



PATHFINDER

Inside this issue:

Cantor Glikin's Remarks	2
From Our President	3
Contributions	14
Calendar	15

What Harry Potter Taught Me About Anti-semitism

I have been reading the Harry Potter books alongside my seven-year-old daughter. By far the most intriguing character is Voldemort, otherwise known as "He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named."

When I first heard that description, I thought of the ways Jews reference God. When referring to God outside of prayer, many traditional Jews say "Hashem" which means "the name." It is a way of calling upon God without saying God's name.

God's name is too mysterious and powerful for human beings to say. In other words, God is the one who must not be named.

Yet, following the tragedies unfolding in Europe and refusal of many in our political leadership and culture to confront it, I think a new understanding is necessary. The threat of Islamic fundamentalism—more specifically, *the hatred of Jews and others driven by radical terrorists claiming*

the banner of Islam—has become the global force so many refuse to name.

At a recent conference, President Obama decided not to name this problem. I respect his desire not to inflame religious tensions, and he is right to tread carefully.

Yet, we cannot solve a problem if we do not name and define it. The problems are manifold, but in particular, the anti-semitism generated by radical Islam is particularly disturbing. If we do not name it, we cannot fight it effectively. Why?

1. **We lose clarity on the source of the hatred:** Twenty years ago, the Far Right in Europe carried the banner of anti-semitism. The National Front in Paris and Neo-Nazis in Germany desecrated cemeteries, minimized the Holocaust and assaulted elderly Jews.

Today Jews face the gravest threats in Arab neighborhoods. A recent report in the

(Continued on page 7)



Cantor Glikin's Desk — On the Mystery of Music

Think about the last time you attended a synagogue service. No matter what service, when, or where, I would bet that music played an integral part of that worship experience. When thinking about worship, the presence of music is almost taken for granted because it is widely accepted that music helps us to express the inexpressible and illuminates truths and essences that can be felt, but only approximately verbalized. Music similarly helps us to be moved emotionally and spiritually outside of worship. It deepens and makes more meaningful our experiences whether we are doing yoga, meditating, or watching a movie.

Jewish philosopher Martin Buber (1878-1965) differentiated between what he termed "I-It" and "I-Thou" relationships. "I-It" moments can be roughly characterized as transactional interactions, such as the interaction one would have with the clerk at the store while purchasing a gallon of milk. These moments are necessary and can even be pleasant, but they are transactional. By contrast, "I-Thou" are the kinds of encounters in which we feel deeply connected to another person and their experience, when we can "look into their soul" and sense their deepest truths. These moments allow us to experience holiness. It is precisely because of the inadequacy of language in describing an "I-Thou" experience, suggests Buber, that all cultures consider music indispensable.

In other words, music plays an essential role in helping us to access the full depth of the human experience and to get a glimpse of the Divine. The utilization of music in achieving a mystical state - a state in which you are fully aware of your connection to something greater in the world - is well-documented within our tradition. Perhaps the most important Biblical source for the claim of music's mystical powers comes from the book of Kings related to the prophet Elisha: "And when the minstrel played, the spirit of God came upon [Elisha]" (II Kings 3:15.) This verse suggests that in the course of the musical interaction, the listener's soul is transformed by the "spirit of God."

Keeping in mind the power of music to affect the soul, I invite you to reflect on the ways in which you can prepare yourself to perceive music as an experience that is pregnant with potential for a holy encounter. How can you best open your heart so as to be ready should a glimpse of the Divine reveal itself through a musical encounter? I also invite you to challenge yourself to intentionally invite God into your musical interactions, whether in worship or in a secular context. It is possible that nothing will happen. Then again, it is also possible that, like the prophet Elisha, you may have "the spirit of God come upon" you, a truly awesome experience, which is worth trying for.

- Cantor Vicky Glikin

Yom HaShoah (Holocaust) Commemoration Sunday, April 19, 2015 7:00 pm

The critically acclaimed special liturgy compiled by Cantor Glikin will be accompanied by piano, cello, violin, and a quartet of singers. We will hear testimony from Margot Walton, a survivor and Solel congregant. The ceremony will honor all those who perished during the Shoah (Holocaust), those who survived against all odds, and those who risked their lives for the sake of others. As one community we will remember, honor, heal, and re-commit ourselves to fighting for human dignity in our world. Please join us for this moving and spiritual commemoration appropriate for adults and children in 4th grade and older.

We would like to honor all within our congregation who have personal connections to the Shoah. Please contact the office at (847) 433-3555 or solelooffice@solel.org to have your name or the name of someone in your family included in the program and recognized if:

- you have relatives who perished in the Shoah
- you or someone in your family survived the Shoah against all odds
- you or someone in your family risked their life for the sake of others
- you or someone in your family participated in the liberation of concentration camps
- you or someone in your family fought against the Nazi aggression
- you have dedicated your time and resources to educating about the Shoah



From Our President —

Ron Wolfson, who visited Congregation Solel last year, has written a book entitled *Relational Judaism* (2013). It has prompted me to reflect on the range of activities – all of them **volunteer** – that I regard as representing the healthy pulse sustaining our synagogue. In a nutshell, what follows is about people who collectively and collaboratively nourish our vibrant Reform Jewish community.

