

PROGRAM
Music Shabbat
Friday, June 5, 2009
Sivan 14, 5769

The Shoa Choir
Hazzan Avery Tracht
Erick Menig

<i>Janice Godschalk</i>	<i>Mireya Gonzalez</i>
<i>Valerie C. Henriquez</i>	<i>Daniel Krijt</i>
<i>Elise Krijt</i>	<i>Ethel Krijt</i>
<i>Frank Krijt</i>	<i>Judith Menig</i>
<i>Yvette Moreno</i>	<i>Jdith Prager</i>
<i>Frederik van Boetz</i>	<i>Rianne Plasier</i>

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Candle blessing – composer- Abraham Wolfe Binder, was a legendary synagogue composer, arranger, author, lyricist, conductor and educator. 1895-1966. He was native New Yorker, born in the Bronx in 1895. "Wolfe" (as his friends and family called him) was the most musically prolific of his 5 siblings in the music field. Abraham Wolfe Binder devoted himself to developing and exploring Jewish music in all its phases. He has many large, orchestral, chamber and choral compositions in his works, but he has composed in all forms. His synagogue choral works are well known and have become American synagogue standards.

Shabbat Hamalkah, Mi chamoche and Shabbat Shalom – composer – Bonia Shur. Since his appointment in 1974 as Director of Liturgical Arts, Bonia Shur has taught hundreds of rabbinical students. Composer Shur has had a unique impact on music in the Reform Jewish Movement in America. He has over 300 published compositions in use in the synagogues and on stage across the country and abroad and is a versatile composer. In addition to his vast liturgical repertoire, he has written for theater, television and film. In 1966 he collaborated with Johnny Mandel on the vocal score to the motion picture "The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming." In 1968, he received a National Television Academy Award for his music to the TV special, "Revolt in Mode'in. His orchestral music was played by the Israeli Radio Orchestra, Minneapolis Chamber Symphony and Cincinnati Chamber symphony. His choral works were performed and recorded among others by The Sarasota Chorale Symphonic Chorus, The Nova Singers of Florida, Oshkosh Chamber Singers, "The Rinat Choir of Israel," Chicago Children's Choir. Mr. Shur has an extremely diverse background; he was born in Latvia, escaped the Nazi invasion, fought in the Russian Army, emigrated to Israel, and lived on kibbutz for many years before coming to the United States in 1960. His music integrates and reflects the many diverse cultural heritages in which he has lived.

L'cha Dodi and Bar'chu – composer - Linda Brody Tsuruoka was born in the Bronx, attended local public schools and the prestigious High School of Music and Art. She received her BA and MA in music education from NYU and Queens College respectively, and began to teach music in the Valley Stream schools. In 1965, at summer camp, she met Ted (not yet Rabbi Ted) and they married in 1968. Linda taught music and Ted, a social worker, soon moved into administration at Planned Parenthood, ultimately becoming its CFO. They have two children, Jeff and Amy. Jeff married Ilene and Amy married Doug and they are the parents of two adored grandchildren: Sarah, 10, and Noah, 4. When Jeff was to begin Hebrew school, the family joined Temple Emanu-El of Lynbrook. Both children became b'nei mitzvah and were confirmed there. Linda and Ted became very active members. Ted (still not Rabbi Ted) wore many hats and eventually was temple president. Linda was a Sisterhood board member, a temple board member and the resident composer and show director. That connection continues to this day and Linda has done 28 shows with Temple Emanu-El of Lynbrook.

The rest, as they say, is history and Ted became Rabbi Ted and Linda, "The Rebbitzin." In their new roles, a whole world opened up when they came to Temple Isaiah. As a team, they jumped into temple life and quickly formed a warm, loving, close relationship with the congregation. Linda started the wonderful "Seat of Our Pants" in-house theater company and they have done three shows to date, with the promise of more to come. She has written personal songs for many congregants, and our choir has begun to learn some of her liturgical compositions as well. There are approximately 32 pieces in her liturgical connection. Recently, Linda's horizons expanded again when she began small-group piano lessons with severely disabled children at The Henry Viscardi School in Albertson. This experience has been mind opening for her, as these children can teach us about coping, dealing with and facing problems.

Sh'ma/V'ahavta – composer- Debbie Friedman (born c. DEBORAH LYNN FRIEDMAN 1952) is an American composer and singer of songs with Jewish religious content. She was born in Utica, New York but moved with her family to Minnesota at age 5. She wrote many of her early songs as a song leader at Olin-Sang-Ruby camp in Oconomowoc, WI in the early 1970s. Since her debut in 1971, she has published more than 19 albums. Her work is inspired by such diverse sources as Joan Baez, Peter, Paul and Mary, and a number of folk music artists. She uses English and Hebrew lyrics and writes for all ages. She survived a bout of multiple Sclerosis. In 2006 a movie was made about Debbie by producer Ann Coppel entitled "A Journey of Spirit". In 2007 Ms. Friedman accepted an appointment to the faculty of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's School of Sacred Music in New York where she will instruct both rabbinic and cantorial students.

