



PATHFINDER

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A Frog Must Jump: Or How We Always End Up Following Our Passion

A good friend of mine is a highly successful entrepreneur. He also happens to be a rabbi.

We met in rabbinical school. At the time he planned to lead a congregation. By the time we graduated, however, plans had changed.

Even before graduating, he was leading a new Jewish organization. Then he was advising other start-ups.

Soon he began an after-school initiative. While rooted in the Jewish value of education, this is not a religious program.

Once a Rabbi, Always a Rabbi

He is, of course, still a rabbi. But he is, truly, an entrepreneur. And he can't not create and grow a business.

Or, as my grandpa once said, "a frog must jump."

See, we have certain skills and inclinations. Whether we were born with them or developed them over time, they shape what we love to do and what we do well. Unless they are dangerous or harmful to others, we are foolish to ignore or try to hide them.

What is Your Passion?

If you are a singer, sing. If you think logically and strategically, continue to be a lawyer or consultant. If you love science, remain a doctor or researcher. If you love to teach, teach.

I'm not sure where rabbi fits in. Perhaps it's a person who loves people, God and community. It's a pretty wonderful passion.

- Rabbi Evan Moffic



Cantor Vicky Glikin — Standing on the Parted Shores of History

When we consider the arc of Jewish history, we often think of the giving of the Torah as the moment of greatest transformation for the Israelites. But, I would like to suggest that the *crossing of the Sea of Reeds* was, in fact, the moment of greatest import and transformation for the Jewish people. Rabbi Eliezer taught in a Talmudic *midrash* that at the sea, a simple maidservant saw God revealed in a way that the prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel could not see even at the height of their prophecy. In fact, even babies and embryos had their consciousness expanded to such a degree at the Sea of Reeds that they were able to see and experience God with absolute clarity, which made this moment a singular event in Jewish history. A birth of a nation. An extraordinary event, which in our lives can only be compared to the moment each of us entered the world, emerging from the womb of our mother.

But, before we can begin to understand how the Israelites merited their rebirth and redemption, we need to first understand what exactly it meant for the people Israel to stand at the Sea. In *Shir HaShirim Rabbah*, a *midrash* on the Song of Songs, we find a teaching from the school of Rabbi Ishmael that compares the people Israel when they went forth from Egypt to a dove. This dove had been fleeing a hawk and entered the cleft of a rock, where she found a serpent nesting. The dove tried to enter but could not because the serpent was still nesting. Could she turn back? No, because the hawk was poised outside. What did the dove do? She began to cry and clap her wings, so that the owner of the birdhouse would hear her and come to save her. This was the position of Israel by the Sea of Reeds, taught Rabbi Ishmael. They could not go down into the sea, because it had not yet been divided before them. They could not turn back, because Pharaoh had already drawn near (in Hebrew, “uPharaoh hikriv.”)

What does it mean “uPharaoh hikriv,” that Pharaoh drew near? It may seem simple – Pharaoh drew near, he came closer to the Israelites who were standing at the Sea of Reeds. But, a deeper look at the Hebrew word “hikriv” reveals something unusual and fascinating. The word “hikriv” is not used in its active form here, but is causative. This suggests a very different reading of the verse: not simply that Pharaoh drew near the children of Israel as they were standing on the shores of the sea, but rather that the Pharaoh *caused* the Israelites to draw near to God while they were standing on the shores of the sea.

How can this be possible? Isn't Pharaoh the villain of the story? Isn't he the bad guy, trying to harm the Israelites

and keep them *away* from Adonai? How can it be possible that this same Pharaoh would draw the Israelites *closer* to God? Think about the dove, stuck between the hawk and the serpent... stuck – as we would say - between a rock and a hard place. The dove is out of options; she has nowhere to hide. In order to survive, the dove must do something differently. In the story, she does what a dove knows well how to do – she cries and claps her wings loudly, so the owner of the birdhouse knows to come and save her.

Similarly, in the story of the Exodus, the Israelites are stuck between the Pharaoh and the Sea of Reeds. Pharaoh's heart is hardened by God, which is why he pursues the Israelites, and this lands the Israelites in their hard place. What is the role of Pharaoh in this story? Simply to give chase to the Israelites? No. Hard though it may be to accept, Pharaoh is an instrument of God. Pharaoh throws the people Israel into a state of despair and fear because they realize that they are stuck between the sea in front of them and the army behind them.

In their despair and fear, the people cry out to God. It's natural to scream when we are afraid, isn't it? The dove does the same thing. We might think that God splits the sea in response to the people's cry, but we would be wrong to think this. Instead, God says to Moses: “Why do you cry out to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward!” Go forward! Move! Get going!! Go forward??!! In front of them is the sea... how can they go forward??!! The Israelites are absolutely stuck, with no visible resolution in sight.

We all know the feeling of being stuck. Perhaps, it's a broken relationship, or a toxic situation at work, or a sense of constant financial insecurity, or mental or physical illness experienced by you or a family member. How can it be possible to move forward? We are stuck in a situation that feels hopeless, with no resolution in sight.

And, so we get to our central question: what is the role of pain, fear, and hopelessness in journeying toward rebirth and freedom? What is the role of the serpent-Pharaoh in helping the people Israel, the dove, recognize that they have a role to play in their own deliverance, that sometimes it's darkest just before dawn and we have to step into the darkness; that it is precisely when the situation seems to be utterly impossible to overcome that we find a way through?

