



# PATHFINDER

## Rabbi's Corner -- Rosh Hashanah Evening 5774

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Isador Rabi was a Jewish scientist who won the Noble Prize for Physics in 1944. In his autobiography, he tells the story of the key question that shaped him. "Every day when I came home from school," he said, "my mother would not ask me how I did. She would not ask what happened in school today. She would simply say, 'Izzy, did you ask a good question today. Hearing that question repeatedly,'" he said, "made me a great scientist."

Not just for great scientists, but for each of us: Asking the right question can make all the difference.

Consider the story we read tomorrow from the Torah. Abraham does not ask the right questions. He does not ask God why he has commanded him to murder his son. He does not wonder about his responsibility as a parent and conscience as a human being. He does not even ask Isaac how he feels after everything has happened.

This Abraham contrasts sharply with the Abraham who pleads on behalf of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. That Abraham ques-

tions relentlessly. That Abraham pushes God to the brink. That Abraham pleads for justice and righteousness. That is the Abraham we admire.

That Abraham is the one who teaches us the power of asking the right questions. For evidence of this truth, recall the way President Kennedy phrased that famous line from his first inaugural address: "Ask not," he said, "what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." He was urging us to change our question. If we change our questions, we can change the world.

Indeed, look at what is happening in our own time. As a society, we have asked new questions about what marriage means. Should it be restricted to a man and a woman? Is it only about biology and pro-creation? Or does it also encompass true fulfillment that can only be found in a loving partnership? Is it something with only one definition? Or can it change over time?

And consider the questions we are asking about how to respond to the ongoing tragedy in Syria. How do we balance our moral re-

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# Cantor Glikin's Desk-- Live Longer, Be Happier

Do you want to live a longer, healthier, and happier life? Turns out that in order to do so, you should exercise regularly, eat nutritiously, and... pray regularly. The relationship between prayer and health has been the subject of multiple scientific studies over the past four decades, all of which have indicated that praying regularly significantly improves our health and well-being.

According to cardiovascular specialists, prayer decreases anxiety and stress and increases our feelings of well-being and joy. In his most recent study, Dr. Herbert Benson, a pioneer in the field of mind/body medicine at Harvard Medical School, found that daily spiritual practices help to deactivate genes that trigger inflammation and prompt cell death. A study published recently in the *Journal of Gerontology* found that senior citizens who prayed or meditated coped better with illness and lived longer than those who didn't.

Many of us spend a lot of time taking care of our bodies. But, do we spend enough time taking care of our minds and our souls? Prayer is one of the most potent medicines for the mind and soul. But like all other medicines, prayer only works when it's used on a regular basis. It's great to get a nice booster shot once a year, but to truly reap the benefits, we need to partake of it on a regular basis.

At Solel, we are constantly thinking of ways to make prayer accessible, appealing, and meaningful to you, our congregation. Whether through music, meditations, readings, or ideas, our hope is to create a moving experience for all those who enter our sacred space. Our hope is that each person who comes into our Sanctuary will leave transformed by the power of the prayer experience, whether on a spiritual, emotional, or intellectual level.

With this in mind, I'd like to highlight several prayer opportunities, which will not only improve your health, happiness, and well-being, but will also connect you to your congregational family:

- **Hava Nashira** is a bi-monthly musical service featuring Solel's own instrumentalists and vocalists. This service is your opportunity to embark on a spiritual musical journey of joy and inspiration. Our very first **Hava Nashira** service is on Friday, October 4 at 7:30 pm.
- **Choral Shabbat** is a service that takes place on the third Friday of every month. This service features Solel's adult choir and creates opportunities for meditative listening moments, spirited congregational singing, and lush harmonies. The next **Cho-**

**ral Shabbat** is on Friday, October 18 at 7:30 pm.

- **Shabbat Shalom** is an upbeat multi-generational prayer experience for the whole family. Every last Shabbat of the month, we begin by building community with a pizza dinner at 5:30 pm, followed by a lively and energetic service at 6:15 pm, with participation from Solel's Youth Choir *Rimonim*. The next **Shabbat Shalom** service is on Friday, October 25.

Please join us at these and other prayer experiences at Congregation Solel. It's simply good for you!

Mazal tov to Congregation Solel's Adult Choir on a truly inspiring High Holidays season. You sang with your hearts wide open and everyone in the congregation sensed that and benefited from it. Thank you for your effort and commitment to Solel. You enriched and uplifted our beloved congregation!

B'shira,

Cantor Vicky Glikin  
Rabbi Evan Moffic  
Allan Litwack  
Geoff Prass

*If you would like to learn more about Congregation Solel's Adult Choir, please be in touch with Cantor Glikin at [vglikin@solel.org](mailto:vglikin@solel.org).*

## Call to Volunteer---

The Solel Membership Committee is looking for 5-10 member families with grade school age children to act as Mentors to our newest members. It is a fun activity, way to meet new people and welcome new members of our community. If you are interested please contact Liz Cohen at [Elizabeth\\_cohen@ymail.com](mailto:Elizabeth_cohen@ymail.com) or (312) 519-5585 or Marcia Denberg at [m.denberg@mac.com](mailto:m.denberg@mac.com) or (847) 432-6772.

## From Our President -- Moments in Time

*L'shana tova.* I wish you, and your loved ones, a sweet New Year. This evening, gathered in our sanctuary, represents a moment in time that we shall fondly recall over many years.

Entering upon the fifty-sixth year of Congregation Solel, this Erev Rosh Hashanah provides an occasion worthy of our contemplation. We turn to Rabbi Arnold Jacob Wolf, of blessed memory, who exercised a shaping role in our genesis. Consider his lesson. *Not* a temple, Rabbi Wolf proclaimed at the very beginning. But rather a *congregation!*

More from our past, again imbued with words of humility. Howard Landau served as the fourth president of Congregation Solel. Plans had advanced to construct this synagogue. Seven years had gone by, dating to the founding of the congregation in 1957, before the project realized completion. I am struck by words spoken by Howard Landau: "... a simple building to be our permanent home." This understated estimation characterized our congregation in its early days. As well, it rings true in 2013.

We assemble on Erev Rosh Hashanah as the heirs of our pioneering generation. The devotion of the founders to this fledgling Reform Jewish congregation proved palpable. Our founders deeply invested themselves in its birth and nurtured its development. Among us this evening are founders who recall vividly the ferment enveloping that moment in time. Also among us are sixteen congregants who have newly affiliated with Solel. Together as one congregation we warmly welcome them to our vibrant and embracing community. Here we might fuse our past and our present. We can assure our founders that today's generation of congregants serve as the mindful stewards of our collective inheritance. Consider a single example that should evoke immense pride. It entails the present-day social justice initiatives launched by our congregants. Highlights include: supplying food for the hungry; tutoring college-bound students in nearby Waukegan; engaging with our neighbors in Highwood; and supporting the movement for affordable housing on the North Shore. We express gratitude to our founders – themselves courageous pathfinders in the cause of social justice – for what they have bestowed upon us.

Our younger congregants have invested themselves – spiritually and tangibly – in the life of our historic synagogue. While the cultural landscape of American domestic life has shifted markedly – Barbara Kessler

touched upon this in her Rosh Hashanah remarks of 1989 – the changing nature of volunteer service to Congregation Solel as well as in our larger society remains robust. Admittedly it also is different. Today many of the rising leaders of this congregation – women and men alike – travel regularly in their professional capacities. But they also allocate space on their demanding calendars to serve our congregation devotedly even when they are on the job in San Francisco, Austin, or Washington, DC on any given weekday. Like our founders, today's lay leaders have demonstrated their zeal to sustain Congregation Solel. Our board meetings are vibrant and our programs are imaginative as a consequence of their commitment. A past president once aspired to adjourn Thursday evening board meetings no later than 10:00 pm. We now convene on Sunday morning and our allotted meeting time must conform with the carpool schedules. This is the twenty-first century iteration of Congregation Solel. It is vibrant, it is invigorating, and it is subject to occasional adjustment.

You surely know that the Campaign for Solel has all but attained its ambitious goal. This occurred in a remarkably brief span of time. Your participation over the past year in this unprecedented effort has made the difference. Your participation also strengthened our community immeasurably. More than fifty percent of this congregation generously made a commitment to sustaining our future. Consider another benchmark: one in four gifts made during the past year are from congregants who affiliated since 2006. Perhaps you are wondering, might we still add our names to the list of congregants who have supported this campaign? Yes you can! I encourage your participation in this community-building effort. Coming soon to your mailbox is a letter.