Hashkivenu – composer- For 30 years Steve Dropkin has been actively involved in Jewish music. He began his songleading career with skill he learned at the Eisner Camp in Great Barrington, MA at the age of 14. In high school he was the Regional Songleader for the Jersey Federation of Temple Youth, a region of NFTY, the national youth organization of the Reform movement. That experience led to his inclusion on three of the NFTY "Songs NFTY Sings" record albums where Steve sang and played guitar. Steve has been a regular guest lecturer at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion School of Sacred Music in New York for over 10 years. His presentations on contemporary Jewish music have been heard by scores of cantorial students who have used his concepts to balance contemporary music with the more traditional Jewish modes. He has also been a guest panelist at the American Conference of Cantors national convention.

Even though Steve has been writing songs little more than 13 years, it is amazing how quickly his songs have found their way into the mainstream of Reform Jewish music. Many of his songs are already "standards" in Reform camps and religious schools, as well as in worship services. He is widely regarded as a major new composer of contemporary Jewish music and liturgy. Steve's songs have been heard on Tower Airlines' "in-flight" music programming. His powerful song, "If Not Now, When?" was chosen as the New Jersey State Anthem for the first World AIDS Day commemoration. He has been a finalist in the **American Jewish Song Festival**, as well as the **Zionist Organization of America Song Contest**. His composition "Hashkiveinu" was the winner of the first ever **Shalshelet Choral Song Contest**. **Transcontinental Music Publishing**, the largest publisher of Jewish music in the world, has included more than 20 of Steve's songs in numerous projects. You can find his work in "**The Complete Shireinu**", "**Shabbat Anthology I and II**" and in "**Manginot II**", a curriculum of children's music. His songs can also be found on the "**Ruach**" CD's series, (and the companion Ruach Songbooks) as well as a collection of music called "**The Nigun Anthology**". Steve is also a contributor to the new "**Torah Alive**" **Music Curriculum Project**. Two of Steve's major liturgical pieces (Shalom Rav and Oseh Shalom) have already been released by **Transcontinental Music** in choral settings for synagogue choir, and his third choral selection (Hashkiveinu) will be out this month. Steve has performed all over the United States, in England, and in Israel. Dropkin is considered to be a Master Songleader and teacher, having presented at numerous Jewish conferences and conventions. Steve is the founder of the **Birmingham Jewish Folk Choral**. He also serves as a part-time Cantorial Soloist at Temple Judea in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Steve has just released his 5th CD entitled "**On That Day**" (11 brand new and exciting songs!), fresh on the heels of his other solo CD's "**Innerpeace**" and "**Keep Our Hopes Alive**". Dropkin's first two CD's were recorded with his former trio, Ketzev.

V'shamru – composer – Cantor **Lisa Levine** was born and raised in Bakersfield, California, where she began singing and playing the guitar at the age of 8. She was a URJ (Union of Reform Judaism) camp song leader and active in the Reform Jewish youth movement. After earning her Bachelors Degree in Music from University California Irvine, she went on to Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, where she completed her Masters Degree in Sacred Music. She was invested Cantor in 1989 and served as Cantor / Music Director of Temple Shalom in Dallas, TX until 1996. From 1996 until July 2000, Lisa served as the Cantor / Music Director of Temple B'nai Jeshurun in Des Moines, Iowa. She was a co-founder and guest conductor of the "Des Moines Diversity Chorus," an interfaith community choir dedicated to promoting diversity and understanding. Her solo CD "Gems of the High Holy Days" was recorded live for Iowa Public Radio at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Des Moines. Lisa's original musical compositions appear in "The Complete Shireinu", "The Complete Chanukah Songbook," Synagogue 2000's "Songs of Healing" the CCAR's "Open Door Haggadah," "American Conference of Cantors Lifecycle Manual," Soundwriters' "Sounds of Torah" as well as "Complete Jewish Songbook II", "Shabbat Anthology II & IV", "Manginot II", "Torah Alive" and Klei Zemer band arrangements. Her solo album titled "Reaching For Peace", Friday Evening Service "Soulful Shabbat" and CD "My Songs for the Jews of Cuba" are her most recent releases. Lisa teaches yoga and is the creator and author of "Yoga Shalom" a unique Jewish worship experience for mind, body and spirit soon to be published by the URJ Press. She is currently the Cantor of Temple Shalom in Chevy Chase, Maryland and shares her life with her husband Andy and their children Emily and Louis.

