



ELECTIVE BLOCK ONE

Monday May 22, 2023

Where Synagogue and Stage Meet

Facilitated by Shira Kline

What takes place in the sanctuary, for both the prayer leader and for the community, is intimately connected with what takes place on a stage. Examine and expose the nature of prayer alongside the authentic transmission of theatre. While the very fine lines may be blurry, these ancient lineages can inform each other towards truth telling and why we do what we do.

Sing Around the Calendar

Facilitated by Eliana Light

Want to add some awesome new holiday songs to your toolkit for school-age kids? Want to explore music as a powerful tool to teach content, engage emotions, move the body, and inspire the spirit? Want to have a lot of fun singing together? Come sing around the calendar!

What if I Can't Sing?

Facilitated by Leeav Sofer

What if I can't sing? What if my community is withdrawn or resistant to singing? What if singing itself isn't the entry point to what can be discovered in music?

This class will focus on finding your voice and the reason why it is so critical to let it out. This class is not about improving your vocals but instead about the lens and philosophy around the importance of singing for all levels. We will discuss clear concepts and teach exercises that can support your own confidence in your voice as well as help you convince your communities to find theirs as well.

Whether social, emotional, individual or communal; we'll find the medicine in voice and vibration together.

Looking Outside the Circle: Repertoire from Outside the Cannon

Facilitated by Chava Mirel

Looking for new musical settings to expand your community's prayer experience? In this elective we will learn repertoire from a variety of different communities and liturgical approaches that help deepen connection and prayer. We will also explore ideas and techniques for incorporating new music seamlessly into our *tefilot*, programs, and other gatherings.

There's SO Much Repertoire for Worship: The What, When, Why ... and How?**Facilitated by Cantor Rosalie Will**

We all missed hearing the voice of the congregation when we led from our zoom bubbles. Transitioning back to onsite (even if there are still folks on zoom) gives us a fresh opportunity to think anew about how we engage the congregational voice, how we consider the question of repertoire - both how to share new melodies as well as to deepen (and revitalize) the familiar, and create a meaningful plan for repertoire for your congregations.

We will use repertoire to share tools and techniques for how we think about new and renewed repertoire in communal prayer.

Guitar Skills - Intermediate Guitarists and Beyond**Facilitated by Avi Salloway**

Come hone your guitar chops with Avi. In this session, Avi will share skills for learning the guitar neck, improvisation and playing lead, scales, music theory, rhythm, and chord voicings. This elective will help elevate your guitar playing beyond the basic open chords, while understanding the guitar with a holistic approach.

Praying with Your Instrument**Facilitated by Elana Arian**

Raise a joyful noise as we explore best practices of incorporating instruments into worship. We will consider how to effectively communicate and lead other musicians to create a prayerful, meaningful whole, as well as how to approach playing as an instrumentalist in worship.

Bring your flutes, mandolins, and trombones - or if you work with instrumentalists but don't play yourself, this is for you too! We will become a "pickup band" as we think about how to approach adding new sounds to worship with the same intentionality as we do crafting all other aspects of services.

The "Song NFTY Sang"**Facilitated by Cantor Jeff Klepper and Loui Dobin**

A long, long time ago...we remember how the music used to make us smile—ah, yes, but much of that music consisted of old American folk songs, most of them in English, and none of them written by actual NFTYites!

Come and learn how revolutions in recording technology, the motivation to create a new American Jewish Songbook, and the desire to build a Reform Kibbutz in Israel led to the creation of the legendary "Songs NFTY Sings" record albums. Those discs, made on a shoestring budget, opened floodgates of musical creativity and led to the creation of a new genre of Jewish song!

ELECTIVE BLOCK TWO (Participant Led)

Monday May 22, 2023

Kivun (A Sense of Direction)

Facilitated by Ben Pagliaro

Are you tired of opening up the same outline or using the same repeating "Shabbat Themes" for services every week? How would you like an opportunity to prepare with fresh eyes? To see your outlines not as exercises in which Mi Chamocha we're going to sing this week, but as a chance to more deeply realize your organizational missions and spiritual underpinnings. Together we'll explore, through the work of Sacred Space investigation, how we might develop our intention more clearly to guide the direction of our Shabbat experiences.

Sacred Songweaving 101: The Craft of Combining Melody and Chant

Facilitated by Cantor Josh Breitzer

How can prayer leaders best integrate traditional and contemporary musical styles to make for startlingly beautiful worship? What are the tools we need to knit together ancient nusach and the newest tunes with authenticity, humanity, and even humor? Join Cantor Josh Breitzer as he shares lessons learned over the last dozen years serving Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn's spiritual, cultural, and intellectual center for Jewish revitalization.

Engaging Young Families

Facilitated by Shira Kobren

Creating magical musical experiences that captivate both children and their grown-ups at the same time can be an extremely effective way to share an accessible, inspiring, joyful Judaism with families. In this workshop we will look at strategies and touch on useful repertoire and helpful techniques for creating these kinds of exciting, and engaging family programs.

