



e-Koleinu

A Publication of the American Conference of Cantors

Koleinu Online

March 2010

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**ACC/GTM Memphis
Convention Registration**
[Now open!](#)

Highlights include:

Dynamic duo **Caroline Figiel and Danny Jones** will motivate, invigorate and demonstrate ways to navigate the ever-evolving challenges of job security.

Cantor Stephen Richards will serve as a scholar-in-residence, focusing on elevating the folk style of music used in the synagogue as well as the best and most creative ways to work with Mishkan T'filah.

From the spiritual and academic perspective, **Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller** will present a variety of topics including "How to Prevent Clergy Burnout" (a topic most of us can relate to).

Rick Recht will present the opening night concert with a number of synagogue and church choirs focusing on Social Justice as a theme.

There will be something for everyone at the ACC convention in Memphis this summer.

[Read more...](#)

Finding Sacred Work in Many Places

Kay Greenwald, President

This issue of our eKoleinu newsletter is devoted to the topic of non-traditional cantorial positions. While the majority of our membership is engaged in pulpit work, an increasing number of our colleagues are finding fulfillment and parnassah by following alternative career paths. Inside this issue you will find an article by Judith Ovadia, enumerating some of these alternative careers.

Of course, even to use the term "traditional pulpit" is somewhat of a misnomer. The cantor at the turn of the 20th century was a "Sweet Singer of Israel" and perhaps a teacher of children, but often not involved in other ways in the life of his congregation. One hundred years later, we are not only musicians and teachers of children, but also teachers of adults, pastors, counselors, program organizers, curriculum developers, managers, congregational leaders - the list goes on and on. As our "pulpit" responsibilities have grown, so has our bond with our congregants and our rabbinic colleagues. It is expected that we will step up to the plate as congregational responsibilities come our way, and that we will gladly make room in our lives for whatever needs our congregation may have. The "diva cantor" is truly a thing of the past.

The "traditional pulpit" notwithstanding, further alternative careers are gaining traction among our colleagues. Some of these careers are chosen out of necessity, while many others come from personal interest, continuing education, and individual creativity. Time and again, cantors have demonstrated their ability to bring their ingenuity and energy to new challenges, and to find opportunity where others might only see hardship. Perhaps it is the creative source within our "Sweet Singer" that offers up a wellspring of strength and positive energy when we call upon it.

Whatever career path we are on, we each bring our sacred calling with us. Once we have been invested we are always a cantor. Thus, whatever we do and whatever we create we have the ability to bring holiness. Likewise, we know that we are connected to other cantors throughout space and time. We can say with confidence the words of the Psalmist:

Establish the work of our hands
May the work of our hands be established.

In peace and blessing,

Kay Greenwald,
President

The Not-So-Traditional Cantor

Judith Ovadia

When I graduated from the School of Sacred Music in 1996, it never crossed my mind for an instant that my classmates and I might find ourselves in anything but full-time pulpits. There were 16 graduates in my class, all of

Campership Concert update!

Kerith Spencer-Shapiro (with help from David Margulis and Gabi Arad)

Over the past months, many of our colleagues have collaborated in presenting concerts to fundraise for the ACC Campership initiative.

San Francisco bay area cantors and cantorial soloists came together on two consecutive nights to offer praise to God and raise money for ACC Camperships to URJ camps across America. On Saturday night, December 5th in Los Gatos at Cantor Devorah Felder-Levy's congregation Shir Hadash, Kay Greenwald, Devorah Felder Levy, Leigh Korn, David Margules, Meeka Simerly, Rita Glassman, Lauren Bandman, and Barry Reich sang for a very appreciate audience. On Sunday, December 6 in San Rafael at Cantor David Margules' congregation Rodef Sholom we added Martin Feldman, Elana Jagoda, and special guest Dan Nichols.

The repertoire represented a wide variety of music, and each cantor had a unique style and presentation.

Together the San Francisco Bay area cantors raised more than \$5,000 toward the ACC Campership Initiative!

[Read more...](#)

ACC Simchas: Our conference rejoices with ...

Marshall & Jane Portnoy on their wedding recommitment ceremony

Kari Siegel Eglash and Joel Eglash on the birth of Judah Leiv Siegel Eglash

Sheila Rubin on her wedding to Howie Rubin

Mikhail and Ema Manevich on the birth of their grandson, Joshua Martin Manevich

Adina Frydman & Rabbi Avram K. Orlow on the birth of their daughter, Emunah

us talented and bright. Today, only about half of us are serving full-time positions. What are some of the factors that lead cantors to pursue alternative positions today?

It's important first to understand that for some of us, the recent recession has played a major role in our employment decisions and experiences. "I think most of it is a response to the economy," comments Cantor Barbara Ostfeld, Director of Placement for the ACC. "It seems to me that in these economic times, with members of congregations putting their synagogue dues last on their list of bills to pay, that congregations are hurting, budgets are hurting, and music is often among the first things to be cut back or - sometimes - cut off." Thus, synagogues that had full-time cantors in the past may now be in placement looking for cantors who are willing to serve in part-time positions. A few may even have taken the step of hiring untrained soloists and song leaders.

