

Koleinu

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Visioning

By Richard Cohn, President

“Our work awakens the Jewish soul and effectuates the experience of connectedness to God through the language of music.”

“The art of the cantor possesses the unique ability to awaken the Jewish spirit in each individual.”

“We cantors have the ability to create a lasting legacy that is linked to all of our history and culture, preserving the soul of our people.”

“Cantors uniquely provide (i) a link to the past through our legacy of liturgical expertise, (ii) a voice of the present as we connect to God through music, and (iii) a bridge to the future because of our powerful relationships with the next generation of Jews.”

“Cantors are trained to facilitate experiences of transcendence and to transmit our tradition in relevant and ever-changing ways.”

“The ACC provides the professional framework through which cantors inspire and connect the Jewish people to their music and to God.”

These moving and incisive statements are among those crafted by members of the ACC Executive Board during our December meeting, in an effort to describe a compelling case for the continued support of you, our members, by the congregations we serve. In an extended exercise led by Kay Greenwald, the Board coalesced around sounding tones that will guide the ACC in advocating for ourselves within the challenging environment of the cantorate in the contemporary synagogue.

In support of the ideals described above, the Board is moving toward consensus in several areas that will further strengthen the Conference. Chief among

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Koleinu Special Focus: Cantors as Leaders in Tikkun Olam

We have the privilege of close relationships every year with thousands of *b'nai mitzvah* candidates and their families, as they work toward formation of Jewish identity and purpose. Given the profound amount of pain in the world and the pervasive need for conscientious public leadership, it is incumbent on us to step forward and guide our students toward a powerful commitment to Jewish values in action.

The ACC needs to forge relationships with national and international Jewish agencies of social justice, to develop creative and aggressive programs that will inculcate in our young people both awareness of responsibility and the intention to serve.

Whereas each of us is certainly pursuing this agenda in our own way, consider the impact of a coordinated and systematic approach that would reach every ACC-served congregation. Although such collaborative activity is still in the “dreaming” stage, read this *Koleinu* with an eye toward how we could marshal our maximum capacity to raise up sparks of wholeness.

Richard Cohn

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these is the Board's endorsement of a report offered by our Personnel Committee, under the leadership of Sarah Sager. After years of adjustment and growth, we now believe the ACC is ready to support a professional staff model that responds in a balanced way to the advocacy and administrative needs of our organization. The proposed senior staff structure for the future includes a Cantor Director, who will be the chief advocate for our members individually and the Conference as a whole; a Managing Director, who will be responsible for administration, organizational process, business integrity and policy compliance; and a Placement Director, who will be charged with both stewardship of the placement process and the development of new pulpits. These three professionals are to be supported by an office support team that includes at least one full-time and one part-time employee. The hybrid administrative and consulting role of Dee Danner, which has been so instrumental in bringing us to this point, will be winding down, and our next organizational development stage will begin.

It has taken several years to construct a funding platform for this kind of professional staff, which the Board considers to be indispensable for keeping the Conference viable and productive. A major effort is being made this year, in keeping with our mission statement, to ensure that the Conference is a "securely funded entity." This effort has many dimensions, both internal and external. We are keenly aware that member-based financial resources can only be stretched so far. Nevertheless, the tremendous success of our *Bonei Chazzanut* campaign (see pages 10-11) has given us a vote of confidence from within, so that our outreach to other avenues of support may be effective. Kay Greenwald, chair of fundraising and development, is leading us toward mission-driven, project-centered funding initiatives, which can simultaneously advocate for our ideals and sustain our organization.

Other major areas considered by the Executive Board at its December meeting are summarized below.

1) We studied a comprehensive proposal, shepherded by Jessica Epstein, which may in time lead to reopening the Certification process to new applicants. (We still have a number of active candidates under the existing Certification format.) The highly-articulated plan, developed in close consultation with Bruce Ruben in his nascent role as SSM Director, would more closely align Certification with the standards and content of current SSM matriculation. Further refinements remain before the Board can decide whether to implement the recommendations.

2) We affirmed our emphasis on continuing education and professional growth. The Board has assigned a

high priority to encouraging attendance by our members at the ACC-GTM Convention this summer (see page 12), to participate in the launch of our new professional education initiative. This effort, which will influence conventions for years to come, has been developed by the Continuing Education Committee (also chaired by Kay Greenwald). We hope that members will find the study opportunities to be invigorating, in the context of a wonderful convention program organized by ACC chair Lori Corrsin and her GTM counterpart, Jayson Rodovsky.