One year ago Larry Mason – now our immediate past president – pondered a challenge: "How can we achieve our ambitious goal in twelve months?" Recall a biblical question. The prophet, Isaiah, in the kingdom of Judea, famously contemplated it: "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah – as well as Larry – responded instantly to this eternal question: "Here I am; send me." When you next encounter Larry, please select one choice from the following list of three: shake his hand heartily; or give him a bear hug; or consider planting a discrete kiss on his cheek. He envisioned our transforming project and assumed a significant role in bringing it to reality. Even after completing his term as your president, Larry served devotedly as the energetic chair of our Construction Task Force. So much of

*(Cont'd on page 16)*

# A Personal Reflection on Rosh Chodesh Celebrations

There are so many Jewish holidays, fast days and days of worship, it is hard to keep track, let alone observe them all. There was one holiday I had never really known about or celebrated - *Rosh Chodesh* - until this past summer. While attending a Shabbat service with my family, I heard Cantor Glikin mention Rosh Chodesh, a reminder to us of the rhythm of the Jewish calendar, a women's holiday. My daughter, Hana, looked over at me and asked if she could go too. One of those parenting moments when I realized that she assumed I would want to go. And I thought: "She's right. What a great mother-daughter evening!" So we put it on the calendar.

When the day came around, we walked into the cozy room at Solel with our chips and dip to share. It was an intimate group of about 15 women, ranging in age from 12 years old and up. Cantor Glikin led us in prayer and song, along with poetry and discussion about the month to come. The discussion focused on the theme of justice, as it is understood in Biblical literature. After the discussion, we went into the kitchen where we made lunches for PADS soup kitchen in Waukegan. It was a fulfilling evening of mitzvot, prayer, learning, and tzedakah.

I returned to Rosh Chodesh when Hana was off at OSRUI overnight camp, to enjoy another evening of shared prayer and discussion with the women of Solel. That evening was highlighted with a spiritual yoga session, where I found myself pushing both my mind and body to find that moment of balance for which we are always striving. In the month following the Rosh Chodesh celebration, I have continued to practice the breathing and self-awareness we learned. At the celebration, Cantor Glikin asked us to create a personal prayer, answering questions such as; "What are you most grateful for? What is most important to you? What are you hoping and praying for? What do you need the encouragement for? What are the qualities that you hope God contains?" I have used the prayer that I wrote on Rosh Chodesh during Shabbat and High Holy Day services to help me work towards being more present in my life, from the mundane to the bigger moments.

I am looking forward to the next Rosh Chodesh celebration on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm, when my daughter and I will get the chance to "host" the activity connected with our service. We hope you can join us!

- Laura Frisch

## Rosh Chodesh Celebration for Women



Rosh Chodesh is a celebration of ourselves, our uniqueness as women, and our relationship with the Divine. Every celebration offers the opportunity to meet other amazing women of Solel, grow spiritually, and deepen our understanding of Judaism. Activities at last year's celebrations included learning sessions, making lunches for PADS, Jewish yoga and meditation. Participants at last year's Rosh Chodesh celebrations ranged in age from 12-92.

Everyone is welcome...  
especially newcomers! Join us!

If you have any questions, please be in touch with Cantor Glikin at [VGlikin@solel.org](mailto:VGlikin@solel.org).

Dates:

Sunday, November 3  
Wednesday, December 4  
Thursday, January 30  
Wednesday, April 30  
Sunday, June 29

Most celebrations are held 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, but please check the Pathfinder and Shavu'on for the latest information.

## Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Moffic

**Downtown Lunch & Learn  
October 9 at noon.**

**Lunch & Learn at Solel  
October 8 & 22 at noon**

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

## Oktoberfest for Waukegan to College

October is Oktoberfest time and Waukegan to College will celebrate at its first annual Oktoberfest Saturday, October 19 at 6:00 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Libertyville. Waukegan to College (W2C) is affiliated with Lake County United, of which Congregation Solel is a member.

The fundraiser, which benefits W2C, is a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides tutoring, mentoring, and access to enrichment programs for disadvantaged youngsters and their families. It will feature a catered dinner, silent auction, 50-50 raffle, and two live bands.

At last count there were a dozen students from the program studying at colleges or universities, all of them the first in their families to do so.

For more information, contact Meta Levin at [meta.levin@comcast.net](mailto:meta.levin@comcast.net). For tickets (\$25 each), contact Karen Papp at [karenjpapp@gmail.com](mailto:karenjpapp@gmail.com) or (224) 436-0893.

## Solel Blood Drive on October 20, 2013

Begin the new year with a mitzvah by saving a life! Solel is sponsoring a blood drive on October 20, 2013, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime.

When you participate in the blood drive, you will have the opportunity to join your fellow congregant donors for bagels and cream cheese, home baked goodies, and shmoozing. Appointments can be made by contacting: Phil Kaplan at [philkaplan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:philkaplan@sbcglobal.net) or (847) 433-2315 or Diane Resnick at [dnrphd@gmail.com](mailto:dnrphd@gmail.com) or (847) 926-8510.

## CJE SeniorLife – Serving Older Adults

Based upon Jewish values, since 1972 CJE SeniorLife has been at the forefront of developing programs and services for older adults, their families, and caregivers that are innovative and customized to each individual's unique circumstances. CJE SeniorLife's comprehensive network of care includes life enrichment, supportive resources, healthcare, research, and education.

**Life Enrichment** programs such as yoga, Art in the Moment (art viewing, discussion, and related hands-on art making program), and screenings for diabetes and osteoporosis, provide an enriched mind, body, and cultural experience for older adults. **Supportive Resources** include home-delivered meals and Kosher To Go™; Medica services for para-transit to medical appointments and other destinations; consumer assistance to help seniors navigate complex government benefit programs; mental health counseling; Your Elder-care Consultants (geriatric care managers); support groups; and personal in-home care. CJE operates independent living buildings in Rogers Park and Skokie. Weinberg Community for Senior Living in Deerfield is comprised of Gidwitz Place for Assisted Living (for seniors who need some assistance with activities of daily living) and Friend Center for Memory Care (for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias). **Healthcare** is provided at Lieberman Center for Health and Rehabilitation in Skokie. Lieberman is a skilled nursing residence, offering long-term residential care and short-term rehabilitation.

Creative arts, therapeutic, recreational, and spiritual programs are offered throughout CJE's community-based and residential services.

Solel members Alan Greene, Bob Schlossberg, Harvey Kallick, and Chuck Bley have been on CJE's Board of Directors for many years. If you want to learn more about CJE for yourself, a family member, or a friend, contact CJE and speak with one of the Resource Specialists at (773) 508-1000 or [info@cje.net](mailto:info@cje.net). You can also visit [www.cje.net](http://www.cje.net) to learn more about its comprehensive network of care.

# Solel College Committee Seeks Names of Your Student

Each year Congregation Solel's college committee takes an active role in maintaining communication with students who are attending college or graduate school.

At three key intervals on the Jewish calendar -- the High Holidays, Hannukah, and Passover -- our college students receive a meaningful message and some Jewish goodies from Rabbi Moffic and Cantor Glikin.

Please send names and a complete US Mail address to [soleloffice@solel.org](mailto:soleloffice@solel.org) with subject line "College Student."

## We Want You

Lake County United (LCU), of which Congregation Solel is a member, and the Lake County Health Department are looking at access to healthcare. Through its LCU membership, Solel is a survey site.

The brief (one page), anonymous surveys are available on the credenza near the coat racks and there is a handy drop box in the Solel office. You can't miss the box. It says, "Return Access to Healthcare Surveys Here".

Please do not distribute the surveys to anyone who is not a Congregation Solel member, because they are keyed to our site.

- They do NOT ask for private medical information.
- They do NOT ask for your name, address, or any other identifying information.
- They are short (takes about two minutes to complete one).
- They are NOT connected with the Affordable Healthcare Act in any way.
- Statistics gathered will be used by LCU and the Lake County Health Department to determine if and what future action is needed.

Any questions, contact Meta L. Levin,  
[meta.levin@comcast.net](mailto:meta.levin@comcast.net).

