

## **Mark Gurvis to Receive Doctor of Jewish Communal Service at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in Los Angeles**

**Mark Gurvis**, CEO and Executive Director of the **Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver**, will receive a Doctor of Jewish Communal Service, *honoris causa*, from the **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR)**. The degree will be granted at HUC-JIR's Los Angeles Graduation ceremony on Monday, May 18, 2009. HUC-JIR is the nation's oldest institution of higher Jewish education and the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism.

Communal leaders, relatives, and friends will gather at the Los Angeles Campus, 3077 University Avenue, for the HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremonies of the 134th academic year.

**Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D.**, announced HUC-JIR alumni recipients who will be 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, "Gurvis has successfully used his gifts as an effective leader to help guide non-profit organizations in their quest for excellence. His life and career is a reflection of his abiding commitment to service to the Jewish community."

The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver is committed to building a strong, vibrant and enduring Jewish community in the Lower Mainland, in Israel and throughout the world by nurturing the values, practices and traditions which sustain and enrich Judaism and Jewish culture.

Federation works in collaboration with many partners locally, nationally and abroad. Our efforts are combined with other Jewish communities in Canada through United Israel Appeal Federations Canada, and in Israel through Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Prior to moving to Vancouver, Gurvis had a seventeen year career with the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, working in a variety of areas including community and strategic planning, community relations, fundraising, leadership development, and foundation management. His tenure with the Cleveland Federation included three years as Planning Director, and five years as Managing Director of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. He was Associate Director of the Cleveland Federation at the time he was invited to assume the executive role in Vancouver.

Gurvis graduated from the School of Jewish Communal Service at HUC-JIR in 1984, and also has a Masters in Social Work from the University of Southern California. He completed his undergraduate work at the State University of New York in Albany in 1981.

A graduate of the United Jewish Communities' Executive Recruitment Program (FEREP) in 1984, Gurvis was also one of 21 UJC/Mandel Fellows in a pilot Executive Development Program for the Jewish federation field, which finished in 1997. Gurvis is a recipient of the Conference of Jewish Communal Service Louis B. Kraft Award, and served for one year on the staff of the Commission on Jewish Education in North America.

Gurvis and his wife, Leah Pomerantz, and their three daughters live in Vancouver.

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](http://www.huc.edu).*

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