



WOMEN CANTORS' NETWORK CONFERENCE

June 9-12, 2025

Keneseth Israel Congregation

Louisville, KY

WORKSHOP, KEYNOTE, AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Kumzitz

(Monday at 8:00 pm)

A *kumzitz* is a Jewish gathering for singing and socializing. The word comes from the Yiddish words *kum* (“come”) and *zitz* (“sit”). This is a great informal opportunity for members to present one piece of music (theirs or someone else’s) and for us to learn new music.

Keynote Address: Increasing Your Impact

Presented by Heather Aranyi (Tuesday at 10:15 am)

This workshop will do a deep dive into magnifying your unique talents and strengths, and how to highlight that in different environments and interviews. Drawing on the latest research in decision making, negotiations, and personal branding, participants will leave with a personal branding toolbox focused both on getting the job, and thriving once you have it.

Sing Her Song: The Life and Music of Flory Jagoda

Presented by Susan Gaeta (Tuesday at 1:45 pm or 3:00 pm)

Susan will share the Sephardic story and songs from the Bosnian village of Flory’s childhood through her journey as a refugee, her arrival in the United States and the gifts of her compositions over the years. She celebrates the memory and culture of Flory’s Sephardic Jewish community through teaching her songs with an invitation to share them in your community. Song selections will be based on Susan’s “Sing Her Songs” program, a series of teaching videos and musical scores. This program can be previewed on her website, www.susangaeta.com. Bring your guitar!

A Bird's-Eye Overview of Nusach

Presented by Arlyne Unger (Tuesday at 1:45 pm or 3:00 pm)

Join me for an informative, fun and participatory journey through the traditional world of Nusach and consider why this legacy still is meaningful for us in today's Jewish liturgical world. Questions and topics we will consider:

- *What is Nusach and why is it important?*
- *What are modes and where are they used?*
- *Importance of "motif" vs. mode*
- *We will examine highlights from various services to discover how much these sound bites are familiar and how they anchor the service.*
- *Can we harmonize traditional Nusach with contemporary Jewish music?*

This workshop is appropriate for those who have no knowledge of Nusach as well as those with a beginners' familiarity with the subject. As an experienced Jewish educator, I will support you if you have any trepidation with the material. Let's take this journey together!

Songs Between Others: Jewish Visions of Appalachia

Presented by Nathan Viner (Tuesday at 1:45 pm or 3:00 pm)

Though understudied if not unacknowledged, a meaningful connection between Jewish artists and Appalachian cultural tradition has developed over the past half-century. In this presentation, I will explore the work of some key Jewish figures in Appalachian music and consider the broader affinities between the two groups.

Jewish Bourbon: History of the Jews in the Bourbon Industry and Bourbon Tasting

Presented by Carol Ely (Tuesday at 5:00 pm)

This presentation centers the Kentucky distilling industry's Jewish roots within the overall story of 200 years of Jewish life in the Bluegrass region, complete with a tasting of locally distilled bourbon. Even if you're not a drinker, come learn about the fascinating history of Kentucky's Jewish community and its ties to this barrel-aged American tradition.

Mazel Tonk–Celebrating Kentucky(ish) Music with a Jewish Flair

Presented by Brigid Kaelin (Tuesday at 8:00 pm)

Louisville native Brigid Kaelin grew up steeped in the history of local Jewish culture—her great-great-grandfather established the first synagogue in the area. But growing up in Kentucky, she was surrounded by country and folk music. Kaelin enjoys exploring links between Jewish culture and popular music. Her live shows are an eclectic mix of bluegrass, cabaret, folk songs, and...the musical saw.

"Cantor and..." Panel

Featuring Judy Ginsburgh, Sharon Hordes, Lois Kittner, Audrey Klein, Abbe Lyons, Marci Vitkus; moderated by Kathy Sebo (Wednesday at 10:15 am)

Have you ever thought about expanding your skill set in order to enhance what you already do as a cantor/cantorial soloist? Do you have other "cantor adjacent" interests that you would like to expand upon? Are you curious about what some of your colleagues are doing that is "outside the box"? Are you looking for some ideas for job security in an

ever-changing landscape? You will have the opportunity to listen to and ask questions of some of your fellow cantors who are expanding their reach into some other pursuits that compliment what they are doing as cantors at our “Cantor and...” panel.

Jewish Music That You Probably Don't Know by Leonard Bernstein (and a Few Pieces That You Do)

Presented by Ann Niren (Wednesday at 5:00 pm)

This lecture-recital investigates the Jewish background of Leonard Bernstein, which inspired much of his *oeuvre*. I will discuss several of his lesser-known Jewish works, some of which appear to stem from synagogue chant. In the process, the audience may discover works which may be appropriate and/or adaptable for synagogue use.

WCN's Got Talent

(Wednesday at 7:45 pm)

Do you think America's got the talent? Pshaw. WCN's got the talent! Sign up for our Wednesday evening program, WCN's Got Talent! Any and all talent is encouraged: artwork, poetry, puppetry, singing, acting, juggling, magic and more! Grab a partner, create a group, or just show us your own amazing talents. Sign up now with your name (or name of your group and how many people), your talent, and any special setup you might need to showcase your performance. Let your inner diva shine!

The Evan Williams Experience

Optional (Wednesday during field trip to downtown Louisville)

*****Booking and payment required at time of conference registration*****

The Evan Williams Traditional Tour & Bourbon Tasting in Louisville, KY is approximately 1 hour and takes you back in time to meet Kentucky's first licensed distiller, Evan Williams. The tour starts with an exploration of the Louisville wharf and Whiskey Row, starting in the late 18th century through the present with digital and physical recreations.

Following the history portion of the tour, you will learn about the distillation process and how Heaven Hill's (the parent company of Evan Williams) modern Bernheim Distillery operation compares to how whiskey was made in the late 1800's. During this part of the tour, you will see our state-of-the-art operating distillery located on-site that utilizes the same type of pot stills used in the early Bourbon making days.

The experience concludes with a tasting of 4 products from the Evan Williams award-winning portfolio, such as Evan Williams Single Barrel, Evan Willams 12-year-old, Evan Williams Master Blend and a product from the Square 6 by Evan Williams line, which is distilled on-site.

Our tasting will take place in two different historically important rooms, one with local ties to Keneseth Israel (our host congregation).

Things to know:

- Must be 21+ to participate in the tasting.
- Products tasted may vary based on availability and are not guaranteed for purchase.
- A portion of this tour includes a video with flashing lights and imagery.
- Guests may only attend one experience per-day due to serving limits.