

Hi everyone, Shabbat Shalom!

My name is Lillian Berger and I am part of the Hebrew High school at B'nai Israel. In honor of our green oneg tonight I wanted to talk to you a little bit more about composting.

When we lived in Israel, I learned about composting from a youtube video and I decided that we needed to do it. I cared about doing everything I possibly could to help the environment, and composting seemed like a big step to make that happen. We set up a little pile in the backyard one day, and over the next five years, it grew and grew. It was hard at first to remember what went in the compost and what didn't, and also to remember to turn the pile every once in a while. But we became compost pros, and we made some very nice dirt in the end. When we moved into our new house, we started paying for a composting service because we didn't want to go back to just throwing away all of our food. It had made such a big difference in our lives and how we handled food. The composting service worked out great, and I realized that it would be great to spread it to the synagogue. I didn't like seeing all the food being thrown away in the trash or all the single-use plastic being used each Friday and Saturday.

So far, it has worked out well and I loved what it has done for the synagogue. I wanted to tell everyone to keep up the great work, and I promise things will get easier. I wanted to remind people, too, that composting relates closely to the Jewish values of Tikkun Olam and Bal Tashchit—the principle of using everything on Earth to its greatest potential. That is what we are doing with composting. Food that would otherwise end up in a landfill producing harmful greenhouse gases, is instead being turned into useful fertilizer that can be used to grow so many other things. When we throw food away in the trash we are not fulfilling Bal Tashchit and I just wanted to say that we are doing a mitzvah for composting here at the synagogue. Good job everyone!!

That being said, I know it is still kind of new and maybe a little bit confusing. I wanted to remind everyone what the different bins mean, and what you can put in each. Recycling goes in the tall red bin. Recycling means paper, cans, glass, and plastic bottles that are clean and dry. Do not put compostable utensils in the recycling bin. The compost takes any food, compostable utensils, napkins, and anything else organic. Do not put fruit stickers, candy wrappers, or plastic utensils in the compost. The trash is for everything else that doesn't fit into either of the other bins. If you have questions please ask someone from Hebrew High school and they will help you.

For now, thank you!! And thank you for being here for our green oneg, we worked hard to make it enjoyable and delicious for you, and we appreciate you!

Shabbat Shalom,

Lillian Berger