

Rabbi Jody Ruth Cohen Received Doctor of Divinity at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in New York



Rabbi Jody Ruth Cohen, Rabbi at **Temple Israel of Greater Miami**, received a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, from the **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR)**. The degree was granted at HUC-JIR's New York Graduation ceremony on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York.

Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D., announced HUC-JIR alumni recipients who were awarded honorary Doctorates of Divinity, Music, Jewish Religious Education, and Jewish Communal Service, as well as the Founders' Medallion, in recognition of their 25 years of distinguished professional service.

Rabbi Ellenson said, "Rabbi Cohen's new initiatives at Temple Israel of Greater Miami have been met with enthusiastic support from her congregants. Early in her career as rabbi and educator, she established Noah's Ark, the first synagogue-run early childcare center in the country for infants and toddlers. She continues to earn the respect of her colleagues with her many honors, awards, and positions of leadership in Jewish and civic organizations."

Prior to becoming senior rabbi at Temple Israel, Rabbi Cohen served from 1997-2007 as the Regional Director for the Southeast Council of the Union for Reform Judaism. Rabbi Cohen also served as the solo rabbi of Temple Beth Hillel in South Windsor, Connecticut and associate rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford, Connecticut.

She has lived on a kibbutz in Israel, led numerous trips to Israel, been active in outreach to intermarried families and served as an emissary of the Reform Movement to Argentina and the former Soviet Union. In 1985 Rabbi Cohen established Noah's Ark, the first synagogue run early childcare center in the country for children ages six weeks to five years.

A charter member of the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, Rabbi Cohen served as co-president of the Women's Rabbinic Network and an officer of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. She was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1984 and received her B.A. degree from Mt. Holyoke College.

For more information on the HUC-JIR Graduation, Investiture, and Ordination ceremonies in New York, Los Angeles, and Cincinnati, please visit <http://www.huc.edu/newspubs/pressroom/article.php?pressroomid=271>.

*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 leadership 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 programs to scholars of all faiths. With centers of learning in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York, HUC-JIR's scholarly resources comprise renowned library and museum collections, the American Jewish Archives, biblical archaeology excavations, research institutes and centers, and academic publications. HUC-JIR invites the community to an array of cultural and educational programs which illuminate Jewish history, identity, and contemporary creativity and which foster interfaith and multiethnic understanding. Visit us at www.huc.edu.*

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