Shalom Rav – composer – Ben Steinberg (Benjamin). Composer, conductor, organist, teacher. A soloist at 8 in the synagogue choir conducted by his father, Cantor Alexander Steinberg, he began conducting choirs himself at 12. At the RCMT 1948-51 and 1957-60 he studied composition with John Weinzweig, piano with Samuel Dolin, and voice with Weldon Kilburn. After teaching 1953-8 in public schools in the Toronto area and studying music education at the University of Toronto, he served 1961-4 as head of the music department at Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute and 1964-86 in the same capacity at Forest Hill Collegiate Institute, Toronto. He was director of school music 1950-60 and music director 1960-9 at Holy Blossom Temple, and in 1970 he became music director at Temple Sinai. His method for youth choirs, *Together Do They Sing* (New York 1961), was commissioned and published by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Steinberg's music includes five sacred services; works for choir and/or soloist and organ or orchestra; *The Vision of Isaiah* (1970) for tenor, choir, and organ or instrumental ensemble; *Yerushalayim* (1973) for soprano, choir, and orchestra; *Echoes of Children* (1979), a cantata for soloist, narrator, chorus, and orchestra (which won the International Gabriel Award and has twice been televised on PBS); and instrumental works including a suite for flute and string trio based on Israeli folksongs. Steinberg was invited by the city of Jerusalem to be an artist-in-residence in 1978 and 1980; he received the Kavod (Honour) Award of the Cantor's Assembly in 1983, and that same year received a composer's award from the American Harp Society for his *Suite for Flute, Viola and Harp* (1981). A number of temples, synagogues, and congregations in the USA commissioned some 18 works from Steinberg between 1980 and 1991. He has also received commissions from Paul Brodie (*Suite Sephardi* 1980), the Chamber Players of Toronto (*Suite for String Orchestra* 1983), and Lawrence Cherney (*Invocations* 1990). Baritone Richard Allen recorded several of Steinberg's works on the cassette *A Ben Steinberg Concert*. (ca 1989). Of Steinberg's music Michael Isaacson wrote, 'While conservative, pragmatic and always well-mannered, it is also gratefully mindful of its tradition in a deeply lyrical way' (*Journal of Synagogue Music*, June 1973). Steinberg has presented Jewish music on the CBC, has published articles on it, and has given many lecture-recitals on it in Australia, Canada, Japan, and the USA. He is a contributor to *EMC*, a member of the CLComp, and an associate of the Canadian Music Centre. His papers have been deposited at the University of Calgary.

Ose Shalom – Sephardic traditional composition - Sephardic music was born in medieval Spain, with cantigas being performed at the royal courts. Since then, it has picked up influences from across Spain, Morocco, Argentina, Turkey, Greece and various popular tunes from Spain and further abroad. There are three types of Sephardic songs -- topical and entertainment songs, romance songs and spiritual or ceremonial songs. Lyrics can be in several languages, including Hebrew for religious songs, and Ladino. These song traditions spread from Spain to Morocco (the *Western Tradition*) and several parts of the Ottoman Empire (the *Eastern Tradition*) including Greece, Jerusalem, the Balkans and Egypt. Sephardic music adapted to each of these locales, assimilating North African high-pitched, extended ululations; Balkan rhythms, for instance in 9/8 time; and the Turkish magam mode. Songs which are sung by women are traditionally sung while performing household tasks, without accompaniment or harmony. Tambourines and other percussion instruments are sometimes used, especially in wedding songs. Men have added oud and qanun to the instrumentation, and more modern performers incorporate countless other imported instruments. The early 20th century saw some popular commercial recordings of Sephardic music come out of Greece and Turkey, followed by Jerusalem and other parts of the Eastern Tradition. The first performers were mostly men, including the Turks Jack Mayesh, Haim Efendi and Yitzhak Algazi. Later, a new generation of singers arose, many of whom were not themselves Sephardic. Gloria Levy, Pasharos Sefardies, Flory Jagoda and Janet & Jak Esim Ensemble are popular Eastern Tradition performers of this period. Gerard Edery, Stefani Valadez, Françoise Atlan and Yasmin Levy and are among the new generation of singers bringing a new interpretation to the Ladino/Judeo-Spanish heritage and, in the case of Levy and Edery, mixing it with Andalusian Flamenco.

Please join us in the singing of the V'ahavta prayer this evening in English:

And you must love Adonai, your G-d, with your whole heart, with every breath, with all you have. And take these words that I command you now to heart, now to heart, now to heart.

And you shall teach them intently to your children and you shall speak of them when sitting in your house, and walking on the road, when lying down and getting up, and when lying down and getting up.

And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and keep them visible before your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, and on your gates.

That you should remember and do all of My commandments, and be holy unto your G-d, unto your G-d, unto your G-d.