



Green Team Mission Statement


The mission of CJC's Green Team is to demonstrate and implement CJC's commitment to environmental sustainability and justice, based on Judaism's responsibilities to protect creation. The Green Team is dedicated to raising the awareness of environmental issues and in taking action to improve the environment. In undertaking this work, the Green Team is committed to working with congregants, other CJC committees, CJCS, the Oakland Mills Interfaith Center and its member congregations and with the greater community. For more information, contact the chair, Wendy Hall (wlfh18@yahoo.com).




Green Team Goals

The CJC Green Team is committed to short and long term environmental goals that focus on our Congregation and the local community with intended impacts on our state, nation, Israel and the world.

- In order to make our environment a healthier place, the Green Team will provide programming on habitat cleanup, zero waste, tree plantings, and the construction of rain gardens and other relevant community projects.
- To decrease our environmental impact, the Green Team will advocate for solar energy for the Oakland Mills Interfaith Center, as well as encourage use of solar power by our congregants.

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- To leverage our resources and grow a network of similarly aligned organizations and individuals, the Green Team will look to collaborate with the OMI community; partner with congregations and other organizations beyond OMI; and encourage young people to take environmental action. Building bridges with other congregations is important to growing an influential network of groups committed to healing the environment. Involving the youth of CJC is crucial to ensuring the Green Team flourishes for years to come, and that protecting creation is a value that passes “I’dor v’dor”. Together, these actions can create the changes we must make as a community, a society, a nation, and the world.
 - To make our impact felt on a larger scale, the CJC Green Team looks to organize environmental advocacy on relevant issues at the County, State and Federal levels. Advocated issues would first be explored in educational events to enhance and determine Congregational interest and support. Issues to consider include environmental justice concerns, composting of OMI food waste, installation of charging stations for electric vehicles, etc.



Jewish Texts and the Environment and Climate Change

Green Team, CJC
Yom Kippur 5782

Genesis: 2:15,

**“God took the man and placed him in
the garden of Eden, to till it and tend it.”**

Midrash – Creation:

“God led Adam around all the trees of the Garden of Eden. And God said to Adam: “Look at My works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are! And all that I have created, it was for you that I created it. Pay attention that you do not corrupt and destroy My world: if you corrupt it, there is no one to repair it after you.”

(Midrash: Kohelet Rabbah 7:13:1)

***Shmita* is a sabbatical year on the Jewish calendar, occurring every seven years, including this year -- 5782.**

***Shmita* laws are Judaism's early laws of environmental preservation.**

Leviticus 25:4: “Six years shall you sow your field, and six years shall you prune your vineyard, and gather in the produce thereof. But the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest, a Sabbath unto God, you shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard.”

Jewish texts on Conservation:

Deuteronomy 20:19-21

“When you besiege a city ... thou shall not destroy the trees. Only which thou knowest are not for food may be cut down.”

Talmud (Taanit 23a)

“One day Honi the circle-drawer was journeying on the road, and he saw a man planting a carob tree; he asked him, how long does it take for this tree to bear fruit? The man replied, Seventy years. He then further asked him, Are you certain that you will live another seventy years? The man replied, I found ready grown carob trees in the world; as my ancestors planted these for me, so I too plant these for my children.”

Sh'ma –

The second paragraph of the *Sh'ma*, is among the most powerful warning of ecological doom in all of literature. But the *Sh'ma* also continues “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessing and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live.

Mussar:

“Everyday Holiness” by Alan Morinis

The middot (soul trait) of Humility.

“Occupy a rightful space, neither too much nor too little.”

The question is whether we the human world population can inhabit our rightful space without destroying the world.

Eco-Kashrut:

There are whole discussions and texts that teach us that we need to promote Stewardship over the earth and her resources. Eco-Kashrut highlights the ethical aspects of kashrut by interpreting them in light of broad Jewish values relating to the environment, compassion for animals, health, and concern for workers.

References for connection between Judaism and the environment:

- **Reconstructing Judaism web site.**
- **COEJL (Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life) web site**
- **Hazon (Pearlstone) web site**
- **Rabbi Fred Dobb (Adot Shalom) presentations and texts**
- **Sefaria web site**
- **The web sites of many other Jewish organizations addressing environmental issues**

Pirkei Avot (Ethics of our Fathers)

Chapter 2:16:

“It is not up to you to finish the task, but you are not free to avoid it”.

