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Singing




Getting Excited about Convention? We are ... and here's why!

* Opening Night Program: "Tear Down the Walls" with Rick Recht & Guests.

* Scholars-in-Residence Caroline Figiel and Danny Jones; Benjie- Ellen Schiller; and Stephen Richards.

A Final Note

Kay Greenwald, President

This will be my last Koleinu column as president of the ACC. It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve in this role over these last three years. At our upcoming convention in Memphis, I will do my best to sum up the recent accomplishments of the ACC and all of you who give of your time, talent and treasure to this amazing organization. For those of you who will not be in Memphis, become a fan of the American Conference of Cantors-Guild of Temple Musicians Convention Facebook page to see our daily updates, and to post your own comments. You can find the link here: 

This year's convention is taking great shape. We already have more registrants for Memphis than we did at this time last year for Chicago. If you have not yet registered and you intend to join us, you can follow this link to the [registration page](#) right now. We are looking forward to the scholarship of Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller, Cantor Steve Richards, and Caroline Figiel and Danny Jones. There will be an opening concert featuring Rick Recht's "Tear Down the Walls" program with local Memphis choirs, a concert highlighting Jewish composers with a jazz or blues flair at Temple Israel, and a focus on Social Action. Moreover there will be numerous peer led workshops on subjects such as synagogue bands, cantors at camp, working with special needs children and "best practices" in lifecycle officiation. As always we will hear the newest works from our esteemed composer colleagues and the newest publications from Transcontinental. Last, but not least, we will eat barbecue and enjoy Southern hospitality!

In addition to all of the fun, collegiality and scholarship that our upcoming convention will offer us, of course, there is work to be done. During our plenary sessions we will approve the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, we will learn about our Fundraising and Development strategies, we will hear from our Pension Chair and the Fidelity staff, as well as our Endowment Chair. Furthermore, we will have an essential and exciting opportunity to vision with our incoming president, Susan Caro. Most importantly, we will install our new officer team. I am thrilled with the team our nominating committee has put together, and I look forward to the next three years as we work with them to accomplish great things.

This officer election cycle was the first under our newly revised Constitution and By-Laws. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Constitution Committee and all of you who voted in favor of the election changes during our plenaries in San Francisco. Having our officers elected 5 months earlier than in previous election cycles has made the officer transition smoother than ever before. Each of our Vice Presidents has been at work with the person taking over her/his portfolio, gradually introducing the new Vice President to each aspect of his/her new leadership position. In addition, our Treasurer has been working with our Treasurer elect, our Secretary has been in frequent contact with our Secretary elect, and Susan Caro and I are working together closely. Each of our newly elected

* Workshops, including: Taking it Home-Social Justice Programming for Cantors; Music Technology in the Synagogue; A Vision of Holiness-Working with Children of Special Needs; New Composers Workshops focusing on both Choral and Solo music. Synagogue Bands.

* Late-Night Entertainment!

* A rockin' Closing Night Banquet!

* Concerts!

* First Timers/Buddy Program Kick-off!

* Premiere of "Shabbat Cycle," the winning composition for the Guild of Temple Musicians Young Composers Award, composed by Russell Nadel.

* Presentation of the 1st Generation to Generation (L'dor v'dor) award to Jeremiah Klarman, a 17-year-old high school student and member of Temple Emanuel in Newtown, Mass., for his settings of "R'tzei" and "Rom'mu." The Generation to Generation program is a joint effort of the American Conference of Cantors, the Guild of Temple Musicians and the URJ Joint Commission on Worship, Music and Religious Living.

Coming early ... or leaving a day or two after the end? Consider enjoying the Memphis area!

* The Peabody Ducks: right in our hotel ... they parade through the lobby daily at 11:00 am and 5:00 pm.

* Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum: This Smithsonian affiliate tells the story of the birth of rock 'n' roll and soul music from Elvis to BB King and others.

* Beale Street Historic District: One of America's most famous musical streets with three blocks of restaurants, nightclubs and shops.

Two Awards to be Presented at 2010 ACC/GTM

officers will hit the ground running, and that is a very good thing for the ACC.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the trust you have invested in me over the last three years. I am grateful to each and every one of you for your dedication to the ACC, for the good work you do for the American Cantorate, and for your great love for our Jewish Community.

