



HA-KESHER

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Newsletter of Or Hadash
A Reconstructionist Congregation
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Join us Friday,
September 16 for our
**WELCOME BACK
BARBECUE**

so we can all welcome
Rabbi Josh back from
his Sabbatical year!

RSVP by September 13th to
school@orhadash.com

From Rabbi Josh

What does it mean to come home?

This is a question I've been thinking a lot about over the past twelve months as our family carefully packed up our home in Elkins Park and set out for Jerusalem where we would build a new home for the year while I was on sabbatical. Leaving home is no small matter, and neither is starting anew. With its sense of uprooting and uncertainty it is, in fact, the very first Jewish experience, as God's words to Abraham attest: "Get yourself forth from your land, from your birthplace, from your father's house to the land that I will show you." The Torah does not tell us what Abraham felt in that moment of severing connections to all he knew and all he was, renouncing one home and identity in favor of a new one that he would build from scratch with nothing more than his faith in the promise that God made him.

The home that Abraham built was to become a homeland to the countless generations of Jews that followed him, although that home in Israel was more often experienced as a dream or a vision than as a physical place where they lived. Instead they resided, often unwelcomed sometimes despised, in communities flung across the world, dreaming of a homecoming that would signify redemption. For them, the home of which they dreamt in Israel was often more real than the actual bricks and stones around them. And when the time came then return they did: returning to a place in which they had never stepped foot and building the birthplace they had never known. Now our family was packing to go to that very place where Jews had yearned to be for thousands of years – longed for, prayed for and, more recently, worked and died for: What does it mean to come home?

We quickly stepped into the rhythms of life in Israel – the cycle of holidays, the six-day workweek, the glory of Shabbat coming every Friday and bathing our neighborhood in quiet and peace. Our children were in school, learning a new language and making new friends, and soon the sounds of Hebrew filled our apartment as Tzvi, Yael, and Adir did homework, watched their favorite TV shows, and played with friends. We made wonderful connections with remarkable people, visited sites that are an integral part of our Jewish history and lived according to rhythms of the Jewish year cycle. It was a place where being Jewish was the norm, not an alternative, minority identity and for our family there was a powerful sense of coming home.

And now, in leaving Israel at the close of our year away, we have experienced yet another feeling of homecoming. Returning to America, to our family and friends, and to Or Hadash we are once again coming home, with all the sense of belonging and welcome the word entails. Like Israel, Or Hadash is a home built of stone and mortar, of shared values and hopes, and of the people who are its true strength and structure. To reenter this remarkable community and the values it embodies – openness, joy, creativity, spirituality, love of Jewish tradition, and a deep and genuine care for one another – is to realize that home is not ultimately a question of place but of identity: of finding a place where you belong, in which you are deeply rooted, in which welcome is ready and reflexive, in which you most fully find yourself in the eyes and hearts of others. This is what it means to come home, and we are blessed that the gift of this year has been to discover how many different homes we have to which we can return.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Josh



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<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/groups/136646944182>

President's Message

When is Or Hadash?

By Janet Karp

A strange question? Perhaps it is. Literally, it could mean when is a new light? As members of Or Hadash, I am asking when do you feel Or Hadash? When are you most aware of this community? Is it when you are invited to think about something Jewishly new for you? When you wrestle with an idea in Torah study or about Israel? Is it when you come to a family Shabbat and are surrounded by young and not-as-young singing Jewish songs together? Is it when we recognize the importance of our family members of other species when we bless our pets? Do you feel Or Hadash when you are physically working in the building, on the building, with others or on your own? How about when you are part of the Shabbat morning minyan and a reading reaches out to you with meaning? Does the essence of your membership come alive when you are “doing” tikkun olam? Do you look forward to our November hosting of homeless families because you can make a difference in someone’s life? Many people have expressed that they truly feel the importance of this community when they are in need. When we are ill, or injured or grieving a loss, Or Hadash comes together in support of any of us who is vulnerable. There are many facets of a community, but that may really be the most important.

