



PATHFINDER

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Rabbi's Corner -- Another Reason to Turn off the Television

The New York Times once featured an article about the commuter train from Long Island into New York City. Amongst the dozens of cars on the train is an odd one.

In it is a group of people studying the massive set of Jewish legal books known as the Talmud. Every weekday morning men and women gather in this car and study and debate topics that Jewish scholars have discussed for 2000 years.

Is it a waste of time?

What motivates a group consisting primarily of corporate attorneys and financial professionals to spend 45 minutes to an hour debating ancient Jewish laws? It doesn't seem like the most practical use of time. They could be reading the newspaper or answering emails.

For people of faith, it makes all the sense in the world. *In Judaism, study is a religious imperative, a way of discerning what God asks us to do.* It does not have to be practical. It does not serve an external cause like getting good grades or learning a new sales technique. We do it for God.

The ever-growing brain

How can this ancient ideal help us? Is it a waste of time to study or engage with something that does not seem immediately practical or useful? Absolutely not.

The Jewish sages understood something that psychologists, neuroscientists and leadership experts today are just beginning to understand. They saw that our brains can grow and change throughout our lives.

Indeed, in the late 1990s, scientists proved that our brains grow and adapt constantly. We add brain cells, and our current ones grow and rearrange themselves.

And as scientists uncovered in 2007, *when we believe we can continue to learn throughout our lives, we are more likely to retain and use what we learn.* In other words, a belief in our brain's power helps make it work harder.

(Continued on page 10)



Cantor Glikin's Desk-- Why I'm Going to Camp This Summer

Over the summer, I will spend two weeks serving on the faculty of the Union of Reform Judaism's summer camp, OSRUI. Also serving at camp over the summer will be our Director of Education, Geoff Prass, for whom this will be his third year on faculty. On Sunday and Monday of Martin Luther King Day weekend, we traveled to OSRUI to attend meetings with other faculty members, consisting of rabbis, cantors, and educators. In these meetings, we created the camp's Judaic curriculum for the summer. Once camp is in session, we will work on implementing this curriculum. We will also support our respective units in every way possible, from teaching Hebrew, to helping home-sick children to adjust to camp, to sitting in the infirmary with ill children, to encouraging shy campers to try a new activity, to resolving conflicts among the campers or staff, to participating in prayer services and reciting the bedtime Sh'ma with our campers. Every day at camp is different and every day is challenging and rewarding in its own way.

"Why would we want to do this?," you might ask. Why would we want to give up two weeks of our summer, the comforts of our home, and air-conditioning to hang out with about one hundred 7-9th graders, in my case, and 4-7th graders in Geoff's case? Why would Solel give up their Cantor and Director of Education for two weeks during the summer to send them to camp? Well, the short answer is that we believe that Jewish camping, along with synagogue affiliation, is integral in creating strong Jewish identities in our youth. During our time at camp over the summer, we will create bonds with children, some of whom are members of our congregation, some of whom are members of other congregations, and some of whom are searching for a congregational home. We will serve as Jewish role models for the kids and counselors whom we encounter. We will teach Judaica and Hebrew to campers and counselors. Most importantly, every day, for 10-12 hours a day, we will interact with children and young adults in a fun environment with the hope to inspire them to love Judaism and to connect to our rich tradition in meaningful and lasting ways.

What we will be doing has far-reaching impact and it turns out that research concurs. A study on Jewish camping published in 2011 analyzed evidence from 26 U.S. Jewish Population Studies, asking the question: "What do children bring home with them from a stay at a Jewish overnight camp?" The findings of the study would hardly surprise anyone who has ever spent any time at a Jewish overnight camp. First, the analysis indicates that "the children bring home an increased inclination to practice Jewish behaviors in their lives, from Shabbat candle lighting to using Jewish websites, and to appreciate the value of Jewish charity. Secondly, they bring an increased inclination to value and seek out the experience of Jewish community, whether in the immediate sense of joining other Jews in prayer or in the more abstract sense of identifying with fellow Jews in Israel."

Attending a Jewish camp enriches the lives of campers now and in their adult future. It shapes children to gain a stronger connection to our tradition and to our people. Helping our youth to create powerful Jewish experiences and meaningful Jewish memories is an honor and a privilege, in which I am humbled to share.

-Cantor Vicky Glikin

The Fine Arts Committee is looking for any interested members to join its ranks. The Fine Arts Committee plans the exhibitions at Solel, organizes occasional fine arts events, and oversees maintenance and records of Solel's collection of artworks and Judaica. We would be delighted if you would join us, and if you are interested, contact Beth Shadur at bredflame@ameritech.net or (847) 579-1883.

From Our President --

In keeping with a tradition of our people, allow me to tell you about a book I enjoyed reading. It is entitled, *Places of Faith, A Road Trip Across America's Religious Landscape* (Oxford University Press, 2012). The co-authors, Christopher P. Scheitle and Roger Finke, teach at Pennsylvania State University. Their readable and beautifully illustrated book invites its readers to enter places of faith spread across the United States. They include churches of all sizes, Islamic centers, Eastern temples, and multiple Jewish congregations ranging from Hasidic to Reform. I was fascinated by their brief account of Congregation Shomrei Shabbos in Brooklyn's Borough Park neighborhood that offers prayer 24/7, with a new service commencing every fifteen minutes. But something else that I learned from *Places of Faith* instantly struck a chord: "Congregations are the anchor of American religion. . . the influence of congregations consistently extends into the larger neighborhood, community, and culture."