3) We discussed the importance of developing momentum and consensus around the upcoming Conference leadership transition. Our professional staff restructuring will coincide exactly with the election of a new Officer team and the installation of seven newly-elected or re-nominated Executive Board members. It is our earnest intent that both continuity and renewal will be served in this transition, and every colleague is important to its success. Please make it a priority to be present at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa this June, so that we may unite around building toward the future.

The importance of standing up for our Conference at this time cannot be overstated. If we believe in the precepts stated at the beginning of this article, we must all commit to making them central to the lives of our communities. A strong ACC is the best warrant of our collective success.

The ACC	
President	Richard Cohn
Vice Presidents	Susan Caro Jessica Epstein Marshall Portnoy
Secretary	Seth Warner
Treasurer	Linda Ecker
Interim Managing Director	Debra Danner
Interim Director	Gail Hirschenfang
Director of Placement	Barbara Ostfeld

The ACC and Social Action

By Tanya Tamarkin, Chairperson, ACC Social Action and Justice Committee

This special edition of *Koleinu* is a celebration of cantors' social justice work. I am proud to represent all of the members of the ACC as your Social Action and Justice Committee chair. I am especially grateful to Penny Kessler, who chaired this committee for many years, and who inspired me and so many others to focus our work for tikun olam through the lens of the ACC. We share an obligation, as clergy, as cantors, as Jews and as human beings, to do our part and to raise our voices against injustice when we see it in our communities and in the world. As cantors, we have the unique ability to influence those around us through our teaching, our singing, our leadership, and our personal connections to members of our congregations. Social Action and Justice can be as small as making a phone call or sending an email to elected officials about an issue. It can be the guidance we give to our b'nei mitzvah students in choosing meaningful mitzvah projects that will set them on the road to a lifetime of mitzvot. It can be the hands-on, direct action of serving food to those who are hungry, helping to build a Habitat house, or any number of other projects that allow us to see the work of our hands making the world a better place in real time.

The ACC Social Action and Justice Committee has been working on several projects over the past year. I am especially proud to work with Mark Perman, Rosalie Toubes, Shannon McGrady Bane, Gail Hirschenschang, Penny Kessler, Lanie Katzew and Richard Silverman, who have taken on tremendous responsibility and demonstrated initiative and leadership, keeping our numerous projects at the front of the agenda. I would also like to thank Jessica Roskin, David Serkin-Poole, Eric Schulmiller, Gail Karp, Judith Ovadia and Kerith Spencer-Shapiro, all of whom have contributed to the work of this committee.

Currently, we are involved in projects related to Darfur, Iraq, MAZON and hunger, GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) rights, women's health, abortion rights and domestic violence, and the ACC B'nei Mitzvah Tzedakah Endowment. We also support the work of the URJ, RAC and CSA (Commission for Social Action, to which Richard Silverman and I are your representatives), through actions and initiatives as well as projects related to economic justice and the environment. We also hope to build on the connections we made during last summer's Mission to Israel, and continue to support the congregations and organizations that we visited together. This Social Action *Koleinu* will be the beginning of our social action project archive. If any of these projects are important to you, please be in touch with me so that I can help you get involved. If you have other issues that you care about and want the ACC to work on, let me know that

as well. All of our current projects came about out of the passions and interests of individuals on the committee, and there is no limit to what we can do if we work together.

As you can see from this *Koleinu* in your hands, this is a committee whose work extends to every member of the ACC. I hope that you will see examples in this issue that remind you of projects you have worked on, or that the articles If you are participating in Social Action and Justice work in any way, then you should be connecting with this committee. Let me know what you're already doing in your own community, and help us spread the word that ACC cantors care about the world around us. I believe that our beautiful voices are most effective when we raise them together to make that world a better place.

2007 ACC Ad Journal LEARN AND LIVE

A Very Special, A Very Different Ad Journal.

Honor those who have mentored you, inspired you, shown you the way to a Jewish life as a cantor.

Your help is necessary - - Your help is crucial. Make the 2007 Ad Journal the biggest and best we have ever produced.

Details will be in the mail shortly.

A New *Koleinu* Editor

By Penny Kessler, Chairperson, ACC Communications Committee

I'm delighted to be the new Koleinu editor, taking over the reins from Jessica Epstein – big shoes to fill.

This issue of Koleinu is the first of what we hope will be many "special focus" editions as we explore a variety of issues of special interest to ACC members.

If you would like to submit an article, share an idea, or help with the newsletter, please contact me at <penny.kessler@gmail.com>.

