



e-Koleinu

A Publication of the American Conference of Cantors
This issue: "Vidui: A Vision of the Future"

Koleinu Online

December 2010

The ACC responds to the Israel Fires

Chevrei,

Our hearts are heavy as the devastating fire rages in the Carmel Forest north of Haifa. As of this writing, over 40 lives have been lost, 8000 acres have burned, and the fire is still out of control.

The ACC quickly responded to Israel's call for help, and has already made an organizational contribution to the Carmel Fire-Israel Emergency Fund to assist the firefighters and aid the victims. If you have not done so already, please join us in making your own contribution.

Israel needs our help.

You can help on-line at <http://www.arza.org/news/israel/fund/index.cfm?> or send a check via post to: ARZA, 633 Third Avenue, 7th floor, New York, NY 10017.

Thank you.

With prayers of healing for all our Israeli brother and sisters,

Shannon McGrady Bane and Sarah Lipsett-Allison
Co-Chairs, ACC Social Action and Justice Committee

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The CCPD
(Committee for Continuing



From our President by Susan Caro

Rededication

As I sit down to write this, I have just pulled out the box with all of the homemade Chanukah decorations created by my children throughout the years. Although they are all young adults now, I will still put up these decorations, even though they might not be here to see them, as they are an important part of my Chanukah experience. As I catch glimpses of my children growing up in these paper and clay bits, I stay connected with the deeper meaning of this holiday. For me, Chanukah each year is about remembering an event in our collective Jewish past that reminds us to look toward the possibilities of the future; a dedication to celebrating our tradition in ways that will sustain us and strengthen us.

[\(Continued on website\)](#)

Periodically, Koleinu presents articles written from a variety of our members' perspectives. Please note that member submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the leadership of the ACC, but rather are intended to foster collegial discussion.



The Techno Cantor

This issue of Koleinu presents two articles about cantors employing new technology in their work. The first, from Linda Shivers, presents the use of on-line communication by cantors teaching their congregations' b'nei mitzvah. The second, from Regina Lambert-Hayut, describes innovations in cantors' music technology. The third, from Seth Warner, discusses how the rapid growth in technology has changed the cantorate forever. The topic has recently been discussed at length by our colleagues on our listserv, so we recommend your following up there.

Cantors and Skype by Linda Shivers

Like most b'nei mitzvah, Armond Filatov got his material and began his studies about a year before the big day. But unlike most students, his tutor Cantor/Rabbi Vicki Axe, was on a different continent. Armond's family, members of Vicki's congregation, was in France, and Vicki taught him from Connecticut via Skype, a popular computer program that allows users to place free video and voice calls over the internet.

[\(continued on website\)](#)

Technology and the Cantorate By Regina Lambert-Hayut

**Professional Development)
presents
"Shir Chadash"
coming soon to a location near
you!!**

"Shir Chadash" is a live workshop presented by some of the very best of our contemporary musical world including ACC cantors and some very special presenters (depending on location).

This workshop has two foci:

1. to present the newest camp repertoire, and
2. to help strengthen and develop teaching and songleading skills.

Please check the list for the location nearest to you and please RSVP if you will be attending:

Washington D.C.:
December 16 - 9:30 - 11:30
at Temple Emanuel
10101 Connecticut Ave.
Kensington, MD

Led by Rosalie Will Boxt
(this session will also be streamed on the internet for those who do not live close enough to a live location to participate, or who cannot make the live location nearest to them)

RSVP to Rosalie: cantorboxt@gmail.com

Boston:
January 23 (2011) - 1:30 - 5:30
at Temple Emanuel of Worcester
Led by Jeff Klepper and Ellen and Peter Allard
RSVP to Jeff at
jeffklepper@comcast.net

Chicago:
Jan. 26 (2011) - 10am - 12noon
at Beth Hillel Congregation
Bnai Emunah in
Wilmette, IL .
Led by Ross Wolman, Jen Frost, and Diane Yomtov.
RSVP to Ross at ross.wolman@gmail.com

NYC/Westchester/Long Island: Feb. 7 (2011) -
9am - 12noon
at Central Synagogue
New York City
Co-led by Ellen Dreskin,
Brad Hyman,
and Shira Kline.
RSVP to Ellen at ellendreskin@gmail.com

Florida:
Date TBD
at Ramat Shalom
11301 West Broward Blvd.
Plantation, FL
Led by Natalie Young, Lisa Siegel and Beth Schaeffer.

