



PATHFINDER

Top Ten Things to Love About Solel

Inside this issue:

From Our President	2
Welcoming Cantor Jay O'Brien	6
Board Members and Officers	9
Contributions	13
Calendar	14-15

10 is an important number in Judaism—The Ten Commandments, The Ten Days of Awe and **the Top Ten Reasons to Love and Support Solel**. Please allow me to present them to you.

1. We mark the sacred moments of life: Babynamings, B'nei Mitzvah, weddings, anniversary celebrations, and funerals all happen within our walls. No other Jewish organization is there for people at every stage of life.

2. We ensure Jewish survival: Will the Jewish people be here 100 years from now? If we sustain strong synagogues, we will. Nothing better ensures our survival than a strong healthy Solel.

3. We maintain an extraordinary school: Come any Sunday morning to Solel, and you will find the halls filled with students of every age. As Rabbi Arnold Wolf said, "Learning isn't everything. It is, profoundly, the only thing."

4. We have an amazing staff: Everyone who works at Solel has dedicated their life to sup-

porting Jewish life. They help us ensure our synagogue operates 365 days a year.

5. We stand for social justice in America: From working in the Waukegan schools to pushing for fair housing to helping young children in Jamaica get glasses, Solelites are intimately involved in our civic community. Our synagogue creates social capital and energizes it with Jewish values to make a difference in our community and our world.

6. We serve young and old, rich and poor, married and single and many more: As Rabbi Harold Kushner put it, "We live in a world that works so hard to separate old from young, rich from poor, successful from less successful...The synagogue is the one place...where those distinctions are not permitted to enter...where everybody is welcome."

7. We help you grow Jewishly: Jewish tradition opens the door to living a life of meaning and purpose. Through worship, study of Torah

(Continued on page 6)



From Our President

The following, to the best of my recollection, are my remarks at Congregation Solel's 59th Annual Meeting on Friday May 13, 2016. As someone who prefers to speak from notes, rather than writing out a speech, I am trying to reconstruct an inspiring and informative speech (according to my mother, who has attended dozens of Solel annual meetings).

Last year I spoke optimistically about our brilliant clergy, top-notch staff, fiscal strength and responsibility, and committed community of congregants who have chosen Solel as their spiritual home, in a neighborhood with lots of synagogue choices. That was all true and correct, though like almost all Solel presidencies, this term has had its major surprise. More about that later.

As I was settling in as Solel president, I had the pleasure of attending the URJ Biennial Convention in Orlando in November, along with Cantor Glikin and URJ leader and Solel past-president Wendy Rhodes. At the Biennial there were many workshops for synagogue presidents, and I quickly realized how fortunate we are at Solel and how I should keep quiet.

When paired with another synagogue president for a sharing exercise, we were asked how we know when program is a success. My partner said, when there are only two or three complaints. I said, when the participants want to do it again and spend more time with their fellow congregants, which is generally how it works at Solel.

There were discussions of finances – and we were one of the prudent and fortunate URJ congregations that does not have any debt. And there were discussions about clergy – and again, we were among the most fortunate congregations with our brilliant and engaging Rabbi and Cantor. It started to get embarrassing, so I started to smile more and talk less.

Synagogue presidents joke about the number of complaints they field, and again Solel is unlike other congregations. My favorite recent complaint is that the Rabbi's Saturday morning Torah Study class is too crowded. That is an outstanding complaint! Unfortunately the solutions are elusive, with the desire to have tables for participants to set down their books, and refreshments which keeps the class out of the sanctuary and chapel. If you have any ideas, please let me know...

There was a genuine complaint about the sound system, and though it is new and was carefully designed and generously funded, there is fine tuning that needs to be done. A Sound System Task Force was formed, with Lar-

ry Mason who championed the renovation of the sanctuary, Ed Bederman who chairs the House Committee and treats Solel's facilities with the love and care of one's own home, and Jason Meltzer, who is the non-choir member on the team, but turns out to have a Ph.D. in Music Education Technology! They are working on a plan that should be in place well before the 5777 High Holidays.

We also formed a Solar Energy Task Force, after being approached by a third-party solar energy provider to install a system on our roof. Board member Art Kessler researched that proposal and helped us determine that the arrangement would not be in our best interest. After that, Art, Donnie Dann, and Amy Francetic agreed to further explore our options. Due to some reductions in available incentives, we may not have a viable path to a solar energy installation right now, but we are keeping our options open.

There were many successes this past year. Our congregants were incredibly supportive with their dues commitments. After several years of about 40 members pledging above the stated dues amount, that number jumped to over 70 for 2015-16. We hope to build on that base of generosity with additional support for our endowment, too, which also enables us to maintain our responsible budget and meet the needs of our congregant community.

In the coming year we are going to focus on legacy giving planning and reaching out to younger members who have not yet been asked to make these sorts of pledges to Solel. I noted that the men and women who founded Solel fifty-nine years ago were younger than many of us – and now it is our turn to ensure the congregation's next sixty (or more) years.

Our new Director of Congregational Learning, Ashley Plotnick is a fantastic addition to Solel. We already had a very good Religious School and with Ashley's leadership and Michael Schneider's support, it keeps getting better. Each month the school highlights a single value, with the students learning about it, and Ashley writing a beautiful, thoughtful piece for the Religious School emails. The soul of our Religious School could not be in better hands.