## THANK YOU!!!

*Happy New Year and thank you to all who generously contributed to the food drive for the West Deerfield Township Food Pantry. The Pantry distributes food to Deerfield and many neighboring communities. We were surprised to hear that the pantry was in need of food and that the number of families and singles (mostly seniors) had more than doubled.*

*We have been collecting food at Solel since June, and have made a special effort at Rosh Chodesh events and recently at the Annual BBQ. We wanted to express our gratitude for all the support received from the congregation. To date we have collected approximately 85 bags of food.*

*Special thanks to Cantor Vicky Glikin for her support and encouragement, Cynthia Plouche for her involvement in the BBQ, Holly Krakow for coordinating the BBQ and including the food drive, Rabbi Moffic for helping to get the word out, Allan Litwack for collecting and dropping food off at the pantry, Michael Ebner and Geoff Prass for making sure we got into the building to distribute the food to the pantry.*

*We will continue to collect food for the Pantry throughout the year. Please look for flyers, notices in the newsletter, and collection boxes at upcoming special events.*

*Thank you so much for all your donations,  
Anne Kleinerman and Sue Ulman*

# Solelites Rally to Support First-Generation College Students

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, several Solelites joined a group of over 100 community members, local and state politicians, and other dignitaries to help celebrate and raise funds for the 2013 Envision Scholars.

The event took place at Tacos El Norte in Gurnee Illinois. Congressman Brad Schneider spoke at the event. Robin Shapiro, former VP of Social Justice at Solel, also spoke, citing education as the civil rights' issue of today. Reflecting on the synagogue's deep involvement in social justice issues in the 1960s, Shapiro pledged continued support for the efforts of Envision Scholars. Solel congregant Ellen Rubert was honored at the event, acknowledged for her pivotal involvement with Envision Scholars since its inception over 5 years ago.

The Solel contingent also included Michael Ebner (President of Solel), Phyllis Dolinko, Ellen Gussin, Cynthia Plouche (current VP of Social Justice), Joe Rafson, Wayne and Wendy Rhodes, Bennett Shapiro, and Sharon Stein.

Envision Scholars is a Waukegan-based organization dedicated to eliminating the barriers between meritorious Waukegan High School students and their dream of attending a 4-year college. For most of these students, college is not an entitlement; it's a dream with the potential to create a transformational multi-generation difference.

For several years, Solel has been involved in providing strategic support along with a variety of volunteer services for organizations such as Envision Scholars, College Bound Opportunities, and Waukegan to College. If you would like to get involved, please contact Cynthia Plouche at [cplouche@gmail.com](mailto:cplouche@gmail.com) or Robin Shapiro at [Robinshapiro2@gmail.com](mailto:Robinshapiro2@gmail.com).

Fighting Hereditary  
Breast and Ovarian  
Cancer

## The Angelina Effect

Learn How Jewish Genes  
Impact Your Cancer Risk

&

What You Can Do to Protect You and Your Family

Everybody's talking about it, but what does it mean to you and your family? Do you have a family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer or are a survivor? Wondering if you should be concerned about pancreatic or colon cancer in your family? Maybe thinking about testing for the BRCA mutation?

**You are not alone.**

Join us for possibly one of the most important one hour seminars you may ever experience to help educate yourself on the value of knowing your family medical history

**What:** Certified Genetic Counselor of NorthShore University Health Systems, Scott Weissman and congregant/FORCE coordinator, Heather Fineman, will provide information and answer questions that could save your life or someone you love

**When:** Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 @ 10 am – 11:00 am

**Where:** Congregation Solel, 1301 Clavey Road,  
Highland Park, IL 60035

**What else:** A complimentary bagel breakfast will be provided by the Center for Jewish Genetics



# SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND NOVEMBER 1-3, 2013

## Rabbi Dov and Judith Taylor Return to Solel

Solel is very excited to welcome back Rabbi Dov and Judith Taylor for our Scholar in Residence Weekend. There are three programs, which are described below, planned for this special weekend. In addition, if you would like to prepare for each program, Rabbi Taylor has suggested some articles to read in advance. This promises to be a very stimulating weekend and hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to participate.

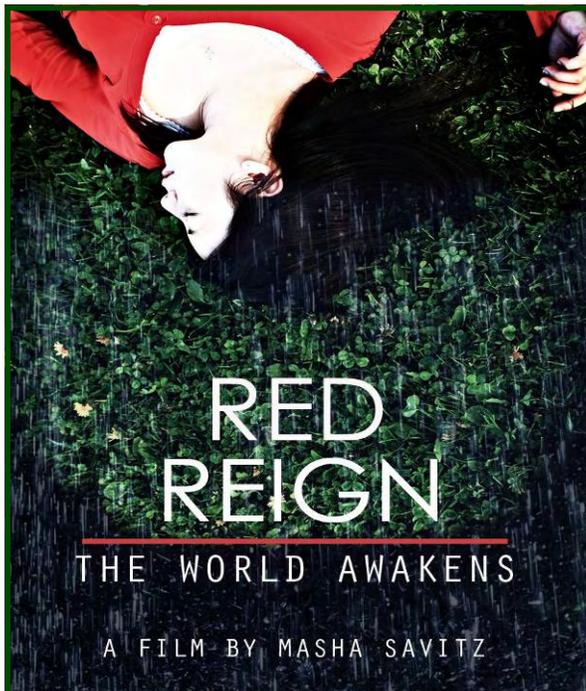
**Friday, November 1, 7:30 pm:** "Bless Me Too, Father". Service followed by a festive and delicious Oneg Shabbat, including homemade pastries. Advance reading: the parashah: *Toledot*, Genesis 25:19-28:9

**Saturday, November 2, 10:30 am:** "Revealer of Secrets: The Sequel", followed by lunch. Nineteen years after the publication of Joseph Perl's anti-Hasidic novel, *Revealer of Secrets* (1819), Perl published a sequel entitled, *Testing the Righteous*. We'll look at a few of his new revelations, in light of scholarship that has been done since Rabbi Taylor's translation of the original novel which was published in 1997.

**Sunday, November 3, 10:00 am:** Discussion of Contemporary Jewish Issues (light brunch served).

Suggested advance reading articles:

1. Peter Beinart's article, "The American Jewish Cocoon" in the September 26, 2013 issue of *The New York Review Of Books*, available at: <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2013/sep/26/american-jewish-cocoon/>
2. Jodi Kantor's article, "When Politics Catches Up With Portnoy" in *The New York Times Sunday Review*, published August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. People who subscribe to *The New York Times* can access it online. Others can request a hard copy from the Solel office.
3. "Unholy Alliance of Orthodox Judaism and Political Power Harms Israeli Democracy," by Rick Jacobs, President of the URJ, published September 9 for the issue of September 13 of the *Forward*. <http://forward.com/articles/183375/unholy-alliance-of-orthodox-judaism-and-political/#ixzz2eQd6BWYR>



## Sunday, October 27

### 2:00 pm

Join us for the screening of *Red Reign*, followed by Q&A with Masha Savitz, the documentary's writer and director.

*Red Reign* is an expose that reveals the story of the persecution of the Falun Gong in China. There is a strong Jewish angle in that the Israeli government, Jewish attorney, and Jewish physicians are the main international voices speaking out against what's happening in China to a persecuted religious minority.

Anyone who's ever said "Never Again" must see this film, which has been selected for the *Awareness Film, Art & Music Festival* in Santa Monica, CA.

<http://redreignfilm.com/>

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Congregation Solel • 1301 Clavey Road • Highland Park, IL 60035  
P: (847) 433-3555 • [solelooffice@solel.org](mailto:solelooffice@solel.org) • [www.solel.org](http://www.solel.org)



## Mazel Tov on Talia Schmetterer's Bat Mitzvah!



Talia Schmetterer, daughter of Ken Schmetterer and Nancee Siegel, will become a Bat Mitzvah on October 26, 2013. Talia will read from the book of Genesis, *Chayei Sarah*. From her Torah portion, Talia learned about the importance of acting kind to friends and strangers alike, and not just saying kind words. For her mitzvah project, Talia volunteered at Equestrian Connections, working with severely disabled children who use horseback riding as a form of physical therapy. Talia learned that giving back makes her and others feel better. Talia is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Shepard Middle School in Deerfield, and enjoys dance and spending time with her friends and family. Although learning her Torah and Haftarah portion was challenging, she learned that with hard work she is capable of accomplishing difficult tasks.

