

NEWS&VIEWS OF REFORM JEWS

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this spring, will offset carbon emissions in amounts equal to Anshe Hessed's unavoidable carbon emissions.

In Short Hills, New Jersey, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun initiated a comprehensive greening program that included posting "No Idling" signs by the car pool line to reduce vehicular emissions.

In Los Gatos, California, Congregation Shir Hadash's installation of a solar photovoltaic power system has reduced electricity use by 45% and reduced carbon emissions by the equivalent of driving a passenger car approximately 32,000 miles.

And in Beverly Hills, California, Temple Emanuel has retrofitted its fluorescent lighting with more efficient bulbs, saving the congregation \$1,500 in lighting per month.

Green Camping Each of the Union for Reform Judaism's 12 North American camps is also moving toward

renewable energy. At the Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute's new aquatic center in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, solar panels to be installed later this spring will help heat the pool water, and solar blankets will conserve the heat overnight. In Bruceville, Texas, Greene Family Camp's solar hot-water heaters work in conjunction with electrical heating systems in all residential facilities. Camp Newman in Santa Rosa, California is collecting and storing rainwater for irrigation and installing photovoltaic systems aiming for "net zero" energy use in future buildings. Partnering with Faiths United for Sustainable Energy (FUSE), the camps are also engaged in recycling, teaching campers about energy conservation, and more. "In the years to come," says Greene Family Camp director Loui Dobin, "these seemingly small steps will have a tremendous impact on the children and grandchildren of today's campers."

Eating Green—A Reform Jew's Journey About 12 years ago, David Crohn (photo #6), a longtime member of Temple Beth El in Riverside, California and an associate professor of environmental sciences at UC Riverside, became a vegan—a way for him to observe *kashrut* in light of Jewish tradition's concern for animals, to protect the earth, and to support his own personal health. "Judaism is very food-oriented, and what you eat is intensely meaningful and personal," he says. "Plus, animal agriculture is thought to be the single greatest contributor to the anthropogenic greenhouse gases that affect global warming. In the United States, too, it is usually much less efficient to grow food and give it to animals as feed than it is to grow other foods that can be eaten directly by humans."

Crohn encourages other Jews to consider adopting a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle. There "will be things you miss," he says, "and if you need to have something, eat it—it's not a big deal. Take your time, cutting back gradually,

and find good vegan and vegetarian cookbooks to help you along the way."

Green Resources for Home & Temple In 1991, the Union for Reform Judaism's General Assembly passed a historic resolution calling upon the Reform Movement to provide specific environmental guidance to congregations and congregants to preserve the planet. Here are some of the ways the Movement can now help you make environmentally sound choices.

The Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism and the Department of Synagogue Management's website <http://urj.org/green> serves as the Union for Reform Judaism's green point of entry. You'll find backgrounders on climate change; text studies for educators and lay leaders (including lessons on climate change and conserving energy from the CHAI Learning for Jewish Life curriculum); green "best practices," including a room-by-room greening guide for synagogues; congregation case studies; an architecture guide; funding sources; environmental audit guidelines designed for small congregations; and more. Seasonally, you'll discover a Chanukah-related guide to green your lifestyle from the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, a cofounder of the premier Jewish environmental organization Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life; and the Association of Reform Zionists of America / Kibbutz Lotan's joint resource packet, "Make Sukkot a Truly Green Holiday," which features guidelines for hosting an eco-friendly Sukkot dinner.

When it comes to preserving and protecting the earth, our most sacred inheritance, we all have a role to play. Using cloth grocery bags in the market, carpooling to and from work, recycling, installing solar panels, composting...in all these ways and others we ensure that we, and, in turn, our children and our children's children, can choose life.

—Jane E. Herman, writer and assistant to Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism

IN MEMORY...

Dr. Toby Kurzband, 1909-2008

In 1954 a small group of educators met at the Union's House of Living Judaism headquarters in New York City to create a new organization for professional Jewish educators—the National Association of Temple Educators. Its first chairman, Toby Kurzband, would lead the way in recruiting new Hebrew school teachers and pupils; involving parents in their children's Jewish education; inspiring teachers to think imaginatively in responding to students and parents; and setting up professional standards for NATE members that recognized the importance of educators to our Jewish future. *Zecher Tsaddik Livrachah.*