Thoughts from the URJ Commission on Social Action

By *Richard Silverman, ACC Representative to the CSA*

As our secondary member on the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, I spent a few days in November at the Fall Commission meeting that was held in Scottsdale, Arizona. My particular focus was on the new program of the Commission called "Just Congregations." This program was created by Rabbi Jonah Pesner at Temple Israel in Boston, Ma. He has now left his congregation to work full time on this exciting new program. On Sunday night of the Commission meeting, he made a presentation on this new program. I must tell you that this new approach has the possibility of revolutionizing how we incorporate social action advocacy in our congregations. As cantors working with B'nai Mitzvah, this will change our entire outlook on students performing "mitzvot" as they prepare for becoming B'nai Mitzvah.

Here are a few stories that Rabbi Pesner shared with us:

There were a number of people at Temple Israel in Boston who had adult children who no longer qualified for health insurance under their parents' plans. As we all know, this is a problem throughout our country. In coalition with a number of church groups, they discovered that there were many families who were struggling with cost of health insurance. They had a large meeting that combined the members of the Temple and different churches, and the decision was made to invite a number of legislators to a joint meeting where people could tell their stories. As a result of that meeting, Massachusetts has the first Universal Health Coverage in the country.

Children at Temple Israel beginning at the age of 10 begin in a similar fashion. One girl was asked to visit an elderly member of the congregation. This woman told the girl that she was no longer able to attend Services where she had been a member for over 80 years. The girl asked her why she couldn't attend and the answer she received was that there was no affordable housing for the elderly in Boston. The group went back to her support group and the same process was followed. She met with representatives of the churches in her community and found that this was a common problem in Boston. This time, the 10-year-old old girl made a presentation to the local government representatives. Now Boston is building low-cost houses for the elderly.

Rabbi Pesner describes "Just Congregations" in the following manner: "Just Congregations engages Reform Jewish synagogues to act powerfully and successfully across lines of faith, class and race to address the

root causes of economic and social injustice. We nurture and train congregations to build deep relationships grounded in Torah and Avodah/religious meaning within our member congregations, and foster authentic relationships with other communities who are a vision of a world redeemed."

In order to participate, a congregation will need leaders to be trained, and the overall religious community would hire a professional organizer to guide the group on whatever projects they decide are relevant in their community.

At the Commission meeting we heard from a Hispanic organizer who is involved with the issue of immigration in the Southwest. He was eloquent in the way he dealt with this issue. On Monday, most of the Commission members went to Nogales, Mexico, to speak with the people there to get their take on the issue. The Domestic Policy taskforce, of which I am a member, will draft a recommendation that will be presented at our Spring meeting.

In an email which I sent to Rabbi Pesner (he was an assistant rabbi here in Westport, CT when he graduated from HUC-JIR), I mentioned that if I were 10 years younger, I could see myself as an organizer. I cannot tell you how inspiring this charismatic leader is and how fortunate we in Reform Judaism are to have him as the leader of this new program. I found this to be a transformative experience and my congregation is planning to join a neighboring congregation in creating a "Just Congregation" in our community.

Save the Date!

2007 ACC/GTM Convention

**The Hudson Valley
Resort & Spa
Kerhonkson, New York**

June 24 – June 28, 2007

Let My People Sing!

By Shannon McGrady Bane



Patti Linsky and Forest Whitaker at the Seder for Darfur.

It seemed like a natural fit – Jewish music and social action for a good cause. As soon as we heard about Let My People Sing – a groundbreaking social action festival held last Passover and celebrating freedom, song, dance, and spirit – we knew we wanted to be involved.

Conceived and produced by Craig Taubman, the nine-day festival featured Jewish and interfaith services, two interpretive seders – including a seder for Darfur -- as well as concerts with well-known Jewish artists.

All monies raised from Let My People Sing were directed to Jewish World Watch, a Los Angeles area coalition of synagogues and Jewish agencies united to stop the genocide in Darfur and help the victims.

Inspired to help the victims of Darfur while simultaneously supporting Jewish music, at a single meeting for our Pacific Southwest region, ACC and GTM members raised \$1800 to qualify as sponsors for Let My People Sing. Some made personal gifts, others used discretionary funds, and the balance came from our regional budget. Our ACC and GTM logos figured prominently

on the Let My People Sing website and printed materials.

Overall, Let My People Sing raised \$170,000 for Jewish World Watch, which then directed the funds to the International Rescue Committee, a first responder providing humanitarian assistance. Thanks to Let My People Sing, the refugees in Hamadiya, the second largest camp, now have sufficient clean water to meet their needs.

In addition to financial sponsorship, ACC members also participated in some of the festival events.

