling personal stories. We offered them a pickling workshop.

Wandering Jews and Sustainable Activism

A second weekend with two separate Moishe House funded retreats. Wandering Jewish had 12 participants learn tips and tricks for travelling abroad as a Jewish person. Sustainable Activism had 15 participants come together to discuss how to help themselves so they can continue to help others. We ran a joint pickling workshop for both groups.

Jewish Voice for Peace

A small retreat that made use mostly of the synagogue as they shared the site with two separate Moishe House funded retreats. This was their first time at Isabella Freedman.

MJTI Mishna Study Group

This was the first MJTI retreat at Isabella Freedman. The group spent the majority of their time in the Synagogue studying together and in small groups as well as enjoying leisure time on the campus. They are also looking to come back next year.

Congregation Beit Simchat Torah

This synagogue in New York has been coming to Freedman since 2005, and completely fills the site for their annual retreat. *"We have been coming here for many years and the beds and facilities keep getting better and better"*

Institute of Jewish Sprituality

IJS has been coming to Freedman for a few years to have a week-long retreat. Meditators spent the week silently learning to lead the Jewish community.

Education, One-Day Events & Regional Work

| One-Day Events | Region | Date | People |
|--|----------|------------------|--------------|
| Bee Connected: Beekeeping and Mead Making | Detroit | 29-Apr | 15 |
| Doing Jewish: Detroit Jewish Film Festival Screening | Detroit | 16-Apr | 45 |
| Earth Day Topsy Turvy Bus at Green Living Science | Detroit | 19-Apr | 300 |
| Women's Spring Brunch - Faith and Food - Christ Church | Detroit | 28-Apr | 85 |
| Temple Beth El's Garden Workday with 6th Graders | Detroit | 29-Apr | 16 |
| Rabbis Recharge #1: Its time to Slow Down | New York | 25-Apr | 9 |
| Roots & Fruits: Text Study and Dessert | New York | 22-Apr | 2 |
| Brewing Workshop | New York | 23-Apr | 10 |
| Brooklyn Shabbat Dinner | New York | 20-Apr | 30 |
| Colorado Jewish Food Fest | Colorado | 15-Apr | 900 |
| Monthly Sub Total | | 10 events | 1,412 |
| 2018 Total to Date | | 44 events | 4,162 |
| 2017 Total through April | | 62 events | 4,300 |

Teva

- Teva started the month with a full Camp Teva program over Pesach. For the first time we had planned Gan Adamah for toddlers ages 2-4. Parents were very appreciative that they were able to have the morning for themselves. In Camp Teva, we had two kids' seders, and full days of hiking, visiting the baby goats, arts and crafts, and games.
- Our first week of spring Teva went well, a 3-day program with 50 students from Solomon Schechter Westchester.

Colorado

- **The 7th annual Colorado Jewish Food Fest** was a huge success with over 900 people. This year we really hit a sweet spot that attracted a large and diverse audience, provided lots of great activities and

delicious food, and had a real impact.

"I feel inspired to get my children more involved in food prep and I think I want to buy a tortilla press.

Also- Milk and Honey Farm and their connection to the Jewish calendar is super impressive."

[\[Photo Album\]](#) [\[Press\]](#)

