



Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Honoring the

SHIR TIKVAH CHOIR

J U L Y 2 6 , 2 0 2 4
2 1 T A M U Z , 5 7 8 4



1424 183rd St, Homewood, IL

Musical Highlights

TAVO LEFANECHA

(MAX JANOWSKI)

GERMAN KEDUSHAH

(LOUIS LEWANDOWSKI)

SH'MA KOLEINU

(MAX JANOWSKI)

WHEN YOU'RE A JEW

(WEST SIDE STORY PURIM SPIEL-
MUSIC BY LEONARD BERNSTEIN)

FESTIVAL (HABONIM) KADDISH

(TRADITIONAL CHASSIDIC)



Choir Members Performing Tonight

MIKE ANGER

LARRY BURROWS

LARRY COHAN

CHUCK DREYFUSS

SHERRY DREYFUSS

CAROLE FEFFERMAN

DOUG KOLTUN

JUDY LEVY

MARSHA LOTZ

TAFFY MACK

RON RUTZKY

BARB SCHWARZ

PENNY SHNAY



Choir Members, Klezmedics, and Purim Spiel Through the Years

JUSTIN AKUJIEZE

MIKE ANGER

BARRY BAYER

SUSAN BAYER

LARRY BURROWS

JOEL CAHAN

LARRY COHAN

BARBARA COHAN

NIKI CUMMINGS

BRIAN CUMMINGS

SHERRY DREYFUSS

CHUCK DREYFUSS

SAM FARBSTEIN

ELLIE FARKAS

CAROLE FEFFERMAN

NANCY FRIEDMAN

HOWARD GERBER

FAWN GOTTLIEB

DAVID GOTTLIEB

SHIRLEY ISRAEL

JOHN KERN

DOUG KOLTUN

BILL LAZARUS

DEBBIE LEVINSON

JUDY LEVY

MARSHA LOTZ

TAFFY MACK

JEREMY MARKS

RENEE MCDOWELL

ELLEN MCGEADY

JALUSSEE MILLER

LIBBY MORSE

HENRY NUSSBAUM

SUE PARSONS

MARTY RABINOVITZ

RHODA ROSEN

ALAN RUBY

RON RUTZKY

BARB SCHWARZ

LEAH SHER

PENNY SHNAY

BARB SLIVNIK

VICKY TUROFF

ILENE UHLMANN

JEFF VIRENE

CHERYL WARSHAW



In Loving Memory of Choir Members We Have Lost

TRUDE ALTMAN

CANTOR HENRY ALTMAN

RUTH ARKISS

LOLITA COHEN

EVE COLBERT

KURT DAVID

BURT GARBOW

SYBELLE HEILBRUNN

SOL ISRAEL

IRWIN MIRSKY

GAE MOLLIN

JIM MOLLIN

ALAN NARTER

CONRAD NELSON

RENEE POLLACK

BEVERLY RODIN

BERNICE RICH

BEN SHORE

MIKE SINGER

CAROL SPECTOR

TOBY SUSSAN

MIRIAM WEBSTER

LIONEL WEBSTER

NORMAN WEIL



Musical Musings: Choir Members Reflections

-Judy Levy-

I was encouraged to join the choir by Trudi Altman and Kurt David (both of blessed memory). It was a wonderful and enriching experience. Enjoying the company of choir members and directors was very special. Enhancing our services with music was always meaningful. We even had special “on high” seating in the choir loft. The German Kedusha was unique to our Synagogue and we all looked forward to singing it with the congregation. I will always appreciate the gifts of Jim Mollin (of blessed memory) and Sherry Dreyfus. Their partnership with us and with our exceptional Rabbis Carmit Harari, Ellen Dreyfus, and Leo Wolkow (of blessed memory) was always outstanding.

-Dahlia Podwol-

High Holiday Cantor for Am Echad and Conservative Service at Shir Tikvah

It was my privilege and joy to serve as the High Holiday cantor for 21 years.

I tried to preserve the traditional melodies familiar to the congregation and also, from time to time, introduce new melodies that in time the congregation enjoyed chanting along with me. Our congregation was truly a singing congregation.