That is us! Congregation Solel – established fifty-six years ago – unquestionably constitutes an anchor of our faith as Reform Jews. Nearly halfway through 2013, its influence has reached into the community, with global ramifications, in three different ways. Rabbi Mofic and twenty-nine congregants participated during April in a spiritual journey to Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan. You can read Meta Levin's wonderful account elsewhere in *The Pathfinder*. Cantor Vicky Glikin led a contingent of dedicated Solel women to Chicago's Loop. They added their voices, along with Jews from across metropolitan Chicago, to support the Women at the Wall movement that originates in Jerusalem. As well, a highly successful lay-led initiative organized by Robin Shapiro has engaged a considerable number of congregants to volunteer as mentors to college-bound students enrolled in the Envision Scholar initiative at Waukegan High School. In keeping with our historic mission as pathfinders, these three shining examples represent our most recent outreach. Over more than five decades the imprint of Congregation Solel also has reached Chicago, Washington DC, Selma, Jerusalem, Moscow, and Almaty. Walking arm in arm with our fellow congregants, today we evince an immense pride in our congregation's vibrant identity as a sentinel for social justice.

But here I turn to another benchmark occasion in the history of Congregation Solel. Fifty years ago our congregants experienced worshipping in our magnificent sanctuary for the very first time. Temporarily our congregants convened in rented quarters in Glencoe, Highland Park, and Winnetka for six years. Imagine the immense joy of worshipping – at last – in their own synagogue. On September 4, 2013 we shall have our own collective, heart-warming sense of joy. As we welcome Rosh Hashana, our congregants will themselves experience the renewal of our beloved synagogue. Think of these twin experiences – 1963 and 2013 – as epoch milestones in a narrative circle that defines Congregation Solel.

Work on the renewal of our congregation began in earnest on May 20th and will conclude on August 23rd. Larry Mason – who now leads our construction task force – detailed this substantial, much-needed project when we assembled on Erev Rosh Hashana in 2012. It encompasses essential life-safety improvements, accessibility upgrades, and much-needed advances in acoustics, as well as lighting. Surely you know – see the list elsewhere in *The Pathfinder* – that more than two-hundred families have underwritten our Campaign for Solel. Please consider adding your name. Every commitment strengthens our blessed congregation.

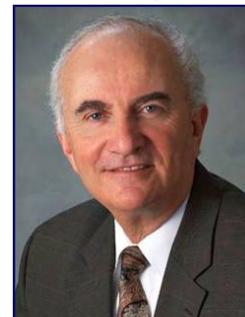
I would welcome your call at (847) 275-7441 or email at president@solel.org.

- Michael Ebner

Scholar in Residence

November 1-3, 2013

Rabbi Emeritus
Dov Taylor



PRESIDENT LARRY MASON'S 56th ANNUAL MEETING REPORT (MAY 17, 2013)

It has been a great honor for me to serve as Congregation Solel's 29th president. I am very fortunate to have been supported by Rabbi Moffic, Cantor Glikin, Executive Director Allan Litwack and his staff, Education Director Geoff Prass, Past Presidents, my wonderful family (Susie, Samantha, Sarah and Zoe, my mother Eunice, and my in-laws, who are also members, David and Lois Marks), a truly dedicated group of lay leaders and many other thoughtful congregants who have generously offered their time, energy and perspectives to assist me in guiding the successful direction of our beloved Congregation Solel.

Although on the outside I am a "lesser" man than when I started my presidential journey, I am truly a better man today having had the privilege of being the President of Congregation Solel.

Throughout this past year, I have remained focused on the need for us to meet the obligations of today while pursuing initiatives to ensure Congregation Solel's long-term financial stability and future success. I trust you will agree that this has been an extraordinary year for Congregation Solel. Time does not permit me to identify each of this year's accomplishments with you this evening. I recommend a careful reading of the 56th Annual Report, which highlights many of the achievements of each of our high functioning pillars (Social Justice, Community, Lifelong Learning, Religious School, Worship, and Administration). Throughout my presidency, I have been very fortunate to have served with an outstanding Board of Directors and Executive Committee. I am truly grateful for the friendship, support and leadership of all directors and officers during the past two years. Among the many lay leaders of note, are the Vice Presidents who served with great distinction throughout my presidency. [To: Steve Cohen, Michael Ebner (more about Michael in a moment), Ross Erlebacher, Marc Friedman, Brian Pastroff, Robin Shapiro, Julie Schaeffer, Lisa Wasserman, and Dan Weil, thank you so very much!]

Significantly, since our last Annual Meeting, I am pleased to report that:

- We have successfully welcomed Cantor Vicky Glikin to our Solel family. Together with our amazing Rabbi Moffic, Congregation Solel is truly blessed with a committed, inspirational, and highly effective clergy partnership that continues to exceed our expectations.

- We have remained focused on both membership recruitment and retention of our congregant families. As you have seen from the Financial Report, Solel's membership commitments and Religious School enrollment are on a growth path.
- We are financially sound. We have tightened our fiscal belts and made wise decisions. Solel's 55th year will close in a strong financial position.
- We consistently offer high quality, diverse programming, which appeals to all demographics of our membership and continues to raise the public profile of our great congregation.
- We successfully met the Campaign for Solel match challenge initiated in my Erev Rosh Hashanah address. Congregants of all demographics have joined together for a true community strengthening initiative as we collectively imagined "What would we do if we knew we could not fail?" But there is still more work to be done. In my May *Pathfinder* remarks, as my last request to the congregation as your president, I asked all who have not participated in the Campaign for Solel to join us in this collective effort for our future. I additionally asked those who gave in Phase 1 to consider how you might step up as leaders again. I am confident that our Solel family will come together to successfully complete the Campaign for Solel.