Equally important – this is the essence of *Relational Judaism* – as congregants interact with congregants inevitably they form new relationships that often result in long-lasting bonds of friendship.

What follows should *not* be regarded as encyclopedic. Rather, please regard it as a sampling.

Choir – Our talented and committed congregants, virtually from the beginning of our synagogue's history, have volunteered to sing in our choir. Although my statistic may not be precise, these volunteers rehearse some eighteen times – twice a week in some instances – in preparation for *Rosh Hashana* and *Yom Kippur*.

House – This small committee brings invaluable expertise, business and architectural, on matters minor and large. It operates hand in hand with our Executive Director. When our major renovation project was in process two years ago, the tempo of committee activity heightened.

Finance and Endowment Committees – These two committees, obviously, are closely related but work apart from one another. The Finance Committee advises our vice president/finance in formulating and overseeing our annual operating budget. During the first quarter of each calendar year this committee meets on multiple Sunday mornings to calculate, deliberate, and plan. The Endowment Committee is charged with reviewing and safeguarding the congregation's endowment fund. Both committees are comprised of congregants who thoughtfully bring to us their expertise in the field of financial services.

Religious School Committee – This dedicated core of congregants, with their children enrolled in our school, work closely with the vice president/religious school as well as the director. They take on small-scale and not-so-small responsibilities that enhance how our school functions. Indeed, before Congregation Solel existed, a freestanding Religious School operated for two years (1955-1957), overseen by this very committee.

Shiva Committee – A corps of nearly twenty congregants volunteered last year, at the initiative of our vice president/worship, to assume responsibility for visiting the homes of congregants who have suffered the loss of a loved one. In addition to leading a *minyan*, this committee offers consolation. Think of it as extending a helping hand to fellow congregants. Remarkably this committee – a genuine *mitzvah* – was organized spontaneously in less than a month during 2014 and already has comforted numerous families.

Blood Drive Committee – For as long as I can recall our congregation has conducted twice-a-year blood drives. Life Source, the blood bank whom we partner with, reports that our congregation ranks high in its number of donors. Dedicated congregants are responsible for the demanding task of administering our blood drive. **Our next blood drive is on Sunday, May 10 at 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Please give!**

Fine Arts Committee – This recently rejuvenated committee has organized – quickly – a series of wonderful exhibitions in our lakeside lounge. Several congregants have shared their artistic talents and there is an ambitious schedule ahead for the remainder of 2015. Watch for future announcements.

Human Needs Committee – I think this significant committee extends back to the founding of our congregations in 1957. Discreetly and devotedly, the congregants who serve approve the distribution of funds to congregants and organizations in need. When you earmark your contribution to the Human Needs Fund – perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a *simcha* – it sustains its ongoing activities.

Grade-level Shabbat Dinners – Families, frequently with grandparents, gather together prior to the evening Shabbat worship service. I can imagine that friendships are formed on these occasions. Then, the service takes place. For the fifth grade service, extra chairs were required for the chapel. Whatever the grade level, our *kinder* are well prepared for their time on the *bi-ma*. Parents and grandparents, understandably, *kvell*. Don't believe for a moment, claims that families don't make time for Religious School. The prayers and rituals being absorbed will serve our youngsters – and their own offsprings - for a lifetime.

Mitzvah Committee – This is a longstanding Solel tradition. The committee's functions include transporting

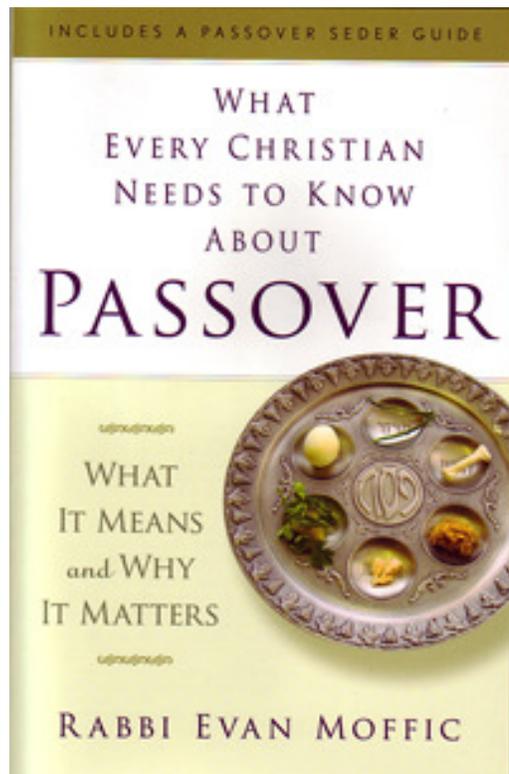
(Continued on page 13)

Rabbi Moffic Discusses His New Book

Please join us on
Sunday, May 17 at 10:30 AM
in the Chapel for an insightful discussion
with Rabbi Moffic on his new book
*What Every Christian Needs to Know about
Passover: What It Means and Why It
Matters* (available on www.amazon.com).

