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ASKABIGAIL

Newsletter

CANTORIAL ART, PRAYER, AND THE POWER OF WORDS

Dear Friends,

I have found great comfort in writing these newsletters during the turbulent times of the pandemic. The challenging circumstances have led me to reflect deeply on the fundamental aspects of life, and putting my thoughts into words has helped me gain clarity.

Last December, a month that typically brings joy, I found myself revisiting footage from the European Cantors Convention in Hanover, Germany, which I attended in January of last year. It feels like a distant memory now.



In '[Jewish Tradition through Words, Stories, and Prayer](#),' I explore the rich tapestry of Jewish tradition, where language is a tool for connecting with spirituality, storytelling is a means of passing down wisdom, and prayer is a way to foster a deeper connection with the divine.



Prayer is a continuous conversation with the Divine, and Cantor plays a vital role as a messenger. They express the collective thoughts and feelings of the worshippers as they come together to pray. In '[The Cantor's Prayer](#),' I explore the importance of the Cantor's role in Jewish prayer gatherings, emphasizing the power of their prayers.



The significance of music, particularly in Cantorial Art, became even more pronounced after immersing myself in two enlightening programs on CBC radio. In '[Music and the Cantorial Art](#),' I delve into the profound link between music and spirituality, emotion, and culture.

As we approach the new year, a Hebrew saying holds great significance:

“Tichle shana vekilelloteha”
(as the old year and its curses end)

“Teaher shana oobirchoteha”
(let us hurry the arrival of the new year with her blessings)

Let us continue to embrace the power of Cantorial Art, prayer, and the unwavering resilience of the human spirit as we journey into the unknown, guided by faith and the enduring power of words.

Abigail