

**CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM**



**THIRTY YEARS**



**CONGREGATION  
BETH SHALOM**

Wilmington, Delaware

KENNETH COHEN, Rabbi  
JACOB KRAFT, Rabbi Emeritus  
ANDREW SALZER, Cantor  
FRANCES STEIN, Executive Director  
ARLENE DAVIS, Educational Director

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\*Deceased



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**CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM**

Proudly Honors

**CANTOR ANDREW SALZER**

In Celebration Of Thirty Years As Cantor  
**Saturday, March 28, 1981, 8:15 P.M.**

***Program***

<b>Master of Ceremonies</b> .....	IRVING MORRIS, ESQ.
<b>Invocation</b> .....	RABBI KENNETH COHEN
<b>Greetings</b> .....	THELMA DEITCHER Co-Chairman, Celebration
<b>Remarks</b> .....	LOIS KLEVAN SCHNEIDER
	ROBERT JACOBS President, Congregation Beth Shalom
<b>Response</b> .....	CANTOR ANDREW SALZER

**FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT**

**HERSCHEL FOX**

*and*

**JUDY STEVENS**

Everyone is Cordially Invited to Join Cantor and Mrs. Salzer at a Dessert Buffet Reception in The Leibowitz or Balick Auditoriums.

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## COMMITTEES TRIBUTE

THELMA DEITCHER  
JANE GOLDBERG  
General Chairmen

### Catering

Mimi Leeds  
Norm The Caterer

### Publicity

Alan Schoenberg

### Portrait and Photos

Morris Ariff, Davis Studios

### Ushering

Al Sachs  
Beth Shalom Men's Club

### Invitations

Irene Aber  
Thelma Deitcher  
Jane Goldberg  
Frances Stein

**PROGRAM BOOK**  
MICHAEL H. BERKOVER  
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Richard Levine  
Joseph Miller  
Edmund Jacobs  
Samuel Swinger  
Ronald Riebman  
Leonard Dukart  
Miriam Feldman  
Dr. Jack Barsha  
Bertram Braunstein  
Mimi Leeds  
Joel Lipman  
Gerson Blatnick  
James Chaikin  
Ruth Forman  
Daniel Ehrenfeld  
Gerald Turnauer

Lance Ziering  
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Leatrice Weinstock  
Faga Orgiefsky  
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Rhoda Dombchik  
Steve Dombchik  
Paul Drowos  
Bess Lewis  
Solomon Peltz  
Al Sachs  
Melvin Leibowitz  
Marc Raiff  
Dr. Gerald Resnick  
Jack Wolitz  
Thelma Deitcher  
Alfred Isaacs  
Dr. Manuel Panar

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# IN TRIBUTE FROM HIS COLLEAGUES

## IN TRIBUTE TO CANTOR ANDREW SALZER

BY Rabbi Kenneth S. Cohen

It is both my pleasure and privilege to contribute these words in appreciation of my dear friend and colleague, Cantor Andrew Salzer, on the occasion of his thirtieth year of service to our Congregation. Andy, as he is affectionately known by so many of us, has become so much a part of our lives, in good times and in bad, that we automatically expect fine haz-zanut, dedicated service and genuine warmth from our Cantor. It is thus altogether fitting that we take this opportunity, at yet another milestone in his distinguished career, to recognize the superb qualities that make him so beloved to us.

I could venture forth into the realm of music and attempt to "rhapsodize" on his virtues, but this would be better left to bonafide musicians. One aspect that I would like to comment upon is something that is found altogether lacking in so much of our daily life today. The rabbis ask the question, **Ayzehu Ashir** - "Who is rich" and answer is given **Ha-Sameach Be-Helko**. "He who is happy with his portion. As it is written (Psalm 128:2) 'When you enjoy the labor of your hands, happy will you be and all will be well with you'." While many seem to be impoverished of contentment and regard themselves in a rut, Andy is a rich man, content with his life's work as Cantor. His wealth of satisfaction derives from his love of Judaism, his enjoyment of singing, his appreciation of fine music and his delight in sharing these pleasures with others. His life has not been an easy one. He and Margaret lived through the nightmare of the Holocaust and arrived in Wilmington only after great hardship. In spite of it all - or because of it - he believes that by serving as Hazzan and teaching, he is serving in his own way **le takkain olam be-malchut Shaddai** - to perfect the world under the kingdom of the Almighty. If his voice inspires others in their prayers; if his efforts in preparing our children for bar/bat mitzvah and confirmation move them to cling fast to their faith; if his work with the choir, the Men's Club and Sisterhood, or any of the other groups in our **schul** help joyfully involve our people in celebrating their Jewishness, he is **sameach be-helko**, rich in contentment.

