In his historic address "Kol Dodi Dofek" on Yom Haatzmaut 1956, Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik pointed out that the Jewish people were a people both of fate and common purpose. His observation continues to be pertinent as we consider our lives individually, as a community, and as part of the larger Jewish people. As a people of fate, we are inextricably bound to our past and the circumstances that have brought us to our condition today. As a people of common purpose, we are active and take steps in the present that chart our vision for our future.

On September 12, 2009 we lost a champion of the Jewish people, Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, z’l, whose life’s work was a powerful reply to Rabbi Soloveitchik’s query on fate and purpose. For Dr. Gottschalk, who emerged from the destruction of European Jewry and devoted his entire being to regenerating Jewish life and learning, the past was the foundation upon which he forged his vision for a dynamic Jewish present and a vibrant Jewish future in North America and his beloved Israel. His legacy is a source of inspiration, as we channel our energies toward strengthening the College-Institute’s academic excellence and financial sustainability.

The College-Institute stands poised to be an institution of destiny and purpose. Emerging from an intensive period of self-study, we have embraced “A New Way Forward,” a five-year plan designed to put the Reform Movement’s seminary on a firm financial foundation while enhancing student learning, strengthening faculty teaching and scholarship, developing relationships with academic partners, and reinforcing vital links with Reform congregations throughout the world. Based on three principles — attaining financial sustainability; building academic excellence; and preserving presences in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York that serve congregations around the world, “A New Way Forward” provides for:

- implementing e-learning classrooms, cross-campus learning, and consistent curriculum across campuses;
- a synergized HUC-JIR and Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) relationship aspiring toward joining together in a shared Center for Reform Judaism in New York;
- a new endowment campaign;
- reductions in administrative expenses;
- faculty reduction through voluntary separation, attrition, and retirement, while sustaining emerging junior faculty; and
- restructuring and sale of non-core real estate holdings.

In partnership with the URJ and the other arms of the Reform Movement, we are committed to addressing the vital needs of a changing Jewish community. As we continue to enhance teaching and learning at the College-Institute, our goal is clear: to prepare men and women of vision who are steeped in Jewish knowledge and blessed with creativity and passion to lead and shape communities of meaning and transform congregations, schools, institutions, and agencies of Jewish life for the 21st century.

Despite the challenges that HUC-JIR has faced this year, we have had great success in fundraising. At the outset of the economic downturn, we made the decision to focus on our annual fundraising (rather than larger endowment gifts) so that we could further secure our annual operating budget. I am proud to say that with the able planning and hard work of our development team, we raised almost $17.5 million during the 2008-09 fiscal year and an additional $9.8 million in pledges.

I would like to share with you some of the highlights of HUC-JIR’s 134th academic year:

- The Jim Joseph Foundation made an historic gift of $3.7 million for our Schools of Education to provide full scholarship assistance and stipends to every student studying to become a Jewish educator. The gift, which was also made to the Jewish Theological Seminary and Yeshiva University, recognized the vital role that the seminary plays and must continue to play in building strong Jewish leadership for the future. We are now engaged in an intensive strategic planning process with the JF to expand the reach of our Schools of Education, attracting greater numbers of students, enriching the curriculum, upgrading recruitment and marketing strategies, and extending the use of technology to educate students both on and off campus. We are very grateful to the Trustees of the Jim Joseph Foundation for the confidence in our work that this gift represents.

- We celebrated the rededication of the Klau Library and Jewish Foundation Pavilion, with a gala day of festivities including a formal rededication ceremony and evening program that welcomed over 1,000 friends of the College-Institute. The Governor of the State of Ohio Ted Strickland; the Mayor of Cincinnati Mark Mallory; former Congressman Rob Portman; and Dr. Gregory Williams, the new President of the University of Cincinnati, joined us to mark this momentous occasion (see page 10).

- Through the commitment of Rabbi Irwin Zeplovitz and Alumni Relations Director Joy Wasserman, we launched a Rabbinic Alumni Invest-in-a-Student initiative that raised in its first year over $700,000. Our goal is to achieve 100 percent participation from every ordination class and to raise an additional $1 million in the next year. This initiative was instrumental in increasing our alumni giving to the College by 10 percent in just one year (see page 17).

- We welcomed new members of our administration: Rabbi Dr. Michael Marmur, formerly the Dean of the Jerusalem School, as Vice President of Academic Affairs; Rabbi Naamah Kelman, formerly the Director of the Year-In-Israel Program, as Dean of the Jerusalem School; Dr. Dvora Weisberg, Professor of Talmud, as Director of the Rabbinical Program in Los Angeles; Dr. David Dirlam as Coordinator of Institutional Research, a national position based in Cincinnati; Rabbi Yossi Zweiback as Director of the Year-In-Israel Program in Jerusalem; and Rabbi Marc Rosenstein as Director of the Israeli Rabbinical Program.

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Our faculty has been enriched immeasurably by the presence of two Israeli Visiting Professors in Israel Studies. Dr. Larissa Remennick, an expert in gender studies, women’s health, and immigration/integration, holds a joint appointment with HUC-JIR and the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). Dr. Martin Sherman, an expert in strategic and foreign policy, Israeli intelligence, and counter-terrorism holds a joint appointment with HUC-JIR and the University of Southern California. Funding for the Schusterman Visiting Faculty in Israel Studies was made possible through the generosity of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Lief Rosenblatt, and Elliott and Robin Broidy.

We have admitted 96 students (35 stateside rabbinical, 5 Israeli rabbinical, 6 cantorial, 11 education, 11 rabbinical/education Mandel Fellowship, 8 communal service, 5 Ph.D., 2 Pre-doctoral M.A. in Jewish Studies, and 13 DeLeT certificate program participants, and we are proud to have 51 first-year students at our Jerusalem campus, where they are studying side-by-side with 23 Israeli rabbinical students.

