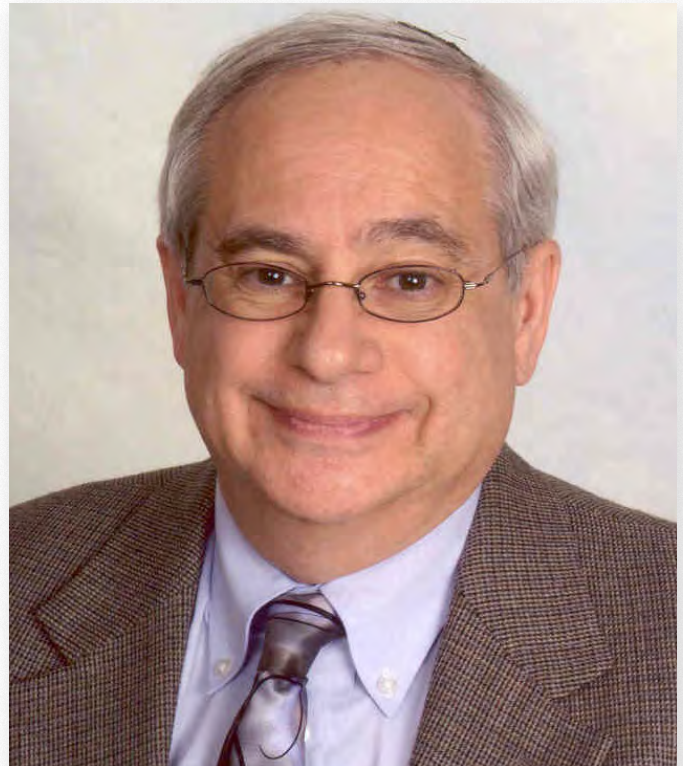


*The Cantors Assembly dedications this 75th Anniversary Journal to these  
great builders of Jewish life and Jewish music:*



**Diane (Dede) and Kenneth Feinberg, Esq.**



**Hazzan Stephen J. Stein**  
**Cantor Assembly Executive**  
**Vice-President 1997–2022**

*"Rabbi Eleazar used to quote Rabbi Hanina, who said: "Scholars increase peace in the world, as it is written in the holy Scriptures: 'When all Your children will have learned of Adonai, the Lord, and will have been taught the Torah, His teachings, their peace shall be great.' One should not understand this as a reference merely to 'Your children,' but, rather, to them as 'Your builders.'"*  
—Berachot 64a

אמר רבי אלעזר אמר רבי חנינא:  
תלמידי חכמים מרבים שלום בעולם,  
שנאמר כל בניך למודי ה' ורב שלום בניך,  
אל תקרי בניך אלא בוניך.  
(ברכות סד:א)



**s honorees of our 75th anniversary journal, Kenneth and Dede Feinberg have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to Jewish community and love of Jewish music.**

Diane Feinberg is among our people's strongest advocates for Jewish life, both in the Washington D.C. area and internationally. What began with the desire to give her children a meaningful, exciting Jewish upbringing has grown into a lifetime of devotion to Jewish causes. Ms. Feinberg currently serves as the chair of the Executive Committee of the Board of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). This follows decades of remarkable service to the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington -- including, among many roles, as its president, and as chair of Campaign, financial resource development, and the women's division. Ms. Feinberg also currently serves as deputy chair for Unity of Jewish People for the Jewish Agency, and as Governance Chair of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, of which she is a founding board member. She has served on the boards of Hillel International, United Israel Appeal, and the American Joint Distribution Committee, and is the recipient of many awards for her activism and philanthropy, including: the National Women's Philanthropy Kipnis Wilson/Friedland Award; National Capital Philanthropy Day Exceptional Volunteer Fundraiser; Whitney North Seymour Award of Outstanding Public Service; UJA of Greater Washington Campaigner of the Year and the Montgomery County Department of Family Resources Can Do Award.