Whether it is the Campaign for Solel or other important needs for our Jewish community, we will continue to achieve our goals through the further development of a true "community of giving" that recognizes the reality that only Congregation Solel's congregants are available to support our great synagogue's success. While our membership has repeatedly shown a long-standing commitment to making the world a better place through *tikkun olam*, we cannot lose sight that philanthropy must significantly include our congregational home. As I have reminded you before, adopting a "think Solel first" mindset is essential to our long-term success.

(Continued on page 5)

Larry Mason (cont'd)

Tonight, I am pleased to present renderings that will provide everyone with a partial glimpse of our Phase 2 Construction Project. As many of you already know, work has already begun and will aggressively continue in the days ahead to ensure 100% completion of our project in time for Erev Rosh Hashanah this September. I have pledged my continued leadership as the congregation's primary point of contact for this exciting chapter in Congregation Solel's history. By the time we are done, we will have strengthened and secured our nearly 50-year old facility for many generations to come. The Project features the installation of: a fire safety system fully compliant with City of Highland Park mandates; a fully accessible and adaptable bima to ensure that everyone, no matter what their limitations may be, are able to fully participant in all aspects of our worship services and programming; a new sound system throughout the Sanctuary, Main Lounge, and Social Hall; and a new environmentally friendly and energy efficient ceiling and lighting system throughout the Sanctuary, Main Lounge, and Social Hall.

Upon completion of the Phase 2 Project this summer, one of the most dramatic improvements you'll notice is the addition of a single large skylight in the Main Lounge, which will spiritually enhance our access to the sky. Every time my family walks through the synagogue and passes under that beautiful feature, I will think of how proud I am to be included among the Past Presidents of Congregation Solel and of how "the sky is truly the limit" for Pathfinders of all ages for many generations to come.

Now, a few words of tribute as I pass the gavel to President Michael Ebner. Michael, you have admirably served our congregation in many capacities over the years. Of notable distinction has been your loyal and exemplary service during this past year as our Executive Vice President. I am proud to include you among my trusted advisors and friends. I am confident that your presidency will be highly successful as you truly understand that the primary role of our president is to always act in the best interests of Congregation Solel.

As you already know, I am most grateful for the wisdom, guidance, and friendship I consistently received from Rabbi Moffic and Cantor Glikin. May your presidency be similarly blessed with a strong and collaborative relationship with our clergy. These bonds are forever strong and they will serve you and our great congregation well in the years ahead.

May your presidency be additionally blessed, as was mine, with truly effective lay leadership and volunteers to ensure the continued success of Congregation Solel. I sincerely hope that the strength, support, and generosity of our membership will always inspire you.

Mazel tov!

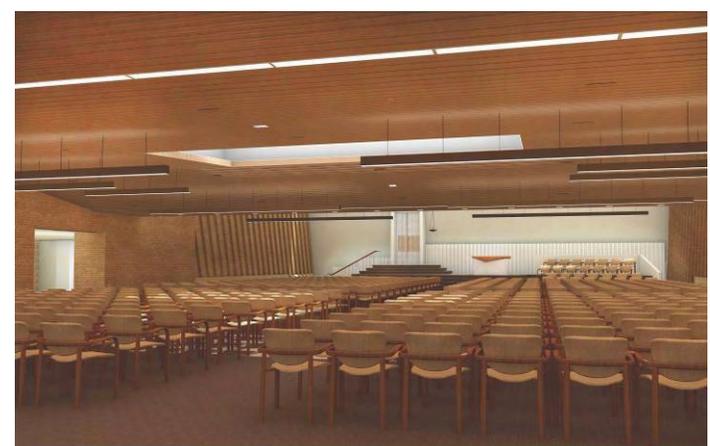
- Larry Mason



  MAIN LOUNGE SKYLIGHT



  SANCTUARY RENOVATION



  MAIN LOUNGE & SOCIAL HALL RENOVATION

Solelites Tour Israel

In Israel, history and current events are tangled. Places we learned about in school, cities named in the Torah are modern municipalities, often with office parks housing high tech companies interspersed with digs exposing signs of civilizations thousands of years old.

Twenty-eight Solelites on a tour to Israel took it all in with tired eyes on that first April day, jet lagged and half asleep from a flight that started in the afternoon of one day and ended in a different time zone on the following one. Tour coordinator, Mitch Slotnik of Ridgebrook Travel, Ltd., shepherded us through O'Hare, Frankfurt and Ben Gurion airports and onto the bus.

Too drowsy to appreciate it at the time, we had a masterful bus driver – Yuval – who, as Barbara Altman observed, “handled that monster like a sports car.” In fact, we applauded his prowess several times when he deftly maneuvered the massive vehicle through some narrow, winding old streets.

Mitch had hand-picked both Ophir, our knowledgeable and patient guide, and Yuval to meet the needs of our group, which had voted early on to take an educational or intellectual tour. To that end, we met several times with Rabbi Evan Moffic, who accompanied us, adding his knowledge at appropriate points, and did our homework in the form of reading material Rabbi Moffic distributed and recommended.

For some of us eight, and the rest of us 12 days, we climbed, hiked, questioned, and ate our way through Israel. In the end, we all were elated, although exhausted, when, in the wee hours of the morning, we boarded a Lufthansa flight headed back to the United States.