This year we experienced sabbatical Or Hadash. No it was not our seventh year as a congregation. We are about four times that. I don’t think we ever specifically celebrated that we reached our seventh year. We were thrust into sabbatical when Rabbi Josh celebrated his seventh year with us by taking a sabbatical leave. And we had new opportunities to experience Or Hadash. Our religious school successfully experienced its first year in a new format for most grades. We thank our teachers for their ideas and for putting into practice the new format that Lori and the Education Steering Committee brought to the table. Unfortunately, we had too many opportunities to reach out to those in our midst who needed support. Lots of us volunteered in leadership roles: leading Shabbat services, leading shiva minyanim, leading Torah study, putting our values to work by consciously saving money, cooking for congregants in need, engaging in many forms of tikkun olam, celebrating many b’nai mitzvah. We enjoyed a new rabbinic presence with Rabbi Roni who so ably served our congregation during the sabbatical. And we celebrated the year by honoring Rabbi Roni about three different times. I think Rabbi Roni definitely felt Or Hadash.

CONDOLENCES

- To **Barry Davis** on the passing of his mother, Gloria Davis, mother-in-law of Ann Davis, grandmother of Craig and Meredith.
- To **Bonnie Ritterman** on the passing of her father, Harry Ackerman, father-in-law of Fred Ritterman, grandfather of Melissa (and Glenn) and Michelle, great-grandfather of Scott.
- To **Robert Klotz** on the passing of his mother, Rosetta Goodkind Klotz, mother of Judy Klotz, mother-in-law of Deborah Lamb and William Mates, grandmother of Lillian Klotz Foster, Adam Klotz and Natalie Klotz.
- To **Marla Fisher** on the passing of her mother, Reba Greenbaum Fisher, mother-in-law of Charles Tannenbaum, grandmother of Michael and Ashley, mother of Alan Fisher.
- To **Joan Dickstein** on the passing of her husband Ben, father of Howard Dickstein (Jeannine English), Kenneth Dickstein (Ingrid), and Mary Dickstein (Dr. David Berman), grandfather of Jonah, Max, Sam, Josh, Rudi, Daniel, Jake and Andy, brother of Rose Abraham and Dr. Jack Dickstein.

We have just welcomed back into our midst Rabbi Josh. We are looking forward to learning all about his year and beginning anew together again. We will formally celebrate his return on September 16th and get ready to begin a new Jewish Year, 5772.

As members, Or Hadash does not come to us inexpensively. There are lots of expenses of money, time, and effort that enable this community to function on all the levels that it does - to keep the light on, if you will. I thank each and every one of you for keeping the new light shining. For all the volunteers, for all the participants, for all the leaders, for all the donors, I am grateful that you are Or Hadash.

Or Hadash has been the recipient of many gifts from our congregants, for which we are grateful. However, we are requesting that all donations of treasured items such as books, tapes, videos and other Judaica be placed on hold. We appreciate your cooperation at this time.

High Holiday Services in our Synagogue Home: 2011/5772

The Or Hadash High Holiday Committee
Beth S. Alper and Jeff Chebot, Co-chairs

The Or Hadash High Holiday Committee is in the process of preparing for the upcoming High Holiday season. As you know, we are delighted to be observing these significant holidays *in our own home, at Or Hadash*, this year. Because this will necessitate some important changes, your involvement and cooperation is welcomed and appreciated. Some key changes to consider this year:

1. Some services will be staggered rather than concurrent. Both the Family Service and the Main Service will be held in the sanctuary, but at different times.
2. The Adult Study discussion will take place in the Community Room, overlapping times of the Family and Main Services.
3. We will continue to offer the very successful programming for children and teens in the upstairs and downstairs classrooms.
4. Parking will be more of a challenge, but there will be Parking Volunteers to assist you. Please abide by all parking guideline. Also, please inform Laurie Albert, Synagogue Administrator, of any special parking need accommodations by September 15th, in order to reserve spaces near the building.
5. Ushers will be stationed at both entrance doors. Please be patient and follow their suggestions to enhance the prayer service experience for everyone, and ensure a smooth flow of people throughout the building.
6. We will be able to have a Kiddush on the first day of Rosh Hashanah! Join us as we end the service with this lovely tradition.