We have ordained 43 new stateside rabbis and 6 Israeli rabbis, invested 11 cantors, graduated 12 Jewish communal service professionals and 17 Jewish educators, and bestowed 125 Master’s and Doctoral degrees on students in our graduate and professional programs. At Ordination in Jerusalem, we presented certificates to the first 7 graduates of our Master’s Program in Pluralistic Jewish Education, a first-time collaboration with the Hebrew University (see page 20).

We have continued to focus on scholarships to enable us to attract the best and the brightest students. The Shapiro Foundation (see page 26) has made its 26th annual gift to fund scholarships for first-year students in Israel. Generous donors too numerous to mention have invested in our students by pledging multi-year scholarships.

Our rich and varied leadership programs – the Tisch Fellows, Mandel Fellows, and Schusterman Rabbinical Fellows – have been joined by the School of Sacred Music Leadership Fellows Program, endowed by an anonymous gift from a generous donor.

With a generous two-year challenge gift from an anonymous foundation, we added over $250,000 to our annual giving this year, and expect to do the same in 2009-10.

In Cincinnati we launched an historic collaboration with Xavier University to create a Jewish and Interfaith Studies Program that will be offered to undergraduates at Xavier and rabbinical and graduate students at HUC-JIR. This initiative was launched with a generous gift from Macy’s, Inc., and Norma and Donald Stone.

In Los Angeles we initiated the Aronoff Rabbinical Mentoring Program, focusing on mentoring skills, professional development, supervision of field placements, and coaching.

In Los Angeles we completed the Artist-in-Residence for Jewish Education Program with artist Stacie Chaiken, funded partially by a Cutting Edge Grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles.

Our DeLeT Program – Day School Education through Leadership and Training – received a substantial grant from the Jim Joseph Foundation, enabling HUC-JIR to increase the number of students being trained to be day school teachers. The excellence of this program was recognized by the State of California when DeLeT was approved to offer the California State Teaching Credential.

In New York we celebrated Jewish music and our renowned School of Sacred Music with “Debbie and Friends,” a gala concert held at Central Synagogue. Playing to nearly 1000 guests, Debbie Friedman, special guests, faculty, cantorial alumni, and students interpreted Debbie’s music and sang the many songs that are the hallmark of Debbie’s distinguished career. The concert was the largest fundraiser in the SSM’s 60-year history, raising over $450,000 for HUC-JIR.

We continue to be an innovator in congregational education through our Leadership Institute for Congregational School Educators, a joint program with JTS, funded by the UJA-Federation of New York. Through this collaboration, we offer an intensive program of leadership skill-building to principals in the New York metropolitan area, enabling them to strengthen all aspects of the religious schools in their congregations.

In New York, the HUC-JIR Museum presented a diverse array of exhibitions, including “Envisioning Maps” and “Arbit Blatas: A Centennial Celebration.” The Anti-Defamation League, with the assistance of Abraham Foxman and Regina Resnik, generously donated Blatas’s renowned bas-relief sculptures, entitled “Memorial to the Holocaust,” to HUC-JIR. These sculptures, which were exhibited across from the United Nations on the façade of the ADL’s former headquarters for many years, are in an edition of four sets; the three other sets are the permanent Holocaust memorials of Paris, Venice, and Kaunas, Lithuania.

To be of service to our donors and friends, the Development Office created and launched a Planned Giving Website (see page 14) to encourage and assist donors in making transformational gifts to the College at low cost. We welcome all of our donors to make use of this new site.

We have accomplished all of this through the remarkable support of our Boards of Governors and Overseers and wonderful and loyal donors and alumni who understand that HUC-JIR is at the heart of the Reform Movement and represents the hope and the future for the American Jewish community.

With your continued generous help, we can and will fulfill our mandate to educate the kinds of Jewish leaders that are so sorely needed during these challenging times. Thank you for making it possible for our children and grandchildren to be the beneficiaries of the wisdom, tradition, culture, and values that provide the moral, intellectual, and spiritual fortitude to tackle real issues in the real world.

With sincere appreciation for your great support and with warm wishes for health, fulfillment, peace, and joy,

Rabbi David Ellenson, President
March 2010 Nisan 5770
Dr. Norman J. Cohen’s first exposure to Midrash, the subject that would become the core text of his life and career, was through his beloved grandfather, R. Hayyim Baruch, affectionately known as ‘Shorty” although he was larger than life to his grandson. “On Shabbat, he would take me to a local Orthodox shul, where there would be a half-hour shiur (study session) between Minhah and Maariv on Pirke Avot or other texts,” he recalls. “My grandfather, who studied Talmud (generally deemed the preeminent, rational text for the learned at that time), also occasionally studied Midrash. I was struck by those memorable moments in my grandfather’s Shabbat Hevruta study group when someone would offer a midrashic interpretation of the text. Looking at his face I knew he was transformed – transported to a florid, magical realm, full of imagination. I knew I wanted to feel that way.” Thus were planted the seeds of Cohen’s lifelong intellectual and personal quest to find contemporary meaning in ancient biblical texts through the prism of Midrash.

Growing up in a modern Orthodox family in Astoria, Queens, Cohen attended both secular public school and a supplementary Orthodox Hebrew school and Hebrew high school. He and his younger brother Marvin were surrounded by loving parents – his mother Molly, who died when he was 27 years old, and his father Irving, who Cohen tended lovingly into his 80s, particularly when afflicted by a stroke during the last decades of his life. A closely-knit family of aunts, uncles, and cousins all lived within an eight-block radius. Immersed in traditional Jewish life, Cohen nonetheless “intuitively knew that Orthodoxy presented limitations” for him and says, “I could not understand why the girls in my class could not have a bat mitzvah, for example. I was looking for ways to find another path.”

