



Shabbat Ki Tetze/11 Elul 5777  
September 1, 2017

Shabbat Shalom!

I have been nourished in my first weeks at Shir Tikvah by incredible, heartfelt conversation, activism and prayer. Thank you for welcoming me in! For all of you whom I have yet to meet - I really look forward to finding time to connect in the weeks and months to come. Please don't hesitate to send me an email, to come up to me after service, or to wave at me across the sanctuary. I can't wait to meet you!

The Shir Tikvah choir began its rehearsals two weeks ago and its 60 members have been digging into the musical bounty of our High Holy Days liturgy, under the amazing leadership of our beloved choir director, Marlys Fiterman.

This week, the choir learned a piyut (a liturgical poem) that was written in Spain in the 13th century that kicks off the Rosh HaShanah service in Sefardi communities. The poet, Rabbi Avraham Hazan Girundi, imagines the people of Israel as an Ahot Ketana - a little sister - who sings about all of the struggles from the year just ending. The sister repeats the refrain: May this year and its curses come to an end!

Singing this piyut, so many of us breathed a sigh of relief. The piyut allowed us to sing out our own grief, frustration, anger, and hope about this difficult year. We marveled at the way that music can collapse time. Here we were: 60 souls in Minneapolis, praying fervently for an end to the curses of this year, and the words of a poet from 13th century Spain fit our mood so perfectly!

As this week draws to an end, I am grateful that we are returning again as a community to Shabbat, where we will sing and reconnect with each other and recommit ourselves to the rest that nourishes us for the struggle ahead. May we be surprised by the ways our liturgy, our music, our traditions provide us with the tools necessary to give voice to our longing and hope.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Arielle Rosenberg