

WHAT'S JEWISH ABOUT PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT?

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life
Tenth Anniversary Report
www.coejl.org

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

Protecting Creation, Generation to Generation

Mission

COEJL deepens the Jewish community's commitment to the stewardship of creation and mobilizes the resources of Jewish life and learning to protect the Earth and all its inhabitants.

Goals

To advance our mission, COEJL:

- partners with the full spectrum of national Jewish organizations to integrate Jewish values of environmental stewardship into Jewish life;
- works with synagogues and other local Jewish organizations to bring Jewish environmental education, ecologically-conscious Jewish observance, and opportunities for environmental action to Jewish families and individuals;
- supports rabbis, educators, and Jewish scholars to develop and distribute materials that express diverse Jewish perspectives on environmental issues;
- brings a Jewish vision and voice to environmental justice and all other aspects of sustainability, and advocates on behalf of the Jewish community;
- activates Jewish institutions, local COEJL programs, and individuals (both affiliated with organized Judaism and unaffiliated) in support of environmental protection efforts; and,
- participates in inter-religious and civic coalitions to protect the environment, public health, and our common future.

On the cover: *Excerpts of the text on the cover, Leviticus 25, describing the cycles of rest for the land and the entitlement to sustenance to all who dwell there-in.*

In the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of Sabbath—ceasing for the land...
for you, for your servant and for your handmaid,
for your hired-hand and your resident-settler who sojourn with you;
and for your domestic-animal and the wild-beast that (are) in your land shall be its produce to eat...
Now you are to number yourselves seven Sabbath-cycles of years...
you are to give (blast on the) shofar throughout all your land.
You are to hallow the year, the fiftieth year, proclaiming freedom throughout the land and to all its inhabitants.

Translation by Everett Fox from The Five Books of Moses, Schocken Books, 1995.

IT WAS A QUESTION I ASKED MYSELF ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO,



when I was an active environmental leader and had little connection to the Jewish community.

In March 1992, I joined other Jewish leaders in Washington, D.C., to explore this question. Al Gore, Carl Sagan, and Jewish scholars gave powerful presentations from diverse perspectives about the human relationship to the natural world. It became clear to all of us that Jewish tradition had something profound to offer in addressing environmental challenges and that embracing these challenges would provide the Jewish community a fresh source for renewal.

The following year, we established the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) to articulate and promote a distinctively Jewish perspective on envi-

ronmental values. In the ten years since, we have helped tens of thousands of Jews make a connection between Judaism and environmental stewardship. COEJL has put environmental protection on the agenda of the organized Jewish community and made the case to elected officials and decision-makers that protecting the environment is a moral and religious obligation. And as part of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE), we have participated in and led coalitions to conserve energy, protect children from toxic pollution, and protect forests.

I am deeply grateful to Paul Gorman, whose effort and vision has inspired and sustained COEJL, and to our board members, our regional affiliates, our 29 national participating organizations, and the individual supporters and foundations that have made our work possible. And I am grateful to Mark X. Jacobs, our Founding Director, who through vision, leadership, and tenacity built COEJL into an organization of importance to the Jewish, interfaith, and environmental communities.

For those of you new to COEJL, I hope our vision, story, goals, and priorities for the coming years under the leadership of our new Executive Director, Adam C. Stern, will inspire you to join the COEJL community on our journey to protect creation, generation to generation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Bloome".

Sharon Bloome, *Chair*

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT IS A MITZVAH

Protecting human health and the diversity of life is a value emphasized in Torah, Talmud, and rabbinic literature throughout the ages—beginning with the commandment in Genesis for Adam and Eve to serve and protect the Garden of Eden.

I'm Jewish—why haven't I ever heard about a connection between Judaism and the environment?

Many Jews haven't. Despite the richness of Jewish teachings related to our responsibility to protect the environment, few Jews have been introduced to them. COEJL is changing that.

COEJL seeks to expand the contemporary understanding of such Jewish values as *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and *tzedek* (justice) to include the protection of both people and other species from environmental degradation. COEJL seeks to extend such traditions as social action and *g'milut hasadim* (performing deeds of loving kindness) to environmental action and advocacy. And *shalom* (peace or wholeness), which is at the very core of Jewish aspirations, is in its full sense harmony in all creation.

This [the rainbow] is the token of the covenant which I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations.

Genesis 9:12

What do Jewish sources say about the environment?

Many *mitzvot* (commandments) found in the Bible and laws found in the Talmud instruct us to protect what the Jewish tradition views as “God’s creation”—the totality of the physical world in which we live.

Bal tashchit (do not waste) teaches us to conserve resources. *Shiluach ha-keyn* (chasing away the mother bird) teaches us to safeguard all species. *Shmita* (sabbatical year) teaches us that economic justice and ecological sustainability are intimately related. And *Shabbat* reminds us that we are but one strand in the web of creation.

When we consider the state of the environment today in light of these *mitzvot* and values, it is clear that we have an urgent Jewish mission to establish a more healthy and sustainable relationship between human beings and the rest of God’s creation.



Photo: Sacha Bodner

Is there a connection between Jewish spirituality and nature?

“Finding God in nature” can be a deeply Jewish experience. This isn’t some “new age” fad. It’s an ancient Jewish practice. Jewish liturgy is infused with descriptions and images of nature as an expression and embodiment of the Divine.

Yet for more than a thousand years, Jews—even Judaism itself—have been distant from nature.

A reconciliation between Jews and nature is needed, and it can be encouraged by holding services outdoors, highlighting themes of nature in liturgy, and even



organizing *Shabbat* programs in the wilderness. These experiences bring the diversity of life on Earth to Jewish liturgy and Jewish spirituality, and in turn bring Judaism to life.

In order to serve God, one needs access to the enjoyment of the beauties of nature, such as the contemplation of flower-decorated meadows, majestic mountains, flowing rivers... For all these are essential to the spiritual development of even the holiest people.

Rabbi Abraham ben Moses (1186 – 1237)

לעבודה וליקנות

“Virtually every thoughtful student of the environmental challenge ultimately comes to recognize the need to transform fundamental human values in order to reverse patterns of planetary destruction. But there has been no broad, credible strategy to address this universally acknowledged need head-on. We offer at least one: to weave the mission of care for creation into Earth’s ancient faith traditions which have the capacity to infuse civilization with a fresh understanding of human place and purpose in the web of creation.”

Paul Gorman, Founder and Executive Director,
National Religious Partnership for the Environment



Photo: Sacha Bodner

JEWISH VALUES IN ACTION: COEJL TESTIFIES TO CONGRESS

COEJL advocates public policies rooted in Jewish values. On February 10, 2000, Mark X. Jacobs, COEJL’s Founding Director, testified at a Congressional hearing in favor of taking action to protect the environment and public health by raising vehicle fuel economy standards.

“Some have said that we should not take measures to address global warming before we are certain that harm will befall humankind. There are many threats to human life that are neither certain nor imminent, and climate change falls into this category.

“The Bible provides some instruction for such a case. Deuteronomy 22:8 tells us that, ‘When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet [fence] for your roof, so that you do not bring blood-guilt on your house if anyone should fall from it.’ Rabbi Moses Maimonides, perhaps the greatest Jewish sage, taught that we must take action to protect others from any object of potential danger, by which it is likely that a person could be fatally injured, including building a fence on an unprotected roof. In the *Mishneh Torah*, his great commentary on the Bible, Maimonides wrote that a person (not just the owner) must remove a possible danger that could cause fatal harm to another, even, in the case of the parapet, when the danger is not imminent or certain.

“So too with climate change. We must take action to prevent possible danger.

“We stand before choices that will affect generations to come—Biblical choices, between life and death, between blessing and curse. Shall energy be a safe, clean, sustainable blessing? Or shall our consumption of energy be a curse—causing harm, and even death, to people and other creatures far into the future?

“On behalf of the Jewish community, I urge you to choose life. Choose the blessing of a clean, safe, and prosperous economy run with sustainable, efficient, domestically-produced technologies and energy sources.”

How can Judaism help solve environmental problems?

Neither Judaism nor other religious traditions offer solutions to contemporary environmental problems. They do, however, offer a framework for defining problems and evaluating potential solutions. Most basic conflicts are addressed in Jewish tradition and law, including tensions between the needs of the current generation and those of future generations and consideration of the needs of other species. Judaism provides a context for evaluation of various personal and policy choices.



Photo: Sacha Bodner

At a deeper level, human choices are connected to our understanding of the human place and purpose in the world. Judaism and many other religious traditions teach that we are responsible to the Creator to sustain and heal the creation of which we are a part. It is ultimately from this deep level of human consciousness that the changes which will enable an environmentally sustainable society must emerge.

