

Rabbi Judy Brenda Shanks to Receive Doctor of Divinity at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in New York

Rabbi Judy Brenda Shanks, rabbi at **Temple Isaiah**, Lafayette, California, 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 Shanks has been devoted to the San Francisco Bay area Jewish community for 25 years and serves her congregants with the highest standards of dedication to Judaism. She has created meaningful worship through poetry and music to enhance traditional prayers and bring contemporary insights to ancient themes." Her personal understanding and identification with the role of women in the rabbinate is the catalyst for her leadership roles in the **Women's Rabbinic Network** and the **CCAR Task Force on Gender in the Rabbinate**."

Rabbi Shanks was ordained at HUC-JIR/NY in 1984, and received her B.A. in Religion, Phi Beta Kappa, Cum Laude, from Pomona College in 1977. She has worked at Temple Isaiah since 1992 and before that was rabbi at Temple Beth Hillel, Richmond, CA.

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.*