At the end of the 20th century, Israeli composer Yair Rosenblum wrote a new chant for the prayer U-Netaneh Tokef -“The Sacred Power of the Day”. I introduced it in 2005 to the congregation and it became our melody during the remainder of my tenure. Another new melody was the haunting chant to psalm 23 that I added to our Yizkor service. Toward the conclusion of the service, we all looked forward to chanting the spirited melody for the prayer “Ha Yom”, introduced by Rabbi Podwol.

Serving as the High Holiday cantor was a memorable and fulfilling experience for me. I thank Am Echad for giving me this opportunity and for their loyal support.



-Libby Morse-

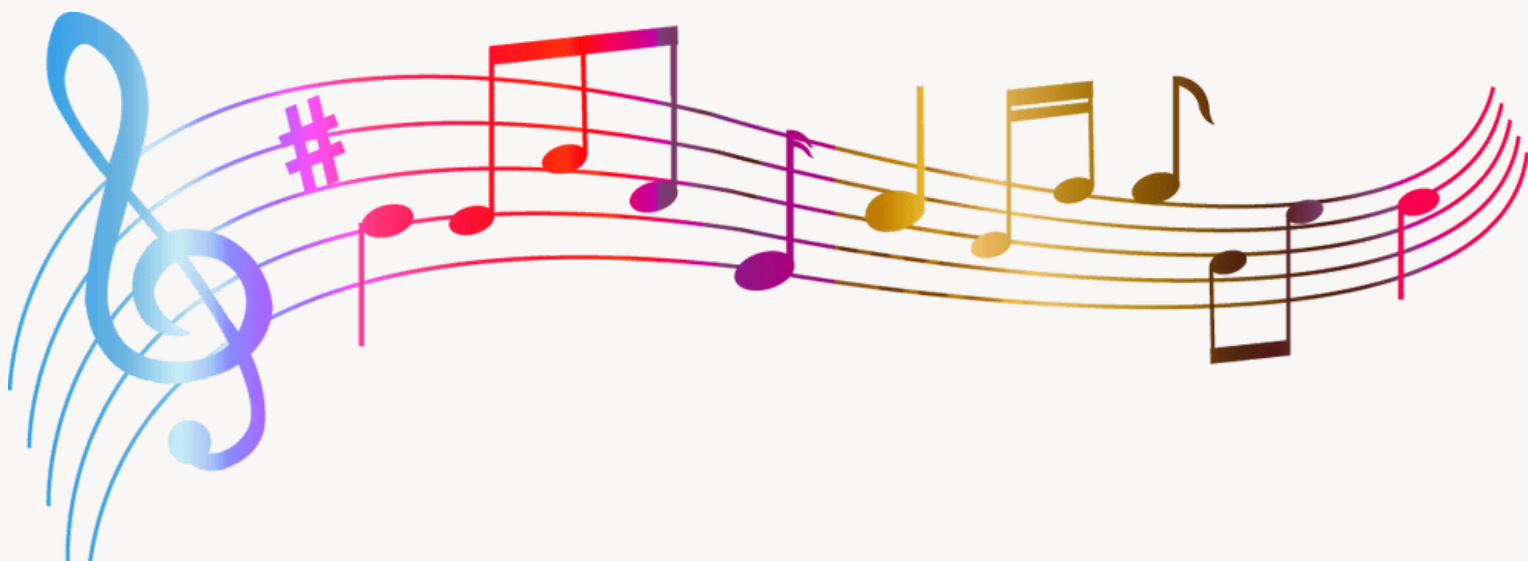
I first got involved with the choir by trying out for a Purim Spiel. Thanks to luck and other people's busy schedules, I was cast as Esther! I was always in choirs and musicals during my school years and even directed college and community theatre shows, but I hadn't been on stage or sung in a long time, and it was so much fun. I don't recall the exact year, but I do know the spiel was a Beatles parody and I rewrote some of the dialogue to make a joke about then-candidate George W. Bush and his iffy service in the National Guard.

