

# Koleinu

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## Ruach Chayim and the Spirit of the Cantorate: A Report from the Chicago Convention

As I sit down to write this report from the Chicago Convention, I am still filled with an incredible positive energy. The week was filled with meaningful study, inspirational prayer, beautiful music, and of course, wonderful times reconnecting with old friends as well as making new ones. What follows is a summary of the business we transacted during our plenary sessions, as well as a recap of significant events in the life of our Conference.

### ***We are Members of a Very Healthy Organization with a Positive Financial Bottom Line***

I am very happy to report to all of you that we ended this fiscal year in the black – despite the current economic outlook. Many Jewish organizations were forced to restructure, or to dip into their reserves – or both – this year. The ACC, however, has kept our operating budget in the black with no need to touch our operating reserve. In addition, we believe that this convention will show out in the black as well. Our deepest thanks and admiration for these accomplishments should go to our **Treasurer, Linda Ecker**, our **Managing Director, Rachel Turry**, our **Vice President of Internal Policy and Administration, Susan Caro** and our **Convention Chairs, Jennifer Frost** and **Ellen Dreskin**, our **Convention Fundraising Chair, Rachel Stock-Spilker** along with our **Vice President of Professional Development, External Policy and Placement, Mark Goldman**. If you have contact with any of these people over the coming weeks, please thank them for their masterful stewardship of our organization's finances.

### ***We Have a Top-Notch Professional Staff***

At this convention we had an opportunity to hear from each of our professional staff members: our **Managing Director, Rachel Turry**; **Director of Placement, Barbara Ostfeld**; **Director of Member Support, Gail Hirschenfang**; and **Director of Organizational Partnerships, Jodi Schechtman**. Their reports are posted, along with our plenary pre-reads, on our website. Minutes from the meetings are now posted – I encourage you all to visit the website and read

through each report. You will find important information about our office staff and Conference management, about Placement and current employment statistics, about the status of our members and about our work with and increasing influence with the URJ, CCAR and the College-Institute.

### ***We welcomed our New Members***

During our plenary sessions we welcomed as new members the most recent investees of the School of Sacred Music: **Lisa Arbisser Shapanka, Rachel Berney, Shira Ginsburg, Zoe Jacobs, Marcy Kadin, Aaron Kaplan, Sharon Kunitz, Arik Luck, Rebecca Moses, Katie Oringel, Jen Strauss-Klein**. We also welcomed those who successfully completed the certification process over this last year: **Deborrah Cannizzaro Szuch and Larry Eschler**. Finally, at the Thursday Board meeting we voted into membership—through our membership agreement with the Jewish Theological Seminary—**Neil Schwartz**.

### ***Special Simchas***

We celebrated with our colleagues who reached milestone years in their Cantorate this year. For fifty years: **Richard Botton, Samuel Brown, Sheldon Chandler, Israel Goldstein, Raymond Smolover, Albert Sturmer, and Marshall Wolkenstein**. For forty years: **Stephen Richards and Murray Simon** For twenty-five years: **Andrew Edison, Don Gurney, Boris Kazansky, Rachelle Nelson, Jill Spasser, and Cory Winter**

We also continued with our film series, introduced last year by **Ellen Sussman** and **Michael Shochet**, showcasing our **Vatik** members and their contributions to the life of the ACC. This is a wonderful project that is being kept not only in our permanent office in Chicago, but also at the American Jewish Archive.

To round out all of these simchas, the second **President's Award for Volunteerism** was presented, in absentia, to **Neil Newman** for all of his work with our certificated colleagues. The award was accepted on Neil's behalf by our certificated colleagues who were present in Chicago and a beautiful statement from Neil was read by Linda Ecker.

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### **Constitution Work**

We completed the work on our Constitution and By-Laws that we began last year in San Francisco. You may remember that the proposed changes were emailed to you in June. Highlights of the changes made this year include:

**Dues** – having last year changed the date when dues are considered late from December 31<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>, we changed the date for **suspension for non-payment of dues** from March 31<sup>st</sup> to **December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Please remember that if you have made arrangements with our Treasurer for a payment plan or dues forgiveness, then you are considered as having paid your dues in a timely manner.

**GTM president** – the GTM president will be a voting member of the ACC Executive Board.

**Ethics** – our Constitution and By-Laws procedures for Ethics violations were brought into alignment with our Ethics Document (you can find both documents on our website).