(Continued on page 10)



Rosh Chodesh Adar A Celebration for Women

**Tuesday, February 9
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.**

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— At this celebration we will explore the themes of revelation and concealment on the theological and personal levels. What are the masks that we wear and when do we choose to take them off? We may even get to decorate our own masks to add to the fun! Please join us for this inspiring and fun evening!

This Rosh Chodesh Celebration is hosted by Karen Finerman and Leslie Zuckerman.

Please RSVP to Michelle Raz at soleoffice@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!

Future Dates: June 6

From Our President

As you know, in late December we found out that we need to embark on a Cantor search. After sharing three and a half years with our beloved Cantor Vicky Glikin, we are now working to find another Cantor to enrich our congregation.

We quickly formed a stellar search committee – with past-president (and current choir member) **Larry Mason** and long-time choir member (and current adult Hebrew teacher) **Beth Sanchez** as co-chairs, and members **Wendy Bloom, Julie Bringas, Darryl Ebner, Holly Krakow, Scott Lassar, Rick Segall,** and **Jerry Wolf**, as well as Ashley Plotnick, Rabbi Moffic, and me as ex officio members.

The search committee met on Sunday, January 3, and that week began work on our Placement Application for the Cantorial Placement Commission of the American Conference of Cantors. We had a head-start, as we started with the application from our search four years ago, as well as the outstanding material prepared last year by our successful Director of Congregational Learning search committee, when we were so fortunate to hire Ashley Plotnick.

Our application features all that is wonderful about Congregation Solel. It speaks of our warm, down-to-earth membership; our commitment to learning, praying, and working together to improve the world; and our rich history and bright future. It shares what we all know about how great it is to live in our community, send kids to our schools, and enjoy all that Chicago and the North Shore have to offer. And it demonstrates how we embraced Cantor Glikin and her family; how we have learned to cherish what a Cantor brings to our congregation; and what a wonderful leader and colleague we have in Rabbi Moffic.

As this Pathfinder goes to press, the 2016 graduating class of Reform Cantors are starting their job searches, and while there are only a handful of them each year, I am confident that Congregation Solel will be of interest to many of them. We may also hear from Cantors who are nearing the end of a contract and want to explore an opportunity as compelling as becoming Cantor of Congregation Solel.

Our search committee is ready to evaluate every resume and cover letter, to listen to voice recordings, to interview the most promising candidates long-distance and in person – and then to deliberate openly, honestly, and of course, confidentially, to find the best Cantor for all of us.

If you would like to share your thoughts with the search committee, I know that every member is interested in hearing from fellow congregants. You can also email SolelCantor2016@gmail.com to contact Beth and Larry directly.

Thank you for supporting this effort. The search committee will continue to report to the congregation in upcoming Pathfinders.

- Josh Lowitz
president@solel.org

Looking for a mitzvah to do?

Families in **OUR** community need **YOUR** help to have enough food to eat.



It's so easy, just bring your donations to Solel & our members deliver them to the West Deerfield Township Food Pantry and Moraine Township Food Pantry.

Items Needed:

Canned tuna/other proteins
Jellies, jams, & peanut butter
Canned fruit/veggies
Canned beans
Crackers/cereal
Pasta sauce
Rice/pasta
Olive/canola oil
Coffee
Toiletries

Toilet paper, paper towels, & tissues

From Our Director of Congregational Learning

When Susan Kaden and I sat down this summer to think about what values would work best with each month this year, we both sighed when we approached February. Because we are currently in a Jewish leap year with two months of Adar, this February is void of any Jewish holidays. February can also be the time when we feel as if Winter may never end, when our days begin to drag and we dream of Spring. And so, we thought a little patience could be called upon to help us through these sometimes long days.

In mussar practice, patience is known as *savlanut*. *Savlanut* is from the same Hebrew root meaning “to suffer” or “to bear a burden.” When patience is most needed in our lives, our suffering may be great, our burdens may be heavy. What I love about mussar is that we are taught *not to wish this time away*, not to merely hope for it to end so that the next chapter may arrive. For each chapter of our lives holds beauty and meaning, if we only choose to open our eyes to the grace and goodness around us. The challenge of course, is not only to work on our gratitude practice, seeking the light within the dark, but also to *stay present to the very moment in which we find ourselves*.

In the Talmud, Rabbi Yosef Yozel Horwitz advises, “If you missed your train, do not say, ‘I came late and missed my train.’ Say rather, ‘I came too early for the next train – for everything is in the hands of Heaven’” (Berachos 33b). What would it take to reframe the narratives of our lives to know that each moment we have is precious? Sometimes the later train brings a gift we never could have planned for nor imagined. Sometimes, our very imaginings pull us away from what’s important, and we must remember that patience and faith can bring us back.

If you are interested in staying present while meeting the challenges of our lives, I encourage you to attend our workshop on February 7th, addressing mindfulness and stress resilience. May our patience help us live to the fullest this month, and always.

