



PATHFINDER

What Makes a Great Rabbi?

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Recently one of my rabbinic mentors retired from the pulpit. I had the opportunity to share some thoughts about him. They remind me about what makes for a sacred community.

People often ask me why I became a rabbi. I can answer in two words: "Ron Shapiro." I suspect at least a dozen others of us who grew up at Congregation Shalom, which he led for 35 years, could say the same. Role models teach us more than any book can. We know the truth of a statement attributed to Abraham Joshua Heschel. When asked how to nurture effective spiritual leaders, he said, **"We do not need more text-books. We need more "text-people."** A text-person embodies the values we cherish. He or she delivers a sermon with his life, not just his words. Think back to the people who inspired you. What made them great?

For my teacher, Ron Shapiro, what made him great was that he fulfilled the role the Bible ascribes to a religious leader: He was a shepherd. He shepherded his flock through difficult times. He shepherded their souls and their bodies. He was there when it mattered.

Why did God Choose Moses?

A story is told about a young Moses. He was out one day shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro. He noticed one sheep was missing. He found the baby sheep by a brook. Moses then lifted the sheep and carried him back to the flock. It was then that God chose Moses to lead the people out of Egypt. *He knew that a man who cared so much for one sheep would be the greatest shepherd for the flock of Israel.*

Life is With People

Ron Shapiro has been an extraordinary shepherd. I remember him shepherding my family through so much. And I remember the gleam in his eye and the smile on his face as he blessed me when I became a Bar Mitzvah. It is because of Ron that I chose to serve a congregation. It is within a community of people we see and grow with over the years that we can make the greatest difference. It is within a sacred community that we share and sanctify the key moments of life.

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Cantor Glikin's Desk — A Time to Plant

As the seasons have changed in the course of the past couple of weeks, I have found myself in my garden. This year, we have decided to expand our garden, planting vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers, radishes, and zucchini in a fenced off area of our backyard rather than in pots, as we had done in the years past. As we carefully placed seeds into the ground, lovingly covered them up with earth, and watered each one, it occurred to me that planting is an act of true faith.

When we plant a seed, we have no idea if it will actually come up. We do not have any guarantees about the outcome. We cannot control the process. We can provide favorable conditions by planting the right kind of a plant for the given climate conditions, but beyond that there is very little that is certain or absolute. Ultimately, we plant and we water and we fence, but most importantly....we hope. We hope that our plant will come up, that it will be strong, that it will bear fruit. We plant because we have faith in the process, because we believe that there is a chance that what comes up will have been worth the effort.

Of course, if my tomato plants do not bear fruit, I will be disappointed, but my life will not be terribly upset. I will go to the store and purchase tomatoes. These store-purchased tomatoes most certainly will not taste as good as the tomatoes that I grow with my own two hands, but they will do just fine. However, I cannot help, but think of our ancestors. Unlike our generation many of whom are almost entirely removed from the earth, our ancestors were farmers whose very existence depended on the harvest from the land. This connection to the land is at the core of Judaism. And, it is not simply a connection to the land, but a connection to something beyond us, intertwined with a sense of hope and faith. Hope that everything will turn out for the best. Faith that we are not alone on our journey. This combination of hope and faith is something that has sustained our people for generations. Whether we realize it or not, it is something that we have inherited from our ancestors.

As I consider this further, I recognize that though we may or may not be doing so in our backyard gardens, we are constantly planting new seeds and exercising our faith. Parenting is an act of faith. We plant a seed, we do the best we can with our children, and we hope and pray that the lessons that we have taught them will be the right ones. We hope and pray that our children will be safe and healthy, that when the time comes they will make good choices. Opening ourselves up to new relationships is an act of faith. We may have been hurt in the past, but we dare not close ourselves off indefi-

nately. It takes faith to plant this seed and care to sustain it, but we plant it even as we may be afraid of being hurt again. In fact, trying anything new – whether a new job or a new exercise class – is an act of faith. The risks may be high, or they may be minimal, but planting any new seed requires hope and a sense of faith because there are simply no guarantees in life.

We do not know what will come up when we plant. We can only hope for the best and have faith in the fact that we are not alone, that the process will work out as it should. In fact, much of the time, life is less about the outcome and more about the process. So, as we find ourselves in this time of planting seeds and the beginnings of an early harvest, I invite you to consider the following: What seeds are you planting? What are you hoping for? Where in your life are you exercising acts of faith? What do you hope to harvest when the time comes? The answers to these questions just might inspire you to hope in a new way, to trust more, to expand your horizons to new challenges and opportunities, and to plant new seeds this season.

- Cantor Vicky Glikin
cantorglikin@gmail.com

Calling all Photographers & Videographers!!



Do you like to videotape and take pictures? You can help Solel capture its treasured moments! Solel is looking to create an audio-visual archive of the many incredible events that take place within our sacred walls. If you would be willing to help take pictures or videotape at events throughout the year, then this is an opportunity for you! We are happy to provide the equipment if needed.

You can help as often as you would like! Please help us to capture the moments that make Solel the special community that it is!

To sign up and with any questions, please be in touch with Rachel Meltzer at rachel.meltzer@sbcglobal.net.

From Our President

It is a great honor to become president of Solel. First I want to thank our outgoing president, Michael Ebner. Over the past two years, Michael has led us wisely, with deep affection for our community, and deep commitment to our past and our future. A new president could not ask for a better teacher – and I am very grateful for his guidance and friendship.

