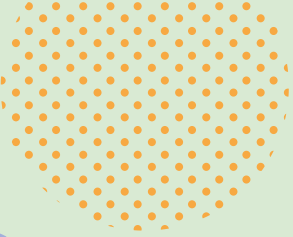
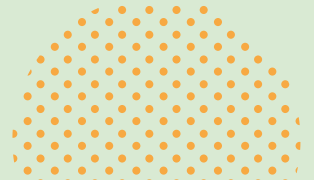
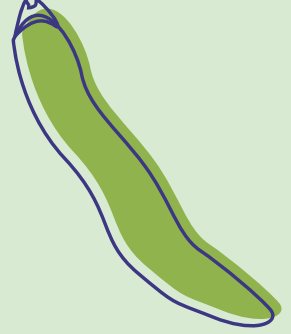
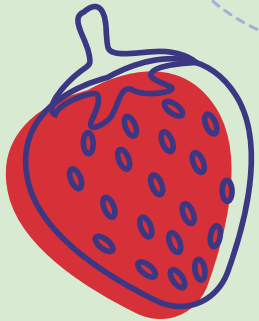


# Composting!

Lillian Berger



# Ice Breaker



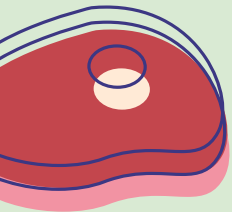
Rose - something happy/exciting last week



Thorn - something frustrating/sad last week

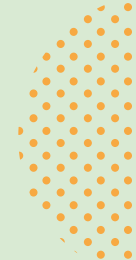
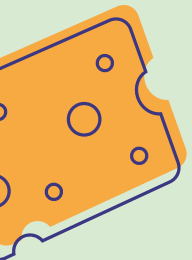
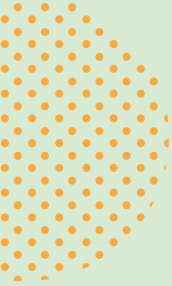
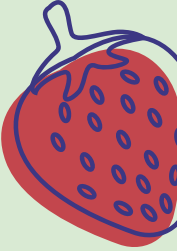


Bud - something you're looking forward to



# Introduction Video!


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFlsjRXbnSk>

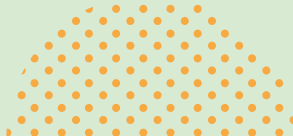




# Food Waste in the US



- More than **one third** of food produced in America goes to waste each year (\$162 billion)
    - ◆ Households buy or cook too much food (43%)
    - ◆ Supermarkets throw out expired food or food that is not “pretty” (30%)
    - ◆ Extra food is often wasted at restaurants, hotels, or events (10%)
  - Food that is thrown away in landfills **releases methane** into the atmosphere – accelerates climate change
  - Not just food waste; also waste of money, energy, and space
    - ◆ Landfills take up almost **2 million acres** of space in the US
- 





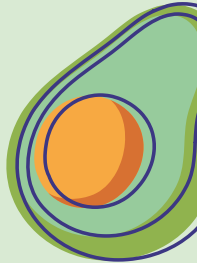
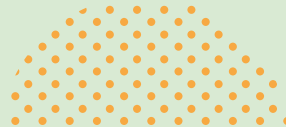
# What is Composting?

- Composting is the natural process of recycling food scraps and any other **organic matter** into organic and nutrient-filled **fertilizer**
  - ◆ A better alternative to synthetic fertilizers, which are damaging to the environment
- Composting is a great solution to the huge amount of food waste that happens in the US
  - ◆ Extra food can be recycled into something useful
  - ◆ Instead of producing **methane** when left in landfills, food in compost bins decomposes with oxygen and does not produce any methane