Through the generous support of a Solel family, we re-launched Youth Group programming to great success. Michael Schneider leads a growing group of high school leaders and middle and lower school participants. And this coming year that family along with another will again financially support our efforts.

(Continued on page 12)

Congregation Solel's Blood Drive Chosen as LifeSource's Blood Drive of the Week!

Seventy-one people came to the May 1, 2016 Blood Drive to give the gift of life. Congregation Solel's blood drive helped area patients by bringing 66 units of blood, breaking Solel's all time record for blood donations. This will provide life saving donations for 198 people in need!

Lifesource reports that Solel continues to lead the North Shore in donations from synagogues. Solel is also the only synagogue to our knowledge that serves bagels and cream cheese and assorted homemade baked goods at the drive in our attempt to make the drive as welcoming as possible. Once Upon A Bagel donated the bagels, and the Resnicks provided the cream cheese and homemade goods.

Donors give their time and the lifesaving gift of their donations. For chairpersons, not only do you give your time and possibly donate as well, but you give LifeSource's mission life! It is only with your time, effort and hard work that the donors come in! LifeSource acknowledges that such successes would not be possible without our support and look forward to continued collaboration toward future accomplishments.

Blood Drive co-chairs Debbie Zucker and Julie Bringas continue to recruit new donors allowing us to reach our ever increasing goal. **Help us break our record again at the Fall Blood Drive scheduled for October 23, 2016.** Please call or email Debbie Zucker, Julie Bringas or Diane Resnick, Blood Drive co-chairs, or sign up on the Lifesource website at: <http://www.lifesource.org/>

Thank you!



Rosh Chodesh Celebration for Women

Monday, June 6
7:00 pm–9:00 pm

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

Join us as we make new friends, see familiar faces, and learn more about ourselves and each other. The theme for this month will be connected to our personal journeys.

7:00–7:20 pm – Social time – get to know the other women of Solel and nosh.

7:20–7:50 pm – Rosh Chodesh ritual led by Cantor Glikin.

7:50–9:00 pm – Activity led by members.

This month's Rosh Chodesh celebration will be hosted by Judy Eichner and Marilyn Meyers.

Please RSVP to solelooffice@solel.org.

Questions? Please be in touch with Cantor Vicky Glikin at cantorglikin@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event for women!

**Lunch & Learn at Solel
Tuesday, June 28
at 12:00 pm**

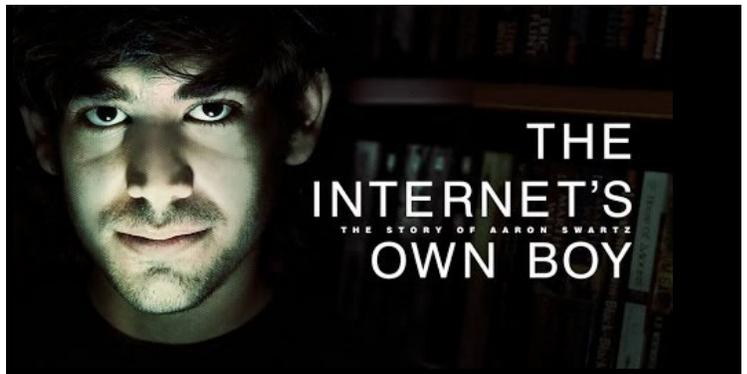
**Join Rabbi Moffic for
this special class as he
reflects on events of
both Jewish and
broader public interest.**

Hava Nashira

June 3 at 7:30 pm

*An engaging & spirited service
featuring fresh & familiar melodies.*

**Join us for an evening of song &
inspiration, accompanied by Solel's
own instrumentalists & singers.**



**Solel Film Group Presents
The Internet's Own Boy:
The Story of Aaron Swartz**

Tuesday, June 21 at 7:00 pm
film followed by discussion

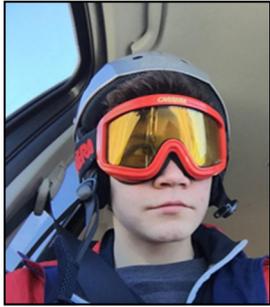
Aaron Swartz attended Solel and his family was among its founding members. This award-winning documentary recounts the life and principles of a young computer genius in his daring campaign for intellectual freedom, Aaron Swartz pitted himself against the U.S. government and its control of the internet.

Please join us for dinner before the film, at 6:00 pm. **Cost:** \$10, payable at the door. **RSVP:** By **June 18** with Eugene Finerman at finerman@comcast.net

**The film is free and open to the public...
bring your friends!**

SOLEL FILM GROUP: Phil Cohen, Eugene Finerman, Sandy Kaminsky and Susan O'Neill

**Congratulations to the 2016-2017 Solel Youth Group Board Members! They will help run events, supervise younger students, and take on leadership roles in their synagogue. Two decisions they already made: bringing at least one event to PreK-2nd grade (Pathfinders) and changing the name of their group from SolTY (traditional NFTY format for high school youth groups) to *Clavey Crew*.
Mazel Tov to all!**



Yasha Sunnygard
President & Treasurer
Grade in the fall: 12th

"Being part of this group means being able to create memories for students who want to learn and also to create history for Solel and the Youth Group."



Molly Seligman
Religious VP & Social Media Pro
Grade in the fall: 9th

"I am doing this because I love helping younger students and want to help them make fun memories along the way."



Sophie Seligman
Communications VP & Secretary
Grade in the fall: 9th

"I want to be a part of the youth group board because youth group has been fun for me as a student, and I bet it will be even more fun being part of the board. I can't wait to start doing it next year."