- Ashley Plotnick

Fall Down, Get Up! Mindfulness and Stress Resilience in a Jewish World

February 7
10:15 am - 11:30 am

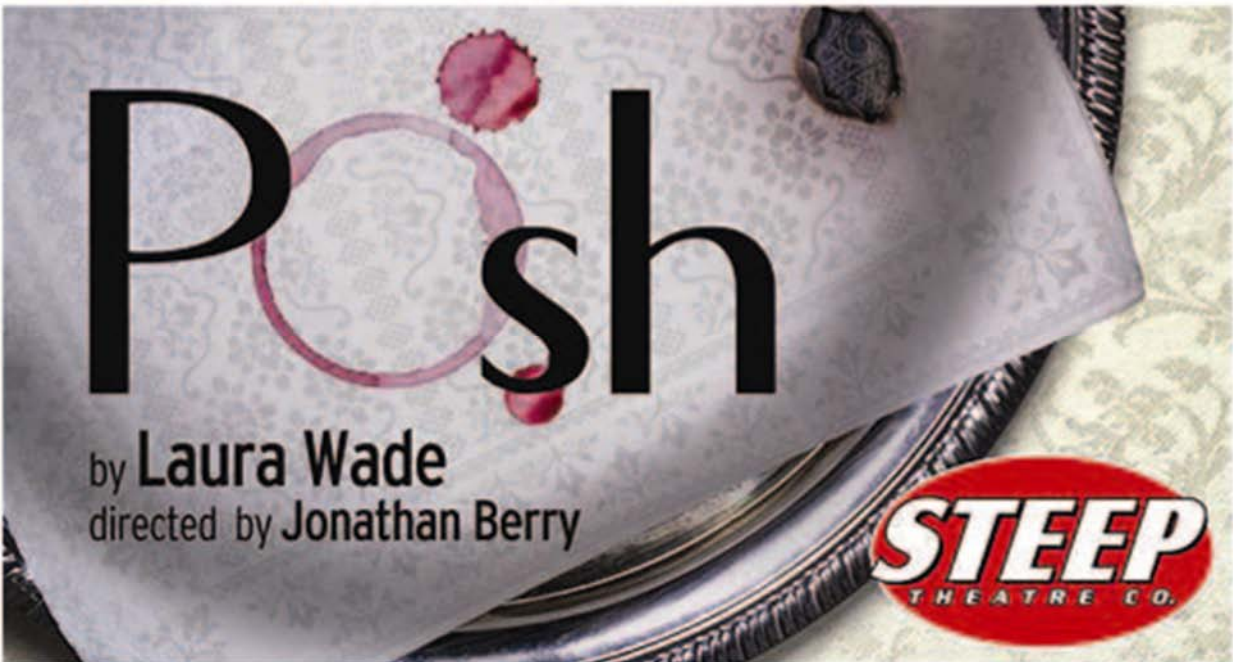
Guest Speaker:
Margot Andersen, MSW, RYT,
The Center for Resilience
and Growth

Everyone faces adversity, loss and challenge as we move through life. By embracing our lives with both *Emet* (truth) and *Chesed* (loving-kindness), we can compassionately meet the present moment with more ease, less stress and cultivate equanimity. This is an invitation to explore new contemplative Jewish spiritual practices that are both enriching and practical for day to day coping.



CREATING
RESILIENCE
Margot Andersen

**Please Join the Solel Fine Arts Committee for Our
Second Fundraising Theatre Event!**



The Oxbridge dining club is filled with Britain's brightest, best and most moneyed young men. When their elitist position is threatened, they will stop at nothing to take it back. Posh puts you on the front lines of the war between the classes, the adolescent struggle for identity, and the battle for the status quo.

Sunday, February 21 at 3:00 pm
Steep Theatre
1115 W. Berwyn Ave.
Chicago, IL 60640

Join the cast of Posh for an informal reception in the lobby after the performance (approximate running time: 2:15 including a 10-minute intermission). Mingle with the artists, enjoy complimentary refreshments and discuss the play with your fellow audience members.

We have secured a block of tickets for \$28 each. Please respond to Evelyn in the Solel office at evelyn@solel.org by February 10 if you would like to attend. You won't want to miss this great opportunity to see wonderful theatre in Chicago!

Sole's Film Group:
Nora's Will

Tuesday, February 23
7:00 pm

A Jewish family in Mexico has to cope with simultaneously planning a seder and a funeral. Of course, every family needs one scheming misanthrope... and when he is the head of the family: Oy caramba! The film is in Spanish with easy-to-read subtitles; expect to hear a little Yiddish with tildes.

Before the film, you may wish to join us for dinner, which starts at 6:00 pm.

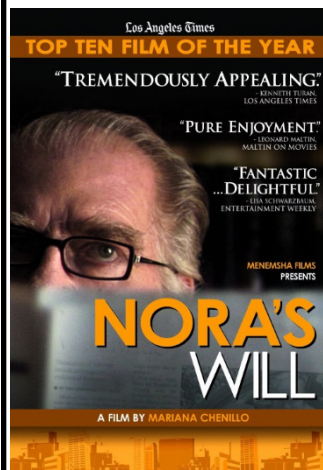
Remember to make your dinner reservations by February 19th with Eugene Finerman at finerman@comcast.net

Dinner: \$10, payable at the door.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

<http://www.menemshafilms.com/noras-will.html>

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



**THE SOLE
FILM GROUP:**
Phil Cohen,
Eugene Finerman,
Sandy Kaminsky
and Susan O'Neill

CONTINUUM
Theater

Presents: Denial

A play written by Peter Sagal, part of the Chicago Jewish Play Reading Festival 2016
at Lakeside Congregation

Saturday, April 2

Check-In: 6:30 pm

Performance: 7:00 pm

(Followed by dialogue, coffee & dessert.)

Denial is a tension-filled story of a Holocaust denier defended by a Jewish civil rights attorney. The story pits freedom of speech issues against the sin of hateful speech.

Performed by professional actors and followed by an interactive discussion about the salient Jewish themes that it presents.

