

## **Steve L. Silver to Receive Doctor of Divinity at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in Los Angeles**

**Rabbi Steven L. Silver**, rabbi of **Temple Menorah**, Redondo Beach, 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 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 Ellenson said, "Rabbi Silver has served Temple Menorah for more than two decades with dedication combining pastoral devotion with the skills of rabbinic leadership. His commitment to Jewish continuity and Jewish education was the motivation in the creation of a day camp and a senior adult center."

Rabbi Silver was born in Boston and raised in Anaheim, California. He graduated from UCLA in 1974 with a BA in Ancient Near Eastern History. He then went on to graduate studies in Jewish history and is a credentialed teacher. He received his Masters in Hebrew Letters in 1982, and was ordained Rabbi by HUC-JIR/Cincinnati in 1984. He was assistant Rabbi at Congregation Emanu El in Houston, Texas for three years, and came to Temple Menorah in 1987.

Rabbi Silver has brought great growth in membership, expansion of educational offerings and services, and a vision of a totally involved congregation serving the spiritual needs of Jews in the South Bay Community. His Hevrat Torah class celebrated its 20th year of continuous Torah study and dialogue in the fall of 2007. He has also instituted a weekly Shabbat morning service.

Over the years, under Rabbi Silver's guidance, the focus of the congregation has been on Jewish education in all its permutations. Tuvia has grown to be the largest Jewish pre-school in the South Bay; the Day Camp, also the largest Jewish Day Camp in the South Bay, has delivered informal Jewish identity for over 10 years; the Religious School has the highest Bureau of Jewish Education accreditation, and adults enjoy classes and seminars in all aspects of Jewish cultural tradition.

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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