



Shabbat B'reishit/23 Tishri 5778
October 13, 2017

Dear Shir Tikvah:

As we begin a new cycle of Torah reading this Shabbat, I'm reflecting a lot about the year ahead: What kind of year will it be? What Torah will we lift into the center of our communal life?

Michael and I spend a lot of time discussing tithing-the Torah's command to give 10% of our annual income to support our spiritual community. We're delighted to live this Torah-to give back to Shir Tikvah to build our holy community.

For our family, giving is an important and meaningful way we are helping to co-create a world we want to be part of and a world we want our daughters to grow up in: a world of compassionate and resilient justice work; a community of courageous and visionary leaders; a synagogue of soulful prayer that nourishes and nurtures and cajoles us to grow as human beings; a Torah of human dignity that demands we look inward at ourselves and outward toward the community; a congregation hungry to discern and understand and experience the Divine; a community of beautiful souls with whom to sing a song of hope with humility and chutzpah, faith and love.

We support Shir Tikvah because this is the world we want to live in. We give generously because this is a way we live Torah in the 21st century.

And why not? Shir Tikvah is worth it.

Who knows? Maybe you're a person who could give generously and build with us. Maybe you're the one reading this who could give \$180,000 to celebrate our 30th anniversary as a congregation? Or \$72,000? Or \$54,000? Or \$36,000? Or \$18,000?

Who knows? As my grandpa Stanley (z"l) used to say, "You won't know if you don't ask!"

As we begin Torah anew, let's join together and build a world of generosity, compassion, and love.

Shabbat Shalom,

Michael

Rabbi Michael Adam Lutz