

## Workshops A

(Available both Monday June 14 at 12-1 p.m. ET / 9-10 a.m. PT AND Tuesday June 15 4:15-5:15 p.m. ET / 1:15-2:15 p.m. PT)

### **1) Jewish Cooking (Ashkenazi/Sefardi) with Debbie Katchko-Gray & Star Wahnnon**

#### **Description**

In this Jewish Cooking Class, Debbie Katchko-Gray will be presenting Ashkenazi dishes that can be used for holidays and Shabbat, and Star Wahnnon will be presenting traditional Passover Sefardi dishes. It is sure to be a delightful and delicious treat!

#### **Bios**

**Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray** is a fourth-generation cantor and the second to serve a Conservative congregation. She is the Founder (1982) and Past President of the Women Cantors' Network. Deborah has served Congregation Shir Shalom of Westchester and Fairfield Counties since 1999. In 2009 She was chosen as one of the Jewish Ledger's Movers and Shakers in 2009.

Her ten recordings and many with the Cantors Assembly Spirit Series are heard on Jewish radio stations and available at cdbaby, oySongs and iTunes. She has published two books; Katchko-Three Generations of Cantorial Art and Prayerful Creations: Creating an heirloom tallit or challah cover using Swedish Weaving and Jewish design.

Her story is included in "The Invisible Thread - A Portrait of American Jewish Women." Her papers and memorabilia from her years of study with Prof. Elie Wiesel are housed in the Mugar Library at Boston University with the Elie Wiesel Archives. She is currently writing a book about her studies with him.

She is a cellist with the Danbury Symphony and volunteers for the Daily Bread Pantry in Danbury. She is the mother of a growing family, four sons, two stepsons, daughters-in-law, and two adorable grandchildren with more on the way! She is married to Dr. F. Scott Gray of Somers Orthopedics in Danbury, CT. [www.cantordebbie.com](http://www.cantordebbie.com)

**Star Wahnnon** is a Shaliach Tzibbur/Cantorial Soloist, and currently serves as the Shaliach Tzibbur at Temple Beth El of Patchogue, New York, as well as the virtual cantorial soloist at Temple Isaiah, Palm Springs Los Angeles, California. She is also currently studying with Cantor Sol Zim at the Academy for Jewish Religion in Yonkers, New York. Star follows in the footsteps of her great grandfather, Reverend James Mesod Wahnnon, who was the Hazzan at the Spanish Portuguese synagogue Congregation Shearith Israel in New York City from 1920-1941. Being of Spanish and Moroccan background, she was raised with Sefardi culture as well as Ashkenazi.

Star is a retired public-school principal who holds a BA in Theatre Arts and Dance, MA in Secondary Education, and an MA in School District Administration. She sits on the Advisory Board for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office representing the Spanish Jewish voice, is a board member for the Women Cantors' Network, Anusim Crypto-Jewish Association and the Leeway School (preschool special education), founder of Laugh N Learn Workshops, which provides Special Education advocacy and training for parents and teachers, and is the Vice President at Temple Beth El of Patchogue as well as the Chairperson for the Membership Committee. She has been happily married for 30 years and is the proud mother of 2 daughters.

## ***2) The Tools of Telling our Tales with Ellen Dreskin***

### **Description**

The art of storytelling varies from storyteller to storyteller, but there are questions that we can ask ourselves and skills we can refine, in order to bring the full power of a story to any community. We'll talk about how to really own the stories we tell, as well as how to craft experiences of all shapes and sizes.

### **Bio**

**Cantor Ellen Dreskin** is a communal prayer leader, educator, coach, and consultant in the areas of liturgy, contemporary communal worship, and deepening prayer practice. She has served as a visiting Artist/Educator/Shaliach Tzibbur at congregations across the country and is also proud to have been teaching for many years at HUC-JIR, SongLeader Boot Camp, Hava Nashira, the JCCA Sheva Center, and online for the URJ. You can find her at [www.ellendreskin.com](http://www.ellendreskin.com).

## Workshops B

(Available both Monday June 14 at 4:15-5:15 p.m. ET / 1:15-2:15 p.m. PT AND Tuesday June 15 at 12-1 p.m. ET / 9-10 a.m. PT)

### 1) *"Racism: What's Judaism Got to Do With It?" with Robin Anne Joseph*

#### Description

A crash course from a White Jew on how to take racism personally—and how to and explain to your White Jewish friends, congregants and loved ones why they should, too!

#### Bio

**Robin Anne Joseph** graduated from SUNY Purchase with a B.A. in Dramatic Literature and received cantorial ordination from the Academy for Jewish Religion, where she is currently on faculty teaching cantillation. She has served as cantor and educator at Temple Beth Shalom in Hastings-On-Hudson, NY for 40 years.

Robin has composed and published dozens of songs, liturgical and beyond. When not on a bimah, Robin can be found on secular stages where she has been acting, directing, stage managing and playwriting for community and professional theatre for over 45 years. What Robin is NOT an expert on, is racism. She is, however, learning every day about what her responsibility and role is as a White person—and a White Jew—as it pertains to racism, and to help to bring about racial justice and equity.