## Mazel Tov on Michael Hearsch's Bar Mitzvah!



Michael Hearsch, son of Mark and Phyllis Hearsch, will become a Bar Mitzvah on October 5, 2013. He is 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Edgewood Middle School. Some of Michael's favorite hobbies are basketball and more basketball. For his mitzvah project, Keshet Baseball Buddies, Michael learned that he is fortunate and blessed to be a healthy young man. Michael's Torah portion is *Noach*, from the Book of Genesis. The most important thing Michael learned from his Torah portion is that you should trust others. The greatest challenge Michael faced in preparing for his ceremony is switching from the Torah melody to the Haftarah melody. From this experience, Michael learned to appreciate the true meaning of how important it is to be a Jewish young man.

## Mazel Tov on Lucy Kaskel's Bat Mitzvah!



Lucy Drew Kaskel, daughter of Sara and Larry Kaskel, will become a Bat Mitzvah on October 19, 2013. She is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Elm Place Middle School in Highland Park and likes to read young adult fiction, text, and dance. Lucy's Torah portion is *Vayeira*, from the book of Genesis. One of the lessons she learned from her Torah portion is the importance of extending hospitality to strangers. For her mitzvah project, Lucy volunteered at Feed My Starving Children where she spent several afternoons hand-packing formulated meals for malnourished children. These meal packs called "Manna" are then shipped to over 70 countries around the world. On one occasion she brought several of her friends and collectively they packed enough food to feed 5,000 children for one year. In addition, Lucy has used her entrepreneurial spirit to raise money for Autism Speaks by decorating cell phone cases. Part of Lucy's challenge in preparing for her Bat Mitzvah these past few months included dealing with her parents' constant nagging to practice. Concerned that she might need additional support, Lucy's mom scheduled meetings with an online tutor for the month of October. After her first "online assessment" session, the tutor not only complimented Lucy's voice, but told her she was the "most prepared" Bat Mitzvah student. And that's when Lucy also learned a little bit more about her mom.

## Rabbi's Corner -- Rosh Hashanah Evening 5774 (Cont'd from page 1)

sponsibility with the potential complications of military intervention? How do we prevent massive genocide without causing more loss of life? How do we come to grips with our possibilities and limitations—the possibility to save lives and live up to our promise to respond to the use of chemical weapons, and the limitations of shaping a civil war occurring thousands of miles away?

These do not have easy answers. We may disagree on them in this very room. Yet, ask them we must. And act on them we shall. The greatest sin is to remain silent. Consider the words of Rabbi Joachim Prinz, a refugee from Nazi Germany who, in the 1950s, befriended a young Martin Luther King. He was the first rabbi to invite King to speak at a synagogue—which he would later do here at Solel. And Rabbi Prinz spoke directly before Dr. King at the 1963 March on Washington.

“When I was the rabbi of the Jewish community in Berlin under the Hitler regime,” he said, “I learned many things. The most important thing that I learned under those most tragic circumstances was that bigotry and hatred are not the most urgent problem. The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful and the most tragic problem is silence.”

We cannot remain silent on Syria. Nor can we remain silent in addressing the questions our Jewish tradition, and these sacred days, address to us. The situation in Syria is fluid and constantly changing. Yet, certain questions address each of us, as Jews and as human beings, on these sacred days. Asking them can transform us.

Following ancient Jewish custom, I am going to propose four of them.

The first: Who do we need to forgive? A nineteenth century Hasidic rabbi once pointed out that a finger held up to the eye can block the sun. For us, a misspoken word or a seeming slight from a colleague can block everything else. It can permanently mar or even destroy a relationship. It has happened to all of us. Yet, Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the New Year. It is, according to the Jewish tradition, the anniversary of the creation of the world. Perhaps we can let this day begin a new chapter in our relationships. Perhaps we can turn the page on what happened yesterday for the sake of what can happen tomorrow.

A fellow rabbi once sought to urge his congregation to try this. He decided to do an experiment. He cited the standard Jewish texts. And then he brought his one-year-old daughter up onto the bima. He kept going on with the sermon, as she played with his tie and kissed

his cheeks. Everyone chuckled and wondered what was going on. Finally he stopped and said, “Now is there anything she can do that we would not forgive her for.” Most of the congregation nodded in recognition. Smiling, the rabbi waited for silence and then asked, “And when does that stop? When does it get so hard to forgive? At three? At seven? At fourteen? At thirty five? How old does someone have to be before we refuse to forgive?” (Also recounted in Naomi Remen’s *My Grandfather’s Blessing*.)

Today each of us can ask ourselves what we are doing to forgive? Are giving people the benefit of the doubt? Are we holding a grudge because it allows us to avoid doing something difficult? The prayerbook asks us those questions. Only we can answer them.

The second question: Are we giving enough to others? Are we simply looking out for #1, as the 1970s best-selling book put it, or do we look out for one another? We need to ask this question as a Jewish community and as individuals. Mordecai Kaplan, the greatest twentieth century Jewish philosopher, once observed “If Judaism is reduced merely to an awareness of antisemitism, it ceases to be a civilization and becomes a complex.” As Jews we cannot just defend ourselves. We need to remind ourselves of and act on our responsibility to the world. What stops us from doing so? Two things: apathy and insularity.

Jonathan Sacks, the recently retired Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, described these two forces eloquently when he wrote, “Today the two most powerful movements in Jewish life are assimilation and segregation. Jews are either engaging with the world at the cost of disengaging from Judaism, or engaging with Judaism at the cost of disengaging from the world.” In other words, some who grow up Jewish give so much to the world but have no interest in their Jewish heritage. Others become so immersed in Jewish study and living that they disconnect themselves from the outside world.

Where is the happy medium? Where are those who take their Judaism seriously while working for tikkun olam, repair of our world? We have many here at Solel. We need more. Judaism is not a faith of I and Me. It is Us and We. It is one not of walls but of windows. As I sometimes tell our students, the most important place in this synagogue is not the ark. It is the front door. It is the way we take what we learn and pray here and translate it into our everyday deeds and decisions.

The Abraham of Sodom and Gomorrah, the Abraham of questions, embodied this kind of Judaism. He can be a

(Cont'd on page 11)

## Rabbi's Corner -- Rosh Hashanah Evening 5774 (Cont'd from page 10)

model for all of us privileged to live in this time, in this community. The Torah says Abraham was a righteous man “b'toch ha-eer” which means “in the midst of the city.” The Torah, by definition, cannot have any superfluous words. Thus, the phrase “in the midst of the city” must have some significance. According to the eighteenth century Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, it pointed to Abraham's engagement with the issues, the context, the people of his time. It is easy to be righteous with those who are like us. It is more challenging to be righteous in the city, or, as Theodore Roosevelt once put it, in the arena, a place of diverse and competing interests. Righteous is not something we are only in prayer. It needs to be part of the way we live.

And living this kind of Judaism is the only way our people will survive. If Judaism does *not* speak to our everyday concerns—if it does not give us purpose and inspiration for living—it will become a fossil and the synagogue will become a museum.

Part of the beauty of our building renovation is the skylight in the lounge. As we reach upward toward God, we also reach outside the walls of our building. We bring our faith upward and outward into the world.

The third question: Are we listening? Tomorrow morning Scott will sound the shofar for us. But will we really hear it? This is not a trick question. In fact, the Jewish sages thought deeply about what it means to hear the sound of shofar. In fact, they devised a hypothetical scenario. A man stands over a deep pit in the earth. Several people are standing at the bottom of the pit. Another group is across from the man on the other side. The man sounds the shofar. The people in the pit have fulfilled the mitzvah of hearing the sound of the shofar. The people standing right across the pit, however, have not. They heard, since the shofar was sounded over a pit, only its echo. What is the lesson? When others speak we need to listen for the sound, not just the echo.

Perhaps the ability to hear the true sound and not its echo is so important because it is so rare. How often do we talk with our friends and family and listen only for what we want to hear? How many times do we talk on the phone with someone and check e-mail at the same time? How meaningful a conversation can we have when we are checking our rear view mirror and flicking our right hand turn signal? To listen attentively is to be truly present, and it can be a struggle. It often depends more on our heart than our ears.