I was born as our building was being built and I grew up with tremendous respect for the men and women who served as president of Congregation Solel. My father, Donald Lowitz z'l was Solel president from 1977 to 1979 and he loved that responsibility. Five years later, he was appointed US Ambassador to the UN Conference on Disarmament, and when asked how he learned to be a diplomat, he said it was his experience as president of Congregation Solel.

It is my hope that I will not need to learn diplomacy over the next two years – and I don't think I will. In fact, I think I have the good fortune to become president of Congregation Solel when the job is pretty easy. As I considered assuming this responsibility, I realized just how strong Solel is and how great the opportunities are for the future. As I said at the annual meeting, everything we need is right here.

We have a beautiful, well-maintained building. After meeting the challenge of needing to install fire sprinklers, and using that opportunity to renovate our sanctuary and lounge, we have a nicely updated 50+ year old building. Like many of us with “older” homes, there is ongoing work, but our house committee treats Solel with the combination of thrift and thoroughness that avoids the surprises of deferred maintenance and gives us a physical spiritual home that we can be proud of. (Our family recently hosted Adele's Bat Mitzvah celebration at Solel and the building shined!)

Our financial status is relatively strong. While our budget is tight, our congregants make it possible for us to do the things we want to do as a community. We have a top flight religious school, wonderful adult education, and outstanding clergy and staff. To continue to assure our financial strength, we are going to update the congregant commitment package that goes out this month. The new material will help put each congregant's commitment in perspective and hopefully encourage continued generous support.

The Solel community is amazing. As I get to know more and more fellow congregants, it is gratifying to see how

the ideals of our community permeate our diverse population. To a person, Solelites have made an affirmative decision to join a congregation with our values and practices. In addition, our lay leadership is thoughtful and engaged. The dedication of our board members and other volunteers keeps our congregation vital.

And finally, our clergy, who it is hard to remember are relatively new, are truly exceptional. To be blessed with both Rabbi Moffic and Cantor Glikin is almost unfair, and I know we are the envy of synagogues across the country. The energy, wisdom, love, and care that Rabbi Moffic and Cantor Glikin bring to our congregational family is a new foundation for what makes Solel, Solel.

So when we think about the next two years – the years leading up to the 60th anniversary of the founding of Solel – we do not have to change, we just have to be more Solel. Everything we need is right here. We have the people and the facility, the affection and the relationships, the intellect, the spirit, and the economic resources that we need. What we have may lead us to Selma, or Waukegan, or some other place, but it all starts right here with what we already have.

- Josh Lowitz
(312) 339-5411
president@solel.org

Shabbat Picnics in Fink Park!



July 17 & 31

5:30 pm Picnic
6:15 pm Service

*Share Shabbat with your friends & family!
Bring your own picnic dinner and stay for
the Shabbat Service in Fink Park. Bring a
blanket & enjoy the beautiful summer
weather!*

**Feel free to call (847)433-3555 or
email soleloffice@solel.org with any
questions.**

Michael Ebner's Remarks at the 58th Annual Meeting

(May 15, 2015)

Congregation Solel has represented a significant place in our family's life, virtually from the moment we arrived in Illinois forty-one years ago. As to the chapter I complete this evening, I regard it as a most gratifying experience.

Preparing to begin this journey two years ago, I had the good fortune to read a wonderful book entitled, *Places of Faith: A Road Trip Across America's Religious Landscape* (Oxford University Press, 6457), co-authored by Christopher P. Scheitle and Roger Fink. A single sentence in this fine book struck a chord: "Congregations are the anchor of American religion... the influence of congregations consistently extends into the larger neighborhood, community, and culture." When I encountered this wonderful sentiment it instantly brought to mind our cherished Congregation Solel.

Your choice to participate in our 58th Annual Meeting signals that you are keenly interested in the current and future status of this congregation. My report this evening is forward looking as well as affirmative. *But* I will itemize, as you would expect of me, a key challenge before us.

What did I learn over the past twenty-four months Plenty! I consider myself so very fortunate to have collaborated with our clergy, administrators, staff, officers and directors of Congregation Solel, learning a good deal along the way. For anyone who might despair about the future of congregational life in America, I wish to say that unequivocally this is not the case within our congregation. Rabbi Mofic and Cantor Glikin, collaboratively and individually, have brought immense energy and spirit to Congregation Solel. Each of them is recognized in our metropolitan region, nationally, and internationally. They are dynamic leaders of Reform Judaism and Congregation Solel is so very fortunate to serve as their spiritual home.

Some years ago our senior-most past president – Arthur Segil – implored a group of congregants to remain true to our beginnings as a lay-led congregation. Arthur, I can assure you that those discussions imparted an indelible impression. Today this faith community is blessed by a generation of leaders who have demonstrated over and over again their

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Mark Your Calendars & Invite Your Friends!!!

June 14, 3:00 pm: Kol Zimrah Concert with special guest Cantor Vicky Glikin

June 26: Shabbat Shalom
5:30 pm- pizza, 6:15 pm- service

July 10, 6:45pm: Meet & Greet with new Director of Congregational Learning Ashley Plotnick. Appetizers & festive oneg following the service at 7:30 pm! Bring your kids!

