

CONGREGATION BETH EMETH



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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to highly recommend Rebecca Joy Fletcher as an artist-in-residence for any synagogue or Jewish organization. Rebecca has just completed a successful "Artist-in-Residence Shabbat" at Congregation Beth Emeth. During this weekend she gave a formal lecture on international Jewish cabaret, lead a workshop for fourth graders and their parents on comedy in Tel Aviv cabaret, taught another workshop for seventh graders and their parents on 20th century Jewish music-making, and performed her one-woman cabaret, *Cities of Light*, to an enthusiastic, sold-out house. As an added bonus, because our congregation does not employ a cantor, Rebecca served as guest cantor on both Friday night and Shabbat morning services.

Rebecca was a joy to work with in the planning of this weekend. She did not come to us with a pre-packaged program. Rather, she presented her wide array of capabilities. We discussed a range of options, settling on the variety of talks, workshops and the performance described above in order to reach the widest possible range of constituencies within our congregation.

When the weekend was over, Rebecca had reached out to and engaged Religious School students from grades 4 through 7 and their parents, our regular service attendees Friday Evening and Shabbat morning, and a cabaret audience that included congregants ranging from in age 16 to 86.

Rebecca is a captivating speaker, a dynamic teacher, and a brilliant performer. Her show, *Cities of Light*, received enthusiastic comments from everyone to whom I spoke over the following weeks. Also, the evaluation forms completed after her workshops included several entries noting that the workshops should have been longer. I consider that high praise!

In these times, when synagogues and other Jewish organizations must find the best value for our programming resources, you will do no better than inviting Rebecca Joy Fletcher as a guest scholar/artist. After all, she has so many different skill sets, her specialty in international Jewish cabaret is unique, and she will give you a *dynamite* show!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Wikes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Wikes
Program Director
Congregation Beth Emeth