

**Remarks Made
at the
Memorial Service for Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk
By
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On behalf of the entire USC community, I am honored to pay tribute to an extraordinary leader, an esteemed scholar, and a beloved teacher – Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk. I'm proud to have counted Fred as a friend and a colleague. He inspired me. I admired him for his love of teaching, his warmth, his conviviality, and his strong sense of purpose. Through his words and actions, he exemplified the attributes of the ideal Trojan, those being faithful, scholarly, skillful, courageous, and ambitious.

Fred was very much a Trojan, having distinguished himself as one of USC's most outstanding alumni. He held a Ph.D. in philosophy and the history of religion from USC. In the years subsequent to his earning his doctorate in 1965, we awarded him not just one but two honorary degrees: Doctor of Sacred Theology in 1968 and Doctor of Laws in 1976. That's unprecedented! No one else in the history of USC (and perhaps in the history of higher education) has received three doctorates from a single institution. That makes Fred very special indeed.

It was while Fred was working on his Ph.D. at USC that he began shaping the Los Angeles branch of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion into one of the world's best Jewish colleges and into one of USC's closest partners. Fred, who was then the dean of HUC-JIR's small Los Angeles campus, and HUC President Nelson Glueck had developed a friendship with one of my predecessors – USC President Norman Topping. The decision was made to relocate the small HUC-JIR campus from the Hollywood Hills to its present location near USC. Fred's pivotal leadership paved the way for HUC-JIR to begin collaborating with USC on academic programs that benefited students at both institutions.

All of us at USC are proud of our 40-year alliance with HUC-JIR. Each year more than 600 of our undergraduates take courses taught by HUC-JIR faculty in the USC College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. We also collaborate on dual degree programs that involve a number of USC's schools, including our Marshall School of Business, our Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, our Roski School of Fine Arts, and our schools of social work, and policy, planning, and development.

Fred made it all possible. Indeed, a crucial part of his legacy was his dedication to developing innovative partnerships, to building HUC-JIR and its four campuses into a truly international university, and to cultivating the next generation of Jewish spiritual and professional leaders. A passage from the citation USC gave him for one of his honorary doctorates reads, “The greatness of the man is clear in the profundity of his thought, in the innovation of his scholarly research, in the brilliance of his writings, in the inspiration of his lectures, in the wisdom of his reason, in the compassion of his counsel, and in the depth of his love for his fellow man.”

We at USC are forever grateful for all that Fred has done for our university and for our wider community. Over the years, he elevated the lives of countless individuals. Our lives, although diminished by his passing, have been immeasurably enriched by his having lived among us.