The Passover celebration holds so much
meaning for Jews, but members of other
faiths are beginning to grasp its depth and
significance.

Lessons for all faiths will be discussed, as
well as how Jews and Christians can work
together to honor the holiday.



Religious School Committee Hosting Two Special Events:

Sunday, May 3 11:30 am–12:00 pm Honoring Geoff Prass

Please join us for a special
program to honor Geoff
Prass for his service to the
congregation, and to
allow our congregants,
young and old, an
opportunity to extend their
thanks for all he has done
in the Religious
School. Parents and
congregants are encouraged to join the
Religious School students for this event.



Friday, May 8 7:30 pm Honoring the Religious School Teachers

Please join us for this lovely opportunity to
honor our teachers and their commitment to
educating our children and the difference
they make in the lives of our students.

The Congregation will host a special Shabbat
service honoring our wonderful Religious
School teachers, The service will be followed
by a festive Oneg.

Solel's Just Congregations, LCU Work to Combat Gun Violence

Congregation Solel member Meta Levin represented Solel and its Just Congregation's work to combat gun violence during a March 2 Lake County United (LCU) meeting with Lake County Sheriff Mark Curran, Undersheriff Raymond Rose and four other top staff members.

Because of Solel's research into gun violence, it was added to the LCU agenda, which also included concerns about handling inmates with mental illness, as well as immigration. Meta was one of seven LCU representatives at the meeting.

Congregation Solel has been an LCU member since 2007 and has been active on issues that affect people in Lake County ranging from education to aging with dignity. We also have been a part of LCU's collaboration with sister organizations in Cook, DuPage and Will counties and throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.

The Sheriff and Undersheriff discussed the gun violence problem, noting that they had learned about the "smart gun" concept during Illinois Sheriff's Association and Illinois Chiefs of Police meetings. Smart guns use biometrics or electronics to insure that no one, but the gun's owner, can fire them. There is a nationwide push to encourage law enforcement, which buys an estimated 15 percent of the guns sold in the United States, to move toward including smart guns in their arsenals by asking vendors to provide them.

Sheriff Curran and Undersheriff Rose agreed to consider that, as well as to attend or send a representative to an upcoming smart gun demonstration by a German gun manufacturer. If not for Solel's Just Congregations relationship with LCU, this issue might not have been a part of the discussion. It will continue to be on the agenda for future meetings.

Much of the meeting was taken up with access to care for the mentally ill, many of whom end up in county jails. Once released, however, they often stop taking prescribed medication and end up back in jail for one reason or another. Inmates with a diagnosed mental illness get a prescription for 10 days' worth of their medication, as well as an appointment with a mental health specialist at the Lake County Health Department when they are released, but there is no follow up to ensure that they continue to take the drugs or meet with counselors.

Access to mental health care was one of the biggest issues raised by last year's LCU-Lake County Health

Department joint Access to Healthcare survey, in which Solel participated. LCU was invited to send a representative to the Sheriff's Mental Illness Committee.

LCU representatives praised Sheriff Curran for signing an amicus brief in a US Supreme Court case regarding immigration. He was one of a number of law enforcement professionals nationally to sign the brief. LCU representatives from Waukegan's Gary Graf Center (housed at Most Blessed Trinity Church) asked him about procedures when Sheriff's deputies have contact with undocumented residents and agreed to future meetings to discuss the issue.

Solel's Just Congregations initiative continues to be an active participant in LCU. For more information, contact Meta L. Levin at meta.levin@comcast.net.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2015

*Join us for a celebration in honor of
Rabbi Evan Moffic's five years of service to
Congregation Solel*



**Shabbat Service
7:00 PM**

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS BY:

**The Solel Choir and Cantor Vicky Glikin
Original musical composition by Phil Orem
Past presidents of Solel
Recent graduates of Solel's Religious School**

Join us for a celebratory Oneg Shabbat

Continuum Theater Presents

Paris Time

A play by Steven Peterson

Featured by the Chicago Jewish Play Reading Festival, a series of eight contemporary Jewish plays, read by professional actors in eight locations around the Chicago area.

Sunday, April 12

at Congregation Solel

Check in: 6:30 pm / Performance: 7:00 pm
Discussion led by Rabbi Ari Moffic &
Kosher refreshments following the show.

To see the full schedule of plays and to buy tickets:

Buy online: continuumtheater.org

Order by phone: 800-838-3006 ext. 1

American expatriates in current-day Paris live the dream life - until the synagogues burn once again. When Debbie, the Jewish wife, tries to protect a French Jewish employee at her gentile husband Charlie's company, both Charlie's career and the couple's marriage are jeopardized.

**Hosted by Congregation Solel &
Interfaithfamily.com**

*The Chicago
Jewish Play
Reading Festival
2015*

PRESENTED BY



Solel's acclaimed, second annual birdwatching event will take place under the skilled leadership of Donnie Dann, on Monday May 11 at 7:00 am. The group will meet at Fort Sheridan. Come and let your spirit soar with the birds!