As always, the meaningful experience of High Holidays depends upon congregational participation. If you have not yet volunteered for an activity, feel free to contact us. We can coordinate your choices with times that our children are engaged in meaningful and enjoyable activities. Parents are welcome to join their children, and children are welcome to join their parents at all High Holiday events.

We look forward to beginning this special New Year with you. Together, let's make this a year of active participation to insure a vibrant congregational future.

L'Shana Tovah Tikatayvu!

MAZEL TOV

- June 12 was graduation at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. New graduate, **Rabbi Roni Handler**, was awarded the Rabbi Kenneth and Aviva Berger Memorial Prize in Practical Rabbinics. Other OH members honored include Anne Feibelman, awarded the Dorothy and Sidney Becker Hebrew Essay Prize; David Basior received the Tikkun Olam in the Community award; and Judith Gary Brown received her Doctor of Divinity degree.
- To **David Raizman** for receiving the Harold Myers Award for Outstanding Service to the University from Drexel University.
- To **Rabba Nehama Benmoshe and Jacob Lieberman** on their wedding May 29, 2011.
- To **Abby Feller and Jeff Menard** on their wedding June 18, 2011. Abby is the daughter of Laura and Marc Feller.
- To **David Basior and Ariel Zaslav** on the birth of baby **Madrona Beatrice Zaslav** born April 25, 2011.
- To **Gloria and Manny Ringel** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Kelsey Brynn Morris**, on March 20, 2011, and the birth of their granddaughter, **Eve Margaret Eward**, on April 22, 2011.
- To **Rabbi Vivian Schirn's** granddaughter **Aviva Simha Nemeth** who celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on June 18, 2011, Parshat Sh'lach Lecha, at Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, DC.
- To **Debra Schaeffer and David Ball** on the marriage of their daughter, **Rebecca to Jack Blacketer**, on August 7, 2011.
- To the **Goldman family**: **Jan Goldman** has four poems in the latest issue of the *Jewish Women's Literary Annual*, just released by the National Council of Jewish Women. Jan and Nick's son, **Josh**, will be featured in a story in *Time* magazine in early July on sustainable aquaculture, where he is a leading figure and a pioneer of method.
- To **Samantha Burns**, daughter of **Arlene Golbin Burns and Stephen Burns**, who graduated from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, on June 5, 2011. She earned a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology with a 4.0 grade point average, winning the First Annual Leadership Award for academics, service and leadership in her program. Sam continues to live and work in the Boston area while she earns the necessary supervised hours towards licensure.
- To **Sarah Seeherman** on her graduation from Wissahickon High School. She will attend West Chester University in the fall.

SCHEDULE OF HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

2011 / 5772

All events are held at Or Hadash and all are welcome.

Saturday, September 24 — Selichot

7:30 pm Selichot observance

Wednesday evening, September 28 — Erev Rosh Hashanah

8:00-9:30 pm Evening Service

Thursday morning, September 29 — First Day Rosh Hashanah

9:00 - 10:00 Family Service - Sanctuary

9:30 - 11:00 Adult Study Havurah leads a discussion –
“Exploring Jewish Thought and Experiences”
in the Community Room

10:30 - 1:00 Main Service - Sanctuary

10:00 - 1:00 Activities for Children and Teens

1:00 – 1:15 Kiddush

Friday morning, September 30 — Second Day Rosh Hashanah

9:30-1:00 Morning Service

9:30-1:00 Activities for Children and Teens
(rooms 203 and 207)

10:45-12:00 Family Service (room 203)

1:00-1:15 Kiddush

1:15 pm Tashlich

Friday evening, September 30 - Erev Shabbat

8:00 pm A contemplative journey into the heart of the
holidays for Shabbat Shuvah

Friday evening, October 7 — Erev Yom Kippur

6:00-8:30 pm Kol Nidre and Main Evening Service (Sanctuary)

6:30-7:30 pm Family Service (following chanting of Kol Nidre)

Saturday morning, October 8 — Yom Kippur morning

9:00 - 10:00 Family Service - Sanctuary

9:30 - 11:00 Adult Study Havurah leads a discussion –
“Exploring Jewish Thought and Experiences”
in the Community Room

10:30 - 1:00 Main Service - Sanctuary

10:00 - 1:00 Activities for Children and Teens

Saturday afternoon, October 8 — Yom Kippur afternoon

3:00-4:00 pm Healing Service (in the Garden, weather permitting)
led by Sandy Saull

4:00-5:00 pm Discussion Group

5:15-7:12 pm Yizkor, Minchah and Ne'ilah

7:13 pm Shofar, Havdalah and Break the Fast: light
refreshments in the Community Room.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 2 - Shabbat Al Fresco - Outdoor Erev Shabbat service at 7:00 pm (weather permitting).