Cantor Patti Linsky, our ACC liaison to Let My People Sing, helped lead the seder for Darfur along with Rabbi Harold Schulweis, Jon Voight, Dave Koz, Ed Asner, Debbie Friedman, the Gwen Wyatt Chorale, and Pastor Cecil Murray. Cantor Linsky described the seder as “incredibly powerful and dramatic.” True to its Passover message of freedom, the seder for Darfur raised awareness about liberation in general while also raising money for the victims in Darfur.

On Friday night during Passover, ACC members Ken Jaffe, Patti Linsky, Sam Radwine, and Richard Schwartz joined Cantor Joseph Gole and Craig Taubman for an especially moving Friday Night Live, with special guests “kosher gospel” singer Joshua Nelson and Frank London, the founder of The Klezmatics.

Two days later, at Let My People Rock, the closing event for Let My People Sing, Cantors Shannon McGrady Bane and Richard Schwartz joined Rick Recht on stage to sing his “Hine Ma Tov.” Also performing that day were Joshua Nelson, Hadag Nachash, Kings of Klezmer, and the Keshet Chaim Dance Ensemble.

We look forward to participating in the second Let My People Sing this coming April.

ACC Cantor’s Lifecycle Manual Coming Soon!

Due to popular demand, another set of *Ma’agal Hayim Madrich L’Hazzan* (the ACC’s Cantor’s Lifecycle Manual) has been printed and will soon be available for sale from the ACC. Originally published in 2000, the manual contains an invaluable collection of contemporary, traditional, classical, and popular musical settings of liturgy and prose for Jewish lifecycle events and other special occasions.

Ordering information will be available shortly. Please watch your email, or contact the ACC Office at <info@accantors.org>.

RAC and ACC — A Perfect Fit

By Marc Katz, URJ Religious Action Center Legislative Assistant/Liaison to ACC

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism ("the RAC") has had a proud tradition of working with the ACC, particularly through the presence of the tremendous ACC representatives who have served on our Commission on Social Action, including most recently, Penny Kessler, Richard Silverman, and Tanya Tamarkin. Being a hub of Jewish social justice and legislative activity in the nation's capital for more than 40 years, The Religious Action Center brings the Reform Movement to Washington and Washington to the Reform Movement. Through educational resources, action alerts, conferences for adults and high school and college students, and creative programs, we seek to make clear the connection between our Jewish values and the importance of social action. Yet that connection cannot be made without the commitment of our Movement's leaders, including our cantors.

Cantors teach our children, lead them in prayer, and officiate at their life cycle ceremonies. It is our job as the Religious Action Center to make sure that as cantors serve their congregants, they have the tools they need to engage them in awareness and advocacy around social justice issues. The following is a list of how the Religious Action Center can act as a resource to the Cantorial community:

Advocacy: The RAC has a number of great advocacy and programmatic listservs that members of the ACC may join. Cantors can sign up for daily or weekly advocacy e-mails through RAC News, and stay up to date on the latest Washington legislation and advocacy opportunities. In addition the RAC website has wonderful information about the over 70 social justice issues on which our Movement has spoken out, ranging from AIDS to Israel to Climate Change. <<http://rac.org/advocacy>>

Education: The RAC has many social justice curricula that are easily accessible. These include social justice holiday guides, interfaith resources, and Israel Advocacy packets. <<http://rac.org/pubs>> Cantors can also sign up for occasional programmatic e-mails through the RAC's programmatic listservs and stay up to date on what other congregations around the country are doing (see above).

Programmatic: The RAC has a newly updated program bank, with a special section dedicated to bar/bat mitzvah social action projects. <<http://resources.rj.org/rac/>>

Worship: The RAC has online worship resources, including sample services readings and social action themed music. <<http://www.rac.org/social/worship>>

RAC Programs: The RAC has several landmark pro-

grams where teenagers, college students, and adults can come to learn about social justice and advocacy. The Audre and Bernard Rapoport L'Taken Teen Social Justice seminars for high school students, *Machon* Kaplan summer program for college students, and our adult conferences, including our flagship public policy conference, the Consultation on Conscience, are all open to cantors and their congregants. <<http://rac.org/confprog/>>

Hadracha Program

By Mark Goldman

Since its establishment in the Summer of 2005, the Placement Advisory Group (PAG), consisting of Mark Goldman, Audrey Halpern, Kari Siegel-Eglash, and chaired by Susan Caro, has been developing structures to support Placement Director Barbara Ostfeld and ACC members in Placement as well as those who are just beginning their pulpit careers. It is important that new graduates have access to the wisdom of experienced cantors who can offer guidance and practical advice. Beginning cantors can gain a foothold in their congregational work with guidance from seasoned Cantorial colleagues.