Please R.S.V.P. to Michelle Raz in the office at soleloffic@solel.org.



Hava Nashira

AN ENGAGING AND SPIRITED SERVICE
FEATURING FRESH AND FAMILIAR MELODIES.

JOIN US ON MAY 1 AT 7:30 PM FOR AN
EVENING OF SONG AND INSPIRATION,
ACCOMPANIED BY SOLEL'S OWN
INSTRUMENTALISTS AND SINGERS.

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

Rabbi Moffic

(Continued from page 1)

Huffington Post detailed the journey of a Jewish journalist through an Arab neighborhood in Paris. He was spit on, followed, and insulted. A young child even wondered aloud if he would be killed.

2. We let the problem fester: It was not always bad for Jews in Europe. After the horrors of the Holocaust, many countries fostered stronger interfaith relations and tried to eliminate the hateful rhetoric that so often emanated from the Church. As late as the 1990s, France had few anti-semitic incidents.

Since 2000 violent acts toward Jews have increased five-fold. Last year more than 55% of violent acts of racism in France were perpetuated against Jews, who make up less than one percent of the population. What happens if we continue to ignore it?

3. We let the majority of Muslims suffer: I have no doubt most Arabs in Europe desire to live peacefully with their Jewish neighbors. I have no doubt, however, that they live in fear. The most hateful voices are also the loudest. And they also, sadly, emanate from mosques.

Just like some ultra-right wing Orthodox settlers in Israel can impede progress there, so hateful clerics can shape the culture of Arab communities in Europe. The problem is not lack of jobs or social mobility. It is the hijacking of a religion, and we cannot stop it unless we name it.

- Rabbi Evan Moffic

Lunch & Learn with at Solel

April 7 & 21 at noon

Downtown Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Moffic

April 8 at noon

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

Future Downtown L&L Dates:

May 6

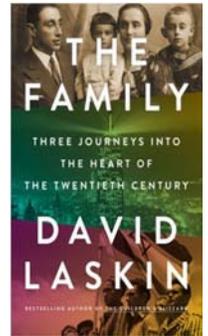
June 3

ONEBOOK

Our OneBook Solel selection for this
Spring is David Laskin's

The Family *Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century.*

In tracing the roots of his family, Laskin captures the epic sweep of the twentieth century. A century and a half ago, a Torah scribe and his wife raised six children in a Jewish enclave at the western fringe of the Russian empire. The torrent of history took the scribe's family down three very different roads. One branch immigrated to America and founded the fabulously successful Maidenform Bra Company; another went to Palestine in the 1920s as pioneers and participated in the contentious birth of the state of Israel; the third branch remained in Europe and suffered the onslaught of the Nazi occupation.



We heartily recommend that you read this book before David Laskin's visit.

Save the dates!

OneBook Solel is particularly excited that Mr. Laskin will be with us on **Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m.** to offer insights into his and his family's Journeys.

On **Sunday, April 26 at 1:00 p.m.** Rachel Kamin will facilitate the book discussion.

Introducing Ashley Plotnick, Solel's New Director of Congregational Learning

Congregation Solel took a key step last month for its Religious School, with the appointment of Ashley Plotnick to serve in its new position as Director of Congregational Learning. She assumes her duties on July 1, 2015.

"Our school is a place kids and their families want to be," Rabbi Evan Moffic said. "We believe in Judaism of the heart, soul and mind and Ashley Plotnick is the ideal person to carry that vision forward. We are lucky and excited to have her join our community."

Ashley comes to Solel with broad educational and administrative skills, as well as experience that uniquely prepares her to take on this challenge. For the last five years she has been the Hebrew School principal at Congregation BJE in Deerfield, where she also served as Assistant Education Director, taught classes and served as a spiritual director.

After taking an undergraduate degree, with honors, from Indiana University (major in Jewish Studies and minor in Hebrew), Plotnick continued her education. She earned graduate degrees in Jewish Studies, Education and Social Work. As well, Plotnick has experience working with people, ranging from infants to the elderly. Her background also includes studies in rabbinical school and spiritual counseling.

"She has a genuine, caring personality for learners of all ages and types," Ross Erlebacher, co-chair of the search committee and a past Vice President for Lifelong learning, said. "She will help us to explore more ways to improve and re-think our educational practices at Solel." Susan Kaden, Vice President for the Religious School, served as the committee's co-chair.

"We believe that Ashley Plotnick will be a thoughtful and dynamic member of Congregation Solel's senior staff, taking on a significant role as we envision the future of learning in our Religious School," said Susan Kaden. "Our search committee," Susan added, "learned that she is empathetic as well as sensitive to the needs of all learners. She possesses a well-documented skill set for communicating with our parents and our teachers."

The search committee -- formed late in 2014 -- also included Kathy Keyser, Art Kessler, Shara Lieberman, Jeff Schrimmer, Carol Schweidel, Lisa Wasserman and Bill Zucker. Ex-officio members included Laura Frisch, who grew up at Solel, is a teacher in the Religious School and a congregant; Allan Litwack, Solel's Executive Director; Josh Lowitz, Executive Vice President; Rabbi Evan Moffic and Cantor Vicky Glikin. In re-thinking the congregation's Religious School, committee members identified the critical skills and experience required for the position of Director of Congregational Life.

