

Rabbi Elizabeth Weiss Stern to Receive Doctor of Divinity at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in Cincinnati

Rabbi Elizabeth Weiss Stern, rabbi at **Congregation Eitz Chayim**, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 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 Cincinnati Graduation ceremony on Sunday, June 7, 2009 at Isaac M. Wise Temple.

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 Stern graduated from Vassar College in 1975 and was ordained by HUC-JIR in 1984. A native of Newton, Rabbi Stern returned to the area after having served as a congregational rabbi in Dallas, Texas. Since her return, she has served as interim Rabbi in Lexington and Sudbury, and on the faculty of the Hornstein Program at Brandeis University. Rabbi Stern is also on the faculty of STAR (Synagogue Transformation and Renewal), a post-graduate program for rabbis of all denominations.

Rabbi Ellenson said, "Rabbi Stern's ministry has been marked by her multi-faceted involvement in communal life. She is a strong advocate of open dialogue, serious Jewish study, and experimentation and social activism in her congregation. As faculty member of STAR, she shares her visions for the future with her colleagues."

Congregation Eitz Chayim is a small transdenominational congregation in North Cambridge. Its diverse membership is unified and characterized by a strong commitment to open dialogue, serious Jewish study, and experimentation and social activism. In her tenure, Rabbi Stern has emphasized participation in all areas of congregational life. Congregation Eitz Chayim is known for its weekly adult education speakers, creative holiday celebrations, and strong community involvement. Its religious school offers small classes, individualized instruction, and teacher excellence. The school serves children ages 3 to 17, including intensive Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation and a teachers' assistant program for teenagers.

Rabbi Stern is married to Rabbi Keith Stern, rabbi of Temple Beth Avodah in Newton. The couple has 5 children. In addition to her rabbinic work, Rabbi Stern is a member of the New England Women's Hockey League.

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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