I hadn't planned on joining the choir: we didn't have one at my small hometown conservative synagogue in Oak Ridge, TN and I always associated choirs with fancy-schmancy temples. But I said yes when Jim Mollin called. At my first rehearsal I was handed a stack of music that had been photocopied at least 57 times with names of various choristers scratched out, scrawled in, and scratched out again; any Ashkenazi transliterations had been fixed by hand. It was barely legible. But the music was beautiful; the first piece I sang with the choir was "Enosh" at a special service in the Miller Beach synagogue.

Over the years, I appeared in more spiels and even wrote one or two. More important, I was immersed in a world of Jewish liturgical music that I hadn't even know existed--from medieval times and turn of the century Germany and England; by the extraordinary Max Janowsky; and by more modern composers like Mark Lipson, whose *Mi Chamocha* remains a favorite of mine.

Choir rehearsals at BYBS were less than organized and never started on time. There were contentious moments because...well, we're Jews and that's what we do. But what a gift it was to be able to leave the mishigas of the working world behind once a week, turn on an entirely different part of my brain, and make music in community! I feel lucky to have known my fellow choristers, to have had them sing at my kids' b'nai mitzvah, and to have known and worked with Jim Mollin, an infinitely talented musician of infinite patience. Thank you, choir!

P.S. An active choir was a synagogue must-have when we moved to suburban Philadelphia. At Temple Sholom in Broomall, I sing soprano (they actually needed more sopranos!) played Esther in my first spiel (in fact, our cantor, Jamie Marx, is known as The Spiel Guy), and the choir rehearsals never start on time. I feel right at home.



-Doug Koltun-

From the time our family joined TBY in 1990, it was evident that music played a key role in synagogue life. Cantor Henry Altman had such a wonderful voice that just listening to him during services put me in a spiritual mood. When Sherry Dreyfuss and subsequently Jim Mollin conducted the choir, I was inspired to sing along.

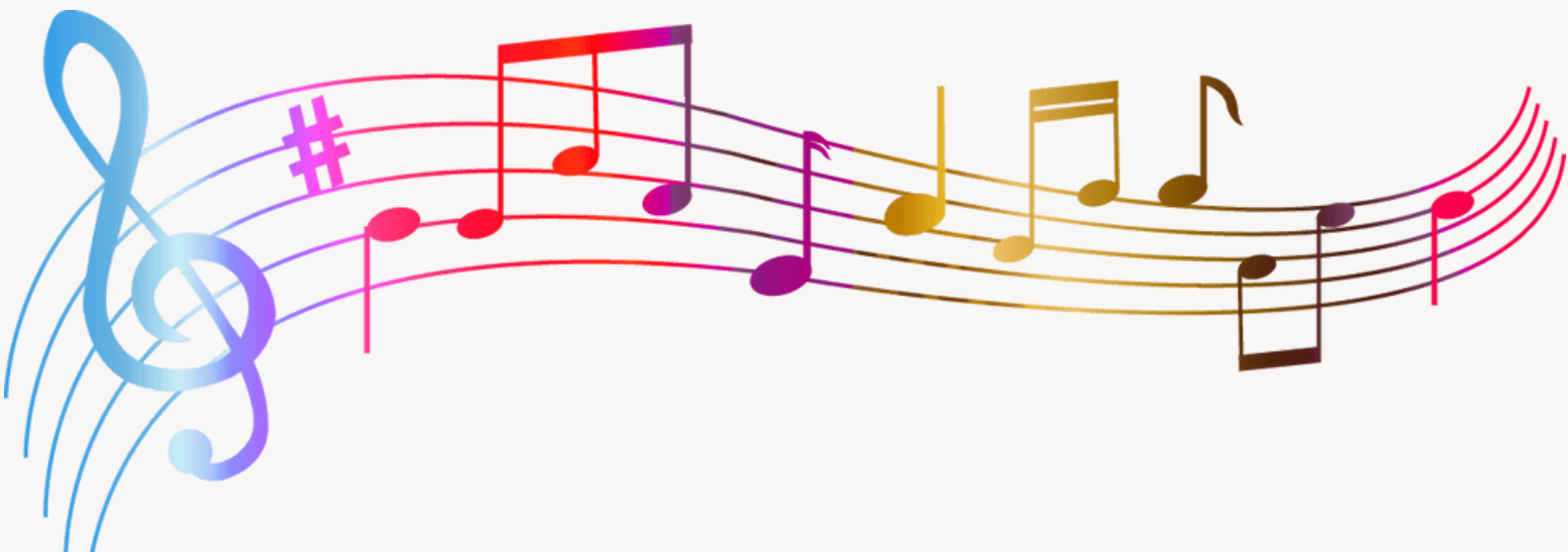
I joined the “BYBS Players” in 2000 for the first Purim Spiel with lyrics and music adapted from the Pirates of Penzance. What fun it was to sing and perform with a group (mostly of choir members) which punned and mugged its way to audience delight and multiple future Purim Spiels. I hesitated to join the choir then due to work and family constraints.

