

ASJM NEWS

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Congratulations to:

- Dr. Judith Tischler, Mary Feinsinger, Joyce Rosenzweig, ASJM Board Members, on the 2-CD set, *Music for the Jewish Wedding*, published by Transcontinental Music, UAHC.
- Gerald Cohen, ASJM Board Member, on the release of his new CD, *Generations – The Music of Gerald Cohen*, on the CRI label.

ASJM Relocates to Center for Jewish History

The ASJM has a new home. We are very pleased to have moved into the Center for Jewish History in New York's Chelsea neighborhood. The Center is a brand new, state-of-the-art facility which houses five member organizations: American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS), The American Sephardi Federation (ASF), Leo Baeck Institute (LBI), Yeshiva University Museum (YUM) and YIVO Institute for Yiddish Research. The archives of the member organizations are

housed on site and can be accessed in the main reading room. The Center also features galleries, the Genealogy Institute, classrooms, and even a kosher café and a gift shop. The ASJM is very fortunate to be here under the auspices of the American Jewish Historical Society.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the Center building is the Forcheimer Auditorium, a 250-seat venue with a technologically superior sound system. The first of what we hope will be many concert seasons was



held this past year.

The ASJM looks forward to a productive working relationship with both the AJHS and the Center community as a whole. We welcome you to visit the Center and to see all it has to offer.

4th Annual Composers Competition

We are pleased to announce the awardees of this year's Cantor Aaron J. Caplow Composers Competition. (see back pg.) The two winning pieces are *Reflections (Three Hebrew Songs)* by Michael Karmon of St. Louis, MN

and *Canticle for Violincello Duo and Piano* by Maurice Gardner of Miami Beach, FL. Both pieces were performed at this year's Chanukah Concert (Dec. 16th) in New York.

The distinguished panel

of judges deliberated over many entries and was very pleased with the level of compositions that were submitted. For competition rules and more information about next year's competition, please contact the ASJM office by

News from Israel

In the midst of fear, anger, suicide attacks, reprisals and a general feeling of despair, two wonderful music events took place in Israel this summer. They were a symbol of the determination to continue here with "life as usual." It is true that the attendance the *19th International Zimriya* (World Assembly of Choirs in Israel) and the music sessions of the *13th World Congress of Jewish Studies* was severely reduced. Yet, we must be grateful to the organizers of these events who did not give up in the face of adversity: Esther Herlitz for the *Zimriya* and Edwin Seroussi for the Jewish Music Conference.

I regret that I was not able to participate in the *Zimriya* that took place July 30th to August 9th.but I did attend the final concert. The program opened and closed with communal singing led by an international choir. If any of our readers have participated in *The American Jewish Choral Festival*, they have had a most exciting and enriching experience. This excitement reverberated in the Henry

Crown Hall of the Jerusalem Theater this summer.

The International *Zimriya*, is divided into workshops, each focusing on a different area of the choral repertoire. Only one workshop, led by Joshua Jacobson, was dedicated to Jewish Music. He included the study of works by Rossi, Schubert, Bloch, Weill, Bernstein and Gottlieb with his group. Performances at the two final concerts mixed the participating choirs so that Israeli and foreign choirs were able to interact.

Entry requirements to children's and girls choirs in Israel are generally rigorous. Training is intensive and total dedication is expected. The "Bat Kol" Girls Choir of the Israeli Music

Conservatory in Tel Aviv, conducted by Anat Morag, opened the performance with four works by Israeli composers. They were the only Jewish works on the program.

The other choirs performed music from the Christian liturgy. Dr. Ronald Staheli (USA) of Brigham Young University conducted a group of liturgical works by Mozart. Two Israeli choirs, *Shahar* and *Meitar*, were joined by the **Choir of the Catholic University of Lublin (Poland)**.

The major work on the program was the Fauré "Requiem" conducted by Frieder Ernius of Germany. The Choir of the Los Andes University of Columbia joined the Israeli Tivon Chamber Choir. The Ra'anana

Symphonette Orchestra accompanied the choirs in both of these major groups.

