Talk addresses social change

Join us on Martin Luther King Shabbat, January 14, as we begin our journey through story, reflection, and action to help make the Shir Tikvah community a more powerful force to effect political and social change.

Zoe Nicholie will launch our Panim (“Face”) Initiative with her talk, “After Cherry-Picking: Fermenting a Social Conscience.”

Zoe Nicholie is a retired early-childhood public policy advocate. She is happily married to Candace Margulies and is a grandmother to Walker and Yori.

Journey to Europe this July to witness, remember the Holocaust and genocide

World Without Genocide will lead a trip from July 4-17 to European cities marked by tragedy during the Holocaust. Participants will learn about the history, visit memorials and museums, and see both the legacy of genocide and the rebirth of vibrant cities and communities.

The trip will conclude in The Hague, Netherlands, with visits to the International Criminal Court and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in order to witness current proceedings for those accused of genocide.

The trip is intergenerational, interdenominational, and is open to all over age 13. Experts in the Holocaust and genocide studies will guide the trip. College credit is available; CLE credit is pending.

Details are available at http://worldwithoutgenocide.org/registerjourney. Space is limited; registration is requested by January 15.

Co-sponsors of the trip include Grace Lutheran Church of Apple Valley, Shir Tikvah Congregation, University of Northern Iowa, and William Mitchell College of Law.
As Jane Newman shared in her address on Erev Rosh HaShanah, I was invited by the Central Conference of American Rabbis to participate in the Reform Jewish Think Tank. On November 21 and 22, on the Los Angeles campus of Hebrew Union College, the 30 members gathered for our inaugural meeting.

I was, admittedly, a bit skeptical. Was this going to be one of those bureaucratic meetings of the old boys’ network, devoid of substance? A photo-op to make ourselves feel good, pat ourselves on the back, and then head home, not having done or discussed anything of substance?

How pleasantly surprised I was to be proven wrong.

The members of the think tank—10 each from Hebrew Union College, the Union for Reform Judaism, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis—are as thoughtful, bright, strategic, engaged, and determined as any Jewish leaders I could have imagined.

Composed of congregational rabbis, professors, and lay leaders, this diverse body is impressive in its breadth of experience and inspiring in its determination to chart a vibrant course for progressive Judaism in the 21st century.

Our first conversation, broadcast live (you can see it here: http://urj.org/thinktank/), was lead by Dr. Diane Winston of USC and Dr. Shawn Landres of Jumpstart, focusing on technology and religion.

The Internet, in so many ways, has remade the world: Content is now free. What are the implications for religious communities?

If people are spending more time alone with hand-held devices and in front of computers, how does this impact synagogues, for whom “face time” is our primary currency?

From the discussion with Drs. Winston and Landres, the think tank participants raised a variety of insightful questions:

- In each generation, we Jews have told a story, we’ve had a narrative: Leaving Egypt, receiving Torah at Sinai, writing the Talmud, coming to America, moving to the suburbs. What is our new narrative, our new story, for the 21st century?
- How do congregations live our highest ideals as Jewish places of sacred meaning and meeting, fostering authentic and transformative relationships?
- What are the essential questions each congregation should wrestle with moving forward?
- How do we create vibrant congregants, committed to lifelong Torah learning, beloved community, social justice, and spirited prayer for Jews across the lifespan?
- What is the purpose of a religious movement in the 21st century?

In the next 18 months, the Reform Jewish Think Tank will gather again to begin formulating pathways to address these questions. I am honored to bring Shir Tikvah’s voice to the table as together we shape a Jewish future that is vibrant, inclusive, morally compelling and spiritually alive.

L’shalom,

The think tank participants raised a variety of insightful questions.

“A donor has put up $5,000 to be matched by June 30. This includes any unrestricted gift we receive between now and then."

As I write this article on December 1, I have looked at our financial status and realized that, if we were to end the financial year today, we would have a huge surplus and be able to wipe out our deficit.

A nice dream, but the reality is that we end our fiscal year on June 30, and we have seven months to go. We have a lot of work to do to end the year with a balanced budget, or to have some extra shekels to pay down our long-term deficit.

I can tell you that the Give to the Max/Match day, November 16, was an amazing experience once again. For the second year in a row, Shir Tikvah was in the top 10 Twin Cities organizations for total dollars raised.

We brought in almost $59,000 from 157 unique donors, which represents 40% of our membership! We collected over $40,000 in unrestricted donations.

We are looking to have a party of thanks about the time of Purim.

In addition, we have another match offer. A donor has put up $5,000 to be matched by June 30. This includes any unrestricted gift we receive between now and then.

