



PATHFINDER

Rabbi's Corner --

What All of Us Can Learn From Jason Brown

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The Smithsonian Institution has launched a web page memorializing the late Peter Seeger. The photo in the upper right-hand corner is credited to congregant **Bruce Mondschain**. See <http://www.folkways.si.edu/PeteSeeger>



The city of Highland Park and all of the country are celebrating the success of figure skater Jason Brown. Jason is part of the US Olympic Team heading to Sochi in a few weeks.

every interview he talks about his family and the way they supported him. They supported his decision to put in the extraordinary hours required to succeed. Dad Steve said to the CBS news that "he's the one that got up in the morning. He set the alarm clock." All of us who want to achieve something great know it takes dedication and support. If either is missing, we'll probably fall short.

Here at Solel we can take particular pride in Jason. He and his family have been devoted members of our Solel community for more than a decade. Both Jason and his sister, Jordan, were confirmed here at Solel, and brother, Dylan, is in this year's confirmation class.

Second, he is humble. Great athletes often seem to echo their own hype. With Jason, in contrast, all you have to do is listen, and you'll see what a mensch he is. Humility is not false modesty. It is a combination of gratitude and perspective. A humble person leaves you feeling excited and inspired, and that's what Jason does.

There is so much I can say about Jason. Anyone who has met him or seen him on television senses his joyful spirit, humility and kindness. Even if we are not Olympic skaters or do not even know how to skate, we can learn from him.

Finally, he is proudly Jewish. At our religious school assembly last week, I told the students that if Jason Brown could complete Confirmation class, so could they. Jason also attended our Reform Jewish summer camp, OSRUI, along with his brother and sisters, and his parents are active supporters of it.

First, he knows how much family matters. In

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Cantor Glikin's Desk -- The Truth About the Women's Seder

"I really don't think that the Women's Seder is relevant to my experience. Our family seders have always been really great. I've never felt left out in any way during my family celebrations." These words were the beginning of a conversation that I recently had with a Solel woman after I asked her if she was planning to attend this year's Women's Seder on March 2. As I considered this comment, I reflected on the fact that I, too, have never felt left out at my family celebrations. So, why do I find the Women's Seder to be so incredibly powerful and moving? As I was thinking about this question, I realized that it comes down to at least three factors: experiencing the Exodus narrative through a feminine lens, considering modern-day issues that affect women in our time, and having the opportunity to do all of this in a group of amazing women.

Seeing the Exodus Narrative through a Feminine Lens

"Who are the heroes of the Exodus story?" If we were to ask our Religious School students this question, there is little doubt in my mind that they would think of God, Moses, and, possibly, Nachshon (you know, the guy who stepped into the sea, thereby causing it to split open.) Some might mention Miriam. But, I truly doubt that many of our students, or even adults, would think of Yocheved, Batya, Shifra, or Puah. Yet, each of these four women was instrumental in bringing about the Exodus and the redemption of the Jewish people from slavery. Each of these women risked her life to ensure the future of the people Israel.

At the Women's Seder, the story of the Exodus, our formative communal narrative, is told in a different way, a way that highlights the heroic women of our Biblical narrative, alongside the heroic men and God. Additionally, the language of the *hagaddah* (the "telling" read during the Passover seder) draws on our tradition's rich treasure-chest of ways to understand and refer to the Divine. Written for the women of Solel by the women of Solel, the *hagaddah* we read at the Women's Seder experiments with alternative names for God, such as "Source of Life," "Fountain of Blessings," or "Shechinah." How might your experience of the Exodus story be different with the inclusion of female heroes and non-traditional names for the Divine? Might such exploration invite new understandings and ways to connect to our formative narrative?

Considering Modern-Day Women's Issues

Last year's Women's Seder served as the launching pad for the introduction of the "Women Should Be Seen and Heard" campaign at Solel. Attendees learned about the

struggle for gender equality in public spaces in Israel and contributed our own voice to this important issue by taking pictures in support of gender equality and signing petitions to Israeli officials. This year's seder will, similarly, highlight a social justice issue relevant to women and children, as well as empower us to take action.

The social justice issue we will be highlighting is that of modern-day slavery of great proportions – human trafficking. One source estimates that there are currently 27 million people in modern-day slavery worldwide and it is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. U.S. Department of State estimates that of the 14,500 to 18,000 transnational victims trafficked into our country annually, 80% are women and girls. Cases of human trafficking have been reported in all 50 states and Chicago has been named a "national hub of human trafficking," with most victims typically solicited in Chicago suburbs. Recent hotline statistics from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center show Illinois had the fifth highest call volume, falling behind only New York, Florida, Texas and California. These statistics are not mentioned here to shock us, although they certainly do. Rather, they serve as an invitation to learn more about this issue, so that we can help the people who have already been affected, as well increase awareness in our own families and communities in an age-appropriate way. The seder will be appropriate for women and girls in 5th grade and above.

Getting to Know the Women of Solel

Our congregation is blessed with truly incredible women: women who are passionate, who care about the people around them and making the world a better place, and who love to have fun! The seder is accompanied by beautiful music, great company, delicious food, and stimulating conversation. Whether you come by yourself, with a friend, or with a family member, you are certain to leave with new friends. If you come with your daughter(s), you will have the opportunity to discuss issues of importance with her, which you may not otherwise have the opportunity to explore. You will sing, you will laugh, you might even cry. Most importantly, you will have an experience that will not be quickly forgotten and which will bring you back to the Women's Seder year, after year, after year.

I look forward to seeing you at this year's Women's Seder. It will be an evening to remember!