### **We Honored our Major Benefactor during our Convention Concert**

On Tuesday evening the entire convention membership participated in a concert at Temple Shalom, along with the Soul Children of Chicago and their conductor, Walt Whitman. At the end of the first half of the concert, our visionary donor, **Sylvia Footlik**, was brought onstage. Our immediate past president, **Richard Cohn**, had composed a loving and moving tribute to Sylvia and her late husband, **Irving Footlik**, that he read in the presence of Sylvia's friends and family, our membership, and other members of the concert audience. So much of what we have been able to accomplish as an organization over the last several years is directly due to Sylvia and Irving's generosity and vision. It was a privilege to introduce Sylvia to our membership to have the opportunity to express our thanks in this very inspirational setting.

### **New Executive Board Members**

We welcomed to our Executive Board our newly elected representatives, **David Margules** and **Sergei Schwartz**, as well as **Claire Franco** who was appointed to the vacant seat in East A and **Devorah Felder-Levy** who was appointed to the vacant seat in our Western region.

### **As We Look Toward the Coming Year**

We continue to work to further the important goals of our organization. The **Campership Initiative**, our professional staff, the **Keshet Shir** program, our engagement with the Commission on Worship, Music and Religious Living and the **Ten Minutes of Torah** project, our website's "**Notes Worth Knowing**" page, and other new lay directed programming that is in the works all further these endeavors. Moreover, our increasing visibility enhances our individual roles as Clergy Committed to Judaism and Jewish Music.

May we continue from strength to strength!

Kay

## **The ACC Executive Board**

### **Officer Team (Until 2010)**

Kay Greenwald, President  
Rosalie Boxt, Vice President  
Susan Caro, Vice President  
Mark Goldman, Vice President  
Seth Warner, Secretary  
Linda Ecker, Treasurer

### **Executive Board Members (Until 2010)**

Richard Cohn, At-Large, Dallas, TX  
Don Croll, South, Dallas, TX  
Devorah Felder-Levy, West, Los Gatos, CA  
Geoffrey Fine, New England, Watertown, MA  
Jennifer Frost, At-Large, Deerfield, IL  
Claire Franco, East-A, New York, NY  
Peter Halpern, At-Large, Phoenix, AZ

### **Executive Board Members (Until 2011)**

Roslyn Barak, West, San Francisco, CA  
Nancy Ginsberg, At-Large, Owings Mills, MD  
Penny Kessler, East-A, Bethel, CT

### **Executive Board Members (Until 2011 continued)**

Sharon Kohn, Mid-West, Overland Park, KS  
Shira Nafshi, At-Large, Lebanon, NJ  
Kerith Spencer-Shapiro, East-B, Leonia, NJ

### **Executive Board Members (Until 2012)**

David Margules, At Large, San Rafael, CA  
Barbara Margulis, At Large, Roswell, GA  
Sarah Sager, Mid-West, Shaker Heights, OH  
Tracey Scher, East B, Falls Church, VA  
Sergei Schwartz, East A, New City, NY  
Ellen Sussman, East B, Allentown, PA  
Tanya Tamarkin, South, Tallahassee, FL

### **Honorary Positions**

Scott E. Colbert, D. Min, Honorary Vice President  
William Sharlin, Honorary Vice President  
Raymond Smolover, Honorary Vice President  
Howard M. Stahl, Honorary Vice President  
Richard Botton, Director of Placement Emeritus

***Azkarot—We Remember Them***  
**Azkarot from the 2008 and 2009 Conventions**

**Azkarah for Cantor Joseph Portnoy**  
by Martin Feldman

Cantor Joseph Portnoy, a distinguished cantor and educator who served Congregation Emanu-El from 1959 to 1986 was taken from our midst on January 17, 2008. Joe was an extraordinary human being who possessed the finest qualities of heart and mind. He was a brilliant, erudite, multi-talented compassionate, kind, selfless, loving person who enriched the lives of all who were privileged to have known him.

Joe was born in 1921 in Pittsburgh, Penn., to Russian immigrant parents. In high school, he met and later married the love of his life, Ruthy. Their love for each other knew no bounds. As a soldier in World War II, Joe landed on the Beach of Normandy and received a Bronze Star Medal for his valor while under fire. Years later after Ruth died, Joe recovered the love letters he had mailed home to her from Europe. These beautifully meaningful letters were later published in 2006. The book was entitled *Dearest Ruthy* and was widely read and published in magazines. The love that was expressed was so deep and tender.