Tickets:

Adults: \$18

Students (ages 13-18): \$10

To purchase tickets, please visit

lakeside-denial.brownpapertickets.com

or call 1-800-838-3006.

*Co-sponsored by Congregation Solel,
Har Shalom, and Lakeside Congregation*

A Women's Seder to celebrate

*Join us for dinner,
with song, wine,
friendship and freedom.*



Date: Sunday April 10th
Time: 4:00 pm
Cost: \$36/person, or \$360 to reserve a table of 10
RSVP: By April 1st
Bring: A Passover-friendly side dish or a dessert to serve 8-10 people (should be nut-free)
Submit: Recipe for your side dish to SolelSeder@gmail.com with "Women's Seder Recipe" in the subject line by April 1st

- CELEBRATE TOGETHER AS WOMEN
- TELL AND HEAR OUR STORY OF FREEDOM IN A DIFFERENT WAY
- LEARN ABOUT THE WOMEN WHO MADE THE EXODUS HAPPEN AND WHO CONTINUE TO DO SO EVERY DAY
- SING WITH CANTOR GLIKIN AND YOUR FELLOW CONGREGANTS



Mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts and friends are welcome. Daughters in 5th grade or older are welcome to attend. Please register at www.solel.org, or return this form to the Solel office. Tables will be assigned. **If you would like to be seated with someone else, please register your ENTIRE party on this form.**



© Shadur

| | | | |
|------------|---|---------------|------------------|
| Name _____ | Email address and/or phone number _____ | Chicken _____ | Vegetarian _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Number attending _____ x\$36 per person (10 people per table)
 My side dish I will bring: _____ (optional)
 Added donation to help offset cost \$ _____
 Total amount \$ _____
 Credit card (Visa, MC, Discover) _____ Exp.: ___/___ Security Code _____

PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM TO DONATE TO THE DEERFIELD AND MORAINÉ TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRIES.

Congregation Solel | 1301 Clavey Road | Highland Park, IL 60035 www.solel.org (847) 433-3555 (Phone) | (847) 433-3573 (Fax)

A Solel Mitzvah Day Presentation: Social Justice, Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System

The criminal justice system is not addressing the needs of those with mental illnesses who come in contact with it. That was the message three speakers conveyed during a special Congregation Solel Mitzvah Day presentation: "Social Justice, Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System."

Solel President Josh Lowitz moderated a presentation and discussion with Judge Christopher Stride, State Representative and Solel Member Scott Drury and Lake County Clerk of the Court and Solel Member Keith Brin. Stride is the associate circuit court judge, 19th judicial circuit and most pertinent, presiding judge of the mental health, drug and veterans' treatment and assistance courts.

The mentally ill are known throughout the criminal justice system. Often they are the so-called "frequent flyers," the ones who end up in jail over and over again. Frequently they're in jail, because there was a crisis and there was no place else to put them.

Judge Stride, Rep. Drury and Brin are working, each as a part of what is becoming a state-wide collaboration, to find ways of resolving the problem. Other cities and counties in the United States have successfully implemented variations on the model that Lake County is exploring. Judge Stride noted that the Highland Park Police Department, where there are more CIT (crisis intervention team) trained officers than the rest of Lake County, can be considered a model for the county. This training, which helps law enforcement officers identify and correctly handle someone who is having a mental health crisis, is available, but it is expensive. With the state financial situation, it also is difficult to come by.

The Mental Health court, over which Judge Stride presides, provides a structured approach to stabilizing those with mental illness, mandating that they see a probation officer regularly, assigning them to a case manager, helping them apply for insurance (Judge Stride says the Affordable Care Act has been helpful, since the insurance funds mental health treatment) and get a physician. This help keeps them stable and out of jail. The number of those the court can handle is limited, however. It also cannot deal with those with severe mental illness.

Brin's department is the hub of the court system, acting as the keeper of the official court records and insuring that orders are sent to the right place. As an aside, Brin's office has records from the Lake County circuit court that date back to the 1800s.

By insuring access to the records, the Clerk of the Court helps protect the transparency of the judicial system, a fair result and accountability. It also insures that the courts' orders get to the right places to be implemented. The Clerk's office prints instructions in several languages and hires people who are multi-lingual. "There has to be a notion of fairness," says Brin.

Rep. Drury has been working on the issue as Vice Chair of the Illinois House's judiciary committee and Gov. Bruce Rauner recently appointed him to the Illinois Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing, which is designed to recommend ways of reducing the Illinois prison population by 25 percent. "We found that after the mental health facilities were shut down and defunded, we began using the prison system as a mental health facility," said Drury, noting that the committee has looked at the confluence of mental health and the criminal justice system. This is an issue that transcends political divisions. It even concerns the business community.

We will, Judge Stride says, have to spend money to save money. "We should be spending money on diversions and we need more case managers to help with the basics of life." It is, says Brin, a question of what we want the criminal justice system to do.

Lake County United, of which Congregation Solel is a member, has been working on the mental health and the criminal justice system.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Meta Levin at meta.levin@comcast.net. The Lake County United Mental Health Team is open to members of member institutions.