By the time he was fourteen years old, he had reached a critical juncture. “I was committed to a Thursday night basketball game with my friends. At the same time, I had developed a crush on a Hebrew school classmate, who participated in a youth group on that same evening.” Teenage love trumped sports, and Cohen was introduced to another formative influence in his life – Young Judaea. From that point on, Cohen was an active leader of that Zionist youth movement, working at its senior camp Tel Yehudah, establishing lifelong friendships with future colleagues, performing at annual Israeli Folk Dancing Festivals at Carnegie Hall, and ultimately traveling to Israel during his junior year abroad for study at the Hebrew University in 1962-63. “That’s when I discovered my love for the Hebrew language, which led me to studying Hebrew texts.”

When he returned to Columbia from Israel, he completed his major in chemistry but took on a minor in Hebrew literature as well. Upon graduation in 1964, he stayed on to study for a Master’s in Hebrew Literature and gradually came to the realization that the advanced study of Jewish text was his true calling. “At that time, rabbinical school was the best venue for serious study of this kind,” he explains. “Although I knew that I was not interested in pursuing a pulpit career, I saw this as the optimal opportunity to develop a broad and firm foundation and to delve into Jewish scholarship with an academic career in mind.”

The independent inclination that had distanced him from the Orthodoxy of his childhood also determined the seminary at which to pursue graduate study. “I knew myself, and understood that I
would best fare in an environment of free inquiry that would invite a questioning spirit. The Jewish Institute of Religion (JIR), as the New York campus of HUC-JIR was familiarly known at that time, was an extraordinary environment, with a pluralistic faculty traversing the denominations and covering the scope of Jewish scholarship. I knew that I would have the unfettered freedom to explore and grow there. In fact, the first Reform service I attended in my life was on my first day at JIR!

Cohen vividly recalls his years at HUC-JIR, located on West 68th Street at that time, and his studies with beloved teachers, including Dr. Martin Cohen, Dr. Leonard Kravitz, and Dr. Eugene Borowitz. “I studied intensively with Gene, who challenged me to really delve deeply into the text. Furthermore, I had a *hevra* of study partners, including David Ruderman, Jonathan Malino, Sheldon Zimmerman, and Marc Saperstein, and we arranged electives for ourselves.”

By the time of his ordination in 1971, he was set on pursuing his Ph.D. “I knew I would not be happy in a university setting characterized by abstract learning. It was really about learning as part of a Jewish search for meaning that led me to HUC-JIR in Cincinnati.” His next four years of study were supervised by Dr. Eugene Mihaly, z”l, who “had a great sense of the language of the text, knew how to bring it alive, and inculcated in me a passion for the text for which I will always be grateful.” In 1975, two years before he completed his doctorate in 1977, Cohen was assigned by Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, z”l, then HUC-JIR President, to teach at the New York School. “My teaching has always served as an energizing force,” he says. “I love sharing my love for Midrash with my students, and in the process encouraging their own individual intellectual and spiritual journeys.”

He spent the next ten years teaching, moving up the faculty ranks, and began to lecture broadly to adult learners. “I wanted to transmit my passion for the text to others, and above and beyond the scholarly aspects, I wanted to make the text relevant to people’s lives.”

His faculty career flourished, and he was eventually tapped to serve in the administration, first as Director of the Rabbinical School in 1986, and then as Dean of the New York School in 1987, where he succeeded Dr. Paul M. Steinberg, z”l. In the latter capacity, he called upon a number of communal lay leaders whom he had taught at the Morris Zimmerman Memorial Institute, an annual Jewish study retreat with a contemporary valence for avid adult learners, established in memory of the father of Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman. “Burton Lehman, Stuart Matlins, Sam Perelson, and others became the core of a reconstituted Board of Overseers for the Eastern Region, assisting us in developing a new era and the necessary financial support for a revisioned New York School.”

As Dean for eight years, Cohen invigorated the faculty through faculty seminars and subject area departments, strengthened the academic programs, organized significant international academic conferences, and expanded the campus’s educational outreach to the larger community through its HUC-JIR Museum and a vibrant calendar of public programs featuring every aspect of contemporary Jewish literature, performance, and culture. He inculcated the Young Judaea philosophy of empowering others, supporting colleagues, and challenging them to reach their highest potential. In the process, the faculty, administration, students, and staff, together with lay leadership, became his true partners in the transformation of the New York School.

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“Young Judaea had introduced me to a completely different model of nurturing Jewish leadership,” Cohen notes. “Our madrichim (leaders) encouraged us to take on responsibility, develop our own ideas, and bring them into being – all the while trusting in us, confident that we would succeed.” This model of leadership, steeped in a respect for process and a commitment to engaging and hearing others in order to move an institution forward, is one that Cohen embedded within the culture of HUC-JIR throughout his years as an administrator, first in New York and then nationally.

In 1995 Rabbi Zimmerman, the newly appointed President, appointed Cohen to serve as Provost. As HUC-JIR’s chief academic officer for the next fourteen years, Cohen applied Young Judaea’s strategies and his own vision on a national administrative level. “The integration of the campuses, faculty, and programs was always the powerful motivating factor,” Cohen says. “I sought out opportunities for empowerment and shared processes that would accomplish these goals, and embraced compromise in order not to sacrifice the core of the vision.”

Key to that vision was the revitalization of the faculty. “For about twenty years, since my own appointment as well as the appointments onto the New York faculty of Lawrence Hoffman, Stanley Nash, Michael Chernick, and David Sperling, among others, around 1975, there had been hardly any appointments and a diminution of the faculty. Our first goal was replenishing the faculty with emerging scholars who reflected a pluralistic orientation, had a commitment to teaching in a seminary environment, and were focused on serious scholarship and publication.” Cohen put forward the appointments of over 20 emerging scholars, half of whom were women, thereby fostering an egalitarian faculty representative of the values of the Reform Movement. He nurtured the faculty’s scholarly development and their integration across the campuses through working groups and the first of what grew to become a series of biennial faculty retreats, initially funded by Stanley P. Gold, former Chair of the Board of Governors, and subsequently supported by Burton Lehman, past Chair, and other members of the Board. He embraced the use of new technology that strengthened partnership in teaching areas and supported the innovation of team-taught courses in HUC-JIR’s e-classrooms.

