

Rabbi Brad L. Bloom to Receive Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in Cincinnati

Rabbi Brad L. Bloom, Senior Rabbi of **Temple Shalom**, Naples Florida since 2006, will receive a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, from the **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR)**. The degree will be granted at HUC-JIR's Cincinnati Graduation ceremony on Sunday, June 7, 2009 at Isaac M. Wise Temple.

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 Bloom received a Masters of Social Work from the University of Maryland in 1979 and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Wisconsin in 1977.

As Senior Rabbi at Congregation B'nai Israel in Sacramento, California, Rabbi Bloom experienced an arson attack on his congregation but used it as a catalyst for fighting intolerance and hate crimes. He received awards and honors for his work fighting hate crimes, including one from President Bill Clinton.

Rabbi Ellenson said, "Rabbi Bloom has served our people with unstinting zeal and compassion. As an adjunct professor of religious studies, has shared his knowledge and love of Judaism with students on the university campus, and his creativity has found expression in his own poetic expression leading him in a new direction of Torah interpretation."

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.