

Cultivate hope for climate response with action

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Thank you for publishing an op-ed article by faith leaders Charlotte Keys and Alexei Laushkin about generating hope that we will be able to transition quickly and calmly to clean, cheap energy. Like Keys and Laushkin, I, too, have been wrestling with the issue of hope. I'm a rabbi who is married to a scientist. My husband understands climate change articles and books that I can barely read, and he knows how to weigh the different dangers scientists consider, and since his research specialty is probability theory, he can interpret for me the probabilities of catastrophe that climate scientists estimate.

Here's what I do to cultivate hope without denying the difficult facts before us: I take pride that I live in America, where ordinary citizens can go see their elected officials and explain why we're worried about climate change and tell them what we would like them to do about it. I can write to newspapers and try to create the political will for climate legislation. I joined Citizens' Climate Lobby, an organization of more than 16,000 volunteers working to educate the public and Congress about the facts of climate change and the need for legislation to help the public transition to clean energy. Volunteering with so many good people automatically creates optimism and hope.

Jewish communities will read Isaiah 40:1 "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God." That's what God wants— God wants us to comfort each other with hope that this is doable, like ending smallpox; it can be fixed, when America gets to work on it.

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