

CANTOR DANIEL GALE

**Ezra Habonim – The Niles Township
Jewish Congregation**

**4500 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60202
cantorgale@gmail.com ~ 847.868.8695**

www.ehnt.org

www.cantorgale.com

https://www.music-holocaust-education.com

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Overview

One never knows why a Jew comes to the synagogue -- what s/he may be searching for, what may ultimately touch a person's soul. As a hazzan, I am privileged to help others explore their Judaism, and discover the depth and beauty of our tradition.

Whether leading services, teaching, pastoral work - or any of the varied ways a hazzan interacts with the community - I strive to help others explore and deepen their relationship to Judaism, the Jewish people, and to G-d.

My services combine contemporary and traditional participatory melodies around a framework grounded in nusach, the traditional liturgical chant of our musical heritage.

Finally, I try to model my calling as a hazzan – and my daily life -- on the rabbinic dictum we recite each morning in our daily prayers:

***L'olam y'hei adam –
First and foremost, be a mensch...***

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CANTORIAL EXPERIENCE

HAZZAN, EZRA HABONIM – THE NILES TOWNSHIP JEWISH CONGREGATION (USCJ/RJ) Skokie, IL (2020 – Present)
HAZZAN/EDUCATION/YOUTH DIRECTOR, MIDBAR KODESH TEMPLE (USCJ) Henderson, NV (2013-2020)
HAZZAN, TEMPLE BETH-EL (USCJ) Birmingham, AL (2005-2013)
HAZZAN/KOL BO, TEMPLE ISRAEL (USCJ) Bay City, MI (2001-2005)

ORDINATION AND INVESTITURE

Cantors Assembly - Investiture and Commission
Jewish Ministers Cantors Association - Investiture

EDUCATION

HEBREW COLLEGE

Master in Jewish Education (with Distinction)
Dr. Albert and Dorothy Holzman Prize for Innovative Instructional Materials in Jewish Education

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

School of Graduate Studies/MA Program

OBERLIN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Opera
Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Opera

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AND RECOGNITION

Spirit of the River Award for Interfaith Community Work

Saginaw Bridge Center for Racial Harmony for interfaith work

MLK Keep the Dream Alive Award

City of Bay City, MI, for anti-hate group and interfaith work

Pastoral Advisory Group

University of Alabama/Birmingham Hospital

Interfaith Group Board member:

National Conference for Community Justice
Alabama Faith Council (founding member)
Southside Birmingham Faith Council

CANTOR DANIEL GALE
Religious and Educational Programming

B'NAI MITZVAH TRAINING (including Special Needs Children)

SPARKS HEART/ACTION PROGRAM SENIORS PROGRAM

High school service program to seniors, supplemented with in-class study of Jewish texts relating to the value Judaism places on social work and interacting with the elderly. (*Earned "Best Practice Award" for our partner senior care facility by its national trade organization.*)

FAMILY SHABBAT RUACH - Created a monthly, musically accompanied Erev Shabbat service to reach younger families with children. Resulted in greatly increased service attendance and participation.

ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM 18-month program covering holidays, life-cycle, liturgy, Torah/Haftarah chanting, ritual practice, theology and belief. Culminates in Shabbat morning B'nai Mitzvah Service.

DARE TO DAVEN - A creative, spiritual exploration of Jewish prayer through music, text study and discussion.

ADULT HEBREW I-IV AND WEEKDAY AMIDAH SERIES – Traversing adult Hebrew series by Linda Moitzen, group continued Hebrew study of the Weekday Amidah using Laurence Hoffman's *Minhag Ami*.

ADULT TROP CLASSES - Torah and Haftarah chanting class for adults.

SYNAGOGUE SURVIVAL 101 - An introduction to synagogue practice and ritual skills, the history and theology of the liturgy.

NA'ASEH V'NISHMAH - Explore the theology of Conservative Judaism.

HISTORY OF JEWISH MUSIC - A multi-section course exploring the development of Jewish music throughout the centuries.

FIRST CENTURY JUDAISM AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY - Focusing on the relationship between First Century Judaism and early Christianity, with attention to recent approaches to NT reading relating to Jews and Judaism, and implications for Christian-Jewish relations.

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REPRESENTATIVE JEWISH MUSIC PROGRAMMING

CHORAL CONDUCTING

HIGH HOLY DAY CHOIRS-- Prepared and led during High Holidays.

KOLOT NO'AR/KOLOT MIDBAR YOUTH & ADULT CHOIRS

BIRMINGHAM JEWISH COMMUNITY CHORALE – Performed at services and community events.

SELECTED JEWISH MUSIC PERFORMANCE

TEMPLE BETH-EL CENTENNIAL CONCERT

SONGS OF STRUGGLE/SONGS OF FAITH

Create and performed musical celebration of the shared historical and cultural experiences of the African American and Jewish communities with noted scholar and performer of African-American music, Dr. Oral Moses.