July 11, 10:30 am: Pray 'n Play

July 17, 5:30 pm: BYO Picnic & Shabbat Service (6:15 pm) at Fink Park

July 31, 5:30 pm: BYO Picnic & Shabbat Shalom (6:15 pm) at Fink Park

August 1, 10:30 am: Pray 'n Play

August 4, 7:00 pm: Prospective Member Open House

August 28, 5:30 pm: Annual BBQ (advance registration required)

Details at www.solel.org & the Shavu'on.

JUF Spring Brunch

at Congregation Solel

Sunday, June 7 at 11:00 am

Guest Speaker:
Jacqueline Saper



RSVP to JUF:
www.juf.org/Solel or
lisaherst@juf.org or (312)444-2838

Jacqueline Saper was born in Tehran, Iran to an English mother and an Iranian father. As the daughter of a university professor, she was raised in the capital city during the 1960s and 1970s. During the late 1970s, she witnessed and lived through the civil uprising that rapidly swept through the country in revolutionary Iran. It was during that time that she also became a newlywed and after the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, she relocated to the southern city of Shiraz. Jacqueline Saper will delve into an understanding of the Middle East in general and Iran specifically, relating details about Iran's rich history, culture, people.

Jacqueline Saper graduated (Summa Cum laude) with a BS in Business from Northeastern Illinois University, and earned the C.P.A. designation from The Board of Examiners at the University of Illinois. She has served as a faculty member at Oakton Community College's Business and Accounting Department, and has also spent most of her career in synagogue management and religious education. She is also a graduate of the Hadassah Leadership Academy and the Florence Melton School (Morasha), for educators.



KOL ZIMRAH Voice of Song

Richard Boldrey
music director

Cantor Pavel Roytman
music director designate

Cantor Vicky Glikin
featured soloist

and fellow Solel congregants
Carol Adelman, Joan Eagle,
Judith Golden, Shelley Plager,
Wendy Rhodes, Beth Sanchez,
and Barbara Weiner

**A concert to benefit
Kol Zimrah Jewish Community
Singers and its mission to
share and preserve the great
tradition of Jewish choral
music**

Sunday, June 14, 2015, 3pm
Congregation Solel
1301 Clavey Road
Highland Park

For tickets contact the Solel office
847.433.3555 or soleloffic@solel.org

Mensch \$36 (preferred seating)
General \$20
Cash or check payable to Kol Zimrah

www.kolzimrah.org

An Interfaith Experience of Israel and the West Bank

Led by Rabbi Emeritus Dov Taylor

I have a dear friend who is Jewish to the core and supports the BDS movement—Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions—intended to pressure Israel to end its forty-eight year occupation of the West Bank and to reach an agreement leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state. He’s never been to Israel and he won’t make the trip with me this time either because he says he’s afraid he might like it too much! He’s a died-in-the-wool socialist from a middle class family in Borough Park, Brooklyn who always sides with the underdog—which he did for forty years as a physician in Boston’s North End, often treating patients at no charge or for payment-in-kind.

And I have another friend—a classmate and colleague with whom I share a fifty-year friendship—whose father-in-law (a German-born rabbi) served as a chaplain during World War II and was among the first to enter the death camps and minister to the survivors of that horror. He’s adamantly opposed to the idea of a Palestinian state. When I ask him why, he says, “We have six million reasons.”

I love these two friends whose views are diametrically opposed to each other. Their certainties are impervious to reason or experience, and in many ways they represent the polarization of the American Jewish community. Sometimes I want to cry.

But more than enough tears have already been shed by Israelis and Palestinians who have lost loved ones to this seemingly intractable conflict. As the Persian poet Omar Khayyam reminds us in the *Rubaiyat*:

The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit,
Shall lure it back to cancel half a
Line,
Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of
it.

Anyone who has read Uri Shavit’s *My Promised Land* or any other balanced view knows that there’s enough blame to go around. This isn’t a matter of

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Israel is in the midst of a battle for public opinion — waged primarily in the media. HonestReporting exposes cases of bias, promotes balance, and effects change through education.

Friday, June 19 at 7:30 pm

CONGREGATION SOLEL WELCOMES

**HonestReporting US Director
Gary Kenzer**

**Israel in the News...
comparing how news gets
reported with what really
happens and what we can do
about it!**

***A great topic for parents and children to
watch and discuss together***

Human Needs Committee Provides Tzedakah from Solel

The mission of the Human Needs Committee is to provide a congregational presence in the giving of *tzedakah*. Giving is themed around *Building and Supporting Community*.

The committee looks to fund projects in our community and beyond with a focus on basic human needs where our contributions can make a difference. This builds on Solel's tradition of Social Action.

Funds are used to:

- Assist Solel congregants with emergency and/or one time needs
- Support organizations that reflect Reform Jewish values
- Help provide disaster relief

Congregants facing a financial crisis are asked to speak privately with Rabbi Moffic or Cantor Glikin. If she/he feels it is appropriate, the Human Needs Fund may be used to assist the family. In such cases, the congregants' identity is not shared with the committee.

The Human Needs Fund has traditionally received most of its funding as a part of congregant's choosing to donate to the fund at the time of their annual dues commitment. We are appealing to congregants to designate the Human Needs Fund when making a donation to honor or memorialize someone. This will assure that funding will continue to be available.

The Committee's Board Liaison is Cynthia Plouche and the Chair is Phil Kaplan. Members are Dottie Zoller, Susan Altfeld, Holly Lichtman, Carol Miller and Jim Rosenbaum. Membership is open to any congregant.

