

## About Cantor Karen Braunstein



Cantor Karen Braunstein grew up on Long Island, New York and began her musical studies at the age of nine, first learning piano, then voice. Inspired by her grandfather, an orthodox *chazzan* and lover of opera, she pursued a career in music, and, ultimately, the cantorate. In 1981 she received a Bachelor of Music degree from New England Conservatory in Boston. After several years of performing Yiddish song in a Klezmer band, she returned to New York to continue her studies, and in 1988, was invested as Cantor and earned her Masters of Sacred Music degree from the Hebrew Union College. Cantor Braunstein's Master's Thesis focused on Yiddish Religious song.

Cantor Braunstein has served congregations in the Northeast and in Florida and served as guest cantor in Texas. She has enjoyed teaching in religious schools for over twenty years. Cantor Braunstein has had the privilege of helping and celebrating with hundreds of families through their life-cycle events and teaching their children as they prepare for their B'nei Mitzvot. Through her work in synagogues, she has directed many Adult and Children's' choirs. Cantor Braunstein has also taught beginning Israeli dance. She has composed a collection of Jewish children's songs, has written several hilariously funny Purim Shpiels and directed Broadway musicals and revues at her synagogues. Cantor Braunstein teaches voice, as well as piano for beginners and continues to perform Jewish, Broadway, Jazz and Classical repertoire. She is also the mom of two wonderful children, one in high school and one in college, as well as a toy poodle and a min-pin!