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ECO-JUDAISM: GOING GREEN THE JEWISH WAY

A Scholar-in-Residence

and / or

Family Education Weekend...

Led by Father and Son Colleagues:

Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins

and

Educator Yoni Stadlin



ELKINS
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A TASTE OF

SAMPLE LESSONS AND TOPICS...

- The Relationship between Judaism and Environmentalism
- What makes Environmentalism a Jewish issue?
- How is Shabbat a "Day of Eco-Judaism?"
- What are the Spiritual aspects of Ecology?
- What Torah Laws pre-date Modern Environmental Consciousness?
- "Going Green" in Your Synagogue and in Your Home
- Becoming a Jewish Environmental Activist: *Why and How*
- Environmentalism in Talmud and Midrash
- Environmental Sustainability for Israel: An Important Component for Peace for Israel and its Neighbors
- What is the "Declaration on the Human Environment?"
- Why is the U.S. One of the Biggest Environmental Law Offenders?
- Kashrut: Eco-Friendly or Not?
- Were Humans Meant to be Vegetarian?
- Good Stewards of the Planet through Jewish Holidays
- Jewish Table as a Temple: Making Conscious Food Choices ~ Making our Meals Holy Offerings

PRAISE FROM CLIENTS CONTINUED...

YONI STADLIN

From my first conversation with Yoni I was deeply impressed with his sharp mind, professionalism, passion for learning, and generosity of spirit. Yoni is a natural leader and he possesses a magnetic charisma that makes him an astounding educator....

~ Elyssa Gaffin, Program Manager
Foundation for Jewish Camping

Yoni is a uniquely gifted individual in the field of informal Jewish education. We have had many Tevah directors over the years, but none have fully captured the imagination of the children, the admiration of parents, and the respect of the staff to the extent that Yoni Stadlin has this summer. Indeed Yoni possesses a deep passion for learning and teaching that has been totally contagious to all those with whom he is involved...Yoni is a special young man who has an amazing talent for connecting with other people and a fantastic ability to teach about subjects about which he is passionate.

~ Steve Levin, LCSW
Director of Camps Administration
92nd Street Y

I have been in the business of Jewish education for 35 years and I can count on one hand the number of people as qualified and motivated as Yoni....Yoni brings a refreshing balance of modesty and initiative. In his young life, he has already managed to:

- Serve as a group leader for the American Jewish World Service
- Work as an environmental educator on a commercial sailboat
- Serve as a valued member of the staff of five different camps
- Be a member of the "Teva Learning Center" staff for 3 years
- Organize and lead a group of 20 friends to work with children in Turkey and India after their earthquakes
- Spend considerable time in Israel
- Take a "Semester at Sea" program on a ship that sailed around the entire world

To top it off, he is one of the nicest people you will ever meet. We should be so lucky to have 100 Yonis.

~ Dr. Gabe Goldman
Director of Experiential Education,
American Jewish University
Director of Experiential and Environmental
Education, *Brandeis-Bardin Institute*

PRAISE FROM CLIENTS...

RABBI DOV PERETZ ELKINS

As a life-long Jewish communal professional, I have had the pleasure of learning from some of the greatest Jewish teachers of our generation. None of those experiences, however, surpassed the pleasure I had at the opportunity to listen to Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins each Shabbat during his year of residency at my shul here in Miami. The breadth and depth of his knowledge, his love of Zion and the Jewish people and his engaging, unassuming and - at times - entertaining style all combined to great effect for people of varying backgrounds and interests. As good as his books are, he's even better in person!

~ **Jacob Solomon, Executive Director
Greater Miami Jewish Federation**

Your program here last week for Jewish Book Month was outstanding. The audience loved your riveting talk, your sense of humor, and the wealth of knowledge you imparted in such an engaging and fascinating fashion....

~ **Sandy Saada, Director of Cultural Arts
JCC of Buffalo, NY**

Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins combines all of the ingredients of a master teacher; command of material, humor, engaging personality, insights and delivery. His audiences are constantly captured by his unique ability to translate difficult concepts into understandable terms. He is a special guide to one's mind and soul.

~ **Rabbi Gerald I. Wolpe, Har Zion Temple
Penn Valley (Philadelphia), PA**

Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins captivates his audience as he offers profound insights of the Jewish Tradition and shows how they can be a source of wisdom to us as we confront life's inevitable challenges. He inspires us to find, in the wisdom of the past, the strength we need to meet the challenges of today.

~ **Rabbi Irwin Groner, Congregation Shaarey Zedek
Southfield (Detroit), MI**

Our Congregation has had a long history of visiting scholars and we were immensely impressed by Rabbi Elkins' presentation, warmth, and depth of knowledge. Through the years I have enjoyed learning from Rabbi Elkins through his rabbinic resources. To have him speak and teach at our Congregation was a wonderful program that enriched, not only the members of the Congregation, but me as well.

~ **Rabbi Sanford Akselrad,
Congregation Ner Tamid, Las Vegas**

ECO-JUDAISM*

EXAMPLES OF EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES...

- Four Corners Exercise ~
Four signs are posted in 4 corners of a room. Participants are asked to go to the corner with the sign that describes the one area of environmental problems to which they would most like to devote their time:
 - ~ Global Warming
 - ~ Alternative Energy
 - ~ "Bal Tash-khit" ~ Recycling
 - ~ Endangered SpeciesEach group then explains their choice to the other groups.
- Develop new prayers and augment traditional prayers to incorporate environmental issues.
- Search the Siddur for ideas that relate to Eco-Judaism.
- Create artistic representations (music, poetry, drawings, etc.) to illustrate b'rakhot (blessings) that deal with nature.
- Guided Meditation ~ Envisioning a Sustainable Society, Integrating Social, Environmental, and Economic Concerns.

See biographical information on the following pages or contact us:

RABBI DOV PERETZ ELKINS

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or

YONI STADLIN

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For more information visit: www.Eco-Judaism.org.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS...



RABBI DOV PERETZ ELKINS

is one of America's leading congregational rabbis. He is also a prominent, internationally known speaker, author, and winner of the "National Jewish Book Award."

He co-authored *Chicken Soup for the Jewish Soul*, among his 35 books and hundreds of published articles. His works have been read by thousands throughout the world.

Elkins has also served as speaker, guest lecturer, teacher, and scholar-in-residence at synagogues, Federations, JCCs and other Jewish organizations in North America, Europe, and Israel.

He was a member of the "Committee on Jewish Law and Standards" of the Rabbinical Assembly, and currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Rabbinical Seminary of Boston Hebrew College.



YONI STADLIN

is an innovative and inspiring teacher of experiential, environmental education.

He holds an M.A. in informal Jewish Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary's Davidson School, and has directed the 92nd Street Y's science and nature day camp for the past two years.

He is also a veteran educator for the Teva Learning Center ~ the leading Jewish environmental education program in the country. Additionally, Yoni teaches Judaism and environmental justice internationally with the American Jewish World Service, and taught environmental science from an educational sailboat on which he lived.

He has led "Birthright Israel" trips with Livnot U'lehibanot, and spent several months living aloft, as an environmental protection initiative, in ancient Redwood trees that were slated to be cut.

Yoni's 30 years have been filled with music, as well as nature and spirituality. He is a talented guitarist, who loves sharing campfire song sessions.