If you want to do a memorial or thank you gift to Shir Tikvah, this is a great way to double your gift.

We also need everyone to pay their dues by June 30. While dues are not consider part of the match, every shekel helps!

Thank you for all you do to support Shir Tikvah and its mission.

John Humleker
From our Director of Lifelong Learning...

When teaching about Jewish holidays, I often summarize that—as the saying goes—all Jewish holidays are about the same three things: “They tried to kill us. We survived. Let’s eat!”

From Passover to Purim to Chanukah—it’s true. The food we eat changes but the story of our history stays the same.

The history of Jewish holidays and Jewish tradition are much more rich and complex than that simplistic summary. In our 4,000 years as a people, we have experienced exile, discrimination, enlightenment, and times of wealth and prosperity.

When we talk about Jewish history, there is context and nuance as well as many different opinions about what really happened. History has an important role for the Jewish people.

Each year at our Passover seder, we retell the story of the exodus from Egypt. Telling the history makes it our history. Learning about the past makes us a part of something greater than ourselves and the time and place in which we live. History is not just a part of the past, the lives we live each day are influenced by events dozens and hundreds and even thousands of years ago.

To give Shir Tikvah adult learners a chance to delve into the history of the Jewish people, our Lifelong Learning program this winter will offer a class on “Ten Great (and Not So Great) Moments in Jewish History.” Since the class was announced, people have been sharing their top-ten list of historic events.

Each person advocated for his or her favorite (or personally significant) moment. Which events made the list?

Join us Monday evenings as we start with the first moments in Jewish history (God’s call to Abraham and the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai) and continue from there.

In Religious School, our 7th and 9th grade students are about to begin a module of learning focused on Judaism and sexuality coordinated and facilitated by a group of leaders in our congregation. The goal of this program is to help our young people become responsible and healthy adults in our Jewish community (and to support their parents in helping them become those adults).

Empowering our young people and providing them with a safe space to explore complex issues is a part of what makes the Lifelong Learning program at Shir Tikvah unique and powerful.

Lifelong Learning at Shir Tikvah: A Place for You

What do these activities have in common?

• Spending the entire 25 hours of Shabbat in a beautiful natural setting with old and new friends
• Sharing long-unasked questions like “Why do we ____,” with Jews of all levels of knowledge and experience
• Making mistakes in Hebrew, while at the same time becoming more confident with the language
• Singing, laughing, eating, and a little dancing

The answer is simple: They all happened at Shir Tikvah in the last three months. The newly redesigned and evolving Lifelong Learning program kicked off in October under Rabbi Simon’s leadership, with two adult education classes and a weekend retreat.

St. Croix. This minyan of learners prayed together at each of the Shabbat services and engaged in lively Torah study.

The pacing was leisurely, and attendees spent time finding their own Oneg Shabbat (joy of Shabbat) by walking in the woods, reading, napping, and engaging in conversation.

Beginning in October, Rabbi Latz taught “Hearts on Fire: A Journey Through the Prayer Book,” and Rabbi Simon taught “Alef Isn’t Tough: Introduction to Hebrew.” These Monday evening courses were offered on an open-enrollment basis, and were part of the curriculum for the new adult B’nai Mitzvah cohort that began study this fall.

Continued on next page
Skilled at taking photos?
Your hobby can help Shir Tikvah! We’re looking for congregants to take photos at various Shir Tikvah events to use in Kol Tikvah and other Shir Tikvah publications. If interested, please contact Lisa Pogoff at lpogoff@yahoo.com.

Continued from previous page

This cohort’s learning will culminate in celebrating their B’nai Mitzvah in June 2012. A new semester of courses will begin in January and a shorter “mini-mester” will commence in May.

Lifelong Learning isn’t merely about classes. Each person is seen as a potential learner and a potential teacher. No matter your background or your experience, Shir Tikvah has a place for you to continue your Jewish learning.

Watch for opportunities to join conversations with Rabbi Simon that will help to chart the future of learning at Shir Tikvah. In the meantime, information about course offerings is available at the Lifelong Learning section of the Shir Tikvah website and on a print brochure available at Shir Tikvah.

Chris Bargeron

From our Board...

The December Board meeting included a discussion with Kathryn Klibanoff and Ruth Markowitz of the Membership Committee. They reported that Shir Tikvah’s growth has remained steady for the last seven years, at an average net gain of seven members per year. Rabbi Latz noted that this is very positive relative to other congregations nationally.