OMI Green Team Projects

2015 Planted 60 Trees




Past OMI Green Team Projects

Community Supported Agriculture Program
Environmental Justice Film Series
Energy Audit
Rain Garden Maintenance
Pollinator Garden at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center



"We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

Honor the memory of the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Join this Environmental Justice Film Screening and Panel Discussion



Unbreathable spotlights the ongoing struggle for clean air in the United States. Over the past 50 years, there has been major progress in significantly reducing air pollution across the nation thanks to the Clean Air Act. However, asthma continues to be the number one health issue for children and nearly half of all Americans across the country today are still impacted by unhealthy levels of air pollution. This 30-minute film shares stories of communities, including Baltimore, that are fighting for healthier air and the challenges we face to ensure healthy air for all.

Monday, January 18, 2021
7:00pm - screening of film
7:30pm - panel discussion

Panelists include: Willie Flowers, President of the Howard County NAACP and Park Heights Community Health Association
Rebecca Kelly, Director of eschumer's Climate for Health Program
Chantrelle Etnel, MD, Chair of the National Medical Association, Dermatology Division


Moderation: Bonnie Sorak, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Howard County Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Howard County & Columbia Jewish Congregation

Register for the panel discussion by clicking here.






The link to view the 30-minute movie and your Zoom connection information, will be emailed to you directly since it is available (only January) to watch on your time, or you can watch the movie along with others at 7:00pm. Everyone can join for the panel discussion at 7:30pm.

For more information contact Bonnie Sorak, bsorak@interfaithchesapeake.org or 443-799-0345.

Hosted by: Columbia Jewish Congregation in cooperation with the Howard County Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission and these partners:



Upcoming OMI Green Team Actions

-  Rain Garden and Tree Maintenance Workshop – Tentatively October 10th Afternoon
-  Environmental Justice Film Series-January/February/
March/April-Film Suggestions-Coordination
-  Composting for OMI and Village Center
-  Yards Alive
-  Water Bottle Refilling Stations/Recycling Center - Grant



Faithful Green Leaders Training

Build, Inspire, and Transform Your Community



Now Online!

We heard you.
You need strong Green Teams
at your congregations.
We're here to help.

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake is pleased to offer *Faithful Green Leaders Training*, a free online workshop, followed by a series of monthly Learning Lab webinars.

You Will Learn How To:

- Establish/grow a Green Team
 - Engage your congregation with fresh environmental programming
 - Develop an action plan
 - Build your grant-writing skills (see June 2020 webinar)
 - Enhance your communications skills to help spread the word
 - Help your congregation use fewer single-use water bottles, less styrofoam, save on energy use, and create less waste (see April 2020 webinar)
- All webinars are recorded.

Get Your Team Together!

Green Teams work best with at least three people, so you must have at least three from your congregation in order to attend. Any congregation based in Maryland; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Virginia; or the District of Columbia is eligible. Green Teams will attend one core 3-part workshop and monthly webinars. Don't have a team of 3 yet? Contact us for tips on how to get your core group together in time to attend a training.

Why Should Your Congregation Participate?

It's free, it's fun, and it will help you lead your congregation to take meaningful action! Learn and network with other congregational Green Teams. Attendance qualifies congregations in some regions to receive \$500 in seed funding to grow your team.

Full Training is 3 Online Sections - Each From 7pm-8:30pm

October 2021 Training

Section 1: Thursday, October 14

Section 2: Thursday, October 21

Section 3: Thursday, October 28

To sign up for the training see: www.InterfaithChesapeake.org/GreenTeams



For more information:
GreenTeams@InterfaithChesapeake.org
or call 410-609-6852



AS A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, WE ARE CALLED TO HONOR OUR SACRED BOND WITH OUR CREATOR,
SERVE AS GOOD STEWARDS OF THE LAND AND WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE, AND SUSTAIN THE LIFE
AND HEALTH OF ALL CREATURES. THROUGH OUR WORDS AND ACTIONS,

WE PLEDGE TO

Celebrate, respect, and revere the Earth's blessings

Demonstrate good stewardship in how we manage our land and facilities

Engage members of our community in the work of caring for the environment

*Embrace the mission of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake to work together
to protect and restore our shared watershed*



Interfaith
Partners for the
CHESAPEAKE



VIEW THE FULL PLEDGE AT WWW.INTERFAITHCHESAPEAKE.ORG

[“Pin on the Map”](https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/congregations)

