

Shir Hadash Goes "Green"

In October 2015, Shir Hadash commissioned a 117,000 watt solar panel system. The solar system will reduce our carbon dioxide emission by nearly 106 tons a year, which is the equivalent of planting more than 4,200 trees each year. In the next 25 years, the energy saved will be the equivalent of planting 108,976 trees or reducing automobile use by over 4 million miles. The system will save Shir Hadash more than \$20,000 per year in energy costs, and will pay for itself in about seven and a half years.

Glenn Graff, President of Shir Hadash, says, "Our traditions teach us about the obligation of Tikkun Olam—to repair the world. Over its life, the solar system will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2,724 tons of carbon dioxide. That is an amazing statistic for just one congregation!"

The Synagogue was awarded a grant of \$240,000 by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) to help fund the project.



Shir Hadash Founding Rabbi Eitan Weiner-Kaplow embraces the pillars of community, creativity, and caring to enhance the practice of Judaism and ensure "L'dor vador"—from generation to generation. He was ordained at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and holds degrees in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Middle Eastern archaeology from Rutgers. He was recently awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity.



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Shir Hadash and Reconstructionist Judaism

For more information, visit our website at www.shir-hadash.org, email office@shir-hadash.org, or call (847) 498-8218.

What You'll Find at Shir Hadash

- Our caring Rabbi, Eitan Weiner-Kaplow, who brings meaning and music to every Shabbat service, b'nai mitzvah, lifecycle event, and religious school service.
- Our creative Director of Lifelong Learning, Rabbi Scott "Seeg" Segal, who oversees our children's programming, teen programming, adult education, and religious school.
- Our one-day-a-week religious school, which meets on Sundays and offers a full Jewish and Hebrew program along with Israeli dance, music, drama, and art.
- An engaging teen program that includes our BBYO chapter, a "Chai Tech" class for high school students, and our madrichim program for teens interested in helping at our school.
- Tikkun Olam, social action to heal the world, through annual blood drives, helping out local soup kitchens, and much more.
- Adult programming such as adult education classes and social activities, including our book group, men's club, theater outings, and more.

Shir Hadash and Reconstructionist Judaism

Sometimes we get so caught up in explaining what Reconstructionist Judaism is that we forget to tell you why Shir Hadash is the right choice for you and your family. But before we talk about how Reconstructionist Judaism is different, let's talk about how it's the same Judaism that you know and love.

In most ways, Shir Hadash will feel familiar to you. We celebrate Shabbat, the Jewish holidays, and the High Holidays with creative worship services led by Rabbi Eitan Weiner-Kaplow. Our services include many of the same prayers as a Conservative service, but with a more dynamic approach. Like a Reform synagogue, we freely incorporate musical instruments into our services. And we incorporate new music and all of the arts as we explore spirituality.

In our religious school, students develop a strong Jewish identity. They learn Torah, prayer, Hebrew, Jewish ethics and history, the holidays, and about the Holocaust and the State of Israel. They are well prepared to lead their bar or bat mitzvah service.

But we are not a cookie cutter congregation. We follow the conventions but we are not conventional. What sets Shir Hadash apart? Our emphasis on our community as we engage in Tikkun Olam—social action to make the world a better place; our creative worship services, featuring music, dance, and drama; and the way we care for each other through good times and bad. We call them the three Cs—Community, Creativity, Caring.

Another reason we stand out from the rest is that we are a Reconstructionist synagogue. Reconstructionist Judaism is a progressive movement that makes Judaism relevant to contemporary life, with an emphasis on social action, the arts, and community, while still honoring tradition. We constantly experiment with new ways of worshipping, studying, and strengthening the community to make our Jewish experience more meaningful.

Inclusive, egalitarian, democratic, welcoming of interfaith families, pluralistic, participatory, innovative, and with diverse ideas about God, Reconstructionist Judaism infuses the wisdom of traditional Judaism with modern sensibilities. You will be amazed at how great it feels to practice Judaism in a way that is meaningful and relevant to your life.

We'd love to have you join us at services or pay a visit to our religious school so you can see for yourself why Shir Hadash is the right choice for you and your family.