Over the summer, 16 newly-invested cantors were each matched with a veteran colleague as their *madrach*. The comments from representatives of both groups have been gratifying.

"I think the program has been very helpful. It enabled me to ask questions, talk through issues, etc., with someone I trust. As a newly invested Cantor, it has been great to have a mentor who happens to also be a good friend."

"I feel that the program is very worthwhile. I wish that this program had been in place when I started my career. I have enjoyed participating very much."

"My experience with my new cantor has been great -- mostly due to her intelligence, excellent people skills, terrific organizational skills, and serious work ethic. In other words, she is making it very easy for me, and for everyone at her new congregation."

The process of pairing the 2007 SSM graduates will begin in the spring. We hope to continue to expand the program to other members who might benefit from this support as well. If you'd like to be a volunteer in the program, please feel free to contact Mark Goldman at <cantormg@aol.com>.

Continuing Professional Development and The ACC/GTM Convention 2007

By the Committee for Continuing Professional Development

In the winter of 2005, the Special Task Force on Placement, Membership and Ongoing Education conducted a survey of our membership. Among the questions asked were those pertaining to choices in continuing education. Many of our members suggested that the areas of professional development surrounding conflict resolution and interpersonal skills were areas in which they believed they needed to grow. Others expressed that the mundane tasks of everyday work in the Cantorate were taking them farther and farther away from their own personal relationship with the Holy. Still others expressed a need for basic choral conducting skills and wanted more tips for working with volunteer choirs.

This convention represents a significant step in bringing to the Conference the professional development curriculum you have requested. As you register for this retreat in the Hudson Valley, please ask yourself in which of the areas outlined above you, as an individual, most need to grow. Take some time to consider what will make you a stronger cantor. Do you tend to feel dis-empowered when working with the colleagues on staff at your congregation, or with your synagogue Board? Then sign up for classes with Rabbi Stephen Kaye, an expert in the area of conflict resolution and interpersonal skills. Do you sometimes feel like you have forgotten why you became a cantor in the first place? Then track yourself with Nehemia Polen from the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, and study Chassidic texts. Do you feel that you cannot get your choir to respond to your wishes, or that you can't always tell which music will motivate them to try harder and

which music seems to make them give up before they begin? All of us will learn and grow more in this area through our work with Eleanor Epstein of Zemer Chai and the Western Wind Ensemble.

We will all have an opportunity to hear from our main presenters during the course of this retreat, and to choose from a number of workshops on key areas of professional and spiritual development. There will also be workshops on technology, retirement planning, and new repertoire. Finally, we will have opportunities to sing together, and just to have fun with our colleagues.

May this retreat enrich us all.

Upcoming ACC/GTM Conventions

June 29—July 3, 2008: San Francisco
June 28—July 2, 2009: Chicago

URJ Regional Biennials

The dates of the remaining regional biennials are as follows:

February 9–11, 2007: Pacific Central
February 18–20, 2007: Pacific Southwest
March 16–18, 2007: Pacific Northwest,
Canadian Sub-Regional
May 4–6, 2007: Midwest Sub-Regional *Kallah*

For more information and registration materials, contact your URJ regional office

<<http://urj.org/offices/>>.

If you are involved in Biennial planning, are presenting, and/or planning to attend a Regional Biennial this year,

please contact VP Susan Caro at

<cantorcaro@jewishsong.net>,

so that we can keep in touch with the activities of our members in the greater Reform Jewish world.

Yom Iyun 2007

The Committee for Continuing Professional Development has been working to create multiple and new opportunities for continuous learning, some of which are independent of our yearly conventions. We are currently planning an ACC-wide *Yom Iyun* to coincide with Rosh Chodesh Nisan on Tuesday, March 20, 2007.

The Yom Iyun will focus on a book and articles that we are now in the process of choosing. We plan to organize gatherings of cantors regionally and are also investigating ways to link cantors via conference calls. Details will follow shortly.

2006-2007 PLACEMENT LIST **January 11, 2007**

Please note that the Open Placement List is available on the ACC website for review at any time by all of our members! You do not need to be in placement to check out the list, and we encourage all to do so. To view the most current Placement list, members can go to the member-only section by logging in on the Sign-In tab, then select the Placement tab.