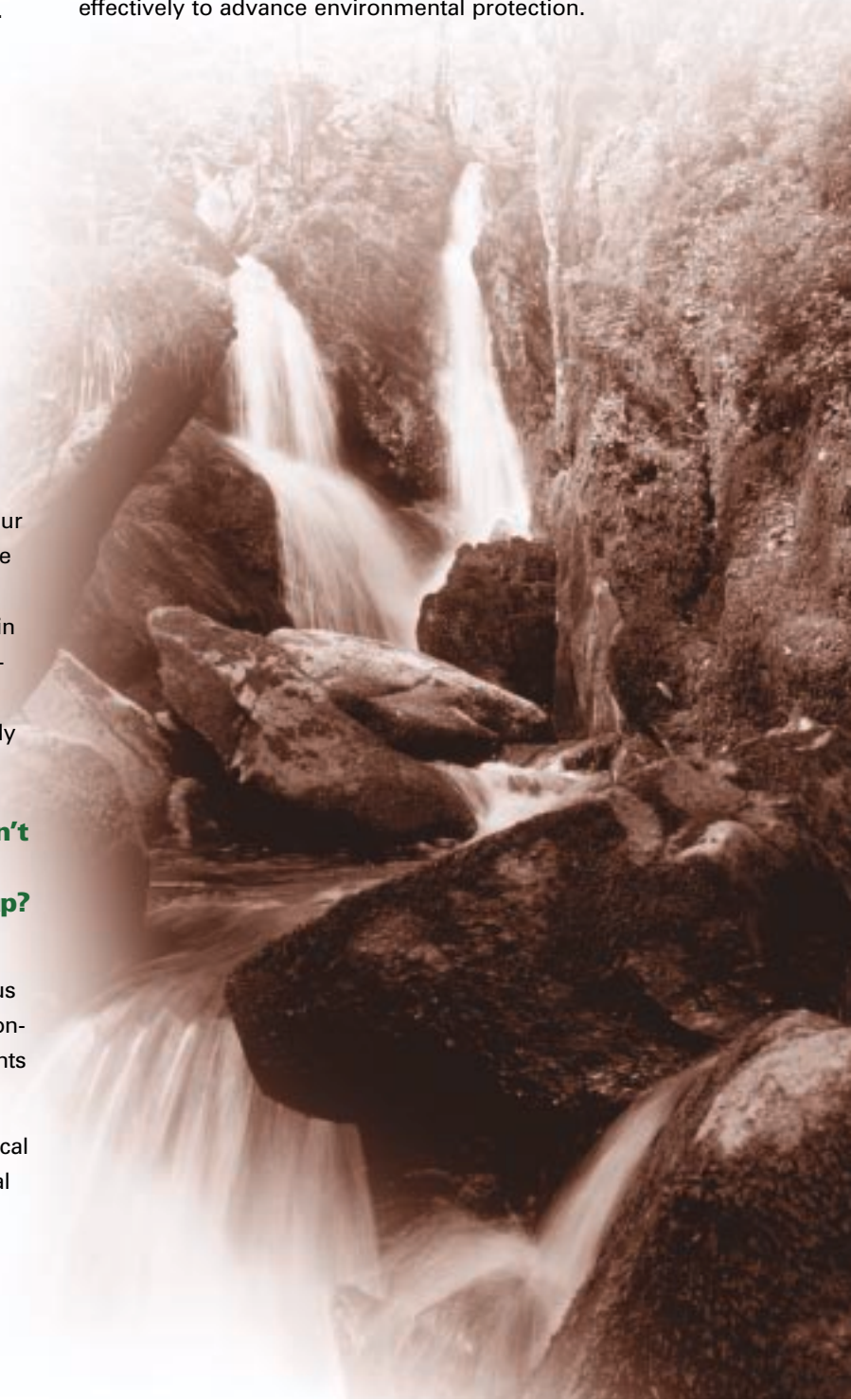
But if I want to make a difference, shouldn't I just join the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, Environmental Defense, or some other group?

COEJL's message is unique. Along with partners from other faith communities, we bring a moral and religious message on the environment to the public and decision-makers. We cut through the familiar technical arguments to clarify the values at stake in environmental policy.

Given the prominent role of religion in American political life, a unified religious voice in favor of environmental protection can have considerable effect on public

opinion and policy discussions. As the historic source of Christianity, Judaism has moral authority in the American imagination, providing Jewish leaders an opportunity to make a moral case for environmental protection before the nation at-large.

In addition, the Jewish community is very effective at advocacy, having made significant contributions to social causes—far disproportionate to its size—on labor, civil rights, gender equality, and other issues. Jewish communities have the potential to mobilize effectively to advance environmental protection.



THE DIVERSE COEJL COMMUNITY

An extraordinary and diverse community of individuals has assembled around COEJL's mission. We work together to protect the environment and bring vitality to Jewish life.



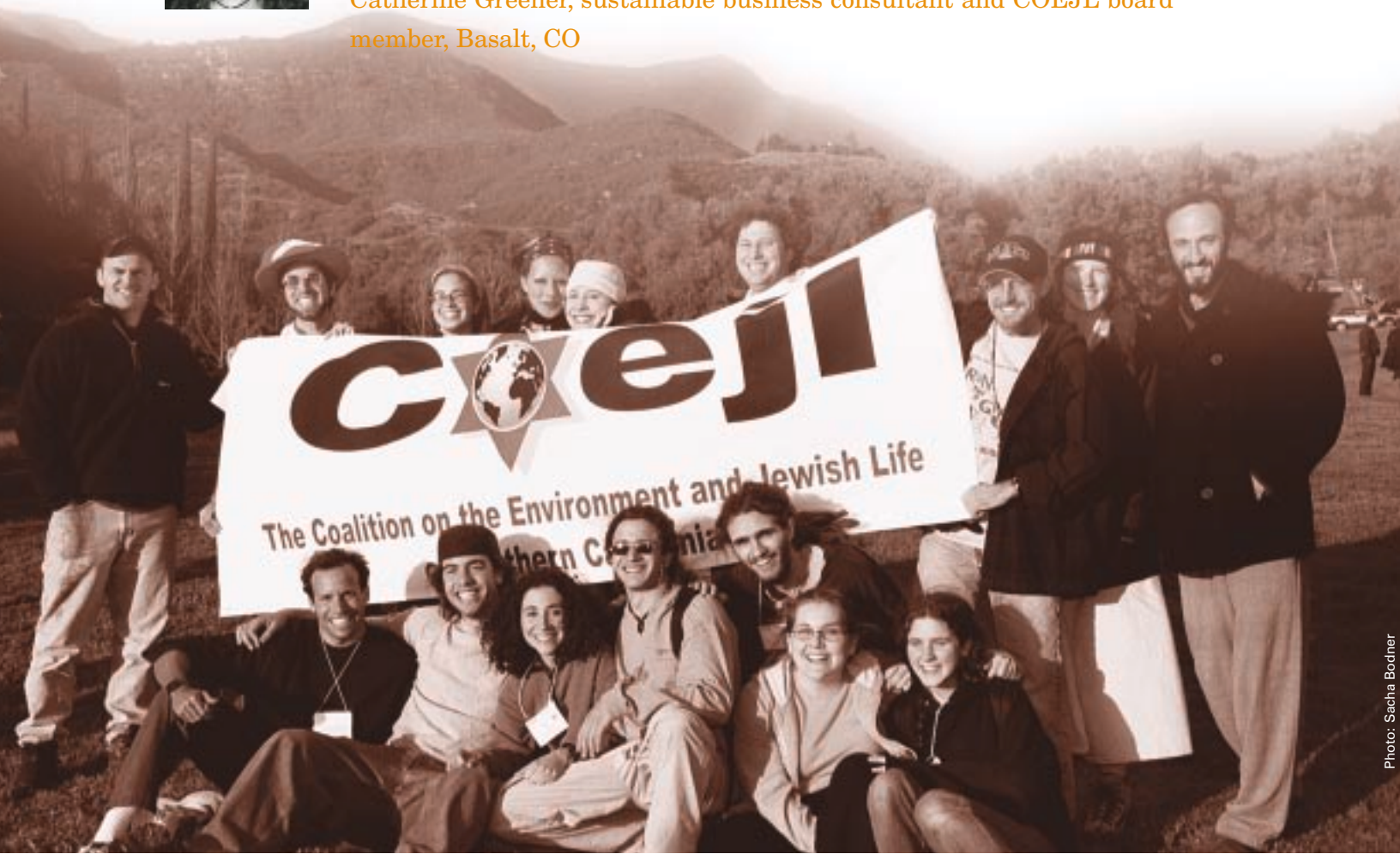
“COEJL is visibly finding its way into the lives of diverse Jewish institutions. I believe strongly in its promise for both Jewish life and the environment.”

Dr. Ismar Schorsch, Chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary and COEJL founder and board member, New York City



“Before COEJL, I was a ‘High Holiday Jew’ and ‘checkbook environmentalist.’ Now, Jewish environmental values guide me in how I lead my life, who my community is, and what I do for a living. It’s an extraordinary gift.”

Catherine Greener, sustainable business consultant and COEJL board member, Basalt, CO



“COEJL has provided me with a source of inspiration and a personally meaningful connection to the Jewish community that I never had before.”

Mara Osman, environmental attorney,
Washington, D.C.

“The religious community has played an important role in the energy debate. It is vital that the ethical dimension of our energy policy be understood, and I commend COEJL and its partners for their efforts to



raise these issues.”

Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT),
addressing an interfaith rally on Capitol Hill organized by
COEJL in May 2001.

“COEJL has raised awareness throughout the Jewish communities of North America of our tradition’s insights and perspectives about planet Earth and our collective mandate to preserve it.”

Dr. John Ruskay, Executive Vice President/CEO of UJA–Federation
of New York and COEJL founder



“This movement makes Judaism alive for me. I thank COEJL for providing me a Jewish home.”
Stephan Sylvan, environmental engineer,
Washington, D.C.

“Through COEJL we have the opportunity to set a vision for tomorrow that is relevant to our children and future generations.”



Lynn Lyss, past Chair of
JCPA, and Dr. Carl A. Lyss,
St. Louis, MO



“COEJL allows us to combine, for the first time, our love of nature with Judaism. Each of us came to it on our own, and through our COEJL activities we met and are now getting married! We look forward to continuing our work with COEJL together.”