- Cantor Vicky Glikin

Food, Glorious Food

Four Congregation Solel Women's Seder Committee members gathered in the Solel kitchen on a cold January evening to sample main dishes for the event. Food was prepared by Chef Don Phillips, who is the resident chef for the Montessori School housed in the Solel building, as well as for three other schools. Tasters included Cantor Vicky Glikin, Anne Kleinerman, Marliiss Levin, Meta Levin, and Sue Ulman. The food for the event will be prepared out of all-natural, organic ingredients and promises to be tantalizingly delicious!



Solel Women's Seder Sunday, March 2, 2013 at 4:30 pm

Why is this Seder different from all other Seders?

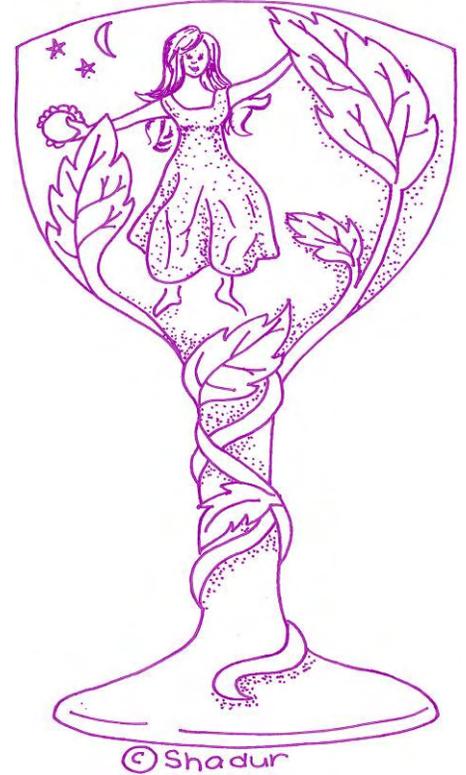
It is an opportunity to:

- **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
- **enjoy** a delicious meal with old and new friends!

We will use a special Haggadah created for and by the women of Solel in this spirited celebration.

Details:

- Mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts and friends welcome
- Daughters in 5th grade or older are welcome to attend
- Charge: \$36/person, or \$360 to reserve a table of 10
- Please bring a Passover-friendly side dish to serve 8-10 people



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.*

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

Number attending _____ x\$36 per person (10 people per table)

Side dish I will bring (optional): _____

Added donation to help offset cost \$ _____ Total amount \$ _____

Credit card (Visa, MC, Discover) _____ Exp.: ___ / ___ Security Code _____

From Our President --

The word *ethos*, with its origins in Greek antiquity, has particularly interested me for a very long time. I think it might help us to better appreciate Congregation Solel, now in its fifty-seventh year.

Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, my frequent companion, furnishes us with an especially good explanation of *ethos*: "... the distinguishing character, sentiment, moral nature, or guiding beliefs of a person, group, or institution." And the venerable *Oxford English Dictionary* regards *ethos* as the prevalent tone of a people or community.

But also prompting me is a wonderful book – *The Spirit of Cities* (Princeton University Press, 2011) – co-authored by Daniel A. Bell and Avner de-Shalit. (You may recognize the name Daniel Bell, whose late father [1919-2011], remains well known for his book *The End of Ideology* [1960].) The co-authors – educated at Oxford – have a global platform that would not have been possible twenty-five years ago: Bell teaches political theory at two universities in China while de-Shalit teaches politics at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. A sampler of the world cities they have opted to study – each assayed in chapter form – include Beijing (city of political power), Jerusalem (city of religion), New York (city of ambition), and Paris (city of Romance). The impulse that inspires their book comes from the much-esteemed German philosopher Walter Benjamin (1892-1940), who thought of himself as a prospector dealing in ethnographic findings about people and cultures gathered up as he purposefully walked the streets of Paris.

So this brings us, as you surely guessed, to the *ethos* of Congregation Solel. I'll begin with some examples of activity, past as well as current:

- The genesis of our congregation – dating to 1955 – was devoted to worship, Jewish education for children, lifelong learning, *tzadakah*, and social justice. When Congregation Solel received its charter in 1957, these pillars had been set into our firmament. Today they represent our historic legacy.
- A free-flowing give-and-take, engaging congregants and Rabbi Arnold Jacob Wolf, amounted to an ongoing colloquy about Torah, Midrash, and their nexus with religious as well as secular texts. Today a substantial gathering of congregants convene weekly with Rabbi Moffic for spirited Torah Study on Shabbat and lunch-and-learn discussion sessions in Chicago as well as in Highland Park.

- Our lay-inspired devotion to social justice today is robust, wide ranging, and spontaneous. Stand-out pursuits include: Envision Scholars, affordable housing, the Lake County health-care survey, *Nuestro* Center, Lake County United, and most recently our emerging environmental initiative, etc.
- Our multi-generational women's movement – Rosh Chodesh celebrations (January 30th) as well as our Women's Seder (March 2nd) – has added a wonderful, long-overdue dimension to the congregation.
- Religious School stands at the core of Congregation Solel. The aspiration to instill a Jewish education in our offspring was fundamental to our existence in the 1950s and remains so in our new century. We are grateful to Geoff Prass, our Religious School director, and our corps of devoted teachers.
- There is also our revived Solel Youth Choir, directed by Cantor Glikin. The music sung by this enthusiastic choir will remain in their heads throughout their lives.
- Perhaps you read in the January issue of the *Pathfinder* the intriguing article about our *Parokhet*, also known as the Ark veil. Created by a renowned fabric artist, Lenore Tawney, in 1963, it is being professionally restored thanks to the generosity of congregants devoted to the preservation of our congregation's collection of artistic Judaica. Add to this the initiative undertaken by congregants who have assembled a photographic exhibit of our holdings, to be displayed during our Rededication Weekend (March 21-23).

