

Spiritual Care Corner



with Chaplain
Hazzan Rob Menes

Earth Day

It seems that everything around us is trying to remind us of our connection to the environment. Counting the Omer is a ritual which says, we do not exist but for the food which the land provides. And now we have another reminder: the coronavirus is a reminder that we do not exist independent of the land, air, water, and all the living things.

But what is our responsibility to the earth? Is it for us to use as we wish, or are we caretakers? In Judaism, the interpretation of the Torah is clear: the Earth and everything in it belongs to a higher power. Yes, we can use it, we can “master it” - but we do not own it. In fact, we are part of it, not separate from it. In our humility, we must manage the environment, those which we perceive as good and those which we perceive as harmful, keeping ourselves as healthy as the Earth around us.

Chaplain Rob Menes

