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## Rabbinic Survey: Abraham Karp 13

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November 17, 1986

Rabbi Abraham J. Karp 240 Cobbs Hill Drive Rochester, New York 14610

## Dear Abe:

It is always good to hear from you. Selma and I talk about you very often.

In regard to your questions in / 175 'ole form:

- 1. The cantor's role and function is to chant at religious services, supervise and/or teach the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program, and initiate and expedite the musical program in the religious school and congregation. Ancillary duties include participation in weddings, funerals, periodic etc., and reading of the Torah when necessary, attendance at Minyan, etc.
- 2. I am in agreement with number 1.
- 3. Clerical colleague more than "staff" member.
- 4. Yes. I would want more training in the reading of the Torah.
- 5. Musical training, yes. I would seek more in Jewish knowledge.
- 6. We carefully discuss the liturgical content of all services. He has an unimportant role in this determination. However, the rabbi makes the final decisions.
- 7. Input, yes. Determination, no.
- 8. My present cantor instructs Bar and Bat Mitzvah children. In addition, he teaches in the school six hours a week, mainly the Hey children and the musical program for all students. He also teaches a one-hour course in the adult education program.

- Participation in weddings and funerals.
- 10. In my thirty-year rabbinic career, I have been associated with five different cantors. Each of the interrelationships has been excellent. I attribute these happy associations to the fact that I have in every positive way differentiated and embellished the principle that the cantor is a cantor and the rabbi a rabbi.

Sincerely yours,