



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Zoey Barnes
Phone: 505-660-6565
Email: zoey.a.barnes@gmail.com

CANTOR LIANNA MENDELSON TO BE INSTALLED AND TO PRESENT A RECITAL AT TEMPLE BETH SHALOM ON NOV. 18 AND 19

First ordained cantor in synagogue's 66-year history

SANTA FE, NM (October 28, 2022) – On Friday, Nov. 18 at 5:30 pm, Cantor Lianna Mendelson will be installed as Cantor-Educator of Temple Beth Shalom in a festive Shabbat evening service, accompanied by the Temple Beth Shalom band and a congregation youth choir.

On Saturday, Nov. 19 at 2 pm, Cantor Lianna will perform a recital entitled, “Let Me Hear Your Voice: The Song of Songs in Israeli Music.” Both events are free and open to the public.

Cantor Lianna entered into her role at Temple Beth Shalom in July of 2021. The Nov. 18 installation marks the formalization of her commitment to the Santa Fe synagogue.

“[An installation] is a ritual of transition that celebrates the work that the person will do in their new pulpit and the relationships they will form,” Cantor Lianna says. “This event will ritualize and bless my continued time at TBS.”

At the Nov. 19 recital, Cantor Lianna, along with musicians from the TBS community, will perform text from or inspired by the Song of Songs in musical styles spanning from the 1940s to the present. The recital is the product of two years of research into the Song of Songs in Israeli music, which she undertook in cantorial school at Hebrew Union College in New York City for her thesis, “It’s an Entity. It’s Not a Book: 21st Century Israeli Women Encounter the Song of Songs Through Music.” Her mentor, Rabbi Rachel Ackerman of Temple Shalom in Chevy Chase, MD, and her dear friend, Cantor Shani Cohen of Temple Shalom in Vancouver, Canada will be visiting Santa Fe in order to participate in the festivities.

A Jewish cantor is an ordained clergy member whose spiritual leadership involves guiding the synagogue in song and prayer, organizing musical and educational programs, supporting members in Jewish rites and rituals and officiating major life events.

Cantor Lianna is Temple Beth Shalom’s first ordained cantor. Her exquisite voice, joyous presence, and passion for Jewish liturgy and history have quickly made her beloved by Temple Beth Shalom members, who are excited to share her gifts with the Santa Fe community.

“This concert was supposed to be my senior recital, which didn’t happen because of COVID,” Cantor Lianna explains. “In many ways, performing it in my new community makes it even more meaningful, as the culmination of my cantorial studies and the kick-off to my cantorate. It is a celebration of the many people who have influenced me, the new relationships I have built here at TBS, and a sign of hope for the future.”

Temple Beth Shalom, Santa Fe’s oldest and largest Jewish congregation, was established in 1956 and has been served by Rabbi Neil Amswych since 2014.

For more information or to arrange an interview with Cantor Lianna, please contact Zoey Barnes.

###