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HUC-JIR STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO GERMANY TO ENGAGE GLOBAL JEWRY AND PARTICIPATE IN ‘GERMANY CLOSE UP’

May 18, 2010 – Sponsored by the Federal Republic of Germany and administered by the Centrum Judaicum, HUC-JIR students from Los Angeles, New York, and Cincinnati, will spend 11 days this month in Berlin, Weimar, Worms, Heidelberg and Speyer as part of the German government’s outreach program to American Jewish young professionals. Dr. Leah Hochman, Assistant Professor of Jewish Thought and Incoming Director of the Louchheim School of Judaic Studies at USC, will serve as the faculty guide. Dr. Hochman was a post-doctoral fellow at the Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum and Fellow at the Einstein Forum and the Dubnow Institute; she brings her academic expertise in 18th century European thought to the class.



**Centrum Judaicum
at the Neue Synagoge**

Established in October 2007, “Germany Close Up: American Jews Meet Modern Germany” provides Jewish Americans with the opportunity to visit historical sites, participate in contemporary Jewish life in Germany, and meet with Germans of all backgrounds.

Dagmar Pruin, Executive Director of Germany Close Up: American Jews Meet Modern Germany, said: “This trip is a part of a larger effort of the German government not only to come to terms with its past, but also to step forward in the future. Personally I find the partnership with HUC-JIR extremely enriching. As a Hebrew Bible scholar this institution means a lot to me both personally and professionally.”

The May 21 - 31 program will focus on

- Jewish Berlin, present and past
- Exchange with students of the Abraham-Geiger-College
- The integration of new members to the Jewish community
- Re-unified Berlin and united Germany
- German- American relations (including meetings with officials of the German foreign office)
- German-Israeli relations
- The Holocaust and the Nazi Era (including a trip to the memorial of the former concentration camp at Sachsenhausen)

Founded in 1875, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion is the nation’s oldest institution of higher Jewish education and the academic, spiritual, and professional development center of Reform Judaism. HUC-JIR educates men and women for service to American and world Jewry as rabbis, cantors, educators, and communal service professionals, and offers graduate and post-graduate degree programs for scholars of all faiths. With campuses in Cincinnati, Los Angeles, New York, and Jerusalem, HUC-JIR’s scholarly resources comprise renowned library and museum collections, the American Jewish Archives, biblical archaeology excavations, research centers and institutes, and academic publications. Visit us at <http://www.huc.edu>