I finally joined the choir in 2021 shortly before my retirement from work. This was at a time when the choir ranks were diminished and the severity of Covid was high. We wore masks during rehearsals and even high holiday performances. I really appreciated the musicianship of our choir leaders and veteran choir members who helped me manage the intricacies of choral music. I had a feeling of accomplishment as the choir progressed from awkward first sight read of the music to performing the soaring four-part harmonies and dynamics of gems from Max Janowski, Louis Lewandowski, and others.

It has been a joy to sing beautiful music together.
Thank you all for gifts of camaraderie and music.

-Mike Anger-

After hearing the choir sing a few times after we had joined TBY, I went up to Sherry after a service and asked her if one needed to read Hebrew to join the choir. A few choir members laughed and said, “Welcome to our choir.” They knew I was hooked.



-Marsha Lotz-

In regard to music that did not resonate with me, the song that comes to mind is "Circle of Life" from the movie The Lion King. I think we were doing our Annual Music Shabbat Service, and the theme chosen was "life." Our director, Sherry, wanted us to do this particular song from that movie. Yes, it seemed to fit the theme alright, and it was fine for Elton John, but it didn't lend itself well to choral singing. In fact, I don't think any of us was thrilled with it (and I still don't like it), but we didn't voice our complaints to Sherry and we went ahead and did the song.

Annually our congregation did a Purim Spiel, and choir members made up much of the cast for the Purim Spiels. The only time I participated in it was the year we did "The Megillah According to the Beatles." I thought at least I wouldn't have to learn any new melodies for it, so I joined in, too.

I had three small parts in it and only a few lines altogether in the production, but I attended all of the rehearsals, which were pretty boring for me spending so much time watching others rehearse their scenes before rehearsing my own scenes.

The rehearsals were boring, our one and only performance was a real blast. I recall arriving early that night as we all did to get ready. I walked into the washroom and found Carole getting into costume and makeup for her first scene as Vashti. She was wearing a bathrobe, had a wig with curlers on her head, cold cream on her face, and fuzzy slippers on her feet -- a very "appealing" Vashti. I just started laughing then and there before the show even started.

One scene I was part of involved four or five of us, and it may have been the song, "Come Together" that we sang. Each of us had a solo line to sing, and among our group was Miriam Webster. Miriam had a rather amusing voice, and you would chuckle to yourself when you heard her sing. (I think she knew she had a funny voice, but she was a good sport about it, and no one made fun of her.) In the rehearsals someone would have to prompt her to sing her line each time. But that night in the performance no one prompted her, and she did not sing her line; there was just music and no one singing. We finished the rest of the song, but the fact that no one sang right at that moment told the audience that something didn't go quite as planned. Sometimes it's the flubs that are the funniest.

One of my roles in the show was as Lovely Rita, Meter Maid, who appeared in a beauty pageant in which the King was looking for a new wife. The pageant participants were concerned that we might be expected to wear bathing suits for this, but we did not--none of us wanted to do that! Anyway, I was wondering what I could do as Lovely Rita when it was my turn to walk across the stage in the pageant. So I improvised and wrote out a ticket and gave it to King Ahasuerus. As you might expect, he did not choose Rita.



-Carole Fefferman-

In 1993, when I first joined Temple B'nai Yehuda, I knew that my shyness would prevent me from interacting with total strangers. So I joined choir with the hope that, as fellow music nerds, they would be more accepting of me.