So how might we imagine the *ethos* of Congregation Solel as we know it today? The task seems formidable. Again I direct your attention to Professors Bell and de-Shalit: "... an *ethos* is not so much a commitment to a set of values as a commitment to an *argument*." We are not a single-minded congregation. Rather we are a vibrant as well as organic Reform Jewish community. Our congregation encompasses a broad range of life experiences, commitments, and aspirations. Pluralistic sensibilities – akin to the cities Bell and de-Shalit have analyzed – nourish us.

Let us sustain our historic argument. It is the source of our strength. I look forward to hearing from you.

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

Connecting Our Path: Past, Present and Future

March 21-23, 2014

Our building will be used for living, as well as for worship, study and learning. The central hall (which becomes part of the expanded sanctuary for special occasions) will be attractively and comfortably furnished. It will be a place for meeting, adult study groups, and hospitality. All the necessary accoutrements, such as a modest kitchen, coat room, and work-a-day areas, have been incorporated. . . .

Many people have worked days and weeks with dedication and with conscientiousness – this does not of necessity give us perfection. We think you will find in Solel's new home inspiration and inner peace, and we are sure it will give you some satisfying experiences.

Herman C. Edwards, Solel's first President

(Written at the beginning of construction of Solel's permanent home)



Fifty years after the dedication of our congregational home in 1964, Solel will mark the completion of our sanctuary renovation with a weekend of special activities. Together, we will reflect on our history, celebrate our present, and imagine our future.



Friday, March 21, 7:30 p.m.

Multigenerational Shabbat Service with adult and youth choirs, followed by a festive oneg

Saturday, March 22

10:30 a.m.

The Torah of Solel: How We Became Who We Are, Torah study led by Rabbi Evan Moffic

12:00 noon

Kiddush Luncheon

12:45 p.m.

Blazing New Paths Through the Decades, a panel discussion moderated by Rabbi Evan Moffic and featuring Rabbi Dov Taylor, Solel's Rabbi Emeritus; Rabbi Larry Edwards, son of founding member and Solel's first president Herman Edwards; and Corinne Siegel-Gerson, founding member and Solel's first woman president.

Sunday, March 23

Morning

Special programming for Religious School Families

2:00 p.m.

Pathfinding Then, Now, and Beyond: Reflections from a Grown-Up Child of Solel, Martha Minow, Dean of Harvard Law School and Solel Religious School Alumna

Havdala and refreshments

**Please join us for this milestone in our congregational life.
There is no charge for any of the events, but to help us plan appropriately
please let us know which activities you plan to attend.**

R.S.V.P. with the office at soleloffic@solel.org, (847) 433-3555, or www.solel.org.

Envision Scholars Update

Congregation Solel's involvement in the Envision Scholars Program, a collaboration with Waukegan High School, provided the focal point for the 5th Annual Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat on January 17th.

Robin Shapiro, Cynthia Plouché (VP, Social Justice), Rabbi Evan Moffic, Cantor Vicky Glikin, and Philip Orem, accompanist and composer-in-residence, took major roles in creating this memorable occasion. Highlights of the MLK Shabbat included remarks by two Waukegan H.S. seniors: Topiltzin Gomez (who will attend Yale University) and Andrea Flores (who will attend Stanford University.) This Shabbat also featured the world-premier of "Pray with my Feet," created by Philip Orem and using words spoken by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel as he marched with Dr. King from Selma to Montgomery. Members of the confirmation class from the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest attended the service, affirming the inter-religious tradition that underscored Dr. King's life. Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at Congregation Solel on June 30, 1966. At the third annual MLK Shabbat in 2012, the congregation dedicated a historic marker commemorating that historic occasion.

On January 20th, several students from the congregation's Religious School participated in Highland Park's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on January 20th.

Topiltzin Gomez, a senior at Waukegan High School, will enroll at Yale University in the fall of 2014. He made the following remarks at Congregation Solel on January 17, 2014:

Before I begin, I'd like to thank the congregation and Mr. Gutman, not just for providing me with this opportunity, but also for their tireless efforts in pursuing justice and equality for all.

Quoted from Martin Luther King's I Have A Dream Speech, "The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundation of our nation until the bright days of justice emerge."

The whirlwinds of revolt that Dr. King spoke about are the same ones that gathered you and I here today. When I think of Dr. King's legacy, I think of myself as a beneficiary. Let me take you back to a family party seven years ago, my parents stargaze into the future, they see their two sons wearing business suits, attending universities. "Don't lie to them like that" a voice says, "illegals don't get that far. Get the older one to start working, it's the practical thing to do." Something within me had broken, it wasn't painful, it was subtle, the numbing effect of a negative prophecy. It was uncertainty, inferiority, anger. But still, "Echale ganas, persevere in your studies" my father said.

Now let me take you seven years after that, when I get the news of the year. Yale University Class of 2018. Smiles, hugs, happiness, the American Dream personified. Later that night, the whirlwinds of revolt struck my eyes, liquefied them. A familiar question that I had asked myself many times before was now multiplied by the circumstance: Why was it me? Why does war kill, but not me? Why does poverty sting, but not me? Why does pigment prophesize, but not me? Why do youths my age look at a

border, see hope, cross, and find death? Why am I the blessed one? Why am I a product of thousands of hours of hard work that were not my own?

