Cantor Kerith Spencer-Shapiro

A multi-faceted religious leader building consensus, creating bonds, and making personal connections, looking to the future and rising to the present needs of the community, while maintaining precious links to the past.

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EXPERIENCE

Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles, CA — *Cantor, Lecturer*

August 2023-PRESENT

Cantor and Rosh T'filah of the Jack H Skirball Campus including oversight and direction of campus prayer space. Develop and teach Worship Laboratory Class to 2nd-year rabbinic students.

Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Los Angeles, CA — *Cantor*

March 2021-June 2025

University Synagogue, Los Angeles, CA — *Senior Cantor*

July 2013-March 2021

University Synagogue merged with Wilshire Boulevard Temple in 2021 (see above)

Temple Sholom, Broomall, PA — *Cantor*

July 2011-June 2013

Adas Emuno, Leonia, NJ — *Cantor/Spiritual Leader*

July 2003-March 2011

Served as cantor and sole spiritual leader from 2005-2011.

EDUCATION

Hebrew Union College, New York, NY — *Ordination and MSM*

1999-2003

Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN — *BA*

1988-1992

HIGHLIGHTS

Scholar in Residence
Newport Beach, CA
2026 - Scholar, leader

Presenter
Los Angeles
2026 - to WRJ on 50 Years of Women in the Cantorate

SKILLS

Professional and Community Leadership

Collaboration

Mentoring

Managing

Pastoral Care

Teaching - all age groups

Choral Conducting/Band leading

CERTIFICATIONS

CCAR Interim Clergy Training

IJS Mindfulness Meditation Teacher Training

AWARDS

Jewish World Watch Upstander Award for Excellence in Fundraising

ACC Volunteer of the Month

Kerith, LLC
Los Angeles
2025 - Founder - coaching, meditation, ritual

Ma'ariv Service Honoring 50 Years of Women in the Cantorate
ACC-GTM Convention, Washington, DC
2025 - Service leading and planning

Makom: Jewish Spirituality and Meditation
Marlene Mayerson JCC of Manhattan, NYC
2025 - Meditation teacher

Holocaust Remembrance Day
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles
2025, 2026 - Cantor

Getting in Tune: Speaking the Language of Your Musical Teams
Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis Conference, Palm Springs
2025 - Presenter

Cantorial Scholar-In-Residence
Or Ami, Calabasas
2025, 2026 - Guest cantor and speaker

Women's Retreat
Temple Judea, Tarzana
2025 - Scholar, leader

With One Voice
WRJ High Holy Day Program, Virtual
2023 - Featured voice representing US cantorate

Adult Volunteer Choir
Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Los Angeles
2022 - Re-established and grew choir to 40 members

Meditation
Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Los Angeles
2022 - Established meditation group

Zimrah Talks
Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Los Angeles
2021-2022 - Monthly interviews with internationally recognized scholars exploring global Jewish music

Featured track of the Week
Insight Timer, Virtual
2016; 2022 - Recognition of excellent content

Certification
Institute for Jewish Spirituality
2018 - Mindfulness Meditation Teacher Training

Torah Yoga
University Synagogue, Los Angeles
2018

Task Force on the Experience of Women in the Rabbinate
CCAR
2017-2019 - Cantorial representative

Intro to Judaism
University Synagogue, Los Angeles
2014-2018 - Administrator, Lead Teacher, Organizer

LaDorot HaBa'im
Los Angeles
2017 - Performer/recording artist/co-commissioner

Camp Faculty
URJ Camps
2008-2016 - Camp Harlam and Camp Newman

Lay Witness Night
Southern CA Conference AAE Church, Los Angeles
2016 - Performer

Shabbat Zimrah
University Synagogue, Los Angeles
2014 - Creation, fundraising, and implementation of a shabbat service that incorporated elements of Mizrahi and Israeli musical styles

Tefilah
Theatre Dybbuk, Los Angeles
2014 - Performance piece, played role of Cantor

Shacharit Service Leader
72nd URJ Biennial, San Diego
2014

Clergy Leadership Cohort
Institute for Jewish Spirituality
2013-2015

Performer
Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts
2013 - Sponsored by the Kimmel Center

Interfaith Seder
Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia
2013 - Leader

71st URJ Biennial
Washington, DC
2011 - Cantorial Participation Coordinator

To God's Ears
Rome, Italy
2010 - One of twenty cantors chosen to sing in concert before Vatican officials.

Invited guest lecturer
NYU, Trinity College, Dublin, University of Minnesota, University of Southern California
2010–present