This year, the Human Needs fund provided \$17,050 to the following:

- **American Jewish World Service-** \$1,000 for Nepal Earthquake Emergency Relief Fund.
- **American Friends of Magen David Adom-** \$1,800.
- **The ARK-** \$1,000 for their Café Ark program.
- **Community Partners for Affordable Housing** - \$3,000 to support service days at affordable housing sites in Highland Park. Congregants will be able to paint, clean up and do yard work at houses recently acquired by CPAH that will be made available for income-qualified buyers.
- **Waukegan to College-** \$2,500.

- **Moraine Township Food Pantry** fresh foods program- \$1,800.
- **College Bound Opportunities-** \$1,500 for student support and scholarships.
- **Hands of Peace-** \$1,200.
- **Illinois Holocaust Museum-** \$1,000.
- **OSRUI Camperships-** \$500.
- **Family Service Nuestro Center-** \$500
- **Blood & Marrow Transplant Information Network-** \$500.
- **Career Resource Center-** \$500.
- **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society-** \$250.

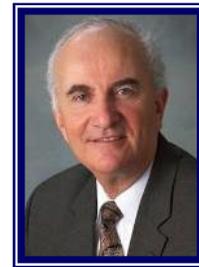
Solel members' contributions to the Human Needs Fund makes a real difference for our community. If you have any questions about Human Needs, please contact the Committee Chair Phil Kaplan at philkaplan@sbcglobal.net.

SAVE THE DATE:

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 13-15, 2015

RABBI DOV TAYLOR RETURNS TO SOLEL



DETAILS REGARDING THE
WEEKEND WILL BE
FORTHCOMING.

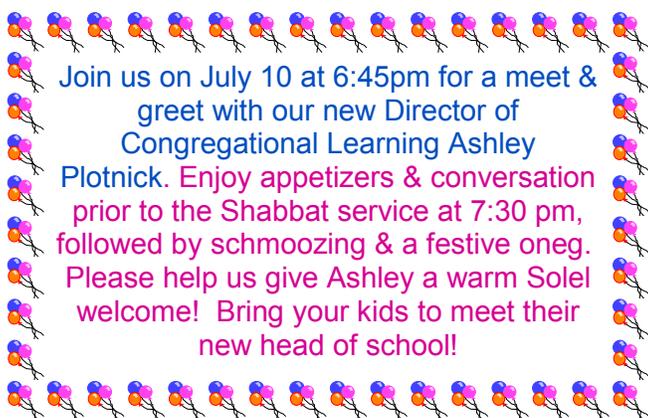


Solel Members Perform Mother's Day Lifesaving Mitzvot

Solel's Mother's Day Spring Blood Drive was a success. Although we expected fewer donations due to Mother's Day, our Solel members displayed their generosity as always. Of the 58 Solel members and other members of the community, who turned out to donate, 51 people successfully donated blood that will supply 153 units of blood to patients who are in need. Among those who donated, we had one member donate with her 17-year-old son and another member donate with her mother. Another member asked her husband to donate as a Mother's Day gift. It was wonderful to see mothers honored in this way.

Due to the higher than usual number of walk-ins, we apologize for the delay some of the donors faced. Although we are grateful for the generosity of ALL donors, both scheduled and walk-ins, we would appreciate your scheduling an appointment in advance, if at all possible, so that Lifesource knows how much staff to allocate to our drive. Having an adequate number of staff eliminates the wait for all donors. In addition, registering online at home on the morning of the drive will also eliminate the time required to register at Solel. We are always trying to find ways to improve the donation process so that it runs as smoothly as possible.

Once Upon a Bagel again donated three-dozen bagels for donors participating in the drive. **Our next Fall Blood Drive will be on Sunday, October 25, 2015. Please save the date and join us.**



Join us on July 10 at 6:45pm for a meet & greet with our new Director of Congregational Learning Ashley Plotnick. Enjoy appetizers & conversation prior to the Shabbat service at 7:30 pm, followed by schmoozing & a festive oneg. Please help us give Ashley a warm Solel welcome! Bring your kids to meet their new head of school!

Downtown Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Moffic

June 3 at noon

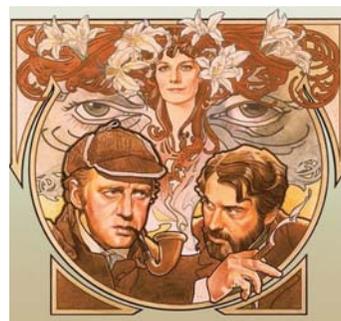
Join Rabbi Evan Moffic for these special classes as he reflects on events of both Jewish and broader public interest.

Please RSVP to Evelyn Brewer
at evelyn@solel.org.

Future Dates:
July 1 & August 5

Solel Film Group Presents: **The Seven-Per-Cent Solution** (Film & Discussion) Tuesday, June 23 at 7:00 pm

Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Sigmund Freud and the Solel Film Group invite you along on an adventure to see the film, **The Seven-Per-Cent-Solution**.



Following the film, Eugene Finerman will moderate a discussion of the film and its portrait of the gilded but tenuous place of Jews in Imperial Vienna.