Then, it came to me that our lives are not our own, we are a continuation of a legacy. Martin Luther King himself spoke in these halls years ago and now his presence and impact has infinitely shaped our lives. It is his hopes and the hopes of all of our forefathers that make us enjoy the lives we lead today. These are blessings from the past, blowing towards our backs like whirlwinds that never end. And one day we too will join that collective past, but for now, the baton is in our hand. We have an obligation, a collective fight that we must fight. And it is because of Dr. King, because of people like you, because of the strangers I will never meet, that I could be here to join you in the fight on this day.

He said, "The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundation of our nation until the bright days of justice emerge." He had a dream, but you and I inherited it. Thank you.



Envision Scholar tutors. Seated in the front row are Andrea Flores and Topiltzin Gomez.

Solel Russia/Ukraine Trip May 18-29, 2014

A Few Spaces Left -
Join Us!



The Solel Russia/Ukraine trip, led by Cantor Vicky Glikin, has a few spaces left. The trip is open to both members of Solel and non-members of Solel, to join us for what promises to be an incredibly special trip. We will be visiting three cities: St. Petersburg (3 nights), Moscow (3 nights), and Kiev (4 nights). This trip will visit cultural sites as well as sites of Jewish interest.

The cost of the trip for 20-24 people is \$4899/person, for 25-29 people is \$4599/person, and for 30-34 people is \$4399/person. The prices above do not include airfare of \$1611.

If you are interested, please call Cantor Glikin at (847) 433-3555, Barb Kessler at (847) 433-2405 or bkess@bkess.com or Mitchell Slotnick of Ridgebrook Travel at (847) 480-2100.

Rabbi's Corner

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We are blessed at Solel to have many extraordinarily accomplished members and students. This year Jason Brown and his family have touched our souls and warmed our hearts. I am tempted to have a big-screen TV brought into worship services on Friday, February 7th, so we can watch the opening ceremonies with one of our own!

- Rabbi Evan Moffic

Jason Brown's skating video:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/14/jason-brown-figure-skating-video_n_4598126.html

Solel's Green Team in Action

Solel members have organized a "Green Team," with the following purpose and intention:

To explore and act on the link between Judaism & environmentalism, and to bring this connection to the minds and hearts of congregants, encouraging each and everyone's ACTIVE participation in Tikkun Olam.

Hopefully, one step at a time, there will be noticeable changes that reflect a growing awareness and concern for God's fragile creation. Conservation tips and environmental news will be in the *Pathfinder*, while visual reminders will appear in the synagogue itself.

Some small projects have been discussed. They include:

- 1) Used Bike Collection
- 2) Planting a butterfly garden to help feed Monarchs as they pass our way
- 3) Pond management
- 4) Helping to reduce bird deaths from window collisions
- 5) Committee to brainstorm regarding conservation measures throughout the Temple, and general ideas to grow this part of our Jewish lives
- 6) Connect with the work of Jewish and inter-religious groups on environmental and climate change issues.
- 7) Engage everyone to: Reduce their own personal use of resources, Resign from the "throwaway society" and Re-use, Recycle conscientiously and Remember to purchase goods that have been manufactured with non-virgin materials whenever possible.

It is our hope that this committee will generate interest among the congregation, and that some congregants will be interested enough to join our efforts in any of the projects listed.

Questions or interested in getting involved? Contact Andy Amend at andyamend@me.com or Cynthia Plouché at cplouche@gmail.com.



Revealers of Secrets— The 200th Anniversary of the Galician Haskalah

The Fifth International Conference for the Study of the Jewish Enlightenment Movement

19-22 Tevet 5774/ December 22-25, 2013

The Hebrew University, Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem

Last May, in the process of preparing a revised edition of my translation of Joseph Perl's *Revealer of Secrets*—the first Hebrew novel and the outstanding example of satire in Hebrew literature—I read Nancy Sinkoff's fine volume, *Out of the Shtetl: Making Jews Modern in the Polish Borderlands*. I phoned Nancy, who teaches at Rutgers, with a question about something she had written. In the course of our conversation she asked me whether I knew about the conference on the Haskalah to be held in Jerusalem in December. I did not. She gave me the website.

I learned that the conference is sponsored by three Israeli universities and is held in a different country each year. I also learned, much to my excitement, that the subject of the 2013 conference would be "Revealers of Secrets—the 200th Anniversary of Galician Haskalah," i.e., that the 2013 conference took its very name from Perl's brilliant satiric novel.

The website stipulated that applications for presentations at the conference were due in February of 2013. I was already three months late but I decided to submit an application anyway. And the organizing committee responded with a warm and enthusiastic invitation.

So it was that Judith and I departed for Israel in mid-December...but let me backtrack for a moment.

The day before we left home, I finished reading Ari Shavit's *My Promised Land*—the most compelling, provocative, honest, balanced, upsetting and moving account I have ever read of the Israeli reality. It provided background to everything I experienced in Israel in this, my sixth visit.

The conference was held at the Mt. Scopus campus of the Hebrew University, the highest and easternmost point in Jerusalem. From our window on the top floor of the Maiersdorf Faculty Club Guest House, we had a magnificent view south toward the Old City and the Dome of the Rock. Mt. Scopus is ringed by Arab villages and we were advised to take a bus or taxi into downtown Jerusalem rather than to walk.

Here was a metaphor for the entire Israeli-Palestinian conundrum: On the one hand, Mt. Scopus looks down from its academic heights upon all these Arab villages, yet their presence makes people fearful. It is exactly as Shavit describes it: "We have them by the balls and they

have us by the throat. We squeeze and they squeeze back. They are our prisoners and we are their prisoners."