But when we listen with our heart, we grow. And this is our fourth question. Are we growing? Are we doing

what we can to change, to become the person we are meant to be? This is not just an intellectual question. The greatest impediment to this growth is not lack of understanding. It is ourselves. My daughter reminded me recently of this truth. She was reading one of those books of wacky and interesting facts. Dad, she said to me, “Guess what? A spider knows which part of its web is sticky so it doesn't get caught.” Wow, I said. And then I thought about it a bit longer. Do we know what parts of ourselves are sticky? Do we know the parts of our lives where we get caught? Do we get angry too quickly? Do we let certain people get to us, or intimidate us, or scare us? Are we tempted to lie or gossip if people around us are? These may be the sticky parts of our ourselves.

And if we are to grow, we need to figure them out. Exploring them may make us uncomfortable. Yet, the most important change happens outside our comfort zone, and these upcoming 10 days of awe are a good time for a little discomfort. We can ask ourselves the questions we ignore in the business of everyday life.

One of the names for Rosh Hashanah in the Talmud is *Yom Harat HaOlam*, the birthday of the world. This is the anniversary of the creation of the world. Yet, the Jewish sages said the creation never really ended. It is ongoing. In the traditional morning prayers we echo this idea when we say to God, “You renew the work of creation daily.” And like God, we renew ourselves daily, weekly, monthly, yearly. We are all works in formation. And, today, we begin our annual self-review and renewal. Are we growing? This is not only the final question. It is the one that encompasses them all because in the life of the spirit, growing isn't everything. It is the only thing.

As the poet Ted Hughes put it in a letter to his son: *So when you realize you've gone a few weeks and haven't felt that awful struggle of your childish self — struggling to lift itself out of its inadequacy and incompetence — you'll know you've gone some weeks without meeting new challenge, and without growing, and that you've gone some weeks towards losing touch with yourself. The only calibration that counts is how much heart people invest, how much they ignore their fears of being hurt or caught out or humiliated. And the only thing people regret is that they didn't live boldly enough, that they didn't invest enough heart, didn't love enough. Nothing else really counts at all.*

Tonight we asked four questions. Let us not regret our fear of answering them.

- Rabbi Evan Moffic

## Rabbi's Corner -- Rosh Hashanah Morning 5774

I recently came across a report from a professor at the Harvard Business School. She had been hired to improve the accuracy of the numbers customers give on their auto insurance forms. We know how it goes—the forms ask us how many miles we drive each year. We fill them in, and sign a declaration that the numbers we reported are accurate.

Well, this professor had a suspicion that these numbers were not always accurate. The reason? Sometimes it could be blatant dishonesty, but other times it could be simply rounding downward since people thought fewer miles would lead to lower rates.

Her challenge was to figure out a way to change the form to encourage customers to be more accurate. She decided to create a new form. The key difference would be the placement of the signature line. Instead of coming after the reporting of the numbers, the signature would come first. In other words, the first thing the customer would do is sign a declaration indicating that everything he or she is about to report will be accurate. The professor would then test these forms against the others, which remained in the traditional way, where we sign at the end.

What were the results? The customers who used the new kind of form reported much more accurate numbers. The professor surmised that by signing first, customers get aware of their own sense of self—their own ethical principles. When they sign first, they are reminded to take this form seriously, to fill it in according to their values. Therefore, they tend to be more honest, more careful, more deliberate, when filling in the numbers.

Can this professor's discovery be applied to more than auto insurance forms? I think so. I think its discovery points to the very reason we gather here every year on these Days of Awe. We are signing a form saying Judaism matters to us. We are signing a form saying the ethics and wisdom of our tradition matter to us. We are signing a form saying the generations who came before us, and those who will come after us, matter to us. We are asking God to sign our names in the Book of Life. But more importantly, we are signing our name in the Book of Jewish Life. It belongs to us, and we belong to it.

As with auto insurance, we have to pay a premium. It's not only membership dues and donations. It is our time. It is our energy. It is our insight and skills. But the benefits accrue over the long term. They live on after us in our children and grandchildren. And they add tremendous value to our lives.

The first benefit is identity. Judaism gives us a sense of who we are, where we come from and where we are going. This feeling of identity can apply even for those who weren't born Jewish but have affiliated themselves with the Jewish community. It is a matter of choice, not birth. We both create and discover our identity, and at times, it can surprise us. As Martin Buber once said "All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware."

A Friday night service we had this past May at Solel drove home this point for me. We were celebrating the adult confirmation class. For sixteen Sundays I taught a group of adults some of the same basic principles and texts from the high school confirmation class. During this service, four of the students gave short talks about what they learned and what being Jewish means to them. As they spoke, I was touched not only by what they said. I was awed by the experiences and stories they shared.

One student began his journey in the South. He had lived all over the country, describing himself as a wandering Jew. He never had a Bar Mitzvah and as a scientist, he identified with its strictly rationalist worldview. Yet here he was, studying, belonging, and celebrating his Jewishness.

Another student began her journey in Oak Park. She had also lived all over the country. She had always identified strongly with Jewish culture and social justice. Then this year, as an empty nester, she decided to visit Israel and learn more about Jewish religious tradition. Her knowledge and spirituality grew. And that evening she, too, was affirming her identity.

The final student began her journey in Milwaukee. After her Bat Mitzvah she rarely visited a synagogue. But with her own child now entering elementary school, she wanted to better understand who she was and where she was going. She discovered the Solel community and began studying. And here she, too, was discovering and shaping her identity.

A birthright is not only a free trip to Israel for college students and young adults. It is belonging to the world's oldest religion. It is signing our name to our own Book of Life. Without our signatures, the book will not go on.

A second benefit of our Jewish life is meaning. A more cynical rabbinic colleague commented recently to me that there is no overarching sense of meaning in life. There are only moments of meaning. In other words, life is a series of disjointed events. Some are wonderful.

Others are painful. Some feel right. Others feel out of place. No thread links them together in a meaningful way.

Viewing life this way is like seeing a great movie as a series of disjointed scenes. One might show a kiss. Another might show a loss. Yet, we would insist they share no thematic connection. That seems absurd, right? Maybe good for understanding an obscure French film, but not for making sense of our lives!

Our lives are not, to quote Shakespeare, "full of sound and fury signifying nothing". Rather, they are like a story whose ending has not yet been written. They are filled with characters, subplots, highs and lows, twists and turns. But undergirding them is a narrative: if we pay attention, if we shema, listen, it can be a narrative growth, of development, of the unfolding of our unique spirit.

A recent book by Bruce Feiler makes this case superbly. Feiler wrote the New York Times bestseller *Walking the Holy Land*. This year he published a new book called *The Secrets of Happy Families: How to Improve Your Morning, Rethink Family Dinner, Fight Smart, Go Out and Play, and Much More*. The thesis of the book is that every family has a narrative. It can be either an ascending narrative: we came here with nothing, we worked hard, and are enjoying the fruits of our labor. A descending: once we had it all. Now look at us. Or the most common and, in fact, healthy is what Feiler calls the oscillating narrative: this one goes, "We've had ups and downs in our family. We built a family business. Your grandfather was a pillar of the community. Your mother was on the board of the hospital. But we also had setbacks. You had an uncle who was once arrested. We had a house burn down. Your father lost a job. But no matter what happened, we always stuck together as a family." Do we know where our family fits in?

If not, we should, because knowing our family narrative makes us happier and healthier human beings. A sense of identity begets happiness. Scientists found evidence for this by asking children a series of questions:

They included: Do you know where your grandparents grew up? Do you know where your mom and dad went to high school? Do you know where your parents met? Do you know an illness or something really terrible that happened in your family? Do you know the story of your birth?

Researchers discovered that the children knew the answers to these questions, had a much greater likelihood of thriving and coping with difficult circumstances. They

felt greater control over their lives. They were even more resilient after 9/11. They had what Feiler calls an "intergenerational self," finding meaning in seeing their own lives as part of a larger group and narrative.

Aside from strengthening our own families, this research can help us understand the power of Judaism. The Jewish people are one big family. What binds is not just birth. It is a narrative, a story. The story begins with Abraham, is carried forward by Moses, is sealed at Mount Sinai, and is affirmed in the mouths of our children everyday. Today we have come together for this big family reunion. But to fully appreciate our birth-right—to experience the benefits Feiler so keenly identifies—we need to know our family story. We need to know our traditions, our values, our texts, our language, our history. This knowledge is the secret to our happiness. It is the secret to our survival.