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC...
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!!**

Congregation Solel Film Committee:
Phil Cohen, Eugene Finerman,
Sandy Kaminsky, and Susan O'Neill

Shabbat Shalom!
A Service for the Whole Family

Friday, June 26



Future Dates:

- July 31 (BYO Picnic)
- August 28
- September 25
- October 30
- November 27
- December 25

With its high energy and casual atmosphere Shabbat Shalom! is the perfect way for families and Solelites of all ages to celebrate Shabbat.

5:30 pm - Pizza dinner
 6:15 pm - Enjoy a warm and meaningful service led by Cantor Glikin and Rabbi Moffic.

Shabbat. Friendship.
 Community. Family. Song.

Pray 'n Play

Saturday, July 11 & August 1
10:30 am at Fink Park

This isn't your ordinary Tot Shabbat!

Join other families with children 0-5 years old for a fun, interactive "Gymboree-style" Shabbat program, featuring music, maracas, puppets & parachutes. Followed by a complimentary bagel brunch & playtime.

Older siblings are welcome to attend!

Led by Cantor Vicky Glikin



Come, sing, play, make friends!!

Torah Team

You're cordially invited to be a part of an elite group of Torah superstars!! Torah Team is looking for volunteers like **YOU** to help read Torah at various times throughout the year!

Please contact Cantor Vicky Glikin at cantorglikin@gmail.com if you're interested and to learn more.

Join the Torah Team!

Strawberry Picking & Canning with Paul & Molly Silverman



A chance to pick and make your own strawberry preserves (or frozen berries) Meet at Solel on Saturday, June 27 at 8:30am sharp. (raindate is June 28)

We will go strawberry picking at Thompson's Strawberry Farm near Kenosha, Wisconsin <http://www.thompsonstrawberryfarm.com/> If you'd rather not pick, berries can be purchased. Upon returning to Highland Park, we will meet at Paul and Molly's home to wash the berries and make preserves.

Please bring a hat, sunscreen and shoes capable of getting muddy in the field. Supplies for canning & freezing will be provided.

RSVP to Paul Silverman at paul_silverman@hotmail.com or (847)321-5786

Thank You For Your Contributions

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Lyla Marder, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Education Fund

Natalie Belrose, in memory of Seymour Tabin

Ruth Goldsmith, in memory of Seymour Tabin

Sandra Gordon and David Leibowitz, in memory of Seymour Tabin

Kaye and Howard Haas, in memory of Seymour Tabin

Martha Jo Mathews, in memory of Seymour Tabin

Gregg Simon, in memory of Seymour Tabin

Charles Stern, in memory of Seymour Tabin

Human Needs Fund

Patrick and Karen Craine, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Judy Goldwasser, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Alan and Carol Greene, in honor of Michael Ebner's outstanding tenure as president

Jory Katlin, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Roy and Janet Lipner, in memory of Marilyn Haiman and Vallys Lipner

Judith Melius, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Music Fund

Joanne and Bob Bernstein, in memory of Larry Adelman

Mary Haber, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Larry and Susan Mason, in memory of Larry Adelman

Shelley Rochelle, in memory of Larry Adelman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Marcia and Bruce Balonick, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Ellen and Lee Gussin, in honor of John Cody's retirement and being honored by the City of Chicago

Tribute Fund

Donna and Richard Abelson, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Gershen and Sally Abraham, in memory of Goldie and Julius Ginsberg

Norma and Oscar Adler, in memory of Otto Kolisch

Howard and Marjorie Barron, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Hy and Eadie Bear, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Rob and Marcie Bearman, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Martin and Brenda Becker, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Ed and Judy Bederman, in memory of Seymour Tabin

Don and Susan Belgrad, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Lorry Borowitz, in memory of Sheldon Karon and Seymour Tabin, and congratulations to the entire new board

Frank Bramson, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Robert and Belinda Brock, in memory of Alfred Brock

Michael and Denise Caplan, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Harvey and Ellen Cohen, in memory of Alice Goldman

Carey Cooper, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Alfred and Terri D'Ancona, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Michael and Darryl Ebner, in memory of Larry Adelman

Tribute Fund (continued)

Thomas and Marina Eovaldi, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Janet Etshokin, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Joyce Fenschel, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Gloria Fischer and Evelyn Klein, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Janet Fisher, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Foley & Lardner, LLP, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Alison Frank, in memory of Herbert Baker

Maxine and Tom Friedman, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Jerrold and Judith Frumm, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Mary Sue Gatzert, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Marilyn and Bob Goldwasser, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Diane Gordon, in memory of Sophie Levenson and Nettie Mednick

Sheri Gordon and Toma, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Robert and Lisa Goss, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Gloria Gottlieb, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Sidney and Sharon Granetz, in honor of Adele Lowitz's Bat Mitzvah

Howard and Kaye Haas, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Meredith Harris, in memory of Seymour Tabin

Richard and Carol Hillsberg, in memory of Beatrice Hillsberg

Howard and Lois Hirschfield, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Ed and Lois Hollander, in honor of Ed and Judy Bederman

Susan Kahn, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Anne Kaplan, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Frank Karger, Jr., in memory of Sheldon Karon

Lonny Karmin, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Dennis and Barbara Kessler, in memory of Larry Adelman

Susan Konop, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Nancy Kullman, in memory of Harry Bekenstein

Lake Shore Country Club, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Betsy and Scott Lassar, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Robert Levy, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Joyce Lewis, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Carolyn Lickerman, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Miriam and David Liebman, in memory of Sheldon Karon

