

Tu BiShvat Etz Fest

10am - 2pm, Sunday, January 16, 2022

Join us for a very special day of learning and fun focused on individual action in response to climate change. Break-out sessions and family-friendly hands-on activities will highlight Judaism's relationship to sustainability and explore individual environmental imperatives.

10:00am - 10:50am	Opening Keynote (virtual)	From Genesis to Today: My Journey through the Heritage and Legacy of Jewish Farming (Noah Wolf-Prusan)	
11:00am - 12:00pm	Break out sessions 1 (virtual)	Household Electrification (Mitch Slomiak)	Five Hundred Thousand Varieties of Fruit (Abra Greenspan)
12:10pm - 1:10pm	Break out sessions 2 (virtual)	The Greening of Israel (David Findley)	How our Beliefs Power our Commitment to Address the Climate Change Crisis (Rabbi Chaim Koritzinsky & Pastor Danielle Parish)
1:10pm - 1:30pm	Closing Session with Rabbi Chaim (virtual)		
11:00am - 2:00pm	Family-friendly hands on activities (<i>In-person, outside @ Etz patio</i>)		

Please refer to your email or contact office@etzchayim.org for all Zoom information.

Keynote

From Genesis to Today: My Journey through the Heritage and Legacy of Jewish Farming from Noah Wolf-Prusan – Noah Wolf-Prusan

We will start our day as a community. Noah Wolf-Prusan will share about how he went from growing up as a city kid in traditional Jewish spaces to becoming a farmer who relies upon Jewish farming practices and rituals. Noah is a part of a growing group of professional Jewish farmers that have merged traditional organic and sustainable farming methods with Jewish agricultural wisdom. Jewish farmers tie their spiritual connection to land with their responsibility towards the well being of the planet, while also growing healthy food for people to eat. Noah is excited to share how the act of growing food in an environmentally-friendly way is enriched through living a Jewish life. Noah works at Singing Frogs Farm in Sebastopol while also serving as the part time Development Director of the Jewish Farmer Network. Before working in Sebastopol, Noah was a farm apprentice at the Adamah Farm and Fellowship program.

Break Out Sessions

Household Electrification – Mitch Slomiak

How slowing down climate change can begin at home with one careful choice after another.

Five Hundred Thousand Varieties of Fruit – Abra Greenspan

This description of the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden is found in a 13th century rabbinic text. Starting with that first great tree in the Book of Genesis, Jewish texts and teachings often involve trees. In this session, we'll dig around and explore a few of the well-known and lesser known trees of our heritage. Abra Greenspan is Etz Chayim's Director of Learning.

The Greening of Israel – David Findley

Jews all over the world have a deep connection to the “people” of Israel and the “land” of Israel. What does it mean to be connected to the land and how is that land being cared for? In this session, you will learn about some of the initiatives that are concerned with environmental infrastructure development, forestry and green innovations, and water solutions. David Findley is a member of the JNF Board and is deeply concerned about the ecology and environment in Israel.

How our Beliefs Power our Commitment to Address the Climate Change Crisis – Rabbi Chaim Koritzinsky & Pastor Danielle Parish

It can sometimes feel overwhelming to figure out what we can do to care for our planet. How can our sacred texts and tradition help sustain us and lift us up to do this critical work? Join Rabbi Chaim and Pastor Danielle as they lead a conversation about the religious imperative to care for the earth using ancient and contemporary sources.

Hands On Activities

Plants for Happy Homes

Plant seedlings and decorate clay pots for JFCS's adults with special needs who live in an assisted living facility.

Cards & Letters for Active Duty (Jewish) Troops

Make cards and write letters that the JCC headquarters will distribute to Jewish troops as part of their holiday care package project.

Bird Feeders for Backyard Gardens

Make your own bird feeder to take home.