Technology is continuously changing and growing faster than most busy people can keep up with. Yet to stay on the cutting edge, we cantors need to know the latest and greatest in computer technology and social media. To help us, I chatted with Joel Eglash, developer of www.oysongs.com and the Eglash Creative Group, and drew on the workshop that Cantor Seth Warner and Joel presented on technology at the ACC-GTM convention in Memphis this past June.

Unfortunately, many synagogues are technologically behind the times. Our web sites are so 'ten years ago,' and we who dole out CDs are technological dinosaurs. There are a number of reasons why this is probably the case.

[\(continued on the website\)](#)

**High-Speed Technology Changes
By Seth Warner**

Technological advances in our world continue at a mind boggling rate. Just compare your current cell phone with your phone from five years ago. Chances are the differences between them are remarkable, especially with respect to size and the number of functions it can perform at once. Our congregational lives are no different - in the cantorate or any other business environment (non-profit or otherwise), staying aware of the ongoing "tech-evolution" can be quite a time consuming and daunting task. It seems as our technological world evolves, it does so at an increasingly rapid rate.

[\(continued on the website\)](#)



**Roman Adventure
By Todd Kipnis**

On November 16, I had the privilege to participate, along with 19 other members of the American Conference of Cantors, in a concert of Jewish sacred music, entitled "To God's Ears," at the Basilica Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri in Rome. When I first found out that I would be one of the cantors singing in this concert, I was beyond excited.

The purpose of the concert was to promote dialogue and greater understanding between Jews and Catholics. What greater way to achieve these goals than through music, a universal language? Music has the ability to build bridges and penetrate the soul in a way that nothing else can, and has the potential to bring members of these two religions together.

[\(Continued on website\)](#)

**The ACC Reaches out to our
Retired Cantors**

RSVP to Natalie at musicny521@aol.com

Los Angeles:
Date and leaders: TBD

New Jersey:
Date TBD
Tentatively set for
Livingston, NJ
Led by Jordan Franzel
and Leon Sher
RSVP to Jordan at jodu4369@aol.com

San Francisco:
Date and leaders TBD



Boston 2011: history, knowledge, personal growth

ACC-GTM Convention Scholars-in-Residence Announced!

During the 2011 Boston Convention, three world-renowned scholars will be joining members of the ACC and GTM. The scholars-in-residence are Anita Diamant, author; Joshua Jacobson, founder and director of Zamir Chorale Boston; and Rabbi Jeffrey A. Summit, the Neubauer Executive Director of the Hillel Foundation at Tufts University.

Registration information will be on its way to you soon! In the meantime, check out the [ACC's Convention page!](#)

ACC Simchas: Our Conference rejoices with ...

- Menachem Kohl, on the August birth of his grandson,
Gyora Michael Nadav
- Hayley Kobilinsky and Ben Poserow, on the August birth of their son, Samuel Hersch Poserow
- Rebecca Garfein and Mike Gellman on the birth of their son, Jacob Austin, who joins big brother Max Isaac
- Mary Rebecca Thomas and Matthew Moore, on the November birth of their daughter, Johannah Ateret Thomas-Moore.

By Susan L. Levine

A little more than a year ago I responded to the letter from our Membership Committee reaching out to us to find out what our needs might be and how the ACC could help. Spurred on by my changing circumstances of impending retirement, I felt compelled to ask about the resources of support within the ACC for retiring cantors. The response was swift, enthusiastic and heartwarming. Other than information posted on our website, there was no formal group gathering to lend support during the process of retirement. I was enlisted to help join in exploring what we could create together to meet that need ... and so the ACC Retired Cantors Network was born.

[\(continued on the website\)](#)

Highlights of the Executive Board Meetings October 31 - November 2, 2010

The Executive Board of the ACC met in Chicago from October 31 to November 2, 2010.

