

All,

The Shir Tikvah board typically does not meet in July and this year was no exception. Welcome back to Rabbi Latz, who finished up three years of scholarship and fellowship at the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, congratulations to Noam and Rabbi Lekach-Rosenberg on the birth of their beautiful child, and gratitude to Rabbi Rappaport for keeping us all so well these past weeks. I hope your shabbats have been restful and if this summer allowed a vacation or a [staycation](#), I hope you have found yourself recharged and renewed. The time of our religious recommitment is just around the corner.

High Holy Days

At the end of September, we will be returning to South Minneapolis for High Holy Days 2019/5779-80, hosted by our friends at [St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community](#). We will use their worship space in the gym, attached to a school on their campus. That gym will be free of christological symbols and should hold more than 800 of us. Our clergy team, with support from Sara Lahyani and the rest of our staff, have been visiting there recently to make sure that we have good sound, good light, and good sightlines. Look for the mailer coming soon!

Please also know that at the board's upcoming August meeting, we will be hearing a thorough report from the Safety and Security Committee. We expect to add thousands of dollars of security-related expenses to our budget and to hire professionals to work with our volunteers to provide additional security measures during High Holy Days. I remain deeply grateful to the Committee for the work and for bringing their individual perspectives and professional experiences to bear as we maintain an environment for worship that is warm, welcome and safe. If you are interested in helping create this particular aspect of our community or serving as an usher during High Holy Days, please contact [Jeremy Kalin](#) or [Sara Lahyani](#).

Facilities updates

Last month I wrote to let you know that the Minneapolis Park Board's strategic plan, depending on how it might be implemented, could affect our current location (see the [Minnehaha Creek master plan](#) and [Lynnhurst master plan](#)). While the rec center we use for four classrooms on Sundays is still slated for closing—to be replaced with a building that might or might not have similar space—I can say that the proposal to close Minnehaha Parkway south of 50th Street for a few blocks was retracted due to neighborhood opposition.

We continue our work of discernment about co-location with First Universalist. Lay leaders have also used this summer to reflect on what we have learned about ourselves, our needs, and our community through the process of thinking about moving. Shir Tikvah is a collective of talented, dedicated and kind individuals, who give freely of our time, our smiles, our hugs, our wallets, our voices, to help define and create a synagogue community like no other. It is an honor and a pleasure to come back from my own vacation to the opportunity to continue volunteering here.

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

In hope,
Bruce