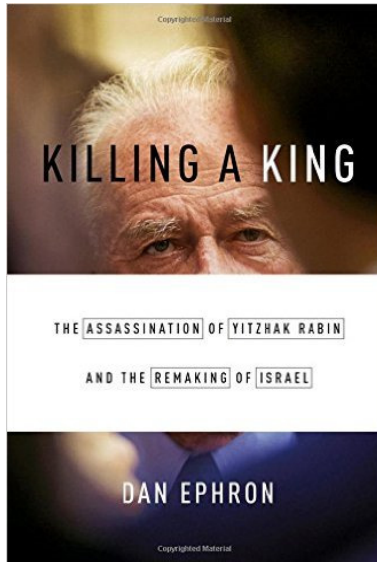


(Pictured above left to right): Josh Lowitz, State Representative Scott Drury, Lake County Clerk of the Court, Keith Brin and Judge Christopher Stride.

ONE BOOK/ONE SOLEL

A congregation-wide reading event

Our selection for this Spring is Dan Ephron's *Killing A King*
The Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the Remaking of Israel



The assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin remains the single most consequential event in Israel's recent history and one that fundamentally altered the trajectory for both Israel and the Palestinians. *Killing A King*, by Daniel Ephron relates the parallel stories of Rabin and his stalker, Yigal Amir, over the two years leading up to the assassination, as one of them planned political deals he hoped would lead to peace, and the other plotted murder. It ultimately asks the question: what would the Middle East and Israeli/Palestinian relations be today if Rabin had lived?

We invite you and your friends to a stimulating and informative book discussion to be led by noted facilitator, Elise Barack, on Sunday, April 17, at 1:00 pm. Coffee and nosh at 12:30 pm.

Cantor Glikin

(Continued from page 2)

When the Israelites are in a place of utter despair and fear, God says to them: "Why are you crying to me? Get moving!" The Zohar, a mystical text written in the 13th century, expounds on this idea and interprets God's command to get moving not as a call for physical movement, but rather as a call for spiritual movement, a call for a shift in consciousness. Get moving. Now is the time for action. Now is the time for transformative thinking. Now is the time for the shifting of paradigms. What you have done thus far will not work any longer. You need to do things differently. You need to get out of your own way. You need to forgive, you need to take a risk, you need to dream big, you need to humble yourself and get the help you so despise receiving, you need to re-evaluate your priorities, you need to be more compassionate to yourself and others. In the Zohar, in order to be transformed into the nation of Israel, the slaves need a shift in consciousness, a move from the familiar and comfortable to the unknown, to the primordial and expansive. Only when this happens, does the sea split and the Israelites pass through it. Only when this happens, can the Israelites turn into a nation of free people. Only when this happens, can

they sing the Song of the Sea in perfect unison, miraculously uttering the same words at precisely the same time.

Our sages taught that the same is true in our lives as well. While the crossing of the sea was a singular event in history, each of us has many metaphorical seas to cross in our lifetime. Before we can walk through the sea, we need to step into the darkness that surrounds us, the darkness of the stories we tell ourselves about our lives and the people within them. In doing so, we may encounter Truth and Divinity. We need to develop our internal landscape and our relationship with God when the going is easy, so that when we are feeling stuck, afraid, and hopeless, when we find ourselves at the shore of the sea once more, with Pharaoh's army right behind us, we have something to draw on, something that may defy reason, something that allows us to get unstuck, something that gives us the opportunity to think bigger and differently, something that allows us to look at the situation at hand with clarity and to decide: Move Forward!

- Cantor Vicky Glikin

Downtown Lunch & Learn
on Wednesday,
February 3 at 12:00 pm

Lunch & Learn at Solel
on Tuesday, February 9 &
February 23 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

February 5 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.

Future Dates:

April 8
June 3



Choir Shabbat

**Friday, February 19
7:30 pm**

Join us as **Solel's Adult Choir** leads us
in harmonious prayer. From
time-honored classics to
contemporary gems, this service is
certain to **elevate and inspire.**

**Do you enjoy singing? Then, join the
choir! The ability to read music is
beneficial, but not required. Just
bring your enthusiasm and a smile.**

For more information, please contact
Cantor Vicky Glikin at
cantorglikin@gmail.com



Sharing
the
Magic of Music

Future Dates:

March 18
April 15
May 13

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

11:00 am

INFORMATIONAL MEETING
ON THE
DISTRICT 112 REFERENDUM

Join us for an informal discussion on the upcoming referendum supporting reconfiguration of the school district. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, get answers, and gain a deeper understanding of what is at stake.

We hope to see you there!



**SHABBAT
SHALOM**

A SERVICE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**Shabbat. Friendship.
Community. Family. Song.**

February 26

5:30 PM Pizza Dinner

6:15 PM Shabbat Service

Please join us at this service to celebrate your birthday or anniversary & receive a special blessing.

To help celebrate, we encourage you to bring canned or boxed food for a food pantry.

Future Dates: March 25
April 29, May 27, June 24

WE WANT TO HEAR

..... *from*

YOU

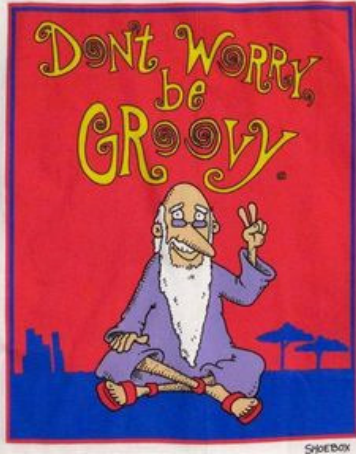
Save the Date: Listening Campaign

As part of our Listening Campaign, the Religious School and the Religious School Committee will host a series of 3 focus group-style meetings this winter.