I'd Like To Teach My Shul To Sing

Facilitated by Cantor Zoe Jacobs

Traditionally, the cantor surrounded themselves with "*m'shor'rim*"; young singers who added harmony to prayer. Today, we find ourselves in a congregation, praying that the people in the room will sing along with us!

Song leading teaches us the basics - but how do we engage a mixed congregation who haven't been to camp? Is it possible to really build a community who can and will sing with us and each other? Together, we'll explore some tried and tested techniques to facilitate the singing we hope to hear.

The Guitar Workout for Songleaders

Facilitated by Zach Singer

All the exercises and warm-ups you'll ever need to build dexterity, rhythm and speed. Make the metronome your best friend! From chromatic scales and spider scales to strumming and fingerpicking jams. There is something for everyone. Most of this class is great for everyone but it may be easier if you know all your folk chords and have an amicable relationship with a click.

Hinenu: A Space of Our Own**Facilitated by Rachel Chang**

For so many of us, Jewish ritual and song function as an integral source of belonging and connection. And yet, for so many of us as Jews of marginalized identities – queer Jews, Jews of Color, disabled Jews, and so many others – Jewish ritual spaces can leave us feeling disconnected, or deeply questioning our sense of belonging. What tools do we have within Jewish music and ritual to help us cultivate community and belonging?

In this workshop, we invite Jews of all different marginalized identities to join us for an hour of singing, learning, and reflecting. We'll explore our different relationships to Jewish music, we'll learn melodies by queer and BIPOC Jewish composers, and we'll share an afternoon of essential community.

Ashrei Yashvei Veitecha - To Dwell in Your House Ps 84:5**Facilitated by Cantor Julie Newman**

Have you wanted to bring Jewish mindfulness meditation into prayer services? In this session we'll begin with a lightly guided mindfulness practice, and space for questions afterward. Then we'll consider where are some promising windows of opportunity to bring meaningful meditative moments into your group's regular prayer service - to turn the four walls of your house of prayer into the "big" house of the Holy One, even for a few breaths.

ELECTIVE BLOCK THREE

Tuesday May 23, 2023

Writing Instant Hit Zipper Songs**Facilitated by Ellen Allard**

Join Ellen to learn her secret formula for writing a zipper song that will become an instant hit with your kids and will have them asking you to sing it again and again. Following an exploration of what constitutes a successful zipper song, we will then write a group zipper song PLUS you will have an opportunity to work solo or in *chevruta* (pairs) to continue honing your zipper songwriting prowess.

Body Percussion & Rhythm Lab**Facilitated by Leeav Sofer**

Many of us songleaders spend energy on lyrics and melody, yet the power of rhythm and time can sometimes come second. In this fun and explorative class, we'll explore the percussive elements of the body as well as how rhythmic skills become a cradle both for structure as well as improvisation at the same time.

Free to Be You and Me: Creating a Safe Space for Gender Expression**Facilitated by Shira Kline**

A primary role of our work as song leaders is creating safe space for our participants to express as their most authentic self. This will be a conversation about experiencing gender identity and how we can support people of all expressions to feel safe and included. We'll touch upon emerging research in non-binary Hebrew. We'll hear stories of navigating gender expression in Jewish spaces, from lifecycles to classrooms. For those who want to be better allies, this will include an introductory level of gender affirming practices. This is a judgment-free zone; all levels of understanding are welcome!

High Holiday Family T'fillah**Facilitated by Eliana Light**

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur offer beautiful opportunities for families to share sacred time together. Through repertoire, techniques, and asking the big "why," we'll explore how to craft services for all ages of children and their grown-ups that look backwards, forwards, and inwards.

Songleading Elective**Facilitated by Eric Hunker**

This elective is a continuation of our Songleading Intensive. We will be continuing our exploration of higher level Songleading skills and building repertoire for the work ahead. Bring your instrument if you have one.

Harmony and *Hiddur*: Weaving the Communal Song**Facilitated by Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz**

Whether the prayer-leader or a member of the community, we all have the opportunity to contribute to the process of *hiddur mitzvah* - beautification of the mitzvah of prayer. How do we hear the expansive layers of harmonies and unearth the potential textures of sound in the real-time act of prayer and communal song? In this experiential session, we'll explore strategies and tools for realizing this potential in our communities.

Cultural Collaboration: Using Secular and World Music in Jewish Settings**Facilitated by Cantor Ellen Dreskin and Avi Salloway**

Join in conversation about using songs outside of Jewish tradition to engage and inspire faith, understanding, and action. Repertoire will be shared, and you are invited to bring examples of your own.

Presence and Practice: Improvisation in Prayer**Facilitated by Elana Arian**

Being fully present as a worship leader means cultivating openness to possibility. Whether responding to a given moment in song, speaking extemporaneously, or finding organic ways to integrate the contemporary with the traditional, the most effective and meaningful worship requires an orientation towards improvisation.

In this elective we will explore some basic techniques of improvisation - both practicing them musically, and thinking more broadly about the opportunities for improvisatory awareness in crafting worship.