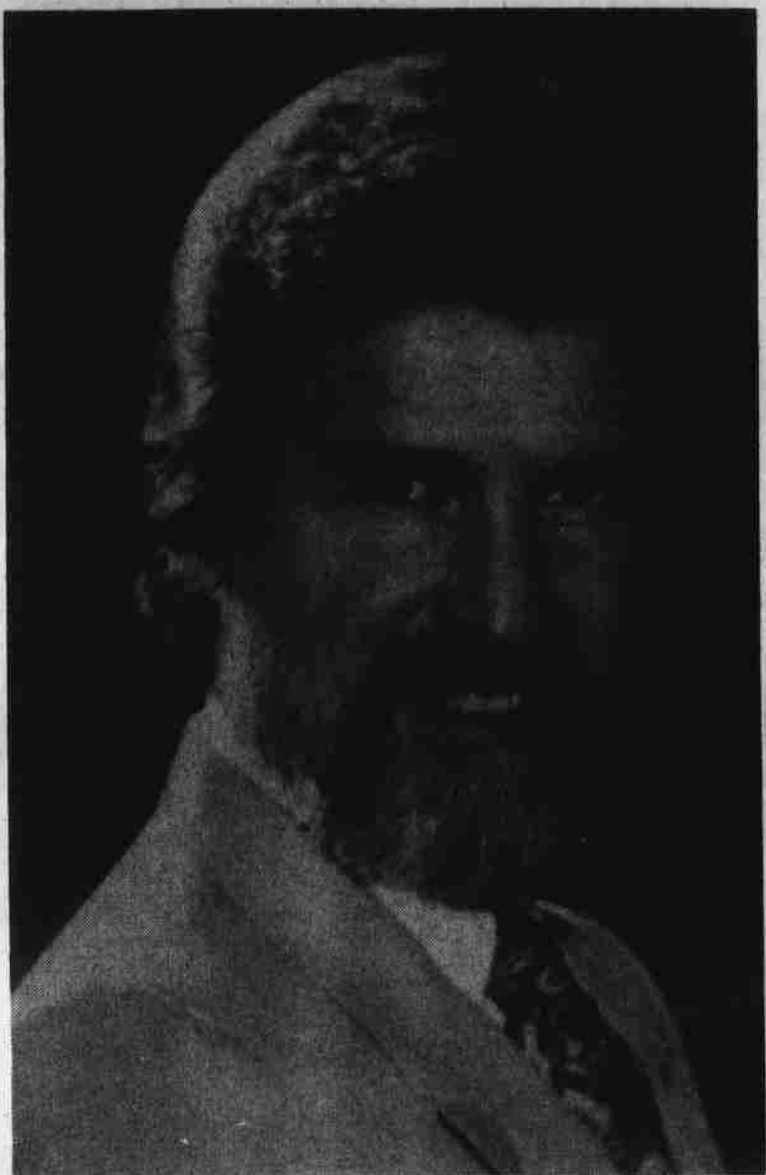


# Temple Beth Am To Feature Woman Cantor & Cellist For High Holy Days



Rabbi Mel Hecht



Cantor Evette Katlin

Temple Beth Am has selected Cantor Evette Katlin to sing for their High Holy Day Services at the Sahara Hotel Space Center, beginning Sep-

tember 15th. Cantor Katlin, a protegee of Cantor William Sharlin of Leo Beack Temple in Bel Air, California, has served congregations in Encino, Palm Desert and Redondo Beach. Rabbi Mel Hecht says he's looking forward to a very warm and meaningful High Holy Day experience, especially with the additional musical dimension provided by Concert Cellist, Hyman Gold, who will play for the Evening and Yizkor Memorial Services. For information and reservations, please call 645-6624.

## A Very Special Bar Mitzvah

The traditional Jewish ceremony marking the rite of passage to manhood and responsibility will be very different for Eric Strom of Stamford, Connecticut, than the Bar Mitzvah of most 13-year-old American Jewish boys.

Eric Strom is being Bar Mitzvah in Cracow, Poland, the city of an aging, though historic Jewish community that has not had for many years either a birth or a wedding to celebrate. "I never thought I'd have my Bar Mitzvah in Poland, just like my ancestors," he said.

Cracow is but a remnant of a once thriving Jewish community. Hitler's Holocaust changed that forever. At one time a Jewish community of some 60,000, it has been reduced to an aging group -- average age is 73 -- of some 200 persons. There is no rabbi, no religious education. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee provides food and other necessities for them.

The idea for the Bar Mitzvah resulted from a visit last April to Cracow of a group of N.Y. Federation of Jewish Philanthropies trustees and leaders, part of a UJA-Federation Campaign mission. "I asked what we could do for the community," said Lester Pollack of Rye, New York, Federation vice president and chairman of the mission. "I thought we would be asked for money or food."

Instead, they were asked to "Send a Bar Mitzvah. Send us life." Young Strom is that life, that Bar Mitzvah. He will read the Haftorah in the 15th-century Remu Synagogue, the oldest in use in Poland and the only one in operation in Cracow. He has invited the entire Jewish community of Cracow to a birthday party after the ceremony and will undoubtedly receive his share of head-patting and cheek-pinching. Nonetheless, a truly special mitzvah.

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