On that first day as Ophir filled our heads with facts about the history and sites passed, we headed east from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, stopping at the top of Mt. Scopus to say the *Shehecheyanu* and overlook Jerusalem. This high ground has been strategically important since antiquity. It is within the city limits of Jerusalem, where it has been since the 1967 war. The Hebrew University Faculty of Law sits on its slopes, as does the Hebrew University Botanical Garden and the Jerusalem British War Cemetery.

Two significant non-Jewish institutions also share Mt. Scopus: Brigham Young University Jerusalem Center, owned and operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, and Augusta Victoria Hospital, a church hospital complex.

It also is the site of the infamous Hadassah Medical Convoy Massacre. Hadassah Hospital formerly was located on the Mount, but in 1948 Arab troops blocked access to it in anticipation of the UN partition decision. Personnel and supplies had to use a narrow road that went through an Arab village. On April 13, a convoy of armored vehicles attempted to transport supplies and personnel to there. The resulting attack killed 79 people; only 28 survived.

That's the way it is in many of the places we visited – each had layer upon layer of stories from times ancient and recent attached to it.

The Western Wall is a perfect example. Dating from the Second Temple, it now is embroiled in a thoroughly modern controversy – equality of sexes. An ultra-orthodox rabbi administers the Wall, which has gone from a place where men and women prayed together, to a place where they not only are separated by a wooden *mechitza* that appears at least a block long, but where the women must adhere to restrictions not placed on men.

Unlike the men, women may only pray silently at the Wall. They cannot wear a tallit, nor may they read from the Torah, sing/chant or dance. Each month on Rosh Hodesh, a group known as the Women of the Wall shows up to push the boundaries. More often than not, they are arrested for their troubles, as they were the day we were there, although we did not witness the arrest.

The women also are allowed to pray (silently) at the Robinson Arch, which once stood at the southwestern corner of the Temple Mount.

(Continued on page 7)

SAVE THE DATE:

Solel Annual BBQ!!!

Friday, August 23

5:00 pm

Bring your friends!



Solelites Tour Israel (cont'd)

Tidbits:

1. Ceramic discs, estimated to be 2,600 years old, found while excavating the equivalent to a city hall in the City of David, are thought to be seals used on contracts. They included names mentioned in the Bible.
2. According to Biblical lore, King Hezekiah prepared Jerusalem for a looming Assyrian siege by blocking the waters from the Gihon and directing them through hidden tunnels into the City of David. He was so successful at concealing them, that they were forgotten for many years.
3. All of the Biblical matriarchs and patriarchs are buried in Hebron, except Rachel, whose tomb is outside of an Arab neighborhood in Jerusalem. Muslims call it the Bilal bin Rabah mosque, located within a Muslim cemetery, but the exact location is contested. In fact, there are several places to the north of this that also claim to be her burial place.

Oh, that tunnel King Hezekiah built? It was rediscovered 120 years ago and it still has water flowing through it. Four Solelites: Larry Levin, Ron Altman, Ken Brown, and Susie Silver opted to walk through it. At times, the water came high up on their legs. The tunnel was narrow and dark with ceilings that often dipped low enough to force the taller members of the group to bend down. The rest of us took another, easier tunnel.

We also visited Herodium, the excavation of Herod's royal fortress, dating from the end of the Second Temple period. Standing at the resort excavation, we looked out over the West Bank, seeing both Palestinian and Jewish settlements. "Life is relatively stable and quiet on both sides since the Israelis built the security wall," Ophir said.

As we drove through Israel, we noted that all of the road and other public signs are written in Hebrew, Arabic, and English -- a symbol of the country's multiculturalism, as well as its divisions.

We met with Ian Stern, an archaeologist who is in charge of the Tel Maresha dig in Beit Guvrin, a national park. Although licensed by the Israeli Ministry of Antiquities, Stern's work is entirely funded through his company, "Dig for a Day," which he has run for the last 28 years. Nearly all of the excavations are done by people with no experience.

We traveled to Tel Maresha, where we had an opportunity to get hands-on experience sifting through the dirt to find pottery shards, bones, and other signs of a civilization that dates from the time of the Maccabees, more than 2,200 years ago. And find we did. What a thrill.

More tidbits:

1. Israel's traditional native plants include olives, figs, pomegranates, wheat, barley, honey, and grapes. The country's first industries came from those foods.
2. Of the six million Jews, young and old, who died, 4.2 million have been identified by name. Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust victims, is working to identify them all so that none will be forgotten.
3. All of the major religions are represented in Jerusalem's Old City: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The last five Stations of the Cross are in the Old City in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which is managed by the Roman Catholic Orthodox and other major Christian denominations, but the keys are held by a Muslim.

It is traditional to plant a tree in Israel. And so we did. We planted oak and almond saplings as an indication of our wish that Israel would continue to thrive and grow and that our children and grandchildren would be able to return to sit in the shade of those trees.

The ultra-modern and Israel's history as an independent state meet in Rehovot, where you can see the Weitzmann Institute of Science from Kibbutz Hill, the site of a project code-named, the Ayalon Institute. The Weitzmann Institute is a public research facility that offers only graduate and post graduate degrees in the sciences.

On Kibbutz Hill, we visited a museum dedicated to a clandestine underground ammunition factory operated in the 1940s under the noses of the British, who had a nearby base. Ostensibly a place to train people in kibbutz life, the real purpose of the facility was kept secret from the others there. The public learned about the project in 1975 and it was restored and made into a museum in 1987.

We also met with David Horovitz, former editor of the Jerusalem Post and founder of the online Jerusalem Times, for a primer on Israeli politics and culture.