As part of several strategic planning processes, Cohen created and sometimes led diverse task forces of dedicated faculty, including the consultation of outside experts, to evaluate and revise HUC-JIR’s rabbinical, cantorial, education, communal service, and graduate studies programs, as well as admissions and recruitment strategies, and continuing alumni education. Among the many accomplishments derived from these efforts was the first-ever core rabbinical curriculum, which advanced more rigorous admissions standards and stands as a model for all other academic programs and for peer institutions today.

Faced with the challenges of a changing Jewish community, Cohen led faculty and administration in the effort to intensify professional leadership development and infused it throughout the curricula with support from Bonnie and Daniel Tisch, the Mandel Foundation, the Schusterman Family Foundation, and the Davidson Chair in Social Responsibility. He also led the planning process to address student assessment, and created a systematic process that fosters summative as well as formative assessment.

Cohen oversaw the celebration of HUC-JIR’s 125th anniversary as Acting President in 2000, and in that capacity provided stability to the institution and helped...
facilitate the transition to presidential leadership by Rabbi David Ellenson in 2001.

In announcing Cohen’s retirement as Provost as of June 30, 2009, Rabbi Ellenson stated, “Norman was first my teacher thirty-one years ago at HUC-JIR, and is an esteemed scholar. More importantly, he has been my mentor and friend ever since. He has provided decades of dedicated service to the College-Institute and during the course of those years has been no less a mentor and friend to countless other colleagues and students. Norman has fulfilled fourteen years of distinguished leadership as the chief academic officer of our institution and has advanced HUC-JIR’s excellence through an extensive array of initiatives during his tenure as Provost. It has been a singular honor for me to have served with him during the past seven years. Norman has been a constant source of inspiration, vision, and guidance to me and so many others throughout our institution.”

As an internationally recognized expert in Midrash, Cohen has extended the insights of his scholarship beyond the classroom in a myriad of ways, from his participation in Bill Moyers’s “Genesis: A Living Conversation” TV series on PBS to lecturing extensively to learned and popular audiences throughout North America and around the world. Inevitably, his teaching evolved into a series of important books, published by Jewish Lights, beginning with Self, Struggle & Change: Family Conflict Stories in Genesis and Their Healing Insights for Our Lives.

“I had completed the first half of that book, which had served as a catharsis for issues relating to my own personal life,” he recalls. “I left the manuscript of the first four chapters in my car in the theater district in Manhattan. Upon my return, I found that the trunk had been forced, and the briefcase containing the manuscript had been stolen. It took me another two years to get back to the book. It was not easy beginning again, but the process of writing enabled me to give voice on the printed page to my passion for the text, and to share that passion with others.”

Cohen has produced four more books to date: Voices from Genesis: Guiding Us through the Stages of Life, The Way into Torah, Hineini in Our Lives, and, most recently, Moses and the Journey to Leadership: Timeless Lessons of Effective Management from the Bible and Today’s Leaders. Each of these books is characterized by powerful narratives that connect the spiritual and emotional journeys, struggles, frustrations, and confusions of biblical characters to those confronted in contemporary life. Cohen invites readers to discover the enduring meaning to be found in the Torah, to connect it to their lives today, and thereby actively become a part of the chain of Jewish tradition.

“In Hineini in Our Lives, I explore what it means to be fully present in the moment and to others – mentally, spiritually, and emotionally – whether it is to God or the individuals whom we love, if we want to experience real happiness and fulfillment,” Cohen explains. “In all of my books, it is my hope that the personal stories and biblical interpretations written from the perspective of modern life will have a powerful impact on the lives of others, and become a part of them as I share my own journey and search for meaning.”

Blessed with a loving family – he and his wife Terry have a blended family of five children: Leora (and Jonathan), Mali (and Ed), Ilan, Abby, and Noah (and Kylie) and four grandchildren, with two more on the way – Cohen continues to serve on the faculty as Professor of Midrash, gracing the HUC-JIR community with his knowledge, enduring friendship, and constant support. “I resonate with my students. What brought me to HUC-JIR was not just the opportunity to study in a certain way, but my search for meaning, for finding something beyond the mundane. I am passionate about teaching my students about that potential. This has truly been a gift in my life.”

Study, teaching, and writing remain the core pillars of his life, while engagement, empowerment, and involvement continue to animate his mentorship. As he shares his ongoing quest for personal meaning with his students at HUC-JIR, Norman Cohen instills in the next generation of Jewish professional leaders a love for text, a commitment to leadership, and a passion for the Jewish future.
Over a thousand local civic and religious leaders and members of the Cincinnati Jewish community convened for the dedication convocation and community-wide celebration of HUC-JIR/Cincinnati’s $12.1 million renovation and expansion of the Klau Library and construction of The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati Library Pavilion, including a $550,000 state-of-the-art geothermal system, which took place on November 1, 2009.

“The Klau Library resides at the very heart of our enterprise as the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center for Reform Judaism and the entire Jewish people,” said Rabbi David Ellenson. “It offers tangible testimony to the absolute commitment we at HUC-JIR have as a liberal Jewish institution of higher learning to sustaining and advancing academic study, research, publication, and teaching for the benefit of the Jewish people and all humanity.”

Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, founder of the College in 1875, established its library from the very inception of the institution. With the dedication of its first library building in 1912, HUC-JIR’s library became the first free-standing Jewish library in world history. Today, with nearly half a million volumes, the Klau Library is one of the most comprehensive Jewish libraries in the world and has the largest collection of printed Judaica in North America. This renovation and construction of a new Pavilion transforms the Klau Library into an unparalleled international center for research, teaching, and learning for scholars worldwide and enhances the intellectual and cultural life of the greater Cincinnati region.