John Mandelbaum and Bruce Larsen, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Sheila and Jack Marks, in memory of Larry Adelman, Doris Marks, and Mandel Marks

Judith Melius, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Linda and Norm Merwise, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Albert and Gwen Miller, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Gordon and Toby Newman, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Raymond and Esther Nusinow, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Patty and Ken Pell, in memory of Sheldon Karon

Ellard and Lorna Pfaelzer, Jr., in memory of Sheldon Karon

Carol and Ron Port, in memory of Sheldon Karon

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Thank You For Your Contributions

Tribute Fund (continued)

David and Amy Pritikin, in memory of Sheldon Karon
Wendy and Wayne Rhodes, in honor of Max Kaplan's Bar Mitzvah & in honor of Holly Krakow's fellowship award
Phyllis and Jack Rosen, in memory of Sheldon Karon
Susan Rubnitz, in memory of Sheldon Karon
Mary and John Seelig, in memory of Sheldon Karon
Susan and Richard Sigel, in memory of Sheldon Karon
Carol Sonnenschein Sadow, in memory of Sheldon Karon
Doris Sternberg, in memory of Sheldon Karon
Frederick and Virginia Uhlmann, in memory of Sheldon Karon
Barbara and Jeffrey Vender, in memory of Sheldon Karon
Barbara Volin, in memory of Gladys Kane, Sheldon Karon, and Courtney Shanken
Waldman Bros., LLP, in memory of Sheldon Karon
Robert and Roberta Washlow, in memory of Ed Washlow
Michael Weinberg, Jr., in memory of Sheldon Karon
Sallie and Bob Wilson, in memory of Sheldon Karon
Sidney and Lorraine Winters, in memory of Arthur Martin
Joseph Yastrow, in memory of Sheldon Karon

As of May 21, 2015

Mazel tov to...

Andy and Richard Amend, on the birth of their grandson, Eli Abram Zakem.

Condolences to...

Carol Adelman, on the passing of her husband, and **Lisa and Adam Kaplan and family**, on the passing of their father, Larry Adelman.

Robina and Steven Fisher, on the passing of their mother, Dorothy Barr

Stock Transfers to Congregation Solel

In order to make stock transfers from your accounts to Congregation Solel, the congregation works with Mesirow Financial, Inc.

Please Note: This is a NEW location for gifting stocks to Congregation Solel:

Mesirow Financial, Inc.

DTC# 0226

F/B/O NFS Account#WMP-002738

Congregation Solel

As always, your contributions to Congregation Solel are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

If there are any questions, please call Allan Litwack, Executive Director, at (847) 433-3555, ext 225. Thank you for your continued support.

Mazel Tov to Lucy Cohen on her Bat Mitzvah!



Lucy Cohen, daughter of Eran and Robin Cohen, will become a Bat Mitzvah on June 6, 2015. She is a 7th grader at Northwood Junior High, Highland Park. Lucy's favorite hobbies are gymnastics, dance and tennis. For her Mitzvah Project, Lucy made decorated boxes with games for kids in the hospital, and she prepared all of the desserts for a night at a soup kitchen. She learned that you can give back in many different ways. Lucy's Torah Portion is *B'ha-ah-lo-t'cha*, from the Book of Numbers. The most important thing Lucy learned from her Torah portion is that you shouldn't judge people, especially when you don't know them. The important thing Lucy learned from her experience becoming a Bat Mitzvah is that you have to be pa-

Rabbi Moffic

(Continued from page 1)

At the end of reading a book of the Torah, it is a Jewish custom to say the words "*Chazak Chazak v'Nitchazak.*" They mean "Be Strong. Be Strong. And Let us strengthen one another." In honoring our mentors, I can think of no better words. They have made us strong, and together we strengthen one another.

- Rabbi Evan Moffic

Erica Friedland Reflects on AVODAH

After graduating from UW Madison in May 2014, I joined, AVODAH, the Jewish service corps. AVODAH is in four cities: New York, DC, New Orleans, and Chicago. This year there are 16 corps members in Chicago from all over the United States, and we live together in a house in Lakeview. AVODAH aims to develop leadership skills among young people committed to social justice through community building both in our house and in our places of work. Each corps member works at a different nonprofit organization such as Inspiration Corporation, Heartland Alliance, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, and the Ark. The nonprofits aim to achieve justice in law, healthcare, housing, food security and education. In addition to working full-time at nonprofits, part of the AVODAH experience includes programming in the evenings. Some of the topics we have discussed include race, gender, and class.

Being a part of AVODAH made moving to a big city much less overwhelming. It is incredible to come home after a hard day at work and have 15 friends who are able to support you and understand what you are facing at your job. If you are interested in learning more about AVODAH, we have our annual fundraiser coming up on Wednesday June 17th. We are working on spreading awareness of AVODAH to all communities. More information can be found on AVODAH's website: <http://www.avodah.net>.

- Erica Friedland

Rabbi Dov Talor

(Continued from page 6)

right and wrong, but rather of right and right. It's long past time for both Israelis and Palestinians to stop competing for the title of Greatest Victim.