Board members asked Kathryn and Ruth to work with other Membership Committee members and John Humleker to get more specificity and accuracy on the reasons people drop membership.

In conjunction with the “Development Mavens,” who are considering our overall approach to congregational fundraising (including dues). The board thinks that it would make sense to re-think our approach to dues generally, and, more specifically, our “first ask” of new members.

Ruth noted that at one time there were separate Dues and Membership committees. She suggested that considering this approach to dues might be of value going forward.

Rabbi Latz noted that from his recent time with members of the Reform Movement, there is widespread discussion of a dues-based synagogue model, including that we now have a generation of Internet-raised Jews who expect content to be free.

Board members began prioritizing issues that were raised during the October Board retreat. Congregants will be invited to join in future discussions. Board members chose the following issues as those requiring attention in the coming year or two:

- Potential value of creating a vision statement for Shir Tikvah;
- An overarching framework for communications;
- New ways of engaging existing members and reaching new members;
- A holistic approach to leadership development;
- Broad-based approaches to strengthening the congregation’s financial health and growth;
- Current and future needs regarding physical space.

John Humleker reported that, as a result of the successful “Give to the Match/Max” Day, we will not have a raffle or a spring fundraiser. He noted that over 200 donations and payments were made, and over $59,000 came in that day.

We were successful in raising an internal match.

Luke said the Development Committee is working on next year’s “Give to the Match/Max,” as well as other longer-term plans for strengthening Shir Tikvah’s financial position.

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Shir Tikvah school dates

Religious School

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>No school</th>
<th>Session #13 – with Mishpacha and 6th grade parent B’hai Mitzvah meeting</th>
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<td>Session #14</td>
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<td>Session #15 – with Mishpacha</td>
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Hebrew School

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<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>Session #12</th>
<th>Session #13</th>
<th>Session #14</th>
<th>Session #15 – Tu B’Shevat celebration (5:30-6:00 pm and 7:30-8:00 pm)</th>
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Adult Education

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<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>Winter semester begins (6:30 pm and 7:50 pm)</th>
<th>See adult education brochure for more info</th>
<th>First session of “On One Foot” with Rabbi Latz (9:45-11:00 AM)</th>
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Kol Tikvah
From Our Music Director...

It is a long-standing tradition that the choirs of Shir Tikvah and Bet Shalom commemorate Shabbat Shirah, the Shabbat of Song, by singing together at our synagogues. The repertoire has varied greatly over more than a dozen years—from the early Jewish music of Salamone Rossi to Sephardic music to modern composers to last year’s collaboration with “One Voice Mixed Chorus.”

This year, Cantor Sarah Lipsett-Allison and I have selected the music of contemporary composer David Shukiar, who hopes to join us. His music is beautiful, uplifting, and engaging.

David’s music is being used by synagogues and theaters all over North America and in Israel. He has twice been awarded the Guild of Temple Musicians’ Young Composers Award and has enjoyed commissions from cantors and synagogues across the United States, Canada, and Israel, including a commission from the American Conference of Cantors and the Guild of Temple Musicians to help dedicate a new building at Beit Daniel, a Reform synagogue community in Tel Aviv.

David is also an accomplished arranger for synagogue ensembles, and his recently published K’lei Zemer is bringing new music and Shabbat standards into communities all over. One of his many musicals, "Benjamin and Judah,” a modern musical based on the Chanukah story, has been performed in New York, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

Join us for Shabbat Shirah on Friday evening, January 28, at 8:00 PM. The choirs will also join together in song at Bet Shalom on February 11; I hope you’ll join us there, as well.

B’shirah,

Wendy Goldberg

From our President...

Can we recommit to doing a mitzvah?

We at Shir Tikvah take pride in being a welcoming and open congregation. We have a strong Social Justice Committee with many working together on issues as diverse as affordable housing and preparing Kindergarteners for school.

We have an active Yad b’Yad committee leading the community in providing meals and cards to those recovering from a health crisis and assisting those grieving through the period of shivah. Many of us do countless acts of loving kindness in our daily lives.

Sometimes, however we forget the profound impact of being a host.

The founders of Shir Tikvah realized the importance of the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim (the welcoming of guests) by creating a participatory practice for Oneg Shabbat on Friday evening and Kiddush on Saturday morning.

By fulfilling this mitzvah when we are assigned to bring food or treats for Kiddush or Oneg, we play a role in welcoming everyone present—members and guests alike.

Since our inception, members have taken pleasure in bringing a fresh-baked challah, special baked goods (perhaps a favorite family recipe), a bountiful fruit or vegetable tray. Hosts enjoyed staying through the service and mingling with congregants and guests, kvelling about the homemade ruglach or baklava.