Joey Rosenblum
VP, Youth Group Board
Grade in the fall: 10th

"I am involved in multiple Jewish organizations and eager to take on a leadership role in Solel's youth group next school year. I will be a sophomore at Rochelle Zell Jewish High School in Deerfield this fall."



Zoe Mason
Programming & Facilities VP
Grade in the fall: 10th

"I am excited for next school year and I love being part of this community."



Hana Frisch
VP, Youth Group Board
Grade in the fall: 10th

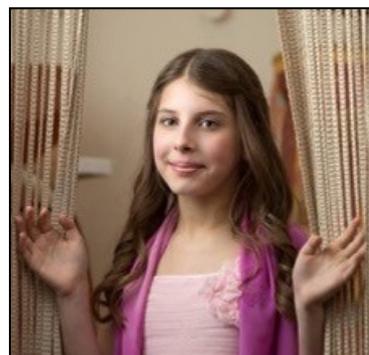
"I enjoy being part of the youth group board because I feel it is important to be a part of the Jewish community, and the Jewish community here at Solel. I also like eating pizza with my friends!"



Adele Lowitz
Community Engagement & Membership VP
Grade in the fall: 9th

"I am so excited to create new memories with the Solel community in the youth group! Being part of the youth group is

so special to me and I can't wait to meet all of the new members of YG 2016."



Sammi Krakow
VP, Youth Group Board
Grade in the fall: 9th

"I love to hang around the community of Solel and love being involved and helping whenever I can."

Welcoming Cantor Jay O'Brien



In our effort to welcome and support Cantor O'Brien when he joins us on July 1 (coincidentally a Friday!), a transition/welcome committee has been created. Beth Sanchez, co-chair of our successful Cantor Search Committee is the chair of transition/welcome team. Joining Beth are past-president Michael Ebner, and board members Carol Schweidel and Rick Segall. They will serve as a resource to Cantor O'Brien as he (and Jessica Safirstein) move to our community and settle in at Solel.



We are all eager to meet Cantor O'Brien, and you are encouraged to come to Shabbat services in July and August to do that – and worship with your fellow congregants. In addition, Cantor O'Brien plans on teaching a two-part pre-High Holidays class in September, which you will hear more about. And after the High Holidays we will host an event where Cantor O'Brien will be formally installed as Congregation Solel's Cantor.

Rabbi Moffic

(Continued from page 1)

and community-building, we grow into the people we are meant to be.

8. We continue to be creative pathfinders: Solel is not a staid institution. We are vibrant, adapting to the realities of modern Jewish life, welcoming interfaith families and all those who seek a spiritual home within our walls.

9. We are here for Israel and the Jewish people: The Talmud tells us that "all Jews are responsible for one another." We live that with our programs and learning at Solel.

10. We are your spiritual home: In the *Misheberach* prayer—a traditional Jewish prayer for healing—we ask God to "make our lives a blessing." Solel exists to help each of us make our lives a blessing. When we support our synagogue, we create blessings for ourselves, our families, our communities and one another.

- Rabbi Evan Moffic



CLASS OF 2016

Congratulations to the Confirmation Class!

Elizabeth Erlebacher, daughter of
Ross & Susan Erlebacher

Leah Rivlin, daughter of
Carrie Zimmerman & Larry Rivlin

Ruthie Silberman, daughter of
Brian & Martha Silberman

Reflections by Philip Orem on the Original Music Score Composed for the Shabbat service on Friday, May 13, 2016

Those of you who know me well, know that for me, public speaking is on the same list as root canals and colonoscopies, so I thought I'd share a few thoughts with you this way. Tonight's musical service is something of a miracle, certainly not of the magnitude of Moses parting the Sea of Reeds or Elijah bringing down fire from heaven, but a miracle nonetheless. I have written a good many pieces of music and it never fails that when I revisit them after a period of time, especially the better ones, that I am amazed at how they seem to have taken on a life of their own. While I certainly wrote every note, I cannot tell you where the ideas came from. This is true of tonight's service as well. A small miracle. There is also the miracle of collaboration.

One of my first memories of Vicky is that after finding out that I composed, she suggested we write a complete service. Now as you all know, she immediately got busy with the business of being your cantor and raising her young family and the time for such things became scarce. I'm certain I forgot her suggestion before getting to the parking lot. But this past fall she forwarded to me a notice from Transcontinental Publishing announcing the upcoming publication of music for Shabbat services with the short note "You should submit something." I didn't have any solo pieces, but I thought, "why not?" The Candle Blessing is short, as is the Oseh Shalom. I quickly set both of these and sent them off to Vicky.

Now my knowledge of Hebrew would not fill a thimble. Without Vicky's invaluable help with text setting and meaning of the Hebrew as well as her expertise with Reform liturgy and tradition, I could never have gotten started, much less completed this service. And let me point out there are 19 pieces of music in this service! Every time I thought I had enough there was the suggestion from my collaborator, "Well, you could add this...." And of course there is that most indispensable of collaborations in music, performers! Without you, none of this exists.

