

Rabbi Gary M. Bretton-Granatoor to Receive Doctor of Divinity at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in New York

Rabbi Gary M. Bretton-Granatoor, Rabbi at **Temple of Universal Judaism**, New York City, and Interim Director of Development for the **World Union for Progressive Judaism**, 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 New York Graduation ceremony on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York.

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, "Rabbi Bretton-Granatoor combines his expertise as rabbi with his civic experience to guide his congregants and his community-at-large. While serving at the **Anti-Defamation League** as its Director of the Department of Interfaith Affairs, Rabbi Bretton-Granatoor brought the ADL's mission to end prejudice, bias, and anti-Semitism to the forefront. He continues to work tirelessly for the cause of interfaith relations."

Prior to his post at the ADL, Rabbi Bretton-Granatoor served as Senior Rabbi at Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City for eight years.

Rabbi Bretton-Granatoor was the Director of Interreligious Affairs at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now URJ), and the Associate Director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism. During his eleven year tenure at the UAHC he also served as the Associate Director of the Commission on Jewish Education and the Director of Adult Education for the UAHC Department of Religious Education.

A graduate of the New York campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Rabbi Bretton-Granatoor was on the faculty of the Religion and History Departments of Sarah Lawrence College and was a Lecturer at the New York University School of Continuing Education and a member of the faculty of the HUC-JIR School of Education as Lecturer in Intertestamental Literature and Jewish Ethics. Rabbi Bretton-Granatoor served congregations in Mahopac, New York; San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. Louis, Missouri; and Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Rabbi Bretton-Granatoor is the editor and principal writer of *Shalom / Salaam: A Resource for Jewish / Muslim Dialogue*. He is also the editor of *Guidelines for Adult Jewish Studies*, part of the Shuster Curriculum Series. His most recent book is called *A Jewish View of Cults*.

He is a past chair of the Central Conference of American Rabbis' Interreligious Affairs Committee, and was on the Executive Committee of the National Council of Synagogues. Rabbi Bretton-Granatoor has served as the Program Chair of the International Committee on Interreligious Consultations. He has served on the Executive Board of Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, and on the Alumni Board of the Sarah Lawrence College. He was the founding Chair of the Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing, and was a member of the Board of Homes for the Homeless in New York City.

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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