TIER I

Up to 599 Member Units (open to all members)

1. Rockville Centre, NY – Central Synagogue of Nassau County (335) *(Limited Service)*
2. New Orleans, LA – Touro Synagogue (550)
3. San Francisco, CA – Congregation Shaar Zahav (316) *(Limited Service)*
4. Reston, VA – Northern VA Hebrew Congregation (480)
5. New York, NY – Central Synagogue (2008) *(Full-Time Assistant)*

TIER II

Up to 999 Member Units (applicants must have been invested/certified in 2004 or earlier)

1. Weston, FL – Temple Dor Dorim (653) *Cleared by JCPC for Tier I*
2. Scottsdale, AZ – Congregation Beth Israel (875)
3. Oak Park, MI – Temple Emanu-El (607) *(Limited Service)*
4. Newton, MA - Temple Shalom of Newton (825)
5. St. Paul, MN – Mount Zion Temple (690) *(Co-Cantor Position)*
6. Baltimore, MD – Temple Oheb Shalom (808)

TIER III

Over 1,000 Member Units (applicants must have been invested/certified in 2000 or earlier)

1. New York City - Shaaray Tefila (1550)
2. Boca Raton, FL – Temple Beth El of Boca Raton (1450)
3. Scarsdale, NY – Westchester Reform Temple (1193)

OTHER POSITIONS

1. ACC Cantor Director *(2/3 time)*

POSITIONS FILLED

1. Coordinator for Alumni Affairs for the SSM Alumni Assoc. – Adelle Nicholson
2. New Orleans, LA - Touro Synagogue (550) *(Interim, Limited Service)* - Mark Opatow
3. Mahwah, NJ – Beth Haverim (290) *(Limited Service)* position filled by David Perper

POSITIONS REPORTED TO THE JCPC

1. Longboat Key, FL – Temple Beth Israel (497) HHD position filled by Robert Bloch

Cantors in Cyberspace

The ACC is on the internet. Here are some of our networking opportunities:

www.accantors.org is the ACC website, containing a wide variety of useful information, including member-only colleague contacts (you can edit your own information), placement news, convention registration materials, etc.

The ACC Listserv is an electronic member forum for members to share information about music, upcoming events, resources, and other timely and relevant topics. ACC members can subscribe by sending an email to Seth Warner at <seth@modim.org>.

ACC E-Notes contain updated information and are delivered straight to your e-inbox.

Watch for new and exciting developments that are coming soon!

In The Community

Mazel tov to ...

... To Cantor Linda (Shepherd) Nussbaum and Jeremy Nussbaum on the birth of their son, Moshe Aharon Nussbaum, on July 3, 2006.

... To Natalie Corn, widow of Cantor Jay Wm. Corn, on the birth of her grandsons, Jordan and Max, on August 7th, 2006.

... To Gabi Arad and Josh Burrows on the birth of their daughter, Noa Hinde Burrows, on December 11, 2006.

... To Kari Siegel Eglash and Joel Eglash on the birth of their daughter, Arielle Maayan Siegel Eglash, on October 3, 2006

... To Naomi Falk and Rogerio Marx on the November 6, 2006, safe arrival home from Guatemala of Joshua Isaiah Falk Marx, born on May 25, 2006.

Condolences to ...

... Sam Radwine on the October 5, 2006, loss of his father, Harry Radwine, *z"l*.

... Raymond Smolover, on the October 29, 2006, loss of his wife, Evelyn (Evie) Smolover, *z"l*.

... Irv Spenadel on the November 15, 2006, loss of his mother, Marjorie Speandel, *z"l*.

... Amy Miller on the December 10, 2006, loss of her mother, Roberta Ortenberg, *z"l*

... Donna Goldstein on the January 4, 2007, loss of her mother, Roberta Hackel, *z"l*.

The ACC mourns the
passing of our beloved
colleague

**Lewis
Appleton, z"l**

on October 29, 2006

The ACC mourns the
passing of our beloved
colleague

**Joseph
Rosenfeld, z"l**

on November 21, 2006

The ACC mourns the
passing of
our beloved colleague

**Henry
Greenberg, z"l**

on November 30, 2006

The ACC mourns the
passing of
our beloved colleague

**Merrill
Fisher, z"l**

on December 22, 2006

New from our colleagues ...

GREAT CANTORS: SPECIAL DVD RELEASE — produced and researched by Murray E. Simon

RISEN FROM THE ASHES: TALES OF A MUSICAL MESSENGER — a memoir by Hans Cohn

SING YOUR BEST: SEVEN VOCAL EXERCISES THAT REALLY WORK — by Raymond Smolover

Cantor Goldstein Scholarship

By Claire Franco

The Cantor Israel Goldstein Endowed Scholarship has been established at the School of Sacred Music. This lasting tribute to Izzy is made possible by the School of Sacred Music (SSM) community — alumni, faculty, board members and philanthropic friends — to honor the work of an extraordinary leader. You can

contribute on line at <www.huc.edu> or by contacting Janie Roher, Associate Director of Development for the Eastern Region at 212-824-2290 or <jjroher@huc.edu>.

