

Shir Tikvah has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Gendler Grapevine Project enabling us to begin transformation of our grounds into a model of sustainable land use- creating our *Gan Tikvah- Garden of Hope*. The project will include replacing lawn with native prairie plants, installing raingardens, expanding our existing onsite vegetable garden, adding apple and cherry trees, and hosting beehives. These steps will further our sustainability efforts by lowering our water use, capturing carbon, producing food, creating habitat for bees and butterflies, and protecting the watershed, while engaging congregants of all ages in meaningful volunteer activities.

The Gendler Grapevine Project is a six-year initiative that promotes activities within the Jewish and interfaith communities that honor and support the values affirmed by Rabbi Everett Gendler. The project facilitates the creation of effective, innovative and replicable programs that celebrate the deep connections between Jewish traditions, social justice and the environment, helping others transform their words and ideas into activities that will make a difference not only in their own lives but also for those around them.

The project is spearheaded by our Climate Change Minyan, a new committee of our established Tikkun Olam Working Group. Among the concrete actions that the minyan has already taken to shrink our congregational carbon footprint and call attention to the alignment of Jewish values with environmental stewardship are:

- Shir Tikvah's solar powered Ner Tamid, installed and dedicated in December 2014
- Ongoing energy-efficient lighting upgrades and a complete energy audit of the building
- A well -attended learning activity on Tu B'Shevat (the "Jewish Earth Day") that prompted congregants to commit to a positive action on climate change
- Initiating organics recycling (curbside compost collection)
- Launch of a Book Club- beginning with the reading of *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate*.

Shir Tikvah is positioned to take "greening" our congregation to the next level through the creation of our *Gan Tikvah- Garden of Hope* which we hope will serve as inspiration and a blueprint for congregants, neighbors and other faith communities wishing to engage in similar activities. To volunteer contact Zoe Nicholie: [nicholiezoe01@gmail.com](mailto:nicholiezoe01@gmail.com). Additional grant funding is being sought; to donate in support of this project, direct your contribution to the Tikkun Olam Fund: <http://shirtikvah.net/SupportUs>. For any addition information, please contact John Humleker, Executive Director at Shir Tikvah, [john@shirtikvah.net](mailto:john@shirtikvah.net), or by phone: 612-822-1440