

ASPIRATIONS

- Provide powerful/transformational/engaging worship experiences that connect people to themselves, others, the Bet Shalom community, Judaism, and God
- Expand people's understanding of Judaism as a spiritual and creative enterprise.
- Provide opportunities for congregants to express and develop their creative abilities (especially in the realm of music) and, thereby, deepen their, and the communities' connection to one another, Judaism, and God
- Learn about, appreciate, and support people's spiritual and Jewish journey and be a resource to deepen their connection to themselves, others, the Bet Shalom community, Judaism and God.
- Be a compassionate listener and honest and skillful communicator.

THE VALUES THAT GUIDE MY WORK

Spirituality - רוחניות

My purpose as a cantor is to nurture people's hearts and souls and inspire them to access *Kedushah* in their lives. This is accomplished by leading compelling prayer experiences, teaching in a manner that provides opportunities for revelation, providing extraordinary pastoral care, engaging with congregants and the wider community in Tikkun Olam, and attending to my own spiritual life.

Creativity - כוח יצירה

Judaism was and is a created phenomenon. Its laws, practices, stories, customs, and rituals were conceived in the imagination and entered into the world through creative action. As such, Judaism is most compelling - and God is most present - when the imagination is roused and actions are directed by it to enrich the lives of others. As a cantor I strive to harness my own creative energy, to educate congregants about how Judaism is a creative enterprise, to encourage them to identify creative interests and abilities, and to provide opportunities for congregants to develop and express their talents within a Jewish context. This process leads to an expansion of the creative Self and a deeper connection to Judaism. The community benefits as well when such gifts are brought forth and shared in a sacred context.

Communication - תקשורת

In order to be a vital and vibrant community a congregation must consist of leaders who are skilled listeners and communicators. I strive to work collaboratively with my rabbinic colleague(s), professional staff, and lay leaders in a way that combines the pursuit of

excellence with the pursuit of kindness and understanding. This includes promoting practices and encouraging experiences that support the development of communication skills.

Relationship - קשר וחבור

As Dr. Ron Wolfson asserts, *“What really matters is that we care about the people we seek to engage. When we genuinely care about people, we will not only welcome them; we will listen to their stories, we will share ours, and we will join together to build a Jewish community that enriches our lives.”* Whether it’s singing *Avinu Malkeinu* on Yom Kippur, working with volunteer musicians and singers, holding the hand of a patient in the hospital, teaching a session of Making Prayer Real, watching a Bat Mitzvah lead the Shema with a Torah in her arms, officiating at an interfaith wedding, or composing a song for a community celebration, my most treasured value and important commitment is *kesher v’chibur*, interrelatedness and connection.