Each took pride in strengthening the community and fulfilling the mitzvah of hospitality. Members often hosted an Oneg in honor of a life-cycle event: b’nai mitzvah, birthdays, baby namings, and anniversaries.

As we learn in Genesis, as Abraham was sitting at the entrance of the tent and looking up, he saw three men standing opposite him. He ran to meet them and bowed down to the ground.

“Please do not pass by, let a little water be brought; wash your feet and recline and let me bring a bit of bread so that you can restore yourselves.”

While in 5771 (or 2011) we no longer bring water to wash each other’s feet or to provide for our donkeys, we do look forward to a nice “spread” after services. The Oneg or Kiddush is a time to join together, talk with each other, and bring each other closer together.

When it is your turn, please accept the mitzvah of hospitality and take pride in hosting. Bring something special and share your love of Shir Tikvah. (If you are not able to host on the date assigned, you are responsible to switch dates with someone else and inform the office.) Please stay at services so that we can thank you for hosting.

The ancient rabbis praised the sharing of food and drink with others, “for it brings closer to us those who are far distant”—those who may be from a distant location or those who are physically near us, but remain distant.

B’shalom,

Jane Newman
January B’nai Mitzvah

Sadie Funk
Sadie and her family invite you to join them to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on January 8 at 10:30 AM. Sadie’s Torah portion is Bo, in which Moses asks Pharaoh to free the Israelites; when he refuses, the last three plagues are visited upon the Egyptians.

Sadie is a 7th grader at Lake Country School, where she has gone since she was 4, the same year she started Religious School at Shir Tikvah. She likes all of her subjects, especially French and philosophy.

Sadie is a voracious reader and rarely seen without a book or Nook® in her hands. She also loves theater, singing, baking, and playing with her dog Bisous.

Sadie and her parents give many thanks to Cheryl Hornstein, Hebrew tutor extraordinaire, for all of her help preparing Sadie for her Bat Mitzvah. Sadie will be giving tzedakah to Heifer International and The Central Asia Institute because both work towards peace by giving people the knowledge and skills they need to become self-sustaining.

Sadie and her family invite the congregation to celebrate with them on this special day. Sadie will also participate in Shabbat services on Friday evening, January 7, at 8:00 PM.

Sarah Buchlaw
Sarah Buchlaw and her family invite you to join them in celebration as she is called to the bimah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 15.

Sarah’s parsha is B’Shalach, from Exodus, in which the Jews cross the Red Sea, receive manna in the desert, and fight the Amalekites.

Sarah is a 7th grader at Oak Grove Middle School in Bloomington. She performs with Circus Juventas, a youth circus in St. Paul. She also enjoys theater and music.

Sarah is currently part of an honors choir connected to her school. She loves spending time with her friends and her family, including her collie, Lily, and her two cats, Eli and Kazimir, who mean the world to her.

Sarah would like to thank her amazing tutor, Leslie Azose, for being such a wonderful teacher. She would also like to thank all her teachers at Shir Tikvah.

Sarah writes: “At this time in my life, I would like to honor the memory of one of my greatest role models, Sarah Elizabeth Kent Eckhoff. Sarah had a way of making every situation better; just her presence had that power.

“She was many things to many people, and to me, she was a hero. She will always be cherished for her kindness and compassion, her empathy, her eagerness for life.

“She died from a brain tumor in the spring of 2007, at the young age of 24. In memory of my hero, Sarah Eckhoff, I will be making a donation to the American Brain Tumor Association.”

Elana Goldman
Elana Goldman and her family invite you to join them in celebration when she is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 22.

Elana’s Torah portion is Yitro, from Exodus, in which Moses talks with Adonai on Mount Sinai and receives the Ten Commandments, while the people wait at the foot of the mountain.

Elana attends the Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School, where she is in eighth grade. She enjoys reading, drawing, music, and language studies, including the French and Swedish summer camps at Concordia Language Villages.

Elana plans to share tzedakah with Heifer International and The Central Asia Institute because both work towards peace by giving people the knowledge and skills they need to become self-sustaining.

Elana and her family wish to thank Cheryl Hornstein for helping Elana to prepare to chant from the Torah. Elana will also participate in the Friday evening service on January 21 at 6:30 PM.
Tzedakah Shir Tikvah is appreciative of all tzedakah given to the congregation. We will gladly notify any people or organizations of contributions made in their honor. Contributions can be sent to the congregation office. Funds include: Shir Tikvah Fund, Rabbi Latz Discretionary Fund, Rabbi Simon Discretionary Fund, Rabbi Offner Legacy Fund for Youth, Adult Scholarship Fund, Building Fund, Flower Fund, Library Fund, Harris Music Fund, Prayerbook Fund, Relief Fund, Social Justice Fund, Special Needs Education Fund, Torah Fund.