Mayor Mark Mallory asserted the significance of this state-of-the-art research resource, saying, “Cincinnati is a city of tolerance, diversity, and progressive values, as symbolized by the presence of...”
HUC-JIR, which situates Cincinnati on the world stage as a center of scholarship.”

Architects 2enCompass of Cincinnati, with the assistance of library experts Shipley, Bullfinch, Richardson, and Abbott of Boston, have created a facility that includes:

- enhanced research and study facilities for students;
- efficient HVAC systems, temperature and humidity controls, fire suppressions systems, and handicapped access;
- compact shelving, holding four times as many books as standard library shelving, to accommodate projected growth of the collection over the next few decades; and
- a high-security storage and exhibition area for rare books and manuscripts.

Barbara Friedman, Chair of the Board of Governors, noted, “A great library is the heart of a great academic institution. Its resources are indispensable for faculty scholarship and student learning. It is our privilege and responsibility to preserve these resources for future generations of students and researchers.”

In his keynote address at the dedication convocation on campus, Dr. Michael A. Meyer, Ochs Professor of Jewish History, presented an illustrated lecture on the evolution of the library from its first premises in the basement of a downtown congregation, with scarcely a hundred volumes, through the succession of library facilities to its brand-new 21st-century incarnation. He described the crucial roles played by librarians Adolph S. Oko and Professor Herbert C. Zafren in building the collection and by the present day Libraries Director, Dr. David J. Gilner, in implementing state-of-the-art technology.

Gary Heiman, representing The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, which provided the lead institutional gift of $6.5 million, explained, “We are proud that the Klau Library is located here in Cincinnati, where it can strengthen Jewish life in our community.” Sanford R. Cardin, President of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, agreed, saying “We are gratified that scholars from around the world will benefit from the knowledge housed here.” Lucille “Twink” Carothers noted her and her sib-
lings’ pride in sustaining the library named in 1961 in honor of their parents, David and Sadie Klau.

Their feelings were echoed by Dr. Gregory H. Williams, in his first public appearance upon becoming the President of University of Cincinnati (UC). In his keynote address, that evening at the Mayerson JCC on The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati campus, he lauded the long-standing ties between HUC-JIR and UC, saying, “We look forward to strengthening the relationship between our two neighboring academic institutions.”

With a mission to collect, preserve, and provide access to the total record of Jewish thought and experience, the Klau Library’s Rare Book collection includes important collections of incunabula and 16th century Hebrew imprints, and archival and literary manuscripts, including the unique Chinese-Hebrew collection. It has preeminent collections of Jewish music in the Eduard Birnbaum Collection, early Jewish Americana, Spinozana, and Christian Hebraica. Over 200 Judaica databases and 10,000 digitized images of works from its collections can be accessed using its internal computer network. It also houses the American Jewish Periodical Center, which preserves on microfilm some 900 newspaper, journal, and synagogue bulletin titles. It is one of the three conservators in the world for the original negatives of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The online catalogs are accessible to a world-wide community of researchers at the website: http://www.huc.edu/libraries
The College-Institute has launched a feature-rich website to encourage donors to consider making **planned gifts**. The site is designed to help determine the most advantageous trust instrument with which a donor can support HUC-JIR while meeting his or her family's own financial needs and goals.

Many donors don't realize that it is possible to make a gift of transformational significance – the kind of contribution many friends of HUC-JIR would be happy to make if they thought they could. These are gifts that truly make a difference, that ensure a level of support magnifying our ability to fulfill our mission and allow donors to participate at levels much higher than they may think is possible.

Gifts of transformational significance often can be made at very low cost. It is simply a matter of planning what to give, how to give, and when to give.

There are numerous potential advantages to a planned gift. Some qualify for an immediate tax deduction, may increase spendable income, or provide significant future tax savings for the donor’s family.

The site contains dozens of resources including:

- descriptions of various gift types and their benefits to donors and recipients;
- personal planning ideas;
- a glossary of terms;
- facts for financial advisors;
- best assets for giving;
- a gift designer worksheet that produces a side-by-side comparison of different types of trusts;
- a dynamic gift calculator that allows donors to explore different variables that can enhance their returns;
- a number of free publications; and
- examples of planned gifts that donors have made to HUC-JIR.

HUC-JIR’s Development staff is available to discuss planned giving options. Once donors have made the decision to make a gift, their next step is to discuss the gift with their own financial advisor – typically an attorney or accountant. The advisor is then put in touch with the College-Institute’s trust attorney, and they will formalize the gift instrument.

HUC-JIR’s Planned Giving website can be accessed at [http://www.huc.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.huc.edu/plannedgiving)

Planned giving is a meaningful and effective way to help provide the financial sustainability that will secure HUC-JIR’s academic excellence and fulfill its mission of preparing men and women of vision as leaders for the Reform Movement and the Jewish people worldwide.
“Rabbi-to-Rabbi” Support for the Next Generation of Colleagues

A year ago, Joy Wasserman, National Director for Alumni Affairs, had an epiphany. “It was clear to me that our alumni were ready to help the institution that prepared them for their life’s work,” she recalls. “Our challenge was to create a project close to their hearts and to find a personal way to ask.” Armed with an enthusiastic and able volunteer Chair, Rabbi Irwin Zeplowitz, C ’84, and inspired by his motto of “rabbi-to-rabbi,” the Rabbinic Invest-in-a-Student Scholarship Campaign was born.

Asking members of each ordination year dating back to 1960 to join together as a class to create a new scholarship for an incoming student seemed just the right match. Zeplowitz mobilized a team of captains to reach out to their own classmates to turn this dream of class scholarships into a reality. The goal was for each ordination class to ‘adopt’ a rabbinical student and fund most of their tuition for the five-year program by raising $15,000 annually.

