

All,

In the summer and fall of 2000, Duluth-born Chinese-American photographer [Wing Young Huie](#) transformed Lake Street. In a six-mile-long exhibit, featuring 675 black-and-white photographs ranging in size from 8 by 10 inches to 8 by 12 feet, he papered Lake Street storefronts, bus stops, and blank walls with photos he had taken on Lake Street over the previous four years. His work presented vibrancy and struggle, hope and exhaustion, immigration and racism, systemic poverty and personal illness, joy and connection, and people of every hue and faith or no faith at all. His website has some of the Lake Street work [here](#). The out-of-print book from the exhibit is available [here](#). I remember walking his outdoor galley transfixed and transformed.

Huie's work, on Lake Street, in his [Frogtown project](#), in his two-book exploration of [University Avenue](#), makes us look at ourselves and the world we choose to build and maintain. In 2011, he opened the Third Place Gallery, two buildings north of the intersection of 38th Street and Chicago Avenue. Like his photographs, [38th and Chicago](#) now makes us look more closely at ourselves, at our city, at our state, at our country. We are, once again, reminded of the terrible injustice in our world, in our own home, and we are called as Jews to listen to the Black voices demanding change, to learn our own history, to reflect internally on our own roles, and to act, to choose a better world we want to build and maintain. (Of course, some Black voices, locally and nationally, are Black *and* Jewish; in a synagogue community, we should be particularly alert to calls from our fellow Jews.)

### **Racial Justice Task Force**

At the June 4, 2020 board meeting, in response to a request from the Racial Justice Task Force, the Board supported the RJTF's request to build an organizational relationship with [Black Visions Collective](#), an organization that envisions a world in which all Black Lives Matter and thrive. It is one of the organizations leading the fight for racial justice in the Twin Cities. Thank you to Harry Adler, Tamar Ghidalia, Sara Greenhalgh, Carolyn Levy, Jim Rubenstein, and Enzi Tanner who took the lead in this invitation and challenge to the Board to deepen our work and broaden our commitment. We look forward to the RJTF leading this relationship-building and bringing their insights for engagement to our congregation as a whole. We open our ears and hearts and expand our reading list; keep an eye out for more information.

### **Annual Meeting**

Shir Tikvah's Annual Meeting will be held on [Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 10:00 am on Zoom](#). You received the formal notice and Board slate on April 29. We will be sending information your way to prepare for that meeting: board bios, an overview of our budget and the information you need to consider it, descriptions of our committees and their chairs. **We need 110 members to log in, or 56 households, so please put this on your calendar and plan to join us.**

## Membership renewal

June 30 marks the end of our fiscal year and the time for membership and pledge renewal. As you may know, more than 70% of our expenses are tied to our people. At the [Annual Meeting](#), you will hear that we are not planning on making any prospective cuts to people or programs based on fear of lost revenue. Our confidence in being able to do that comes from our belief that Zoom-email-phone Shir Tikvah remains alive in your heart and that your pledges and commitments will continue to support the work we do. If the current economic condition has, quite understandably, destabilized your pledge, please contact our executive director, Alison Olig, or one of the rabbis.

## A Social Justice intern

Thank you to Rabbi Lekach-Rosenberg for helping Shir Tikvah through to a successful match with the University of Minnesota's School of Social Work's internship program. We will be welcoming our first social work intern to focus on social justice work and organizing starting in Fall 2020: [Lucy Marshall](#) is already a teacher in our school and will be joining our team as our 20 hr/week intern. Yay!

## High Holy Days

Shir Tikvah will, as always, provide meaningful, inspiring, participatory, intellectual, and emotionally real Jewish observance for the High Holy Days. Our worship this year will also center the health and safety of our Shir Tikvah community and thus we will make innovations to how we do what we do. We do not intend to hold an extended, large in-person gathering. We will provide updates and details on the shape of our ritual and connection with our traditions and each other in the coming weeks. Incredibly, June 18 is just three months before Erev Rosh Hashanah and just about three months after the first COVID-19 stay-at-home order.

As always, feel free to contact me.

In hope,

Bruce

