

**PROCLAMATION
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
CONGREGATION SHIR TIKVAH**

WHEREAS, Congregation Shir Tikvah has met the religious needs of Troy residents and beyond since first opening their doors on April 22, 1983; and

WHEREAS, The roots of **Congregation Shir Tikvah** began in 1979 when United Hebrew Schools opened a branch in Troy. With a desire to bring the High Holy Days closer to home, 18 families joined together in 1982 at an organizational meeting which grew to 48 families who very enthusiastically agreed to form the Troy Jewish Congregation; and

WHEREAS, As the Troy Jewish Congregation, the families led weekly services under the guidance of a religious ritual committee which had been formed. These early days as the Troy Jewish Congregation were a hands-on operation which instilled a participatory heritage that continues to flourish today; and

WHEREAS, The Troy Jewish Congregation was able to expand with the support and donation of space from other local religious institutions including Emerson Unitarian Church, Lutheran Church of the Master and Northminster Presbyterian Church. In 1988, the congregation changed its name to **Congregation Shir Tikvah**, meaning Song of Hope, to emulate its foundation on tradition and in 1990 Arnie Sleutelberg became their first full-time rabbi; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, with membership at 240 families, they approved the financial plan leading to a permanent home and the groundbreaking took place in October 1996 and the new Shul was dedicated on May 3, 1998; and

WHEREAS, The changes that **Congregation Shir Tikvah** has seen in the last 25 years are remarkable as they have grown to more than 350 families. From a time when families led the services to now, when the congregation is served by two rabbis, Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg and Rabbi Aaron Starr, the spiritual growth is evident as well; and

WHEREAS, Congregation Shir Tikvah has influenced this community in a variety of ways, including the development of the Sam and Jean Frankel Family Education Program in 1992; the implementation of various programs, such as Empty Bowls, Light One Candle and hosting homeless families from the South Oakland Shelter. Shir Tikvah is also a founding partner of the Troy Interfaith Group which represents the wonderful religious diversity in Troy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council does hereby congratulate **Congregation Shir Tikvah on its 25th Anniversary** and recognizes its impact upon not only its membership, but on the entire community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council joins the citizens of this community in appreciation and celebration of **Congregation Shir Tikvah's 25th Anniversary** as they enter into their next quarter century by bringing to life a celebration stretching back two millennia – the writing of a new Sefer Torah. "May-cha-yeel el cha-yeel, L'Dor V'Dor." May we go from strength to strength, from generation to generation.

Presented this 7th day of April 2008.