Two thousand years ago the Roman historian Josephus hinted at this truth. He wrote, "Should any one of our nation be asked about our traditions, he will repeat them as readily as his own name. The result of our thorough education in our laws from the very dawn of intelligence is that they are, as it were, engraved on our souls." I'm not sure Josephus could say the same thing today. Let us prove him right. Let us make Jewish learning a part of our lives so its message becomes engraved on our souls. Come to Torah study, come to downtown lunch and learn, read a Jewish book. We will be better off for it. Knowing what we are gives meaning to who we are. When we sign the Jewish Book of Life, we sign a commitment to be who we are by learning about what we are. We commit to learning our family history.

We have discussed two benefits to signing our names in the Jewish Book of Life: identity and meaning. The final benefit is awareness. When we take our Judaism seriously, we become aware that we are always in God's presence. This awareness teaches how to live.

One poignant example drives this lesson home. It is about a young man named Nadav Ben Yehuda. After finishing army service in Israel several years ago, he began traveling. He had a passion for mountain climbing. For two years he climbed several mountains around the world. Then he began preparing for his ultimate goal. He wanted to be the youngest Israeli to summit Mount Everest. The week he chose was not an easy one. In fact, four people died on Everest during it. By the time he was 1000 meters from the top, Nadav faced 125 miles per hour winds, and it was 40 degrees below zero. Despite these conditions, he continued to climb.

When Nadav was 250 meters from the peak, which he

## Rabbi's Corner -- Rosh Hashanah Morning 5774

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could now see, he stopped. He saw the body of another climber sprawled out on the ice. He looked dead, but Nadav decided to take a closer look. As he did so, he recognized the man. It was his friend, Aydin Irmak. Irmak was from Turkey, and they had met at the basecamp. Aydin had left for his climb before Nadav. He had reached the peak and then collapsed on his way down. He was slowly freezing to death.

Nadav decided instantly what he had to do. He picked up Aydin and carried him down the slopes. Throughout the descent, Aydin pleaded with him to put him down so they both would not die. After eight hours, they made it to a campsite where a helicopter came to their rescue. Both their faces were covered with severe burns. Nadav had to take off his gloves to carry Aydin, and his hands were blackened to a crisp.

After they recovered, Aydin asked the Nepalese authorities to give his certificate for reaching the top of Everest to Nadav. They refused. Yet, even as his life-long dream to be the youngest Israeli to scale Everest was lost, Nadav said he never doubted his decision. He had a responsibility to his fellow climber. Even as relations between Israel and Turkey deteriorated during this time—this was 2011-- a young Israeli carried a dying Turk down Mount Everest.

Would we have done the same thing? God only knows. What I know is that Nadav was driven by a higher goal than simply climbing the world's tallest mountain. He knew he belonged to a people for whom *pikuach nefesh*, saving a life, is the highest calling. And so do we. And like Nadav, we sign our names in the Jewish Book of Life when we live by the values discovered by Abraham, taught by Moses and studied by all of us this very day.

As we ask God on this sacred day, "*Remember us unto life, O Sovereign who delights in life, and inscribe us in the Book of Life, for your sake, O God of Life.*"

- Rabbi Evan Moffic

## A Personal Reflection by William Fireside

Shalom, I greet you today with the words:

I'M A JEW AND I BELIEVE IN GOD!

What's so remarkable about that, you may ask? Here we are -- in a synagogue -- at one of the most solemn and holy days of the year -- and I say that I'm a Jew and I believe in God?

What is remarkable is that it signifies an emphatic statement of fact -- that comes not at the beginning of a journey, but rather at its culmination.

How did I get there? In that question hangs the tale. I started my journey rather expectedly and automatically. I was raised as a Reform Jew, with parents who sent me to Sunday school – religiously -- but were not particularly enthusiastic in pursuing their own religious beliefs. They were insistent that I continue my studies through high school and were quite satisfied with me as I proudly received each diploma and they reveled during the accompanying celebrations.

As my secular education continued and my horizons broadened, I became more curious about the basic concepts of religion – not just Judaism, but the need for faith and all the many cults, cultures, sects, religions and paths that were each billed as the sure way to the “golden kingdom” and to God. One would need a hefty ledger to keep track of them all, from the earliest records of mankind, on through mythology to the present day – how they proliferated – and how most failed.

Mark Twain, whose writings went far beyond Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn, was, in my opinion, one of the greatest thinkers of his day. His works remain profoundly relevant in our day. Many of his best writings were not published until after his death, for fear that he would have been thought an Atheist and his careers as lecturer and author would have come to abrupt ends. I'm convinced that he was NOT an Atheist, but rather a true Deist. He believed in God but abhorred what man had done to THAT belief with all the strangeness and ridiculousness of man's interpretation of religion. I will share two excerpts with you from “The Bible, According to Mark Twain,” published in various forms after his death in 1910. These, you must realize, are fictionalized stories that express the author's actual feelings.

## A Personal Reflection by William Fireside *(Cont'd from page 14)*

First, from the tale "Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven," the Captain has died and is hurtling through space, as he recollects, traveling at a billion or so miles per hour. He has been on this trip for over 30 years and finally comes to a gathering place with a large wall and enormous gates. He beholds a collection of beings that he estimates to be into the billions. He recognizes no one and has never seen creatures such as these before – assorted colors and some with two or three heads and many limbs.

When Stormfield reaches the gate-keeper who sits at a desk with huge ledgers piled upon it, he is asked his name and where he's from. The Captain replies and gives as his address - "San Francisco". The gate-keeper looks puzzled. The Captain says California – no recognition – then the United States of America – again nothing. The world – the planet Earth, blurts out Stormfield. The gate-keeper calls an assistant to consult an atlas and after much pondering says – "Oh yes, I remember. It's that teeny speck way out in the corner of the milky something or other. It's very young and quite obscure. He's obviously come to the wrong place. We'll send him to where he belongs."

Twain is telling us that we are not the most important items in the universe and in the scheme of things, we are infinitesimally small. There is a place where we are to spend eternity, but finding it is quite another story.

Here is one more view from the writings in the tale, "Letters from the Earth." In this story, an angel is sent to earth to report back to the home office about how things are going on this strange planet called Earth. The angel writes: "There are peculiar creatures here that call themselves MAN. Not sure how you created them but they certainly have some funny ideas, especially about where **we** live. It seems that these men creatures do not particularly like to sing, play the harp, wear white robes or float about. Yet this is how they picture what they will be doing for eternity in a place called heaven – dressed in white robes, playing a harp, singing and floating about – that's all.

Can you imagine??? There are no cigars, no whiskey, no wild women and no parties – and they call that heaven??

So what is this heaven? And if there is heaven, doesn't it follow that there is a place called hell? Are these creations of man's imagination or do they exist? Sorry,

I don't have the answer -- you must decide for yourself.

I know that there is a God and he is THE GOD. He put things in motion and as if we were wind-up toys, gave us life with the turn of a key, but HE left us to our own devices with a thing called "free will." But he doesn't leave us quite alone. He talks to us through a little device planted deep within us, called conscience. Some of us don't choose to hear. Some hear but do not heed. Most of us do pay attention and comply.

In any event, the voice remains -- listening is the choice you make.

Religion to me is summed up in the words of the great Rabbi Hillel who, when asked by someone who wishes to trick him, to sum up the Torah while standing on one leg, said: "That which is distasteful to you do not do unto another...all the rest is commentary."

When I consider how the Jewish people have survived for more than 5,773 years, while most of those who tried to eliminate us are no longer around – I know that there is a God.

When I look into the face of my wife of 54 years, I acknowledge the presence of God. When I behold my children, their spouses and my grandchildren – I know that there is a God. I know that my belief is well placed and correct. I am comfortable.

The journey continues, but the questions are answered: I'M A JEW AND I BELIEVE IN GOD!

- William Fireside

### ATTENTION SOLEL VETERANS:

Now hear this:

All Great grandfathers,

Grandfathers, Fathers, Sons, Sons of sons,

And all of the **Women** who served with them...

Solel wants to enlist you to list your enlistments.

Please contact Alison Baker Frank at

[DSIGNER222@AOL.COM](mailto:DSIGNER222@AOL.COM) or at (847) 964-9181 with

your name, rank, where you served, and the years

you served so we can celebrate **you** for and on

Solel's Veteran's Day service on Friday, November

8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 7:30 pm.