New Fundraising and Development Efforts

By Kay Greenwald, Development Chair

I want to share with you an update on our organizational fundraising efforts to date – and to introduce you to the next step in our overall campaign. The focus of our efforts is to provide a strong financial base from which to grow toward fulfilling our vision for the cantorate and all of Jewish music.

We appreciate the tremendous outpouring of support within our membership to the *Bonei Chazanut* appeal this fall. More than 100 cantors answered the call. Now we are beginning a second set of fundraising initiatives that are directed externally, toward those in our congregations and the greater Jewish community who hold their cantors dear.

This set of initiatives will include a solicitation to Volunteer Choir Members, tied to the start of Jewish Music Season. As you read this note, Cantors with choirs are being contacted about how they can help.

The Fundraising and Development Committee is also working to put together a “Concert in a Box.” The “boxes” will contain instructions for putting together a small house concert for invited guests. It will include programming suggestions, as well as talking points about the ACC and the importance of helping us to continue our sacred work for Jewish Music and the Jewish Musical future. You will be hearing more about this effort in coming months.

Today’s Reform cantorate is at a very important crossroads. We have all heard the debates about what type of music to use in worship. Each cantor comes to this discussion from a different musical and spiritual place, and each brings particular sensibilities to the *bimah*. We have worked very hard to be proactive, not reactive, as the musical debates and discussions continue. We have already partnered successfully with the URJ on creating an innovative music study curriculum with the publication of *Divrei Shir*, but there is so much more to do to be able to effectively advocate for authentic Jewish music and for genuine Jewish musical education. Through our work with congregations and the community, each of us can promote an appreciation for all of the varieties of Jewish music and prayer experience. To accomplish these tasks, though, our professional organization needs a strong financial base, and a core group of supporters of the cantorate throughout the Reform community. If you have experience with fundraising, have some great ideas for us, or just want to help, please contact me.

We ask for your continued support in helping to create a future filled with music that speaks to our time while carrying forward our tradition, ensuring that the next generation of Jews will be singing the songs, all the songs, of our people.

Chai Fund Donations

As of December 20, 2006

In memory of Arthur Ginsberg, father of Nancy Ginsberg: Wendy Autenrieth, Meredith Stone, Barbara Lieberstein

In memory of Stephen Dubov: Jacqueline Rawiszer, Meredith Stone, Alison Wissot, Laura Croen

In memory of Rabbi Richard Schachet: Linda Ecker, Jonathan Grant

In memory of Libby Frost: Rebecca Garfein and Mike Gellman

In memory of Harry Radwine, father of Sam Radwine: Mark Goldman, Marshall Portnoy, Linda Ecker, Lori Frank, Susan Caro, Jan and Lanie Katzew

In honor of Arielle Meagan, daughter of Kari Siegel and Joe Eglash: Alison Wissot, Linda Ecker, Susan Caro, Jan and Lanie Katzew, Amy Lefko and Ross M. Levy

In honor of the birth of Naomi Mae Bortnick: Marshall Portnoy, Alison Wissot, Laura Croen, Amy Lefko

In honor of Lisa Doob’s new baby and Devin: Alison Wissot

In honor of the marriage of Stephanie and Steven Weiss: Susan Caro

In memory of Jack Sussman, father of Ellen Sussman: Ellen Stettner, Judy Seplowin, Donn and Ruth Rosensweig, Linda Ecker, Laura Croen, Rebecca Garfein and Mike Gellman, Susan Caro, Jodi Suffrin and Roy Einhorn, Meredith Stone

Chai Fund Donations continued on page 11

Bonei Chazzanut

As of January 8, 2007

Many thanks to the ACC members listed below for their generous contributions to the **Bonei Chazzanut** campaign. With this campaign, we join together as bonei chazzanut to create a vibrant future for the cantorate – and lend our support to the initiatives that develop new approaches to Jewish music, foster ongoing professional education, placement, and certification programs, and strengthen ourselves as a full partner in the Reform Movement. Those wishing to join their colleagues as **Bonei Chazzanut** may do so by sending their pledges to the ACC Office, including a copy of the donation card found on our website at <www.accantors.org>.