Jerusalem is heartbreakingly beautiful. The blood that has been shed through thirty centuries of battles for control of the city, as well as the wall that now runs through its heart, separating Israelis from Palestinians and Palestinians from their fields and olive groves, make the history and geography of Jerusalem heartbreaking as well.

The Conference drew some fifty scholars from the U.S., Canada, Ukraine, the Netherlands, Germany, the Czech Republic and, of course, Israel, as well as several Israeli laypeople who attended simply to listen and learn. That's unusual for academic conferences, most of which require a registration fee and are closed to the public-at-large. But Israelis tend to have a high level of literacy and enjoy what our tradition calls "*Torah lishma*, learning for its own sake."

The opening session on Sunday evening, December 22nd, was held at the Van Leer Institute, consisting of welcomes by the members of the conference organizing committee and the president of the Hebrew University, Professor Menachem Ben-Sason, as well as a panel discussion by experts on the subject, and followed by refreshments—*tsholent* and *kugel*. What else would you expect? (If you don't know what *tsholent* or *kugel* are, ask a Jew from Eastern Europe.)

The next three days—Monday through Wednesday—were filled with academic presentations, about eight each morning and afternoon, with a break for lunch. Most were delivered in Hebrew, a few in English, my own in a mix of English, Hebrew and Yiddish. Participation required a good measure of *zitsfleish!*

Having produced the only English translation of Perl's *Revealer of Secrets* that has ever been done, I was an object of some considerable curiosity on the part of the Israelis. Why had I translated this work that is primarily of interest to scholars in the field of Hebrew language, literature and history? How has it been received in America? And where did I learn my Hebrew and Yiddish?

At one point, the organizer of the conference, Dr. Natan Shifris, stopped me on the way to a session and said, "We

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are so honored that you have come to us for this conference all the way from America. Thank you."

That encounter brought tears to my eyes. Why? Because it was *I* who felt honored to have been invited and to participate along with so many scholars in the field of Haskalah studies. But Shifris' words made me realize in a new way how isolated Israelis must feel living in the unfriendly Middle East while feeling spiritually connected to the West, and how much it means to them to have visitors from abroad to let them know that they are not alone.

At the conference I met Yonatan Meir, a thirty-eight-year-old *wunderkind* from Belgium, now an Israeli and professor at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. On Sunday I searched unsuccessfully in both the university library and bookstore for his new three-volume work on Perl and *Revealer of Secrets*. When I mentioned this to him Sunday evening, he told me that the books had literally just come off the press and would be available for the first time the next day. Sure enough, there they were, on a table outside the lecture hall Monday morning. I bought the first set and Yonatan was kind enough to write a beautiful inscription in the first volume. On the flight home, I was pleased to see that he frequently cites my translation in each of the three volumes.

Let me conclude this piece by expressing my thanks to Solel. It was during my first sabbatical at Oxford in 1992 that I essentially completed the translation of *Revealer of Secrets*, and during my second sabbatical at Harvard in 1998 that I translated its sequel, *Testing the Righteous*, which will be published together with its predecessor sometime before the coming of the messiah. And it was thanks in part to Solel that I was able to attend the Fifth International Conference for the Study of the Jewish Enlightenment Movement. Solel's support of ongoing learning for both its members and its clergy continue to be a jewel in its diadem.

- Rabbi Dov Taylor

SOLEL'S ONE BOOK COMMITTEE

The Attack
by Yasmina Khadra

Join us for discussion on
Sunday, April 13, 1:00 pm

YOU SHALL LOVE WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Friday, February 14, 7:30 pm
at Congregation Solel

Join us for a special Shabbat service featuring Congregation Solel's and Lakeside Congregation's adult choirs as our communities join together to celebrate the power of connection and LOVE.

The service will feature special music prepared just for this occasion. Cantors Vicky Glikin and Michael Davis will deliver a sermon-in-song on the theme of love.

Celebrate the love of partners and friends with your community as we welcome a sister congregation to our temple for Shabbat.



Synagogue Reaches Out to High School Students

Waukegan High School students, many of them children of immigrants, and mostly middle-aged members of Congregation Solel in Highland Park might not have a lot in common on the surface. But blowing snow and hazardous driving conditions could not keep them apart on Thursday, a big day on the trail of the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

Awarded each year to 1,000 “leaders for tomorrow,” the scholarship, which pays nearly all costs of a college education, was awarded in 2013 to Josue Pasillas, the first Waukegan High student to win it. Pasillas received coaching last year through the congregation’s inaugural Gates Essay Writing Workshop. Now a freshman at Pitzer College in Claremont, Calif., Pasillas thanked Solel member Robin Shapiro for guidance and mentorship that he said has been integral to his success and that helped clarify his own commitment. “I will always use my success to contribute to the success of others,” Pasillas said. “Waukegan needs more of this, more partnerships with organizations that are willing to help Waukegan students.”

WHS College Counselor Chuck Gutman, founder and director of Envision Scholars, which works to send more WHS students to college and helps organize the workshop, said Envision aims to create a national model for closing the achievement gap that stifles the prospects of low-income students. “There are many high-potential students in Waukegan, but financial concerns and other issues prevent them from pursuing a college education,” Gutman said. “We can’t change that alone. But through partnerships and synergy, we can.”