We hope to engage parents in a values-based discussion about their families' religious education. As we look to the future and continue to evolve our programs, it is critical to know the desires of our families. Please plan to attend one of the sessions. More information will follow.

The sessions are scheduled for:
Sunday 2/21 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Sunday 3/6 from 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Please RSVP to
Religious_School@solel.org with the session you plan to attend.



Wise Aging Workshop

How can we age wisely and more gracefully? How can we move mindfully through the stages of aging, while becoming more resilient and stronger? How can we make the most of our remaining years?

Join us for Wise Aging, a psycho-spiritual program for people in their 50s+. In this unique program designed by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS), you will be enriched and inspired to change yourself and your approach to aging within a Jewish context through mindfulness practices and Jewish text study. In the process, you will acquire the knowledge to turn aging into saging. These groups are also for those dealing with the aging process of a parent or a loved one.

Four Solel members have been trained by the IJS to facilitate Wise Aging groups within the congregation: Ellen Diamond Waldman, Jotty Friedland, Julia Gorelik, and Toddy Richman. Wise Aging groups will be starting at Solel in late winter/early spring. Please look for more info in next month's Pathfinder. If you think you may be interested in participating in this initiative, please be in touch with Ashley Plotnick at soleleducator@gmail.com for more details.

Artist of the Month: Kathleen Warren

Please join us on Friday, February 5 at 6:30 pm in the Lounge for an opening reception for our January/February Artist, Kathleen Warren.

Kathleen is a self-taught artist who creates art with fabric. She's been making fabric art since 1998 in her home studio. Her style has evolved from simple traditional quilt patterns to a focus on her own designs using geometric forms in solid colors with a modern abstract aesthetic. Her inspiration comes from many different sources ranging from Mark Rothko to Amish quilts to landscapes broken down into elemental geometric forms.



Her current series is the "Every Day Project" where she makes a six-inch fabric art square every day. She sews 25 daily squares together in the order they were created into a larger square piece or "25 Days" piece. She has created 250 six-inch squares into 10 larger "25 Days" pieces in 2015 and will continue throughout 2016. She posts a daily photo of the square on Instagram where you can find her @blueskyquilter and follow along.

For this exhibit, Kathleen is exhibiting six large pieces from the "Every Day Project." The first four "25 Days" pieces, Days 1-100, are experiments with different designs and themes. The later pieces improvise on one theme selected for each "25 Days" piece. In addition, a selection of ten-inch fabric art squares wrapped around stretched canvas will be displayed which continue the themes from the "Every Day Project."

She is a member of the Deerfield Fine Arts Commission, which supports and promotes the arts in our community. In addition, she helps others connect with their creativity by teaching fabric art to private clients and elders with memory loss. Kathleen can be found online daily on Instagram @blueskyquilter and on www.medium.com where she writes about creativity.

Pray 'n Play

This isn't your ordinary
Tot Shabbat!

Saturday, February 27
10:30 am

Join other families with children up to age 5 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!

Led by Cantor Vicky Glikin

Future Dates: March 19, April 30,
June 4

**Reminder:
the deadline to sign up
for Snowbird Shabbat is
February 1.**

**Call the synagogue
office at (847) 433-3555
and escape the winter
with your fellow
Solelites!**

Third in the Gun Violence Series: Smart Guns: An Answer to Gun Violence?

Congregation Solel's Just Congregations initiative will continue its research into gun violence by welcoming Alec Harris, an active volunteer leader with Cook County's United Power for Action and Justice at 7 p.m., Monday, February 15, at Solel.

The meeting, which is hosted in conjunction with Lakeside Congregation's Social Action Committee, is the third in a series designed to explore ways other organizations have chosen to attack the gun violence problem, with the goal of crafting a plan for themselves. It is free and open to Solel and Lakeside congregants.

Harris, a member and past president of Chicago Sinai Congregation, also is a member of the North American Board of the Union for Reform Judaism. He is working on the gun violence issue through United Power for Action and Justice, Lake County United's sister organization in Cook County.

For more information, contact Sharon Stein at sstein24@gmail.com or Meta Levin at meta.levin@comcast.net



**THANK YOU
TO EVERYONE WHO MADE
MITZVAH DAY A SUCCESS!**

Thank you especially to Cynthia Plouche for her wonderful leadership, our dedicated volunteers, our fantastic 6th & 7th grade Mitzvah Mall team, the wonderful participating organizations, and to all the families that helped make a difference. We want to send a special thank you to first grader **Olivia Weinberg**, who generously donated almost \$50 worth of savings from her piggy bank at home. Olivia carefully learned about each organization at Mitzvah Day, and that afternoon, decided to send her gift to PADS, so that she could help those in need seek shelter and food. Olivia's act of *chesed* is an inspiration for us all.

CJE's Virtual Senior Center

CJE SeniorLife is offering the Virtual Senior Center (VSC), an exciting new program, which brings interactive web-based classes to older adults in the comfort of their homes. Through the VSC's 'real-time' programming, participants can join classes and can see, hear and communicate with others, actively participating in discussions and activities.

Participants can join any of the three VSC sites' classes in New York, Baltimore and Chicago, interacting with instructors and class members from around the country. Over 35 classes are offered weekly, facilitated by instructors from a variety of backgrounds and interest areas on topics designed specifically with program participants in mind. Easy to use navigation for Skype and the entire world of the Internet enable participants to communicate with far-away friends and family, to participate in interactive activities with new friends, and to access the web.