Joe studied opera at the Julliard School of Music. Degrees that followed included a bachelor's from the College of William and Mary in Richmond, VA, a masters in education from the University of Virginia, a bachelor's degree from HUC and also a doctorate from New York University. Years later, Joe took courses at the College of Marin to learn the basics of stone sculpture. He also studied sculpting in Italy. Joe's works in marble were absolutely stunning and he received much recognition. They were beautifully displayed and featured in the foyer of his synagogue, Temple Emanu-El and in his lovely home as well.

Joe's pursuit of knowledge and his eternal quest of finding meaning in his life was a driving force throughout his lifetime. Joe was my mentor and closest friend in San Francisco and I loved him very much. He was always there for me when I needed his guidance and understanding. His knowledge of human nature was profound. Joe was a brilliant speaker. The words that he expressed when he spoke in synagogue and often at Christian seminaries profoundly touched all his listeners. Joe was truly a renaissance man with an indomitable spirit, steeped in Judaica. He was a perennial student, a patron of her performance and visual arts, an avid reader, and an excellent swimmer. Joe did it all.

As a devoted, dedicated cantor and educator, Joe was deeply loved and respected not only by his congregants, but by the entire Jewish community as well. He deeply loved his three sons, Bob, Jeffrey and Ed, his nine grandchildren and his four great-grandchildren with all his heart and soul. Joe lived a long, rich, productive, happy, meaningful life and left those of us who were privileged to have known him a legacy of love.

Cantor Joseph Portnoy, sweet singer of Israel, will always be remembered for blessing by all who loved, honored and respected him. He is at peace eternally, reunited again with his beloved Ruthy. Zecher tzadik livracha. May the righteous singer be remembered for everlasting blessing. Amen.

## Azkarah for Cantor Norman Rose

by Kat Hastings

On Sept. 8, 2006, I had the privilege of representing the ACC at a very special Shabbat service. Cantor Norman Rose was honored by his long time temple, Emanu-El in Oak Park, MI and received an honorary doctorate from HUC in recognition of 50 years in the cantorate. Although his health was not good, he smiled throughout the service. He thrilled the congregation when he was able to stand and lead the Kiddush blessing with a voice, though I am sure not like it had been, still clear, strong and beautiful.

Born in Rochester, NY, Cantor Rose was raised in a musical family, inspired by his father who sang in synagogue choirs. He received a scholarship and studied at Curtis School of Music in Philadelphia before flying 50 missions as a radio operator and gunner in Italy with the Air Force in World War II. After the war, he earned both bachelor's and masters degrees from Eastman School of Music. In 1949, he received one of 10 scholarships to the La Scala Opera School in Milan, Italy. In 1952, he began his studies at HUC where he was invested as a cantor. Cantor Rose served Temple Israel in Akron, Ohio for 11 years. He had a stop at Temple Beth Zion in Buffalo before arriving at Temple Emanu-El in 1972. He came there as cantor-educator, so he was in charge of the religious school as well. He worked with the B'nai Mitzvah students, and that brought him great joy. According to his wife, Euni, "He was spectacular in his one-on-one with bar and bat mitzvah students. He made the kids feel comfortable within minutes – with his knowledge of sports or talk of the kids' interest with a special handshake he used for them. They loved him to pieces and he loved them." His tenure at Emanu-El spanned 32 years, until his health forced him to become cantor emeritus.

I never had the pleasure of being with Cantor Rose again, but I have formed a friendship with his beloved Euni. We had lunch a few weeks ago, and she shared with me some pictures from their life together, and some fun stories. I will relate just a few, and try to have the same twinkle in my eye that Euni had when she talked about her darling Normie.

