

Review of Cantorial Installation at Adat Shalom
Los Angeles, California
October 19, 2008

Guests: Rabbi Harold Schulweis, Rabbi Ed Feinstein, Cantors Herschel & Judy Fox, Dr. Noreen Green directing the Valley Beth Shalom Congregational Choir, Cantor Marcus Feldman and the Shirat Haneshama Band.

For those of you who were unable to attend the installation at Adat Shalom of Cantor Ben Tisser, you missed an evening filled with love, respect and lots of beautiful music. It was great – two congregations coming together to honor a most beloved person. We here at VBS have always recognized Benji's exceptional talents, but it was gratifying to see how Rabbi August and the Adat Shalom community have welcomed Benji to their pulpit with an outpouring of warmth...and an overflowed sanctuary (over 400 in a room for 325).

Our Rabbis Schulweis and Feinstein, Cantors Herschel and Judy Fox, and Dr. Noreen Green all spoke meaningfully on "Lech Lecha" – going out into this world, and also looking within ourselves. Cantor Sam Fordis was present, as was Dr. Michael Isaacson (Benji presented his lively rendition of "Mi Chamocha" with the band). Our VBS choir led by Noreen gave us a beautiful song called "We Wish You Love." Cantor Ben spoke sensitively and appreciatively about his journey to this place.

This was a Shabbat evening to be remembered, watching our Benji being installed as Cantor. It takes a village, all right, and we at VBS are that village for our children to grow up in a loving, encouraging community. We were there for Benji in his growing-up years, and he has definitely lifted us up at VBS in sharing his beautiful music with us for many years.

For Benji, may he go from strength to strength...Hazak, Hazak.

Written by VBS member Shirley Lowy on October 22, 2007 on the Valley Beth Shalom temple listserve.