WHS senior Logan Smith, 18, was paired with Solel volunteer Wayne Rhodes for one-on-one essay guidance. Smith plans to submit an essay on her family’s struggle to cope after her dad’s stroke. “Without this, I honestly don’t think I’d have any help,” Smith said. “I’d be sending in my essays not proof-read.”

“This is an opportunity to help motivated kids get to the next level,” said Rhodes, a retired systems analyst. “Highland Park and Waukegan aren’t far apart. But working with these students you realize there’s a huge difference in economics and education.”

State school report cards attest to that difference. At Highland Park High School, where the average class size is 12 and 15 percent of students are low-income, 78 percent met or exceeded standards for the PSAE, which measures college readiness. At Waukegan High, where

the average class size is 20, just 25 percent do well on the PSAE. In 2012, a reported 66 percent of WHS students were low-income.

“Many of our members have the experience of working with their own children in preparing them for college,” said Michael Ebner, Solel president and Professor Emeritus of History, Lake Forest College.

“We realize that experience is not evenly distributed. What makes this program so successful is the students we are working with are so dedicated to their own academic advancement and so eager to go to college. This is a great social mobility effort.”

In his remarks to students, Ebner held up as a role model Sonia Sotomayor, the Supreme Court’s first Hispanic justice, who reached out for help and mentorship at every step of her academic and professional career.

“You are not alone,” Ebner said. “Find someone you can talk with.” Ebner cited a “historic commitment” to social justice issues by Congregation Solel, which was founded in 1957.

Members ran an interracial summer camp in the 1960s and sent tutors to work with children in the former Cabrini Green public housing project in Chicago.

“We marched with Dr. King in Selma and King visited our synagogue for a lecture in 1966,” Ebner said.

“It’s part of the Jewish tradition Tikkun Olam, ‘healing the world.’ We are seeing today a resurgence of this commitment within our own congregation.”

- Judy Masterson

Thank you to our Solel members for volunteering with Envision Scholars: Barb Altman, Laurie Bartell, Judy Bederman, Brian Browdy, Phil Cohen, Phyllis Dolinko, Laura Frisch, Diane Gordon, Carol Greene, Ellen Gussin, Susan Kaden, Sandy Kaminsky, Norm Kantor, Betsy Lassar, Meta Levin, Shana Lowitz, Sheila and Jack Marks, Linda Muskin, Cynthia Plouché, Edie Reese, Wayne and Wendy Rhodes, Ellen Rubert, Lynn Salit, Robin Shapiro, Ruth Spero, Donna Steele, Sharon Stein, Cheryl Susman, Jerry Wolf, and Laura Zuckerman.

Add your name to this honor roll. Sign up as an Envision Scholar tutor. Interested? Contact robinshapiro2@gmail.com



92Y Live From NYC
 Programs broadcast live via satellite

All programs take place at Congregation Solel

Tuesday, February 4, 7:15 pm
Amy Chua and Jed Rubinfeld
Success in America

It may be taboo to say, but some groups in America do better than others. Mormons have recently risen to astonishing business success. Cubans in Miami climbed from poverty to prosperity in a generation. Nigerians earn doctorates at stunningly high rates. Indian and Chinese Americans have much higher incomes than other Americans; Jews may have the highest of all. Husband and wife team Amy Chua (author of *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*) and Jed Rubinfeld—both Yale professors—discuss their new book, *The Triple Package*, and expose the three unlikely traits that explain the rise and fall of cultural groups in America, in a talk that could transform the way you think about success and achievement.

Future Dates:
 Monday, March 24, 7:00 pm
 Simon Schama: *The Story of the Jews*

Thursday, May 22, 7:00 pm
 Eli Wiesel

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

**Payment options: log in to
 www.solel.org,
 check by mail, or credit card by
 phone (847) 433-3555.**

Community Shabbaton on March 1 -- The Impact of Gun Violence On Our Chicago-Area Community

You may know that the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) has begun a new initiative, URJ Communities, aimed at building greater relationships and connections among our Reform congregations and their members. Through this initiative, over 35 URJ Communities will be established across North America. Congregation Solel is included in one of the first set of Communities to be launched in the Northwest Indiana/Greater Chicago Area URJ Community.

Our URJ Community is being led by three local lay leaders—who are guiding and arranging efforts that we hope will strengthen our ties to other local congregations and the Reform movement as a whole. In fact, Solel Past President Wendy Rhodes is serving as the Chair for our URJ Community.

As part of this effort, a gathering of community presidents was held on Sunday, November 10 at Sinai Congregation in Chicago. The session was well attended and included dialogue, discussion, and relationship building—with more sessions to be scheduled over time.

Additionally, a community-wide Shabbaton will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2014 at Am Shalom in Glencoe. The event will include opportunities for worship, study, and *Tikkun Olam* **for all ages**--and will focus on the impact of gun violence on our Chicago area community. The topic was chosen because gun violence is such a serious issue in the greater Chicago area and we, as the Reform Jewish Community, would like to offer support where we can.

There will be guest speakers and collaboration with the Reform Cantors of Chicago who have chosen gun violence in Chicago as their point of focus this year as well. You and your family are welcome to come for the entire day or part of the day—as you wish. There will be a fee of \$18 for all attendees-- including program, lunch, and snacks.

Questions? Please contact URJ Community's Vice Chair for Community Building—Greg Miller at gmler@gmillersquaredinc.com or Wendy Rhodes at wendyrhodes53@gmail.com.

