2017-2018 President’s Report
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion instills leadership, fosters scholarship, and nurtures spiritual growth in an inclusive, pluralistic learning environment where tradition and innovation are the catalysts for leading and creating vibrant Jewish communities throughout North America, Israel, and around the world.

Newly ordained rabbis, all Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati Sacred Service Learning Fellows, of the Cincinnati Class of 2018.
Graduates of the Pines School of Graduate Studies Ph.D. Class of 2018

Newly ordained rabbis and cantors of the New York Class of 2018

Rabbi Aaron Panken, z”l, (left) presented Charles Bronfman with the Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*

Rhea Hirsch School of Education M.A. in Jewish Education Class of 2018

Los Angeles Rabbinical Ordination Class of 2018

Graduates of the Pines School of Graduate Studies Ph.D. Class of 2018

Israeli Rabbinical Ordination Class of 2018
Dear Friends,

Our beloved leader, colleague, and friend Rabbi Aaron Panken, Ph.D., z”l, led the 2017-2018 academic year with characteristic vigor – laser focused on the College-Institute’s mission of ensuring a vibrant Jewish future. His tragic death on May 5, 2018, came at the culmination of the academic year, rupturing our learning community and depriving the Jewish and larger world of his visionary and compassionate leadership. We take comfort in the knowledge that his legacy endures through the strategic initiatives he championed that have strengthened HUC-JIR’s academic excellence and its broad impact on the Reform Movement and the Jewish people in North America, Israel, and around the globe.

The legacy of leadership exemplified by Rabbi Panken will be sustained in perpetuity by the naming of the first four Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Professorships, one on each of HUC-JIR’s campuses: Jennifer Grayson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History at HUC-JIR/ Cincinnati with a joint appointment at Xavier University; Rabbi Dalia Marx ’02, Ph.D., Professor of Liturgy and Midrash at the Taube Family Campus in Jerusalem; Rabbi Joseph A. Skloot ’10, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Modern Jewish Intellectual History at HUC-JIR/New York; and Rabbi Dvora E. Weisberg ’11, Ph.D., Professor of Rabbinics and Director of the School of Rabbinical Studies at the Jack H. Skirball Campus in Los Angeles.

Over $12 million has been contributed by nearly 1,000 of HUC-JIR’s lay leaders, alumni, congregations, faculty, staff, students, family, and friends to endow the Panken Professorships in a campaign spearheaded by Rabbi Panken’s beloved wife, Lisa Messinger, and the Messinger Panken family. The campaign will culminate with a day of learning, led by the four Panken Professors, as we approach Rabbi Panken’s first yahrzeit.

A brief survey of the past year reflects Rabbi Panken’s hopes and dreams for this institution he so loved: We awarded 141 degrees and rabbinical and cantorial ordination at our campuses in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York. The Pines School of Graduate
The $1.4 million multi-year grant from Central Synagogue’s Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein Fund for the Renaissance of Reform Judaism established HUC-JIR’s partnership with Hillel International in placing Reform Senior Jewish Educators and Hillel Interns at Hillels to enrich Jewish life on campus, a commitment also reflected in the third cohort of our Founders’ Fellowship, preparing college students as leaders of innovative progressive Jewish programming at undergraduate colleges.

Our faculty and students participated in teaching and leading worship at the 2017 Union for Reform Judaism Biennial in Boston, inspiring over 6,000 Reform Movement leaders with their scholarship, innovative research, and spirituality. We convened leading thinkers in politics, culture, literature, science, and Jewish studies to probe the truths that can repair our nation and our world at our Symposium 2: These Truths We Hold – Judaism in an Age of Truthiness. College Commons’ adult and teen online courses, interviews, and “Bully Pulpit” podcasts engaged congregations and learners across North America.

At our Taube Family Campus in Jerusalem, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim educators gathered in the Teachers’ Lounge to study how to advance tolerance in their Jerusalem schools and we continued to partner with Healing Hatred to open new paths to healing in the context of political conflict with religious leaders, psychologists, and educators.

The Jim Joseph Foundation’s grant of $1.3 million supported the continuity of the Executive M.A.
Program in Jewish Education, with seven cohorts to date and the enhancement of the program with more engagement with the arts as part of students’ leadership development. We partnered with The Jewish Theological Seminary to launch a second Chicago-based cohort of the Jewish Early Childhood Education Leadership Institute with renewed support from the Crown Family.

The Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management at our Jack H. Skirball Campus in Los Angeles launched the first cohorts of the Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Certificate in Jewish Organizational Leadership, offering accelerated and summer programs for professionals seeking to fast-track their careers.

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives on our Cincinnati Campus celebrated the acquisition of the B’nai B’rith International Archives with an exhibition of its treasures and supported the research of scholars and educators from around the world. The Klau Library inaugurated online access to digitized images of its rare treasures at mss.huc.edu.