Euni and her twin sister Eudi were a professional singing act known as the Tracey Sisters. They were working in Cleveland and looking for nice Jewish boys to date. In Euni's words: "One person who resisted us completely was a young cantor in Akron, OH, whose secretary was the aunt of a friend of our family. He did not under any circumstances want to meet a show business broad, and I certainly had no interest in a cantor. We avoided each other for months, until one day Eudi and I had an engagement to sing at a luncheon in Akron. Our friend in Cleveland begged us to at least call her aunt at the temple in Akron. Right before our show began, I did call, and to my horror, the aunt put the cantor on the phone. Notice no one ever said his name..it was always 'the cantor.' We had a conversation that went like this: Me: hello. Cantor: hello. Big silence, then, Cantor: I don't know much about YOUR kind of music. Me: I'll have to tell you about it sometime..oops! we're on. bye! I said to Eudi, 'that is the biggest jerk I've ever talked to!' and then forgot about him. For a year and a half we avoided each other like the plague."

But finally nearly 18 months later, in Sept. 1960, they had their first date. She received a beautiful thank-you note from Norm the next day. Twelve days later she heard him sing at Rosh Hashanah services, and a week after that, she had her ring. They made it to their 46th anniversary before she had to place him in a nursing home.

Also from Euni: "Right before we married, Eudi and I took him to an engagement of ours. Afterwards, she asked him how he liked the show. Never one to admit when he was wrong, he said, "For what you do, you were okay!" I taught him jazz and musical theatre and he taught me the classics. What a combination!!

They shared such a special relationship. Euni said: When he was in the nursing home, he could sing with me up until a month before he died. I brought a tune of his for "Hachama Meirosh", that I had been asked to sing at services that Friday. I sang it for him and asked him if it sounded all right. I purposely sang it in the wrong key to see what would happen. He looked at me and said, "It's too high." I sang it in a lower key, and he said, "Now that's just right." Those were his last words to me. He died the next morning at 5:30. As I fell asleep late that night, I heard his voice in my ear, singing one line from L'cha Dodi, in English: To tell Thy Kindness Through the Night.

Cantor Norman Rose passed away on July 25, 2007. I attended his funeral at Temple Emanu-El, where the overflow crowd heard tributes from his colleagues, his congregants and dignitaries from the area. This gentle man, truly one of our sweet singers of Israel, was lauded one last time for his contribution to his temple, the cantorate and his community. I saw so strongly that day how one cantor can make such a difference in this world. His memory is a blessing to us all.

**Azkarah for Rabbi/Cantor Sam Berman**  
Condensed from the original written by Riselle Bain

How does one condense into just a few minutes the rich life and gentle presence of a big teddy bear of a man like Rabbi/Cantor Sam Berman? When the alumni site of Hebrew Union College learned of his unexpected death at age 61 at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida on August 6, 2008, it was filled with tributes to this amazing Jewish scholar. He was husband of 39 years to his beautiful wife, Dale; father of Alisa, Daniel, and Ari; grandfather to Olivia and Sabrina; brother to Steve Berman; and friend who reached out to the community at large, Jew and non-Jew; and, finally, sweet singer of Israel. Sam Berman was the very embodiment of talent, enthusiasm, dignity, and strength.

Parts of his life were happy and fulfilling, and others were filled with tragedy and ill health. His wife, Dale, was with him through all these times. The great turning point in their lives happened when their son Ari died tragically at the age of 19 in a sky diving accident on Erev Yom Kippur, 1998. Somehow Sam found the inner strength to sing the plea of Kol Nidre the very same day he buried his beloved son. Only someone of great faith could summon that kind of strength and courage. As a couple, Dale and Sam became even closer, and, in the process, they developed still more empathy and compassion for others.

Sam was born to Luba and Herschel Berman, Polish survivors of the Holocaust, in a displaced persons camp in Bamberg, Germany. The family came to the United States, first settling in St. Louis and then in California. When Sam was twenty, he majored in music at San Fernando Valley State College in California. The following are words from a paper he wrote for one of his music classes: "I love music. I like the images I see when I listen to mood pieces. I am a singer, and I love to hear songs sung with feeling and soul." And sing with beauty and soul he did. His connection to music and Judaism led him to enter HUC in 1969 as one of six cantorial students.

Sam believed that, in Judaism, learning is a lifelong pursuit, and new insights and understanding can continue to evolve at different times in one's life. He was a trendsetter in expanding the role of Cantor. While at HUC, he began taking extra courses in Jewish Education and became a Certified Teacher and later a Certified Principal. Sam was one of the first Cantors who were given the designation of Reform Jewish Educator. Sam invested more than 34 years of his life as a Cantor Educator serving a number of different congregations, including ten years as Cantor of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, that synagogue grew to 107 B'nai Mitzvah per year, and there was no chazzan sheini! At his last pulpit, Temple Beth Shalom in Ocala, Florida, he initially served as its Sole Spiritual Leader. But he decided to continue his studies, and he worked to receive a private s'micha in 2005. Sam was one of the first to officially and successfully meld the careers of Cantor, Educator, and Rabbi.

