

Berg, Karen (*1942)

Karen Berg is the co-founder and director of the international Kabbalah Centre and author of several books based on a popular form of Kabbalah. She was born as Karen Mulnich in 1942 in New York, after her father died during World War II. Her stepfather was a hotel manager in Miami Beach, Florida. During her childhood, she moved with her family many times between New York and Miami and attended different public schools. She grew up in a secular Jewish family. As a high school student she worked for six months as a secretary for Philip Berg in the 1950s, who was an insurance salesman at that time. With her first husband, which she married at seventeen, she had two daughters: Leah and Suri. After her divorce, she met Philip Berg again. He started to teach Kabbalah to her and they married in 1971. The family moved to Israel, where they began to teach Kabbalah to interested Jewish people. In 1981 they returned with their two sons Yehuda (1972) and Michael (1973) to New York from where they launched the teaching of Kabbalah throughout North America. In the 1990s they opened the Kabbalah Centre in Los Angeles, which attracted many celebrities like Madonna over the years. The international Kabbalah Centre is one of the most popular contemporary kabbalistic movements today.

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