<https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/congregations>

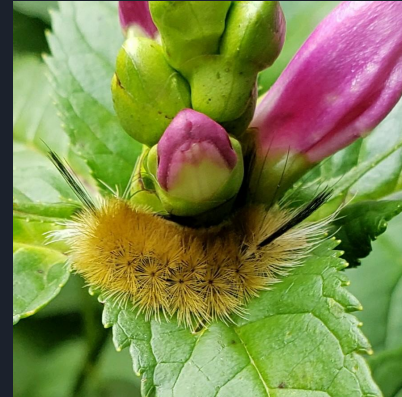
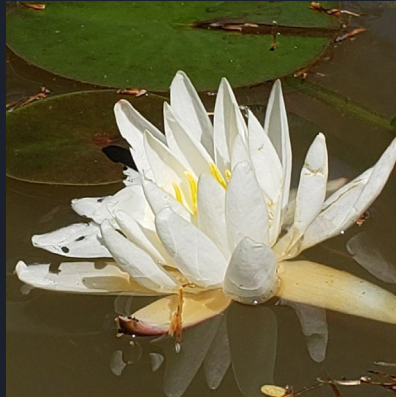
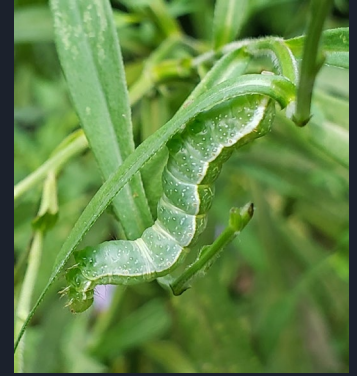
[Full Wording](#)

Saint Johns the Evangelist Church has Signed!

Being Translated to be Bilingual with Spanish

CJC Green Team Initiatives

- ➔ Prayer on the Path-Outdoor/Walking Services
- ➔ Celebrating Holidays with Environmental/Climate Change Perspective:
 - Tu B'shvat/Pesach Seders/Sukkot and CJCS Programming
- ➔ B'nai Mitzvah Project Guidance
- ➔ Greening Your Simcha Guidelines-reducing single use plastics
- ➔ Solar Promotion
- ➔ Advocacy
- ➔ Other....



CJC Green Team Interest Form

[Click HERE](#)



Yom Kippur

Nix the Lawn

How to increase your natural environment!

Yom Kippur - Nix the lawn

- Overall, we have too much cultivated lawn in the US
 - Unnatural plants - no fescue lawns in nature
 - Water intensive
 - Maintenance intensive
 - Fertilizer usage—generally overfertilized because most suburban soil is not very hospitable to any planting definitely not lawns
- We are running out/low on water
 - Reduced to no fertilizer runoff
 - Reduced water usage- goal is to have nothing beyond rain
- Pollinator and beneficial bug desert

Yom Kippur - Nix the lawn

- So how do we replace our lawn
 - Wholesale or gradual approach
 - Remove all lawn and replace with real (read fertile) topsoil
 - Start with three plants (always try for odd numbers)
 - Most everyone starts gradually until the bug hits

Yom Kippur - Nix the lawn

- Can we replace our lawn with something lawny?
- Unlikely unless you want to start a wildflower field – wonderful but generally not “suitable” for suburbia (think HOA)

Yom Kippur - Nix the lawn

- So what do we do?
- Plant **native** plants
 - Don't get too obsessive initially (that comes later)
 - Yes native plants can look "pretty"
 - Native plants can be quite colorful
 - Native plants can be a little fussy about exact environment
 - Sunlight, soil and "wetness"
 - But most yards have variety of water and soil conditions
 - you don't have to create them

Yom Kippur - Nix the lawn

. Plant a tree

- Native trees do well obviously and there is a wide variety
- OAKS are preferred most diverse environment
- Other “pretty” trees just to name a few
 - Fringe Tree
 - American Holly
 - Redbud
 - Common Dogwood (Cornus florida)
 - Pagoda Dogwood (Cornus alternifolia)

Yom Kippur - Nix the lawn

Do I need to cut down everything and start from scratch?

No: gradually does it— trees and plants die

-replace with natives

Add to your garden— remove some lawn every year

Yes, you can have childhood favorites but favor natives

Add some pollinators e.g. solitary bees (not honey bees) to jumpstart your pollinator garden

Yom Kippur - Nix the lawn

- Where do I find natives?
- Google them— but beware everything is native somewhere
 - You want natives for the Mid Atlantic regions
 - They will do better with less fussing and the right insects/ecosystem
- NEXT SOME PRETTY EXAMPLES
 - From my garden: come and see my mixed garden on a ¼ acre
 - both new and established beds
 - 6008 JaminaDowns 410-446-7986 plugge.hans@gmail.com

Beautyberry



Black Eyed Susan –MD State Flower



Downy rattlesnake plantain

