

CANTOR SUSAN A. WEHLE

Beloved by her congregation and the broader Jewish and Buffalo communities, Susan A. Wehle served as cantor for Temple Beth Am in Amherst from 2002 until her untimely death in the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407 in February. She also helped to coordinate a summer program for Jewish, Muslim and Christian children. Before TBA, she was a cantorial soloist at Temple Sinai in Amherst.

Net proceeds from this performance will benefit the Susan Wehle Memorial Fund at Temple Beth Am

Program coordinated by Cantor Penny S. Myers

Sponsored by:

Temple Beth Tzedek, Temple Beth Am, Temple Beth Zion, Temple Sinai and Congregation B'nai Shalom

An Evening With The Cantors

A CANTORIAL CONCERT

*OF SACRED AND SECULAR PIECES
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF*



Susan A. Wehle

*Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009 * 28 Cheshvan 5770
7 p.m.*

Temple Beth Tzedek, Amherst N.Y.

CONCERT PROGRAM

-- Sacred Pieces --

“Sisu et Yerushalyim” by Bonia Shur
Ensemble

“Behold How Good it is/Hinei Mah Tov” by Lisa Levine
Barbara Ostfeld

“Shema Koleinu” by Max Helfman
Gerald Debruin

“Retzei Adonai Eloheinu” by Stephen Richards
Sharon Colbert

“Modim Anachnu Lach” by Alisa Pomerantz-Boro
Mark Spindler

“Havein Yakir Li” by B. Schulssinger
Penny Myers

“Yiru Eynenu” by Shalom Secunda
Irwin Gelman

“Eilu Devarim” by Jacob Rappaport
Audrey Kaufman

Barbara J. Ostfeld

Cantor Ostfeld is history's first professional woman cantor. She was invested by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, School of Sacred Music (HUC-JIR, SSM) in June 1975. In September 2002, Cantor Ostfeld was appointed placement director of the American Conference of Cantors (ACC). She served Temple Beth Am of Buffalo from 1990 through 2002. From 1976 through 1988, she served Temple Beth-El of Great Neck as cantor. In March 2000, as she marked 25 years of congregational service, she received an honorary doctorate in Sacred Music from HUC-JIR. Cantor Ostfeld is married to Todd M. Joseph and has two children, Jordana Horowitz and Aleza Horowitz.

Mark Spindler

Cantor Spindler was born and raised in Scranton, Pa. As a young child, he was very active in his synagogue. After becoming Bar Mitzvah, Cantor Spindler assisted the cantor in teaching the children how to read from the Torah. He entered Yeshiva University and its Cantorial School, and graduated from Yeshiva with a B.A. in Music and a Cantorial Diploma. While in New York he also pursued vocal training. After serving two congregations in New Jersey, in 1987 Cantor Spindler took the position as cantor of Temple Shaarey Tzedek, now Temple Beth Tzedek. Cantor Spindler and his wife Leona are proud parents of Anne and even prouder grandparents of Lily.

Nancy Townsend

Pianist Nancy Townsend has appeared in recital throughout the United States, including Columbia Artists Community Concert tours of the American West & Southwest. She is a frequent master class pianist and has collaborated with Licia Albanese, Gilda Cruz-Romo, Sherrill Milnes, Italo Tajo, Maureen Forrester, and John Alexander. She has been pianist with the Metropolitan Opera National Council since 1980, and is official pianist for the JoAnn Falletta International Guitar Concerto Competition. She was assistant conductor to Christopher Keene at Artpark for many years, where she also directed productions of Big River, Oklahoma, and A Chorus Line. She has worked with numerous opera companies, including El Paso Opera, Opera Festival of New Jersey, Opera Rochester, Greater Buffalo Opera, Nickel City Opera, and Erie Opera Theatre. She is presently a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Theatre & Dance at University at Buffalo.

Benjamin Z. Maissner

Cantor Maissner is cantor and music director of Holy Blossom Temple. With degrees from the Hebrew Union College of Sacred Music and Temple University, he is renowned for his knowledge of both secular and liturgical music. Cantor Maissner has mastered a variety of musical styles ranging from Jewish Renaissance and early Hebrew Art Music to contemporary Canadian, American, and Israeli compositions. He is also Conductor and Music Director of *Lachan*, Toronto's Jewish chamber choir. A versatile performer himself, Cantor Maissner has been a featured soloist in such theatres as the Mann Auditorium in Jerusalem and New York's Carnegie Hall. He has also served as musical consultant for documentaries, including *To Mend the World* and *The Man Who Hid Anne Frank*. Cantor Maissner teaches and lectures extensively. He has been Cantor-in-Residence at the Hebrew Union Colleges in New York, Cincinnati, and Jerusalem. In March 2001, he was recognized with an honorary doctorate in music from the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion.