Friday, September 9 - THREE PART HARMONY AND OPEN HOUSE with Pet Shabbat Bring your tots and pets for a special blessing on the patio at 6:00 (dogs leashed, please). We will have a dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner at 6:30 and intergenerational service at 7:00. All July, August, and September birthdays will be celebrated at this service. Please bring your friends, neighbors, co-workers and anyone who may be interested in joining Or Hadash.

On Saturday evening
November 19th, beginning
at 7:30, there will be an

ISRAELI MOVIE NIGHT

*Sponsored by
the Israel Committee*

Please join us for a social and educational evening, complete with desserts and a discussion afterwards. The evening is free and open to the public.

Sunday, September 11 - First Day of Sunday School

Tuesday, September 13 - First Day of Hebrew School

Friday, September 16 - WELCOME BACK Barbeque and OPEN HOUSE

Kosher barbeque with vegetarian options at 6:30; Shabbat Service at 7:30.

We will welcome back Rabbi Josh from Sabbatical and all congregants for another exciting year. Bring friends, neighbors, co-workers and anyone interested in joining Or Hadash. RSVPs for the BBQ are required by noon on September 13 to Lori Rubin at school@orhadash.com. \$8 per person or \$20 per family; no charge for prospective members!

Saturday, September 24 at 7:30 pm - Selichot observance

The Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah is known as Selichot, a time to focus our intentions in preparation for the upcoming High Holidays.

- 7:30 - Havdalah & dessert (Please bring a dessert to share.)
- 8:30 - Movie and discussion

The powerful, award-winning Israeli movie, *My Father, My Lord* (2007)

explores issues of faith and hope against the backdrop of Israel's Ultra-Orthodox community. Not suitable for younger viewers.

- 10:00 - Brief contemplative service
- RSVP to: office@orhadash.com.

Wednesday, October 12 - SUKKOT
Sukkah decorating and assembling "AID FOR FRIENDS" meals at 5:30; 6:30 pizza dinner; 7:00 Family-friendly Sukkot Service with Lulav and Etrog.

Saturday, October 15 at 8:00 – Martinis in the Hut

An adult Sukkot celebration, featuring a variety of "adult" and non-alcoholic beverages, snacks and fun! Everyone is welcome – bring your friends. \$18 per person or \$30 per couple in advance (\$25/\$40 at the door). For information and reservations, contact Lori Rubin at 215-283-0276 or school@orhadash.com.

Wednesday, October 19 - Simchat Torah celebration begins with a Bring-Your-Own dinner (dairy/veggie) at 6:00 pm and continues with Evening Service at 6:30, including music and dancing with the Torah with dance leader Donna Hendel, followed by an Ice Cream Oneg at 8:00.

This year's One Book, One Jewish Community selection is *The List* by Martin Fletcher. The kick-off event will be a conversation with Martin Fletcher at Beth Or on October 30th. More details will be forthcoming.

Our High Holiday Food Drive this year will be for canned fruit. Please bring cans of fruit to Or Hadash between September 25 and October 15 to help the Mitzvah Food Pantry supply those in need in our area.

A full schedule of High Holiday services is listed elsewhere in this newsletter!



*Spring
Into
Judaica!*

Shop Our Online Judaica Store

From the Education Director

By Lori Rubin

What a great group of Or Hadash kids and counselors we have this session at Camp JRF! I'm honored to be here, and to offer what I can toward their experience, and to witness the magic first-hand. At aseyfah (gathering), havayah (learning experience), in the hadar ochel (dining hall), and in so many other little ways, I've seen our kids flower. In this supportive and positive environment it's remarkable how they, almost unaware, slide into a different way of being – how they get to try on new identities, stretch themselves socially and even spiritually, are willing to take risks and make fools of themselves, knowing that the boundaries of “cool” are different and less rigidly drawn here. Developmentally and socially it's a fabulous place, to say nothing of the Jewishness and the other aspects of the experience.



