

Prioritize climate change

TO THE EDITOR: I loved Raymond Johnson's article on artists engaging the science of climate change. Especially poignant for me was the artwork painted onto a chunk of arctic ice. The melting ice and disappearing artwork conveys climate change's time-sensitive nature. The beautiful painting on an ice chunk of a woman's face with eyes closed, apparently asleep, speaks to the years we've been asleep on climate change. It's time to wake up.

I recently attended a religious service where we read the 10 Commandments. I daydreamed about the 10 Commandments and climate change.

The commandment to keep the sabbath justifies it by emphasizing that God created the heaven, earth and sea and all that's in them. I thought about our plastic that doesn't belong in the oceans. Fossil fuel's carbon dioxide doesn't belong in the air and water.

The commandment against idolatry reminds us that our children will suffer for our sins.

After the service, a 5-year-old started telling me about arctic ice. He was wearing an artistic shirt painted with dinosaurs. He said he wants to restore ice for polar bears. I said you don't want them to disappear like the dinosaurs. Right, they need ice.

American kids suffer for our society's fossil-fuel worship. Our kids have been made homeless by hurricanes and wildfires. Studies find these kids suffer post-traumatic-stress syndrome for years. We have kids going to schools without electricity five months after Maria hit. We have kids worrying about getting ice to arctic animals.

Congress failed our kids — every day they fail to act on climate change, they steal from our kids' future.

This year, make climate action your No. 1 voting concern, for our kids' sake.

RABBI JUDY WEISS

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