

Greening the Bnei Mitzvah Celebration

Kitah Zayin –Class of 2008

Chapel Hill Kehillah

Travel

- Share rides to Chapel Hill
- Take public transportation to get to town
- Walk and ride bikes whenever possible
- Use buses to get around town
 - Give guests maps for free local buses
 - Hire a bus to get people to ceremony and parties
 - Select a hotel based on bus access and proximity to Kehillah and other services

Food and Parties

- Use compostable plates, cups, and utensils
 - ECOWARE (plates, utensils): www.fullcircleplanet.com (sugar cane product)
 - GREENWARE (bev and coffee cups): www.f-k.com (corn oil product))
- Make specific signs for garbage and compost bins. Arrange pickup with local gardener
- Reuse plates at buffet and desert lines
- Use recycled paper for all invitations and instructions
- Serve locally grown foods. Shop at farmers markets and see www.localharvest.org.
- Take the leftovers to a shelter, such as the Inter-Faith Council: www.ifcweb.org
- Discuss these issues with any caterers from the start

Gifts

- Reuse wrapping and bags
- Minimize packaging
- Use recycled paper for thank-you notes
- Give gift cards to assure the recipient gets something they really want
- Emphasize donations to charity rather than *stuff*. Include on invitation, “For those who choose to make donations, please consider supporting [*choose your favorite cause*]...”
- Make a sustained commitment to giving through the Ma’aser program:
<http://shalomdch.org/page.html?ArticleID=127499>

Decorations

- Make food basket centerpieces, then give as contributions to Inter-Faith Council
- Consider reusable (cloth) tablecloths and napkins. Trade-off between garbage and water conservation.
- Use natural decorations: pinecones, foliage, etc.