

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION CANTOR STEPHEN FREEDMAN**

Cantor Stephen Freedman is a native of Milton, Massachusetts. A graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education, he taught elementary classroom music in the Andover, Massachusetts, Public Schools for seven years before entering the cantorate on a full-time basis in 1982.

He received his cantorial training under the tutelage of the late Cantor Gregor Shelkan and the late Cantor Zvee Aroni.

Over a period of thirty-eight years, Cantor Freedman served congregations in Dresher, Pennsylvania; Worcester, Massachusetts; Miami, Florida; and Cranston, Rhode Island. He currently serves Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El in Elkins Park, PA.

Cantor Freedman is an accomplished folksinger and composer; several of his compositions have been published by the Cantors Assembly. In 2006, he was honored by Shalsholet – The Foundation for New Jewish Liturgical Music, for his composition Esa Einai. Most recently, Cantor Freedman has recorded two c.d.'s of Shabbat and Holiday songs for preschool-age children.

While in New England, he was a member of the Jewish Ministers Cantors Association of New England, serving as its president for four years.

In addition, Cantor Freedman is an active member of the Cantors Assembly. He served as Chairman of the Delaware Valley Region for three years and is currently a member of the national Executive Council.

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America awarded Cantor Freedman an honorary Doctor of Music degree in 2018.

He and his wife Randi are the proud parents of a blended family of eight children and six grandchildren.

# The Welcome Nigun

**Doug Cotler**



## FOR THESE WE PRAY

***Av Harachman, God of Mercy, on this Shabbat Eve  
we pray b'chol l'vavcha, with all of our hearts:***

**For the well-being of our congregation, its leaders  
and its members.**

**For our community, that it continue to be strong,  
vibrant and resilient.**

**For those who are ill, our wish that they be granted  
*a refuah sh'leima*, a full return to good health.**

**For our country, the will to remain a bastion of democracy in our troubled world.**

**For the members of our armed forces, wherever they may serve, courage and safety as they protect our nation.**

**For our beloved Israel, the strength to weather these painful and difficult moments, to bring the hostages back to their homeland safely.**

**For our fragile planet, the wisdom to do better, to bring wholeness to a world which needs it so desperately.**

**For these we pray, and let us say *amen*.**