The night the *Zimriya* ended was the night before the suicide attack in central Jerusalem that claimed so many lives. Who knows if the spirit would have been dampened if the event took place the same night or the day after. Events of terror were recalled, however, in the dedication of the last work in the program to the daughter of a choir member who was killed in a road shooting.

The exit of the choirs, all singing "Shalom Chaverim, L'hitra'ot," together with the audience in a four part round was a 'tear jerker' and fitting end to a very moving experience.

by Dr. Judith Tischler

ASJM Donates Journals in honor of Dr. Tischler

The Society welcomes back from sabbatical its Vice President, Dr. Judith Tischler, who was in Israel for the last semester teaching at the Machon Schechter, the main educational institution of the Conservative Movement in Israel.

In honor of Dr. Tischler's work in training future cantors, the ASJM has donated a complete set of its scholarly journal, *Musica Judaica*, to the institute's library.

It is the hope of the Society that both American and Israeli students and

faculty will benefit from the use of the fourteen volume set in the Institute's library. *Musica Judaica* is the only journal of Jewish musicology and ethnomusicology in print. Articles treat topics of interest to scholars worldwide.

Rosalind Devon, Board Member

ASJM has the good fortune of counting Roz Devon among its group of committed and active board members. In memory of their father, Roz and her sisters Joan Michelman and Gloria Finkelstein have established the Aaron J. Caplow Prize of \$2000 for the ASJM's annual Composers Competition. Inspired by the charity

that their father always gave, they see this prize as a way of perpetuating his memory and supporting contemporary Jewish composers.

There are numerous other ways in which Roz is devoted to musical life and music education in New York City. As Vice President of the Lucy Moses Music School, formerly the Hebrew Arts School, Roz

has been involved since its inception as a one-room institution at the Ramaz School. She also plays classical guitar, teaches folk music, sings in the St. Cecilia chorus, serves on the boards of the Center for Contemporary Opera and the Omega Ensemble and helped to establish the music program at the International Preschool for the children of UN personnel.



ASJM Board Member Rosalind Devon's favorite quote:
"Music is the ladder upon which man reaches God."

Ellen Gould, Board Member

"Cantor" Gould. The name has a traditional ring to it. But speak with this singer, actress, artist, and community leader for thirty seconds and you know that tradition is being transformed. Ellen Gould is the new cantor at the New Shul, currently conducting their

services at the Judson Memorial Church on Washington Square, and the newest board member of the ASJM.

Gould's congregation is comprised of other professional actors, musicians, designers, and stage people who have redefined many Jewish rituals in a

creative, theatrical setting.

ASJM looks forward to Gould's performance at the annual Chanukah concert, on December 16th of this year, presenting excerpts of her off-Broadway musical theater piece entitled "Bubbe Meises."



Message from The President

It is my pleasure to serve as your incoming President. More in the next issue on future plans and new programs. First, however, I want to take this opportunity to thank my immediate predecessor, Hadassah B. Markson, for her long service

to the Society. While Hadassah has retired as President, we are fortunate not to be losing her as a member of the Board of Governors, both as Past President on the Executive Board, and to serve as a continuing member of the Concert

Committee. First appointed to the Board to fill the seat of her father, Abraham Binder, the well-known musician and composer, Hadassah has served the Society in many different capacities since 1966. As President, I want to involve a greater

number of our members in the Society's activities and programs, particularly on a national level. We have an important mission and a potential we most continually strive to realize.

Newsletter Submissions

We welcome the opportunity to hear from our members about their activities and accomplishments. If you have announcements of your upcoming programs or publications which you would like us to consider for inclusion in *ASJM News*, please email or fax the details to the ASJM office.

More and more the society will be communicating via e-mail. Please send us your current e-mail address and update us with any changes as they occur.

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A word about Cantor Caplow

Cantor Aaron J. Caplow served Temple Israel of Long Beach, NY for over 50 years. He possessed a beautiful voice, matched only by his legendary pastoral service to synagogue and community. Cantor Caplow was an inspiration and mentor to generations of American cantors, many of whom are members of ASJM. The Contemporary Composers Competition, now in its 5th

year, is funded by Cantor Nathaniel Benjamin and Cantor Caplow's daughters, Rosalind Devon, Joan Michelman and Gloria Finkelstein.

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