If you or someone you know is interested in subscribing to the Virtual Senior Center please contact Barbara Milsk at (773) 508-1168 or virtualseniorcenter@cje.net

cje SeniorLife
Jewish values for positive aging



Host Families Needed for Hands of Peace July 2016 Summer Program

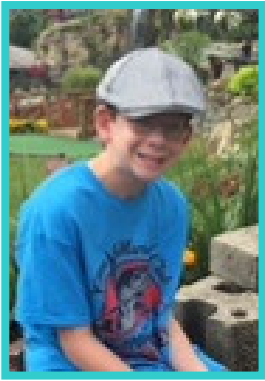
Hands of Peace (HOP) is a unique interfaith program developing peace-building and leadership skills in American, Palestinian and Israeli teens through the power of dialogue and personal relationships. This Glenview-based non-for-profit was created in 2002 and now serves 46 teens (ages 15-17) every summer. We carefully select a group of Israeli and Palestinian teens, as well as a group of local American teens from many different faith backgrounds, to take part in this transformative experience.

We are looking for families who can host one or two teens during the 2016 summer program (July 13 to August 1). It is a very rewarding experience, whether you have teens at home or are empty-nesters. The HOP program creates a cohesive and dedicated group of youth committed to each other and to peace in the Middle East.



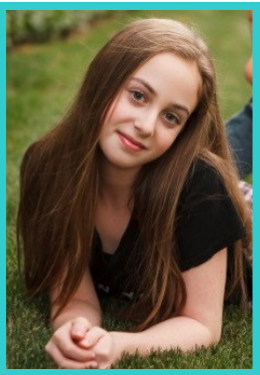
Please visit the HOP website (www.handsofpeace.org) for more information or contact the host families coordinator Vera Ginburg at (847) 251-0231 or veraginburg@att.net

Mazel Tov to Ari Helfand on His Bar Mitzvah!



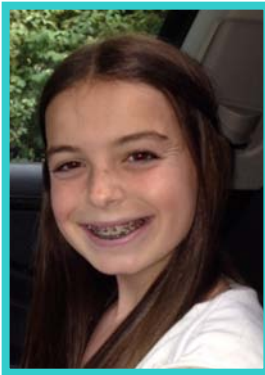
Ari Helfand, son of Lisa and David, will become a Bar Mitzvah on February 6, 2016. He is a 7th grader at Northwood Junior High in Highland Park. Ari's favorite hobbies are playing basketball and watching soccer games. Ari's Torah portion is *Mishpatim*, from the Book of Exodus. The most important thing Ari learned from his Torah portion is that it is very important to respect the poor and elders, and always to remember we were slaves in Egypt. The most important thing Ari learned from his experience becoming a Bar Mitzvah is that he can do things independently. The greatest challenge he faced in preparing for his ceremony was consistently practicing.

Mazel Tov to Paige Bordo on Her Bat Mitzvah!



Paige Bordo, daughter of David and Margi, will become a Bat Mitzvah on February 13, 2016. She is a 7th grader at Northwood Junior High. Paige's favorite hobby is dancing. Paige's Torah portion is *T'rumah*, from the Book of Exodus. The most important thing Paige learned from her Torah portion was that it is important for people in a community to have a place to get together. The most important thing Paige learned from her experience becoming a Bat Mitzvah was that it is important to learn to read and chant Torah and Haftarah. The greatest challenge she faced in preparing for her ceremony was to manage her time between schoolwork, dancing, and learning for her Bat Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to Drew Bernstein on Her Bat Mitzvah!



Drew Bernstein, daughter of Vicki Bernstein and Bob Bernstein, will become a Bat Mitzvah on February 13, 2016. She is a 7th grader at Elm Place Middle School. Drew's favorite hobbies are dance, tennis and spending time with friends and family. Drew's Torah portion is *T'rumah*, from the Book of Exodus. The most important thing Drew learned from her Torah portion is how important community and working together is to the Jewish people. The most important thing Drew learned from her experience becoming a Bat Mitzvah is that one person can belong to many different communities, and that now she too is part of the Jewish community. The greatest challenge she faced in preparing for her ceremony was keeping up with the studying and preparing her speech.

Mazel Tov to Aaron Bach on His Bar Mitzvah!



Aaron Bach, son of Debbie and Phil, will become a Bar Mitzvah on February 20, 2016. He is a 7th grader at Edgewood Middle School. Aaron is excited to chant his Torah portion, *T'tzaveh*, from the Book of Exodus. The portion discusses the clothing and rituals performed by Aaron and his brothers, the Priests of the First Temple in Jerusalem. Aaron has been studying hard and is looking forward to celebrating with his friends and family. In his free time, Aaron plays soccer and travels the country playing at elite tournaments with his club, the Chicago Magic. Instead of having a Bar Mitzvah party, Aaron has decided to take a family trip to England to make his first trip outside the United States.

