

REBECCA JOY FLETCHER



**RESIDENCY
OFFERINGS**



The Cantorate

The Cantor's Changing Role in the
Landscape of American Judaism

An Anecdotal History of the Cantorate

But, What Does the Cantor Do?

An intimate perspective on the delights and daily
challenges of being clergy

Jews in America

Jewish Music in America

Mavericks, Maestros, and Magicians

But is it Jewish?

Locating, defining, and understanding today's cultural trends

Frankfurt on the Hudson

A song-and-story portrait of America's German Jews

The Weimar Republic

A Brief, Bright Candle

German Cabaret in the Weimar Republic

Weimar Germany in Music, Film, and Visual Art

The Decadent Bunch

An intimate look at some of Berlin cabaret's most
talented composers, performers, and critics



LECTURES (continued)

The Joys of Yiddish!

Divas and Bialys

The Yiddish theater in its heyday

Sweat Shop Songs

Yiddish music and the struggle for working-class rights

Sing-Alongs mitt Schnapps

Warsaw's glamorous, enlightened Yiddish cabarets, 1921-1939

Jewish Questions, Jewish Answers

Caring for our Mother

Jewish responses to the environmental crisis

Justice and Heart

Fostering compassionate synagogue leadership, amidst the challenges of communal living

The S Word

Jewish spirituality and the search for a home in tradition



*“Rebecca is a
fantastic
speaker...
Her passion
is addictive.”*

– Steve Melzer,
Executive Managing Editor,
Penguin Books



*All lectures are for general audiences and range in length from 60 to 90 minutes.
The content and length of all residency offerings can be modified according to the
specific needs of the Sponsor.*

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

Workshops for Artists

Performing German and French Cabaret

(A workshop for singers and actors)

Making it Whole

Learning to create theatrical collages

(A workshop for theater artists, storytellers, and solo-performers)

Unmasking Jewish Text

How to wrestle with and integrate traditional materials into your creative work

(No prior knowledge of Jewish text required)

The Creative Possibilities of Midrash

A study session for artists of all media

(No prior knowledge of Jewish text required)



*“Rebecca
makes Jewish
culture
come alive.”*

– Barbara Ostfeld,
Placement Director,
The American Conference
of Cantors

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS (continued)

Workshops for Jewish Professionals and Lay Leaders

The Leadership Possibilities of Midrash

A study session and workshop

(No prior knowledge of Jewish text required)

The Fire that Drives You

A workshop on stage fright and strategies for optimal performance

(Geared towards all professionals engaging in public performance)

Workshops for the General Public

Songs of Joy and Sorrow

A communal singing workshop in the many moods of Yiddish music

(No professional singing experience or knowledge of Yiddish required)

The Still, Small Voice

A participatory workshop to deepen one's relationship with God

(No prior knowledge of Hebrew, or experience in meditation
or traditional prayer required)

It is a Tree of Life

Cultivating an empowered and open-hearted relationship to
Torah through a weekly reading of the portion

(No prior knowledge of Hebrew required)

Singing our Way Home

Hassidic teachings on music, memory, and the potential for healing

All interactive workshops last an hour and a half.

The contents and length can be modified according to the specific needs of the Sponsor.



INTERFAITH GATHERINGS

*“Rebecca
is one of
the most
interesting
and talented
artists and
thinkers
I know.”*

– Benjie Ellen Schiller,
Professor of Cantorial Arts,
Hebrew Union College,
and Cantor of
Bet Am Shalom Synagogue
(White Plains, NY).



www.rebeccajoyfletcher.com

Across the Fruited Plane

A multi-faith Thanksgiving gathering, using story, song and silence

Increasing the Light

A Christian/Jewish dialogue on faith and tradition, through the lens of Chanukah and Christmas

The Power of Song in Church and Shul

An interfaith gathering exploring the mystery and majesty of music-making

Breaking the Fast

A Muslim, Jewish gathering to celebrate the end of Ramadan, featuring Muslim and Jewish storytelling, music, and food

Moving towards Healing

Germans and Jews gather to discuss the legacy of the Holocaust and their relationships to the worlds that were lost



Interfaith gatherings are organized in conjunction with local leadership. Under Ms. Fletcher's guidance, local leaders come together to help plan the communal gathering. The process of planning for the gathering is itself fruitful for the two communities involved.

Interfaith gatherings last approximately two hours.

The contents and lengths can be modified according to the specific needs of the Sponsor.

HALF-DAY INTENSIVES

*“Her ability
to connect,
soul-to-soul,
has transformed
many adults
into eager
students
again.”*

– Elise Cagan,
President,
Hebrew Tabernacle
Congregation



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So Many Words?

A study of the history and development of the Siddur

Why We Pray What We Pray

An introduction to the Jewish calendar through prayer

All Her Descendants are Happy

A study of the historical development of weekly Torah portion, public readings of the Torah, the Torah trop, and weekly readings from the Prophets

Songs of Our People

An in-depth look at Yiddish music – origins, influence, and styles

Degenerate Art

An in-depth look at
Weimar cabaret

Making it Whole

An intensive workshop in
creating theatrical collages
(A Workshop for theater artists, story-
tellers, and solo-performers)

The Fire that Drives You

An exploratory workshop
on stage fright and practical
strategies for optimal
performance.



Half-day intensives run three hours, with a twenty-minute break. Unless stated otherwise, all intensives are open to the general public, and no prior knowledge of Hebrew is required. The content and length can be modified according to the specific needs of the Sponsor.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

*“Rebecca Fletcher
radiates joy
and enthusiasm
through all
she does.
Gifted with adults
and children alike,
she brings out
the kid in
all of us.”*

– Rabbi Barry Kenter,
Greenburgh Hebrew Center
, New York



For ages 6-8

Sweet and Holy Sabbath

Encountering Shabbat through stories, interactive games, and songs

The Mamas and the Papas

Who were the Torah's matriarchs and patriarchs, and what can we learn from each one?