There is another miracle I'd like to point out. Vicky and her family are recent immigrants to this country. I come from close to 200 years of Kentucky farmers, the previous four generations Southern Baptists. Vicky comes from generations of Ukrainian Jews. I was half way through my sophomore year at Northwestern when Vicky was born in the former Soviet Union. And to remind you, it was the year the USSR invaded Af-

ghanistan, President Carter would call on US athletes to boycott the Moscow Olympics the next year, the cold war was warming, the next president would call the Soviet Union an "evil empire." What are the chances that these two people ever meet? What are the chances they find common ground & collaborate? Isn't that a miracle?

On the index page of the score for tonight's service I have acknowledged Cantor Vicky Glikin's invaluable contributions. The front piece reads "Ashira, a Musical Service for Cantor and Choir" and the dedication "for Vicky Glikin". You might question why it doesn't say "Cantor Vicky Glikin". She has earned that title, our collaboration is a product of her cantorate, she has been your cantor these past 4 years. But she has not been my cantor. Truth be told, if she wasn't here I would tell you I think of her more as the chick singer I have had a steady Friday night gig with....but as she is here I won't say that. I have never been one much for titles, but I can think of no greater honor than to name someone "friend." And she has been that, my friend. And that is a very great miracle for which I am eternally grateful.

- Philip Orem



Board Members and Officers

Bernie Berkin began teaching in reform religious schools in 1950. In 1956 at age 29, he was hired as the first religious school principal (part time) of then KAM North Shore. The following year he became a founding member during the change to an independent congregation—SOLEL. He continued to serve as principal until 1971. From that date to the present, he has served in many roles at Solel. His three children, one stepchild, and three grandchildren were all educated at Solel. In his professional career, he served as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal in the Chicago Public Schools for 15 years. Since 1969 to the present, he has been engaged in ownership positions in a variety of educational publishing and multi-media companies. He expects to celebrate his 90th birthday this year at Solel.

Elizabeth (Liz) Cohen has been a Solel member for 5 years, and an involved Jewish community member for many. She grew up attending Am Shalom in Glencoe and left there to join Solel because of its warm, open culture and commitment to social action. Professionally, Elizabeth is a marketing and innovation leader for a small beauty company where she develops fun, new products. She and her husband Andrew have two sons, both in religious school at Solel—Daniel (6th grade) and Adam (3rd grade). Liz is thrilled to join the board and hopes to make an impact!

Tim Cohen and his family have been members of Congregation Solel since 2009. Since that time, he has chaired the Membership Directory committee, served as a member of the religious school committee, initiated and helped lead Jewish parenting workshops, and has taught several challah baking workshops. He has served on Solel's Board of Directors for the past two years. Tim is a school administrator at Beacon Academy in Evanston and lives with his wife, Linsey, daughter, Rae, and son, Jarrod, in Highland Park.

Andrew Eichner grew up in Highland Park and has been a member since 2008. He is married (at Solel) to Rita Brief who has been a member for much longer than that. Stepson Sam Brief attended Solel Hebrew and Sunday school, and he has three sons from a previous marriage— 24 year-old twins, Sam and Joe, and Jack, a junior at HPHS. Drew is a partner at the law firm of Berger Schatz, specializing in all aspects of family law.

Ross Erlebacher has been a member of Solel since 2002. He returns to the Executive Board, having previously served as Vice President of Lifelong Learning. Ross has also served in a variety of other roles, having co-

chaired several committees, served on the Rabbinic Search Committee, and helped lead the Solel's softball team in the Synagogues League. Professionally, Ross is a management consultant who works with healthcare companies. Ross and his wife, Susie, have two children—Matthew and Elizabeth, who have attended Solel's religious school and served as madrichim.

Diane Gordon has been a member of Congregation Solel for over 40 years. She has two grown daughters who became B'nai Mitzvot here, and now the last of her six grandchildren has reached this wonderful milestone. She has served on the Board on two previous occasions and is a member of the Shabbat morning minyan and choir. She retired last year and has recently become a docent at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. Her other passion is tennis.

Gregg Hollander has been a member of Congregation Solel for 6 years (and counting) during which time he has served as a board member and as Vice President of Administration. Gregg and his wife, Pam, are thrilled to have celebrated with their son, Josh, as he became a bar mitzvah at Solel in October 2015 and are looking forward to their son, Sam, becoming a bar mitzvah in September of 2018. Gregg works on the marketing team for a company that supplies dry ingredients to restaurants and food manufacturers.

Susan Kaden and her husband Jonathan have been members of Solel for eight years, having joined in 2009. Jonathan's parents are longtime members of the congregation. The Kadens have twin 13 year old sons, Ari and Benjamin, who attend religious school at Solel. Susan has been a member of the Religious School Committee for 6 years. She has also served on multiple Mitzvah Day committees, worked with the Envision Scholars program, and was involved in planning Solel's 50th Rededication weekend. Susan is currently serving her third year on the Executive Board as the Vice President of Religious School.

Lisa Kaplan has been a member of Solel for the past 8 years, having joined in 2008, but grew up within the Solel congregation after moving to Highland Park at 14. Rabbi Taylor confirmed Lisa and officiated at her wedding in 1997. When not on the soccer field or at a music lesson, Lisa works on corporate strategy and marketing with M. Holland Company. She and her husband Adam live in Highland Park and have 3 children: Max (14), Ella (11), Sara (10)

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Art Kessler is a third generation member of Solel. He attended religious school, was Bar Mitzvahed, and confirmed at Solel. He joined Solel as an adult member in 2013. He is beginning his second year on the Board of Directors. Art lives in Highland Park with his wife, Wendy, and has two children in the religious school. Professionally, Art is an entrepreneur who recently sold his eCommerce restaurant supply business and is currently looking for the next opportunity.