Solel's board of directors, over several months, also explored thoroughly the future direction of our Religious School. "It is in the great spirit of our congregation that we could have this open, ongoing dialog," said Michael Ebner, president of Congregation Solel. "Ashley Plotnick's appointment represents a significant benchmark on the path toward progressive change in our Religious School."

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make the Women's Seder a tremendous success! 90 women gathered together to celebrate, sing, dance, and stand up for domestic workers' rights. We are especially grateful to our lay leaders who helped to make the seder a success:

Susan Altfeld, Andi Bogot, Ellen Diamond, Marcia Denberg, Phyllis Dolinko, Darryl Ebner, Judy Eichner, Karen Finerman, Susan Fireside, Laura Frisch, Claire Golan, Judith Golden, Elaine Haney, Anne Kleinerman, Nancy Kullman, MarliSS Levin, Meta Levin, Marilyn Meyers, Diane Resnick, Beth Sanchez, Gay Sigel, Cheryl Sussman, Sue Ulman

Pray 'n Play

Saturday, April 11

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!!



Saturday Mornings
10:30 am

May 9

Jewish Theater at Congregation Solel: *Ringin' True*, by Rebecca Joy Fletcher Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 pm

Rebecca Joy Fletcher is a touring Jewish theater artist and educator. She's done it again: created a provocative, magical, and arresting new work of Jewish theater! Come experience her show *Ringin' True* first-hand, in this in-progress presentation. The show is a mash-up, a mostly true story of spiritual awakening involving a mysterious Roma with a man's wedding ring, four rabbis from the Talmud, and an anarchist lawyer on the streets of Paris. With live, wonderfully eclectic music by longtime Chicago musician Stuart Rosenberg and performed by a live band. Come explore questions of blessings and cons, making big choices, and the hidden connections between all things.

This program is FREE to our community thanks to a generous grant by the Wexner Foundation, and in conjunction with Anshe Emet synagogue.

<http://www.rebeccajoyfletcher.com/perfect/>

Defending against the Anti-Israel Movement on Campus

Be Prepared, Find your Voice

WHEN: April 14, 7:30 pm—8:30 pm

**WHERE: Congregation B'nai Tikvah
1558 Wilmot Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015**

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
High School Teens & Parents**

**MORE INFO:
Solel.org/SupportingIsraelonCampus**

Solel Blood Drive Sunday, May 10, 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Before the summer, do a mitzvah by saving a life and participate in Solel's blood drive! Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime.

When you participate in the blood drive, you will have the opportunity to join your fellow congregant donors for bagels and cream cheese, home baked goodies and shmoozing.

Appointments can be made by contacting:
Diane Resnick at dnrphd@gmail.com or
(847) 926-8510.

 **LIFESOURCE**
Chicagoland's Blood Center

Is Parkinson's Disease Hereditary?

As a member of the Jewish community in Chicago, I'm always interested to learn as well as to share ideas and opportunities that affect us and our families. For example, did you know that about 10% of all cases of Parkinson's disease (PD) are genetic and that the LRRK2 gene in particular is the most common known genetic contributor to Parkinson's disease known to date? Did you also know that a LRRK2 gene mutation is found among 15-20% of Parkinson's disease patients of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry?

While this news may surprise you, there are several important facts you should know. While having a mutation in the LRRK2 gene can increase your chance of developing Parkinson's disease, many people with the mutation will not go on to develop the disease. The LRRK2 gene is the subject of intense investigation by Parkinson's disease researchers around the world because of its potential to lead to medical breakthroughs for all people with PD, not just those with a genetic form. Further, there are opportunities for people in the Jewish community to get involved in research that could make a difference for millions of patients worldwide.

In fact, over the past decade, studies of the genetics of Parkinson's disease have revolutionized the pursuit of a "disease-modifying treatments" – medications and interventions that can potentially slow or stop the progression of PD. To date, no disease-modifying treatment has been discovered. This kind of treatment is the single greatest need of Parkinson's disease patients today. For this reason, families of Ashkenazi Jewish heritage that carry a LRRK2 mutation have a vital role in research.

One study in particular, the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative (or, PPMI for short) is seeking to understand why the LRRK2 gene can sometimes lead to Parkinson's disease. PPMI is the landmark study of The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research and is taking place at 32 clinical sites worldwide. The goal of PPMI is to identify indicators of PD progression that will ultimately enable early and accurate detection and potentially help identify new and better treatments for future generations of people with Parkinson's disease. Today, PPMI needs volunteers to participate in the study.

We are seeking individuals who meet either of the following criteria:

- **People with PD** who are of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry
- **People without PD** who are related to someone with PD AND who are of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry

Because PPMI is an observational study, participants do not take any experimental drug or placebo. Individuals who meet either of the above criteria may be eligible to receive genetic counseling and testing at no cost, and may qualify to participate in PPMI. Find out how you can get involved by visiting www.michaeljfox.org/ppmigenetics or calling (888) 830-6299.