(Continued on page 12)

We Honor our *Campaign for Solel* Donors

Throughout the course of the entire Campaign for Solel thus far, there has been an outpouring of love and support from members of our Solel family. The following list has been printed to honor all of our current and past members, clergy, and senior staff who saw the need for these important improvements to our spiritual home and stepped forward in support of Solel's future. These individuals have enabled us to create a beautiful new lounge and administrative suite, increase the size of our Endowment, and will allow for additional necessary improvements to Solel including a Highland Park-mandated sprinkler system to improve safety in our congregation, better accessibility, lighting and sound in the Sanctuary, Main Lounge and Social Hall and other key renovations to our *Bima* and other important spaces. These improvements will secure our future for generations to come.

Thank you to all who have participated. You honor us all through your commitment and passion for our shared spiritual home. The *Campaign for Solel* is a project for the whole Solel family.

Anonymous (11)

Gershen and Sally Abraham

Lawrence and Carol Adelman

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Faye Grossman

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Laura Zuckerman
Nancy Zuraw

As of May 28, 2013

Mazel Tov on Jolie Davidson's Bat Mitzvah!



Jolie Davidson, daughter of Sylvi Davidson and Jamie Davidson, will become a Bat Mitzvah on June 1, 2013. She is in 7th grade at Northwood Junior High in Highland Park. Jolie's Torah Portion is *Sh'lach Lecha*, from the Book of Numbers. The most important lesson she learned from this Torah Portion is that in order to grow, we must learn to embrace change and the risks that go with it. For her Mitzvah Project, Jolie volunteered to help animals get adopted at the Orphans of the Storm shelter. Jolie learned from her Mitzvah project that one person can help make a huge difference in another's life. Jolie learned from her Bat Mitzvah experience that the Torah is more than just a book of stories, it is a collection of Jewish beliefs and values that have guided us for thousands of years. Jolie's favorite hobbies are singing, acting, playing instruments, and spending time with animals. The greatest challenge for her was to connect the Torah portion to her life today.

Rabbi Moffic's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

Can Learning Make Us Happier?

Absolutely. It may not always seem so. If we have had a long day and come home and want to relax, turning on the television may seem a lot easier than opening up a book. One brings immediate gratification. Another has longer-lasting effects.

A week later, however, we may regard spending two hours watching television as a waste of time, especially if we could have finished a meaningful novel or read an inspiring essay or inspirational passage. A commitment to learning pushes us to live for lasting satisfaction rather than short-term pleasure. It is the secret ingredient to happiness.

How to get started

First, commit to it. When we decide study matters, we figure out a way to do it.

Second, come to Torah study. It will change your life, and you'll meet great people. (We also have great pastries.)

Third, bring a friend. Just as we can make exercise more enjoyable when we do it with others, we can also try to study with friends and family. And when we do it well, learning opens us up to the blessings of life.

- Rabbi Moffic

SAVE THE DATE!

**PROSPECTIVE MEMBER
OPEN HOUSE**

Thursday, June 27 at 7:00 pm

*Please consider bringing your
relatives, friends, colleagues,
and anyone you think might
be interested!*

“The Solel Superhero”

Michael Ebner, the twenty-ninth president of Congregation Solel, delivered this tribute to past president Larry Mason following the Shabbat worship service on May 17, 2013.

Larry Mason – you have provided me with a very good reason to reflect upon one of my own youthful heroes. I speak of Clark Kent, intrepid reporter for the *Daily Planet* in the fictional city of Metropolis. Frequently Kent stepped out of view momentarily, abandoning his suit, his eye glasses, his ever present notebook, and Lois Lane. He quickly re-emerged as a super hero we have long known as Superman.

When the biographer, Larry Tye, most recently spoke at Congregation Solel, we learned about Jerry Siegel collaborating with Joe Schuster. These high school students in Cleveland invented *Superman* in 1933. Their heroic figure displayed a superhuman capacity reminiscent of Sampson as well as Hercules. And thanks to Larry Tye’s wonderful biography we know that Superman had Jewish roots.

All of this stands as prelude. Recently I have given some of my attention to enumerating the several lives of Larry Mason that I have detected. One of them only came to my notice earlier this month and others surely remain hidden from my scope. As I contemplated the matter I discovered that the list is lengthy. Larry – and my fellow congregants – let us count the ways that we know you . . .

- A person of constant good cheer, immense reserves of energy, and endowed with an especially welcoming persona.
- A cherished leader of this holy congregation, to its great good fortune.
- A lovingly devoted family member as a spouse, parent, son, and son-in-law.
- An attorney in Chicago whose expertise and savvy frequently require travel to locations across North America.
- An enthusiastic volunteer member of this congregation’s choir.
- An irrepressible actor in community theater productions, frequently joined by more Mason family members in the cast.

- Most recently I learned about your immense passion for playing the drums.
- And finally, in Larry Mason we know a consummate human being – a *mensch* of all *mensch*es – whose very spirit exudes generosity in so many different forms, some of them purposefully hidden from view.

I can imagine a scene once you return home to Summit Drive this evening. Whether in fact or metaphorically, an illuminated banner will greet you. The inscription will read: **Welcome home Larry, with love from Susie, Samantha, Sarah, and Zoe.** I express our collective gratitude to you – Larry and your entire family – for making these past two years a truly memorable experience for all who share your love for sustaining Congregation Solel.

Larry – you are our superhero. On September 4th – as we assemble to greet Rosh Hashana – Congregation Solel will have taken on a wonderful new appearance, a complex project that you have devoted yourself to unsparingly.