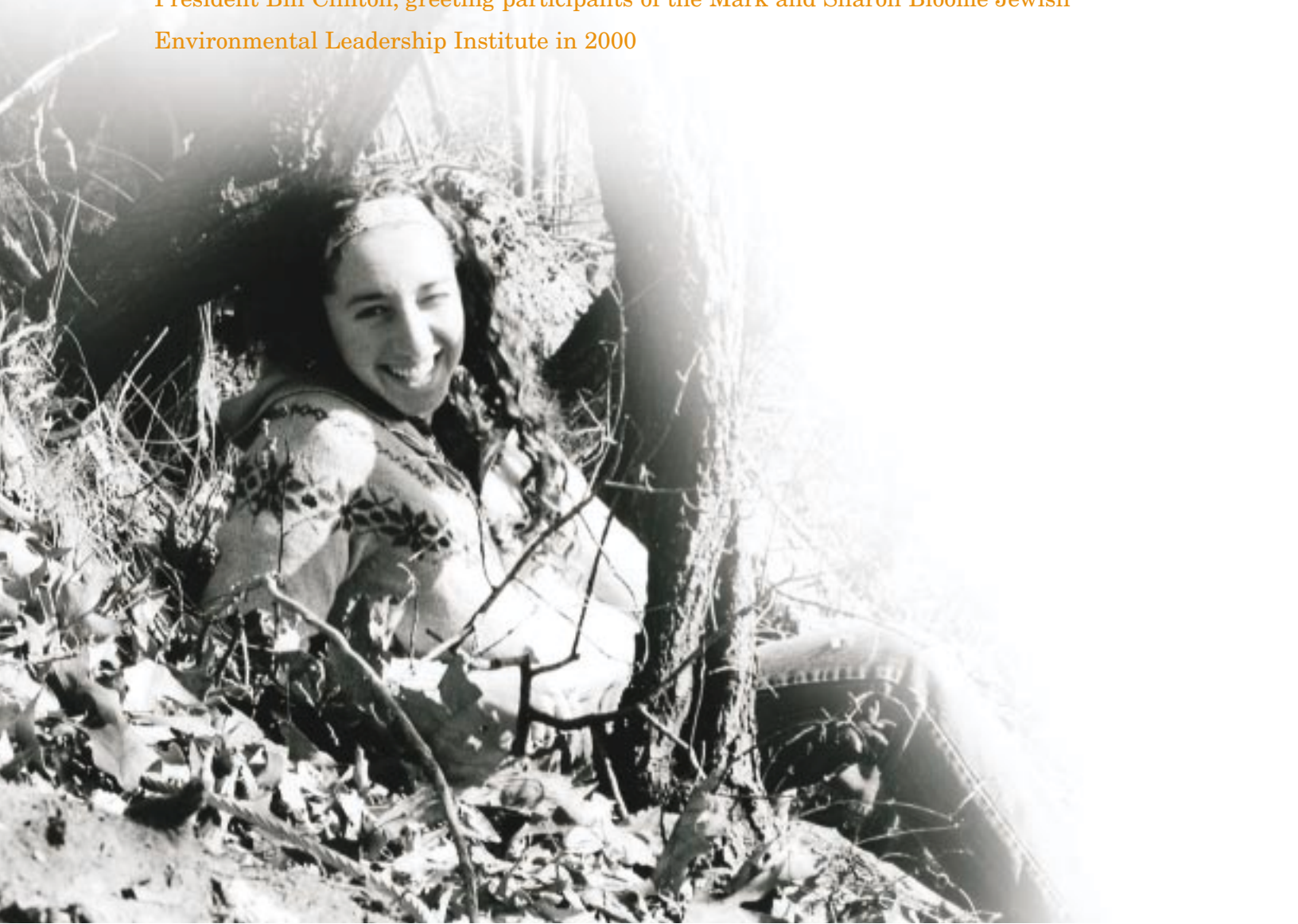
Isaac Elnecave and Rachel Lessem of Boston were married in June, 2003.


“COEJL underscores both the secular and moral underpinnings of our need to protect the environment of our nation and our world.”

Lois J. Schiffer, former Assistant U.S. Attorney General, Washington, D.C.

“I commend the members of COEJL for your dedication to the preservation of the world’s natural resources. By promoting environmental education, scholarship, advocacy, and action in the Jewish community, you are helping to protect our planet’s God-given splendor for generations to come.”

President Bill Clinton, greeting participants of the Mark and Sharon Bloome Jewish Environmental Leadership Institute in 2000





Each year the COEJL community gathers to learn and celebrate at the annual Mark and Sharon Bloome Jewish Environmental Leadership Institute. Participants have come from 25 states, two Canadian provinces, Israel, and the United Kingdom. In alternate years, the Institute takes place in Washington, D.C., alongside the joint annual policy conferences of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs and Hillel.

Today, many younger Jews are alienated from Jewish life, tradition, and community. Yet they are joining environmental organizations in high school and college and entering the environmental professions in large numbers. COEJL provides a way for them to connect their passions and interests with Jewish tradition and Jewish community in an organic and exciting way that honors who they are and what they care about. For some, COEJL has become their Jewish home.



Photo: Rebecca Ostrich

“COEJL has unified and mobilized a community of Jews committed to environmental stewardship rooted in our understanding of Torah and our inherent obligation to social justice and *tikkun olam*.”

Barbara Lerman-Golomb, Jewish educator and activist, New Jersey



Photo: Sacha Bodner

“The strongest tool to fight environmental neglect is the spiritual movement that COEJL is organizing. It is affirming as a Jew to find other Jews who stand for the same things I do.”

Adam Werbach, past National President, Sierra Club, San Francisco

COEJL'S STORY

Through a wide-ranging program and with diverse partners, COEJL has sought to permanently integrate environmental concern and commitment into the fabric of Jewish life and to mobilize the Jewish community for environmental justice and sustainability.

The Founding

By and large, the organized Jewish community had not recognized the environment as an issue warranting its attention until the 1992 Consultation on the Environment and Jewish Life, convened by Al Gore, Paul Gorman, and Carl Sagan. The Consultation drew senior leaders from across the religious and communal spectrum of American Jewish life.

Parallel gatherings were convened in collaboration with the U.S. Catholic Conference, National Council of Churches, and evangelical Christian leaders. Through these meetings, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE) was founded to guide and support environmental initiatives in Jewish, Catholic, mainline Protestant, and evangelical Christian institutions and communities.

In 1993, the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life was created and charged with catalyzing a distinctively Jewish programmatic and policy response to the environmental crisis. COEJL was initially envisioned as a time-limited project to “jump start” environmental programs that would become permanently integrated into Jewish institutions.

A Coalition of National Agencies

In its first six years (1993–1999), COEJL undertook a wide-ranging, experimental program, seeking to discover how to best engage Jewish institutions, leaders, and individuals in education, scholarship, action, and advocacy rooted in a Jewish environmental ethic. COEJL worked through the three Jewish institutions

that helped create it: the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA, then NJCRAC), The Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS), and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC). An additional 26 national organizations across the religious and communal spectrum were recruited as National Participating Organizations.

Building an Intellectual Foundation

When COEJL was created, very few Jews had made a connection between Judaism and the environment. The diverse Biblical, Talmudic, rabbinic, and other sources in the Jewish tradition that address protection of the natural world and public health were largely

unknown. The rich ecological dimension of the festivals, rooted in the ancient agricultural cycles of the Land of Israel, remained far beneath the surface. Through a diverse range of initiatives, including conferences, publications, and broadcasts, COEJL raised awareness of the many points of connection between Judaism and the environment.



Photo: Beryl Goldberg

Rabbi Steven Shaw of The Jewish Theological Seminary organized COEJL's scholarly work from 1993 to 1998.

Nurturing Grassroots Leadership

During COEJL's first two years, it became clear that working through a coalition of national organizations would be insufficient to accomplish COEJL's goals. COEJL began to seek participation and partnership at

the grassroots level by broadly distributing educational materials, networking with individuals who expressed interest, and providing small grants to develop local Jewish environmental projects.

COEJL's message resonated particularly strongly among rabbis and Jewish educators who found it a compelling expression of Jewish values, a fresh vehicle for Jewish education and engagement, and an opportunity for community action.

In addition, thousands of young adults connected their environmental commitments and Jewish identities through COEJL programs, and began to build community with one another. Grassroots leaders in more than a dozen communities created local affiliates, which COEJL supported with grants and technical and programmatic assistance.

Mobilizing to Protect the Environment

Bringing a Jewish voice to the environmental debate was a priority for COEJL at its outset. Through the JPCA, a coordinating body for 13 national and 120 local Jewish public affairs organizations, COEJL developed consensus positions on issues ranging from environmental health and justice to energy policy, climate change, and biological diversity.



COEJL organized several issue campaigns. *Operation Noah: Defending God's Endangered Species and Habitats*, launched in 1996, engaged schools, synagogues, other institutions, and individuals in learning about biodiversity and its connection to Jewish

values, restoring endangered habitats, and defending the federal Endangered Species Act. Since 1999, COEJL has played a leadership role in the Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign, which has involved more than 1,200 religious leaders in 21 states in advocating a sustainable energy policy.

Establishing a Permanent Organization

By 1998, it was clear that there was an ongoing desire and need for a comprehensive Jewish environmental program, and no other organization was prepared to provide it. COEJL assembled its stakeholders for a strategic planning process and established itself as a permanent national Jewish organization.

Since that time, COEJL has established a strong national communications and advocacy infrastructure, nourished a network of COEJL affiliates and communities around North America, and organized campaigns to protect national forests, address climate change, and enact a sustainable national energy policy.

ON THE URGENCY OF A JEWISH RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

Washington, D.C. March 10, 1992

We, American Jews of every denomination, from diverse organizations and differing political perspectives, are united in deep concern that the quality of human life and the Earth we inhabit are in danger, afflicted by rapidly increasing ecological threats. We here affirm our responsibility to address this planetary crisis in our personal and communal lives.

For Jews, the environmental crisis is a religious challenge. As heirs to a tradition of stewardship that goes back to Genesis and that teaches us to be partners in the ongoing work of creation, we cannot accept the escalating destruction of our environment and its effect on human health and livelihood. Where we are despoiling our air, land, and water, it is our sacred duty as Jews to acknowledge our God-given responsibility and take action to alleviate environmental degradation and the pain and suffering that it causes. We must reaffirm and bequeath the tradition we have inherited which calls upon us to safeguard humanity's home.

We have convened this unprecedented consultation in Washington, D.C., to inaugurate a unified Jewish response to the environmental crisis. We pledge to carry to our homes, communities, congregations, and workplaces the urgent message that air, land, water, and living creatures are endangered. We will draw our people's attention to the timeless texts that speak to us of God's gifts and expectations.

Our agenda is already overflowing. Israel's safety, the resettlement of Soviet Jewry, anti-Semitism, the welfare of our people in many nations, the continuing problems of poverty, unemployment, hunger, health care, and education, as well as assimilation and intermarriage—all these and more have engaged us and must engage us still.

But the ecological crisis hovers over all Jewish concerns, for the threat is global, advancing, and ultimately jeopardizes ecological balance and the quality of life. It is imperative, then, that environmental issues also become an immediate, ongoing, and pressing concern for our community.