### 2) *InToning - Sacred Sound Healing with Re'ut Ben-Zeev*

#### Description

According to Jewish tradition, the first "seed" of Creation was "the word," i.e. sound. In this gathering, we will explore singing and sound as tools to create a comforting haven; discover how we can reawaken joy, tone our self-awareness and come into alignment of body-mind-spirit through sound.

Beginning with a Niggun, followed by a short lecture, Re'ut will lead the group in a journey exploring a "seed" of our liturgy through breath work, Kabbalistic intoning practices along with the modalities of Sound Healing, Qi Gong, the Chakras and the Elements. We will conclude with singing with a heightened awareness of the power of sound, followed by a Q & A.

Join from the comfort of your home on this journey of an authentic synergy of Jewish music and liturgy with ancient sound arts through awakening, moving and aligning sound & energy, activating your lungs, and connecting to your body as a musical instrument of vibrational healing.

#### Bio

**Re'ut Ben-Zeev** has had the honor of serving the Jewish community for over 20 years as a cantor and a cantorial soloist in congregations in Florida, Manhattan and Connecticut. She recorded Jewish music for the Milken Archive of Jewish music and collaborated with Jewish composers as Yehudi Wyner and Samuel Adler. Re'ut has also been a professional classical singer, performing in venues as Lincoln Center and on the soundtrack of Natalie Portman's film. After a health crisis, she came to pursue the modality of Tibetan Sound Healing at the Tibetan Sound Healing School and since has been developing and teaching a hybrid of Jewish traditions and Western music with ancient Sacred Sound Healing Arts. She is available for Sacred Sound Healing workshops and private sessions. Contact information:

[Reut.benzeev8668@gmail.com](mailto:Reut.benzeev8668@gmail.com)

## WCN Panel

(Wednesday June 16 at 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 PM ET / 8:45-9:45 a.m. PT)

### ***Moving Forward: Transformational Opportunities of the Past Year***

During this panel, each panelist will present ten minutes on how this past year (2020) brought us angst, but also transformational opportunities for the future, including: Who & Why - including "multi-access" instead of "hybrid"; What & When and Where & How - including "best principles" as an overarching approach which includes "best practices." Moderated by Rebecca Schwartz, WCN will then have thirty minutes for questions and discussions.

**Panelists:** Rosalie Will, Kathy Sebo and Ros Schwartz / **Moderator:** Rebecca Schwartz

### **Bios**

**Cantor Rosalie Will** is the Director of Worship and Music for the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). She also privately consults congregations on issues of worship and music, mentor's clergy in the field, and travels to congregations in residency programs. Rosalie served from 2001-2017 as Cantor of Temple Emanuel in Kensington, MD and was ordained Cantor HUC – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. She is a Synagogue 3000 Fellow, is a Partner in the Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health and is a past Vice-President for Member Relations of the American Conference of Cantors (ACC). Through Presentense, an incubator for young Jewish social entrepreneurs she has launched a project called *Kesher Shir*: a venture which brings together Jewish musicians from diverse backgrounds to study, collaborate, and create meaningful music which will enrich and enliven worship and strengthen communities.

<https://www.rosaliewill.com/>

**Ros Schwartz** is a Jewish composer and performer whose work has been published and performed around the world. "*Singing Through the Night*", her first CD, has been described as inspirational, nourishing and healing. She is founder, artistic director and conductor of the Kingston Jewish Community Choir, a founding board member of the Kingston Open Voices Community Choir, and serves as a songleader, music educator, and Cantorial Soloist. Ros has given workshops in personal growth and taught courses in songwriting and creative process. She is also a physician with over 30 years of experience in Family Medicine and psychotherapy, facilitating healing and personal growth. Ros integrates these two aspects of her life based on her belief that music and medicine flow from the same healing source. <https://ros-schwartz.com/>

**Cantor Kathryn Wolfe Sebo** has served as the cantor of The Temple-Tifereth Israel in Cleveland since 1999. A graduate of The Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, she also studied privately with the renowned hazzan, Dr. Max Wohlberg (zl) of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Kathy can be heard on The Temple – Tifereth Israel's recordings, "Songs of Shabbat," "Songs of The High Holy Days" and "Rock My Soul Shabbat." She has been a member of the WCN since 1986 and feels blessed to be one of our organization's "Past Presidents." Kathy and her husband Rommie are the proud parents of Zachary and Kayla Sebo, Joshua and Beth Sebo, Becky Sebo and David Sebo... AND, she has been "kvelling" with "naches" for the past 6 months over her newest and most important title, "Bubbie Kathy" as she and Rommie have welcomed their first grandson, Archer Ray Sebo.

**Rebecca Schwartz** is a professional singer, guitarist, award-winning Jewish composer, guitar teacher, and Cantorial Soloist and Music Director serving at Congregation Kol Ami in Elkins Park, PA.