## From Our President -- (Cont'd from page 1)

what has transpired results from Larry's steady hand, determination and commitment. For those of you whose memories reach long into our past, you may recall that after Herman Edwards, our beloved first president and pathfinder concluded his term of office in 1959, he immediately occupied the chair of the building committee. Herman inspired the construction of Congregation Solel. This evening the examples of Larry Mason and Herman Edwards stand together, reinforcing a half century of memories which define the spirit of our congregation. Please mark your calendar for the weekend of March 21 to 23, 2014. Congregation Solel has scheduled three days of memorable re-dedication events. We shall celebrate and commemorate. I am grateful to our co-chairs, Ross Erlebacher and past president Betsy Lassar, whose committee is planning a truly inter-generational occasion. A distinguished alumna of our Religious School will be among our guests. On Sunday afternoon – March 23<sup>rd</sup> – we shall hear from Martha Minow, Dean of Harvard Law School. Recently she addressed the Central Conference of American Rabbis, waxing eloquently about the inspiration she continues to associate with her Jewish education at Congregation Solel.

Words expressing gratitude also stand essential on this Erev Rosh Hashanah. As a religious community we could not prosper without our devoted clergy, professionals, and support team. Rabbi Moffic continues his leadership of this thriving congregation. Cantor Glikin has added her leadership and her voice. Every day of the year we express our gratitude to our clergy for their inspiration. Allan Litwack, our *menschlich* Executive Director, serves us with dignity, ardor, and wisdom. Geoff Prass, our Religious School Director, oversees the Jewish education of our youth with imagination and verve. Simcha Ackerman is a stalwart in advancing our students, working with them one-to-one as they pursue their goals. Congregation Solel is grateful for the wonderful teachers in our Religious School. In our administrative offices: Evelyn Brewer, Michelle Raz, Vic Bassi, and Jenny Gilberston provide support essential to our daily operations. We are grateful for our tireless and loyal custodial staff of Juan Gutierrez Sr., Juan Gutierrez Jr., Carlos Gutierrez, and Hugo Gutierrez. We cherish all who serve our holy congregation, asking a blessing for each of them as well as their families.

Our congregation is ever grateful to our Solel choir, solo-

ists and volunteers alike. Choir Director Warren Fremling, and Phil Orem, our accompanist – collaborating with Cantor Glikin – consistently make our spiritual music inspirational and participatory.

Our gathering together on Erev Rosh Hashanah marks a significant moment in time. Rabbi Moffic and Cantor Glikin, kindly join me at the reading table. Our clergy will lead us in reciting the *Shehecheyanu*, the two-thousand year old blessing sanctifying “the one who has given us life.” On new or special occasions our people have invoked its words in gratitude and humility. From our revered founders to our newest congregants – on this first day of Tishri in the year 5774 – we assemble as one in contemplating our past, our present, and our future.

- Michael Ebner  
(847) 275-7441  
president@solel.org

\* These remarks were delivered on Erev Rosh Hashanah.



*Solelite Kol Zimrah singers Joan Eagle, Judith Golden, Wendy Rhodes, Beth Sanchez, and Barbara Weiner (left to right) preparing to sing Va, pensiero with the CSO on September 18. Save the date for another Kol Zimrah/Solel choir concert on May 4, 2014.*

# “GIFTS”

## *Gratitude, Inspiration, Family, Tzedakah and Service*

A pilot program sponsored by the  
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago,  
Interfaith Family/Chicago and Grandparents for Social Action  
with Rabbi Ari Moffic, Director of Interfaith Family/Chicago &  
Sharon Morton, RJE, Executive Director of Grandparents for Social Action

### Calling all Grandparents



Join us for a special series of classes designed to provide essential knowledge, skills and tools needed to share the “GIFTS” values with your grandchildren.

### Dates and Class Subjects:

**Thursday, October 3, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**  
**Passing on Our Values** – Defining our legacy, telling our stories

**Thursday, October 10, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**  
**Bringing to Life the Concepts of Tzedakah – Justice, Gemilut Chassadim – Acts of Loving Kindness and Tikun Olam – Repairing the World.**  
Modern messages for us and our grandchildren.

**Thursday, October 17, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**  
**Building a Teaching-Learning Relationship, and Staying Connected with Children and Grandchildren of All Ages in an Interdependent Way.**

**Thursday, October 24, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**  
**The Calendar and Social Justice** – Using holidays, Shabbat, and milestones as times to involve grandchildren in philanthropy and social justice.

**Thursday, October 31, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**  
**Sharing with and Supporting Grandchildren Being Raised in Interfaith Homes or Not with Judaism.**

All classes will be held at Congregation Solel. Free of charge.  
Feel free to bring your own lunch.  
RSVP to [solelooffice@solel.org](mailto:solelooffice@solel.org).



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## 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 (10)*

*Gershen and Sally Abraham*

*Lawrence and Carol Adelman*

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*Frank and Elaine Haney*

*Jack and Greta Heiman*

*David and Lisa Helfand*

# Thank You For Your Campaign for Solel Contributions

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Rabbi Dov and Judith Taylor  
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Ken and Pam Zasky  
Burton and Deborah Zirin  
David and Tracy Zirin  
Joe and Dottie Zoller  
Laura Zuckerman  
Nancy Zuraw

As of September 27, 2013

### Help us feed families in need.



Food Donations for the West Deerfield Township Food Pantry is at an all-time **LOW**.

**The number of families in need has DOUBLED.**

#### Most important is the need for protein.

Canned fruit, side dish mixes, fresh fruits & vegetables, paper products, laundry detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and more.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH B'NAI TORAH CONGREGATION

#### Malcom Gladwell When Underdogs Break the Rules Tuesday, October 1, 7:00 pm



Why are we so often surprised when underdogs win? Do Goliaths make mistakes in spite of their strength—or because of it? Why are the childhoods of people at the top of so many professions marked by deprivation? Malcolm Gladwell uncovers the hidden rules that shape the balance between the weak and the mighty. Malcolm Gladwell has been a staff writer with *The New Yorker* magazine since 1996 and is the author of several books.

#### Alan Dershowitz and Jeffrey Toobin Monday, November 4, 7:00 pm

You know that Alan Dershowitz, the preeminent defense lawyer in America today, has had an impact on the lives of storied clients like O. J. Simpson, Claus von Bülow, Bill Clinton, Julian Assange, Jeffrey MacDonald, Patty Hearst, Mike Tyson, and many more. But who has affected Dershowitz himself? The attorney and author is now Taking the Stand in a new memoir and on 92Y's Stage. Jeffrey Toobin, author (*The Oath: The Obama White House and the Supreme Court*), *New Yorker* writer and CNN analyst, interviews Dershowitz. Thane Rosenbaum will moderate.

#### Ari Shavit with David Remnick: The Tragedy and Triumph of Israel Tuesday, November 19, 7:15 pm

Haaretz senior correspondent Ari Shavit joins *New Yorker* editor David Remnick for an incisive analysis of the Jewish state's fraught history—and its prospects for the future. Shavit's new book, *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*, is the sweeping result of his 30 years in the trenches of Israeli society and politics. Ari Shavit is a leading Israeli columnist and writer. David Remnick, editor of *The New Yorker* since July, 1998, is the author of several books, including *King of the World*, *Resurrection*, and *Lenin's Tomb*.

**Cost:** \$10/person per event or buy 3 for \$25

**Payment Options:** log in to [www.solel.org](http://www.solel.org), check by mail, or credit card by phone.

# Check Out These Activities at Congregation Solel



## Hava Nashira

A NEW ENGAGING AND SPIRITED SERVICE FEATURING FRESH AND FAMILIAR MELODIES.

JOIN US AT 7:30 PM FOR AN EVENING OF SONG AND INSPIRATION, ACCOMPANIED BY SOLEL'S OWN INSTRUMENTALISTS AND SINGERS.

*It's Shabbat...Let's Sing!*

**Dates:**  
 October 4  
 December 6  
 February 7  
 April 11  
 June 6

## “Not for Women Only: A Spirited Solel Symposium”

Discussing a diverse range of opinions on Sheryl Sandberg’s best-selling book *Lean In*

**Sunday, October 6 at 2:00 pm**

**Moderator:** Allen Siegel, MD

**Panelists –**  
 Francie Arenson, Professor Siobhan Moroney, Robin Shapiro, and Deborah Siegel



**Free admission and open to the public**



## Pray 'n Play

Saturday, October 12  
 10:30 am

*This isn't your ordinary Tot Shabbat!*



Join other families with children 0-5 years of age for a fun, interactive “Gymboree-style” Shabbat program, featuring music, maracas, puppets, & parachutes.