Studying the genetics of Parkinson's disease could revolutionize the development of new treatments for patients worldwide. Families who carry the LRRK2 gene play a unique role in pursuit of a cure. I hope you'll take this unique opportunity to join forces with Jewish families worldwide who are committed to speeding scientific progress that can touch countless lives.

- Diane Breslow

dbreslow11@icloud.com

SAVE THE DATE

Film: *The Long Way Home*

Tuesday, April 21- 6:30 pm



Mazel Tov to Olivia Figura on her Bat Mitzvah!

Olivia Figura, daughter of Jody Figura, will become a Bat Mitzvah on April 25, 2015. She is a 7th grader at Bannockburn School in Bannockburn. Olivia's favorite hobbies are dancing and volunteering at Bernie's Book Bank. Olivia's Torah portion is *Tazriah-M'tzorah*, from the Book of Leviticus. Olivia's Mitzvah project was helping to collect children's books for Bernie's Book Bank. From her Mitzvah project Olivia learned that a lot of kids don't have books, and it was really nice to give to and help kids who don't have much. The most important lesson Olivia learned from the experience of becoming a Bat Mitzvah is that at first it seems overwhelming but in the end it gets easier. The greatest challenge she faced in preparing for her ceremony was practicing and learning her Torah portion and Haftarah.

Mazel Tov to Adele Lowitz on her Bat Mitzvah!



Adele Lowitz, daughter of Ricki and Josh, will become a Bat Mitzvah on April 18, 2015. She is a 7th grader at Francis W. Parker School in Chicago. Adele sings in the Chicago Children's Choir and is active in Model UN. Adele's Torah portion is *Sh'mini* from the Book of Leviticus. From her Torah portion Adele learned that although the rules in the Torah may be difficult to follow at times, all of them go back to one theme, getting humans to a healthy, happy existence. For her Mitzvah project, Adele is volunteering at the North Avenue Day Nursery and is learning that not all kids are as fortunate as we are, but we are all alike. The most important lesson Adele learned from the experience of becoming a Bat Mitzvah is that although she will not change overnight, she has many new responsibilities. The greatest challenge she faced in preparing for her service was making sense of a difficult Torah portion.

REFORM CANTORS OF CHICAGO PRESENTS

Singing for S'mores

FUNDRAISING CONCERT FOR OSRUI CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2015

BETH EMET THE FREE SYNAGOGUE

1224 DEMPSTER STREET, EVANSTON

DOORS OPEN 4:15 PM CONCERT 4:30 - 6:00 PM

Participants include: Chicago-area Cantors and Soloists, and our combined youth choirs!

Raffle for TWO 2-WEEK SESSIONS AT OSRUI & more!

Tickets begin at \$18/adults, \$10/camp-age kids 7-17
Raffle tickets—\$10 each or 3 for \$20

For info and to purchase tickets go to:
<http://bit.ly/singing-for-smores-2015>



Beth Emet
THE FREE SYNAGOGUE

CHICAGO JEWISH FUNERALS

AVODAH: THE JEWISH SERVICE CORPS

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 AT 7:30 PM



AVODAH PROVIDES YOUNG ADULTS AGES 21-26 WITH HANDS-ON WORK EXPERIENCE AT LOCAL ANTIPOVERTY ORGANIZATIONS IN CHICAGO, NEW ORLEANS, NEW YORK, AND WASHINGTON, DC. SPEND NEXT YEAR CREATING AN ACTIVE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND GAINING LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR A LIFETIME WHILE WORKING TO BUILD A MORE JUST WORLD.

GO STRAIGHT TO WORK: AVODAH will place you at a local non-profit where you'll gain valuable expertise on crucial issues like immigration, hunger, education, public health, and domestic violence. Our corps members are project coordinators, case managers, advocates, counselors, and community organizers.

A TRANSFORMATIVE LIVING ARRANGEMENT: Start your life in a new city with a built-in community. AVODAH has affordable housing in Chicago, New Orleans, New York City, and Washington, DC where you'll live and learn with your fellow AVODAH corps members. The home-cooked meals, late night conversations, and holiday celebrations make living in the bayit (house) one of the most memorable parts of the AVODAH experience.

LEARNING EVERYDAY: You'll be part of an ongoing program to examine the causes and effects of domestic poverty, develop practical skills, and make professional connections. Our innovative curriculum will allow you to see your work through a Jewish lens and bring your whole self to the experience.

CONNECTED FOR LIFE: When you complete the program, you'll join hundreds of social justice leaders across the country as part of the AVODAH Alumni Network. Our alumni are active, engaged, and supportive, and they'll help you with everything from apartment hunts to job references to holiday meals. AVODAH provides lifetime access to opportunities for activism, professional development, and Jewish engagement.