In my few weeks here there have been so many wonderful vignettes or experiences I could speak of. For me, though it is spending time with the faculty that makes my time here so special. I have the privilege of serving as the faculty liaison to Camp JRF. I help the rabbis, cantors, and educators, who spend a week at Camp helping with tefillot (prayer services) havayot (the learning experiences), and sharing informal time with the hanihim (campers) feel comfortable at camp. I love hearing their stories, their melodies, and getting to know them on a personal level.

This summer, our session Alef's theme is Believing. We have been exploring a LOT about God. It is phenomenal to see and hear our youngest campers think about God on a concrete level and to observe thinking become more abstract reasoning with an increase in campers' ages. Our faculty has done a terrific job helping to shape conversations and discussions as we explore God through Biblical, Rabbinic, Medieval, and Contemporary time periods. Our own Rabbi Steven was here and he became Abraham while another faculty member became Mordecai Kaplan. What a sight to see – truly amazing!

We have been rethinking Jewish education from the ground up, and I want to make more of what we do in Fort Washington more like what we experience here in South Sterling. We began doing that this past year, and I look forward to continuing to pursue the idea of camp-like education in the fall. May we all be blessed to live Jewishly in our own way as we begin a new year together.

Bimah Mitzvah Baskets Available



Thanks to the wonderful families that used our Mitzvah Bimah Baskets for their B'nai Mitzvah this past year, Or Hadash has donated more than \$1800 to the Mitzvah Food Project. This fund alleviates hunger and malnutrition among at-risk families in the Greater Philadelphia area.

Does your child have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah this year? Why not order your Bimah

Mitzvah Basket and share your celebration with those in need. These beautifully wrapped baskets are available in two sizes: medium for \$90 and large for \$118, and are a great alternative to flowers. You also have a choice of decorative bows. An added plus is that you can order them with as little as one week's notice! Contact Rhoda Gansler at rgansler@verizon.net or 215-412-8790 for further information.



Or Hadash Religious School Participates in the 2011 Race for the Cure

The Or Hadash Religious School demonstrated wonderful spirit during the 2011 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on May 11. Eighteen (!) of our families participated (58 people!) and we raised \$1,686.17!! Not only did we walk/run in memory and honor of our family members, fellow congregants and friends who battled with breast cancer, we raised funds to help provide needed healthcare to women in our local community. We look forward to walking/ running again next year, and hope more people will be able to join us! Many thanks to everyone in our community who donated their time and money to make our participation such a success!!

B'NAI MITZVAH

SEPTEMBER 10

Bar Mitzvah of **Devon Polak**, son of Sharon and Scott Polak

SEPTEMBER 24

Bat Mitzvah of **Sophia Adler**, Marianne and Joseph Adler

From the Administrator

By Laurie Albert

As we prepare for the new year, we can reflect on all the changes taking place. We welcome back Rabbi Josh from his sabbatical, and we wish Rabbi Roni well as she starts her new position at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. There is new landscaping around the parking lot. The roadwork on Camp Hill Road is nearing completion, and we look forward to no more detours. We have a newer piano in the Sanctuary. And our High Holiday services will be held in our beautiful building for the first time.

Because the location of our services is new to us, there will be changes to the schedule so that we can accommodate all of our members. A full schedule of events is contained elsewhere in this newsletter. Please observe the new times and our parking limitations, and be flexible as we work together to bring the holidays to our home.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 5772.

Thank you to ALL who RSVP promptly. It makes event planning so much easier for our volunteers and staff.

Beautiful Or Hadash cards now available

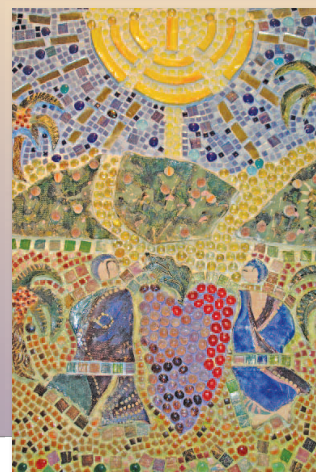


Or Hadash at Tziyon Ta'ar
אור חדש על ציון תמיד
Let a new light shine forever upon Zion.