Actions included:

- We endorsed an updated document affirming our relationship with the GTM.
- We have ACC members active in a number of areas in the URJ: Lifelong Learning; Social Action and the RAC; Worship, Music and Religious Living; World Union for Progressive Judaism; District representation.
- Our Hadracha program of mentoring new cantors continues to grow and develop, with matches set up for all of the 2010 SSM graduates.
- Our Membership committee is developing a variety of ways to keep our members connected to one another, sharing similar areas of interests, needs or networking, with additional efforts this year coordinating support with our Vatikim Council for our Vatikim.
- We have opened the channels with HUC-SSM to invite and solicit students at the SSM to take advantage of our student membership category in the ACC, bringing them into our Conference earlier on in their cantorial journey.

There are also many exciting projects and some new initiatives on our horizon.

- Steven Weiss, on behalf of the Development and Fundraising Committee, unveiled the Torah Dedication Project to the Executive Board. We are so honored to be the recipients of this gracious gift from Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El, as Torah is at the heart of our work and profession. With opportunities for participation at every level, we are excited for all of our members and supporters to join the close to 100% participation of our Board in securing the future of the cantorate, the proceeds of which will be directed to our Endowment Fund.
- The Committee for Continuing Professional Development (CCPD) presented a comprehensive new program of recognition for our individual achievements in continued professional development and learning.
- The Board did a good deal of work in the area of how to succeed in changing times. This included a consideration of the responses and comments received from the Fall phone calls to our membership, a discussion about change utilizing the video and book [Who Moved My Cheese](#), and brainstorming about ways in which our work can build upon our strengths as an organization to respond to the changing realities of Jewish life in North America. This time for visioning helped us to identify three project areas for the Conference.

As these endeavors continue to take shape, we will continue to rely on you to become involved. The ACC Executive Board meets monthly by conference call, and three times a year in person. The members of the

Ad meah v'esrim!

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**Mazel tov and B'ruchim Ha-ba'im to the
Newest Members of the ACC!**

HUC-JIR/SSM 2010 Graduates

Tifani Katof Coyot
Galit Dadoun-Cohen
Maria Dubinsky
Leah Holland
Jason Kaufman
Donna Mashadi Azu
Rollin Simmons
Raina Sirotty Flowers
Star Trompeter

and those approved for Certification

Lynda Drescher
Leslie Friedlander

=====

Our Conference offers condolences to ...

- Gail Hirschenfang, on the death of her beloved cousin in August
- David Serkin-Poole, on the death of his beloved mother-in-law, Irene Cowing (mother of his life partner, Michael Serkin-Poole), in September
- Daniel Mutlu, on the death of his beloved father, Moiz Mutlu, in December

zichronam livrachah ... may their memories be a blessing

**Find the ACC on
Facebook and Twitter!**

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter, find out the latest news, post greetings on the walls or just say hi!

[Find us on Facebook !\[\]\(248b91fcdac4810ffd15cf33fb6aec6f_img.jpg\)](#)

for the ACC Page

and link to the
American Conference of Cantors-Guild
of Temple Musicians Convention Page

Twitter:
accantors

Quick Links

[Pay Your Dues ONLINE!](#)

[Click here for informaion on the ACC's](#)

Executive Board serve each of you; we welcome your input, feedback and participation in the work of the Conference.

Notice of Member Suspension

We regret to inform our membership that following a recommendation from the ACC Committee on Ethics and Appeals, the Executive Board of the ACC voted on November 1, 2010, to suspend Cantor Ron Broden for being in violation of the ACC Code of Ethics, Part 1, Section III, Article B.

**Organizational Statements: An ACC Policy
by Penny Kessler**

The following policy was approved at the meeting of the ACC Executive Board in November 2010.

As clergy committed to Judaism and Jewish Music, the membership of the American Conference of Cantors serves the diverse needs of the Jewish people. ACC members themselves represent a large range of political affiliations and religious observance. As the ACC mission statement states, "The American Conference of Cantors supports its members in their sacred calling as emissaries for Judaism and for Jewish music." The board and officers of the ACC represent the elected governing body of the ACC membership. The ACC mission statement affirms that the "ACC leadership draws upon the energies and aspirations of its individual members, while responding to the expressed needs of the larger membership and the Reform Movement." The ACC Constitution, By-Laws and Policy Manual represent the mutual trust upon which the officers, board and general membership of the ACC depend.