The results thus far have been impressive. Notwithstanding the difficult economic climate this past year, 439 rabbinical alumni have responded to date, raising nearly $700,000. 55% of them have given a larger gift than ever before. With aspirations of engaging the participation of 100% of the rabbinical alumni, Wasserman’s goal of an additional $1 million is hopefully in reach.

“Alumni were updated on the transformed ways in which HUC-JIR teaches rabbis and other Jewish professionals today with the addition of new faculty committed to mentorship, sweeping technological advances, and ongoing outreach to alumni. Furthermore, they were informed about the debt with which many newly ordained rabbis begin their careers – estimated at as much as $100,000 in loans to repay – and the opportunity to lift this burden from the shoulders of their newest colleagues.

The gift from each alumnus/a as part of their ordination cohort, above and beyond their individual annual donations to HUC-JIR, would average approximately $400. Collectively, it was estimated that the rabbinical alumni could raise as much as $3 million for scholarships during this five-year period.

The campaign had a straightforward process: A minyan of ‘five-year captains’ identified individual year class captains, each class captain first made his/her own gift, and then reached out to his/her ordination class. Their pitch went straight to the heart.

Rabbinical students (from left) Josh Whinston, L ’09 and Noam Katz, L ’10, leading the Torah service in the Mercaz at HUC-JIR/ Los Angeles.

The minyan of ‘five-year captains’ includes:

- 1960-1964: Rabbi Martin S. Weiner
- 1965-1969: Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl
- 1970-1974: Rabbi Bennett F. Miller
- 1975-1979: Rabbi Steven S. Mason
- 1980-1984: Rabbi Scott L. Shpeen
- 1985-1989: Rabbi Jeffrey J. Sirkman
- 1990-1994: Rabbi Nancy A. Kasten
- 2000-2004: TBD
- 2005-2009: Rabbi Alissa M. Forrest
for alumni from other program, as well. Cantorial alumni are poised to launch a School of Sacred Music Alumni Association Invest-in-a-Student Campaign, and the School of Jewish Communal Service alumni have begun a campaign to raise $50,000 to close the gap in available scholarship support (see sidebar).

“...shalshelet haKabbalah – will endure and thrive.”

Students commemorate the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht with the dedication of the Yanov Torah, rescued out of the ashes of the Holocaust and donated to HUC-JIR/ Los Angeles by Rabbi Erwin Herman, z”l, C ’49, and his wife Agnes (second from right).

Alumni Scholarships for Jewish Communal Service Students

“The new strategic plan for the School of Jewish Communal Service (SJCS) projects an enhanced and expanded student body,” says Richard Siegel, the newly appointed SJCS Director. “To achieve this goal, it is estimated that an additional $150,000 in designated scholarship support is needed to ensure that students will be able to afford the tuition costs.” Tuition is approximately $40,000 per year for dual-degree HUC-JIR/University of Southern California (USC) students who pursue the M.A. in Jewish Communal Service at HUC-JIR while simultaneously pursuing the M.A. degree at USC’s School of Social Work, School of Policy, Planning, and Development, Annenberg School of Communication, or Marshall School of Business.

The SJCS alumni have risen to the challenge. Under the leadership of SJCS Alumni Association Co-Chairs Lori Lander Goodman and Esther Cohen, the SJCS alumni have launched an ambitious campaign to raise at least $50,000 annually for scholarship support as a critical component of the larger goal. The SJCS Alumni Scholarship Campaign Committee members, including Marla Abraham, Dr. Ron A. Astor, David Bubis, Howard E. Charish, Edward L. Cushman, Mark Gurvis, Rabbi Gary Greenebaum, Richard H. Meyer, Andrea Milens, Laurance A. Nathan, and Lee R. Wunsch, are working with graduation class captains to secure multi-year commitments to help ensure the future growth and excellence of the SJCS.
A new cohort of Israeli Reform rabbis and an inaugural graduating class of Israeli educators are embarked on a mission to transform Israeli society. These six new ordinees of the Israeli Rabbinical Program and seven graduates of the Master of Arts in Pluralistic Jewish Education are already embedded within congregations and educational institutions throughout the Jewish state where they are offering liberal alternatives to the Orthodox-secular divide.

The ordinees – now bringing the number of HUC-JIR’s Israeli rabbinical alumni to 65 – bring a diversity of backgrounds and a commitment to shared values to their task:

American born, Reform Movement-bred Yehudit Edelman-Green immigrated to Israel in 1984, received her Master’s in Jewish Studies from the Schechter Institute in 1994, and has been an active member of Kehilat Hod ve-Hadar in Kfar Saba for the past 25 years. She served as a communal youth worker with 30 youth groups across the religious spectrum in Manchester, England, for the World Zionist Organization, and later led Jewish identity seminars and developed educational games at the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora. Under the auspices of the Masorti Movement, she initiated “Bar/Bat Mitzvah for the Special Child,” a national program that she directed from 1995-2004 and which reached thousands of children with special needs. Her book, *Immigrant Lessons* (2007), is the story of the great hardships and joys of aliyah. She is currently working to create a community for adults with special needs – “Rimon Community Project” – which has become a non-profit organization and has been allocated land by the City of Kfar Saba.

Born to a traditional family of Iraqi immigrants, Chen Ben-Or holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Haifa University and M.A. in Jewish Education from HUC-JIR/New York. During her twenty years with the Midrasha at Oranim College, a center for the renewal of Jewish life in Israel, she organized Jewish identity workshops for teens and adults, young Jewish community leadership development, and programs for new immigrants. A former Marshall T. Meyer Fellow at Congregation B’nai Jeshurun in New York City, Chen is one of the founders of the Nigun HaLev community at Moshav Nahalal, comprised of residents of the Jezreel Valley who gather for Shabbat services, holiday observances, life-cycle events, Jewish studies, and social action projects. In addition to coordinating the community’s steering committee, leading services, and teaching b’nai mitzvah students there, she is involved in establishing a national network of communities experimenting with renewal in prayer.
In 2004, she began working on educational projects in the TALI schools in the greater Haifa area in an attempt to bring the topic of prayer to teachers and students. Her rabbinical thesis on pastoral work suggests a model for assimilating traditional tools regarding death and illness in these non-traditional, emerging Jewish communities in Israel.