During the week in the hospital prior to his untimely death, Sam was full of faith and hope. He wrote: "Some things in life can be scheduled and some things sneak up on you and scream for your attention. Health issues are always a priority and must be handled in a timely way." We are tested to confront our fears and deal with the reality of our mortality, with deep faith and the recognition that we must be fully involved in our healing, we face issues. My hope and prayer is that whenever any of you face these kinds of health issues that you be able to view it as a journey toward health. There may be stumbling blocks put in front of you and hurdles you must jump before the experience is over, but always keep God in your heart and look forward to complete healing. Zecher Tzadik Livracha. May the memory of Samuel Dov Berman - a truly righteous soul be a blessing forever.

## **Azkarah for Cantor Seymour Schwartzman**

by Gabriella Arad

Seymour Schwartzman was a man full of wonderful qualities. He was a loving and dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, an extremely successful Opera singer, and a warm and inspiring Cantor to all who knew him.

Before Seymour became a Cantor he sang for the New York City Opera taking on main roles in La Traviata and Pagliacci. He sang with greats such as Placido Domingo, Maralin Niska and Bernabe Marti. In 1978, Sy became the Senior Cantor at Temple Beth Sholom in Roslyn, NY, one of the largest conservative synagogues in New York. Under his musical direction, the synagogue grew even more. Ten years later, he moved to Plantation Florida where he became the Cantor at Temple Kol Ami. Sy remained there until he retired in 1995.

As a Cantor, Seymour Schwartzman used much of his stage experience. He produced, directed, and starred in a few very successful shows at the synagogue, including "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Milk and Honey." As a Cantor, he inspired his students to work beyond their potentials. He taught trope rather than making tapes, he encouraged young singers to choose challenging pieces, and most of all he supported future Cantors.

*\*personal note - at age 13, I declared that I would like to be a Cantor one day. I could tell that Cantor Schwartzman had a difficult time thinking of a woman as a Cantor but as time went on he supported me more and more. He gave me voice lessons, persuaded me to perform in Temple productions, and when I applied to Cantorial school, he gave me quite a bit of his Cantorial collection.*

## **Azkarah for Cantor Morris Chotin**

by Martin Feldman

In 1954, before many of you were born, I entered Hebrew Union College, which was then on West 68<sup>th</sup> Street. For me it was a turning point in my life. The beginning of four glorious years and a new exciting chapter for me. About fourteen other students and immediately bonded and we all became very close friends. We came together from all parts of the country and our backgrounds were so different. It was like a wonderful fraternity and we were so privileged to have studied with great teachers and marvelous coaches. Dr. Binder, Dr. Werner, Dr. Freed, Vinaveer, Cantors Ganchoff , Shapiro, Avery, Barrish and Wolfson. As a fraternal family, we laughed together, we studied together, we sang together and we shared in each others' success and disappointments. We were so compassionate to each other.

With the passage of time, sadly, many of my classmates have passed away. I lived at the dormitory next to the school for several years. I bonded with Morris Chotin and we became bosom buddies. For four years Morris was a one-of-a-kind character. He had many wonderful qualities of heart and mind, but he also had a weird sense of humor and during one of our lunch breaks, when I went to my locker to look for my sandwich, what did I find in my lunch box but an onion, which he had placed there. This was Morris – full of pranks and jokes. He had a beautiful tenor voice. He gave his all to his studies. He had a very amiable, likeable personality and endeared himself to all of us with his light-heartedness and humor. Morris was married to his beautiful wife Elayne of blessed memory for forty-seven years. Their marriage brought them both so much fulfillment and contentment. Not only were they loving soul mates, but best friends as well. Morris and Elayne had two sons, Lee and Randy. Morris and Elayne were very devoted and loving to their children and were very proud of their accomplishments. They were also blessed with three grandchildren. Morris served several congregations not only as a cantor, but as an educator as well. He was extremely devoted and dedicated to his work as a cantor and was loved and respected by his multitude of congregants.