Detroit

- **Bee Connected: Beekeeping and Mead Making with Detroit Hives** – We had a wonderful time this past Sunday taking an inter-species look at radical inter-connectivity. Detroit Hives places beehives throughout the city to support pollination....life! We toured the farm, interacted with real hives up close, and learned how bees play such a vital role in our lives. We finished the day with Dr. Justin Sledge, professor of philosophy/religious studies and avid brewer of 10 years who taught us how to make mead infused with honey--which will be ready for High Holiday use. What a sweet day!
- **Doing Jewish: Detroit Jewish Film Festival Screening** – Hazon co-sponsored one of the Jewish Film Festival Movie Screenings, for a Detroit (vs. suburban) screening. We brought in Chef Phil, a food justice leader and educator, to let us taste Ghanaian cuisine before the screening of Doing Jewish: A Ghanaian Community.
- **Earth Day Topsy Turvy Bus at Green Living Science** – We took the Topsy Turvy bus and the bike blender to Green Living Science's open house for Detroit school kids.
- **Women's Spring Brunch - Faith and Food - Christ Church** – Sue was invited to talk about Food and Faith, and the Jewish Food Movement. We had an hour long talk and discussion about the Jewish and Christian shared Torah understandings about holy eating and stewardship of the earth. Christ Church now wants their own Seal of Sustainability!
- **Temple Beth El's Garden Workday with 6th Graders** – Always wonderful to plant ideas along with spring seeds with this long-standing Seal of Sustainability partner. We did a seeding program - students took home seeds in containers and we also got the garden up and planted for the season.
- We are in the last big push of our consultation with Tamarack's Farber Farm start up. We've been meeting weekly with the construction team, Alex (the great new farmer), and Sean (the Farm supervisor). We interviewed all candidates for the Farm educator, and are nearly complete with the initial Farm Curriculum for this coming summer.

New York

- **Rabbis Recharge #1: It's time to Slow Down:** Small group of clergy met at Makom Hadash for an evening to socialize. The conversation was flowing in a beautiful way. All the clergy were interested in the conversations taking place and each appreciated that it was natural and not programmed.
- **Roots & Fruits: Text Study** – Elan led this session and he explored Jewish teachings on our relationship with the earth while having tea and eating dessert.
- **Brewing Workshop** – Elan led a homebrewing workshop for the Moishe House Harlem. This workshop covers the basics of brewing natural drinks and the science behind fermentation.
- **Brooklyn Shabbat Dinner** – Elan hosted Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner for young adults in Brooklyn. Quite a few people were new to the area and are looking to meet other folks.

Hazon Seal

- Earth Day tabling at a lecture by a Queens College professor of climate science hosted in partnership with The Central Queens Y, with approximately 60-70 people in attendance

- Awarded Hannah Senesh Community Day School (Seal site) their 2nd Seal certification at their school on Arbor Day [\[Photo\]](#) and awarded certificates to Repair the World NYC and Bnai Havurah.
- Held a webinar for Hazon Seal sites on Jewish Foundational Ethics featuring Hazon Director of Education Elan Margulies
- Held an audit 2-day off-site where Seal staff worked on updating the Seal audit content in preparation for an updated technology platform

JOFEE

- The JOFEE Leaders joined together for the first of two webinars on April 24th. 16 of 18 Leaders were present. The topic of conversation was Personal Energy Management and how mastering your own self-care can nurture your leadership potential. The content was led by Sarah From.
- JOFEE Leaders seem engaged with the content presented at the January training and monthly newsletters. They report actively continuing their own personal journeys with leadership through the materials provided.
- We held a JOFEE Mentorship kickoff webinar with both fellows and mentors, co-facilitated by Rabbi Zelig Golden of Wilderness Torah, who is taking a lead on the JOFEE Mentors program this year.
- Yoshi presented at the Global Kids Youth Conference on Environmental Justice, sharing religious perspectives on the topic.

Hakhel

- We've almost sold out for the upcoming annual Jewish Intentional Communities Conference! Leading experts from Israel and other parts in the world will join us to teach about community development, skills and fundraising, and Design Thinking. We currently have participants from nearly ten countries across four continents, including 45 Hakhel cohort 3 communities.

Video and News

News

- [Faces & Places: Hazon Detroit](#), *Detroit Jewish News*, April 26, 2018
- [Making Synagogues Sustainable](#), by Paula Jacobs, *Tablet Magazine*, April 20, 2018
- [No More Waste: Hazon Detroit serves up healthy heaps of compost — just in time for Earth Day](#), *Detroit Jewish News*, April 19, 2018
- [A Whole Latke Good Food at the Colorado Jewish Food Fest](#), Brandon Marshall, *Westword*, Apr. 16, 2018
- [Dot Org: Hazon](#), *KGNU News*, April 5, 2018