For about a year, I would come to rehearsals, and then dash out the door. I did the same for services; in the door, sing, and out the door. As time went on, I began making friends in the group.

I remember sneaking out with Ellie Farkas on Yom Kippur, and going to eat at Boston Market. I remember getting into a giggling fit with Debbie Levinson. I remember traveling to Atlanta with Jim Mollin to a choral workshop.....quite interesting!! I will never forget Yom Kippur, 2022, when every single choir member came down with COVIDexcept for me and Doug Koltun. As a result, I sang the entire service myself.

The years have gone by. My best, and a few of my worst moments, have happened in this choir. I cannot fathom how my life will be in the future without our little choir.

-Larry Burrows-

I first joined the TBY Choir in 1989. I had just lost my job and decided I needed something positive in my life. Little did I know that it would become a pillar of my existence. Music has always been important to me. As a kid I played trumpet in concert bands and musicals up through college. Then, like so many other twentysomethings, that all went on the back burner as I married and started a family. But by 1989 I guess I was ready.

I found that being in the choir quickly became more than just singing. First it was a "Thursday night minyan" that helped me merge faith and music. Then it quickly morphed into providing other services to the temple. Many of us in the choir became board members, officers, and spear carriers in Purim Spiels. Singing in the choir had as big an effect on us as it did to the congregation.

We experienced friendship, creativity, Jewish identity, and true suffering up in the choir loft on hot High Holiday afternoons.

As I have grown older, being in the choir certainly helped me find my voice. I sing in two other choral groups, Grande Prairie Choral Association and Kol Zimrah, and have been taking voice lessons for a number of years. I never would have done any of that if I hadn't first started in the TBY Choir, looking for something positive in my life.



-Barry & Susan Bayer-

Barry and I both sang in the choir as a connection to our Jewish past. Speaking of past, we sang in the TBY, Beth Sholom, BYBS and Shir Tikvah choirs. One of our fondest memories is of the time early in our membership at TBY when Cantor Henry began to sing the Kedusha and Barry turned to me and said, "What language is that?" It was, of course, the German Kedusha. Hearing this song, inspired him to join the TBY choir, although I am convinced he also was tired of sitting by himself since I was already in the choir.

Later, the TBY choir added the Festival Kaddish in Ashkenazic Hebrew (later changed to Sephardic Hebrew.) The German Kedusha and the festival Kaddish were an important link for us to our history and our heritage. Singing Max Janowski was a highlight of the choir experience. We also have sung camp versions of prayers and International song fest pieces. Singing at the service is in part a religious experience, and it has also been a way to be a part of something bigger.

I really subscribe to the Heschel quote I use in all of my emails.. "To sing means to affirm that the spirit is real and that its glory is present."

Abraham Joshua Heschel



The Journey

When I heard that the choir was officially retiring, I wanted it to be a joyous Shabbat celebration, not a whimper. I envisioned current and former choir members singing together and visiting with each other pre- and post- service. I wanted us to have the opportunity to say Thank You. And it is happening!

I have never been in the choir, but choir has long been a part of my temple experience, and working on this service has been heartwarming. I have been in touch with many choir members and congregants, past and present. When I first started making phone calls, I figured I could make several calls in an hour, but quickly learned that it would be far fewer than I had thought. Each call was the delightful opportunity to learn what is really going on in the lives of these wonderful people, as well as hearing their many music-related stories.

Larry and I have a standing joke that every time I sing he says, “You could be in the choir”, and every time he says that I tell him he just missed my solo. This service is anything but a solo—so many have stepped in to make it happen, Rabbis Harari and Dreyfus; Congregation Presidents Doug, Donelle, and Sherman; Sisterhood; temple staff, Kay and Bob; Choir Representatives Carol and Larry, the choir itself; and congregants, past and present!

With love and gratitude,
Nancy Burrows

We have tried to put together a list of participants in the musical history of the temples and synagogues that comprise today's Shir Tikvah. We hope it is complete and worry it may not be. Please let us know if we left anyone out. We want their name and voice to be heard.