So I have organized and will lead an interfaith experience of Israel and the West Bank—to hear contrasting national narratives from both Israelis and Palestinians and to explore prospects for justice, security and peace with the people and organizations that are committed to working for peace—the Parents Circle-Families Forum (an organization of Israeli and Palestinian parents who have lost loved ones to the conflict and who've come together to work for peace); the bilingual (Hebrew and Arabic) kindergarten and the Open Clinic of Physicians for Human Rights in Jaffa; the Druze; the Jerusalem Peacemakers; Rabbis for Human Rights; Kids4Peace; Breaking the Silence; the Roots Project—and many more. We'll spend time in Israel proper, including the contentious neighborhoods of Silwan and Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem, as well as visiting the Gush Etzion Settlement Block, Jericho, Bethlehem and Hebron.

In the process, we'll experience the diversity of Israeli and Palestinian cultures through an array of guides and speakers—religious leaders, politicians, scholars, doctors, archaeologists, activists and peacemakers—orthodox and progressive, Jewish, Druze, Christian and Muslim. We will listen and question and reflect on the complex issues that face Israelis and Palestinians, and we'll celebrate their hospitality and cultures.

If you would like to learn more about this unique experience, I invite you to email me at rabbid@solel.org or leave a message on my voicemail at Solel.

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.”

- Rabbi Dov Taylor

Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2015! You did it!

Shauna Golper, daughter of David Golper and Susan Cohen
Katherine Grinell, daughter of Stuart Grinell and Colleen Kelley
Olivia Hochstadt, daughter of Bruce and Katherine Hochstadt
Joshua Peters, son of Kenneth and Jennifer Peters
Alexander Rossen, son of Barry and Lisa Rossen
Olivia Zirin, daughter of David and Tracy Zirin



Michael Ebner's Remarks

(Continued from page 4)

investment – spiritual and material – to sustain our future. They strengthen us in tangible ways. We shall embark – to cite one key instance – on a new and exciting chapter in our Religious School, with our lay leaders playing a major role in plotting this course. Our programing under the rubric of lifelong learning has expanded into the rejuvenated fine arts exhibitions, the re-introduction of a film series, and our continuous enrichment furnished by outstanding visiting speakers. Administratively attention has been devoted, frequently under the radar, to maintaining the interior and exterior of our fifty-one year old physical plant. Likewise, in the realm of worship nearly two-dozen of your fellow congregants spontaneously organized themselves to conduct *minyans* in the homes of grieving families. Our wonderful choirs – adult and youth – are sustained by devoted volunteers. Our homegrown social justice initiatives, involving Just Congregations, Envision Scholars, Lake County United, and Community Partners for Affordable Housing, have engaged a substantial number of congregants. Our Religious School Committee has assumed a revitalized role that already has yielded unanticipated dividends, including the deservedly celebrated – and self-sustaining – Solel Religious School Bus. Wonderful events, none more so than the annual end-of-summer cookout, began six years ago with some seventy congregants in attendance. More recently the numbers have proliferated into the hundreds, with devoted volunteers laying the groundwork for this much-loved occasion. The twice-yearly Solel Blood drive has reached an affirming benchmark, with greater participation by younger, healthier congregants. For two years I made it my priority to attend Shabbat evening services when our Religious School students participated knowledgeably and with palpable devotion. The same can be said for our students achieving their B'nai Mitzvah and Confirmation, who reveal admirable levels of preparation as well as demonstrating their comprehension about the meaning of these life-cycle occasions. Their parents and grandparents repeatedly convey to our clergy, teachers, and our tutor their gratitude for these outcomes.

Another welcomed aspect of our congregational life meriting your attention are the benefits our community derives from fostering intergenerational activities. Increasingly we encounter third generation families within our congregation who willingly assume key leadership responsibilities, in some instances walking in the honored path of their parents and their grandparents. As well, we also are grateful that our founding generation – *l'dor va'dvor* – remain very much engaged

in the life of our congregation, sharing their fond memories, their expertise, and continuing to serve on our committees as well as our board of directors.

As we know from our own life experiences, we cannot ignore the challenges we encounter. You have already listened to our Financial Vice President, Ken Dickman, relating to you the need to alter the balance between revenue and spending. We are most fortunate that our Finance Committee, collaborating with Josh Lowitz and Allan Litwack, have devoted many of their Sunday mornings to formulating prudent plans – short-range and longer-term – which upon their implementation could improve the balance sheet of this congregation. Your board of directors has learned from our Finance Committee that Congregation Solel's fiscal challenge is *not* spending – thank you Allan Litwack – but rather enhancing our streams of revenue. We know about, and must emulate, the peer congregations in our neighborhood that have prospered while others suffer. Congregation Solel is strategically planning for its future. As this congregation advances to the year 2017 – commemorating our sixtieth anniversary – it will furnish us with a moment in time to again contemplate our legacy and shape our path for the years ahead.

The future, as I have conveyed to you this evening, is in the very best of hands. While it might seem premature to say as much in advance of considering the report from our Nominating Committee, I can only affirm what you already know. The prospective thirty-second president of Congregation Solel – Josh Lowitz – was born into this community. His father, Donald Lowitz, *z"l* served as president of our congregation and his mother Shana has served as a vice president. Josh is well known to our founding generation as well as closely connected with our more youthful cohort of congregants. He served our congregation with distinction as Financial Vice President at the onset of the Great Recession, working arduously to preserve our equilibrium amid unprecedented circumstances. Josh, Ricki, Adele, and Harry – along with Shana, Bill, and Ted – are fixtures in the life of Congregation Solel. Josh's sister, Amy Wishnick, devotes her energies to Congregation K.A.M. Isaiah Israel in Hyde Park, the synagogue that inspired the founding of Congregation Solel. Josh Lowitz comes to his latest Solel assignment – momentarily he will relinquish his title as Executive Vice President – admirably prepared to assume the responsibilities before him. Pathfinders, I am confident that you will find it a great pleasure to join hands with Josh in shaping the future of our congregation.