WILL I GET PAID? You'll receive a monthly living stipend, travel money, health insurance, and may be eligible for an AmeriCorps Education Award of over \$5,000 to pay back your student loans or put towards future education.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY, PLEASE VISIT:

WWW.AVODAH.NET/APPLY



 AVODAH  @AVODAH_TJSC  @WEAREAVODAH

From Our President

(Continued from page 3)

congregants who do not drive to appointments or to our synagogue. It also ministers to congregants enduring medical challenges and the like.

Torah Study and the *Minyan* – Every Shabbat morning, from our genesis, congregants assemble. Some study Torah with our clergy. Others *daven* in our lay-led *minyan*. In all of this congregants learn from one another, and – equally as important – they come to know one another, forming heartfelt relationships that in some instances span the better part of an adult lifetime.

OneBook One Solel – We live in an era where contemplative reading is de-valued. But I trust you are *not* surprised that many in our congregations swim the other way. Thanks to the deliberations of our industrious committee, this year's choice is David Laskin's *The Family* (available in paperbound edition). Mr. Laskin will speak at Congregation Solel on Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 pm (no reservations required and FREE to all wishing to attend.) Invite your neighbors, co-workers, etc. Then on Sunday, April 26 at 1:00 pm there will be a professionally moderated discussion of Mr. Laskin's book.

Corps of ushers – You may know that seating is occasionally a hot button during the High Holidays. The congregation has been served by loyal congregants graciously volunteering year after year. Our ushers selflessly attend to special-needs seating, late arrivals who object to sitting in the outfield, and more. The loyal ushers – known to many readers – enable all of us to achieve our dignified and prayerful tone.

Membership – The Membership Committee pursues a wide-ranging set of initiatives, especially during the summertime “shopping” period. Relying on social media, it reaches out to prospective congregants, inviting them to attend worship services and participate in family-friendly social events (e.g., a pool party, Chocolate Shabbat, and the much-loved end-of-summer great Solel cookout). Over the past two years more than fifty households have become congregants thanks to this great effort.

College Committee – A handful of highly-motivated congregants, also reliant on social media, maintain a connection with our students enrolled in college or graduate school. At varying intervals – like this week as Passover approaches – the students received wonderful messages from Rabbi Moffic and Cantor Glikin (playing a guitar and inviting the recipients to join her

in singing along). None of this would happen without the dedication of our congregants who devote themselves to making this happen.

Social Justice – This congregation is blessed by its multi-generational corps of dedicated, self-directed congregants. This, too, has very deep roots. Most readers of the *Pathfinder* and *Shavu'on* know that our congregation engages in an ongoing and very significant outreach role in Deerfield, Highland Park, Highwood, North Chicago, and Waukegan. Your congregation distinguishes itself – just as it did during the tumult of the 1960s – because (to quote David Brooks) – we count ourselves as *present* year after year, decade after decade. When Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel marched in Selma during March of 1965, our congregants were counted among those *present* along with our Rabbi Arnold Jacob Wolf. And when Dr. King accepted Rabbi Wolf's invitation to speak at Congregation Solel, his presence in our pulpit on June 30, 1966 tacitly acknowledged *our* presence in Selma.

Our door is open. Your *presence* in our congregational life is warmly encouraged.

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

Updating Your Solel Calendar with Future Events in 2015

Sunday, May 3 at 11:30 am-12:00 pm: Religious School program honoring Geoff Prass

Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 pm: Jewish Theater with Rebecca Joy Fletcher

Friday, May 8 at 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service honoring the Religious School teachers

Sunday, May 10 at 8:30 am-12:30 pm: Blood Drive

Monday, May 11 at 7:00 am: Bird Watching at Fort Sheridan

Friday, May 15 at 5:00 pm: Annual Meeting & Dinner

Sunday, May 17 at 10:30 am: Rabbi Moffic Book Discussion

Monday, May 18 at 7:00 pm: Rosh Chodesh Sivan Celebration for Women

Sunday, June 14 at 4:00 pm: Kol Zimrah Concert

Thank You For Your Contributions

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Sharon and Mike Stein, in memory of Alisa Barskaya

Capital Campaign

Gail and Lew Segal, in honor of Harold Chizewer's 75th birthday

Children's Garden

Phyllis Loeff, in honor of Rabbi Moffic's five year anniversary in Solel's pulpit and in memory of Alisa Barskaya and Alex Hilkevich

Marilyn and Gary Meyers, in honor of Rabbi Moffic's anniversary in Solel's pulpit

Education Fund

Sheldon and Jacki Chizewer, in honor of Harold Chizewer's 75th birthday

Linda Cohen, in memory of Gladys Kane

Human Needs Fund

Michael and Darryl Ebner, in honor of Rabbi Moffic's five year anniversary in the pulpit of Congregation Solel

Sue Ellen Krause, in celebration of Joanne Bernstein's birthday

Nancy Kullman, in memory of Gladys Kane

Roy and Janet Lipner, in memory of Gladys Kane

Sharon and Mike Stein, in honor of Joan Goldberg

Music Fund

Larry and Susan Mason, in honor of Edie Schwartz's Bat Mitzvah

Tribute Fund

Gershen and Sally Abraham, in memory of Sylvia Abraham
Lawrence and Carol Adelman, in memory of Arthur Adelman

