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INSPIRING INDIVIDUAL

Local Cantor Hits a High Note with National Group

BY JULIE LEVIN

A PRESTIGIOUS HONOR WAS HANDED DOWN recently for one of Plantation's longstanding religious leaders. At their annual convention in Minnesota, the American Conference of Cantors installed Mark C. Goldman, the Cantor of Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El, as the president of its organization. Founded in 1953, the American Conference of Cantors is a non-profit organization dedicated to the professional growth and development of cantors in the Reform movement. They currently represent more than 450 cantors around the world. "It is a tremendous honor," said Goldman. "I am looking forward to making a significant difference to the profession of the Cantorate as well as to the Jewish Community and to the community at large."

A part of Kol Ami Emanu-El since 1995, Cantor Goldman has also been active in the ACC for many years, serving not only as a member of the ACC executive board, but also as a Vice President. High on his agenda; looking at the changing Jewish community as it experiences challenges in the areas of affiliation, support and engagement, and finding proactive ways to have the Cantorate at the helm of needed change. "We have an exciting and extraordinary opportunity to be on the cutting edge of contemporary Judaism, Jewish music and Jewish life," he said.

With his appointment, Goldman also becomes the first openly gay Cantor to lead the ACC. It is a milestone he says is indicative of the Reform movement itself, of which the American Conference of Cantors is a part of. "I am fortunate to be part of a movement that has always been very forward thinking and identified itself as being accepting of every member of the Jewish community, and indeed those who are not part of the faith as well," Goldman said.

A native of London, England, Goldman is a descendant of generations of cantors. He pursued Cantorial studies as well as a B.A. degree in Judaic studies at the London School of Jewish Studies. He is the youngest ever recipient of certification by the Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom. Goldman has served as the ACC representative to the Union for Reform Judaism's Southeast region since 2001. He established the Florida Association of Cantors & Soloists in 2002. He has served as a member of the ACC's Placement Advisory Group since 2005, and launched the ACC's Hadracha-Mentorship program in 2006.

For more information, visit the ACC's website at www.accantors.org



Cantor
Mark Goldman