

We held Focus Groups on June 13, June 21, and June 25. Twenty-one TBE members attended. The questions asked / discussed were:

1. Tell us about a time when music moved you.
2. What role does music play for you at Temple Beth-El?
3. What is your vision for music at Temple Beth-El?
4. What are the characteristics you want to see in our next cantor?
5. What do you believe is the most important trait our cantor should possess?

Group 1 discussed two additional questions:

6. How much outreach to the larger San Antonio community should the cantor do, if any?
7. How do you envision the cantor's role in programming that includes collaborations with groups outside the Jewish faith, if any?

We held a Town Hall on July 9. 33 TBE members attended. The questions asked /discussed were:

1. Question 1: In what ways can our next cantor engage kids to sustain an interest in Jewish life into adulthood?
2. Question 2: In what ways can our next cantor build community through music at TBE?
3. Question 3: How can our next cantor engage the larger San Antonio Jewish community?
4. Question 4: Define why each characteristic is an important trait in our next cantor?

As a result of the Survey, Focus Groups, and Town Hall, we answered these congregational questions on the application as follows:

The three most important qualities we are looking for in our new cantor are:

1. To be passionate about Judaism and music, inspiring the congregation in prayer. To that end, our cantor would be warm, inviting, engaging, enthusiastic, and approachable.
2. To be caring, provide excellent pastoral care, and make congregants feel included and a part of the community. To that end, our cantor would be patient, mindful, and compassionate.
3. To have a strong ability to inspire and connect with young people and form positive personal relationships to ensure intergenerational involvement in Judaism and Temple life.

The three most important priorities of our new cantor should be: *Based on input from our Congregational Survey and Town Hall meeting the following represents our highest hopes.*

1. Work as an integral member of the clergy team. Our Cantor should partner with fellow clergy to connect with and inspire the community, bringing spirituality to all aspects of the Jewish experience at Temple.
2. Connect with and inspire youth. We look to our Cantor as a unique partner to inspire and teach our children Jewish values through music. By setting a warm example and forming a positive personal relationship with our youth and their parents, the Cantor can inspire our children to keep an interest and make a connection to Jewish life and values for another generation.
3. Build community. As the musical voice of Temple Beth-El the Cantor should engage the Congregation with a welcoming attitude, musical passion, and spirituality (ruach) that extends to the larger community, positioning us as the leading source for Jewish music in San Antonio.

We dream that our new cantor will:

- We dream that our new Cantor will help Temple life to thrive by engaging all ages and help us find joy and meaning in services through music, whether through new songs or Jewish musical traditions.
- We further hope our new Cantor will engage with the wider San Antonio community, learning from each other and sharing the beauty of sacred music and Tikkun Olam with other faiths and within the broader Jewish community.
- We dream that, inspired by our congregation's eagerness to be engaged, and the opportunity to work with amazing colleagues, they will love it here and make San Antonio and Temple Beth-El their home.