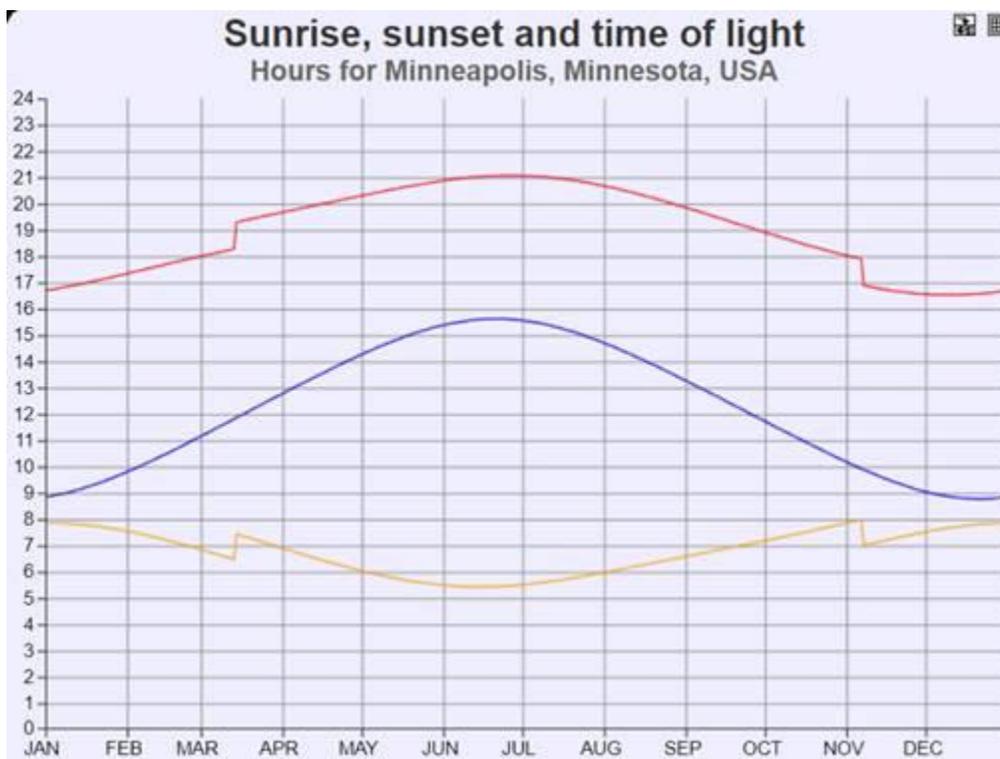


All,

You may know that the Jewish calendar has four new years, and we've just passed just one of them. Why? There are several reasons, including that some commandments must be filled during a year's time but the clock runs from different dates depending on the mitzvah. We can celebrate upcoming Jewish New Year's Days on 15 Shevat (January 17, 2022), 1 Nissan (April 2), and 1 Elul (August 28). You can learn more [here](#). There are many different religious and cultural new years around the globe and they land throughout the [Gregorian calendar](#), and you can read more about them [here](#). I mention all of this by way of pointing out that no one seems to begin their new year at the time that it starts getting cold and dark in Minnesota. The [graph](#) below—showing the hours of daylight in blue, sunrise in yellow, and sunset in red (on a 24 hour clock)—reveals that we are in the steepest part of the downward curve: daylight is draining away. Perhaps if someone called this time “New Years,” it would feel more festive. Still, as I tell myself every year, light will return! Check out the steep upward slope after our third new year, the first of Nissan (April 2).



### Rabbinical updates

Rabbi Rappaport brings her wisdom to us in her final Shabbat on October 29. Her six and half years of service to this community have deepened our knowledge of Torah, held us in times of trouble, and lifted us up in times of joy. Rabbi Rappaport presided at several meaningful events in my spiritual life and insights and text she has shared continue to be a part of my life. Please join us.

Shir Tikvah is making several *temporary* arrangements to fill in parts of Rabbi Rappaport's portfolio. Rabbi Latz will be working with leadership over the coming months to help us determine what skills/job descriptions/person(s) will best suit Shir Tikvah's needs.

In the meantime, we will continue to learn with Rabbi David Thomas. Rabbi Thomas will be teaching our Soulful Jewish Living Class, working with some conversion students, occasionally leading services and offering Divrei Torah, and teaching his monthly Shabbat morning Torah study class. Rabbi Thomas retired from Congregation [Beth El in Sudbury, MA](#) in 2018. He is a Senior Rabbinic Fellow of the [Shalom Hartman Institute](#). He has also served as a board member for the Central Conference of American Rabbis and was co-chair of the Joint Commission on Rabbinic Mentoring.

Also helping to temporarily assist us will be Aaron Berc, who will work as our Rabbinic Intern. Aaron will provide support to our conversion program, *t'filah*, and help us develop opportunities for Jewish learning and practice throughout the year. Aaron spent the last four and a half years as a Community Organizer at [Jewish Community Action](#), working on issues related to affordable housing, community development, gentrification, and displacement. As he steps away from community organizing as a profession, Aaron shared "he's excited to support spiritual life at Shir Tikvah while he takes prerequisites and applies to rabbinical school."

### **Financial update**

We are just about to close the final books on the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021. The board and the finance committee got their updates at the beginning of the month (thank you to great staff work by Alison Olig and Courtney Nguyen). The outside reviewing agency—a process we use every year—will then give their appraisal and report. I am pleased to say that the last year was a strong one for Shir Tikvah fiscally, both because of one-time grant funds and because of a more consistent level of support from our members. We still have work to do to establish ourselves more firmly on solid financial ground, but we've made great strides as a community in the last two years. Thank you.

### **Meet some members?**

I took a holiday during our Holy Days from chasing members for biographies. Please help a *shul* [schlemiel](#) out and send me some stuff to share!

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

*Bruce*

Bruce Manning, Shir Tikvah Board President