[\(Continued on website\)](#)

Chai Donations

Micah Parker Artworks in honor of Tanya Greenblatt
Rebecca Garfein and Mike Gellman in honor of Rachel Evans
Rebecca Garfein and Mike Gellman in honor of Tirza Arad
Sandra Kagel in honor of Linda Ecker
Jennifer Muldorf in honor of Linda Ecker
Diane and Sam Salzman in honor of Dr. Marc and Linda Ecker
Diane and Sam Salzman in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Milner
Penny Kessler in honor of Hayley Poserow
Penny Kessler in memory of David Serkin
Poole's Mother in Law, Irene Cowing
Perryne Anker
Roslyn Barak
Marie Betcher
Robert Bloch
Rosalie Boxt
Laura Croen
Ellen Dreskin
Frances Goldman
Donna Gordon
Rabbi Jon Haddon
Marcy Kadin
Abraham Jacobi
Alane Katzew
Barbara Lieberstein
Melvin Luterman
David Mannes
Sheldon Merel
Dr. Neil Newman
Mark Perman
Emily Pincus
Dr. Bruce Ruben

[Pension Plan](#)[Make a Chai Fund Donation](#)

For a complete look at the upcoming programs from the ACC, visit the [ACC Calendar](#)



Ann Sacks
Benjie Schiller
Elaine Shapiro
Linda Shivers
Gershon Silins
Debra Stein
Stephen Stein
Louise Treitman
Josee Wolff
Sol Zim

Shirim Ushkalim Donors

Larisa Averbakh
Lauren Bandman
Marina Belenky
Laura Croen
Delaware Valley Region Ensemble
Claire Franco
Kay Greenwald
Gail Hirschenfang
Boris Kazansky
Lilia Kazansky
Penny Kessler
Martin Levson
Amy Levy
Rachelle Nelson
New Jersey Concert Ensemble
Old York Road Temple-Beth Am - Abington, PA
Reform Cantors of Chicago
Lisa Segal
"To God's Ears" concert participants in honor of Claire Franco and Roslyn Barak
Steven Weiss
Elena Zarkh
Deborah Zecher

2010-2011 PLACEMENT LIST**December 6, 2010****TIER I - Up to 599 Member Units (open to all members)**

1. Las Vegas, NV - Temple Sinai (200) 12/21/09
2. Simsbury, CT - Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom (323) 8/3/10
3. North Miami Beach, FL - Temple Sinai of North Dade (550) 11/4/10
4. New Orleans, LA - Touro Synagogue (585) 11/18/10
5. Madison, CT - Temple Beth Tikvah (320) Limited Service 11/19/10
6. Aberdeen, NJ - Temple Shalom of Aberdeen (327) Limited Service 12/6/2010

TIER II - Up to 999 Member Units (applicants must have been invested/certified in 2008 or earlier)**TIER III - Over 1,000 Member Units (applicants must have been invested/certified in 2004 or earlier)**

1. Houston, TX - Congregation Beth Israel (1700) 8/12/10

HIGH HOLIDAY POSITIONS**CANTOR-IN-RESIDENCE POSITIONS****OTHER POSITIONS**

1. New York, NY - URJ-Director of NFTY 10/14/10
2. Philadelphia, PA - Program Coordinator of The Shalom Center 11/4/10
3. Ithaca, NY - Cornell Hillel Executive Director 11/9/10

POSITIONS WITHDRAWN

1. Neponsit, NY - West End Temple-Sinai (120) 6/24/10
Interim, Limited Service (15 hours weekly) - filled by student cantor
2. Deerfield, IL - Cong. B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim (960)
Assistant Cantor, 6/3/10 (position to begin on 1/3/11)
3. St. Kilda, AU - Temple Beth Israel (1,334) 12/28/09
(search suspended until 2012)

COMPLETED PLACEMENTS**PLACEMENTS REPORTED TO THE JCPC**

1. Las Vegas, NV - Temple Sinai (200) HHD-Adelle Nicholson
2. Hancock, MI - Temple Jacob HHD-Marina Belenky
3. Northbrook, IL - BJE, HHD-Jan Mahler

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

Please feel free to contact the ACC with your questions or comments
(info@accantors.org).

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Winter Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Central Time
Friday 8:00 am through 3:30pm, Central Time
The office is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and
all Jewish and legal holidays.

eKoleinu is a publication of the American Conference of Cantors,
Penny Kessler, Editor (penny.kessler@gmail.com)

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