With his ordination, Jehiel Benjamin Gruber becomes the eighth generation rabbi in his family. Raised in Beer Sheva after his family made aliya from Chicago, he attended the Netiv Meir Yeshiva and later combined military service in the Israeli Defense Forces with advanced college-level courses at the Hesder Yeshiva in Yerucham, of which he was a founding member. Under the auspices of the Jewish Agency, Benjie taught Jewish Studies in the Former Soviet Union. Thereafter, he spent two years teaching Judaism to all ages and denominations in Portland, Oregon, where he was drawn to liberal Judaism. A volunteer stint in Malawi brought him to the realization that the rabbinate would enable him to integrate Jewish content and his mission to improve the world. He earned the M.A. in Jewish Philosophy from the Hebrew University, he taught cantillation at Kibbutz Keturah. During his studies for the B’nai mitzvah children and served as the B’nai Mitzvah Program Coordinator at Kol HaNeshama, where for the past two years he has been the educational coordinator and rabbinical assistant as well as serving as the rabbi of the Tali School.

Dalia Tibon Lagaziel was born in Haifa in 1970 to a socialist home of German heritage, where she absorbed secular humanistic values. As a youngster, she became a leader in the Shomer Hatzair leftist youth movement. After her military service, Dalia created a one-person multi-media performance about the Holocaust, on behalf of the Hedva Eishevitz Holocaust Memorial Institute, and toured high-schools across Israel for two years. She further explored the legacy of the Holocaust and Jewish identity during her travels in Europe, including Germany, for the next two years. Upon her return she completed her B.A. in Jewish Studies at Haifa University, after which she encountered Liberal Judaism for the first time at the Leo Baeck Beit Midrash for Educational Leadership, a program moderated by Ofek Meir and Gili Tzidkiyahu, both Israeli rabbinical alumni today. She joined the Progressive Movement as the Coordinator of the Youth Forum in Haifa and Northern Israel, under the leadership of another graduate of the Israeli Rabbinical Program, Gilad Kariv, conducting workshops, lessons
and ceremonies, and cooperating with other social activist organizations. For the past eight years, Dalia has worked at the Leo Baeck Center, directing the communal Jewish Education Program. Three years into this role, she committed herself to rabbinical studies. She is now completing her M.A. in Jewish Thought at Haifa University. For the past two years, Dalia has served as a student rabbi at the Sulam Yaakov community in Zichron Yaakov.

The inaugural recipients of HUC-JIR’s Master’s in Pluralistic Jewish Education Program, a first-time collaboration with the Melton Centre for Jewish Education of the Hebrew University, are advocates for liberal Jewish values within the Israeli educational system:

Michal Burstein-Azrieli teaches history and is a twelfth-grade home-room teacher at the Leo Baeck High School in Haifa. She earned her teaching certificate in History from Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva and her B.A. in History and Education from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She believes that the values inherent in Judaism must be brought into the Israeli school system, opening the students to diversity and multi-culturalism.

Nitza Harel-Attias is the director of the kindergarten at Reform congregation Kol Haneshama in Jerusalem. She has a B.A. in Bible and Jewish history and M.A. in Early Childhood Education from the Schwartz Program at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. “The challenge in my work,” she says, “is to create an environment of openness to the varied streams of Judaism, making coexistence possible.”

Maital Cohen-Sabag has a B.A. in Philosophy and Israel Studies from Haifa University and a teaching certificate in History. She teaches history and is a home-room teacher at the Leo Baeck High School. Her personal vision is to train and empower educators in secular Israeli schools, helping them to connect with their Jewish roots and bring their insights and knowledge into their classrooms.

Oded Mazor, one of this year’s rabbinical ordinees (see page 21), has just completed a Master’s degree in Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University. Oded is currently the educational coordinator and assistant rabbi at Kol Haneshama in Jerusalem and served as student rabbi in the Tali Bayit Vegan elementary school in Jerusalem for the past four years.

Lior Nevo was raised in the Israeli Progressive Movement, from kindergarten and elementary school, to the youth movement, where she subsequently became an educational coordinator after her military service.
She has a B.A. and a teaching certificate in Bible and Jewish Studies and is a graduate of the Revivim Program of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, which trains teachers in the field of Jewish Studies. Lior is an educator and teacher of Bible and Jewish thought at the Ziv School in Jerusalem, where she seeks to create an open and pluralistic atmosphere in her classroom.

**Rinat Safania** is an educational advisor at the Dov Hoz School in Tel Aviv and a group facilitator. She completed her B.A. in Behavioral Sciences at Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva and has a Master’s degree in Educational Counseling and Group Facilitation. “I’d like to give Israelis personal ownership of their Jewishness, rather than having it dictated to them,” she says, “and let them make the Jewish tradition, language, literature, and creativity their own.”

For over a decade, **Israela Ravid** has been the director of the kindergarten of the Center for Reform Judaism in Tel Aviv, where she has integrated the hearing impaired and special needs children in her kindergarten and implemented values of equality and social justice as an integral part of the daily life of her school. She has written curricula on Jewish values and heritage, and was awarded the Rothschild Prize of Education for her outstanding contribution to Israeli education. Israela says that her Master’s studies were an opportunity for her to explore theoretically her practical work in the field of pluralistic Jewish education.

