

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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Temple Israel Welcomes Cantor Shira Lissek

Temple Israel is pleased to welcome Shira Lissek as its new Cantor, as of July 1.

Cantor Lissek comes to Temple Israel after previously serving as Associate Cantor of Park Avenue Synagogue in NYC since 2013. Cantor Lissek earned a Masters in Music from the Manhattan School of Music, where she majored in Voice as a merit scholar, and holds a Bachelor's degree from Indiana University School of Music in Vocal Performance. Born and raised in St. Louis, MO, she learned the art of being a Cantor from her father, Cantor Leon Lissek of Congregation B'nai Amoona. She is also the granddaughter of the late Rabbi Pinchas Chasin of Philadelphia and great-granddaughter of Hazzan Hirsch L. Chazin of New Jersey.

Cantor Lissek began serving as Hazzan Sheni at age 19, when invited to lead High Holy Day services for Congregation Beth Shalom of Kansas City and then Congregation Geshur Shalom (The Jewish Community Center

of Fort Lee, NJ). Prior to Park Avenue Synagogue, she served as Hazzan and Music Director of Congregation Mount Sinai in Brooklyn Heights for six years. With her arrival at Temple Israel, Rabbi Murray Ezring noted he is "very excited Cantor Lissek has joined the Temple Israel family. Her beautiful voice and love of Jewish music, combined with her Jewish pride, help all who hear her experience the joy of Shabbat and holiday observances."

Temple Israel President, David Rosenthal added, "Our congregational family, Board of Trustees, and my family are excited about celebrating many Shabbats Shira (Sabbaths of Song) and hearing various melodies and songs as interpreted by Cantor Lissek." About her relocation to Charlotte, Cantor Lissek said, "We have been so moved by the warm welcome we have received and are thrilled to be a part of such a special community. I look forward to getting to know everyone and creating some amazing mem-



Rabbi Shira Lissek

ories together." Cantor Lissek and her two children, Reuben and Maayan (who will be attending Charlotte Jewish Day School), are happy to now call Charlotte their home.

Cantor Lissek is passionate about using her voice and music to inspire and empower individ-

uals of all ages to engage deeply with their Judaism and community. She has participated in numerous interfaith services and events, sharing her voice within both the Jewish and broader communities, at national conventions and professional sporting events. She has been invited to serve as Hazzan in Residence at many congregations around the world including West London Synagogue in London and Agudat Achim in Washington D.C. In 2017, Cantor Lissek released her second solo album titled *Ani Ma'amin, I Believe: A Voice For Humanity*, featuring reflective, prayerful songs expressing Lissek's love poem to the human spirit.

To welcome Cantor Lissek to the congregation, Temple Israel will host a "Welcome Home Shabbat" on August 10. The evening will begin with a pre-oneg at 5:30 PM in the temple lobby, followed by an engaging and uplifting Friday night Shabbat service at 6:15 PM. Both the pre-oneg and Shabbat services are open to

all members of the community. Following services there will be a Shabbat dinner (free of charge) for all Temple Israel congregants. Space is limited. Please RSVP online at templeisraelinc.org.

At Temple Israel's Selichot service, scheduled for Saturday, September 1, Cantor Lissek and Rabbi Ezring will introduce musical selections that will be featured during the High Holy Days. Please note: This year, we will hold a single service on the 2nd day of Rosh HaShanah (in the Morris and Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary) incorporating both traditional and contemporary music. ✪



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Local Athletes Appointed to Team USA for the 2018 Maccabi Youth Games

The Maccabi USA Organizing Committee is pleased to announce that three athletes from the Charlotte metro area have been appointed as members of Team USA for the upcoming Maccabi Youth Games, which are taking place in Israel, July 22-August 2.

The athletes are Zoe Bartholf of Tega Cay, SC, Youth Women's Soccer; Adam Buckler of Charlotte, NC, Youth Men's Basketball; and Maya Lesack of Tega Cay, SC, Youth Women's Soccer. The 2018 Maccabi Youth Games will be the first time that Zoe, Adam, and Maya will compete

as Team USA athletes. Adam and his family are members of Temple Beth El; Maya and her family belong to Temple Israel; Zoe's family attends Temple Solel.

There will be six days of competition, followed by three days of touring based in Jerusalem. The other countries competing include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Israel, Italy, South Africa, and Spain.

The Maccabi Youth Games will provide the athletes an opportunity to compete internationally and connect with Jewish athletes from around the world and the State of Israel.

Maccabi USA builds Jewish pride through sports, generating the emotional intensity, high ideals, and powerful camaraderie of competition. It connects athletes, volunteers, and supporters with the global Jewish community. Its athletic, educational, and cultural experiences build Jewish identity, perpetuate Jewish continuity worldwide, and strengthen support for the State of Israel.

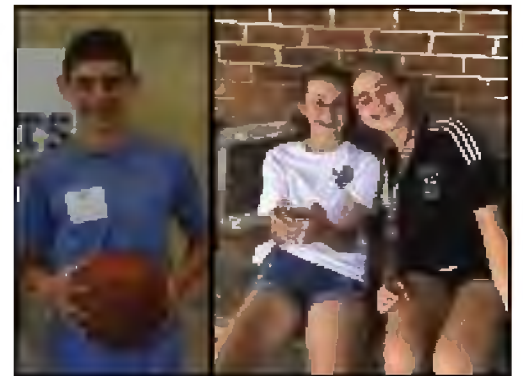
The Magic of Maccabi combines a passion of Israel and athletics. The team members are excited to be part of Team USA heading to Israel in just a little under a month for the inaugural Maccabi Youth Games.

For more information about Maccabi USA, please contact Shane Carr at 215-561-6900 x4147 or by email at scarr@maccabiusa.com.

About the organization:

Maccabi USA (MUSA) enriches Jewish lives through athletic, cultural and educational programs. The organization is the official sponsor of the United States Team to the World Maccabiah Games, and the Pan American and European Maccabi Games, as well as a sponsor of the JCC Maccabi Games for teens in North America. As the official Maccabi representative in the U.S., Maccabi USA supports Jewish athletic endeavors, enhanced by cultural and educational activities in the United States, Israel, and throughout the Diaspora.

MUSA develops, promotes and supports international, national and regional athletic-based activities and facilities. It strives to provide Jewish athletes all over the world the opportunity to share their heritage and customs in competitive athletic settings. MUSA supports programs that



Adam Buckler, Zoe Bartholf, and Maya Lesack.

embody the Maccabi ideals of Jewish continuity, Zionism and excellence in sport. Maccabi USA builds Jewish pride through sports.

Maccabi USA is a U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) Multi-Sport Organization (MSO). The Organization is one of 38 MSOs nationwide to be recognized by the USOC for its ability to cultivate a national interest in sport and increase opportunities for participation internationally, nationally, and at the grassroots level, and is rated as a four-star non-profit by Charity Navigator. ✪

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