Penny S. Myers

Cantor Myers, a native Buffalonian, has been serving Temple Beth Zion since October 2006. Penny spent three years as Cantorial Soloist at Temple Sinai in Amherst; prior to that, she was Cantorial Soloist at Judea Reform in Durham, N.C. While she served Judea Reform, Penny worked as a music teacher at an inner-city elementary school in Durham, N.C. where she was a nominee for Teacher of the Year in 2000. She received her BA in Vocal Performance from Buffalo State in 1996. Penny went on to receive her M.A in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1999. Penny is a member of the Guild of Temple Musicians, NATE for Jewish educators, and Women's Cantor Network, and is currently in the process of completing her certification in the Cantors Assembly of the Conservative Movement. She also performs around the Western New York community with the klezmer band BUPKES. Penny is married to the neurologist Dr. Bennett Myers and they reside in West Amherst with their three children; Hunter, Saul, and Corrinne.

-- Secular Pieces --

"Somewhere" from West Side Story
Irwin Gelman

"A Duple" by Rabbi Levi Yitzchok of Berditchev
Penny Myers

"The Grove of Eucalyptus" by Naomi Shemer
Barbara Ostfeld

"The Impossible Dream" from Man of LaMancha
Gerald Debruin

"Im Eyn Ani Li" by Isabelle Ganz
Sharon Colbert

"Duetto Gatti" by G. Rossini
Two CAT-ors

"Man of LaMancha" from Man of LaMancha
Mark Spindler

"Yibaneh Hamikdash" by Mordechai Yardeni
Audrey Kaufman

The program will conclude with a medley of Susan Wehle's(z'l) favorite pieces by Debbie Friedman and Linda Hirschhorn

PERFORMERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Sharon Eve Colbert

Cantor Colbert is the cantor at Temple Beth Am in Williamsville, and the successor to the late Cantor Susan Wehle. Cantor Colbert recently arrived in Western New York from Houston, Texas. Cantor Colbert flew weekly from Houston to Los Angeles for four years in order to pursue her studies at the Academy for Jewish Religion. She was invested as a Hazzan and received a Master of Jewish Sacred Music degree on May 25, 2009. She also holds a *Summa Cum Laude* degree from the University of Houston in Psychology and Human Development/Family Systems. Before she began her formal cantorial training, Cantor Colbert was active in Houston's Congregation Brith Shalom, where she served as a Shabbat service leader, choir president, and cantorial soloist. More recently, she was the student cantor and co-officiant for High Holiday services at Temple Sinai in Buffalo and at the Jewish Information Center of Houston. She has also served as a substitute chaplain for the Houston-area Jewish Family Service. Cantor Colbert is married to former Texas State Representative, Paul Colbert. She is the proud mother of Joy Lopez (Anthony Lopez) and 19 year old Nathan, a mechanical engineering major at the University of Houston Honors College. Sharon also has two sweet granddaughters, Emily 8 years old and Ashley, 5 years old.

Gerald DeBruin

Cantor DeBruin was born in London, England, and received his religious education in Buffalo. He was a member of the Temple Beth El Choir from 1945 through 1949, and was named cantor of the Temple in 1950, a position he maintained for over 50 years. He trained with the late composer-arranger and choir director Samuel Luskin, and received an honorary degree of Doctor of Music from the Jewish Theological Seminary in January 2002. During his career, he has taught more than 1,250 children, as well as many adults, for their Bar and Bat Mitzvot. In addition to fulfilling his duties as part of the Temple clergy, he has appeared with the Buffalo Philharmonic and Buffalo Civic Orchestras and made numerous appearances on radio and television. He has recorded religious music for the High Holy Days and festivals, as well as

performing for organizations. He has also been soloist for various Masonic organizations for 40 years. Cantor DeBruin served on the Executive Committee of the Cantors Assembly of America, co-chairing their Convention Management Committee for many years. Upon his retirement, Cantor DeBruin became Cantor Emeritus of TBE, and now TBT. Cantor DeBruin and his wife, Belle, who have been married for sixty-two years, reside in Amherst. Their children are Larry, Jeffrey, and Cheryl Wisniewski. He is the grandfather of four.

Irwin H. Gelman

Cantor Gelman was born into a long line of European cantors on his father's side. Growing up in Connecticut, he trained under his father, the late Cantor Charles Gelman, as well as Cantors Abe Brodach, Arthur Koret and Misha Alexandrovich in the areas of nusach (traditional melodic motifs used to set the mood in prayer), chazzanut (traditional cantorial chanting), and Yiddish art songs. He has held full-time or High Holiday pulpits in Connecticut, New York City, Des Moines, Syracuse, Buffalo and Chappaqua, N.Y., starting in 1972. Hazzan Gelman was invested by the Cantors Assembly in 1988. His public performances have included concerts of compositions in English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, French, and Italian, plus various operas and operettas, and Broadway-style musicals. Professionally, he is the Interim Chair of the Department of Cancer Genetics at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, President of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, and a board member of Hillel of Buffalo. His proudest achievements remain his two daughters, Audrey and Maris, his bride, Mara Koven Gelman, and his stepchildren, Noah and Maya.

Audrey Kaufman

Cantor Kaufman was the High Holiday Cantor for Temple Beth El in 2007 and again in 2008 for the first year of the newly formed Temple Beth Tzedek. More recently, she was the 2009 High Holiday Cantor at Temple Sinai. She has held positions as High Holiday Cantor in Florida and Winnipeg, Canada, and for six years at Temple Beth Sholom in Hamden, Conn. She has just completed 13 years leading services at Temple Sinai in Toronto.