Morris was also very astute in real estate and owned a number of properties, including two homes in Las Vegas. After Morris left the cantorate, he studied and became a gestalt psychologist. He was always a perennial student. During these last years Morris as well as I have been officiating on cruise ships. Both of us have been privileged to travel to many parts of the world.

Morris lived a very full, rich, exciting, meaningful life. He accomplished everything he wanted to do. He enriched the lives of all of us who were privileged to have known him. He passed away peacefully in Scottsdale where his son Lee and daughter-in-law Becky live. Now Morris is united once again with his beautiful Elayne. He loved and was loved in return. Love is the essence of all life. Zecher tzadik livracha. May his life be remembered as an everlasting blessing.

## ***Life Insurance through the ACC Pension***

by Susan Caro

In my work as a hospice chaplain, I see far too many situations where people are unprepared for the inevitabilities of life. As cantors, we see the fragility of life, and therefore have the experience of foresight that can help us to become the most prepared that we can be for the challenges of life that lie ahead.

Life insurance—so many people avoid it. Life insurance salespeople are the topic of many jokes and barbs. Yet, we all see every day in our work just how important it can be. Through the ACC Pension plan for many years, we offered a term-life insurance policy with a \$25,000 death benefit, ‘mandatory’ as it was paid for by all members enrolled in our Pension, either through direct payment or through a deduction from a pension contribution. As it had no medical exam and was written for a group, it was originally implemented to provide a minimum amount of life insurance to **all** of our members. This coverage was especially significant for those of our members who did not have any other life insurance due to any number of reasons – including having pre-existing health condition or financial stressors. Since it was written for a group, the risk was spread among all Pension participants making the annual policy premium quite affordable-- \$72 annually, for a \$25,000 death benefit.

Until now, we were allowed to have the annual premium deducted from our annual Pension contribution. The IRS law no longer allows payment of this premium from Pension contributions. Neither the ACC nor Fidelity are able to pursue mandatory collection of this premium. So, as you already know from the communications from Fidelity and from Jaeger and Flynn (who are the insurers for our Disability insurance), the insurance policy must now be optional. Even this way, it will be dependent on a minimum number of participants to be achievable, and the actual annual premium will depend on the size of the participating group.

We still, however, have members who **need** the benefit of some minimum life insurance with no medical exam or pre-existing health exclusions.

### **What can we do to help?**

When our invoices arrive, we can each continue to purchase this minimum amount of term life insurance through Jaeger & Flynn. Doing so affords us each the potential for a **double mitzvah**.

First: to provide for our colleagues in need

By paying the policy premiums yourself (the annual premium is **not** tax-deductible, and you cannot use your discretionary fund to pay it) and enrolling in this policy, we each ensure the continuance of this policy, thereby keeping a base amount of life insurance available to our members, particularly our *vatikim*, who might not otherwise obtain affordable life insurance.

Second: to provide for the future of the Cantorate

If you already have additional, outside life insurance with which you are satisfied, we ask you to consider buying this term life insurance and designating the ACC Endowment as your beneficiary. The vast majority of our Endowment funds are designated for continuing education for cantors. Providing for the ACC in this way, therefore, will ensure the long-term health of our Conference as well as the ways in which the ACC supports each of us to provide for the future of the Cantorate. What a deal!!

This is a wonderful opportunity to support our own colleagues and to support our great Conference! If you have any questions about this insurance change, feel free to be in contact with me at [cantorcaro@jewishsong.net](mailto:cantorcaro@jewishsong.net). We thank you in advance for your willingness and ability to sustain each other and the ACC as a whole. In this way, the words of Hillel ring most true: “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?”

With blessings for health, family and *chayim tovim* in the year 5770.

The ACC supports and promotes the artists and composers who provide us with such a wealth of Jewish music. To that end, the ACC seeks to inform and educate its membership so as to encourage the fair and legal use of copyrighted material and intellectual property. In compliance with the ACC Code of Ethics, the illegal reproduction and dissemination of any such material is not condoned. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the ACC Committee on Ethics and Appeals.

## **Copyright Compliance for Union for Reform Judaism Congregations, Members and Affiliates**

by Tanya Greenblatt, Chairperson, Social Action and Justice Committee

At the ACC plenary in Chicago, our members unanimously endorsed a joint resolution with the GTM on copyright compliance, with the hope that it would be brought before the General Assembly of the URJ at the Toronto biennial. After reviewing our resolution, the URJ Resolutions committee invited me to answer some questions about the resolution. There was strong support among members of that committee for the issue itself, although they were not in agreement about bringing it to the floor at this biennial.