The story is told of a great architect who one day surveyed the progress made on a house of worship he had designed. He went up to several workers and asked them what they were doing. One replied simply, "I am laying bricks." A second man, more enthusiastic about his labors, said, "I am a stonemason helping to erect this building." The third man, inspired by his task, answered, "I am helping to build a Temple to God."

In his many varied labors on behalf of our Congregation - from positioning the microphones at a Sisterhood luncheon to singing the Musaf on Yom Kippur - Andrew Salzer has, over these thirty years, helped build a Temple to God through his devoted, loving service to the Almighty and his fellow man. I pray that he, along with Margaret, Aggie and Eva will be granted many more years of health and love together, and that he may long continue to enjoy the contentment that is conferred by serving "in the courts of our God."

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## ANDREW SALZER

Out of the ashes of Auschwitz there emerged pathetically few Jews, survivors of the most diabolical evil in history, some to bring light and beauty to our people. Among them was Andrew Salzer who appeared one Rosh Hashanah some thirty years ago and brought his musical talent to our Congregation. He made a tremendous impression upon those who heard him. One talented musician declared, "He is a splendid musicologist and uses his voice with rare skill."

But there was far more than a fine voice that he brought to our congregation. He brought his entire being, his dedication, his service, his commitment, his love, his friendship, his willingness to give of himself, completely and without stint. Life was difficult for the Cantor in his early years with the Temple. His salary was small and there was need at the beginning to supplement his earnings.

The Congregation came to recognize the worth of this man, for his services reached beyond the confines of the pulpit and synagogue. He trained our sons and daughters as Bnai Mitzvah and as confirmands, with imagination and skill. He developed "ba'alai Kriyah" Torah and Haftorah readers. Some of his students were so well trained that in later years they were able to teach others for Bar or Bat Mitzvah. To develop such students skilled in this technical art is a singular accomplishment.

As the great Jefferson has written of George Washington: "His integrity is most pure." Cantor Salzer is a man of utter integrity. Nature and conscience combined in him to create an ideal man. His many services in visits to homes and hospitals, as occasion required, revealed the character of the man. He would never engage in hyperbolic praise of his pupils after a Bar or Bat-Mitzvah or Confirmation service. For him to say to a student or adult "Well done" was the highest encomium that he indulged in.

Here is but one example of his supererogatory devotion. He had been ill and was in the hospital undergoing tests. He elicited from the doctors a reluctant acquiescence to leave for a while on Monday and Thursday mornings to attend the Morning Minyan to read the Torah.

To paraphrase the Psalmist, we can say of our Cantor, "The praises of God are in his mouth and in his hands the moral weapons" to be of service to his community. May God bless our Cantor and his devoted companion, Margaret, them and their daughters, Aggie and Eva. May he be with us in life and health for years to come.

**Jacob Kraft, Rabbi Emeritus**

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## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

For thirty years Cantor Andrew Salzer has been the driving force in leading our worship services and preparing us and members of our families to more fully participate in these services. Adult, young adult or child, no matter, our Cantor devotes his time and seemingly unlimited knowledge to mold his students so they can interpret the beautiful and meaningful prayers which are the teachings of our fathers.

Each Shabbat his interpretive approach to our ritual allows all who listen to understand the prayers, psalms and Torah portions regardless of one's understanding of each Hebrew word. This gift allows us to fully appreciate our heritage.

Teaching and contributing to our religious life are but a small part of the Cantor's contributions to Beth Shalom, the community and Klal Yisrael. His example as a father, husband, and Jew exemplifies a goal each of us might strive to attain. His devotion to his family is a light to follow, his support of Israel and Jewish life needs little illustration. Personally, I owe him my gratitude for what I have been able to learn and absorb through my relationship with him.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors I wish him well for many more years as an active member of our Clergy, Synagogue and our community.

