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A shehechyanu in the Senate Chamber:  
Rabbi, Cantor help swear in Goldberg as Treasurer

By Susie Davidson  
Special to the Journal

Rabbi William Hamilton of Congregation Kehillath Israel delivered the invocation Tuesday at the State House at the swearing-in of former Brookline Selectwoman Deb Goldberg for State Treasurer.

Hamilton, who also prayed for all victims of violence, "from the streets of Paris to the halls of Brigham & Women's," was preceded by Cantor Scott Sokol of Temple Beth Sholom in Framingham, who sang "America the Beautiful." The two then sang the Shehechyanu prayer in Hebrew and English.

Goldberg singled out her predecessor, Steve Grossman, calling him a mentor whose initiatives she would follow.

Goldberg's grandfather Lewis Goldberg was a founder and the first president of the Jewish Big Brother Association of Boston. Her family, founders of the Stop & Shop supermarket company, have been members of the KI for three generations. She used her father Avram Goldberg's Bar Mitzvah Bible for the swearing-in.

"That spirit that began in a little grocery store at the corner of Prince and Salem Streets in 1893 is the spirit that puts me before you today to pledge my commitment to everybody, no matter what they look like or how much money they have," she said.

"It's a singular moment in the history of the Commonwealth," said Hamilton, "when a talented hardworking leader with a special legacy of community service, that extends from her ancestors, can bring her very unique and important voice to lead our state, and inspire others to take responsibility for the community we build together."

"I'm so proud of Deb, not just for winning, but for her pride of Judaism, and for her dedication to helping all members of the Commonwealth," said Avram Goldberg.