

## **Arthur Gross-Schaefer to Receive Doctor of Divinity at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in Los Angeles**

**Rabbi Arthur Gross-Schaefer**, rabbi of **Community Shul of Montecito and Santa Barbara, California** and professor at **Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles**, 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 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 Gross-Schaefer's impact bridges a variety of organizations and touches numerous communities. He is a rabbi, a lawyer, a legal ethicist, a C.P.A., a mediator, a law professor, a writer, and advocate for Israel, a voice for peace in the Middle East, a husband, a father, a friend and a deeply committed Jew. He has been a rabbi in Hollywood Ojai, and at USC Hillel. He was the rabbi and remains involved with Congregation B'nai B'rith in Santa Barbara. He is an active member in the Isla Vista Minyan. Currently, he serves as Professor of Business Law at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

As a lawyer and law professor, he has helped Native Americans, Quakers, and lawyers with burnout and sexual misconduct, and consulted on issues of diversity. As an educator, rabbi, and lawyer, Rabbi Gross-Schaefer consults and leads workshops on issues of religion and public education.

Rabbi Ellenson said, "As rabbi of Community Shul of Montecito and Santa Barbara, California, Rabbi Gross-Schaefer nurtures his community with a love of Judaism. As Professor and Chair of the Department of Marketing and Business Law, he has shared his knowledge and expertise of the law and finance with the students of Loyola Marymount University. Rabbi Gross-Schaefer has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues as he lectures and publishes on ethics for lawyers, accountants, business and religious professionals."

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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