Parenthetically, lest we think that we are alone in facing some of these challenges, it is important to note that the CCAR is dealing with many similar concerns during these difficult economic times.

[Read more...](#)

ACC Launches Cantor-in-Residence Program for Small URJ Congregations

Have you ever thought that you could make a difference in the spiritual lives of several small congregations on a limited basis? Have you wanted to visit other areas of the country, bringing your music and prayer skills, but without moving your household? Does it seem unlikely that you will find the one, perfect full-time pulpit in this economic climate?

Well, thanks to the pioneering efforts of a few diligent ACC cantors, the ACC may have an opportunity for you to serve and find fulfillment even in these tough times.

[Read more...](#)

Chai Donations

(as of January 27, 2010)

In memory of Phala Fuller: Sharon Kohn

In memory of Lucy Simons Davis: Stanley and Penny Kessler, Linda Ecker, Marie Betcher, Rhoda Silverman, Josee Wolff, Rebecca Garfein and Mike Gellman, Marshall Portnoy,

In memory of Arthur Giglio's uncle: Josee Wolff

In memory of Melvin Lipsett, father of Sarah Lipsett-Allison: Linda Ecker

Linda and Marc Ecker on the birth of their grandson Cade Yael Jaffee

In memory of Robert Marcus: Rhoda Silverman, Gershon Sillins

Mark Elson on the birth of his grandson Alex Davis

Wishing Refuah Sh'leimah to Beny Maissner: FloFriedman, Ellen Stettner

Bob Abelson on his 80th Birthday

In honor of David Berger's wedding to Dror Chankin-Gould: Josee Wolff

Jen and Ryan Smith Roher on the birth of Elijah Hersch Roher-Smith

In honor of the birth of Linda Ecker's grandson, Code Yale Jaffee: Lori Frank

Roni Binder (ACC office staff) & Cory Campagna on their wedding

With thanks to Joel Colman for his generosity to my daughter, Rosie: Ellen Stettner

Rachel and Erik Kohlbrenner on their wedding

In honor of Ed Hersh: Rebecca Garfein and Mike Gellman

Rachel & Adam Spilker on their son Eiden Shir Spilker's being called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah

In honor of Gary Fradin: Rebecca Garfein and Mike Gellman

In honor of Bob Abelson's 80th birthday: Ellen Stettner

ACC Condolences: Our conference mourns...

In honor of the 2nd anniversary of Miriam Xiao-Ling Leora joining the Shuchat-Marx family: Hayley Kobilinsky

In honor of Mikhail Manevich's 20th anniversary with Washington Hebrew Congregation: Susan Berkson

Cantor Carl Naluai, Jr., z"l

Cantor Henry Theilheimer, z"l

Lucy Simons David, z"l, mother of Alane Katzew

Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, z"l

Mildred Cohen, mother of Rabbi Judy Cohen-Rosenberg

Bertha Frankel, grandmother of Rachel Stock Spilker and Jeffrey Stock

Barry Serota, z"l

Robert Marcus, z"l, father of Donna Faye Marcus

Sonia Abrams, z"l, mother-in-law of Mark Kligman

Rabbi/Cantor David Levy, z"l

Morton Siet, z'l, father of Wayne Siet

Fannie Hencken, z"l, mother of Dr. Joel Hencken, mother-in-law of Geoff Fine

Irving Hencken, z"l, father of Dr. Joel Hencken, father-in-law of Geoff Fine

Melvin Lipsett, z"l, father of Sarah Lipsett-Allison

Highlights from the November 2009 Meeting of the Executive Board in Toronto

- Policies were set for submissions to, and scope of, our new e-newsletter, Chadashot
- Policies were created for letting our membership know of the death of an ACC member in a timely manner
- Reports were heard from the Director of Placement, the Director of Member Support, the Director of Organizational Partnerships and the Managing Director
- Reports were heard from the JCPC, the Nominations Committee, the Pension trustees, the Endowment Chair, and upcoming Convention chairs
- A report was heard from our Treasurer on Conference finances
- A report was heard about the soon-to-be-published (from URJ Books and Music) Social Action songbook
- Our Ethics chair joined the meeting to discuss issues of convention travel and Discretionary Fund Usage (recommendations are still being formulated with input from our legal counsel)
- Membership Committee chairs conducted a brainstorm exercise on ways to connect more effectively with our more isolated (due to geography and/or other factors)

Quick Links

Click here for informaion on the ACC's [Pension Plan](#)
 Follow this link for [Convention](#) information
 For a complete look at the upcoming programs from the ACC, visit the [ACC Calendar](#)

Please feel free to contact the ACC with your questions or comments.

Find the ACC on Facebook and Twitter!

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Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Central Time
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and Twitter, find out the latest news, post greetings on the walls or just say hi!

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The office is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and all Jewish and legal holidays.



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