A hands-on, fun, and educational program

The Jewish Holidays in Story and Song

Chanukah in Story and Song

Passover in Story and Song

For ages 10-13

Listening Inside

An introduction to Jewish meditation for pre-teens

Wandering Jews

A fun exploration of two Jewish families – the Shalomi family, a Sephardic family in Spain in 1490, and the Fleishman family, in Warsaw in 1911 – as they make critical choices and chart their family's futures

(Well suited for children who enjoy theater games)

Oh, The Stories They Could Tell You!

A storytelling workshop, exploring the lives and immigration adventures of our grandparents

Hay, You -- Listen!

Using different interpretations and translations of that central Jewish prayer, The Sh'ma, as a starting point to develop our listening skills

YOUTH PROGRAMS (continued)

“Rebecca engages everybody in the lively discussions that invariably ensue, making it a conversation among friends and among equals rather than imparted knowledge.”

– Eduardo Bellando,
Information officer,
United Nations Department
of Public Information

For ages 13-15

The Shofar

How is it made? Why do we blow it? Can I blow it, too?

The Path of Blessing

An exploratory workshop to learn how to bless each other and ourselves

These Are the Days of Miracle and Wonder

The weeks leading up to the founding of the State of Israel, as encountered through historical documents, photographs, and transcriptions of first-hand accounts

Sages and Warriors

An exploration of powerful, righteous men in Jewish tradition and history
(A workshop for boys and their fathers)

Prophetesses and Queens

An exploration of powerful, visionary woman in Jewish history and tradition
(A workshop for girls and their mothers)



All school age programs are 45 minutes in length.

The content and length can be modified according to the specific needs of the Sponsor.



YOUTH PROGRAMS (continued)

For ages 15-17

Sages and Warriors

An exploration of powerful, righteous men in Jewish tradition and history

(A workshop for boys and their fathers)

Prophetesses and Queens

An exploration of powerful, visionary woman in Jewish history and tradition

(A workshop for girls and their mothers)

The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

Who's who and what's what today

Learning to Love the Land

The State of Israel and how we each envision it

(No prior exposure to or experience in Israel required)

For High School Seniors

A Journey like Abraham's

Helping college-bound seniors navigate the stresses of college applications

Tikkun Olam Today

What ethical commitments do you want to make to the world?

When I grow up, who do I want to be as a Jew?

A workshop in personal goal setting and visioning

School age programs are 45 minutes in length.

The content and length can be modified according to the specific needs of the Sponsor.

*"I recommend
Rebecca highly --
as an educator,
and artistic
resource -- to
your learning and
thinking Jewish
institutions."*

-- Rabbi Elka Abrahamson:
Vice President,
Leadership Programs
The Wexner Foundation



Here's what people are saying about Rebecca Joy Fletcher, educator:

"Ms. Fletcher is a fantastic speaker -- engrossing and knowledgeable. I recommend her highly to any Jewish venue. Her knowledge of Judaism is excellent, but even more so, her passion is addictive and priceless."

-- Steve Melzer:
past president of Hebrew Tabernacle

"The engaging, impassioned classes of Rebecca Fletcher [in Jewish studies, thought and culture] bring together literature, tradition and the best contemporary voices, making you see the sacred texts and contemporary culture in new ways. She engages everybody in the lively discussions that invariably ensue, making it a conversation among friends and among equals rather than imparted knowledge. Rebecca is a born teacher who clearly enjoys challenging assumptions and making you want to learn more."

-- Edoardo Bellando:
Information officer: Strategic Communications Division
United Nations Department of Public Information

"Cantor Rebecca Fletcher is a most rare teacher, leading both young and old congregants, in her seemingly effortless manner into deeper understanding of Judaism. By reaching out and touching our hearts with one hand and the Torah with the other, she has acted as a lightening rod for our congregation, creating, among other things, a havdalah program which united parents and children, incorporating children's arts projects together with parental discussion groups. Her ability to connect, soul-to-soul, has transformed many adults into eager students again. We are grateful for her gifts."

-- Elise Cagan:
President, Hebrew Tabernacle Congregation

"Rebecca Fletcher is a gifted teacher, as well as a spirited singer. She brings personal insights to both text and song, exciting her students' imaginations. It's pure joy to learn from her!"

-- Cantor Robert Scherr:
Jewish Chaplain for Williams College

"Rebecca is a creative, engaging, and passionate educator. Her unique vision for the cantorate and for Jewish art is vital and lively. I recommend Rebecca highly -- as an educator, and artistic resource -- to your learning and thinking Jewish institutions."

-- Rabbi Elka Abrahamson:
Vice President, Leadership Programs
The Wexner Foundation

"Ms. Fletcher is an outstanding artist. Her passion for Jewish music and theater is infectious. She is able to challenge our assumptions and stimulate us in profound ways about Jewish life, history and culture. She is one of the most interesting and talented artists and thinkers I know."

-- Benjie Ellen Schiller:
Professor of Cantorial Arts, Hebrew Union College
School of Sacred Music, and Cantor of Bet Am Shalom Synagogue
in White Plains, NY.

"Rebecca is an unusual cantor, combining a wealth of academic and Judaic knowledge with musical and theatrical skills. In addition, she is a tremendously engaging teacher. Her discourse sparkles with wit and humor. Rebecca makes Jewish culture come alive."

-- Barbara Ostfeld:
Placement Director, The American Conference of Cantors