In peace, blessing and song,

Kay

ACC/GTM Convention Fundraising Efforts

As chair of the ACC/GTM Memphis Convention fund raising committee, I have spoken with many of you to ask that you give generously to help support our convention this summer with underwriting and scholarship support.

This has been a painful year for many of us. Temple budgets are eliminating convention lines, salaries are frozen, many of our colleague' jobs are being eliminated or downsized. Today, right now, is the right time to give to our organization if you are able. Your donation is needed now more than ever.

I want to thank all those who have given generously and urge those who can, to respond with a gift today.

We have a matching gift promised by one of our ACC cantors in our organization of \$1,000 provided we can raise an additional \$1,000 of new money for the Memphis Convention. I am delighted to report that we have reached that goal. How wonderful would it be for yet another of our colleagues to take up a similar challenge - maybe it will be you?

If you step up - and have your own gift doubled in size - you can ensure that our Memphis Convention will be a financial success.

Many who can not be in Memphis have voiced their desire to be in Boston next year. By giving today, you help ensure that our Boston Convention will begin in the black.

Wishing you all a sweet spring and looking forward to seeing you in June.

David Margules, 2010 Convention Fundraising Chair

Placement, Participation and Convention

One of the catch words, you'll find in almost every congregational placement application is 'participation': generally meaning that congregations are looking for "A cantor who encourages participation, congregational singing and involvement." I'm not sure that it's always been the case, but certainly within the past 20 years or so, many members of our synagogues wish to express themselves and their connection to Judaism by participating in an active way during services.

At my congregation, we have adults and children who read from the Torah, chant Haftarah, sing parts of the services, and even give sermons. One of the challenges I've faced is the issue of equality. True, some of our congregants are more financially supportive and some others have wonderful voices. For many congregants,

Convention in Memphis

Two awards will be presented at this year's Convention.

The first Generation to Generation award, a joint program of the Guild of Temple Musicians, the American Conference of Cantors and the Joint Commission on Worship, Music and Religious Living of the Union for Reform Judaism, will be presented to Jeremiah Klarman, a 17-year old high school student and a member of Temple Emanuel in Newton, MA. Mr. Klarman wrote two pieces, "R'tzei" and "Rom'mu," that demonstrated the required creation of beautiful melody combined with sensitivity to the setting of Jewish liturgical text.

The second award, the Guild of Temple Musicians' Young Composer's Award will be presented to Russell Nadel, a K-6 music teacher at Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School in Alexandria, for his Song Cycle for solo and piano consisting of three pieces "related in thought and character" that can be performed as separate pieces or together, with or without a narrator.

ACC Simchas: Our conference rejoices with

...

Susan Adelman Bortnick and David Bortnick on the birth of their daughter Eliya Braeden

Mia Fram Davidson and Josh Davidson on the birth of their daughter, Mikaela Benjie

Jason and Amy Rosenman on the birth of their daughter, Samantha Ann

Jeffrey and Jaimee Saxe on the birth of their daughter, Shoshana Priva

Sandy Sherry and Rich Pilatsky on the birth of their granddaughter, Alden Green Sherry

Jaime Shpall and Marcel

participation on the bimah is an opportunity to shine in front of friends and family, while for others it's more about finding a tactile connection with their Judaism.

These kinds of issues are not dissimilar to the ones our Conference has faced for many years with regards to participation in our annual convention. Of course, we'd like to be able to showcase everyone who wishes to sing in a concert, lead Tefilla, or present a workshop. Unfortunately, with limited time available, it's just not always possible.

To respond to these issues in a definitive and clear fashion, Susan Caro and I, along with the great wisdom of Janice Roger, John Planer and the joint ACC-GTM CAC Task Force, assembled a document, known as the "Convention Protocols". It is based on both years of actual practice at our conventions and substantial dialogue among both organizations. The essence of this document is to ensure fairness, consideration and process for every member of the ACC and the GTM. The document was vetted in detail by the officer team, presented to the board for further deliberation and amendment, and unanimously approved by the ACC board in 2009. This document was also approved by the Board of the GTM that same year.

