

All,

[Rabbi Joachim Prinz](#) had been a prominent rabbi in Berlin in the 1930s before emigrating to the United States in 1937. As one of the organizers of the 1963 March on Washington, he took the podium just before Dr. King. He drew on his experiences in Hitler's Germany to argue that "the most important thing that I learned under those tragic circumstances was that bigotry and hatred are not the most urgent problem. The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful and the most tragic problem is silence." He asserted that "neighbor is not a geographic term. It is a moral concept. It means our collective responsibility for the preservation of man's dignity and integrity."

We continue to be called to involvement with and for our neighbors, broadly defined. And we continue to need to be called out when we fall short of the central tenet of our Torah—to welcome, to love, to care for the stranger among us (also broadly defined). Rabbi Prinz's speech can be found [here](#).

Annual meeting

The 2021 Annual Meeting will be online, through Zoom, on **Sunday, June 6 at 10 am**. Keep an eye on your e-news and inbox for the links and relevant materials.

Here's what to expect:

- The annual report about finances, a presentation of the budget, and a request for you to approve it.
- Live performances from [Lin Manuel Miranda](#) and [Matisyahu](#).*
- An introduction of and a request to elect four new trustees—Harry Adler, Rena Harold, Daniel Kessler and Liz Loeb—who were selected from a great candidate pool following an open-nomination process.
- A request to re-elect Lillie Benowitz, Amy Funk, Lyonel Norris, Larry Silber, Bonnie Westlin and Joel Zimmerman to two-year terms.
- A request to approve the proposed officers for 2021-22: Amy Funk (VP), Howard Orenstein (Treasurer), and Abbie Shain (Secretary). MJ Gilbert and Lyonel Norris will continue as additional members of the Executive Committee. I was reelected President at last year's annual meeting.
- A request for the approval of the amended bylaws, which have been unanimously recommended by the board.

About those bylaws: you received an email on April 21 with a summary of the proposed changes and rationale, which you can review [here](#). You are welcome to join us for identical hour-long presentations about the bylaws on Tuesday, May 4 at 7pm, Thursday, May 13 at 9 am, and Sunday, May 16 at 10 am. Click [here](#) to join each session via Zoom (it is the same link each time). You will also find this link in our weekly eNews. We are hoping to address questions *before* the annual meeting, since the Zoom annual meeting format will make it tricky to manage questions from the floor. Feel free to [contact me](#) now if you've got thoughts on this subject!

*Not really. I always wonder how carefully people read these letters. This was a test. Please come to the meeting anyway. We would love to see you, and we need to make sure we have a quorum.

The Brave Questions Project series continues



Please join us on June 9th at 7 pm for a discussion with [Rabbi Mike Moskowitz](#). We'll kick off a celebration of Pride month with the scholar in residence at [Congregation Simchat Torah](#) in New York, founded as a "gay synagogue" in 1973.

Rabbi Moskowitz describes himself as “a deeply traditional and radically progressive advocate for trans-rights and a vocal ally for LGBTQ inclusivity.” Rabbi Moskowitz received three Ultra-Orthodox ordinations. He has been a fellow at the Hartman Institute, which is how Rabbi Latz knows him. The talk is called “Allyship as Spiritual Practice: An Orthodox Rabbi Smashes the Closet Door.” Please register [here](#).

Vaccine hesitant?

Every person over age 16 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 his 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.

A prayer for a coming maternity leave

Rabbi and Noam Lekach-Rosenberg hope to welcome their second baby Lekach-Rosenberg this summer! The rabbis have figured out how to support Rabbi Lekach-Rosenberg’s anticipated maternity leave and keep good care of all of us, no worries. Rabbi Lekach-Rosenberg will be participating in High Holy Days, too. I have now set a personal record for the number of consecutive sentences with “Lekach-Rosenberg” in them. Our love to the entire Lekach-Rosenberg family! (Record extended!)

Can I encourage your participation with pictures of adorable babies?

Folx, I’ve been seeking out member bios since October; you all seem too shy to share without being directly asked. Perhaps you’ll change your ways when I tell you that babies are also welcome. [Send me](#) your news!



Long-time Shir Tikvah stalwarts Mary Hartmann (she/her) and Billie Wahlstrom (she/her) welcomed grandchild Eliana Fira Wahlstrom on April 9th. Son Misha, a former Shir Tikvah member and bar mitzvah student and now a practicing Orthodox Jew, and daughter-in-law, Nechama, share that “Eliana means ‘my G-d answers’ and Fira is named after my wife’s grandmother, who survived as a Belarusian Child of the War (WW2).” Mary and Billie love them all to the moon!

Meet some members, recent and less so!

Whenever we are next able to gather, please show off some radical hospitality with a warm “hello.” And please [send me](#) a photo and an introduction to you and yours!



Meet our most tropical members! Paul Gracie (he/him), husband Keo Sananikone (he/him), and their twins Oscar and Esther, live in Honolulu (although the kids are now in their first year in college on the mainland). By 1979, Paul had finished his collegiate stay in Minneapolis and moved to Hawaii and met his future husband. He's lived in Hawaii for more than 40 years. But his Minnesota connection remains strong. Paul's cousin founded Project 515, which hired Shir Tikvah member Ann Kaner Roth (z"l) to champion marriage equality in Minnesota, and Paul's link to Shir Tikvah was strengthened through our congregation's work on those campaigns (which peaked in 2012 and 2013). Paul reports that while he's on the board at the [Oahu Jewish Ohana](#), at Shir Tikvah he gets to simply enjoy being a member. Zoom has been a boon for the connections beyond his family's annual trips here.



New member Amy Jacobson (she/her) is currently getting her Master's in Urban Teaching from Metro State and is working as a nanny. She's passionate about traveling (ask her about all the places she's gone!) She says that "There are a number of reasons why I feel comfortable at Shir Tikvah, not least of them being the unflinching dedication to equity and social justice I see on every occasion I am with the community."

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