The resolution will, therefore, not be brought to the General Assembly, which at first may seem disappointing. Overall, however, this can be seen as a positive step, as the ACC has brought the issue of copyright compliance to the attention of the leadership of the URJ. Several members of the resolutions committee expressed interest in working with us on this issue, with the intention of a possible resolution at the URJ Board level and/or educational materials to be distributed to all URJ congregations. While we in the ACC and GTM are acutely aware of the ways in which we and our congregations fall short of full compliance with these laws, members of the resolutions committee pointed out that our congregational leaders may not know that they are doing anything wrong. Our next step, then, is to strengthen the background section of our resolution, creating more of the educational material that our congregations need.

Thanks to the leadership of the ACC and GTM, the issue of copyright compliance is now on the agenda, and, in the end, by partnering with leaders of the URJ, our goal of increasing compliance by educating our congregational leaders about the legal and ethical issues will be realized.

## **New and Exciting Opportunities for Continuing Education**

by Mark Goldman

This year CCPD, under the guidance of Shira Nafshi, is delighted to offer bi-monthly programming for educational enrichment and growth. From Pastoral Counseling to Synagogue Management, Personal Finance, and Team Building, we're sure there will be something for everyone.

Our first program, scheduled for Thursday, October 22nd at 1:30 p.m. EST is Shirat Hapiyut: Community Singing around the Jewish World. We will visit diverse Jewish communities by listening to recordings and singing their melodies. Music and texts will be provided via a webinar. Details will be forthcoming on our website, listserv, and E-notes. Please mark the date on your calendars and join David Berger and Sharon Kohn for this fascinating traverse around the Jewish globe.

Future programs will include Pastoral Counseling, Team Building, Synagogue Politics, and Music Sharing.

Watch the ACC website, listserv, and E-notes for dates and times of future webinars.

## **The American Conference of Cantors**

President	Kay Greenwald
Vice President	Rosalie Boxt
Vice President	Susan Caro
Vice President	Mark Goldman
Secretary	Seth Warner
Treasurer	Linda Ecker

Managing Director	Rachel B. Turry
Dir. Placement	Barbara Ostfeld
Dir. Member Support	Gail Hirschenfang
Dir. Organizational Partnerships	Jodi Schechtman
Pension/Insurance Plan Administrator	Marianne Pick
Office Staff	Roni Binder Gloria Hernandez

## **Chai Fund Donations**

*As of August 20, 2009*

In memory of Jonah Dreskin: Susan Berkson, Susan Caro, Amy E. Levy and Ross M. Levy  
In memory of Janet Zelinsky, mother of Shirley Garber, widow of Cantor Roy Garber: Susan Berkson  
In memory of Steve Meltzer: Amy E. Levy and Ross M. Levy, Josee Wolff  
In memory of Sue Perman: Penny Kessler  
In memory of Evelyn Bloch: Barbara Ostfeld  
In memory of Cantor Morris Chotin: Marla Goldberg  
In honor of the wedding of Cantor Samuel Benjamin Radwine and Jesse Wade Sisco:  
    Stephen Richards  
In honor of the bat mitzvah of Paula Pitluk: Linda Ecker  
In honor of Cantor Linda Ecker: Nancy Fries  
In honor of Cantor Jonathan Comisar: Amy E. Levy  
In honor of my daughter, Rosie's graduation from Evergreen State College: Ellen Stettner  
In honor of Penny and Stan Kessler, wishing them a refuah sh'leimah: Susan Caro  
Wishing refuah sh'leimah to Jennifer Leader: Amy E. Levy and Ross M. Levy

### ***The ACC Ad Journal/ Member Directory!***

Send in your updates and ads for our annual ACC Member Directory!  
Check your mail box for your membership renewal package that included information on the soon-to-be-published ACC Member Directory that will be combined with our yearly Ad Journal.

## ***ACC Dues Information***

by Linda Ecker, ACC Treasurer

Our fiscal year begins on August 1, 2009 at which time membership dues are payable.

