

Throughout the fall, over two hundred congregants joined us for community conversations to share their thoughts and vision for the next Hazzan of Chizuk Amuno Congregation. We heard a vast range of ideas on a wide variety of topics. The following represents the most frequently recurring themes from the community:

Traits of the Hazzan

- Warm, energetic and able to connect with congregants on a personal level. Relates well to adults and children of all ages
- Someone who will work in alignment with the vision of the senior rabbi, and in concert with the congregation's senior leadership team
- An approachable mensch

Hazzan's role in music and services

- A good voice, a trained voice, a voice in an accessible range that inspires and enables congregants to sing together following his/her lead
- Encourages congregational participation in singing
- Has ability to teach from the *bimah*: tunes, meanings, history of prayers
- Someone who can lead services with our familiar, traditional melodies, and also able to teach the congregation occasional new tunes
- Much congregational conversation about the use of instruments in various services, and additional voices on the *bimah* singing with the Hazzan demonstrates the incredible range of opinion within the community

Hazzan's role in education

- An integral part of each of the congregation schools
- Experience teaching different age groups. Eager to work with preschoolers through high school age students teaching tunes of the service and meanings of prayers
- Encouraging and supportive in teaching b'nei mitzvah students. Shows skill and patience in working with students with different skill and voice levels, and those with learning differences
- Wants to empower and teach others to chant Torah and to lead parts of the service
- Will help keep post b'nei mitzvah students engaged by giving them parts in the service, either in groups or individually

Community and pastoral engagement

- Will help develop our congregation's reputation as a "singing shul"
- Can lead children and adults in singing at community events around Baltimore
- Will engage in the life cycle event of members of the Chizuk Amuno community