- Michael Ebner

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:30 am Current Events 11:00 am Current Events	2 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans Executive Meeting	3 12:00 pm Downtown Lunch & Learn	4	5 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	6 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Lucy Cohen Bat Mitzvah 10:35 am Morning Minyan
7 11:00 am JUF Brunch (Advance Registration)	8 9:30 am Current Events 11:00 am Current Events	9 7:00 pm Just Congregations Meeting	10 10:00 am Joyce Schrage's Short Stories	11	12 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	13 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
14 9:00 am Executive Committee Meeting 10:15 am Board of Directors Meeting 3:00 pm Kol Zimrah Concert with Cantor Glikin	15	16 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans Meeting	17	18	19 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service with Guest Speaker Gary Kenzer, US Dir. HonestReporting	20 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
21 Father's Day	22	23 7:00 pm Film: <i>The Seven-Per-Cent-Solution</i>	24	25	26 5:30 pm Pizza Dinner 6:15 pm Shabbat Shalom	27 8:30 am Strawberry Picking 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
28	29	30			Kindle Shabbat Candles at dinner or at the following times (CDT): 5.....8:04 pm 12.....8:08 pm 19.....8:11 pm 26.....8:12 pm	

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Kindle Shabbat Candles at dinner or at the following times (CDT):</p> <p>3.....8:12 pm 10.....8:10 pm 17.....8:06 pm 24.....8:00 pm 31.....7:53 pm</p>			1 12:00 pm Downtown Lunch & Learn	2	3 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	4 Independence Day 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
5	6	7 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans Executive Meeting	8	9	10 6:45 pm Meet & Greet with Solel's new Dir. of Congregational Learn- ing Ashley Plotnick 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	11 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Pray'n Play 10:35 am Morning Minyan
12	13	14	15	16 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 5:30 pm BYO Picnic (Fink Park) 6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service (Fink Park)	18 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
19	20	21 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans Meeting 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	25 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
26	27	28 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	31 5:30 pm BYO Picnic (Fink Park) 6:15 pm Shabbat Shalom (Fink Park)	

Shabbat Services Schedule

Friday, June 5

Shabbat Evening Service.....7:30 pm

Saturday, June 6 — *B'haalot'cha, Num. 8:1-12:16*

Torah Study9:15 am

Lucy Cohen Bat Mitzvah10:30 am

Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, June 12

Shabbat Evening Service7:30 pm

Saturday, June 13 — *Sh'lach L'cha, Num. 13:1-15:41*

Torah Study9:15 am

Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, June 19

Shabbat Evening Service with Gary Kenzer7:30 pm

Saturday, June 20 — *Korach, Num. 16:1-18:32*

Torah Study9:15 am

Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, June 26

Pizza Dinner5:30 pm

Shabbat Shalom6:15 pm

Saturday, June 27 — *Chukat, Num. 19:1-22:1*

Torah Study9:15 am

Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, July 3

Shabbat Evening Service7:30 pm

Saturday, July 4 — *Balak, Num. 22:2-25:9*

Torah Study9:15 am

Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, July 10

Meet & Greet with Ashley Plotnick6:45 pm

Shabbat Evening Service7:30 pm

Saturday, July 11 — *Pinchas, Num. 25:10-30:1*

Torah Study9:15 am

Pray 'n Play10:30 am

Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, July 17

BYO Picnic (Fink Park)5:30 pm

Shabbat Evening Service (Fink Park)6:15 pm

Saturday, July 18 — *Matot- Mas'ei, Num. 30:2-36:13*

Torah Study9:15 am

Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, July 24

Shabbat Evening Service7:30 pm

Saturday, July 25 — *D'varim, Deut. 1:1-3:22*

Torah Study9:15 am

Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, July 31

BYO Picnic (Fink Park)5:30 pm

Shabbat Shalom (Fink Park)6:15 pm

Saturday, August 1 — *Va-et'chanan, Deut. 3:23-7:11*

Torah Study9:15 am

Pray 'n Play10:30 am

Morning Minyan10:35 am

Want to inquire more deeply into a passage after the Shabbat service? Find the weekly parashot and commentaries at these links:

Weekly D'var: <http://urj.org/learning/torah/>

or

<http://www.reformjudaism.org/>

Parashot Summaries:

<http://urj.org/learning/torah/summaries/>



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We are a spiritual home that engages our members and community in *prayer, learning, and the pursuit of social justice*. We prize *inclusiveness, innovation, and involvement* in our programs, life cycle events, and leadership.

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Pathfinder

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Executive Director: Allan Litwack (allan@solel.org)

Director of Congregational Learning: Ashley Plotnick (soleleducator@gmail.com)

President: Josh Lowitz (president@solel.org)

Rabbi Emeritus: Rabbi Dov Taylor (rabbit@solel.org)



Deadline for Submissions: The next *Pathfinder* will be published August 2015. Please submit material by email on or before July 15, 2015 in order for it to appear in the August *Pathfinder*.