

Rabbi Tracy G. Klirs to Receive Doctor of Divinity at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in New York

Rabbi Tracy G. Klirs, Religious School Director, **Temple Israel of Great Neck**, 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, "As Director of the Temple Israel Religious School, Rabbi Klirs shares her love of Judaism with temple youth as she instills in them Jewish pride and Jewish learning. Her love of Israel has found expression in her work as an educator with **MelitzAmerica**, an organization committed to bolstering the relationship between Israel and world Jewry."

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>.

Rabbi Tracy G. Klirs holds a BA from the University of Chicago, and was ordained by HUC-JIR/Cincinnati in 1984.

Rabbi Klirs has held pulpits in Manitoba, Texas, California, Maryland and Virginia. She also has had an extensive career in Jewish education, including a day school (the San Diego Jewish Academy), and various synagogue school positions in the Conservative and Reform movements, from California to Virginia. She ran a non-profit Israeli educational organization, Melitz America, and has served as a teacher, lecturer, writer, educational consultant, rabbi and chaplain for synagogues and Jewish institutions throughout the U.S. and Canada. She currently serves as the Director of the Temple Israel Religious School in Great Neck, NY.

Rabbi Klirs is the primary author of *The Merit of Our Mothers: A Bilingual Anthology of Jewish Women's Prayers* and has published a number of articles, primarily on Yiddish literature, including a chapter entitled "Tkhines for Rosh Chodesh: Women's Prayers of Devotion" in *Celebrating the New Moon: A Rosh Chodesh Anthology*.

Rabbi Klirs is a member of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Jewish Educators' Assembly, and the Women's Rabbinic Network. She serves on the board of the Conservative Principals' Council of Long Island and Queens, and on the Commission for Jewish Education of the

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. She is married to Dr. Elisha Guren Klirs and has three grown children.

*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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