- Michael Ebner

Pastoral Care at Congregation Solel



Rabbi Moffic, Cantor Glikin, and your Solel community want to support you in times when you or someone close to you is in need of physical, spiritual, or emotional healing.

**Your congregation cares about you!
Please help us to know when you are in need of extra care at clergy@solel.org.**

Solelites Tour Israel

(Continued from page 7)

Some more tidbits:

1. Sixty-six years ago, when Tel Aviv was founded, Jaffa was primarily Arabic, but with a sizeable Jewish community, which the Arabs attacked in 1920, forcing the residents to move to what now is Tel Aviv. Contemporary Tel Aviv is Israel's capital, the place where Ben Gurion read the Israeli Declaration of Independence (in Independence Hall) and a thriving city that has swallowed up Jaffa.
2. HUC (Hebrew Union College) in Jerusalem acts as the Reform Jewish Movement's Israeli headquarters.
3. Everything built on HUC Jerusalem's campus, as well as Yad Vashem's facility, was designed by famed architect Moshe Safdie.
4. Under Israeli law, antiques are limited to that which predates 1700.
5. Israel's elevation ranges from Mt. of Olives at 2,400 feet above sea level to the Dead Sea at 400 feet below.
6. About half of the Bedouins, who comprise 10 percent of Israeli Arabs, are still semi-nomadic, moving their flocks of sheep and goats two to three times a year. One hundred and seventy Bedouins fought and died for Israel.
7. Under the 1993 Oslo Accords, all of the cities in the West Bank are controlled by the Palestinian Authority and all of the settlements and highways are under Israeli control.
8. Israel's Memorial Day and its Independence Day are observed in one, continuous 48 hour period.

We joined Kibbutz Geshar for its Memorial Day ceremony commemorating those who it had lost in Israel's wars. As the siren blew, Kibbutz members recited the names of the dead and the children placed flowers on their graves. We joined them in saying *Kaddish*, sharing that intimate moment with the Kibbutzniks.

Less than 24 hours later, we were cheerfully eating dinner at the famous Deck's Restaurant in Tiberius and watching fireworks from a boat on the Sea of Galilee, while celebrating Israel's 65th birthday.

Mindful of the tremendous price Israel has paid just to stay alive, we were reminded once more of its vulnerability when, while visiting the Golan Heights, we looked to the east over the Valley of Tears and into

Syria and to the west into Lebanon. Given the Israeli attacks on Hezbollah weapons supply lines in Syria, this area is almost certainly closed to tourists right now.

Lest you think that all was somber, we found time to contribute to the GDP of Safed, a contemporary artists' colony, which was the center of Jewish mysticism for hundreds of years. We navigated the narrow streets, visited artist studios and dropped in on the 400 year old Caro Synagogue. Named for Rabbi Joseph Caro, a scholar and Kabbalist, author of a codification of Jewish laws, it has an Italian marble floor – installed when it was rebuilt for the second time after it was destroyed in an 1837 earthquake. It also houses ancient Torah scrolls.

Over our days in Israel, we bounced through citrus groves in four wheel drive vehicles, saw Crusader castles, Roman ruins, celebrated Shabbat with an Israeli congregation, and had a Havdalah service on an outdoor patio at Jerusalem's Inbal Hotel. We talked with IDF soldiers and saw tanks at a military base.

We toured Yad Vashem behind a group of young IDF soldiers, who are required to visit it after they are conscripted, and said Kaddish at the Children's Memorial Garden. We ate at a Druze restaurant and learned about the Aaronsohn family, who were instrumental in the NIL, a secret organization that spied for the British during World War I. Aaron Aaronsohn was a well-known agronomist, whose profession allowed him cover to travel through the Turkish held territory.

Those of us who stayed on for an extra three days after April 17, also had an opportunity to tour Masada, float in the Dead Sea, travel through the Negev Desert, cross into Jordan to visit Petra, visit the site of Solomon's mines, and bounce in Jeeps up Mount Negev to learn about Makhtesh Ramon, formed when water slowly dissolved soft rock leaving a heart shaped crater. We also paid our respects at Ben Gurion's grave.

And on and on. We learned and saw so much that is impossible to include in the Pathfinder. Never fear, ask any of us, we have photographs and stories, which we are primed and eager to share with you. It was, in short, a wonderful and memorable trip.

- Meta Levin



One Book One Solel

Did The Finkler Question spark an interest in England's Jewish history?

Yes! There is one, nine hundred years of it--including Benjamin Disraeli, the Rothschilds, some Nobel laureates and Nigella Lawson. Our own Jeopardy know-it-all--and humorist--Eugene Finerman will tell you the details. He will divulge the history of the Jews in England, from the Norman Conquest to the present...and possibly the next prime minister!

It will be a morning of surprising facts and edifying fun!!!

Sunday, June 2 at 9:30 am

**(We will end promptly at 10:45 to allow us to
attend the JUF brunch at 11:00 am.)**

**Congregation Solel • 1301 Clavey Road • Highland Park, IL 60035 • P: (847) 433-3555
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SHABBAT SERVICES
WITH GUEST SPEAKER RONIT HEYD
DIRECTOR OF SHATIL
Friday, June 28 at 6:30 pm



Ronit Heyd, who lives in Jerusalem, has served as Executive Director of SHATIL since 2010. Prior to her current position, she coordinated SHATIL's Religious Pluralism Project and managed its Social and Economic Justice Initiative. She places a high priority on outreach to new audiences and engaging people in advocating for social justice and the protection of Israel's democracy.