March 1 is also the date for an American Conference of Cantors Concert at North Shore Congregation Israel (1185 Sheridan Road, Glencoe, IL) at 7:30 pm. **Tickets can be purchased at:**
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/494846>

Solel's Just Congregations Is Planning Health Care Shabbat

Healthcare has permeated much of what Congregation Solel's Just Congregations committee does lately, from collaborating with Lake County United (LCU) to our own projects. Now, at the invitation of Solel President Michael Ebner, we are planning a Healthcare Shabbat. Date TBD.

In the late summer and fall of 2013 more than 100 Solelites completed Access to Healthcare surveys, a joint project of LCU and the Lake County Health Department (LCHD), which Solel's Just Congregations initiative supported and promoted. Volunteers have entered the data into custom, computerized forms and the LCHD is crunching the data. We hope to have at least preliminary findings soon.

It is that data, as well as concerns gleaned from congregants that will help us shape the Healthcare Shabbat.

Access to healthcare and related issues are of great importance to the community. We hope that they are to you, too. If you are interested in becoming active with Just Congregations or helping us with the Healthcare Shabbat, please contact Meta Levin at meta.levin@comcast.net or Sharon Stein at sstein24@gmail.com.

Mazel Tov to Jillian Segall on her Bat Mitzvah!



Gillian Segall, daughter of Rick and Caryn Segall, will become a Bat Mitzvah on February 15, 2014. She is in 7th grade at Northwood Middle School. Some of Gillian's favorite hobbies include swimming, horseback riding, rock climbing and art. For her Mitzvah Project, Gillian has been volunteering at Equestrian Connection, a therapeutic riding facility for children with disabilities. From her Mitzvah Project, Gillian has seen firsthand how horseback riding can provide a sense of freedom and normalcy for children that have various physical and psychological struggles. Gillian's Torah portion is Ki Tissa, from the Book of Exodus. The most important thing Gillian learned from her Torah portion is how God is a lot like a parent -- providing both love and discipline. Gillian thought learning Hebrew was difficult, but not nearly as challenging as learning to chant directly from the Torah without the help of vowels. While studying for her Bat Mitzvah, Gillian discovered that, even when she doubts herself, she can accomplish anything through hard work and perseverance.

Mazel Tov to Rachel Todd on her Bat Mitzvah!



Rachel, the daughter of Elisa Todd and Bryan Todd, will become a Bat Mitzvah on February 1, 2014. She is in 7th grade at Shepard Middle School in Deerfield. Her hobbies include playing the piano, horseback riding, archery, swimming, and reading. Rachel's Torah portion is *T'ruma*, from the Book of Exodus. From her Torah portion, Rachel learned that the building of a menorah is symbolic of many different things. The gold used could be symbolic of strength and beauty, almond blossoms, growth and life, using equal branches, strength and balance and having it made from one piece, unity. This could symbolize as a whole the Jewish people. Her Mitzvah Project was donating books to Bernie's Book Bank and volunteering at Equestrian Connection. From her Mitzvah Project, Rachel learned that a Mitzvah doesn't have to be a giant undertaking but a thoughtful one. Her greatest challenge was prioritizing everything.

SHALVA

Giving voice to the unspeakable...
responding to domestic abuse in Jewish homes.

The issue of domestic abuse is not just a women's issue; it affects the entire family as well as our Jewish community. SHALVA offers free counseling to Jewish women who are or were in an intimate partner relationship.

If you or someone you know needs Shalva's help, call (773)583-4673.

Check Out These Activities at Congregation Solel



Shabbat Shalom!

*A Service for the
Whole Congregation*
Friday, February 28



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

5:30 pm - Pizza dinner
6:15 pm - Enjoy a warm and meaningful service led by Cantor Glikin and Rabbi Moffic, with participation by Solel's Youth Choir "Rimonim"

Shabbat. Friendship.
Community. Family. Song.

Future Dates:

March 28
April 25



Hava Nashira!

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

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

THIS MONTH HONORING THE
LEGACY OF PETE SEEGER



Future Dates:

April 11
June 6

Pray 'n Play

Saturday, February 8

10:30 am

*This isn't your
ordinary Tot Shabbat!*

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

Followed by a complimentary bagel brunch and playtime.

Older siblings are welcome to attend!

Come, sing, play, make friends!!

Led by Cantor Vicky Glikin

**Future
Dates:**
March 1
April 12
May 10



Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Moffic

**Downtown Lunch & Learn
February 12 at noon.**

**Lunch & Learn at Solel
February 11 & 25 at noon**

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

Thank You For Your Contributions

Annual Appeal

Joshua and Erica Lowitz

Education

Fern Berlow, in memory of Jonathan Lavin
Judy Mallace and the MEL group, in memory of Wally Mallace

Human Needs

Natalie Belrose, in memory of Evelyn Greene and Jonathan Lavin
Marcia and Ken Denberg, in memory of Jonathan Lavin
Diane and Joel Resnick, in memory of Evelyn L. Greene
Gail and Lewis Segal, in memory of Jonathan Lavin

Music Fund

Larry and Susan Mason, in honor of the birth of Allan Litwack's grandson, Asher Dov and in memory of Shirley Karp Smolin

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Bernie Berkin, in memory of Alice Berkin
Marcia and Ken Denberg, in honor of Gail and Lewis Segal's 50th wedding anniversary
Jodi and Morris DeZara, in honor of the birth of Shane Salamon Dezara
Alan and Carol Greene, in memory of Evelyn Greene
Lee and Ellen Gussin, in memory of Harriet Hambourger
Nancy Ventrudo, in honor of the marriage of Debbie Levis and Manny Tabachnik
Lois and Edmond Zisook, in honor of the marriage of Debbie Levis and Manny Tabachnik