Signatories:

Rabbi Marc D. Angel *President,*
Rabbinical Council of America

Shoshana S. Cardin *Chairperson,*
Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

Rabbi Jerome K. Davidson *President,*
Synagogue Council of America

Dr. Alfred Gottschalk *President, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion*

Dr. Arthur Green *President,*
The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Rabbi Irwin Groner *President,*
The Rabbinical Assembly

Rabbi Walter Jacob *President,*
Central Conference of American Rabbis

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg,
United States Senate

Marvin Lender *President, United Jewish Appeal*
The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman,
United States Senate

Sheldon Rudoff *President, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America*

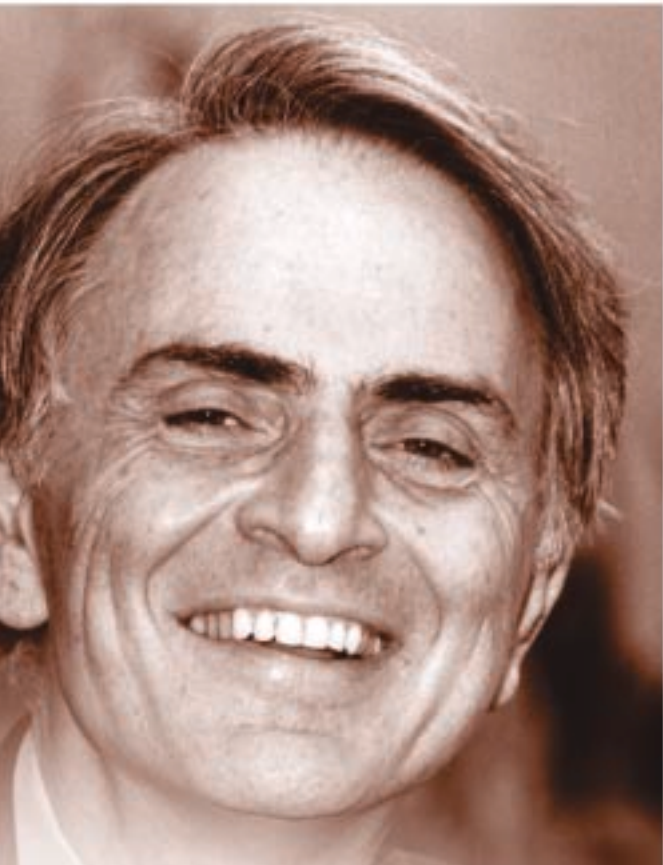
Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler *President,*
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Dr. Ismar Schorsch *Chancellor,*
The Jewish Theological Seminary of America

Arden Shenker *Chairman, National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council*

The Honorable Arlen Specter, *United States Senate*

Alan J. Tichnor *President, United Synagogue of America*



1993

National Religious Partnership for the Environment, The Jewish Theological Seminary, NJCRAC (now JCPA), and the Religious Action Center establish COEJL

1994

COEJL publishes *To Till and to Tend: A Guide to Jewish Environmental Study and Action* and sends it to 4,000 Jewish institutions

1994

23 national Jewish organizations across the religious spectrum join COEJL



1991

Al Gore, Paul Gorman, and Carl Sagan convene senior Jewish and Christian leaders to discuss the environmental challenge

1994

Consultation on the Development of a Jewish Philosophy of the Natural World in Pawling, NY, brings together leading Jewish scholars with eminent environmental scientists and scholars



Shoshana S. Cardin

1992

Senior Jewish leaders assemble in Washington, D.C., for a Consultation on the Environment and Jewish Life

1996

First COEJL regional affiliates form: Northwest Jewish Environmental Project in Seattle, WA, and the Jewish Environmental League in Ventura, CA



1995

Rabbi David Saperstein testifies to Congress on the protection of endangered species on behalf of NRPE

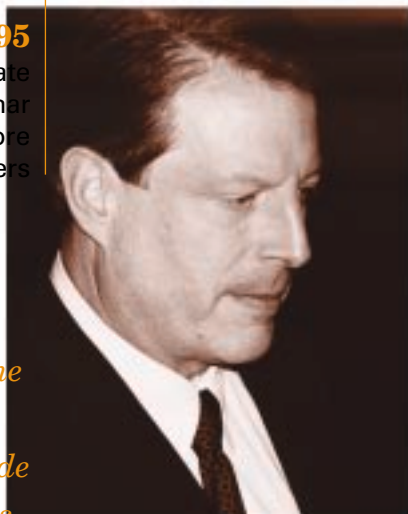
1995

COEJL awards 39 small grants to develop diverse models of Jewish environmental programs



1995

1,000 people participate in a telephone seminar with Vice President Al Gore and senior Jewish leaders



“The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life has made tremendous progress in connecting the priorities that must be pursued to save our environment to the deepest values in Jewish tradition.”

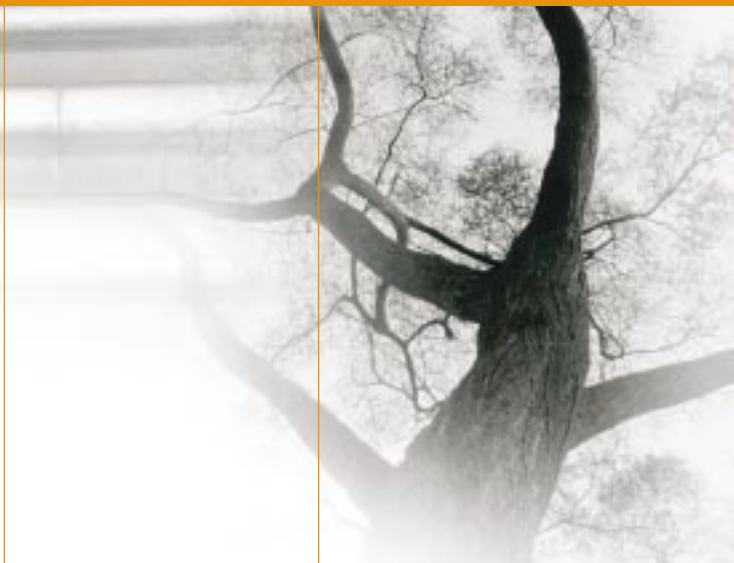
Vice President Al Gore, addressing a joint session of COEJL, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and Hillel in 1999.

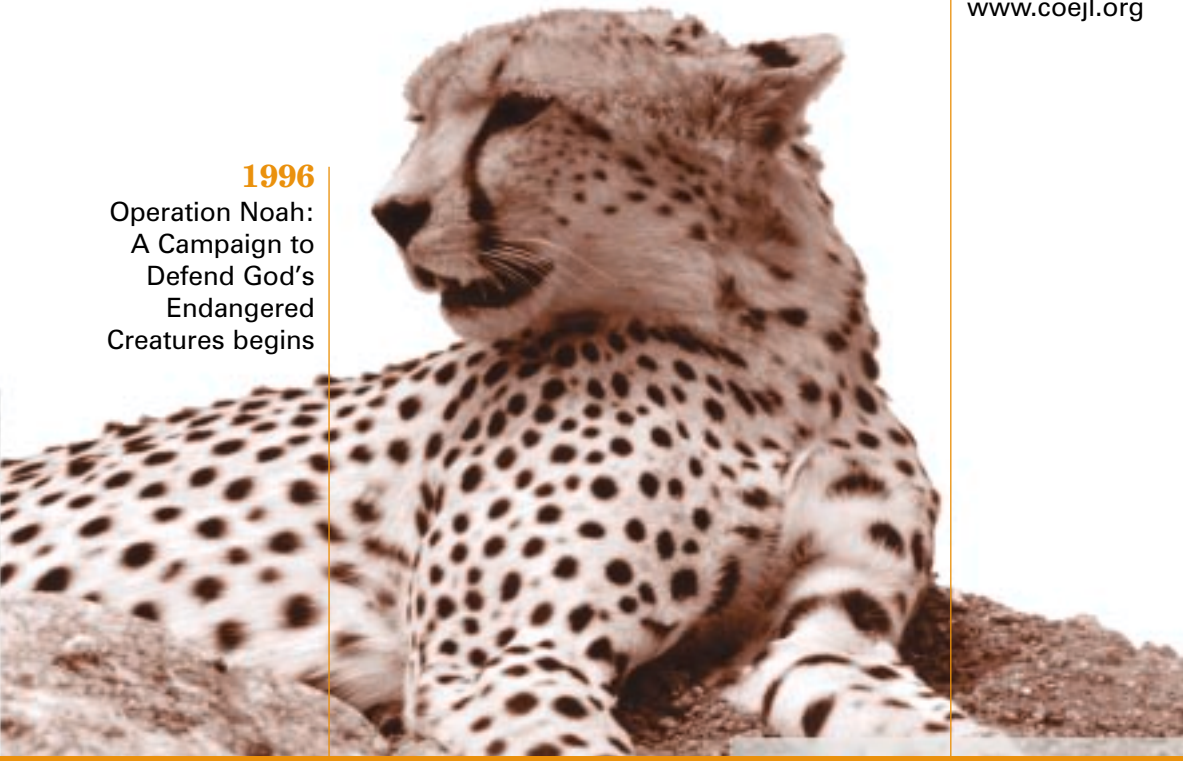
1996

COEJL launches National *Tu B'Shvat* Campaign to Protect Forests

1995

First ever national gathering of Jewish environmental educators and activists meets in Pennsylvania





1996
Operation Noah:
A Campaign to
Defend God's
Endangered
Creatures begins

1997
COEJL creates a
comprehensive
Jewish environmental
resource on-line:
www.coejl.org



1997
COEJL mobilizes Jewish
support for a strong U.S.
position to address global
warming at the Kyoto
negotiations



Photo: Sacha Bourner

1996
"Visions of Eden: A
Jewish Perspective on
the Environment" airs
nationally—co-produced
by ABC television,
COEJL, and The Jewish
Theological Seminary

1997
First annual Mark and Sharon Bloome
Jewish Environmental Leadership
Institute takes place in conjunction
with JCPA Plenum and Hillel's Spitzer
Forum in Washington, D.C.