She and her husband also shared a love of music and friendship with the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg z'l, with whom they joined for many opera performances and worked together to support Jewish causes.

Mr. Kenneth Feinberg, esq. grew up in Brockton, Massachusetts where he first learned to appreciate classical music from his cantor, Hazzan Gerhard Gluck of Temple Beth Emunah. This love of classical music followed him throughout his life, as he went on to serve as President of the Washington Opera. Mr. Feinberg fondly recalls the Jewish community of his youth, whose communitarian ethic and sense of

responsibility and empathy inspired him to support his own Jewish community.

Mr. Feinberg is known nationally for his expertise and sensitivity as Special Master of many high-profile funds following America's national tragedies, including the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, BP Oil Spill Fund, and funds supporting the families of victims of school shootings at Aurora, Sandy Hook, and Virginia Tech. Meeting personally with hundreds of families who have experienced great suffering, Mr. Feinberg's skills as lawyer and mediator are well matched by his personal empathy and warmth. He credits his own Jewish and blue-collar upbringing as a central to the arc of his career, always encouraging him to put himself in other people's shoes.

An alum of University of Massachusetts-Amherst and the New York University Law School, Mr. Feinberg has served also as a prosecutor for the U.S Attorney General and as administrative assistant and chief of staff for the late former U.S. Senator, Ted Kennedy. He has served on two presidential commissions and is the recipient of many awards, including: the "Flame of Tzedek Award" from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, The Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law, and the District of Columbia Bar Association Legend in the Law Award.

Mr. & Mrs. Feinberg raised their three children at Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County in Bethesda, MD, where they became Bar and Bat Mitzvah under the tutelage of its longtime cantor, Abraham Lubin. Cantor Lubin and the Feinbergs became lifelong friends, sharing a wealth of both music and memories, and working together to lay the financial foundation for this commemorative volume.

The rabbinic sage, Ben Zoma taught: *"Who is wise? One who learns from every man.... Who is honorable? One who honors his fellows. (Avot 4:1)."* The Cantors Assembly is grateful for this unique opportunity to honor so many of our members and share their story and wisdom. With great appreciation, we dedicate this journal to Kenneth & Diane Feinberg, whose friendship and support honor our members and the work of cantors across the globe.



**his volume is dedicated to Stephen J. Stein, tireless servant of G-d and leader of colleagues.**

Born in 1953 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Stephen Stein was immersed in the Jewish musical and religious life of Pittsburgh's Jewish community from earliest childhood. His idea of what a hazzan could and should be and sound like was informed by Cantor P. Hillel Brummer z"l and the incomparable Hazzan Moshe Taubé z"l.

But as precious as his singing and serving a congregation have been for most of his life (felt especially at Beth El Congregation in Akron, which he served for 35 years), his over 20-year tenure as Executive Vice-President of the Cantors Assembly is what makes him a giant among his colleagues though being modest in every way.

This book celebrates 75 years of the Cantors Assembly, the world's largest and most significant body of professional hazzanim. Those whose stories are told herein are well aware of the roots of the role, its history, and its highs and lows. The noble calling of hazzan dates to Talmudic times, although its rise as a distinct profession in the modern sense dates back just a few centuries.

There are few figures as crucial to building the role of the modern cantor, maintaining and expanding his and her role in the synagogue and the Jewish world, and looking over the nurturing of the profession, its practitioners and the Jewish people than Stephen J. Stein.

As the third ever Executive Vice-President, he followed in the footsteps of Samuel Rosenbaum z"l, a founder of the organization. Rosenbaum was also a man of modest presence but extraordinary accomplishment. He ruled the Cantors Assembly quietly, but with strength of hardened steel. Cantor Stein worked closely with Sam for many years, and when Rosenbaum passed away unexpectedly in 1997, Steve was selected to fill the role of Executive Vice-President and has done so ever since.

