

7th June - 10th June 2012, Skeet Hill House, Orpington, Kent – UK

Who can participate in the T'filla Leaders Europe Retreat?

People who are hungry to learn • People who lead or who want to lead prayer • People who sing in tune & use their natural voice • People who have fluency in reading Siddur* Hebrew • People who have a love of community

As a participant, what can you expect? The retreat will provide you with the unique opportunity to...

Discover your sacred space so you can, in turn, go out & create it for members of your community • Develop the relationship between you as a Sh'liach Tsibbur, the community & God • Achieve your dreams as a Sh'liach Tsibbur • Harness the power of t'filla • Appreciate & know about each others' minhag* • Reframe and renew the flow of t'filla • Understand the needs of your community • Learn to recognise the spirit of your community, embracing & holding its energy • Understand the role of the Sh'liach Tsibbur as the maker or breaker of the t'filla experience • Develop key elements of successful t'filla leadership such as courage, trust, confidence & humility • Learn how to prepare to lead prayer, also referred to as 'prayer before prayer' or the sacred preparation • Model excellence by observing each other's skills through holy conversations • Understand differences of approach in a non-judgemental setting, embracing hesed* • Examine how to create a safe space for t'filla through energy, warmth, light, sound & appearance • Learn about feedback – the ability to give & receive graciously & with love

We will learn together at this special retreat. How? Through the sacred instruments of prayer:

The power of t'filla • The poetry of t'filla text & its meaning • The structure of the Siddur – knowing the matbe'a* • Nusach as the sanctification of time – what it is & how we use it • Nusach as the carrier of prayer & mood creator • Niggun as an immediate mood creator • Silence & how to hold moments of silence • Meditation • The voice & breath of the Sh'liach Tsibbur & the community • Being sensitive to the t'filla environment • Using stories & imagination to set a scene • Musical instruments (weekday) • Embracing all these tools & making them work

What is the programme?

You will be encouraged to lead – or share the leading – in one or more of the daily and Shabbat services, bensching*, leyning* and similar t'filla activities • You will be able to use your own tradition • You will experience the traditions of others • Regular t'filla labs throughout each day will be the vehicle for providing feedback on leadership skills, t'filla construction, use of melody & voice • Everything will be done in a safe & sacred place to allow everyone to be nurtured & supported

Who are the Teachers?



Chazan Jaclyn Chernett: The first woman in the UK to be ordained as a cantor, Jacky is a Jewish musicologist and educator. She received ordination in 2006 from Rabbi Dr Martin Cooper, Cantor Sol Zim and Cantor Ken Cohen at the Academy for Jewish Religion in New York. A prime mover in founding the first Masorti synagogue in the UK, she is also a founder of Kol Nefesh Masorti Synagogue, where she serves as its cantor. She is also Founder and Director of Studies of the European Academy for Jewish Liturgy – EAJL, a multilevel, multinational and multimedia training organisation for inspiring and teaching leaders of synagogue prayer.



Chazan Jack Kessler: Jack was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and went on to have a twenty-year congregational career. He has a Master's degree in voice from Boston Conservatory and pursued studies in composition at Brandeis University. Originally trained as an Ashkenazi chazan, his performance style and original compositions also embrace Sephardi and Mizrahi styles. He has lectured and taught master classes in Jewish music at New England Conservatory and the Academy for Jewish Religion, and he has presented many concerts in an educational format. He directs the Cantorial Program of ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, and conducts music and nusach workshops as part of the Davennan Leadership Training Institute of Elat Chayyim.



Chazan Jaldá Rebling: Jaldá was ordained in January 2007 from ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal. A cantor and an actress, she teaches in the traditions of the Maggidim through stories and songs, specialising in Jewish music from medieval to modern times. Jaldá is Founder of Ohel Hachidush, based in Berlin, Germany, a movement that endeavours to unite old tradition with modernity and renew Jewish life in Europe. She has produced ten CDs and LPs, worked for radio, TV and theatre productions, and is a well-known presence at international Jewish music festivals and international congresses.

For more info & an application form, please contact stephen@eajl.org

Glossary of Terms: Bensching – chanting birkat hamazon (blessing after eating) • Hesed – loving-kindness, a central Jewish value • Leyning – chanting Torah • Matbe'a – the content & order of the Siddur • Minhag – accepted traditions of Jewish practice • Neshama – the soul • Nigun – improvised tune sung in groups • Nusach – musical melodies of prayer chant • Sh'lichei Tsibbur – prayer leaders • Siddur – prayer book • T'filla – prayer

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