

All,

Predicted temperatures in the Twin Cities metro area this week will exceed those predicted for the Sinai desert, the Dead Sea, Mogadishu, and Vientiane, to choose four places we think of as hot and with some connection to the Twin Cities/this community. Phoenix has us beat with a predicted high of 114° over Shabbat. I'd rather my hometown weren't even in this dubious contest. Stay comfortable and enjoy Shir Tikvah from the comfort of your own Zoom. Soon, I expect we will start gathering in person, sweat and all. Thanks to a grant from the Kadima campaign of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, in-person gatherings in our building, when they happen, will happen on new, cleanable chairs! (Supply chains permitting.) More updates on all of these things will follow in the next week or so.

Our ability to gather in-person will be strengthened by high adoption rates of COVID vaccines. Every person over age 12 now qualifies for a COVID-19 vaccine; [locate one here](#). If you qualify for a vaccine but are hesitant, if you have questions like "What is an mRNA vaccine?" or "Since this vaccine came to market faster than any other vaccine, what does that mean about safety?" or "What if I've already had COVID?" or other similar questions, please email [Rabbi Latz](#). He doesn't have the answers, but he will share your name with a group of Shir Tikvah congregants who are doctors and who have agreed to try to answer your questions, and, if needed, direct you to additional resources.

Congratulations! (And maternity leave!)



Congratulations and love to Rabbi and Noam Lekach-Rosenberg, and big sister Hallel, on the newest addition to their family! Rabbi Lekach-Rosenberg will be on leave through the middle of August, back for High Holy Days, and then take some additional time off later in the fall. Her work responsibilities will be covered by [Rabbi Latz](#) and [Rabbi Rappaport](#), and interns, Jayce Koester and Lucy Marshall.

Annual meeting report

It was wonderful to see about a hundred of you at our annual meeting this past Sunday. I am sorry to say that [Lin Manuel Miranda](#) and [Matisyahu](#) cancelled their live performances but we did well: MJ Gilbert opened us in song. I am also pleased to report that the bylaws were amended, the budget was approved, and a new slate of trustees have been assembled. The written materials were emailed to every member in advance of the meeting. If you're a member and need them again, please email [Nikolina Erickson-Gunther](#). If you now realize you aren't a member and wish you were, please email [Sara Lahyani](#).

As a flood of pre-meeting communications showed, the bylaws changes were many but the commitment to Shir Tikvah's core values remained the same. As one former president who responded to our pre-meeting outreach said, amended bylaws are like a new coat of paint and, 30-plus years into our shared creation of Shir Tikvah, a new coat of paint was needed. I'm particularly grateful to Amy Funk and Howard Orenstein for their steady commitment to this year-long project; I did almost all of the talking about the bylaws to the congregation, but as a participant and spokesperson for something for which their insight and dedication was integral.

Welcome to newly elected board members Harry Adler, Dan Kessler, Liz Loeb, and Rena Harold. Howard Orenstein is our new Treasurer and Abbie Shain will serve as Secretary. Noa Simon-Latz is the new STiFTY representative to the board.

For me, the highlight of the annual meeting (other than the Lekach-Rosenberg baby news), was the heartfelt and genuine words of appreciation for their service offered by fellow board members to outgoing volunteers Jeff Danovsky, Barry Epstein, Gay Greiter, Gayle Zoffer and Maya Halpern. We are an amazing community blessed with amazing servant-leaders, thank you.

The bottom line on the budget: we are in a pretty good place, although some positive factors for that decent bottom line are one-off fiscal events related to efforts to alleviate the effects of the pandemic. Ultimately, our work is only sustainable because we continue to receive your support. Our fiscal year ends June 30. If you'd like to complete your pledge, expand your pledge, or update the finance team on how things are going for you, please reach out to [Alison Olig](#).

Baby news!

The Lekach-Rosenbergs are not the only family with baby news. Please [send me](#) yours!



Neal Gosman (he/him) and Sandy Pappas (she/her) announce the birth of their first *great* grandchild. Simon Rachamin was born April 28 (16 Iyar) to their oldest granddaughter Odel Miriam and husband Natan Rachamin (pictured below with Simon). Odel is the daughter of Nicolea (Leah Davida), who became bat mitzvah at Shir Tikvah. This was happy news two days before the tragedy in Meron; attendees at the *Lag B'Omer* celebrations included a son-in-law and six grandchildren. All were uninjured.

Feryanith Barreto ("Fer") (she/hers) writes "I'm a new member and wanted to share a small bio since [folx](#) have been a bit shy (including myself). My wife, Kayla and I just welcomed our first baby, Ellie, on April 25, 2021. We've been married for 3 years and live in Minneapolis. I was born in Mexico but raised in Minneapolis. My wife was raised in Maplewood but moved to Minneapolis after college. I love languages and wanna raise our child bilingual. I speak four languages so hopefully my family will follow suit. We just joined Shir Tikvah because we felt it was time to set down spiritual roots for our family. I've been attending Shir Tikvah since 2011 and fell in love with the community and values of *tikkun olam*."



Meet some members!

I've been seeking out member bios since October; you all seem too shy to share without being directly asked. But I also know that people have enjoyed "meeting" fellow members through this letter. So, [help me](#) introduce your family, new members, older members, whatever!

New members Lauren (she/her) & Kethan Pradham (he/him) write that "we have been looking for a temple for quite some time and are so thrilled to have found Shir Tikvah! We have two boys, Kiran (age 7) who studies at XinXing Mandarin

Immersion in Hopkins and Ari (2.5) who is home right now. Kethan and I met in the Twin Cities 16 years ago when we both moved out here (he is from NC and I am from NJ) to work for General Mills. He still works there in Finance and I work as a brand strategy consultant. We look forward to meeting all of you via zoom and in person in the months to come.”

New members Wyatt (they/them) & Mike Coleman (he/him) tell us that they are “newly(ish) married,” and have just moved to St. Paul, home of their shared alma mater, Macalester College. Mike is a California transplant and a software engineer. Wyatt is a clinical social worker very close to obtaining independent licensure, and they grew up in a series of small towns in the northern Midwest. Mike was born and raised Jewish; his family were members of a conservative temple in Southern California. Wyatt writes that they were “raised ELCA Christian, and I am interested in converting. We feel drawn to Shir Tikvah specifically because of the feeling we got (even through a computer screen) that this is a community that celebrates and welcomes all aspects of a person, instead of the ‘we love you as long as you’re not visibly queer’ atmosphere of many of the churches [Wyatt] grew up in.”



As always, feel free to [contact me](#).

Bruce