While Steve came on board at a time that the key leaders tended to decide almost everything in the organization, he has developed and presided over a very different model in which many additional changes have occurred in the organization and community. In many ways, Cantor Stein's accomplishments are greater, for he has presided from the holy-of-holies of the inner administrative office as an equal. His guidance for the organization and its Presidents has been to guide a ship of increasingly complex nature, in terms of the reach of the organization's work, diversity of its membership, and the rapidly changing cultural, technical and technological aspects of American and world Jewry and the Conservative movement.

How many bad decisions have been averted through his careful approach to everything – and his sense of history and the many relationships he has established and nurtured throughout the Jewish world? Thanks to Steve's patience and persistence, we hazzanim are more important in the Jewish world than ever before, despite facing too often a prospect of diminishing opportunities for professionals in the Conservative Jewish world.

Steve has been our beloved brother – very much like family, while being completely devoted to his family – his beloved wife Abbe z"l and his children Scott and Deana, who have continued the Steindedication to making beautiful Jewish music. His late parents, Frances and Murray, who were and would be so proud of his continued accomplishments, and who ushered him so deeply into the Jewish world in the first place, were also the recipient of his kind love, attention and respect even to their last moments.

May the pages that follow be inspiring and informative and may the influence of the work of cantors and the Cantors Assembly continue to grow. May Steve be blessed with many healthy and prosperous and fulfilling years.

# Acknowledgments

**We acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of the following:**

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"Towards a New Vision of Hazzanut" by Samuel Rosenbaum from Tefillat Shmuel: Selected Writings of Hazzan Samuel Rosenbaum, ed. Matthew Austerklein (Cantors Assembly 2017). Reprinted with permission of the Cantors Assembly.

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The members of the Cantors Assembly for sharing the photographs of the many aspects of their service over the past 25 years.

Peter Blaiwas, Brian Hotchkiss, and the staff of Wordesign Services ([www.wordesignservices.com](http://www.wordesignservices.com)) for the graphics and production of this Journal.



## **The Cantors Assembly 75th Anniversary Journal**

Co-Chairman and Editor: Matthew Austerklein

Co-Chairman: Abraham Lubin

Co-Editor: Jack Chomsky

Art Director: Mike Weis

# Table of Contents

## DEDICATION PAGES

Kenneth & Dede Feinberg	2
Stephen J. Stein	3

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

4

## MISSION STATEMENT

8

## GREETINGS

### Dignitaries

President Joe Biden	9
Israeli President Reuven Rivlin	00
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein	
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti	00
JTS Chancellor Shuly Rubin Schwartz	00
Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies	00
Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, CEO of the Rabbinical Assembly & USCJ	00
Cantor Claire Franco, ACC President	00
Rakefet Ginsberg, Masorti Olami	00
WZO Representative Yizhar Hess	00
Malcom Hoenlein (Conference of Presidents)	00
Mr. Harvey L. Miller	00
President of the Cantors Assembly	00
Executive Vice-President of the Cantors Assembly	00
Co-Chairman & Co-Editor Matthew Austerklein	00
Co-Chairman Abraham Lubin	00
Co-Editor Jack Chomsky	00

## LEADERS OF THE CANTORS ASSEMBLY

Executive Vice-Presidents	000
Staff	000
Officers & Executive Council	000
Presidents	000
Officers 1997-2012	000