Marcy Kirshenbaum and her family have been Solel members for 18 years. In that time, Marcy served as a member of the Rabbinical Search Committee in 2009/10, co-chaired the religious school director search in 2010, and participated in many other committees over the years. Marcy is married to David, who is a past board member, and they have three children ages 17, 20, and 24. Professionally, Marcy is a certified clinical nutritionist.

Alice Kohn has been a member of Solel for almost 5 years and previously served on the Board as chair of the College Connection committee. She and her husband Bob are parents of two adult children—Danny is married to Emily Ruda, they are the parents of Ellie-9 months; and live in Bethesda, MD; and Becca who is married to Mike Kritzman, they live in Evanston. Alice is a retired special education teacher, ORT activist for 34 years, and volunteer reading tutor.

Josh Lowitz has been a member of Solel for 54 years—since birth. He attended religious school and was confirmed at Solel. He joined as an adult member in 1988. He previously served on the board, as treasurer, financial vice president, and vice president of lifelong learning. Josh and his wife Ricki have two children in religious school—Adele in 8th grade and Harry in 4th grade. Professionally, Josh works as a strategy advisor for start-ups and growing companies.

Rachel Meltzer lives in Deerfield with her husband Jason and 11 year-old son Jake. The Meltzers have been members of Solel since 2012. As a congregant, Rachel has enjoyed being involved with the Women's Seder, Rosh Chodesh celebrations, Shabbat services, and Rabbi Moffic's adult confirmation class. Rachel works at Abbott Laboratories as a researcher supporting the Licensing & Acquisitions Division. Fun fact: She went to the same high school as Rabbi Moffic - Nicolet High School in Glendale, Wisconsin.

Jason Rubinstein—The Rubinstein family joined Solel five years ago and live in Lake Forest. Jason and his wife, Amy, have two daughters; Lucy (7th grade) who became a Bat Mitzvah this past March, and Sydney (5th grade), who

is studying for her October 2017 Bat Mitzvah. Jason works as a strategy and innovation leader at Syniverse, a mobile services provider, and he also serves as an advisor and mentor to Chicagoland tech start-ups. Amy is an executive with Invenergy, a major provider of renewable energy, and also serves on the board of Clean Energy Trust, a non-profit which she co-founded that commercializes clean technology.

Lynn Salit has been a member of Congregation Solel for 35 years. In her first several years at Solel, she was multi-tasking between teaching English at Highland Park High School and being on the Religious School Council. After 20 years at HPHS, she retired and began serving as membership chair, helping our Executive Director Allan Litwack, transition into his new position, serving on the One Book Solel committee as well as brainstorming with the Lifelong Learning committee. Her most fulfilling efforts have been her involvement with the Envision Scholar (Corps) program at Waukegan High School, mentoring juniors and seniors as they reach their goal of gaining college admission and scholarship aid. Lynn and her husband Gary have two daughters—Rachel, an oncologist in Seattle, and Loren, who runs her own marketing company in Chicago. In retirement, Lynn plays bridge, attends classes, and travels to foreign lands.

Beth Sanchez joined Solel in the mid-1980s. She and her husband Nestor have two adult children, Juliana and Daniel, who became a *bat/bar mitzvah* at Solel. Her participation has centered around the choir, women's programming, and most recently teaching fellow congregants to learn to read Hebrew. Beth also served on the search committees for the Cantor, Cantorial Soloist, and the Choir Director. Professionally, Beth is a Spanish language instructor.

Carol Schweidel and her family joined Solel five years ago. She has a fourth grader and a second grader in Solel's religious school. Carol grew up in Park Ridge and now lives in Winnetka, where she serves as a parent volunteer in the D36 Strings Program and is a PTO/School Board liaison. Professionally, Carol works as a credit analyst for a money manager in Chicago.

Rick Segall has been a member of Solel since 2009. He joined the Board of Directors in 2015 and has been a member of the Cantor Search Committee, Co-Chair of the annual Solel BBQ and a sub on the near-champion Solel Pathfinders softball team (until a pulled calf muscle retired him for the season). Rick and his wife Caryn joined Solel because of the incredible warmth of the congregation, its longstanding history with social justice and its dynamic leadership. Rick and Caryn's daughter, Gillian, became a bat mitzvah at Solel in 2014 and their son,

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Ethan, will become a bar mitzvah in 2017. Professionally, Rick produces broadcast and cable television shows and specials, as well as documentary films. He is currently a senior producer for "The View" talk show on ABC and creates digital and branded work for corporate clients through his production company, RSTV Inc.

John Susman has been a member of Solel since 2011. He has also served on the finance committee. John and his wife, Cheryl, who sings in the choir, have three children—Nathan, Eli, and Leah, who are currently in college and were confirmed at Solel. John manages a real estate and investment partnership. His avocation is film and theatre, and he is completing the production of his first feature.

Michael Wax grew up in Louisville, Kentucky and now lives in Deerfield with his wife, Caren and two sons—Benjamin and Jack. Benjamin celebrated his Bar Mitzvah this past November and the Wax family is looking forward to celebrating Jack's Bar Mitzvah in May 2017. Michael is involved in the the Jewish community year round where he is the director of programming at Beber Camp. Michael is currently a member of the Solel Religious School committee. He is excited and honored to be serving on the Board in 2016-2017.