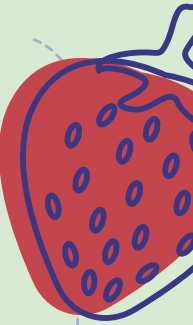


# History of Composting

- The first written record of composting is from around 3000 years ago in **Ancient Egypt**
  - ◆ Left manure and plant material in piles until it was needed – formed a rich and useful fertilizer for crops
- **Native Americans** also used a form of composting to grow crops more efficiently
- The first person to spread the idea of backyard composting was **Sir Albert Howard** (1873-1943)
  - ◆ Spent 30 years experimenting with organic farming and agriculture in India
  - ◆ Developed the first **pit composting system** in 1931



# Different Kinds of Composts



## Home Compost

- In a box or pile in your backyard
- Fruits/vegetables/egg shells/yard clippings
- No meat or dairy (attracts animals)
- No compostable utensils
  - ◆ Temperature does not get hot enough



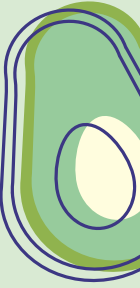
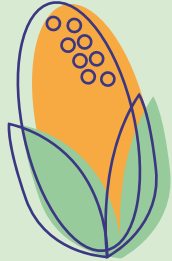
## Industrial Compost

- Compost service (picks up compost from your house or business)
- Any food scraps & compostable utensils



# Environmental Benefits

- Composting reduces ones **carbon footprint** – keeps methane out of the atmosphere
- Provides **nutrient rich soil** / fertilizer to grow food
  - ◆ Reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers which are damaging for the environment
- Encourages a more **plant based** and organic diet
  - ◆ **Vegetarian and vegan** diets reduce your carbon footprint drastically
- Keeps plastic out of landfills if you make the switch to compostable utensils (not at your house, just at big gatherings or events)
- **28% of Americans compost their food in one way or another – if 100% composted we would see a drastic difference in our society**

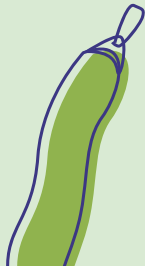
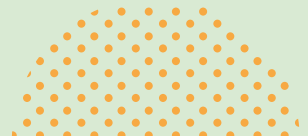






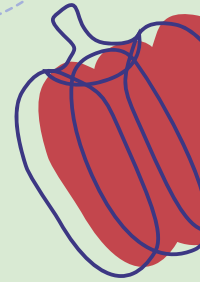
# Connections with Judaism

- **Tikkun Olam** - “Fixing the world”
  - ◆ Big Jewish value – centered around making the world a better place
  - ◆ The Torah explains that this is what humans were put on Earth to do
- **Bal Tashchit** - “Do not destroy/waste”
  - ◆ Commandment from God to use all of our resources to their greatest potential
- Composting uses extra food to its greatest potential and also helps the world





Capitalistic / Patriarchal  
society



Lack of access to  
resources

# Why Don't We Compost More?

Easier to just throw out food – people  
don't think about where it ends up

People are not  
educated on what it is

Can be costly

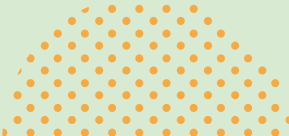


- Paying for composting service
- Buying compostable utensils





# Discussion Questions



1. How can we educate more people about composting in Wilmington? In the US?
  2. Do you feel composting makes a big difference in greenhouse gas emissions? What about eating a plant based diet?
  3. What are the roots of environmental issues being seen as feminine?
  4. Even if you don't compost, what can you do to reduce your carbon footprint and also encourage others to do so?
  5. Have you ever heard of Tikkun Olam? How do you think we could apply this Jewish value to more topics?
  6. How do environmental issues intersect with other topics? (feminism, racism, anti-Semitism)
- 
- 
- 



# Thanks!

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# Sites

<http://www.texasorganicsoil.com/blog/2015/8/12/the-history-of-compost>

<https://www.gothamgazette.com/130-opinion/10576-composting-patriarchy-feminist-green-new-deal-sanitation>

<https://www.carryoncomposting.com/142941469.html>



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