1998

Scholars from the U.S., England and Israel attend a Harvard University Conference on Judaism and the Natural World

Center for the Study of World Religions

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
THE DIVINITY SCHOOL



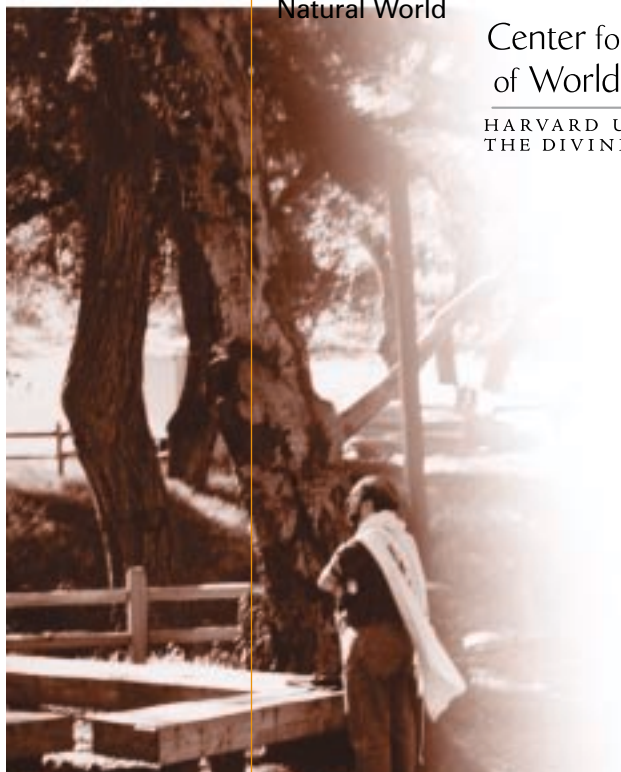
1999

COEJL co-publishes Jewish environmental education curriculum with the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) and distributes it to 4,000 Jewish educators



1999

Statewide interfaith climate campaigns begin in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin



1998

COEJL holds Judaism and Nature Retreat for Rabbis, Pawling, NY

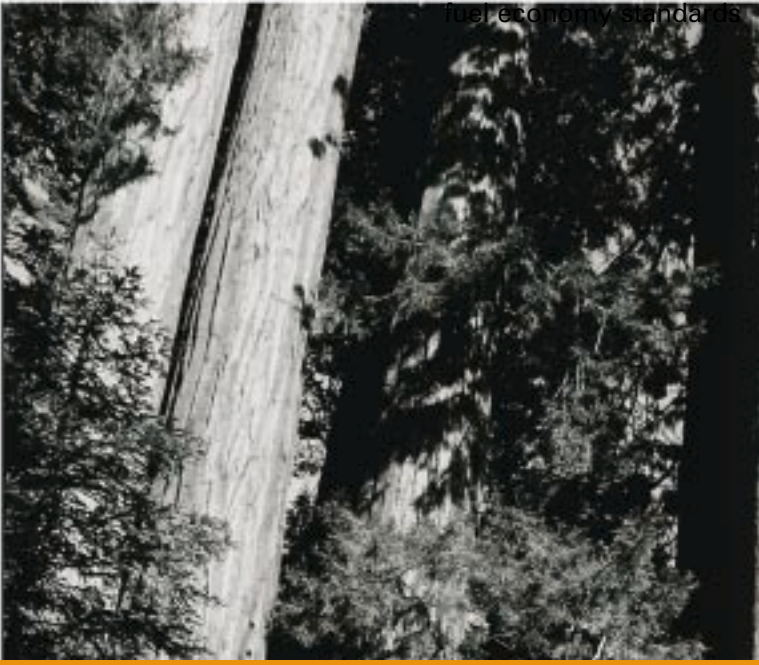


1999

St. Louis Jewish Environmental Initiative launches campaign to plant 60,000 trees in St. Louis—one for every member of the Jewish community

1999

Vice President Gore, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, and EPA Administrator Carol Browner address annual Bloome Leadership Institute, Washington, D.C.



2000

Mark X. Jacobs testifies to Congress on increasing fuel economy standards



2001

Clinton Administration adopts historic policy to protect roadless areas in National Forests



2001

COEJL organizes first annual Environment Track at Hillel Spitzer Forum

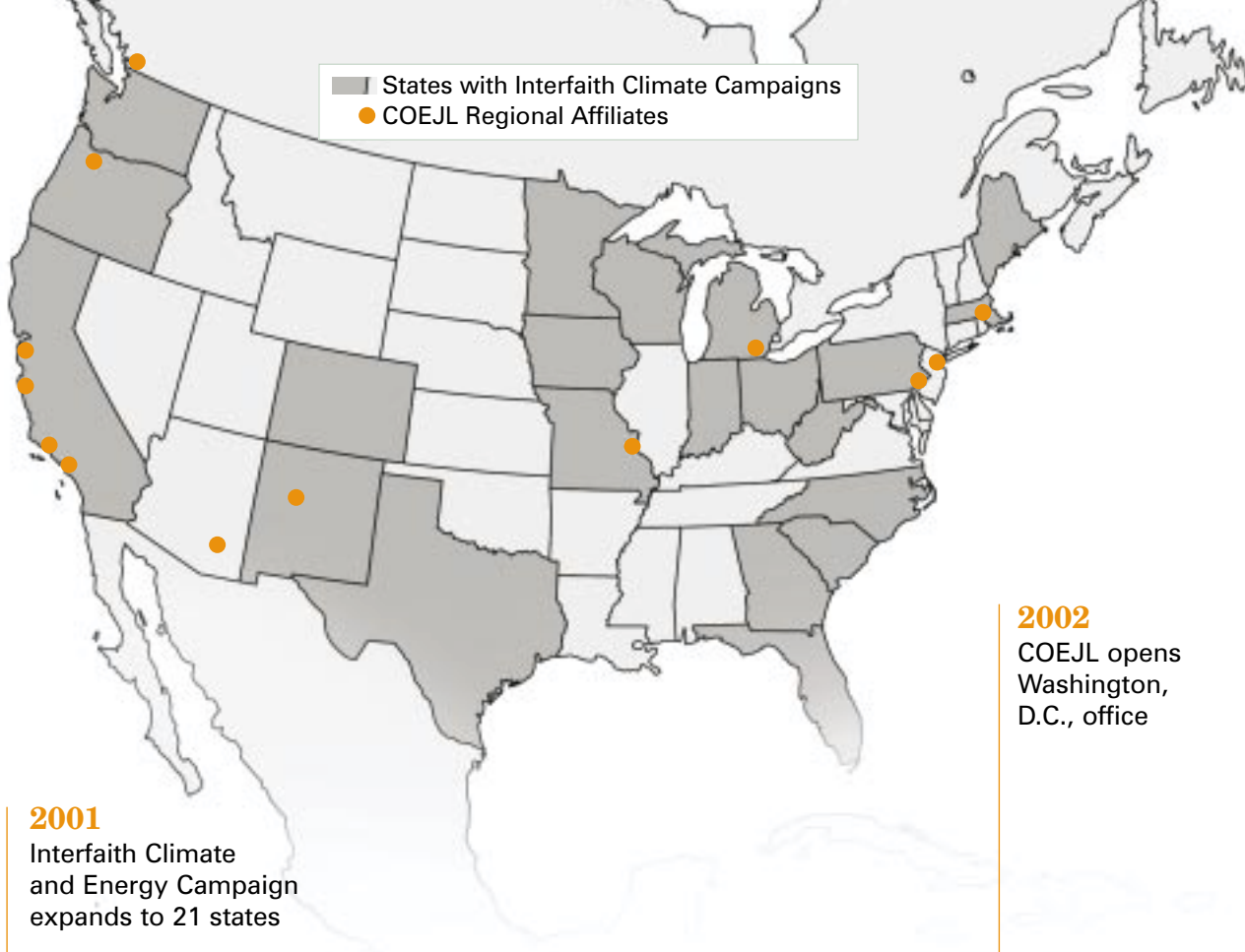
2000

COEJL activists around the U.S. testify at Forest Service hearings in favor of protecting National Forests

1999

COEJL leads faith community involvement in campaign to protect roadless areas in National Forests

COEJL has established itself as the recognized Jewish communal voice on environmental issues in Washington, D.C., and advocates environmental protection on behalf of 29 national Jewish organizations.



2001
 Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign expands to 21 states

2002
 COEJL opens Washington, D.C., office

2001
 28 senior Jewish and Christian religious leaders and 600 rabbis sign "Let There Be Light" letter on energy policy to the President and Congress

2001
 Jewish environmental educators and rabbis participate in a Jewish Environmental Sea Kayak Expedition in Alaska

COEJL has recruited, educated, and mobilized an activist Jewish constituency for environmental protection across North America.

2001
 More than 100 young leaders attend Greater Boston COEJL's Leadership Institute



2002

COEJL successfully counters efforts by Senator Murkowski to portray the Jewish community as favoring drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge



"I am pleased that COEJL and many other religious organizations and leaders contributed to this debate by promoting conservation-based energy policies that protect the environment and recognize the rights of future generations."

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)



2003

COEJL launches the Jewish Global Environmental Network in cooperation with the Jewish Agency's People to People Center and the Heschel Center for Environmental Learning and Leadership (Tel Aviv)

2002

1,200 religious leaders sign letter to Senate on energy issues

2002

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gives 2002 Energy Star Award to the Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign for its education and outreach efforts

2002

Jewish and Christian leaders meet with Bill Ford, Jr. and other Ford executives, General Motors executives, and leadership of the United Auto Workers to discuss fuel economy



2002

COEJL of Southern California helps pass ground-breaking state legislation requiring reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles



LOOKING BACK ON

Photo: Saul Robbins



10 YEARS

COEJL grew out of a bold vision. Yet the path to getting there was unclear. Protecting the environment was not recognized as a Jewish value by most Jewish leaders, institutions, and individuals. Some openly challenged our work, arguing that “the environment is not a Jewish issue.”

We confronted these challenges with diverse strategies. We created projects to integrate environmental concern into Jewish scholarship, education, action, and advocacy.

We encouraged and supported the flourishing of grassroots initiatives. We reached out to all who were interested in partnering with COEJL in pursuit of our vision.

We encouraged a thousand flowers to bloom. And in the process, we succeeded in birthing a new engagement within Jewish life. We overcame the obstacles and challenges we faced and grew from a vision to a viable organization. COEJL has made significant progress towards securing the participation and support of the organized Jewish community while providing a new point of entry for many and a new pathway to reconnection for others.