A donation has been made to Or Hadash in honor of

by

Or Hadash donation card front cover design and inside note area.



May God console you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

A donation has been made to Or Hadash in memory of

by

Or Hadash in memory of cover design, and inside note area of card.

These special cards are now available for a donation of \$20.00 for 5 cards, to benefit Or Hadash.

(+ \$2.00 shipping and handling)

Send in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one and support Or Hadash.

Call Laurie Albert 215-283-0276 or Amy Grossman 610-828-7725

OR HADASH



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Phone: 215-283-0276

...shedding new light on Jewish Traditions

Interfaith Hospitality Network

It's never too early to make a difference! Through the Interfaith Hospitality Network, we will host families during the month of November. We are looking forward to having a new religious community partner with us (possibly another synagogue!), and continuing to provide this much needed service. We do make a difference! Look for more information about volunteering opportunities. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Jennifer Hoagland at 215-887-6757 or jlhoagie@comcast.net.

Ha-Kesher Now Accepting Advertising

Thank you for your interest in advertising in our synagogue newsletter, *Ha-Kesher*. We have "gone green," and *Ha-Kesher* is now a bimonthly online publication available at our web site, www.orhadash.com. We will be publishing quarter-page ads at a rate of \$30.00 per issue or reproducing business cards at a rate of \$20.00 per issue. Please contact me if you have general questions. If our terms are acceptable, please email photo-ready ads to debra.schaeffer@gmail.com for evaluation. If your ad is accepted for publication, we will invoice you through email and forward your ad to our printer. Please contact our printer, Guy Homer, at homer@homer-group.com, for more specific information regarding printing specifications.

ECO CORNER

By Doug Smithman, ECO Chairperson

Summertime. I've always enjoyed it and I'm going to miss it just as badly this fall. I love the outdoors and between the extended hours of light and the more agreeable conditions, I just like to be outside. When I was a kid I would be out of the house after breakfast and wasn't back in until after dark. Even now I'll sit on the front porch and read the paper with a morning coffee just so I can soak up the outdoor sights and sounds.

So I wrote this a few months ago just after coming in from soaking up that summertime heat. But the big difference from my childhood is that IT WAS 11 PM! If this had been a single odd evening then I'd have written it off as such and moved on, but it wasn't. The weather forecast was for excessive heat for over a week and temperatures had been above average most of the summer. The last several summers have been similar. High heat, no rain and dead grass. The pleasant outdoors of my youth have given way to weather that belongs in the middle east.

This heat is one very visible aspect of the impact we humans have had on the world. The impact of global climate change has been predicted for many years and we are seeing the signs of it. Unfortunately, our children and grandchildren will be the ones who live with it.

Judaism emphasizes our responsibility for future generations. We educate our children in Jewish history and tradition. We help them to embrace their Jewish identity while pushing secular education that will enable them to thrive in the larger world. Another way to do this is realize and acknowledge the impact of the environmental changes taking place and do what we can to leave them as healthy a world that we possibly can.

But what can be done? One of my favorite proverbs says;

No single raindrop considers itself responsible for the flood.

Many have told me that they enjoy following the rules of Kashrut because it makes them stop and remember their Jewishness when they go through various parts of their daily lives. I suggest that we develop a form of environmental Kashrut. Call it EnviroKashrut if you will. But be aware of the impact of the environmental impact of the things you do in your life.

- 1. Combine those errands.**
- 2. Shut off the computer.**
- 3. Buy in-season food that is locally grown.**
- 4. Rinse out a cup instead of getting a fresh one.**
- 5. Let the grass grow longer and live with a few weeds.**
- 6. Unplug the basement refrigerator with one can of soda in it.**

The list is endless, but be aware of the environmental impact and the general wastefulness of the things you do in your daily life. Adopt envirokashrut as a lifestyle and be as aware of your humanness as you are of your Jewishness. You should be proud of both.

Hope you had a great summer.

