

CHIZUK AMUNO
HAZZAN SEARCH 
Amplify your Voice

Tevet 5779

Dear Members of the Chizuk Amuno Community,

With the shortest day of the year behind us and as we begin the march toward longer days and warmer temperatures, we pause to update you on the search for the next Hazzan of Chizuk Amuno Congregation and Schools.

Work began in April as we assembled a committee representative of the many constituencies, voices and visions within our community. Also in that period, we engaged Hazzan Joel Lichterman as our interim Hazzan. We are grateful both to the dedicated committee members and to Hazzan Lichterman for their roles in guiding the congregation as we move towards our collective musical future.

After Rabbi Gruenberg's official arrival this summer, two subcommittees began their work. One wrote the Hazzan position description and completed the placement questionnaire for submission to the Cantor's Assembly. We thank the authors for their thoughtful and insightful work and encourage you to read these documents on the Hazzan search page of the Chizuk Amuno website at www.chizukamuno.org/about/hazzan-search/.

The second group focused on creating opportunities for community conversations. Held on a variety of days and times in order to accommodate complicated schedules, some conversations were semi structured roundtable style while others were free form drop in sessions. The team listened to over 200 voices and carefully distilled the findings into a one page statement that may also be found on the Hazzan search page of the Chizuk Amuno website at www.chizukamuno.org/about/hazzan-search/.

By late summer, the subcommittee dedicated to writing our community survey began their work. With the goal of asking questions that would generate a clear picture of the community's vision for our next Hazzan, the full committee also contributed to the creation of this document. Thank you to the more than 400 community members who participated in the survey. In addition to the findings of the community conversations, the survey results will serve as a guide as the committee interviews candidates this winter.

On November 1st, the Cantor's Assembly opened its placement season. Since that time, the vetting group of the search committee has been hard at work. After receiving an application from the Cantor's Assembly, the team reviews the resume and conducts a short call with the candidate. For those moving forward, this is followed by a longer

video interview with a larger vetting group, and a one-day in-person interview with the full search committee.

The committee looks forward to bringing finalists to the full Chizuk Amuno community for Shabbat visits in the late winter and early spring. We thank you in advance for your participation in these weekends. It is during finalist weekends that we will have the communal opportunity to see and to hear what best suits our congregation as we look to our collective musical future. In addition, your feedback after a candidate visit will serve as a critical piece of the puzzle and we are grateful for your input.

We are delighted to have received many applications for the position of Hazzan and look forward to receiving more still. Chizuk Amuno is a vibrant congregation in a desirable Jewish community with a rich history of *Hazzanut*. The robust response to our posting demonstrates the appeal of Chizuk Amuno and this post.

As has been the case since the start of the process, there are many ways to follow our work and to share your input. You may read current news and messages on the Hazzan search page of the Chizuk Amuno website. In addition, you may find links to our completed questionnaire for the Cantor's Assembly, the position description, past *HaHodesh* updates and community feedback findings on this webpage. We have enjoyed hearing from many members of our community and encourage you to continue to reach out to us at: search@chizukamuno.org

Sincerely,

Jenny Gamliel and Antony Rosen
Hazzan Search Committee Chairs

Chizuk Amuno Hazzan Search Committee members

Sandy Abramoff, Marci Aronchick, Yifaat Asher, Marc Attman, Jay Baraban, Jerry Buxbaum, Jeff Cooper, Arnie Feiner, Judy Gerstenblith, Barry Gittlen, Bob Hallock, Jane Kahn, Rena Lapidus, Laura Reaven, Erika Schon, Meira Silverstein, Jeff Snyder, Charlee Sterling, Rabbi Joshua Gruenberg, President Sandi Moffet, Executive Director Glenn Easton