Jerry Wolf has been a member of the congregation since 1980. His wife Jan and her family were members in the 1960s. Jerry, a CPA and a member of the CFA Society of Chicago, is a management consultant focusing on state and local government financial issues. In 2013, he left an international consulting firm to start his own firm. Jerry has previously served on Solel's Board of Directors, the nominating committee, co-chaired the Blood Drive and Capital Campaign committees, and has ushered for the Days of Awe.

David Zirin joined Solel in 1991, but David's family has been members for over 40 years. He and his wife Tracy have two children—Alex (20) and Olivia (17). Both Alex and Olivia celebrated their respective Mitzvahs and Confirmations at Solel. David is employed as a Partner and Chief Operating Officer at Pentwater Capital Management, a hedge fund located in Evanston. David currently serves on the Solel Capital Improvements Strategic Planning Committee.

Bill Zucker has been a member of Solel for 6 years, joining in 2010. Bill runs the Chicago office and Midwest region of Ketchum, a global public relations agen-

cy. He once served as President of NoFTY (Northern Federation of Temple Youth) for reform Jewish teens in the Midwest. Bill and his wife Debbie have two children—Jacob and Abby, who attend Solel Hebrew School.

Caleb Kipnis Shares His Mitzvah Project

Hello my name is Caleb Kipnis and I am a sixth grade student at Solel and Edgewood Middle School. I am excited to have my Bar Mitzvah next year. I am learning that my Mitzvah project is a really important part of my Bar Mitzvah.

I chose stopping gun violence as my Mitzvah project because the news is always filled with death and guns. Criminals can get guns really easy and the law and police cannot seem to protect us from all this violence.

Many kids in Chicago are probably scared to go into the streets because they could get shot and really anywhere they go. I'm not saying that its just Chicago. People can be shot anywhere.

On May 4th I joined Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America in Springfield. The day was planned to talk with our State Representatives and State Senators about the issue and ask them to support laws that would make Illinois and Chicago safer.

I met with many Representatives and Senators. I talked to them about gun violence and how they could help. My State Senator Julie Morrison was kind hearted and good at what she does. She spent time with me and she asked me about my Mitzvah project and asked me to think about how she could help me further. While the Senate was working on bills- she recognized me and my efforts in front of the whole Senate!!!

Next I plan to get friends and family members to wear orange on June 2nd for National Gun Violence Awareness Day and to host a letter writing campaign at my house and have Senator Morrison attend to help.

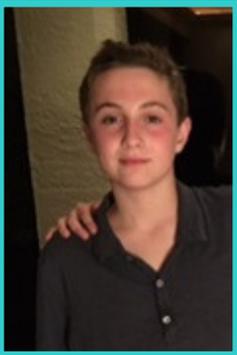
I am going to continue to look at ways I can help with Gun Violence to make Illinois a safer and better place to live for everybody. I am learning that making the world

Mazel Tov to Adam Meitus on His Bar Mitzvah!



Adam Meitus, son of Lisa and Michael Meitus, will become a Bar Mitzvah on June 3, 2016. He is a 7th grader at Elm Place Junior High. Adam's favorite hobbies are golf and basketball. For his Mitzvah Project Adam participated in buddy baseball. From his Mitzvah Project, Adam learned that working with special needs kids can be fun and rewarding. Adam's Torah portion is *B'chukotai*, from the Book of Leviticus. The most important thing Adam learned from his Torah portion is that laws and rules exist for a reason: to keep order in the world. The important thing Adam learned from his experience becoming a Bar Mitzvah is the importance of working hard towards a goal and being open to new experiences. The greatest challenge he faced in preparing for his ceremony was learning to read without the vowels.

Mazel Tov to Billy Rudman on His Bar Mitzvah!



Billy Rudman, son of Jill and Peter Rudman, will become a Bar Mitzvah on June 3, 2016. He is a 7th grader at Elm Place school. Billy's favorite hobby is playing basketball. For his Mitzvah Project Billy helped kids with special needs learn to play baseball. From his Mitzvah Project, Billy learned that it feels good to help others. Billy's Torah portion is *B'chukotai*, from the Book of Leviticus. The most important thing Billy learned from his Torah portion is that hard work and dedication will be rewarded. The important thing Billy learned from his experience becoming a Bar Mitzvah is that he can accomplish any task he puts his mind to. The greatest challenge he faced in preparing for his ceremony was learning how to chant in Hebrew.

Mazel Tov to Abby Miller on Her Bat Mitzvah!



Abby Miller, daughter of Carol and Randall Miller, will become a Bat Mitzvah on June 11, 2016. She is a 7th grader at Wood Oaks Junior High. Abby's favorite hobbies are painting, singing, and playing basketball and softball. For her Mitzvah Project Abby volunteered at the Ark. From her Mitzvah Project, Abby learned that giving back is an important part of being a good, Jewish young person. Abby's Torah portion is *B'midbar*, from the Book of Numbers. The most important thing Abby learned from her Torah portion is that including people is always something you should do. The important thing Abby learned from her experience becoming a Bat Mitzvah is that every big challenge in her life will help her to be successful. The greatest challenge she faced in preparing for her ceremony was practicing enough to feel comfortable in front of her friends and family.

Mazel Tov to Riley Rosenfeld on Her Bat Mitzvah!