SHATIL is the New Israel Fund's Initiative for Social Change. A leading advocate for democratic values in Israel, SHATIL builds coalitions, empowers activists, and often takes the initiative in setting the public agenda.



Ronit was born in New Jersey and grew up in Jerusalem. She earned her M.A. in social psychology with a specialization in conflict resolution, negotiation and leadership studies from the Hebrew University with highest honors. Ronit is married to Yaakov and is the mother of Yonatan and Shaked.



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Check Out These Activities at Congregation Solel

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Moffic

Downtown Lunch & Learn
June 5th at noon. Schedule resumes
in October.

Lunch & Learn at Solel
June 25th, July 9th, & July 23rd
at noon

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



Pray 'n Play
Saturday, June 8, 10:30 am

*This isn't your
ordinary Tot Shabbat!*

Join other parents with children
0-5 years of age for a fun Shabbat
"Gymboree-style" program,
followed by a bagel brunch and
playtime. Older siblings are
welcome to attend!



Rosh Chodesh Celebration for Women



Sunday, June 9 at 7:00 pm



ראש חודש



Rosh Chodesh is a celebration of ourselves, our
uniqueness as women, and our relationship with
the Divine.

Join other women as we celebrate the beginning
of the Jewish month of Tamuz. You will
see familiar faces, make new friends, learn more
about the month of Tamuz, grow
spiritually, engage in meaningful discussion,
and participate in the mitzvah of feeding the
hungry.

Please bring an appetizer or main dish to share.
Please also bring a suggested donation of \$5 to
help pay for lunch ingredients (more details
below.)

7 pm – Snack and shmooze, meet and greet
7:20 pm – participate in a ritual led by Cantor Glikin
7:50 pm – learn with Cantor Glikin and your friends
8:30 pm – assemble lunches that will be delivered to
PADS in Waukegan to help feed people in need.

Thank you to our hostesses, Anne Kleinerman and
Sue Ulman!

RSVP to Solel's office at solelooffice@solel.org.

Questions? Please be in touch with Cantor Vicky
Glikin at vglikin@solel.org.

Thank You For Your Contributions

Building Fund

Jack and Sheila Marks, in memory of Doris and Mandel Marks
Norma and Oscar Adler

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Bruce and Marcia Balonick, in honor of Brooke and Aubrey's baby naming
Renee and Thomas Krauss, in honor of the Women of the Wall

Campaign for Solel

New and additional donations during the past month are identified on Pages 8 & 9.

Human Needs Fund

Darryl and Michael Ebner, in honor of the graduations of Molly, Bennett, and Sam Levis
Larry and Susan Mason, in honor of Madeline Leah Shapiro's Bat Mitzvah
Martha Silberman, in honor of Claire and Ruthie Silberman
Robyn and Peter Ebner, in honor of Michael Ebner's election as President of Solel
The Winkelman School Staff, in honor of Sharon Stein's retirement

Music Fund

Beth and Nestor Sanchez, in memory of Nancy Kullman's father, Harry Bekenstein
Betsy and Scott Lassar, in honor of Larry Mason's presidency
Larry and Susan Mason, in honor of Phil Orem's American Song Recital
Larry and Susan Mason, in honor of Warren Fremling's concert
Larry and Susan Mason, in honor of Emily Kanarek's wedding
Lois and Edward Hollander, in honor of Judy and Ed Bederman
Mickey and David Unger, in memory of Nancy Kullman's father, Harry Bekenstein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Bruce and Marcia Balonick, in honor of Brooke and Aubrey's baby naming
Gail and Lewis Segal, in memory of Nancy Kullman's father, Harry Bekenstein
Marica and Robert Paley, in memory of Jerry, Mae, and Manuel Krupinsky
Sue and Bob Steiner, in honor of Jean and Michael Freed's birthdays
Suzanne T. Weiskopf, in memory of Elsie Weiskopf

Tribute Fund

Brenda and Fred, Turner, in memory of Louis Spiegel
Cathy and Marc Horowitz, in honor of Jerry and Jan Wolf's daughter, Rachel's wedding
Diane Gordon, in memory of Nettie Mednick and Sophie Levinson
Greta and Jack Heiman, in memory of Felix Heimann

Tribute Fund (continued)

Janet and James Rosenbaum, in memory Alfred and Helen Kanter
Janet and Jerry Wolf, in honor of the Capital Campaign Committee
Janet and Roy Lipner, in memory of Marily Haiman; Vallys and Zoltan Lipner
Linda and Harold Chizewer, in honor of the Capital Campaign Committee
Norma and Oscar Adler, in memory of Otto Kolisch
Renate Spiegel, in memory of Louis Spiegel
Renee and Thomas Krauss, in memory of Gustav Haberer
Sally and Gershen Abraham, in memory of Julius and Goldie Ginsberg
Sandra and Robert Silver, in honor of Michael Ebner's election as Solel president
Suzanne and William Samuels, in memory of Ethel Samuels
Suzanne C. Meldman, in honor of Solel
Wendy and Wayne Rhodes, in honor of Betsy Lassar for her service to CPAH
Wendy and Wayne Rhodes, in honor of Joanna Friedman's marriage
Wendy and Wayne Rhodes, in thanks for Larry Mason's presidency, in congratulations for Phil Orem's world premier, and in memory of Nancy Kullman's father

Stock Transfers to Congregation Solel

In order to make stock transfers from your accounts to Congregation Solel, the congregation works with First Midwest Financial Network. Your broker will need the following information to forward stock to our broker:

DTC # 0075
Account # 19324342

As always, your contributions to Congregation Solel are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. If there are any questions, please call Allan Litwick, Executive Director, at (847) 433-3555, ext 225.