Initial funding for the Master’s Program was provided by Richard Scheuer, z”l, and the Scheuer Family, the Chais Family Foundation, Ann and Thomas Tisch, and the Alan Slifka Foundation. Their generosity and vision have enabled HUC-JIR/Jerusalem to pilot this program, which will have far-reaching impact on the inculcation of liberal Judaism into the Israeli educational system.
The Charles and M.R. Shapiro Foundation has been one of HUC-JIR’s most stalwart supporters. For twenty-six years, the Foundation has generously provided scholarships for students enrolled in the College-Institute’s Year-In-Israel program. The grants have supported ten or more rabbinical, cantorial, and education students each year. In naming the Shapiro Scholars, the Jerusalem School Dean and the Director of the Year-In-Israel program select those students who demonstrate outstanding potential as they embark on their journey to becoming Reform Jewish leaders.

The Year-In-Israel Program offers students an unparalleled opportunity to immerse themselves in Israeli society and culture. The core components of the program continue to be rooted in classroom learning, weekly community service projects, and educational seminars throughout Israel.

The relationship between HUC-JIR and the Charles and M.R. Shapiro began in 1983, and has continued to grow in strength. The original contact was made when Rabbi Frederick C. Schwartz, C ’55, D.H.L. ’60, of Temple Sholom in Chicago introduced Maurice Shapiro, a devoted and generous member of the synagogue, to fellow congregant Sydney Friedland, who was an enthusiastic supporter of HUC-JIR. Frederic S. Lane, currently a member of the Board of Governors, was also instrumental in establishing and maintaining the relationship over the years. It was Lane who suggested that the Foundation’s support be directed to the Year-In-Israel Program.
The Shapiro family of seven brothers and sisters was in the cosmetics business in Chicago. None ever married, but all participated in the business. The sisters were especially good investors and realized that taxes would eat up most of their assets as each passed away. As there were no heirs, they established the Charles and M.R. Shapiro Foundation in 1958 after the business was sold. Maurice, a non-practicing attorney who was particularly knowledgeable about tax matters, became the first President. Originally the siblings were the Directors of the Foundation.

Norman Shubert, the current President of the Foundation Board, was appointed by Maurice Shapiro, who was the last survivor of the Shapiro siblings. Norman, a member of North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, Illinois, speaks warmly and enthusiastically about his relationship with the College-Institute and the Year-In-Israel Program. Joan Pines, Chair of HUC-JIR’s Cincinnati Board of Overseers and a member of the Board of Governors, agrees, saying, “I am so pleased to be a part of the Shapiro Foundation and extremely proud of our long relationship with HUC-JIR. We feel that we are contributing to the well-being of Reform Judaism in North America by supporting HUC-JIR’s Year-In-Israel Program.”

Each year, the Shapiro Scholars express their gratitude to Norman Shubert and Joan Pines. The following excerpted letters highlight how much the students value their first-year experiences, which are made possible by the generosity of the Shapiro Foundation.

With more thanks than I can find words for, I want to express to you how much I appreciate the generous contribution that your Foundation has provided for me to study at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion for this first year in Jerusalem. I remember the year I graduated from high school my mother commenting to me that she thought I should become a cantor, so I proceeded to do what any normal teenage girl would do – I ignored her. So twenty years, a career in musical theatre, childbirth, education, JCC Jewish professional life, husband and two sons, here I am, on the road to becoming a cantor.

Alicia Stillman

This Year-In-Israel has been an incredible experience. I have solidified my connection to Israel, and strengthened my skills in Hebrew. Moreover, the experience of studying the ancient and modern events that took place in Israel and shaped our people's history while living in the land has enhanced my understanding. I am more connected to that history and to this present having had these experiences.

Ari Lorge

From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank you and the Charles and M. R. Shapiro Foundation for awarding me this scholarship. To put it very plainly – without your support, I would not be here to experience all that Israel has to offer, nor would I have had the opportunity to learn from the brilliant faculty here at HUC-JIR/Jerusalem. Words cannot even begin to express my deep gratitude.

Daniel Geffen

Once again, I cannot tell you how much your assistance is helping me achieve my long awaited dream of becoming a rabbi. It is both uplifting and inspiring to know that there are people who support what we are reaching for, and I could not be at this place right now without your generosity. I hope to carry on the sacred memory of Morris and Charles Shapiro through the community work in which I will engage, and I am so honored to be the recipient of this scholarship.

Lisa Berney
Summary Financial Figures

Condensed Statement of Financial Position

<table>
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<th>June 30</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$209,967,661</td>
<td>$245,182,237</td>
<td>$250,466,694</td>
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<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<td>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</td>
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<td>$250,466,694</td>
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Condensed Statement of Activities

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<th>July 1, 2008- Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 30, 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Operating Revenue, Gains and Other Support</td>
<td>$34,708,175</td>
<td>$(4,797,348)</td>
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<td>Total Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>Nonoperating Revenue (Expense)</td>
<td>(6,819,276)</td>
<td>(16,299,412)</td>
<td>(3,682,247)</td>
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<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(14,594,543)</td>
<td>(21,096,760)</td>
<td>(1,774,611)</td>
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<td>Net Assets, End of Year</td>
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<td>$27,378,129</td>
<td>$92,682,049</td>
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HUC-JIR Revenue 2008-2009

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<th>Description</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUM*</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition (Gross)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contracted Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
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</table>

* Reform congregations, through the Union for Reform Judaism's proportional dues program (MUM), provide critically needed support each year. HUC-JIR receives 44 percent of the MUM dues; the remaining 56 percent goes to the URI.

HUC-JIR Expenses 2008-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Stipends &amp; Scholarships</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Cincinnati
Rabbi Shena Potter Jaffee
(800) 488-8720 ext. 3238
sjaffee@huc.edu

Jerusalem
Rabbi David Wilfond
(+972) (0) 2-620-3392
dwilfond@huc.edu

Los Angeles
Deborah Shapiro Abelson
MAJCS/MPA
(800) 899-0925 ext. 4221
dabelson@huc.edu

New York
Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz
(800) 424-1336 ext. 2207
fdantowitz@huc.edu