



## URBAN ADAMAH JEWISH COMMUNITY FARM

# Jewish Leaders Reflect On Their Urban Adamah Experience

"Urban Adamah demonstrates that Judaism can inhabit every part of our lives—by a community of like-minded peers, an 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

"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

"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

"Our experience on the Urban Adamah farm made Judasim come to life in incredible ways—from saying the bracha "Hamotzi" over pita bread after grinding the flour we made ourselves to a live representation of the practice of "pe'ah" (leaving the corners of our fields for the poor). Casey and his staff expertly handled the students' hands-on activities and experiential games to engage all of us. The staff was flexible and genuinely interested in tying in relevant parts of our curriculum with our time on the farm. The experience made Jewish values come to life in ways that are sometimes challenging within the confines of a classroom."

**Hadas Rave**  
Judaics Teacher, Contra Costa Jewish Day School

"At Urban Adamah, our students learn the most organic Torah of all, directly from skilled and loving experiential educators who weave Jewish wisdom into embodied learning of soil and sustenance. They seem to be growing joy and connection above all, over there at the farm."

**Judy Massarano**  
Judaics Teacher, Oakland Hebrew Day School