As a result of our education programs and advocacy, COEJL has become important to the Jewish community, the interfaith community, and the environmental community. We’ve come a long way.

And yet, we are still very much in the early days of this work. We have just begun to realize the potential for integrating environmental awareness and commitment into Jewish life. We’ve reached only a small proportion of those for whom a connection between environmental protection and their Jewish identity could be a powerful source of meaning, community, and inspiration to act. And the environmental challenges we face continue to grow.

We have arrived at an important milestone on a long and historic journey. My profound gratitude extends to all who have contributed to and served this effort, and to all who will be COEJL’s partners in protecting creation across the generations.



Mark X. Jacobs, *Founding Director (1994–2003)*



THE NEXT 10 YEARS

Photo: Michael Bushey



For COEJL to achieve its aspirations, we must have a major impact on Jewish life while helping to create a sustainable society. My vision is that in the next ten years COEJL will shape these trends:

- The Jewish community will be recognized as a strong, effective advocate for environmental stewardship in the U.S. and around the world.
- Rabbis and educators will integrate experiences of nature into worship and Jewish education, and synagogues will be centers for learning about—and acting upon—Jewish environmental values.
- A new generation of Jewish scholars will deepen our understanding of Jewish approaches to environmental issues.
- Jewish institutions and individuals will recognize that taking action on behalf of the environment is a central part of being Jewish.
- Diaspora Jews concerned for Israel's well-being will give increasing attention to its environment.
- The Jewish community will play a leadership role in interfaith coalitions to protect the environment, public health, and our common future.

In order to achieve this vision, COEJL must become better known to the Jewish public. A major publicity effort will be required to expand the impact of our Jewish environmental programs. Rabbis and synagogues will be important channels for engaging more Jews in our work. In addition, the Internet has enormous potential to connect and activate new COEJL constituencies. Complementing our New York and Washington, D.C., offices, our new San Francisco office will expand our capacity to reach Jewish communities from coast to coast.

In its first 10 years, COEJL has been remarkably effective despite limited staff and a small budget. We will continue to be an efficient organization, and we need more financial support if we are to meet the challenges ahead. Drawing on our Jewish heritage, we will articulate a distinctly Jewish message about the importance of protecting the planet and mobilize the Jewish community to action.

Thank you in advance for joining me in this effort.

Adam C. Stern, *Executive Director*

COEJL'S ACTION PRIORITIES

COEJL deepens the Jewish community's commitment to the stewardship of creation and mobilizes the resources of Jewish life and learning to protect the Earth and all its inhabitants.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

Protect the Public from Environmental Health Threats

Though progress has been made to clean up the air and water in North America, we are still exposed to a wide range of environmental threats to health.



Air pollution triggers attacks of asthma. Mercury, which causes birth defects, spews out of power plants. Cancer rates are rising, as are reproductive diseases and defects associated with exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals, especially among children. Children are the most vulnerable as pound-for-pound they breathe more

air, eat more food, and drink more water than adults. Low-income people and people of color continue to bear a disproportionate share of the burden of pollution. Preventing harm to our neighbors and saving lives are bedrock values of the Jewish people. We must apply these values to environmental health threats.

Address Global Climate Change

Global greenhouse gas emissions are projected to increase average temperatures by 2.5 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit in this century—bringing rising seas, major

weather and agricultural disruptions, environmental refugees, migrating diseases, and other dangers which most harm the planet's poor and vulnerable. The United States, with less than five percent of the world's population, contributes 25% of these emissions. Addressing climate change is a clear matter of justice among the various nations of the world and between our and future generations.

Reduce U.S. Reliance on Oil to Increase Energy Security

Eliminating American dependence upon Middle Eastern oil is an urgent priority for national security. Furthermore, energy conservation is vital to the fulfillment of our moral obligations to protect the environment and public health and to provide for future generations.



Energy conservation, especially through increased fuel economy standards, and the development of new fuels and technologies now must rise to the highest level of priority for the U.S. Congress, the Executive Branch, and the American people.

Safeguard the Diversity of Life

Jewish tradition teaches that all creatures are worthy in and of themselves and that humanity has a sacred obligation to maintain the integrity of creation. Human action is now causing widespread extinction of species and threatening the ability of ecosystems around the

world to serve as life support systems for human communities. Scientists see these signs of ecosystem disintegration as threats to human existence. Maintaining all levels of biological diversity on land, in freshwaters, and in the sea is a sacred task with which we, as Jews and as humans, are charged.

Protect Israel's Environment

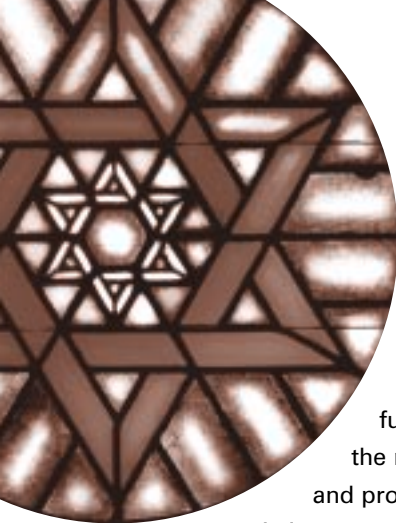
Protecting and preserving the health of both the land and people of the State of Israel is essential to the future well-being of the Jewish people. Israel suffers from severe environmental degradation. Air pollution endangers public health. Precious water resources are poisoned by pesticides. And development is rapidly consuming open space. An Israeli environmental movement is growing rapidly and needs support to establish environmental protection as a priority for the Israeli public and government.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

National Organizations

Increase partnerships with national Jewish organizations and leaders. COEJL will build on existing collaborations with national Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, and Reform congregational, rabbinic, and sisterhood bodies to develop programs to involve congregations and rabbis in environmental education, action, and advocacy. COEJL will expand the number of national organizations involved in advocacy initiatives through targeted outreach. COEJL will continue its strong partnership with Hillel to involve students in Jewish environmentalism, and will partner with educational organizations in pursuit of common objectives.





Synagogues

Integrate Jewish environmental education and action into congregational life. Synagogues offer the fullest array of opportunities to pursue the many dimensions of COEJL's mission and program. COEJL is preparing a new initiative to engage synagogues in integrating Jewish environmental education into religious school curricula, offering environmental programs that appeal to young adults, celebrating the Jewish environmental tradition as part of *Tu B'Shvat* and other holiday programs, greening building facilities, and participating in national advocacy campaigns. This effort will be undertaken in close partnership with national congregational organizations.



Photo: Sacha Bodner

Rabbis

Develop rabbis as a key constituency. Rabbis serve as professional custodians of Jewish tradition, spokespeople for the values of Judaism, and opinion leaders in the Jewish community. They are therefore the single most effective constituency to serve the goal of permanent integration of Jewish environmental values into Jewish life. They are also among the most credible spokespeople for COEJL's message in the public arena. COEJL will build on existing partnerships with rabbinic organizations and contacts with already committed rabbis to educate and involve their colleagues through a COEJL Rabbinic Network.

Grassroots Outreach

Grow an effective and sustainable grassroots network. COEJL will continue to partner with grassroots leaders to grow a sustainable grassroots structure across North America. Grassroots efforts will focus on outreach to congregations and rabbis to implement national initiatives as well as identification and involvement of local leadership in national advocacy campaigns.



Communications

Increase the number of people receiving COEJL's message and materials. Through innovative web-based outreach strategies, COEJL will reach many more people with Jewish environmental teachings and opportunities to get involved in activities and advocacy. Increased media outreach through the Washington, D.C., office will focus on both news coverage and the placement of opinion pieces in the Jewish and general press.

Education

Advance the field of Jewish environmental education. This emerging field has demonstrated much promise yet remains small and undeveloped. In collaboration with Jewish environmental education agencies and Jewish educational institutions, COEJL will seek to promote the development and expansion of Jewish environmental education in a variety of educational settings.

Scholarship

Further the development of Jewish perspectives on specific environmental issues. In the expanding Jewish literature on environmental justice and sustainability, there are few publications which address in a sophisticated and balanced way how Jewish sources relate to particular issues. COEJL will seek to expand both the breadth and depth of the conversation on Judaism and environment through outreach to Jewish scholars and commissioned publications.

Advocacy

Advocate environmental protection in Washington, D.C., and state capitols as the environmental voice of the Jewish community. COEJL will meet frequently with legislators, advocate a focused policy agenda, build strong Jewish coalitions on behalf of environmental legislation, and provide strategic leadership to the faith community's environmental advocacy efforts.

Coalition Building

Build a strong Jewish coalition to address U.S. dependence on oil and other priority issues. Building on existing momentum, COEJL will provide leadership through intensive outreach to national organizations, communications and advocacy initiatives, and the Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign.

Grassroots Mobilization

Mobilize grassroots individuals and community leaders to make a difference on policy debates. More effective grassroots structures, an expanded network of influentials, and an electronic advocacy system will increase dramatically COEJL contacts with decision makers.

Israel

Connect North American Jews to Israel's severely threatened environment. COEJL will build relationships between North American Jews who are environmental leaders with their Israeli counterparts and facilitate the creation of projects that help to protect Israel's severely threatened environment through the Jewish Global Environmental Network (JGEN). JGEN is a People-to-People initiative launched in early 2003 in collaboration with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the Heschel Center for Environmental Learning and Leadership in Tel Aviv.

Healthy Homes

Forge partnerships to address environmental health threats. In collaboration with national Jewish organizations, COEJL will educate households and institutions about how to protect their members from environmental health threats through individual action as well as advocacy.



SUPPORTERS

COEJL is grateful for the visionary leadership of its first funding partners and the generous support of all of those who have helped us to grow. These listings represent cumulative contributions of foundations and individuals who supported COEJL from 1993 through 2003.

