

Cantor Jill Spasser Received Doctor of Music at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in New York

Cantor Jill Spasser received a Doctor of Music, *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.

Cantor Spasser, now retired, was Choir Director at **Temple Emanu-El**, Westfield, NJ, and founded their children's choir. She continues to teach adult education, b'nai mitzvot, and in the Early Learning Center of **The Temple**, Atlanta, GA.

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, "As former President of the Cantorial Alumni Association, Placement Director, and Instructor in the School of Sacred Music at HUC-JIR, Cantor Spasser has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues."

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.