



# Kidding Around

## Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tutoring in the Home



Because of his family's after-school activities, Jordan didn't attend Hebrew School and although his family felt connected to the Jewish traditions and holidays, they weren't affiliated with a synagogue.

Melinda was on a dance team and could not miss a day of practice to study at Hebrew School.

Evan attended Hebrew School, but needed extra help reading the Hebrew, chanting the prayers, and his Torah portion.

These situations have brought these families to Cantor Barbra's lifecycle business. Whether the family desiring Cantor Barbra's assistance is synagogue-unaffiliated or affiliated, the additional guidance enriches a meaningful religious event.

Cantor Barbra will tutor students in the convenience of their homes in Bergen and Rockland Counties. She has recently received requests outside the area to conduct lessons by skype or facetime. Skype and facetime have become popular with long-distance college learning, voice lessons, and now Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons.

Cantor Barbra accommodates each family by tailoring the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service according to the student's strengths and the family's preference. She normally uses the Reform siddur for Shabbat morning or Havdalah services and just like in religious school, encourages her students to complete a Chesed project or community service. The Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey has been helpful in suggesting mitzvah projects, but some of her students created their own.

Besides tutoring students a few years before their Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Cantor Barbra conducts small group tutoring and has several groups of students. The classes with a maximum of 4 students meet in a relaxed atmosphere once a week to learn to read Hebrew, the prayers, the Jewish holidays, history and Torah studies. They can begin small group instruction as early as 3rd grade until they commence their Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation individually in local communities.

Cantor Barbra received ordination from The Academy for Jewish Religion, a pluralistic seminary for rabbis and cantors in New York City. She is also certified through the American Conference of Cantors (Reform) and the Cantors Assembly (Conservative). She is a member of the Women's Cantors Network and has been singing with the NJ Cantors Concert Ensemble since 1995. For the past six years, she has been conducting a High Holiday choir. In addition, she officiates at Baby Namings, funerals, unveilings, and Jewish weddings.

To contact Cantor Barbra, please visit her website: **HYPERLINK** "<http://www.cantorbarbra.com>" "[www.cantorbarbra.com](http://www.cantorbarbra.com)" or call: 201-788-6653.

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