

All,

A Jew might begin her day with [Modah Ani](#), our traditional morning prayer whose opening words are “I thank you.” It is a daily reminder that gratitude has a regular and ritualized place in our tradition. The second-century scholar [Shimon Ben Zoma](#) reminds us to appreciate the hard work of others when he observes “How much labor must Adam have expended before he obtained a garment to wear! He sheared and washed the wool, combed and spun it, wove, and after that he obtained a garment to wear. By contrast, I get up in the morning and find all this prepared for me. All artisans attend and come to the door of my house, and I get up and find all these things before me.”

If you were one of the more than 900 people who attended High Holy Days with us, you may have already said your thank yous but still, let me do so again for all of us. Let us see all the work and share our thank yous, the *Hakarat HaTov* (“celebrating the good”):

To St. Joan of Arc for hosting us, not as landlords to tenants but as embodiments of generosity and grace, and to the Southside Family Charter School who vacated even spaces we didn’t use so that we might move freely about the campus;

To Alison Olig for expertly handling her first High Holy Days as Shir Tikvah’s Executive Director;

To Sara Lahyani for all the things, large and small, from lead ambassador to St. Joan’s to break-fast and so much more;

To Forrest Yesnes and his team of teachers and caregivers for managing a large army of small children through youth services and childcare;

To Courtney Nguyen, who set up break-fast and also accounted for [your donations](#);

To Nikolina Erickson-Gunther for every little detail;

To Aaron Kapaun, our new choral director, and the choir, for uplifting melodies, new and old, and to our congregant musicians who surprise and delight;

To Jeremy Kalin and the entire safety and security volunteer team for new work thoughtfully handled;

To the greeters and the ushers and the chanters and those who made appeals and the chair straighteners and the janitors and all of you who made our time at St. Joan of Arc as smooth as I could have hoped;

To Rabbi Latz, Rabbi Rappaport and Rabbi Lekach-Rosenberg for soaring words, for comforting hugs, for challenging sermons, for small moments of humor—in short, for connecting us to and illuminating all the richness of our tradition.

Still more fall Holy Days

Sukkah events are happening [all week](#) at Shir Tikvah. RSVP for the *Simchat Torah* [congregational dinner](#) and show up for the service and revelry this Sunday, October 20 (Torah study at 5pm, dinner at 5:30pm, services at 6:25pm).

Checking in

The Board is feeling very good about the successful start to 5780—success which can be measured in so [many pretty dimensions](#). In between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, in a break with tradition, we held a Board meeting. We did not conduct regular business but finished our three-meeting arc reflecting on our goals and responsibilities. In part, we engaged in seasonally appropriate *t'shuvah*, investigated where we may have fallen short, and committed ourselves to doing better in the year to come. Some of the things we want Shir Tikvah to do better are to tell, more frequently and widely, its many stories, to better invite people in to create and support the community, and to make sure we're hearing people. If you have specific suggestions about how we partner together to help prepare, welcome, and support members of the community during future High Holy Days (or if you want to affirm any of the thank-yous above!), can you please [let me know](#)?

A record!

Shown below at the Yom Kippur food drive drop-off are STiFTY officers Aliya Appelsies, Nora Cornell, Noa Simon-Latz, Raina Kronfeld, Maya Halpern, and Isaac Landecker, pointing somewhat ironically at two grocery bags:



Congratulations to all of you for helping STiFTY set a Shir Tikvah record for food shelf donations—for what we collected (a little over 3000 pounds) and for what the [Aliveness Project](#) has ever received!

A Shir Tikvah Museum

If you read the multi-page multi-color brochure at High Holy Days on engagement opportunities at Shir Tikvah, you may have noticed a small item announcing that we are starting a congregant-driven and congregant-curated museum space. We are inviting folks to temporarily display, perhaps for a month, a piece of their own Judaica, a story about it, and a photo of themselves or their family. Through this project, which will go into a new secured cabinet in the *oneg* hall, we hope to learn more about each other and the breadth of our beautiful stuff! Thank you to Gay Grieter, Rachel Orzoff and Claude Reidel for their leadership of this new committee. If you'd like to learn more or participate, contact chair [Gay](#).

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

In hope,
Bruce