Gifts of \$250,000 and up

Beldon Fund
Mark and Sharon Bloome/
Heart of America Fund
The Nathan Cummings Foundation
National Religious Partnership
for the Environment

Gifts of \$100,000 up to \$249,999

Walter and Elise Haas Fund
Righteous Persons Foundation

Gifts of \$50,000 up to \$99,999

The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
Dorot Foundation
W. Alton Jones Foundation*
The Pew Charitable Trusts*
Surdna Foundation*
Turner Foundation*
UJA/Federation of New York

Gifts of \$25,000 up to \$49,999

Gaia Fund
Madelaine Georgette
The Moriah Fund*

Gifts of \$10,000 up to \$24,999

Hazon
Mitchell Kapor Foundation
The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation
Anonymous

Gifts of \$5,000 up to \$9,999

The Dobkin Family Foundation
Lois and Larry Frank Family Foundation

*Indicates a grant made to the National Religious Partnership for the Environment to support COEJL's work.

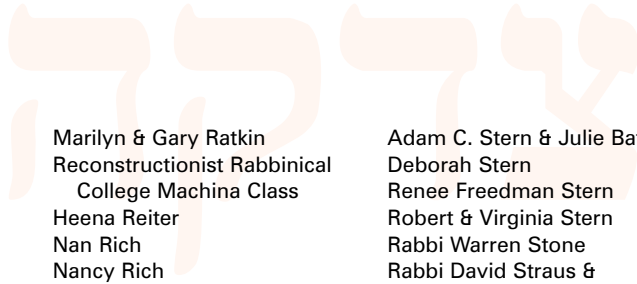
Gifts of \$1,000 up to \$4,999

Roberta Bass
Abraham Blank
Dr. Devra Davis
Rabbi Fred & Minna
Scherlinder Dobb
Ted Eisenberg
Judith Elman-Barrett
Henry & Edith Everett
Mirele Goldsmith & Rabbi
Richard Marker
Carol Green
Mike Grossman
Paul Growald
Johanette Wallerstein Institute
Barbara Lerman-Golomb
Phyllis Leventhal
Al Mesnikoff
Arden & Lois Shenker
Rabbi Herb Tobin
Anonymous

Gifts of \$100 up to \$999

Jonathan Aaron
Rabbi Joel Abraham
Jeffrey Aeder
Ken & Marthajoy Aft
Rabbi Thomas M. Alpert
David Altshuler
Misha Askren
Dr. Jeffrey & Jeanne Auerbach
Rabbi Larry Bach
Ruth Bach
Balton St. Synagogue
Religious School
Margot Barnett
Anne Baruch
Esther & Martin Bates
Rabbi Lisa Sari Bellows
Rebecca Benson
Rabbi Jonathan Jaffe
Bernhard
Beth El Temple Center
(Belmont, MA)
Kendall Bishop
Anita Bloch
Kevin & Debbie Block-
Schwenk
Richard Bobbe
Muriel & Edward Broad
Julie Brof
Abby Brown
Ellen Brown
Mark Brown
Stephen Brown
Rabbi Andrew Busch
Martin & Eileen Byhower
Deborah & Ivan Caine
Rabbi Richard Camras
Ilan Caplan
Rabbi Joshua Caruso
Scott Cassel

Elizabeth Chajes
Jerome Chanes
Susan Charkes
Rabbi Ken Chasen
Rabbi Steven Chester
Robin Cohen Anderson
Rabbi Daniel Cohen
Elaine & Dr. Stephen Cohen
Rabbi Henry Cohen
Amy Cohn
Rabbi Mark Strauss Cohn
Dr. Leonard & Ruth Cole
Lewis Cole
Rabbi Michael Comins
Congregation B'nai Shalom
students (Westborough, MA)
Ruth & Wallace Cowan
David Coyne
Elizabeth Cutler
Stuart Dattner
David S. Davidson
Sarah Davidson-Baglio
Barbara Davis Widem
Carl M. Dibble
Michael Doochin
Rabbi Ellen Dreyfus
Rabbi Shoshana Dworsky
Carol Eaton Mendelsohn
Flo Eckstein
Alan Elfanbaum
Gerald & Thelma Estrin
Janet & Mark Fagan
Ruth Anne Faust
Louise Feldman
Rabbi Marla Feldman
Sue Felt Stevens
Rabbi Harvey & Sybil Fields
Lorin & Linda Fife
Carolyn Fine-Friedman
Rabbi Adam Fisher
Eric Flamm
Terri Forman
June Fortess
Rabbi Steven Foster
& Rabbi Julian Cook
Henry Frank
Jonathan Frank
Rabbi David Freedman
Diane Fried
Dianne & Jim Friedman
Rabbi Ronne Friedman
Sharon Friedman
Susan Friedman
William Friedman
Linda Fries
Temima Fruchter
Cynthia Frumhoff & Emil
Lawton
Carolyn Gaines
Barak Gale
Cantor Mark & Doreen Gamell
Alan Ganapol
Ellen Garbuny & Donald Best
Ilana Gauss



Rabbi Everett &
Dr. Mary Gendler
Elihu Gevirtz
Ann & Walter Gips
Harlan Girard
Bradley Glanzrock
Miriam Glaser
Philip & Roberta Glaser
Rachel Glaser
Judith & John Glass
Caryn & Jon Glicksman
Rabbi Neal Gold
Jeremy Goldberg
Rabbi Michael Goldstein
Simeon Goldstein
Talia Goldstein
Paul Goodwin
Pamela J. Gordon
Roberto Graetz
Franci & Rabbi Joshua
Levine Grater
Dr. Arthur Green
Catherine Greener
Elizabeth Gross
Steven M. Gross
Rabbi Marc Gruber
Rabbi Eric Gurvis
Becky Guttman
Judith Hanlon
Mary Hason
Judith Helfand
Gary Helper
Meryl Hertz
Stuart Himmelfarb
Ted Hochstadt
Anilkumar Hoffberg
Stephen & Muriel Horowitz
Joy Horwitz-Fram
Rabbi David Iskovitz
Mark X. Jacobs &
Daniel P. Barash
Rabbi Robert Jacobs
Kineret Jaffe
Sara Jamison &
Matthew Semel
Ed Jaros
Bonnie Jeanette
Robert Jereski
The Jewish Day School
of Metropolitan Seattle
Jewish Environmental League
Jewish Federation of Peoria
The Jewish Theological
Seminary of America
Teresa Jones
Joseph E. Seagram
& Sons Inc.
Rabbi Eitan Julius
Babs Kabak
Leib Kaminsky
Rabbi Raphael Kanter
Karen Bookman Kaplan
Rachel & Steven Kaplan
Ron & Barbra Kaplan
Phil Karmel

Susan Katz
Caroline Katz
Marilyn Katz
Lisa Katzman
B. Jeremy Kaufman
Roslyn & Robert Kaye
Stuart Kelman
Saran Kirschbaum
Harry Kissileff
Judith Klamka
Rabbi Gerald Klein
Jeanne & Dan Kleinman
Kirsten & Jonathan Kleinman
Jonathan Kligler
Shelby Kopp
Daniel Kriesberg
Lynn Kroll
Fred Krupp
David Kudan
Cantor Mark Kula
Rabbi Vernon Kurtz
Eleanor & Mark Lainer
Theresa Lato
Gary Lavit
Rabbi Martin Lawson
Donald Lefton
Judy Lehrer
Rabbi Daniel Lehrman
Dr. Warren Leon
Ellen Lerich
Rabbi Adina Lewittes
Michael Lewyn
Rabbi Lynn Liberman
Rabbi Norman Lipson
Carolyn Litwin
Rabbi Neal Joseph Loevinger
Ted Lowitz
Suellen Lowry
Dr. Jay Luger
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss
Rabbi Jill Maderer
Jeremy Manela
Dr. Marc Mangel
Jonathan Mann
Evonne Marzouk
Bill Mayer
William Meadows
Rabbi Batsheva Meiri
Marla Meislin
Diane Mellitz
Val Meyerson
Claire Mikowski
Rabbi Avis D. Miller
Paul Minkoff
Jacqueline Mintz
Rabbi Joel Mosbacher
John & Kayla Niles
Bernice Oswald
Estelle Padawer
Lori Pearlmutter
Dr. Eugene Perrin
Philip Phillips
David Podietz
Herb & Lucy Pruzan
Victor Raboy

Marilyn & Gary Ratkin
Reconstructionist Rabbinical
College Machina Class
Heena Reiter
Nan Rich
Nancy Rich
Francine Richter
Saul Robbins & Susan
Fulwiler
Helen Rock
Peter Rose
Sam Rosen
Rabbi David & Rabbi
Jennie Rosenn
David Rosenstein
Rabbi Cheryl Rosenstein
Hannah Rosenthal
Dr. Stephen Rosenthal
Bob Rottenberg
Judith Rowe
Lawrence & Judith Rubin
Robert Rubin
Rabbi Richard & Lois Safran
Laura Salganik
Alvin Sandberg
Rabbi Neil Sandler
Deborah Saulsbury
& Doug Chapman
Rabbi Jeffrey Schein
Lois Schiffer
Lawrence P. Schnapf, Esq.
Carol Schneider
Dr. Ismar & Sally Schorsch
Rabbi Barry Schwartz
Rabbi Gershon Schwartz
Dr. Richard Schwartz
Rabbi Joel R. Schwartzman
Steve Schwarz
Rabbi Bruce & Deborah
Bromberg Seltzer
Daniel Shapiro
Rabbi Steven Shaw
Janet Sheppard
Evely Laser Shlensky
Norman Shore
The Scarsdale Synagogue
Student Tzedakah Fund
Gene Silver
Myra Silver
Gary Silverstein
Nili Simhai & Yosh Shulman
Alex Smith
Rabbi Barry Smith
Louis Smith
Esther & Phil Sobel
Social Action Committee
of Temple Israel
(Charleston, WV)
Rabbi Howard Sommer
Bernard Zell Anshe Emet
Day School Class of 2002
Sheila Stanford
Rabbi Eric B. Stark
Rabbi Peter Stein
Ruth & Harold Stein