Riley Rosenfeld, daughter of Steven Rosenfeld and Sandi Lang, will become a Bat Mitzvah on June 11, 2016. She is a 7th grader at Central School in Glencoe, IL. Riley's favorite hobbies include dancing, volleyball, and volunteering with the Glencoe Junior High Project. For her Mitzvah Project she collected books to donate to Bernie's Book Bank in Lake Bluff, IL. From her Mitzvah Project, Riley learned to share her love of reading with others. Riley's Torah portion is *B'midbar*, from the Book of Numbers. The most important thing Riley learned from her Torah portion is that you must put something in the center of your life, otherwise your life has no structure. The important thing Riley learned from her experience becoming a Bat Mitzvah is that the harder something is to accomplish, the more it is worth it. The greatest challenge she faced in preparing for her ceremony was trying to balance her school work and studying her Hebrew.

New High Holiday Prayerbooks!

The CCAR has completed a new High Holiday prayerbook (Machzor), called *Mishkan Hanefesh*. Congregation Solel will no longer be using the *Gates of Repentance* book.

If you are viewing this online, please Click here to use Solel's personalized link to purchase your books on Amazon and they will donate a portion back to Solel!

Books can also be purchased from the Central Conference of American Rabbis at <https://www.ccarpress.org/>

Please visit Solel's website at www.solel.org for purchase information.

Josh Lowitz

Continued from page 2)

We did face one major challenge, of course – when our beloved Cantor Vicky Glikin was recruited to become Cantor at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas. After learning how much we love having a talented Cantor in our congregation, we did not want to risk missing that for even a year. So we swiftly formed Search Committee under the leadership of co-chairs Larry Mason and Beth Sanchez. We prepared a thoughtful application package for our position posting with the American Conference of Cantors, and reacted quickly to the strong applications we received.

We were incredibly fortunate to hire Cantor Jay O'Brien, like Cantor Glikin four years ago, a new graduate of the Reform Seminary, who will join us starting on July 1. Ricki and I had the honor of attending Cantor O'Brien's ordination a few weeks ago in New York, and were further convinced what a great addition he will be to our congregation. He is a leader in his class – quite literally, as when the class of Cantors rose to sing together, Cantor O'Brien conducted as he sang.

As we look to the coming year, our Board of Directors spent the past year discussing, strategizing, and committing to building our congregation community, and more participation in leading those efforts. We are re-launching and reinvigorating a number of committees, and are poised for another year of growing connections among our congregants, learning together, and sharing our spiritual home.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who makes Solel what it is: our Rabbi, who I love and respect and so enjoy working with; our Cantor who will be sorely missed; our Executive Director, Allan Litwack, who could not be more careful with his stewardship of our congregation; Allan's team in the office, Evelyn Brewer, Michelle Raz, Jenny Gilbertson, and Vic Bassi, along with our custodial staff, who keep our congregation running smoothly; Ashley Plotnick, Michael Schneider, our dedicated B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator Simcha Ackerman, and our fantastic teachers, who make our Religious School an inviting home for our students; and our musicians, Phil Orem and Warren Fremling.

I also thanked the retiring officers and board members – Nancy Goodman, Cynthia Plouche, Lila Bondy, and Meta Levin – and welcomed the new and returning officers and board members who are listed elsewhere in this Pathfinder, making special mention of Holly Krakow, our incoming Executive Vice President, who was born to be President of Solel and will do so much for our congregation.

And finally, we got to the part of the speech where I got choked up, as I thanked the Solel past presidents who are an unending resource and fountain of love and support for Solel and its current leaders.

- Josh Lowitz
president@solel.org

Thank You For Your Contributions

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Stephanie Meis, in memory of Maxine Unger

Children's Garden Fund

Phyllis Loeff, in honor of Marilyn Meyers

Human Needs Fund

Suzanne Weiskopf, in memory of Ellen Levit

Susan and Richard Wellek, in memory of Coral Golden

Music Fund

Judy and Ed Bederman, in honor of David Schaeffer's Bar Mitzvah

Natalie Belrose & Family, in memory of Albert Belrose

Larry and Susan Mason, in memory of Bernice Allen and Jerry G. Mason; in honor of Michael and Darryl Ebner's granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah, and in honor of the confirmations of Elizabeth Erlebacher and Ruthie Silberman

Shelley Rochell, in honor of Cantor Vicky Glikin

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Carol Adelman, in memory of Larry Adelman

Ellen Cohen, in memory of Alice Goldman

Paul Lehman and Ronna Stamm, in memory of Elliot Lehman

Rachel and Jason Tarsney, in honor of the naming of Olivia Tarsney

Tribute Fund

Gershen Abraham, in memory of Goldie and Julius Ginsberg

Norma Adler, in memory of Otto Kolisch

Richard and Andrea Amend, in memory of Edith and Nathan Amend

Marilee Bass, in memory of Maxine Unger

Jacqueline Bazelon, in memory of Ed Bazelon

Mark and Lexis Blitstein, in honor of Cantor Vicky Glikin

Robert and Belinda Brock, in memory of Alfred Brock

Barbara and Phil Cohen, in memory of Margaret Pollak

Joan and Warren Eagle, in memory of Bernice Allen and Elliot Lehman

Karen and Eugene Finerman, in memory of Monte Jay Meldman

Hahn Automotive, in memory of Elliot Lehman

Richard and Carol Hillsberg, in memory of Bea Hillsberg

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

Holly and Jeffrey Krakow, in honor of Michael and Darryl Ebner's granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah

Paul Lehman and Ronna Stamm, in memory of Elliot Lehman

Tribute Fund (continued)

Linda and Robert Listernick, in memory of Maxine Unger

Jack and Sheila Marks, in memory of Fred Benjamin, Elliot Lehman, and Mandel Marks

Suzanne Meldman, in memory of Jack Carter

Marilyn and Gary Meyers, in memory of Dorothy Gerber
Linda Millunchick and Fred Cooperman, in honor of Gil Levy's 90th birthday

Evelyn Padorr, in memory of Helene Segil

Toddy Richman, in memory of Dolores Bredel

Marilynn and Chuck Rivkin, in memory of Maxine Unger

Judith Sarnat, in honor of Cantor Vicky Glikin

Condolences to...