Our faculty published significant volumes of scholarship and academic articles, presented academic lectures, and were featured among the 100 letters written by scholars of religion to our nation’s leaders in the volume American Values: Religious Voices, dedicated to the memory of Rabbi Panken and co-created by Rabbi Andrea L. Weiss ’93, Ph.D., our new Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Provost.

A $1.68 million gift from the Dr. Bernard Heller Foundation supported the naming of the Dr. Bernard Heller Museum in New York, which presented 70 international artists exploring personal experience, historical and contemporary events, and the universal human condition in the exhibition “Home(less).” The Skirball Museum in Cincinnati welcomed visitors of all ages and faiths to view “Dreams: Baseball & Becoming American,” “Treasures from the B’nai B’rith Klutznick Collection,” “Re-Art: The Many Faces of Israel,” and “Israel at 70: A History in Art and Artifacts.” “The Jerusalem Biennale” was presented at the Skirball Museum in Jerusalem, and contemporary art installations were on view at the Jack H. Skirball Campus in Los Angeles.

Over $1 million was raised for student and faculty support at the tribute dinners in Cincinnati, honoring Jacqueline Mack and Edward Silberstein, M.D.; in Los Angeles, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management and honoring Dianne and Tad Taube and Taube Philanthropies and Arthur Greenberg with special commendation to Lee Wunsch; and in New York, honoring Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, Ph.D.

We are thankful for the sacred work and principled leadership demonstrated by our alumni and students each and every day, and particularly during the most challenging moments of the past year – in Charlottesville, in the aftermath of the devastating hurricanes and wildfires, during the asylum-seeker crisis in Israel, and, most recently, as we continue to heal from the horrific murders at Pittsburgh’s Eitz Chaim Congregation.

You are our indispensable partners in preparing the next generations of Jewish leaders to sustain the Jewish and larger world. Thank you for your vital support as we work together toward the blessings of justice and peace.

With sincere gratitude and in friendship,

Rabbi David Ellenson ’77, Ph.D.,
Interim President and Chancellor Emeritus

December 1, 2018 / 23 Kislev 5779
Financial Overview

2017-2018 OPERATING REVENUES
$40.8 million

- Fundraising 40%
- RMAC 20%
- Investment Income 23%
- Contracted Services 6%
- Net Tuition and Fees 6%
- Other 5%

2017-2018 OPERATING EXPENSES
$41.4 million

- Instruction 35%
- Academic Support 19%
- Institutional Support 20%
- Depreciation 5%
- Student Stipends & Scholarships 3%
- Maintenance 10%
- Institutional Advancement 8%
Our alumni and students have an impact on **50** countries, **1,400** synagogues and organizations, and **7,000** Jewish campers.

Philanthropy provides **40%** of HUC-JIR’s income, supporting students, faculty, and research resources.

**89** continuing education programs engage alumni throughout the world.

**93%** of students receive scholarship support.

**100%** of new graduates have jobs within one year.

The Board of Governors, administration, alumni, and students advocating for religious pluralism at the Kotel.

### IN MEMORIAM

Rabbi Aaron D. Panken, Ph.D., President

Rabbi Isaac Jerusalmi, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Bible and Semitic Languages, HUC-JIR/Cincinnati

Jay I. Kislak, Former Treasurer of the Board of Governors and Chair of its Jerusalem School Committee

S.L. Kopald, Jr., Chairman Emeritus and Governor Emeritus

Rabbi David M. Posner, Former Governor

Theodore L. Schwartz, Governor Emeritus

Richard Siegel, Director Emeritus, Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management

Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin ’46, Founding Dean, Jack H. Skirball Campus, Los Angeles
FALL 2018 YEAR-IN-ISRAEL CLASS

- 52 students
- 28 average age

35% received a graduate degree or certificate

3.8/3.5 average graduate/undergraduate GPA

27% have/had affiliations outside the Reform Movement

63% female
31% male
4% gender nonconforming
2% transgender

Selected Undergraduate and Graduate Schools Where They Studied

Bates | Brandeis | Brown | Bryn Mawr | Clark | Columbia | Cornell
George Washington | Harvard | Hebrew University | Indiana
Jewish Theological Seminary | Miami | Michigan | Middlebury | Muhlenberg
Northwestern | Princeton | Skidmore | Syracuse | Washington & Lee | Wellesley

Undergraduate Majors

Regions of Incoming Class

Gender

Japanese Lang/Lit

Northwesten

Male

Female

Trans-

Gender

Japanese Lang/Lit

Northwesten

Male

Female

Trans-

Gender

35% received a graduate degree or certificate

3.8/3.5 average graduate/undergraduate GPA

27% have/had affiliations outside the Reform Movement

17% female
31% male
42% gender nonconforming

4% transgender

Selected Undergraduate and Graduate Schools Where They Studied

Bates | Brandeis | Brown | Bryn Mawr | Clark | Columbia | Cornell
George Washington | Harvard | Hebrew University | Indiana
Jewish Theological Seminary | Miami | Michigan | Middlebury | Muhlenberg
Northwestern | Princeton | Skidmore | Syracuse | Washington & Lee | Wellesley