Adam C. Stern & Julie Batz
Deborah Stern
Renee Freedman Stern
Robert & Virginia Stern
Rabbi Warren Stone
Rabbi David Straus &
Rabbi Ethan Franzel
Craig & Lori Sumberg
Stephan Sylvan
Temple Beth Israel
(Eugene, OR)
Temple Beth Shalom
(Needham, MA)
Rob Thorne
Stephen Tobias
Len & Libby Traubman
Rabbi Lawrence Troster
Amos Turk
Rachel & Howard Ungar
Union of American Hebrew
Congregations
Julie Vanek
Bernard Wallerstein
Rabbi Andrew Warmflash
Rabbi Arthur Waskow
& Phyllis Berman
Blanche Weinberg
Rabbi Sheila Weinberg
Lynn & Lee Weiner
Sarah Weingarden
Rabbi Aryeh Wineman
David Weinreich
Dean & Jill Weinreich
Ronald Weitzner
Betsy White
Douglas White
Marilyn & Gary Wind
Elaine Wishner
Lori & Elliot Yadin
Rachel Zelkind
Stefanie Zelkind
Daniel Ziskin

In-kind contributions

Jewish Council for Public
Affairs (JCPA)
Community Relations
Council of the Jewish
Federation of Portland
Community Relations Council
of the Jewish Federation
of Southern Arizona
JCRC* of Greater Boston
JCRC* of Greater Philadelphia
JCRC* of St. Louis
JCRC* of San Francisco
Jewish Community Council
of Metropolitan Detroit
Jewish Federation of Greater
Albuquerque
Jewish Federation of the
Greater East Bay
Santa Cruz Hillel Foundation
The Shalom Nature Institute

(*Jewish Community Relations Council)

FINANCIAL HISTORY

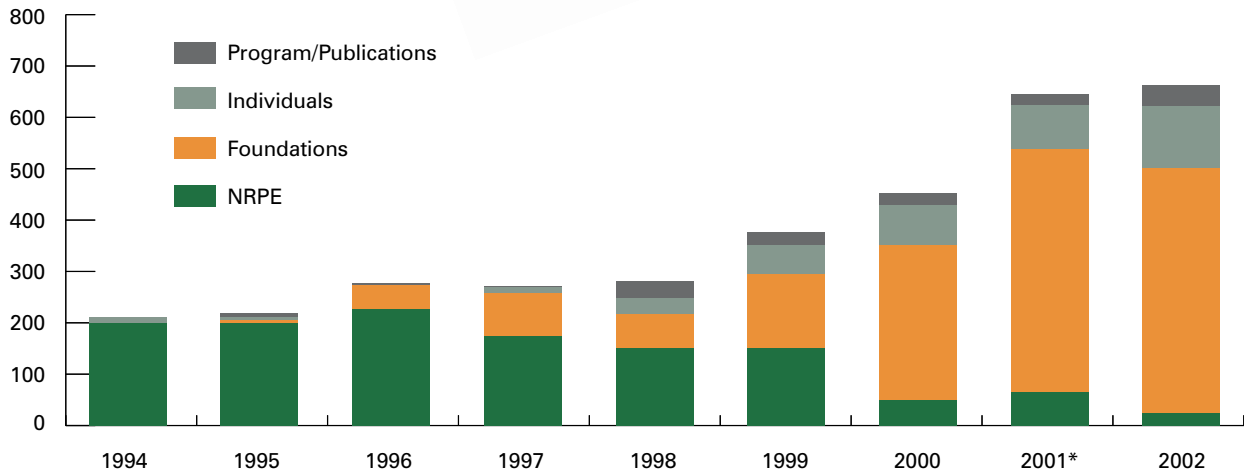
COEJL was initially sustained with funds raised by the National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE), which was established in 1993 to create and guide environmental initiatives in major American faith communities.

Since 1997, COEJL has taken increasing responsibility for raising its funds, with the proportion of funding from the NRPE decreasing from 95% in 1994 to 10% in 2002. Since 2000, the majority of funds have come from Jewish foundations which made multi-year commitments to support COEJL as it built a base of individ-

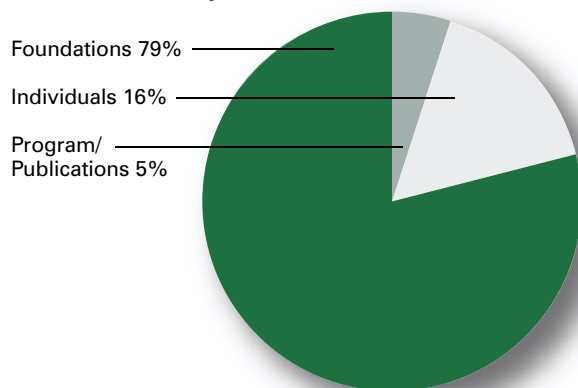
ual donors. Individual contributions have risen from 5% in 1997 to 18% in 2002. COEJL seeks to increase significantly the proportion of its funds raised from individual supporters and family foundations.

COEJL is profoundly grateful to the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) for serving as its 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor and physical home since 1993. The JCPA provided a wide range of office and administrative services at no cost during COEJL's first ten years. COEJL is also grateful to the many organizations that provided in-kind contributions to COEJL regional affiliates (listing on previous page).

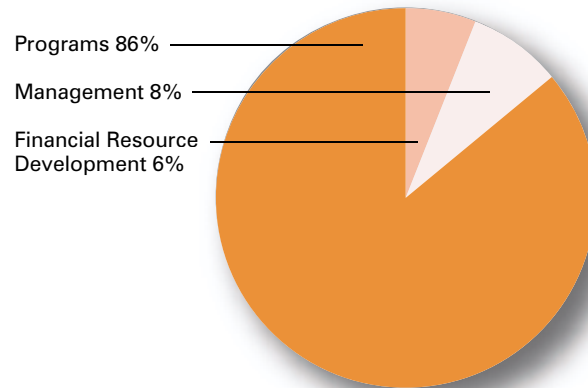
INCOME: 1994-2002 (in thousands of dollars)



SOURCES OF OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE, 2002



EXPENSES, 2002



*2001 figure adjusted to reflect two-thirds of income from the 18 month fiscal period June 30, 2000 through December 31, 2001 resulting from a change in dates of fiscal year.

Board of Trustees

Sharon Bloome, *Chair*

Co-Founder, Heart of America Fund

Mirele Goldsmith, *Vice Chair*

*Program evaluation consultant; Doctoral Candidate,
City University of New York Graduate Center*

Hannah Rosenthal, *Vice Chair*

Executive Director, Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Rabbi David Saperstein, *Vice Chair*

Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Arden E. Shenker, *Vice Chair*

Partner, Shenker & Bonaparte, LLP

Ted Eisenberg, *Treasurer*

Managing Principal, Grotta, Glassman & Hoffman, P.A.

Rabbi Lawrence Troster, *Secretary*

*Congregation Beth Israel of Northern Valley,
Bergenfield, NJ*

Mark X. Jacobs, *Founding Director (1994–2003)*

Adam C. Stern, *Executive Director*

Dr. Jeffrey E. Auerbach *President,*

*College of Executive Coaching; Chair, Jewish
Environmental League*

Jerome A. Chanes *Visiting Professor,*

*Barnard and Stern Colleges and Yeshiva University
Graduate Schools; Senior Research Fellow, Center
for Jewish Studies, CUNY Graduate Center*

Dr. Devra Davis

*Visiting Professor of Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon
University's Heinz School of Public Health; Senior
Advisor to the World Health Organization*

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb

*Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation,
Bethesda, MD*

Terry Gips *President,*

Alliance for Sustainability

Catherine Greener *Principal,*

*Commercial and Industrial Services,
Rocky Mountain Institute*

Paul Gorman *Executive Director,*

*National Religious Partnership for the
Environment (ex officio)*

Dr. Arthur Green

*Philip W. Lown Professor of Jewish Thought,
Brandeis University; Dean, Hebrew College
Rabbinical Program*

Fred Krupp *President,*

Environmental Defense

Jeremy Manela

*University of Wisconsin—Madison; Founder,
Wisconsin Environmental Jewish Initiative*

David Roberts *Founding Chair,*

St. Louis Jewish Environmental Initiative

Dr. Ismar Schorsch

*Chancellor and Professor of Jewish History,
The Jewish Theological Seminary of America*

Rabbi Steven Shaw *Philanthropic consultant;*

*Former Director of Community Education,
The Jewish Theological Seminary of America*

Rabbi Warren Stone *Founding Chair,*

*Environmental Committee, Central Conference
of American Rabbis; Co-chair, Religious Campaign
for Forest Conservation*

Jodi Sugerman-Brozan *Program Director,*

Alternatives for Community & Environment

Staff

Adam C. Stern, *Executive Director*

Mark X. Jacobs, *Founding Director (1994–2003)*

Kirsten S. Kleinman, *Manager of Operations*

Shanna Pittman, *North American Coordinator,
Jewish Global Environmental Network*

Hadar Susskind, *Washington Representative*

Stefanie Zelkind, *National Field Director*

COEJL is grateful to the staff and board of **The Nathan Cummings Foundation**, a leading partner in COEJL's work, for their generous support over the years and a special grant to make this report possible, and to the staff, board, and supporters of the **National Religious Partnership for the Environment** for helping to create COEJL and sustaining its work.

Participating Organizations

American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
American Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel
B'nai B'rith International
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education
Hadassah: The Women's Zionist Organization
of America
Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life
Jewish Community Centers Association
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish National Fund
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
Jewish Theological Seminary of America
Jewish War Veterans
Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America
National Council of Jewish Women
Na'amat USA
New Israel Fund
The Rabbinical Assembly
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Assembly
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
The Shalom Center/ALEPH: The Alliance for
Jewish Renewal
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Women's American ORT
Women of Reform Judaism
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

COEJL Regional Affiliates

Adam va-Adamah/COEJL of British Columbia
Albuquerque COEJL
Bay COEJL
COEJL of Southern California
Greater Boston COEJL
Jewish Environmental League
Michigan COEJL
New Jersey COEJL
Northwest Jewish Environmental Project
Philadelphia COEJL
Santa Cruz COEJL
Southern Arizona COEJL
St. Louis Jewish Environmental Initiative



Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life
Protecting Creation, Generation to Generation

National Headquarters

443 Park Avenue South, 11th floor
New York, NY 10016-7322
tel: 212.684.6950, ext. 210
fax: 212.686.1353
info@coejl.org

www.coejl.org

Washington Office

2027 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202.232.6622
dcoffice@coejl.org

West Coast Office

P.O. Box 192544
San Francisco, CA 94119-2544
415.294.5353
sfoffice@coejl.org