

Rabbi Irwin A. Zeplovitz Received Doctor of Divinity at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in New York



Rabbi Irwin A. Zeplovitz, rabbi at **The Community Synagogue**, Port Washington, NY, 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 Zeplovitz is Past President of the Alumni Association and a member of the President's Rabbinic Council and the Board of Governors at HUC-JIR.

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 Zeplovitz is a popular teacher and lecturer who has shared his knowledge of Torah, medical and business ethics, and Jewish mysticism and spirituality with his colleagues. He has attained leadership positions in the many civic and Jewish organizations he serves with distinction and has manifested the bonds of loyalty to his alma mater."

Rabbi Irwin Zeplovitz was born in Niagara Falls, NY. He graduated from the University of Toronto and was ordained at HUC-JIR in 1984. He was assistant and associate rabbi at Congregation B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim (Glenview, IL) for five years and Rabbi of Temple Anshe Sholom for fourteen. In July 2003 he became Senior Rabbi at The Community Synagogue in Port Washington, NY.

A member of the Board of Governors of HUC-JIR, he was president of the Canadian region of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR); president of the Alumni Association of HUC-JIR; was a member of the editorial board of the *C.C.A.R. Journal* and is past Chair of the HUC-CCAR Joint Commission on Sustaining Rabbinic Education.

A popular teacher, Rabbi Zeplovitz has taught numerous courses for adult learning institutes in Canada and the United States. He has lectured at academic conferences and had many articles published in journals, newspapers and on the web (including as Torah commentator for the URJ "Reform Voices of Torah"). He is deeply committed to youth and has spent more than 20 years teaching at several Reform movement camps.

He has been active in promoting interfaith activities (Jewish-Muslim, as well as Jewish-Buddhist-Christian) and is very involved in social justice projects, including adoption of families from the former Yugoslavia, support for Progressive/Reform congregations in Israel and Central Europe, hunger projects and the environment.

Rabbi Zeplovitz is married to Anne and has 3 children - Abigail, Deena and Nathan. He resides in Port Washington, New York.

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.*