

TEMPLE JUDEA Adult Education Kicks off with Broadway Tunes from Jewish Composers and Lyricists

Temple Judea of Manhasset kicked off its adult education program with a rousing revue of classic Broadway show tunes, sung by its cantor, Abbe Sher. The program featured the history and creative process of the classic twentieth century Jewish Composers and lyricists. It was narrated by Cantor Sher's accompanist, Peter Sakalow, an accomplished musician and member of a Klezmer band.

Abbe Sher, a renowned spiritual leader and cantor on Long Island, is also an accomplished vocalist of the Broadway standard. Her shows are often the most well attended events at the Temple, always drawing as many guests as members to hear her sing. The performances of either cantorial or show music have played at many other venues.

Mr. Sakalow presented the history of the Jewish contribution to American music through stories and anecdotes preceding each number. His intimate knowledge of the music which shaped the early to mid twentieth century was reflected in personal accounts and reflections of each composer. He even performed each number sans sheet music with phenomenal dexterity and confidence to the delight of the audience.

The program opened with the Show Boat classic "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man" by Jerome Kern. Mr. Sakalow explained that the American Musical theater changed radically with this production from mere revues to the big Broadway we know today. Cantor Sher sang "Someone to Watch Over Me" to introduce George and Ira Gershwin to the narrative. Other composers from the early part of the century included *The Wizard of Oz* composers Harold Arlen and Yip Harburg ("Over the Rainbow") and Irving Berlin ("Blue Skies" from *The Jazz Singer*). Both Arlen and Berlin were sons of cantors.

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The program continued with the classics "How Deep is the Ocean" (Berlin), "The Man I Love" and "I Got Rhythm" (Gershwin), "Tonight" (Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim), and "What I Did for Love" (music by Marvin Hamlisch). Of course, no program on the American Broadway Standard would be complete without the music of Richard Rogers, including "With a Song in My Heart" with Lorenz Hart, and "If I Loved You" with Oscar Hammerstein II. Cantor Sher and Mr. Sakalow received a standing ovation after concluding the show with a medley of songs from Fiddler on the Roof (Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick).

Future programs at Temple Judea include a special presentation of *Tickling Leo* a movie with Eli Wallach about a young man who visits his estranged father to discover that, in his dementia, he describes his participation in Rudolph Kasztner's controversial freedom train out of Hungary. The movie's writer and producer will answer questions after the movie presentation. This movie is rated R and adults are encouraged to leave children at home.

Cantor Sher will be performing again at the last Herbert Tarr Institute of the year, a World Jewish Music Concert presentation on Monday, December 7 at 7:45. Seven other cantors will be performing including Cantor Gabi Arad, Cantor Ofer Barnoy, Reb Irwin Huberman and Cantor Gustavo Gitlin, Cantor Yosef Karavani and Parvaneh Sarraf. They will be presenting an exciting medley of Israeli, Yiddish, Sephardic and Persian melodies. Another cantorial concert is planned for June 6 at Temple Judea. Mr. Sakalow will perform with his Klezmer band at that concert.

Temple Judea of Manhasset was established in 1955 and has approximately 500 member families. Temple Judea, affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, is located at 333 Seasingtown Road, Manhasset. Please call (516) 621-8049 for further information and visit its website at **temple-judea.com**.

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