

A Moment for Re-Dedication for Adath Jeshurun and Hazzan Glantz



When I came to AJ twenty-six years ago, I had been serving in my first pulpit, Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington, Michigan, for six years. My successor at Adat Shalom was Rabbi Efry Spectre, who was the rabbi of Nes Ami Congregation in the Philadelphia area. We used to joke that it was as if Philadelphia and Detroit had made a trade!

Now, more than a quarter of a century later, we have engaged a new Hazzan. And where did he come from?

The same congregation, Adat Shalom Synagogue (in what is now known as Farmington Hills, Michigan) that I had served! What are the odds of that happening?

And my successor, Rabbi Spectre, now Rabbi Emeritus of Adat Shalom, will be the speaker as we join in a *Shabbat Hanukkah* Service of Re-dedication on December 11, 2004, celebrating the Installation of Hazzan Howard K. Glantz as our *Hazzan*.

An Installation program is an event of moment for a congregation. It welcomes a new clergy person. It is a statement of acceptance and trust. It celebrates the strength of the congregation. It is an expression of eager anticipation for the future.

We have already had uplifting High Holy Day Services with our new *Hazzan*. We join with him in *Shabbat* services as he energetically encourages us to sing from the heart. We have seen his special way with children in our pre-school and religious school. Howard and Dayna have already had our USY to their home for *Shabbat* dinner.

Becoming part of AJ with its unique liturgy and established musical heritage is no easy task. But Hazzan Glantz has approached it with determination and reverence, striving to master it while at the same time putting his own soul into its expression. Sometimes, as I listen to him, it is hard to believe he has not davened the "AJ way" all his life!

Rabbi Spectre has worked with Hazzan Glantz for more than a decade. Their mutual respect and affection for one another is heartfelt and deep. We look to Rabbi Spectre to tell us more about Hazzan Glantz, give us insight into his unique talents and character as *hazzan*, and challenge the *Hazzan* and us to achieve new heights of devotion to God and the Jewish people in our congregation.

Rabbi Spectre is currently Rabbi-in-Residence at Congregation Ahavath Achim in Atlanta, Georgia, and Adjunct Professor of Homiletics at the Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. I am delighted to have Hazzan Glantz as a colleague in the leadership of the religious life of our congregation. I look forward to working with him for many years to come in service of our great synagogue. He is a worthy successor to Hazzan Charles Davidson who is so revered and loved by us all.

Hazzan Glantz, Dayna, Rafi, Remi, Rose, and Rory have already become part of the AJ family. We have greeted them with warmth and love. Their openness, friendliness, humor and unflappable manner has endeared them to us already. Cindy and I are thrilled to have Howard, Dayna and their children in our family. We feel personally blessed to have made dear, new friends.

I hope you will join us in this wonderful *Shabbat Hanukkah* is our Festival of Re-Dedication for the miracles that took place in ancient, Maccabean times. For us, now, this *Hanukkah* will be a festival of re-dedication for our synagogue as we embark upon a new era of musical and spiritual fulfillment for Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

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