

Rabbi Judith A. Bluestein to Receive Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in Cincinnati

Rabbi Judith A. Bluestein 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 Bluestein is native Cincinnati who has served as an educator and rabbi throughout her professional career. Currently she serves as an adjunct instructor in the Religious Studies Departments of the University of Dayton and Northern Kentucky University as well as serving as a part-time rabbi of Hebrew Union Congregation in Greenville, Mississippi. Locally she has taught in the Melton School and the Union of Reform Judaism's Introduction to Judaism program. Before entering the Rabbinical School at HUC-JIR, she taught Latin at Walnut Hills High School, her alma mater.

Rabbi Ellenson said, "Through her involvement in communal, civic and Jewish organizations and Christian-Jewish dialogue, Rabbi Bluestein has made *gemilut chasadim*, acts of loving kindness, an integral part of her life."

A member of the Greater Cincinnati Board of Rabbis, Rabbi Bluestein has been active in the Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews and the Dayton Christian-Jewish Dialogue. She chaired the Interfaith Plea for Soviet Jews in 1986 and participated in the steering committee for the Interfaith Service for World Peace at the Peace Bell in Newport. As a rabbi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, she served on the Board of the Sunrise Rotary and as an officer in the Hattiesburg Interfaith Alliance, the University of Southern Mississippi Campus Ministers, and the Dream Religious Community Task Force.

She has also taught at Xavier University, HUC-JIR, the University of Cincinnati, Indiana University, and Denison University. Among the other congregations she has served are those in Springfield, Ohio; Ames, Iowa; Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Flagstaff, Arizona; Quincy, Illinois; Galesburg, Illinois; and Marion, Ohio.

Rabbi Bluestein is a member of the Isaac M. Wise Temple where three generations of her family have been educated.

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.*

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