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# Rabbinic Survey: Abraham Karp 11

Mark Slobin

Wesleyan University, [mslobin@wesleyan.edu](mailto:mslobin@wesleyan.edu)

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November 24, 1986

Mr. Abraham J. Karp  
Dept. of History  
University of Rochester  
River Campus Station  
Rochester, N.Y. 14627

Dear Abe:

Let me respond to your series of questions vis-a-vis the Cantorial rabbinic role. Generally speaking, I search for collegiality with the Cantor. My disappointment is with the narrowly focused concerns of a cantorate which concentrates on soloistic interests and is devoid of a larger focus on the community.

The image of a Cantor, as a teacher of Judaism, through the instrument of Jewish music, has been suppressed by the image of Cantor as a would-be "Pavoratti." While Cantors vary in their willingness to become personally involved in the pastoral and ritual aspects of the congregation, I would have to fault their education in cantorial schools for their narrow vision.

The Cantor, like the Rabbi, has to extend the nature of his or her constituency and plan their programs around their capacities and interests. That requires a more sophisticated and creative role.

I hope this is helpful to you.

Cordially,