

Mazel Tov to Cong. Beth El on it's 75th anniversary. As your Cantor from 1981-1992 it was my honor to participate and create many musical and spiritual moments over the years. Rabbi Jonas Goldberg helped forge the way for me to become the second woman cantor in the conservative movement in 1981 and helped me to grow and learn as a cantor. Having my mother as my accompanist and organist was a treat for many years as was watching my then three children grow up at Beth El. David enjoyed his years teaching religious school while in high school with thanks to Rabbi Fish who helped mentor him. I am grateful as well to Rabbi Marder who officiated at the funerals of both my parents and knew them well.

It was at Beth El that I started the Women Cantors' Network, now a national organization over 300 strong.

I will always remember with great joy the gala planned in honor of my ten years at Beth El as well as the Shechter Award that recognized my cantorial and musical efforts at Beth El . It was a time of growth, challenge and community that has stayed with me always.

Wishing my friends at Beth El a mazel tov - May you go from strength to strength!

Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray

Temple Shearith Israel

Ridgefield,CT