The Convention Protocols document is used by every convention planning committee, containing many important guidelines. Two of the points which I would like to highlight here include giving priority for concert participation and/or tefilla leadership to those members who have not been featured performers in either the past three conventions or two national biennials.

I encourage you to read through the full text of the Convention Protocols document, which you will find on our web page under Governing Documents-ACC Manuel Of Policies & Procedures. We are constantly reevaluating and working to improve all of our policies and procedures. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Memphis, or we can always chat by email or phone.

Warmly,

Mark Goldman
Vice President

Chai Donations (as of May 21, 2010)

In memory of Phala Fuller: Sharon Kohn

In memory of Fannie Hencken: Susan Caro

In memory of Wayne Siet's father: Susan Caro

In memory of Bessie Dallen: Susan Caro

In memory of Mina Levin: Alan and Christine Levin

In memory of Frank Blumenthal: Susan Caro

In honor of Cantor Richard Cohn: Janice B. Footlik

In memory of Chelsea King: Lauren Bandman, Susan Caro

In honor of Linda Ecker: Chuck and Barbara Holdaway

In memory of Louise Levin: Susan Caro, Norman and Claudia Levin

Bergmann on their birth
of their twin children,
Ella and Sam

Natalie and David Young on
their birth of their daughter,
Isabella Jordyn

Michael Davis and Gilit
Abraham, on the birth of their
daughter, Ariella Rebecca

ACC Condolences: Our conference mourns...

Chelsea King, z"l, cousin
of Kay Greenwald

Ruth Lerner, z"l, aunt of
Judith Seplowin

David Salzman, z"l, father
of Lori Salzman

Betty Wurtzel, z"l, mother
of Ruth Katz Green

Lee Parker, z"l,
grandmother of
Susan Caro

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latest news, post
greetings on the walls or
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and link to the
American Conference of
Cantors-Guild of Temple
Musicians Convention Page

Twitter:
accantors

Quick Links

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the ACC's Pension Plan](#)
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Convention information](#)
[For a complete look at the](#)

In memory of Louise Levin

In honor of Sandy Boodman's birthday: Penny and Jeff Milner

In memory of David Salzman, father of Cantor Lori Salzman: Michael Shochet

In memory of Freda and Charles Watnick: Jennifer Kahal

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

In memory of Robert Marcus: Rhoda Silverman, Gershon Sillins

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

In honor of Cantor Tanya Greenblatt: Barbara MacArthur

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

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

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

In honor of Ed Hersh: Rebecca Garfein and Mike Gellman

In honor of Gary Fradin: Rebecca Garfein and Mike Gellman

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

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

Highlights from the March 2010 Executive Board Meeting

- A Motion was passed recognizing and commending all of the cantors and GTM members who have participated, or will participate, in Campership Concerts this year

- A Motion was passed stating that Azkararot at the ACC/GTM conventions be reserved for members in good standing, that Azkararot should be 2-3 minutes in length and submitted to the Convention Tefillah chair in writing two weeks prior to the start of Convention. Proper use of the title "Cantor," as defined in the ACC/GTM joint directory shall be observed.

- A Motion was passed to allow graduates of the Academy of Jewish Religion - California to apply for membership in the ACC

- Reports were delivered from the Managing Director, the Director of Member Services, the Director of Placement and the Director of Organizational Partnerships

upcoming programs from the ACC, visit the [ACC Calendar](#)

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Notes Worth Knowing logo



- A report was delivered by the Chair of the Joint Cantorial Placement Commission

- Reports were delivered from the Committee for Continuing Education, and the Fundraising and Development Committee

- The Vatikim Video Project is ongoing

- The Membership Committee has several new projects in development regarding the way we engage our membership with each other and with the activities of the Conference

- Contracts were renewed for our staff whose contracts were finished this year (Rachel Turry Roth, Barbara Ostfeld and Jodi Schechtman)

- New policies covering Convention/Biennial reimbursement, mileage reimbursement and travel allowances for the ACC professional staff were added to the ACC "Policies and Procedures Manual"

- A report was delivered by the president of the GTM

- A report was delivered by the Co-Chairs of the ACC Vatican Concert Committee. This concert will take place in November of 2010 and is being arranged at the invitation of the Vatican.

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

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