Harold and Linda Chizewer, in honor of Harold Chizewer's birthday

Harvey and Ellen Cohen, in memory of Abraham and Leah Cohen

Diane Gordon, in memory of Harry Mednick

Bruce and Lauren Kaden, in memory of Elsie Kaden

David and Arline Kallick, in memory of Esther and Jack Chizewer

Jack and Betsy Karp, in memory of Seymour Holleb

Judy and Gary Leven, in memory of Richard Mayer

Joel and Amy Neuman, in honor of Warren and Joan Eagle's anniversary

Toddy Richman, in memory of Hugo Melvoin

Janice Ross, in memory of Sanford Rose

Tribute Fund (continued)

Donald and Alice Schindel, in memory of Harry Schindel

Fred and Brenda Turner, in memory of Anne Turner

Barbara Volin, in memory of Nathan Karzen

Joan Weinberg, in honor of Michael Weinberg's 90th birthday

Laurence and Deborah Wilneff, in memory of Jerome Wilneff

Jan and Jerry Wolf, in memory of Hugo Wolf

As of March 30, 2015

Condolences to...

Emily Wallace and her son, Kevin, on the passing of their mother and grandmother, Gladys Kane

Stock Transfers to Congregation Solel (New Location)

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

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

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.

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 am Joyce Schrager's Short Stories	2	3 First Seder 4:30 pm Mincha Torah Service	4 Pesach 9:15 am Torah Study 10:35 am Morning Minyan
5 No Religious School	6 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn 4:15 pm Religious School 6:30 pm Confirmation	8 10:00 am Joyce Schrager's Short Stories 12:00 pm Downtown Lunch & Learn 7:30 pm Religious School Committee Meeting	9	10 Office Closed 10:30 am Yizkor Service at Lakeside 7:00 pm Rabbi Moffic's 5th Anniversary at Solel Celebration	11 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Pray 'n Play 10:35 am Morning Minyan
12 9:00 am Youth Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Religious School 7:00 pm Theater at Solel: Paris Time	13 9:30 am Current Events 11:00 am Current Events	14 4:15 pm Religious School 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Just Congregations 7:30 pm Supporting Israel on Campus	15 10:00 am Joyce Schrager's Short Stories	16 Yom Hashoah	17 6:30 pm 3 rd Grade Dinner 7:30 pm 3 rd Grade Siyyum Hasefer Shabbat Service	18 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Adele Lowitz Bat Mitzvah 10:35 am Morning Minyan
19 9:15 am Executive Committee Meeting 9:45 am Religious School 10:15 am Board Meeting 7:00 pm Yom Hashoah Service	20 9:30 am Current Events 11:00 am Current Events	21 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn 4:15 pm Religious School 6:30 pm Film: <i>The Long Way Home</i> 7:00 pm Jewish War Veterans	22 Yom Hazikaron 10:00 am Joyce Schrager's Short Stories	23 Yom Ha'atzmaut 7:30 pm OneBook Discussion with David Laskin	24 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service with Guest Speaker Erica Friedland from AVODAH	25 9:15 am Torah Study 10:30 am Olivia Figura Bat Mitzvah 10:35 am Morning Minyan
26 9:00 am Youth Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Religious School 10:00 am Challah Baking 1:00 pm OneBook Book Discussion	27 9:30 am Current Events 11:00 am Current Events 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	28 4:15 pm Religious School 6:30 pm Confirmation	29 10:00 am Joyce Schrager's Short Stories	30	Kindle Shabbat Candles at dinner or at the following times (GDT): 3.....7:00 pm 10.....7:08 pm 17.....7:15 pm 24.....7:23 pm	

Shabbat Services Schedule

Friday, April 3

Mincha Torah Service4:30 pm

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

Saturday, April 4

Torah Study9:15 am

Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, April 10

Yizkor Service at Lakeside10:30 am

Rabbi Moffic's 5th Anniversary & Service7:00 pm

Vayak'heil-P'kudei, Exod. 35:1-40:38

Saturday, April 11

Torah Study9:15 am

Pray 'n Play10:30 am

Morning Minyan.....10:35 am

Friday, April 17

3rd Grade Dinner6:30 pm

3rd Grade Siyyum Hasefer Shabbat Service7:30 pm

Vayikra, Lev. 1:1-5:26

Saturday, April 18

Torah Study9:15 am

Adele Lowitz Bat Mitzvah10:30 am

Morning Minyan10:35 am

Friday, April 24

Shabbat Evening Service with Guest Speaker Erica
Friedland from AVODAH.....6:15 pm

Tzav, Lev. 6:1-8:36

Saturday, April 25

Torah Study9:15 am

Olivia Figura Bat Mitzvah10:30 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

1301 Clavey Road • Highland Park, IL 60035
Phone: (847) 433-3555 • Fax: (847) 433-3573
Rabbi's Study: (847) 433-3708
Religious School: (847) 433-3417
Email: soleloffic@solel.org
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 May 2015.
Please submit material by email on or before April 15, 2015
in order for it to appear in the April Pathfinder.