



Shir Tikvah
שיר תקווה

Rabbi Michael Adam Latz
Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Debra Rappaport
Associate Rabbi
Director of Lifelong Learning

John Humleker
Executive Director

Wendy Goldberg
Director of Spiritual Engagement

Sara Lahyani
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Crystal Cochran
Clergy Assistant

Rabbi Stacy K. Offner
Founding Rabbi Emerita

Dear Shir Tikvah,

Seven years ago, I was a third-grade teacher, twenty years into my teaching career and needing to make a change. “I’ll never work in a synagogue” was something I had said throughout those years, and I refrained from working on weekends and evenings, especially as Dan and I added Maya and Noam to our family.

In 2010, when I found myself at a transition point, Ray Levi suggested I speak with Rabbi Latz and see if it might be a good match for me. I was pretty adamant that it wouldn’t be, but within an hour of meeting with Rabbi Latz, it was clear that working at Shir Tikvah was bashert. Dan and I said, “Hey, for one year, it’s a part-time weekend and evening gig. We’ll make it work.”

Yet this part-time job grew. And grew. Beautifully. Within a short time I was in a full-time role that moved me to my core. I have loved what I have done here. Over seven years I have proudly described the work that I do, but more than that, enthusiastically boasted about the incredible people of this community. Each of you has inspired me more than the next. You have moved me, inspired me, challenged me in the most delightful ways, and brought me more joy than I can describe. I have loved celebrating with you, mourning with you, laughing, crying, singing, and feasting with you.

But seven years into this adventure, I need to spend time with my family in a different way; the dynamics of my personal life are such that I need to shift my attention and time and so I need to shift my relationship to Shir Tikvah. I have decided to step away from my position as Director of Spiritual Engagement when my contract ends June 30. Please know that this decision did not come easily. But it is time for me to be available to my family in a very different way.

I am looking forward to my continued role as B’nei Mitzvah coordinator, with students, parents, tutors, and teachers who inspire me so much.

I wish I could have shared this news with each of you individually, given the depth of our connection. However, I look forward to spending time with you in the coming months to acknowledge what we’ve shared in these seven years. The list is long and pretty amazing. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for opening yourselves up to me, to my husband Dan, and to our kids, Maya and Noam, who have also come to love Shir Tikvah.

With much love and appreciation,

Wendy
Director of Spiritual Engagement & B’nei Mitzvah Coordinator