<b>BIOGRAPHIES</b>	000
<b>MEMBERS OF THE CANTORS ASSEMBLY</b>	000
<b>MEMORIAL ROLL OF DEPARTED COLLEAGUES</b>	000
<b>MUSIC SECTION</b>	000
<b>SCHOLARSHIP SECTION: CANTORS IN CONTEXT</b>	
<b>Looking Back, Looking Forward</b> <i>Abraham Lubin</i>	000
<b>Hazzanut &amp; Music in the Writings of Leon de Modena</b> <i>Akiva Zimmerman</i>	000
<b>What is the Cantorial 'Golden Age'? Hefker Khazones</b> <b>(Wanton Cantorial Music) or 'the Key to the Jewish soul?'</b> <i>Jeremiah Lockwood</i>	000
<b>Tales from the Choir Loft:</b> <b>A Former 'Vimalei Boy' Remembers</b> <i>Solomon Mendelson</i>	000
<b>The Development of Congregational Song in the</b> <b>American Conservative Synagogue: <i>Beginnings</i></b> <i>Geoffrey Goldberg</i>	000
<b>Balancing Song with Chant during Synagogue Services</b> <i>Joe Levine</i>	000
<b>The Gendered Cantorate: A New History</b> <i>Judah M. Cohen</i>	000
<b>Cantors and the Music of the Global Village</b> <i>Ramón Tasat</i>	000
<b>Jewish Music and the Academy</b> <i>Mark Kligman</i>	000
<b>From Text to Melody: the Evolution of the Term</b> <b><i>Nusach Ha-Tefillah</i></b> <i>Jonathan Friedmann</i>	000
<b>The Vocation of the Cantor</b> <i>Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel,</i> <i>with new preface by Dr. Susannah Heschel</i>	000

## THE ASSEMBLY REFLECTS

**The First 25 Years: 1947-1972**

*William Belkin-Ginsburg*

000

**The Second 25 Years: 1972-1997**

*Samuel Rosenbaum and Stephen Stein*

000

**The Third 25 Years: 1997-2022**

*Stephen J. Stein*

000

**Women in the Cantors Assembly:**

**Thirty Years of Singing a New Song**

*Nancy Abramson and Alisa Pomerantz-Boro*

000

**Cantors Responding to Crisis**

*Jeffrey Myers*

000

**Technology & Transformation: The Cantors Assembly  
in the 21st century**

*Mike Weis*

000

**Towards a New Vision of Hazzanut**

*Sam Rosenbaum*

000

## CANTORIAL SCHOOLS AND THE CA

**H.L. Miller Cantorial School**

*Nancy Abramson*

000

**Hebrew College**

*Louise Treitman & Lynn Torgove*

000

**AJRCA**

*Nate Lam and Perryne Anker*

000

**Academy of Jewish Religion**

*Michael Kasper*

000

**CICA**

*Joe Gole*

000

**Cantors Assembly Publications: 1997-2022**

000

**Cantors Assembly Conventions: 1997-2022**

000

## TRIBUTES

000

## PHOTO MONTAGE

000

## BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX

000



## **CANTORS ASSEMBLY MISSION STATEMENT**

2014

The Cantors Assembly promotes the vocation of the Cantorate, serving our members and their congregations by supporting our colleagues in their roles as vibrant, engaging, vital clergy and musical leaders.

Beyond offering our members opportunities for mentorship, professional development and personal growth, we also provide essential services such as placement, insurance and retirement planning.

Affiliated with the Conservative/Masorti movement, we seek to ensure that our members are fully prepared to lead their communities through an ever-evolving Jewish landscape.





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 6, 2021

I send my warm congratulations regarding the Cantors Assembly's celebration of 75 years of service to the American Conservative Jewish community. During its inspirational history, the Cantors Assembly has played an integral role in American Jewish life and has grown to be the largest body of Hazzanim in the world.

Representing a Cantorate of hundreds of women and men, serving congregations all throughout our Nation, the Cantors Assembly has been successful in bringing together the Cantorate, establishing the cantor as a key clergy person, and developing the preeminent structures for training, employment, conduct, and placement of cantorial staff within the Conservative Jewish community. As society has progressed, so too has the Cantors Assembly, which has taken great efforts to expand the Cantorate and create equity, welcoming women as cherished and equal colleagues.