THE GREAT JEWISH-AMERICAN SONG BOOK

Planned and performed concert with renowned Gershwin pianist Kevin Cole.

PREMIERS AND COMMISSIONED WORKS

FUGITIVE FOOTSTEPS* and *FLAME LANGUAGE

Commission and premier performance of Holocaust related works by composer Laurence Sherr.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL PROGRAMS

Kronberg-Mack Holocaust Resource Center (Las Vegas, NV)

Consultation with HRC regarding *Music in Holocaust Education* curriculum development for Clark County School District. Conducted CCSD teacher training on same.

The Holocaust Remembered (Bay City, Michigan)

Created interfaith community-wide Holocaust commemoration, including community-wide reading of Shoah victims' names, followed by a program at which a hidden child/camp survivor spoke about her experiences.

Days of Remembrance (Birmingham, AL)

Created week-long interfaith Shoah memorial event at Samford University. Programs included lecturer from Tübingen on Reinhold Niebuhr; symposium on Righteous Gentiles with Hidden Children from local community, and an Israeli Youth Choir, culminating in a memorial service and concert.

Holocaust Memorial Concert (Farmington Hills, MI)

Featured speaker at Michigan Civil Rights Institute symposium on hate groups in small communities. Holocaust memorial concert soloist with Rackham Community Choir.

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SELECTED SECULAR PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Santa Fe Opera, Ars Musica Baroque Orchestra, Northwood Symphony, Lansing Symphony, Kalamazoo Symphony, Saginaw Bay Orchestra, Bijou Orchestra, Kennesaw State University Artist Series, Boulder Bach Festival, St. Mary's College Bach Festival, Saginaw Valley State University Artist Series, College Bach Festival, Mid-Michigan Opera, Lyric Opera of Northern Michigan, Piccolo Opera.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Cantor Gale has been a key in my Jewish journey: he is the one who taught me to read Hebrew on his spare time, he always brought up questions to challenge my spiritual thinking and encouraged me to ask questions at all times. As far as I can remember, Daniel showed kindness and concerns to everything I would submit to him, every question I've had, spiritual, personal or intellectual. Beside his cheerful personality, I have learned so much with our cantor and every class I attended with him brought more knowledge and made me think deeper. I found him to be a wonderful teacher... I know he has so much more to teach to many of us who attend his classes. I want to add that Cantor Gale is one of the rare persons I have known who always seemed to refocus my attention on how to become a better person and on the spiritual aspect of practical matters.

Genieve Begue, TBE congregant

Cantor,

Thank you for the amazing job you're doing with Avi. He really looks forward to his lessons, is truly engaged and was announcing his intention to do the most he could in the car yesterday.

Lilli put on her camp form in answer to the question "what do you want to learn at camp": haftorah...I attribute this directly to your warmth and inclusiveness to the kids and our family in general. You are a bright spot at TBE and we're lucky to have you.

Have a wonderful vacation,
Jessica Goldstein/TBE Congregant

"I am especially appreciative of your great musical talent and artistic integrity, your wonderful voice, your unflinching commitment to collaboratively working with me to refine the solo part, and your deep knowledge of Hazzanut...Your wonderful and inspired performance at the premier was indeed a highlight of the evening, and one of the most important elements in the success of the event."

Composer Laurence Sherr

Dear Cantor Gale,

Howard and I want to express our gratitude for the amazing contribution that you have made in our lives, our Temple family and the Birmingham Jewish community at large.

As you know, I regularly attend synagogue services and have studied with you in various settings. My spiritual needs draw me to worship services, without regard to who is on the bima. However, I can honestly say that your presence has touched me spiritually many times over. Your beautiful melodic voice has come to signify that we are in a holy place.

It is under your influence, coupled with your incredible patience and encouragement that I have become a monthly Torah reader. Your lessons have guided me to leyn with more confidence and spirituality. In addition, your classes have inspired me to find new meaning in the holidays and my role as a Jew in the world community. And I vividly recall the first year I served as a Hadassah co-president, when you gave me tips on how to prepare for public speaking!

Most heartwarming was your concern and compassion during the period that Howard struggled with health issues. Both he and I will long remember that you asked about his well being each and every time you saw us.

Many congregants have expressed to me their appreciation of your warmth and caring nature, your sincerity and kindness, whether passing you by the way or in a special time of simcha or crisis. They are aware of the contribution you make by holding programs at the senior communities away from Temple, and your active role in the interfaith community. We are all impressed to see how well you work in all situations, including the transition to a new rabbi, and your capability to lead services, teach and deliver eulogies during the rabbi's absence.

With warm regards,
Diane Slaughter/TBE Congregant

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