Followed by a complimentary bagel brunch and playtime.

Older siblings are welcome to attend!

**Come, sing, play, make friends!!**

Led by Cantor Vicky Glikin



**Future Dates:**

February 8	March 1
November 2	April 12
December 7	May 10
January 11	



## Shabbat Shalom!

*A Service for the Whole Family*





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, with participation by Solel's Youth Choir "Rimonim"

**Dates:**  
 October 25  
 November 29  
 December 27

Shabbat. Friendship.  
 Community. Family. Song.

# Thank You For Your Contributions

## Building Fund

**Ed and Kerry Hollander**, in honor of Pam, Gregg, Josh, and Sam Hollander  
**Jonathan Lavin and Susan O'Neill**, in memory of Bennet Lavin

## Campaign for Solel

*New and additional donations during the past month are identified on Pages 14, 15 & 16.*

## Human Needs Fund

**Natalie Belrose**, in honor of Lizzey Erlebacher Bat Mitzvah  
**Michelle Feldman**  
**Laurie and Bruce Kaden**, in honor of Meg Lassar's marriage  
**Shiela and Jack Marks**, in memory of their parents  
**Linda and Steve Randall**, in honor of Barbara and Dennis Kessler's 50th Wedding Anniversary  
**Sharon and Mike Stein**, in honor of the marriage of Joanna and Flavio Ambrogiani

## Music Fund

**Laurie and Mark Feldman**, in memory of Ruth Umemoto  
**Larry and Susan Mason**, in honor of Geoff Prass and Rabbi Alison Abrams  
**Larry and Susan Mason**, in honor of Ross and Susan Erlebacher, on the occasion of their daughter, Elizabeth's Bat Mitzvah

## Tribute Fund

**Verna and Jack Cohen**, in honor of Carol Cohen  
**Ellen and Lee Gussin**, in memory of Charlotte Brown  
**Beaty Harris**, in memory of Fanny Wolf  
**Cathy and Marc Horowitz**, in memory of Babette and Richard B. Hirsch  
**Lee and Sheldon Karon**, in memory of Didi Yastrow  
**Renee and Thomas Krauss**, in memory of Betty Kilby  
**Gary and Judy Leven**, in memory of David Camras  
**Sheila and Jack Marks**, in memory of Pearl Yaffe  
**Wendy and Wayne Rhodes**, in honor of Meg Lassar's marriage  
**Marilyn Richman**, in memory of Charles Melvoin  
**James and Janet Rosenbaum**, in memory of Tecla Rosenbaum  
**Jason Rubenstein and Amy Francetic**, in memory of Herbert Kallman  
**Suzanne Weiskopf**, in memory of Calvin Weiskopf  
**Susan and Richard Wellek**, in memory of William Wellek

*As of September 27, 2013*

## Mazel Tov to ....

**Alison Baker Frank**, on the birth of her granddaughter, Olivia Brooke Goldsmith.

## Condolences to ...

**Ken and Bobbi Brown**, on the passing of their mother, Charlotte Brown.

**Jerry Rudman**, on the passing of his sister-in-law, Deborah Fell.

**Donald Schaumberger**, on the passing of his brother, Richard Schaum.

## 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 Litwack, Executive Director, at (847) 433-3555, ext 225.

Thank you for your continued support of your beloved Congregation Solel.

## Updating Your Solel Calendar with Future Events in 2013-2014

- November 1-3, 2013:** Scholar in Residence Weekend with Rabbi Emeritus Dov Taylor
- November 8, 2013 at 7:30 pm:** Fourth Annual Veterans' Day Commemorative Shabbat
- January 17, 2014 at 7:30 pm:** Fifth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Shabbat
- February 7-9, 2014:** Snowbird Shabbat in Florida
- March 2, 2014:** Women's Seder
- March 21-23, 2014:** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Re-dedication of Congregation Solel
- April 13, 2014 at 1:00 pm:** One Book/One Solel (reading assignment pending)
- May 4, 2014 at 2:00 pm:** Kol Zimrah Concert at Congregation Solel

Please contact Michelle Raz at [soleloffice@solel.org](mailto:soleloffice@solel.org) or call (847) 433-3555.

# October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Kindle Shabbat Candles at dinner or at the following times (CDT):</p> <p>4.....6:11 pm 11.....5:59 pm 18.....5:48 pm 25.....5:37 pm</p>	<p><b>1</b> 4:15 pm Religious School 7:00 pm 92Y Live: Malcolm Gladwell</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 12:00 pm Jewish Grandparenting</p>	<p><b>4</b> 7:30 pm Hava Nashira Service</p>	<p><b>5</b> 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Michael Hearsch Bar Mitzvah 10:35 am Morning Minyan</p>	
<p><b>6</b> 9:45 am Religious School 10:15 am Board Meeting 2:00 pm Lean In Symposium</p>	<p><b>7</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>8</b> 12:00 pm Lunch &amp; Learn 4:15 pm Religious School 7:00 pm Just Congregations</p>	<p><b>9</b> 12:00 pm Downtown Lunch &amp; Learn</p>	<p><b>10</b> 12:00 pm Jewish Grandparenting</p>	<p><b>11</b> 7:30 pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p><b>12</b> 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Pray 'n Play 10:35 am Morning Minyan</p>
<p><b>13</b> 9:45 am Religious School</p>	<p><b>14</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>15</b> 4:15 pm Religious School 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> 12:00 pm Jewish Grandparenting</p>	<p><b>18</b> Deadline for Russia/Ukraine Trip Deposit 7:30 pm Choir Shabbat</p>	<p><b>19</b> 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Lucy Kaskel Bat Mitzvah 10:35 am Morning Minyan</p>
<p><b>20</b> 8:30 am- 12:30 pm Blood Drive 9:45 am Religious School 2:00 pm Speaker: Congressman Schneider</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> 12:00 pm Lunch &amp; Learn 4:15 pm Religious School</p>	<p><b>23</b> 10:00 am Joyce Schragar Book Club</p>	<p><b>24</b> 12:00 pm Jewish Grandparenting</p>	<p><b>25</b> 6:15 pm Shabbat Shalom Service</p>	<p><b>26</b> 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 pm Talia Schmetterer Bat Mitzvah 10:35 am Morning Minyan</p>
<p><b>27</b> 9:45 am Religious School 10:00 am Speaker: Scott Weisman- Genetic 2:00 pm Red Reign Film and Q&amp;A</p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>29</b> 4:15 pm Religious School</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> 12:00 pm Jewish Grandparenting</p>		

# October Shabbat Services Schedule

## Friday, October 4

Hava Nashira Service .....7:30 pm

*Noach, Gen. 6:0-11:32*

## Saturday, October 5

Torah Study .....9:15 am

Michael Hearsch Bar Mitzvah .....10:30 am

Morning Minyan .....10:35 am

## Friday, October 11

Shabbat Service .....7:30 pm

*Lech L'cha, Gen. 12:1-17:27*

## Saturday, October 12

Torah Study .....9:15 am

Pray 'n Play .....10:30 am

Morning Minyan .....10:35 am

## Friday, October 18

Choir Shabbat Service.....7:30 pm

*Vayeira, Gen. 18:1-22:24*

## Saturday, October 19

Torah Study .....9:15 am

Lucy Kaskel Bat Mitzvah .....10:30 am

Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

## Friday, October 25

Shabbat Shalom Service .....6:15 pm

*Chayei Sarah, Gen. 23:1-25:18*

## Saturday, October 26

Torah Study.....9:15 am

Talia Schmetterer Bat Mitzvah .....10:30 am

Morning Minyan .....10:35 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/>



*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

1301 Clavey Road • Highland Park, IL 60035  
Phone: (847) 433-3555 • Fax: (847) 433-3573  
Rabbi's Study: (847) 433-3708  
Religious School: (847) 433-3417  
Email: [soleloffic@solel.org](mailto:soleloffic@solel.org)  
Website: [www.solel.org](http://www.solel.org)



Rabbi: Rabbi Evan Moffic ([emoffic@solel.org](mailto:emoffic@solel.org))  
Cantor: Cantor Vicky Glikin ([vglikin@solel.org](mailto:vglikin@solel.org))  
Executive Director: Allan Litwack ([allan@solel.org](mailto:allan@solel.org))  
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Rabbi Emeritus: Rabbi Dov Taylor ([rabbitt@solel.org](mailto:rabbitt@solel.org))

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