

**BELIEFS** Values

# Cantor makes entertaining debut

By **RENA FULKA**  
SPECIAL WRITER

He made his debut to the accompaniment of pianist David Syme, winning the hearts of a standing-room-only crowd with his singing, dancing and good, clean comedy.

But this time, Stephen Dubov was not opening at "Dangerfields" in New York or performing in "Pirates of Penzance" on Broadway. According to the marquee, Dubov was showcasing his talents in Oakland County in Temple Beth El's Handman Hall.

More than 600 people packed the noon luncheon on July 16 to catch a glimpse of the new cantor in a different context than they would ordinarily see him.

Among them was West Bloomfield resident Earl Remer, who took time from his Southfield law office to attend. "I thought this was such an important event in the history of the Temple that there was no way I was going to be absent," said Remer, a member of Temple Beth El for 25 years. "The new cantor is warm, hospitable, approachable and extremely talented. He, together with the new professional staff, is going to breathe the new life into our Temple and represent an open invitation to

come to Temple Beth El."

"Cantor Dubov has become one of Detroit's treasures overnight. People are going to be flocking to him," said pianist David Syme, a Detroit native who now lives in West Bloomfield. "I don't look for accompaniment. I work alone. But I would do anything to be there with him. His voice is so glorious."

Rabbi Daniel Syme of Bloomfield Hills, the pianist's brother, took over the helm of Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Township on July 1. He hand-selected Dubov for his new staff, along

with Rabbi Daniel Castiglione and Joyce Seglin, congregational educator. Dubov, Castiglione and Seglin all live in West Bloomfield.

"I was involved in national and international Jewish life for 23 years, and I knew exactly the people I wanted," said Rabbi Syme, who left his role as senior vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to head the 1,500-family congregation. "I am the only common thread for members of the new team. But I knew that once they met, they would like each other,

work together well and have fun together."

A Florida native, Dubov graduated from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion School of Sacred Music. But only after spending a dozen years in the entertainment industry, performing in Broadway productions, in bit parts in movies and for one year on the daytime soap opera, "The Guiding Light."

"His goal his entire life was to be a cantor," said Syme of Dubov. "Along the way, he had many experiences that make

See **TEMPLE BETH EL, A16**



STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY ZOLTYREK

Up with music: Stephen Dubov brings a passion for music to his new role as cantor at Temple Beth El.

## COMMUNITY MESSENGER

**Community Messenger** features spiritual announcements from Oakland County religious institutions. Write: *Community Messenger, c/o Beliefs & Values Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 305 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1314.*

(810) 646-1200. Temple Israel, 5725 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, invites the community to celebrate Sabbath services under the stars. The services will begin at 8 p.m. every Friday through Aug. 16, weather permitting. Casual dress, no jeans, is suggested. For more information, call the Temple office at (810) 661-6700.

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**STUDENT SEARCH**  
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**OUTDOOR WORSHIP**  
First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, holds summer outdoor worship services at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday through Aug. 14 in the Chambliss Outdoor Worship Center. In the event of inclement weather, the half-hour services are moved indoors. Refreshments follow. For more information, call

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