At our San Francisco and Chicago Conventions, the General Assembly voted to amend our By-Laws regarding the due dates for member dues and the date in which non-payment of dues may lead to a suspension. To clarify, dues are payable no later than October 31 of each year and must be post-marked as such to be considered on time. Dues paid after November 1 are considered late and are subject to a 10% late fee. Until dues are current or some arrangement has been made, you are ineligible for membership privileges such as Placement, website "members only" access, and listserv access. Dues and late fees not paid by December 31 may result in suspension of your ACC membership. Please contact me if you need to make payment arrangements and I will do whatever I can to assist and support you. In addition to your membership dues, you are invited to acknowledge your colleagues and friends through donations to our Chai Fund. You will receive a special package of 12 tribute cards for a donation of \$180 (a \$36 savings). We welcome all donations!

In accordance with tax regulations, the Conference cannot accept dues payments from discretionary funds. Donations however may be made from discretionary funding. Please return your payment to the ACC office in Schaumburg, or make your payment through credit card or electronic check by going to our website at [www.accantors.org](http://www.accantors.org). If you have questions regarding this invoice, please feel free to email me at [Linda.Ecker@hotmail.com](mailto:Linda.Ecker@hotmail.com) or call me at 714-963-7083.

Thank you for your continued support and membership in the ACC. Best wishes for an enjoyable remainder of your summer and a blessed New Year.

## **2009/2010 Placement List** **(as of August 20, 2009)**

### **TIER I**

#### **Up to 599 Member Units (open to all members)**

San Bernardino, CA – Congregation Emanu El (250) limited service 8/10/09 (to begin in October, 2009)

### **TIER II**

#### **Up to 999 Member Units (applicants must have been invested/certified in 2006 or earlier)**

### **TIER III**

#### **Over 1,000 Member Units (applicants must have been invested/certified in 2002 or earlier)**

London, ENG – West London Synagogue (1704) 11/19/08 (Looking to have cantor in place for 7/1/10)

See changes to application.

### **HIGH HOLIDAY POSITIONS**

Catskill, NY – Temple Israel of Catskill (HHD) (39) 7/20/09

### **POSITIONS WITHDRAWN**

Colorado Springs, CO – Temple Shalom (HHD) (240) 5/15/09 (hired an CA member)

### **OTHER POSITIONS**

### **IN NEGOTIATIONS**

### **COMPLETED PLACEMENTS**

Valdosta, GA – Valdosta Hebrew Congregation (HHD) (55) 6/2/09-Menorah Winston

Floral Park, NY – Temple Sholom (HHD) (75) 7/20/09-Gail Hirschenfang

Warsaw, POLAND – Beth Warszawa (HHD) (150) 7/30/09-Mikhal Shiff-Matter

### **PLACEMENTS REPORTED TO THE JCPC**

Vero Beach, FL – Temple Beth Shalom (175) limited service-Jennifer Werby

*Please note: Dates are those of original entry into placement.*

## ***In Our Community***

### ***Mazel tov to ...***

Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler on her marriage to Marc J. Cohen

Sheila Case on her marriage to Howie Rubin

Kari Siegel and Joel Eglash on the birth of their son, Judah Leiv Siegel Eglash

Tanya Tamarkin on her marriage to Scott Greenblatt

### ***Our thoughts are with ...***

Mark Perman, on the death of his beloved mother, Sue Perman, z”l

Brad Hyman, on the death of his beloved grandmother, Elizabeth “Bette” Cohen, z”l

We note with sorrow  
the death of our colleague

Cantor  
Morris Chotin

*Zichrono livracha*

We note with sorrow  
the death of our colleague

Cantor  
Samuel Brown

*Zichrono livracha*

# Koleinu

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## Save these Dates!!

Go to [www.accantors.org](http://www.accantors.org) for more upcoming events.

ACC/GTM  
Summer 2010

Memphis  
Peabody Hotel  
June 27–July 1, 2010



Where Jewish  
music, learning  
and fun will just  
keep rolling along

## UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM Biennial

TORONTO, ONTARIO \* NOVEMBER 4-8, 2009

### Upcoming Dates:

Executive Board Meeting: November 2-3, 2009  
Fairmont Royal Oak Hotel, Toronto, ON

URJ Biennial — Toronto: November 4-8, 2009

Executive Board Meeting:  
March 7-8, 2009  
Doubletree—O'Hare Airport, Chicago, IL

ACC/GTM Convention:  
June 27–July 1, 2010 (Memphis)

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