**Robert Jacobs  
President**

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## WITH LOVE FROM HIS DAUGHTERS

### Our Dad, A Most Humble, Exemplary Man, And Ever-Loving Husband To Our Mother

To me, my father and mother represent a team. It is difficult for me to recognize one without honoring the both of them. Alone each has his and her own frailties. Together they become the fortitude of Gibraltar. Their individual accomplishments are a result of the support, encouragement and resources that they provide one another.

I have always considered myself inordinately fortunate to have been born of my two parents. They have provided for me a fountain of ever-flowing love and acceptance, the space for my stubborn independence, and a respect for my judgement and capabilities. What more can a child ask for?

Most people see the serious side to my father. I remember, as a child, watching him sitting on the bima looking so stern. At home he was sometimes serious, but usually he was lighthearted and playful. In the very early days he used to sing at home, but unfortunately his powerful voice was too painful for my delicate child's ears. I would stuff my fingers in to protect them from the pain. Not understanding, my Dad took it as a critical gesture. Much to my deep regret he stopped singing at home. He did not stop playing though. He enjoyed making Eva and me laugh and sometimes he would tickle us till the tears ran down our cheeks. Vacation outings to the shore were always great. We ran and played in the water. Daddy and Eva were the fish in the family. One of my favorite family adventures was our trip up the coast to Canada. It was my first camping trip and the romance with nature still thrives in my blood. Dad, as he often is, was so cute; mischievous with his camera, laughing at our mishaps, cajoling me out of my misery with the early morning cold.

One thing I'm happy about is the luck I had in not having a brother in the family. As a result, I was the fortunate child who learned how to splice wires, turn screws and hammer nails. Every time my Dad got out his tools to tinker or repair I was by his side, watching and helping.

Growing up together, my Dad and I spent many hours talking, or as often as not, in debate over some subject. What a scene it was when he, his brother and I would "go at it," arguing and arguing throughout the night. It was always a friendly argument even though we were all equally stubborn in our certainty.

In addition to the intellectual challenge my Dad posed for me, he became for me, a purveyor of wise thoughts, an example of spiritual striving, and a yardstick of accomplishment. What I appreciate most is my Dad's dedication to a positive attitude, and his having taught me that; his readiness to keep an open mind; and to constantly look for avenues of self-improvement, for different pathways to God. I am tremendously grateful for the groundwork which enable me to find my own path, my own small voice.

The loving, quietly supportive current of strength running through our family, supplied by my mother, provided the necessary base of security I use to keel my life. The vastness of her giving nature, her unspoken, but visible understanding, her immediate sense of justice. My goodness, what good qualities abound in this pair! As you can tell, I think quite highly of them. My parents! It's not hard to love them.

May the chords of life-giving song surge through and renew my Dad providing many on-stretching fruitful years to share with those of us who love and need him so.

Agi Salzer

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There was always music in our house when we were growing up. I felt like a very special child, to be surrounded by the wonderful sounds of classical music, Jewish music, and song. By age six I was eagerly playing the piano, with my dad patiently at my side, coaxing and praising me. His support and patience gave me the courage to pursue it. Although I haven't chosen a career in music, my love of all things musical is as close to me as my father himself. He gave me the gift of music, for which I cannot thank him enough.

A few special times come to mind that I would like to share. I remember feeling proud when my Dad and I entertained at the Kutz Home. My father gave a rendition of Exodus and I accompanied him at the piano. The performance of Exodus was an especially emotional experience for the both of us. The High Holy days have always been very special to me. Dad looks so endearing in his High Holy day robes and Kipah. I love hearing his inspiring delivery of Une Sane Tokef in which I can feel the outpourings of his heart. I'll never forget on Rosh Hashannah in the Temple, when we sang a duet. It felt so wonderful to be singing a prayer with him. Strolling home, arm in arm, after services, we felt very close.

I feel very proud and happy that Temple Beth Shalom is honoring my father. He is a warm and sincere father and Cantor. And of course, I cannot forget my loving mother, who has contributed to his career immeasurably, as she has to my life. Her support and strength have been a source of courage to me. In my present effort towards becoming a Chiropractor, my parent's encouragement and faith in me is invaluable.

I send all my love to two wonderful parents, and look forward to a sharing and closeness that will grow with time.

Eva F. Salzer

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