

What They're Saying about Urban Adamah

From summer camps co-sponsored with area synagogues to religious school programs that teach earth-based Judaism; from festivals that celebrate the harvest to partnerships with community organizations working for food justice: Urban Adamah is making an incredible impact on our East Bay Jewish community. Adam, his staff, and the UA fellows are spreading Torah through our community and teaching us about the wonders of a long over-looked sacred Jewish place...the farm.

Rabbi Jim Brandt

CEO, Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay

Urban Adamah is filling a huge gap in the experience of so many Jewish youth who finish college in search of their next Jewish community. Urban Adamah provides them an opportunity to connect in deeply meaningful and relevant ways. There should be an Urban Adamah farm in every major city with a college campus.

Rabbi Adam Naftalin-Kelman

Executive Director, UC Berkeley Hillel

Urban Adamah is a reminder that our Jewish lives are not meant to be separate from the world we share. Tradition calls upon Jews to have a relationship with the earth, with the food we eat, with our neighbors. Thanks to Urban Adamah, these relationships have begun again, through a pervasive, exciting interconnectedness between synagogues, schools, camps, JCC's, and the larger community, old and young. What a blessing Urban Adamah is!"

Rabbi Menachem Creditor

Congregation Netivot Shalom
Berkeley, CA

Urban Adamah demonstrates that Judaism can inhabit every part of our lives - by a community of like-minded peers, an infusion of meaning in daily tasks, and a higher spiritual awareness through ritual. Moreover, Urban Adamah takes this internal growth and expands it into a great civic engagement by connecting participants to work in the greater urban community. On our visit to Urban Adamah, the students in our Environmental Studies class made deep intellectual connections between environmental and Jewish learning while experiencing the physical satisfaction of translating these ideas into real farm work!

Roni Ben-David

Director of Community Service
Jewish Community High School of San Francisco

Our birthright alumni love Urban Adamah. Our weekend shabbaton for young adults on the farm was magical and has resulted in relationships that are lasting far beyond the weekend. Urban Adamah's professional staff had the sensitivity, professionalism and flexibility to design a Shabbat program that worked perfectly for our group. Our alumni are now regulars at Urban Adamah's community festivals, work parties, and adult Jewish learning programs.

Rachel Thompson

Director, Bay Area
Birthright Israel NEXT

When I think about Urban Adamah's work, I think about the impact it is having far beyond the UA farm. I have watched so many well meaning Jewish environmental organizations, including ones I have worked and volunteered for, have far less impact despite being around far longer. The partnerships you have established with local non-Jewish organizations working on food justice issues are helping them improve the lives of their clients and are making clear to them the Jewish community's commitment to their concerns and issues. And the collaborations you have formed with myriad Jewish institutions are helping them bring environmental consciousness, values and meaning to their members and supporters. All this makes Urban Adamah an incredibly valuable resource to the Jewish community both internally and externally. Not bad for a little farm on 2 acres of borrowed land! Nice work.

Adam Weisberg

Director, Diller Teen Fellowship
Former Executive Director, Camp Tawonga and UC Berkeley Hillel

Urban Adamah appeared in Berkeley just as the Kehilla School was searching for a partner to create a nature-based, outdoor experience for our students. The after school program you have put together has been amazing. Your open-heartedness, expertise and hard work create a lively and loving environment that connects our kids to the earth, to the food they eat, and to their Jewishness all at once. I look forward to my time on the farm each week, and I hear the same from our parents and kids. Urban Adamah is a gift to the East Bay, and it radiates joy and inspiration. Everyone seems a little happier on the farm

Dev Noily

Director of Education
Kehillah Community Congregation

Urban Adamah creates an accessible context for unaffiliated Jews as well as deeply affiliated Jews to come together and explore their Jewish identities in new, invigorating, and exciting ways. It's ultimate message is clear: our return to Judaism's agricultural roots with a renewed focus on our traditional sources challenges each of us to reconsider our behaviors as Jews in an environmentally vulnerable world. There is a unique opportunity here to reengage Judaism while changing the world.

Rabbi Yonatan Cohen

Congregation Beth Israel

I consider Urban Adamah a jewel for the East Bay Jewish Community. As a Director of Education at a local synagogue, I feel that we are truly blessed to have the farm at our fingertips. Each week, 15 of our 4th grade students have had the opportunity to get their hands 'dirty' with Jewish learning. This is a new experience for so many of our students. They have been taught that Judaism is experienced in the classroom or the sanctuary; we are breaking down those walls and enabling them to feel Judaism through all their senses. It is an incredible gift!

Deborah Sagan-Massey

Director of Education
Congregation Beth El