Thank You For Your Contributions

Education Fund

Louise De La Fuente and Mace Rosenstein, in memory of Marshall Domash

Human Needs Fund

Scott and Ellen Goldsher, in memory of Phoebe Liebow

Fran Salpeter, in memory of Elaine Hessel

Richard and Susan Wellek, in honor of Donald Goldstein's 80th birthday

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Jay Guthmann, in memory of Laurence Guthmann

Jamie and Julie Roth

Caren and Michael Wax, in honor of Ben Wax's Bar Mitzvah

Rabbi Taylor Legacy Fund

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Miriam and Sherman Gerber

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Albert and Gwen Miller

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Gay Sigel and Howard Epstein

Tribute Fund

Peter and Marjorie Albin, in memory of Phoebe Leibow

Natalie Caplin, in memory of Mark Van Gelder and Mildred Van Gelder

Harvey and Ellen Cohen, in memory of Meyer Goldman

Barbara Dibble, in memory of Bernice Dennison

Thelma Dubnow, in memory of Raymond Rotfeld

Darryl and Michael Ebner, in memory of Jules Ebner

Helene Ellis, in memory of Phoebe Liebow

Arnold and Judith Fox, in memory of Arnold Krause

Judy Freed, in memory of Phoebe Liebow

Merrill and Janet Freed in memory of Phoebe Liebow

Carol and Alan Greene, in memory of Sam Lake

Arlene and Jerry Karel, in memory of Adele Chubin and Estelle Kerstein

Michael Kohn, in memory of Susan and Larry Guthmann

Wendy Liebow, in memory of Phoebe Liebow

William and Jo McConaghy, in memory of Phoebe Liebow

Tribute Fund (continued)

Marilyn and Gary Meyers, in memory of Gilbert Meyers

Toddy Richman, in memory of William Richman

Bruce and Benilda Schiff, in memory of Beverly Schiff

Laurence and Deborah Segil, in memory of Frank Edelman

Richard and Jody Seligman, in memory of Raymond Rotfeld

Brenda and Fred Turner, in memory of Bella Wildberg

Barbara Volin, in memory of Hilliard Volin

Dan and Elizabeth Weil, in memory of Jay Wasserman

As of January 25, 2016

Condolences to...

Caren (David) Rudman, on the passing of her step-father, Laurence Guthmann, husband of the late Susan Guthmann.

Sue Samuels, on the passing of her sister, Elaine Hessel.

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.

February 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|-----------|---|---|
| | 1 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 2 11:00 am Hebrew Class 4:15 pm Religious School 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans Executive Meeting | 3 12:00 pm Downtown Lunch & Learn 7:30 pm Religious School Committee Meeting | 4 | 5 6:30 pm Artist Reception 7:30 pm Hava Nashira Service | 6 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Ari Helfand Bar Mitzvah 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 7 9:00 am Youth Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Religious School 10:15 am Margot Andersen on Mindfulness & Stress Resilience in a Jewish World 12:15 pm 8-12 th Grade | 8 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 9 11:00 am Hebrew Class 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn at Solel 4:15 pm Religious School 7:00 pm Rosh Chodesh | 10 | 11 | 12 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service | 13 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Drew Bernstein & Paige Bordo B'nei Mitzvah 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 14 No Religious School | 15 7:00 pm Just Congregations 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 16 11:00 am Hebrew Class 4:15 pm Religious School 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans Meeting | 17 | 18 | 19 7:30 pm Choir & Torah Service Torah Readers: Judith Golden and Rachel Meltzer | 20 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Aaron Bach Bar Mitzvah 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 21 9:00 am Executive & Board Meeting 9:45 am Religious School 11:00 am Discussion on District 112 Referendum 3:00 pm Fine Arts Committee Fundraising Event 7:00 pm Religious School Focus Groups | 22 | 23 11:00 am Hebrew Class 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn at Solel 4:15 pm Religious School 6:00 pm Film Night | 24 | 25 | 26 Snowbird Shabbat 5:30 pm Pizza Dinner 6:15 pm Shabbat Shalom | 27 Snowbird Shabbat 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Pray 'n Play 10:35 am Morning Minyan |
| 28 9:00 am Youth Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Religious School 9:45 am Jewish Parenting | 29 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | | | | | Kindle Shabbat Candles at dinner or at the following times (CDT): 5..... 4:50 pm 12..... 4:59 pm 19..... 5:08 pm 26..... 5:16 pm |

Shabbat Services Schedule

Friday, February 5

Artist Reception6:30 pm
Hava Nashira Service7:30 pm

Saturday, February 6 — Mishpatim, Exod. 21:1-24:18

Torah Study9:15 am
Ari Helfand Bar Mitzvah10:30 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, February 12

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

Saturday, February 13 — T'rumah, Exod. 25:1-27:19

Torah Study9:15 am
Drew Bernstein & Paige Bordo B'nei Mitzvah...10:30 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, February 19

Choir & Torah Service7:30 pm
Torah Readers: Judith Golden and Rachel Meltzer

Saturday, February 20 — T'tzaveh, Exod. 27:20-30:10

Torah Study9:15 am
Aaron Bach Bar Mitzvah10:30 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, February 26

Pizza Dinner5:30 pm
Shabbat Shalom6:15 pm

Saturday, February 27 — Ki Tisa, Exod. 30:11-34:35

Torah Study9:15 am
Pray 'n Play10:30 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

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

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

or

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

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



Many Paths. One Community

We are a spiritual home that engages our members and community in *prayer, learning, and the pursuit of social justice*. We prize *inclusiveness, innovation, and involvement* in our programs, life cycle events, and leadership. Everyone who walks into our building should feel *inspired, uplifted, and connected*.

Pathfinder

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Religious School: (847) 433-3417
Email: soleloffic@solel.org
Website: www.solel.org

Rabbi: Rabbi Evan Moffic (emoffic@gmail.com)
Cantor: Cantor Vicky Glikin (cantorglikin@gmail.com)
Rabbi Emeritus: Rabbi Dov Taylor (rabbid@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 March 2016. Please submit material by email on or before February 15, 2016 in order for it to appear in the March *Pathfinder*.