

Tribute to Rev. A. Cardozo

at the occasion of his 50th anniversary as Hazzan at S&P Synagogue

1. ST: 50th wedding anniversary. How feel 50 years? Answer: Went by like 2 days-- יום כיפור וטי"ב...

2. In this case: like 2 days--ר"ה ושמחת תורה. His service is both of solemnity and joy... He has preserved--and taught for future generations--the Spanish-portuguese-Dutch version of the Sephardic musical and liturgical tradition.

3. Qualifications for a שליח צבור: In Ashkenazic tradition--Cardozo fulfills most *but not all* prerequisites, As: זקנו מגודל... In Sephardic Halakha, as cited by R. Joseph Caro:

וידקדקו לחזור אחר שליח צבור היותר הגון והיותר גדול בתורה ומעשים שאפשר למצוא... ושיהא בן שלשים שנים, גם שיהא נשוי. מיהו כל ישראל כשרים הם, רק שיהיה מרוצה לקהל; ואם יהיה לו שונא ומכוין שלא להוציאו, גם אוהביו אינם יוצאים בתפלתו--(שי"ע או"ח סי' תקפ"א)

Bram Cardozo thus fulfills all qualifications--except that this last point is irrelevant, because not only don't I know anyone who dislikes him or his wife Irma, I can't even *imagine* that anyone dislikes him! Indeed, another Ashkenazi comes to mind: יקולו ערב and he not only has sweet voice, he himself is sweetness!-

4. All of life is like a Seder... ex: מרור... With him, 3 points stand out:

* קדש--sanctification, dedication...

* הלל--his professional responsibility

* נרצה--both to God and to man, certainly this grateful congregation