



Sing Unto God is a gathering place for content, learning, and networking for lay and professionals who are committed to the importance of communal singing and meaningful worship and prayer. Sing Unto God will provide and produce workshops, conferences and the opportunity for like minded folks to network around important issues of songleading and worship. The organization will also spotlight and curate new thinking and thought leaders, other teachers, programs, and organizations who offer great classes, conferences, and learning.

## Who is Behind Sing Unto God?

Sing Unto God was founded by Cantor Rosalie Will, who serves as Executive Director. With decades of experience as congregational clergy and as a songleading teacher, worship transformation consultant, and performer, Rosalie wanted to create a home for all of those who understand and value the power of communal singing and prayer. It is designed to build communities, strengthen networking, and to connect members and attendees to collaborating organizations that will continue to deepen their engagement in this important work.

Sing Unto God is an independent 501(c)(3) organization governed by a Board of Directors from across many fields and life experiences. Read more about the Board and Staff here.

We've just started on this adventure, and welcome your involvement and your input. Please submit any comments, concerns, questions, or partnership ideas to our <u>Contact page</u>.

While many of the collaborators are Jewish, many new opportunities will be shared to learn with ecumenical and sectarian groups who are expert songleaders, who teach songleading and how to create sacred singing spaces, or who gather folks to better understand how to bring communal singing into justice spaces.

Sing Unto God is also the new home of Hava Nashira, sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism. It will be produced by Cantor Rosalie Will, faculty for 20 years and producer for the last five. Hava Nashira is not only the signature program of Sing Unto God, it is the inspiration for creating year-round programming that extends the purpose and mission of that special event.

## What Does it Mean to Be a Member of Sing Unto God?

We offer three levels of membership: for Individuals, a discounted membership for Congregations who want to extend benefits and access to their team, and for 18-25 year olds as Emerging Leaders who are already defining the future.

Members will receive free access to SUG-produced workshops, discounts on carefully-curated classes from colleagues and partners, early registration access to conferences, opportunities for coaching and consulting, and other discounts and benefits in the form of resources (print or music) as our relationships with partner organizations grow.

Learn more here.



## What is Hava Nashira?

Hava Nashira is a decades-long program built by Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI) and URJ Camping. Over the years, former Director of OSRUI Jerry Kaye and current Director Solly Kane offered a faculty of diverse teachers and experts from inside and outside of the Reform Movement. As the focus of the URJ shifted to developing more support for congregational leadership on the ground, deepening the commitment to racial justice and equity, and expanding the impact of summer camp, the capacity to run the program from the URJ or OSRUI has shifted.

To honor the history of Hava
Nashira and to ensure its future,
Sing Unto God has taken on sole
responsibility for the content and
operations of this special event and
its cousin, Shabbat Shira. The URJ
maintains its historic commitment
to the program and supports it
through a sole sponsorship.

Thank you for learning and singing with us!

## What Is the Future of Hava Nashira?

The program has continued to evolve over its 30 years. From about 20 people to 230, from a focus on camp songleading to the addition of music for children and families, deep spiritual worship and percussion, chant and new sounds in Jewish life, the program always grows to meet the current and future growth of singing in Jewish spaces.

While this year the dates have moved to Sunday through Wednesday and are a week earlier than usual (due to the schedule of Olin-Sang Ruby Union Institute where Hava Nashira is held), the core of the program remains the same. This year, we are planning to celebrate 30 years with time for reflection and honor, while continuing to welcome new guests who can share new ways of creating communal singing experiences, songleading, worship, and justice leading.

One significant difference from years past (pre-pandemic) is that there is NO LIMIT to the number of attendees who can participate. The Kaye Cultural Center, a new building, can accommodate the many who want to learn and connect, to create community and take inspiration, repertoire, and new tools back to their communities. We hope our longtime attendees will introduce their colleagues and friends to this wonderful experience.

While there are limited beds on camp, we will have plentiful and convenient hotel block options, with shuttle service for those who do not want to stay on camp (in roommate only situation) or who register after all the camp beds are taken. We encourage people to <a href="mailto:become a member of Sing Unto God">become a member of Sing Unto God</a> to have access to early registration and limited inventory of on-camp housing.

For our regulars, you can look forward to the learning, music, connection and rejuvenation your cherish. For new attendees, you will be welcomed into this eclectic, creative, and compassionate community, experience the unique power of the Hava Nashira, and be strengthened to bring the work back to your home community in meaningful ways.