Jeffrey (Judith) Golden, on the passing of his mother, Coral 'Sandy' Golden.

Frances Lehman, on the passing of her husband, and founding member, Elliot Lehman. Elliot Lehman was also the uncle of our congregants Barbara (Dennis) Kessler and great-uncle of Arthur (Wendy Bloom) Kessler and Brian (Elaine) Weinberg.

Barbara (Jerry) Weiner, on the passing of her mother, Bernice Allen.

Stock Transfers to Congregation Solel

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

Please Note:

Mesirow Financial, Inc.

DTC# 0226

F/B/O NFS Account# WMP-002738

Congregation Solel

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

If there are any questions, please call Allan Litwack, Executive Director, at (847) 433-3555, ext 225.

Thank you for your continued support.

June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Kindle Shabbat Candles at dinner or at the following times (CDT): 3..... 8:01 pm 10..... 8:06 pm 17..... 8:09 pm 24..... 8:10 pm		1 No Downtown Lunch & Learn 2:00 pm Wise Aging Meeting	2	3 4:30 pm Adam Meitus & Billy Rudman Bar Mitzvahs 7:30 pm Hava Nashira	4 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
5 9:00 am Executive Committee Meeting 10:15 am Board of Directors Meeting	6 9:30 am Current Events 11:00 am Current Events 7:00 pm Rosh Chodesh Celebration for Women	7 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans Executive Meeting	8 10:00 am Joyce Schragar Short Stories 2:00 pm Wise Aging Meeting	9	10 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	11 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Riley Rosenfeld & Abby Miller Bat Mitzvahs 10:35 am Morning Minyan
12 Shavuot	13 9:30 am Current Events 11:00 am Current Events	14 12:00 pm Cancelled-Lunch & Learn	15 2:00 pm Wise Aging Meeting	16	17 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	18 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
19	20	21 6:00 pm Film Night 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans Meeting	22 2:00 pm Wise Aging Meeting	23	24 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	25 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
26	27	28 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn	29	30		

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Kindle Shabbat Candles at dinner or at the following times (CDT): 1..... 8:10 pm 8..... 8:08 pm 15..... 8:04 pm 22..... 7:59 pm 29..... 7:52 pm				1 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service & Meet & Greet with Cantor O'Brien	2 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
3	4 Independence Day	5 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans Executive Meeting	6 12:00 pm Downtown Lunch & Learn	7	8 6:00 pm Shabbat at Millard Park Beach with Lakeside Congre- gation	9 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
10	11	12	13	14	15 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	16 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
17	18	19 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans Meeting	20	21	22 6:00 pm Pet Shabbat Service at Lakeside Congregation	23 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
24	25	26	27	28	29 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	30 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
31						

Shabbat Services Schedule

Friday, June 3

Adam Meitus & Billy Rudman Bar Mitzvahs4:30 pm
Hava Nashira7:30 pm

Saturday, June 4 — B'chukotai, Lev. 26:3-27:34

Torah Study9:15 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, June 10

Shabbat Evening Service7:30 pm

Saturday, June 11 — B'midbar, Num. 1:1-4:20

Torah Study9:15 am
Abby Miller & Riley Rosenfeld Bat Mitzvahs10:30 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, June 17

Shabbat Evening Service7:30 pm

Saturday, June 18 — Naso, Num. 4:21-7:89

Torah Study9:15 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, June 24

Shabbat Evening Service7:30 pm

Saturday, June 25 — B'haalot'cha, Num. 8:1-12:16

Torah Study9:15 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

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

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

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

Friday, July 1

Shabbat Evening Service7:30 pm

Saturday, July 2 — Sh'lach L'cha, Num. 13:1-15:41

Torah Study9:15 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, July 8

Shabbat at Rosewood Beach6:00 pm

Saturday, July 9 — Korach, Num. 16:1-18:32

Torah Study9:15 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, July 15

Shabbat Evening Service7:30 pm

Saturday, July 16 — Chukat, Num. 19:1-22:1

Torah Study9:15 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, July 22

Pet Shabbat Service at Lakeside Congregation....6:00 pm

Saturday, July 23 — Balak, Num. 22:2-25:9

Torah Study9:15 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, July 29

Shabbat Evening Service7:30 pm

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

Torah Study9:15 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am



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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Rabbi Emeritus: Rabbi Dov Taylor (rabbit@solel.org)
Executive Director: Allan Litwack (allan@solel.org)
Director of Congregational Learning: Ashley Plotnick
(soleleducator@gmail.com)
President: Josh Lowitz (president@solel.org)



Deadline for Submissions: The next *Pathfinder* will be published August 2016. Please submit material by email on or before July 15, 2016 in order for it to appear in the August *Pathfinder*.