Rabbi Dov Taylor Legacy Fund

Marcia and Bruce Balonick
Michael and Darryl Ebner
Dr. Phyllis Loeff
David and Mickey Unger
Laura Zuckerman

Tribute Fund

Ed and Judy Bederman, in memory of Shirley Karp Smolin
Natalie Caplin, in memory of Mildred Gottliebson Van Gelder and Mark Van Gelder
Harvey and Ellen Cohen, in honor of their daughter, Rebecca's marriage to David Redlinger and in memory of Meyer Goldman
Alan and Nancy Goodman, in memory of Fran Hepner
Ellen and Lee Gussin, in memory of Shirley Karp Smolin
Jack and Sandra Guthman, in memory of Renee Krauss

Tribute Fund (continued)

Carolyn and Howard Haas, in memory of Alice Berkin
Jack and Greta Heiman, in memory of Jean Heiman
Marc and Cathy Horowitz, in memory of Reuben Horowitz
Laurence Kanter, in memory of Maurice A. Kanter
Jeffrey and Diane Lutz, in memory of Jonathan Lavin
Sheila and Jack Marks, in memory of Harriet Hambourger
Donald Schaumberger, in memory of Sidney Schaumberger
Julie and Robert Schlossberg, in memory of Alice Berkin and Evelyn L. Greene
Renate Spiegel, in memory of Bella Wildberg
Brenda and Fred Turner, in memory of Bella Wildberg
Barbara Volin, in memory of Hilliard Volin
Richard and Susan Wellek, in memory of Jonathan Lavin
Burton and Deborah Zirin, in memory of Evelyn L. Greene
As of January 24, 2014

Mazel Tov to...

Harvey and Ellen Cohen, on the marriage of their daughter, Rebecca, to David Redlinger

Allan and Karen Litwack, on the birth of their grandson, Asher Dov.

Condolences to...

Martin and Nancy Karp, on the passing of their mother, Shirley Karp Smolin.

Dr. Thomas Krauss, on the passing of his wife, Renee Krauss.

Stock Transfers to Congregation Solel

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

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

Mesriow Financial, Inc.
847-681-2502 Jennifer Kaufmann
DTC # 0727
Account # 3318-5445

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 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Kindle Shabbat Candles at dinner or at the following times (CDT): 74:55 pm 145:04 pm 215:12 pm 285:21 pm					1 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Rachel Todd Bat Mitzvah 10:35 am Morning Minyan
2 10:00 am New Member Brunch	3 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	4 4:15 pm Religious School 7:00 pm 92Y Live Broadcast with Amy Chua & Jed Rubenfeld	5	6	7 Snowbird Shabbat 7:30 pm Hava Nashira Service Honoring the Legacy of Pete Seeger	8 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Pray 'n Play 10:35 am Morning Minyan
9 Snowbird Shabbat 9:45 am Religious School	10 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn at Solel 4:15 pm Religious School 7:00 pm Just Congregations	12 12:00 pm Downtown Lunch & Learn	13	14 7:30 pm "You Shall Love with All Your Heart" Shabbat Evening Service with Solel & Lakeside Choirs	15 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Gillian Segall Bat Mitzvah 10:35 am Morning Minyan
16 No Religious School	17 President's Day	18 No Religious School 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans Meeting	19	20	21 6:15 pm 6 th Grade Shabbat Dinner & Service 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	22 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
23 9:00 am Executive Committee Meeting 9:45 am Religious School 10:15 am Board Meeting	24 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn at Solel 4:15 pm Religious School	26	27	28 5:30 pm Pizza Dinner 6:15 Shabbat Shalom Service 6:15 pm 2 nd Grade Shabbat Dinner & Program	

Shabbat Services Schedule

Friday, January 31

Pizza Dinner5:30 pm
Shabbat Shalom Service.....6:15 pm

T'rumah, Exod. 25:1-27:19

Saturday, February 1

Torah Study9:15 am
Rachel Todd Bat Mitzvah10:30 am
Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

Friday, February 7

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

T'tzabeh, Exod. 27:20-30:10

Saturday, February 8

Torah Study9:15 am
Pray 'n Play10:30 am
Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

Friday, February 14

Solel & Lakeside Choirs Shabbat Service7:30 pm

Ki Tisa, Exod. 30:11-34:35

Saturday, February 15

Torah Study9:15 am
Gillian Segall Bat Mitzvah10:30 am
Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, February 21

6th Grade Shabbat Dinner & Service.....6:15 pm
Shabbat Service.....7:30 pm

Vayak'heil, Exod. 35:1-38:20

Saturday, February 22

Torah Study9:15 am
Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

Friday, February 28

Pizza Dinner5:30 pm
Shabbat Shalom Service6:15 pm
2nd Grade Shabbat Dinner & Program.....6:15 pm

P'kudei, Exod. 38:21-40:38

Saturday, March 1

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

Updating Your Solel Calendar with Future Events in 2014

February 7-9: Snowbird Shabbat in Florida

March 2 at 4:30 pm: Women's Seder

March 7: Human Rights Shabbat

March 21-23: 50th Anniversary Re-dedication of
Congregation Solel

April 13 at 1:00 pm: *The Attack*, by Yasmina Khadra
One Book discussion

May 4 at 2:00 pm: Kol Zimrah Concert

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



Many Paths. One Community

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

or

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

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

Pathfinder

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

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

Pathfinder Deadline for Submissions:

The next *Pathfinder* will be published March 2014

Please submit material by email on or before February 15,
2014 in order for it to appear in the March *Pathfinder*.