The Hazzanim of the Cantors Assembly have been vital in the creation and curation of the soundtrack of the American Jewish experience—a task of enhanced importance during the last year. Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, cantors have used the power of their voices to unite and guide their communities through uncertainty and struggle. They have provided comfort in moments of sorrow, brought levity and light in moments of celebration, and extended their presence to an online community to ensure that the spirit of the American Conservative Jewish congregation can be heartened and lifted through song and prayer, no matter the location or circumstance.

Through music and dance, teaching and counsel, prayer and love, the Cantorate has enriched the American Conservative Jewish community. The members have ensured that every Jewish soul has a voice and that each voice is amplified, raising the communal American spirit in the process.

Thank you again for the meaningful and spiritual services you share with the community. On behalf of the people of the United States, I send our best wishes for the Cantors Assembly's continued growth and success. God bless you.



DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
CALIFORNIA

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
- Chair, Human Rights and the Law

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
- Chair, Energy and Water Subcommittee

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

May 22, 2021

Cantors Assembly  
1039 South La Cienega Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90035

Dear Cantors Assembly,

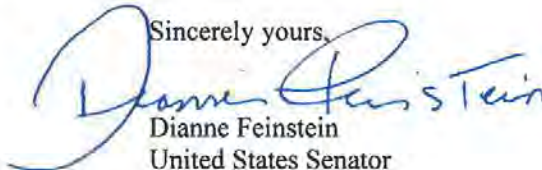
It is with great pleasure that I join Cantors Assembly in recognizing its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Since its inception, Cantors Assembly has dedicated itself to advocating for the Cantorate profession in the Los Angeles community and beyond. Through its educational programs and community initiatives, Cantors Assembly has provided invaluable resources and opportunities to its members. There is no doubt that Cantors Assembly's efforts will continue to benefit the lives of countless individuals for many years to come.

As your United States Senator representing the State of California, it is my distinct honor to commend Cantors Assembly for all it has accomplished through the years and wish it the greatest success in all of its future endeavors.

Again, congratulations!

Sincerely yours,

  
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator





Adar 5781  
March 2021

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to join in appreciation and celebration of the Cantorial Assembly, as it marks its seventy-fifth anniversary.

The partnership between JTS and the Cantors Assembly has illuminated the Jewish world for decades. Together, we promoted the inclusion of women into the professional cantorate—since 1985 when women first enrolled in JTS's cantorial school and 1991 when women first entered the CA. By educating, training, and supporting our cantors, we have enriched Jewish life immensely.

So much has changed since the CA's fiftieth anniversary celebration. Today, there are over 100 more JTS trained cantors in the CA than there were 25 years ago. In 1997, thanks to the generous support and devotion of Harvey Miller, we re-named the Cantor's Institute in his honor. Since that time, his joyous spirit and enthusiasm for Jewish music animates the school, and the H. L. Miller Cantorial School has enriched training of its students in so many ways: We have enhanced students' skills through revamped music education and life-cycle training, year-long internships supplemented with supervision seminar, and providing hands-on experience in new music software technology. We have enriched the curriculum by requiring a full unit of Clinical Pastoral Education for all cantorial students and increased opportunities for cantorial and rabbinical students to learn and grow together as clergy partners. We have also re-emphasized our commitment to cantorial education in Israel through a revamped semester of study, internships and experiential learning based in Jerusalem.

We are proud of the ways in which our alumni have become prominent in the Jewish world in creating new Jewish music while continuing to share the richness of traditional Nusah, partnering with rabbis to build stronger communities, enriching Ramah camps with music and tefillah, and working as cantor-educators.

Currently five of the seven CA officers and half of the CA Executive Council are CS alumni. Together they offer distinguished service to the profession as a whole and to each of its members. Through music and prayer, the work of the Cantors Assembly has touched all our lives. The voice of the Jewish people flourishes through your work, and our students and alumni are strengthened by you.

I am delighted to mark this milestone with you and hope for many more opportunities to celebrate in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz,  
Chancellor

**Office of the Chancellor**  
[www.jtsa.edu](http://www.jtsa.edu)

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