Mazel Tov to ...

Sylvi Davidson and Jamie Davidson, on their daughter, Jolie Davidson's Bat Mitzvah.

Michael Ebner on being elected to President of Congregation Solel.

Robin and Harlan Shapiro, on their daughter, Madeline Shapiro's Bat Mitzvah.

Condolences to...

Nancy B. Kullman, on the passing of her father, Harry Bekenstein.

Jacqueline Bazelon, on the passing of her husband, Edwin Bazelon.

Heller Family, on the passing of Louis Heller.

As of May 31st, Friday Night Shabbat Services begin at 6:30 pm (an hour earlier than the usual time) for the remainder of the summer.

June Shabbat Services Schedule

Saturday, June 1

Jolie Davidson Bat Mitzvah.....10:30 am
Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

Friday, June 7

Shabbat Services.....6:30 pm

Korach, Numbers 16:1-18:32

Saturday, June 8

Torah Study.....9:15 am
Pray & Play.....10:30 am
Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

Friday, June 14

Shabbat Services.....6:30 pm

Chukat, Numbers 19:1-22:1

Saturday, June 15

Torah Study.....9:15 am
Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

Friday, June 21

Shabbat Services.....6:30 pm

Balak, Numbers 22:2-25:9

Saturday, June 22

Torah Study.....9:15 am
Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

Friday, June 28

Shabbat Services.....6:30 pm

Pinchas, Numbers 25:10-30:1

Saturday, June 29

Torah Study.....9:15 am
Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

July Shabbat Services Schedule

Friday, July 5

Shabbat Services.....6:30 pm

Matot-Mas'ei, Numbers 30:2-36:13

Saturday, July 6

Torah Study.....9:15 am
Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

Friday, July 12

Shabbat Services.....6:30 pm

D'varim, Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

Saturday, July 13

Torah Study.....9:15 am
Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

Friday, July 19

Shabbat Services.....6:30 pm

Va-et'chanan, Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

Saturday, July 20

Torah Study.....9:15 am
Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

Friday, July 26

Shabbat Services.....6:30 pm

Eikev, Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

Saturday, July 27

Torah Study.....9:15 am
Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

June 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | Kindle Shabbat Candles at dinner or at the following times (CDT): 7.....8:03 pm 14.....8:07 pm 21.....8:09 pm 28.....8:10 pm | | | | | 1 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Jolie Davidson Bat Mitzvah 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 2 9:30 am Guest Speaker: Eugene Finerman 11 am JUF Brunch | 3 | 4 | 5 12 pm Downtown Lunch & Learn | 6 | 7 6:30 pm Shabbat Services | 8 9:15 am Torah Study: 10:30 am Pray & Play 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 9 9 am Exec. Meeting 10:15 am Board Meeting 7 pm Women's Rosh Chodesh Gathering | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 6:30 pm Shabbat Services | 15 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 16 | 17 | 18 7 pm Just Congregations 6:30 pm JWV | 19 | 20 7:30 pm Mah Jongg | 21 6:30 pm Shabbat Services | 22 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 23 | 24 | 25 12 pm Lunch & Learn | 26 | 27 7pm Prospective Member Open House 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 28 6:30 pm Shabbat Services with Guest Speaker: Ronit Heyd | 29 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 30 | | | | | | |

July 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|---|--|---|
| | 1 | 2 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 3 | 4 | 5 6:30 pm Shabbat Services | 6 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 7 | 8 | 9 12 pm Lunch & Learn 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 10 | 11 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 12 6:30 pm Shabbat Services & Chocolate Oneg | 13 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 14 | 15 | 16 7 pm Just Congregations 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 17 | 18 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 19 6:30 pm Shabbat Services | 20 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 21 | 22 | 23 12 pm Lunch & Learn 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 24 | 25 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 26 6:30 pm Shabbat Services | 27 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 28 | 29 | 30 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 31 | Kindle Shabbat Candles at dinner or at the following times (CDT): 5.....8:09 pm 12.....8:06 pm 19.....8:02 pm 26.....7:56 pm | | |

Updating Your Solel Calendar with Future Events in 2013-2014

October 6, 2013 at 2 pm: "Not for Women Only: A Spirited Solel Symposium on Sheryl's Sandberg's *Lean In*" (more information in the August *Pathfinder*).

November 1-3, 2013: Scholar in Residence Weekend with Rabbi Emeritus Dov Taylor (this represents a change in dates from previous announcements).

November 8, 2013 at 7:30 pm: 4th Annual Veterans' Day Commemorative Shabbat.

January 17, 2014 at 7:30 pm: 5th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Shabbat.

March 21-23, 2014: 50th Anniversary Re-dedication of Congregation Solel (more information in the August *Pathfinder*).

For more information, please contact Michelle Raz at solelooffice@solel.org or (847) 433-3555.

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/>



Many Paths. One Community

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. Everyone who walks into our building should feel *inspired, uplifted, and connected*.

Pathfinder

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Cantor: Cantor Vicky Glikin (vglikin@solel.org)
Executive Director: Allan Litwack (allan@solel.org)
Director of Education: Geoffrey Prass (geoff@solel.org)
President: Michael Ebner (president@solel.org)
Rabbi Emeritus: Rabbi Dov Taylor (rabbitt@solel.org)

Pathfinder Deadline for Submissions:
The next Pathfinder will be published August 2013
Please submit material by email on or before July 15, 2013
in order for it to appear in the August Pathfinder.