Jill Abramson
Dana Anesi
Theodore Aronson
Larisa Averbakh
Vicki Axe
Lauren Bandman
Roslyn Barak
Deborah Bard
Julie Berlin
Rabbi Richard Berman
Jennifer Bern-Vogel
Marie Betcher
Mark Biddelman
Richard Botton
Rosalie Boxt
Renata Braun
Sharon Brown-Levy
Ida Rae Cahana
Marnie Camhi
Susan Caro
Mark Childs
Gabrielle Clissold
Richard Cohn
Laura Croen
Ellen Dreskin
Linda Ecker
Andrew Edison
Roy Einhorn
Erin Frankel
Jennifer Frost
Rebecca Garfein
Robert Gerber
Mo Glazman

Frances T. Goldman
Mark Goldman
Elizabeth Goldmann
David Goldstein
Donna Goldstein
Jonathan Grant
Michele Gray-Schaffer
Kay Greenwald
Bernard Gutcheon
Rabbi Jon Haddon
Audrey Halpern
Gail Hirschenfang
Deborah Jacobson
John Kaplan
Deborah Katchko-Gray
Evan Kent
Penny Kessler
Ilene Keys
Leigh Korn
Janet Leuchter
Patty Linsky
Benjamin Maissner
Deborah Martin
Florence Merel
Sally Neff
Rachelle Nelson
Dr. Neil Newman
Deborah Numark
Harold Orbach
Barbara Ostfeld
Mark Perman
Marshall Portnoy
Jacqueline Rawiszer
Stephen Richards

Jennifer Roher
Chanin Rosen
Richard Rosenfield
Donn Rosensweig
Jessica Roskin
Sarah Sager
Wally Schachet-Briskin
Tracey Scher
Jennifer Seeger
David Serkin-Poole
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Rhoda Silverman
Murray E. Simon
Daniel Singer
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Ellen Stettner
Meredith Stone
Jodi Sufrin
Norman Summers
Ellen Sussman
Vadim Tunitsky
George Wald
Seth Warner
Alan Weiner
Roger Weisberg
Steven Weiss
Susan Weiss
Josee Wolff
Oreen Zeitlin
Anonymous (3)

Chai Fund Donations continued from page 10

In honor of Audrey Halpern for her kindness at co-officiating at the internment service of my father: Ellen Sussman

In honor of all my colleagues who have been so kind to me and my family with cards and telephone calls upon the death of my father: Ellen Sussman

In honor of Marshall Portnoy for his extraordinary kindness to me and my family by co-officiating at the funeral of my father, Jack Sussman: Ellen Sussman

In memory of Evelyn Smolover: Meredith Stone, Laura Crown, Ellen Stettner

In honor of Don Croll's continued recovery: Laura Croen, Lori Frank

Refuah Sh'leimah to Don Croll: Lori Frank

In honor of Jonathan Comisar's friendship and progress in the prestigious BMI Composer Workshop: Amy Lefko

In memory of Marjorie Spenadel: Rebecca Garfein and Mike Gellman

In honor of Howard Stahl's new CD "Shabbat B'shir": Marshall Portnoy

The 2007 ACC/GTM Convention: June 24-28, 2007!

By Lori Corrsin and Jayson Rodovsky, Convention Co-Chairs

Come
2007
Convention,
the Hudson
& Spa in
New York,
to June 28.

join us at the
ACC/GTM
to be held at
Valley Resort
Kerhonkson,
from June 24

- ◆ **Western Wind Ensemble**
- ◆ **Rabbi Dr. Nehemia Polen**
- ◆ **Rabbi Steve Kaye**

With its extensive spa and recreational facilities and reasonable pricing, the beautiful Hudson Valley Resort and Spa is sure to lend itself to an inspiring week of learning and relaxation for registrants and their families. Look for registration packets in the mail by the end of January, and plan to register early. We anticipate a large gathering this year.

The theme
convention
Hassidic
ing: "Song: Opens the Gate from the Mind to the Heart." Our focus will be on choral music, including techniques for enhancing experiences for volunteer adult and children's choirs. We are assembling a terrific line-up of in-depth, multi-track workshops and general sessions aimed at enhancing us and promoting our professional development as clergy, sacred musicians, composers, and conductors.

of this year's
is from an
say-

Come join us in June for a week of camaraderie, continuing education, and personal development.

More information can be found at
<www.accantors.org>.

Anticipated highlights include participation by:

- ◆ **HaZamir** with **Mati Lazar**
- ◆ **Eleanor Epstein** and the **Zemer Chai Chorale**

Koleinu

The American Conference of Cantors
213 N. Morgan St., Suite 1A, Chicago, IL 60607
www.accantors.org Phone 312-491-1034

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