Rabbi Latz’s Discretionary Fund
Phil Oxman & Harvey Zuckman, in appreciation
Ben & Sarah Malakoff, in appreciation
Deborah Muenzer-Doy, in appreciation and in honor of the yahrzeit of Ida Weinblatt

Rabbi Simon’s Discretionary Fund
Deborah Muenzer-Doy, in appreciation
Susan Walto & Douglas Hubred, in honor of Rabbi Simon’s installation

High Holiday/Yizkor Fund
Dan Brasch
Barbara Nordstrom-Loeb
Rebecca Zanger

Joel Chechk
Miriam Weinstein & Amy Ottendorf

Relief Fund
Holly Fields, in memory of Robert Pogoff and Mildred Zuckerman
Paul & Amy Jo Kubista, in memory of Robert Pogoff & Mildred Zuckerman
Mara Gavelz, in memory of Robert Pogoff & Mildred Zuckerman
Nancy Codgil Abbot, in memory of Robert Pogoff & Mildred Zuckerman
Jim D. Miller, in memory of Robert Pogoff, Mildred Zuckerman and Melvin Harris
Lisa Pogoff & Jeff Zuckerman, in memory of Robert Pogoff and Jerry Day
Linda & Andy Bindman, in memory of Bob Pogoff

Shir Tikvah Fund
Andrea Kircher, Give to the Max
Jane Levin & Judy Reisman, Give to the Max
Nevin & Diane Young
David & Sandy Marinson
Ina & Larry Gravit, in honor of the yahrzeit of Mordy Feuer
Gail Freedman & Reuben Lubka, in memory of Larry Rochell
Jane Newman & Amy Lange, in honor of the namings of Sam & Caleb Edelson, and Malin & Hadley Wolfson
Jane Newman & Amy Lange, in honor of Emma Richman’s Bat Mitzvah
Jane Newman & Amy Lange, in honor of Noah Betti-Richman’s Bar Mitzvah
Jane Newman & Amy Lange, a speedy recovery to Ina Gravit
John & Joanne Gordon
Paul & Elizabeth Erdahl, in memory of Bob Pogoff & Mildred Zuckerman
Anita Dinerstein, in memory of Bob Pogoff, Mildred Zuckerman and Melvin Harris
Kathryn Kilbanoff & Jeremy Pierotti, in memory of Melvin Harris
Jane Thieman, in memory of Bob Pogoff, Ben & Sarah Malakoff

If you need meals after surgery or during an illness, or if you know someone who does, contact Miriam Weinstein at (612) 824-2845 or weinsteinme@comcast.net or Judith Brook at (615) 452-3158 or jbrookpianostudio@usfamily.net.

If you’re home from the hospital, ill, or would like to have a visitor (or if you know someone who would like to have a visitor), contact Wendy Farrar at (612) 824-9535 or wsfarrar@earthlink.net.

If you need a ride to services, contact Andrea Kircher at (612) 922-4033 or amk@andreakircher.com.

If you’re interested in learning more about or joining a chavurah, contact Linda Alter at (651) 248-6060 or alterhomes@mindspring.com, or look on the Shir Tikvah website under community or the home page for sign-up information.

If you need assistance or accommodation in order to participate in the life of Shir Tikvah, call the office at (612) 822-1440 and a member of the Koleil [Inclusion] Subcommittee will contact you.

Notes on language
Our language has an impact on how we think. We can help raise awareness if we talk about the whole person, and not just his or her disability. We can broaden our awareness if we use “person first” language.

Instead of referring to an “autistic child” or a “deaf person,” we say “a child with autism” or “a person who is deaf.” By changing our language and encouraging others to do so, we can break down barriers and make our community more inclusive.

Notes on accessibility
- Assistive hearing devices are available during services. They are located on the bookcase in the Kiddush Hall. Hearing aids can be tuned into the speaker system.
- A barrier-free entrance is available on Girard Avenue.
- The handicapped-accessible restroom is located off the sanctuary under the balcony.
- Large-print prayer books are available from the usher.
- Armchairs are available at the end of some rows for those who need them.
Kol Tikvah

Editors Lisa Pogoff and Jeff Zuckerman
Designer Sarah Malakoff

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE
The fifth of the month preceding publication.