

## Invigorating Our Services with New Melodies

One of the aims of the *Shira Hadasha* initiative that began early in 2007 was to reinvigorate our Friday night and Shabbat morning services with new melodies for familiar prayers. There have been some preliminary stabs at introducing new tunes, and the *Shira Hadasha* committee hopes to continue this effort in a more systematic manner in the coming year.

We'll pick one new *tefilla* every few weeks, make an MP3 (musical computer) file of that melody from an existing CD or of someone singing it, try to find sheet music with words, and make it available to everyone in our congregation on our website. (We sent the first one out by email, but some people complained that the file was too big). We will announce the date of the inauguration of that particular melody, and a link to the web by email.

We invite all of our congregational family to be present that evening or morning, and welcome that melody by singing with gusto. The new melody will then go into our repertoire of melodies for *davening*.

**We are not aiming to change our entire service. We have many beloved, old-time melodies, which we will continue to sing, as well!**

Here's an ambitious list of new melodies that we'll introduce. Our aim is to energize *davening* by creating new alternative melodies to intersperse with our regular melodies. Here are some entries, open to revision, and in an approximate order of introduction.

1. Carlebach *Ein Kaylohaynu*
2. "Israeli" melodies to *L'cha HaShem Hagedula* and *Hodo Al Eretz*
3. Carlebach Friday night *Mizmor Shiru Lashem Shir Chadash*
4. A re-introduction of *Shacharit Kedusha* (angels tune)
5. A new *Lecha Dodi*
6. Re-introduce the "Sephardic Los Biblicos" *Tzur Yisrael* in Shabbat Shacharit
7. Introduce a new hymn – *HaChamah Mayrosh* for Friday Night
8. Introduce new "Mazel Tov" varieties for different occasions
  - for uffrufs & anniversaries – *Od Yishama*
  - for babies and grandbabies – *u're'eh vanim l'vanecha*
  - for birthdays – *Yom Huledet Sameach*

- perhaps even a different *siman tov u'mazal tov!*
- 9. Another new hymn for Friday night – *Anah b'Koach*
- 10. Simple harmonies for a few of our melodies, like *Etz Chaim Hee*

Those are some thoughts. Our small committee is open to suggestions and revisions. We are also looking for some melodies for a new *Musaf Kadusha*, and a different *Sim Shalom*.

In a related matter, **I would like to teach a few more adults to be *sh'lichay tzibbur***--prayer leaders. We are blessed with capable and all-above-average children who learn to lead services as part of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah training and come back to shul often and lead. And we need more adults, too. If you are a Jewish adult with facility in Siddur Hebrew reading, can carry a tune, and are of generally good character, and would like to learn to lead Friday night or Shabbat morning services, please let me know. I am preparing CD's for people to use as learning tools, and Phil Silver and I are looking forward to teaching new *shlichay tzibbur*.

So that's the general direction in which I'd like to head, again, with the aim of varying and beautifying our services. Any suggestions, questions, comments, or offers of assistance are welcome.

Wishing you a joyful and healthy new year!

Rabbi Eliezer Havivi