

[Click here if you have trouble reading the content below](#)

12/11/09



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
היברו יוניון קולג' - מכון למדעי היהדות

עשייתם Happenings

A L U M N I N E W S L E T T E R

from the School of Jewish Communal Service HUC-JIR/Los Angeles

We're pleased to send you our 2nd electronic newsletter - Stay tuned for our Spring edition!

December 2009 – Tishri 5770

SJCS Alumni Association Leadership

From the Co-Chairs

This has been a challenging year for the world and the Jewish community in particular. HUC and the SJCS have not been immune, but in the midst of all the anxiety and concern over the survival of the SJCS, it was incredible to see the outpouring of support from our alumni.

We are working to build on that support, with the development of an Alumni Campaign. In order to secure the school's financial sustainability in the coming years, we are working to raise an additional \$150,000 a year in scholarship money for the next three years. Alumni are being asked to show our support for the school by contributing one-third that amount: \$50,000 a year for the next three years.

[Read More...](#)

From the Dean: Steven Windmueller, Ph.D.

"Deaning:" Reflections on Serving as Dean for HUC's Los Angeles Campus

Not all Positions are Solicited: As some may recall, I served as a co-chair for the search committee for our new dean. When our search failed, President David Ellenson 'suggested' that since I had 'failed at the search' it was only appropriate for me to take on these duties. Now, looking back over these four years, this has been a rather extraordinary experience. Some positions in life we seek to achieve and others somehow end up in our hands!

[Read More...](#)

The Director's Column: Richard A. Siegel

There's so much to report on the School of Jewish Communal

Milestones and Mazal Tov!

Engagements/Marriages

Lisa Helfman (MAJCS '05) is engaged to Joe Gottman. He proposed with 40 diamonds on Lisa's 40th birthday: three decks of playing cards and a diamond ring. The wedding will be March 14, 2010. Lisa is a Congregational Representative in the East District of the Union for Reform Judaism.

Rabbi Daniella Kolodny (MAJCS '95) married Robert Owen on June 7, 2009 at the Jewish chapel at the U.S. Naval Academy where she was a U.S. Navy chaplain until June 19, 2009. The couple now lives in London, UK where Daniella is looking for full time employment.

Births

Iris (Rosenthal) Weinstein (MAJCS '02) and her husband Greg welcome the birth of their first child, Jasmine Olivia Weinstein on August 20, 2009 at 11:06pm in Evanston, IL.

Larry Nathan (MAJCS/MSW) and his wife Rabbi Mara Nathan welcome their daughter Miriam Adele, who was born on October 2 in Westchester, NY.

Rachel (MAJE/MAJCS '07) and **Ari Margolis** (MAJE '08, ordination '10) proudly announce the birth of Laila Millie Margolis on November 23 in Los Angeles. She weighed 6 pounds, 7 oz and is 19.3 inches tall. Rachel is director of education at University Synagogue in Los Angeles, and Ari is a student rabbi and school principal at Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood.

Employment Updates

Robyn Schneider (MAJCS/MBA '08) recently accepted a position at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and will be working with the Medical Division, the Fashion Division, and Del Rey Yacht Club.

Service that it's hard to know where to start. But let me begin by stating what in normal circumstances would be unnecessary... the School of Jewish Communal Service is alive and well and living in Los Angeles.

As many of you are aware, this summer there was a debate within the HUC Board of Governors whether to keep the SJCS in operation. Thanks to a concerted effort by the students, staff, faculty, alumni, Advisory Board, supporters and LA Overseers, the BOG voted to keep the school open.

[Read More...](#)

Welcome to the new SJCS Alumni Coordinator!

We are very excited to have a new addition to our staff who will be working closely with the Alumni Association.

Jessica Ingram graduated in 2009 with a Master of Arts in Jewish Communal Service from HUC-JIR and is working to complete her Master of Arts in Religious Education from HUC-JIR's New York School of Education in the spring of 2010.

[Read More...](#)

Student Profile: Second Year Samantha Pohl

Samantha Pohl, a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson scholar, is currently enrolled in her second year of a dual degree program at Hebrew Union College and USC, pursuing a Master of Jewish Communal Service and a Master of Public Administration.

[Read More...](#)

Upcoming Events at the SJCS

Alumni/Faculty Webinar on Millenials

In February, Lori Klein, Assistant Director of the SJCS and recent graduate Shira Liff-Grieff (currently a volunteer with American Jewish World Service in Cambodia) will host a webinar on millenials and the out of the box ways they are contributing to the Jewish community.

For more information, or to register, contact Lori Klein at loklein@huc.edu or 213.765.2141

Upcoming Course open to the Community

During the Spring 2010 semester, the SJCS will offer a course in synagogue management that will be open to the community.

For more information, or to register, contact Hattie Pearson at hpearson@huc.edu or 213.765.2117

The SJCS Accomplishments of 2009

This year has been an incredibly busy one for the School of Jewish Communal Service. Here are just a few of our many accomplishments:

Twelve graduates entered the workforce after their SJCS graduation in May, and **eight new students** began their SJCS studies during the summer session.

Yuri Hronsky (MAJE/MAJCS '01) has been appointed the new Head of School of Heschel West Day School in Agoura, CA, beginning July 2010.

Other Simchas

Jeff Bernhardt (MAJCS/MSW '94) is directing and producing his play "Mixed Blessings" which will be performed at the NOHO Actors' Studio beginning January 15 in North Hollywood, CA

Adam Inlander (MAJCS '98) and his wife Ginny will celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary this December.

Congratulations to our most recent graduates! Where is the class of 2009?

Missy Bell (MAJCS/MAJE) is the Director of Teen Services at the Sid Jacobson JCC in East Hills, New York.

Ben Bloom (MAJCS) is the Programming Associate at the Jewish Educational Alliance/Savannah Jewish Federation in Savannah, Georgia.

Rena Fraade (MAJCS/MARE) is working as the Director of Religious School Program at Larchmont Temple in Larchmont, New York. She currently resides in New Rochelle, NY with the Israeli dog, Asher, she adopted during her year in Israel.

David Harris (MAJCS/MPA at USC) lives in Los Angeles and is working at Temple Israel of Hollywood.

Jessica Ingram (MAJCS) is completing her MA in Religious Education at HUC's New York School of Education, and is a consultant at UJA-Federation of New York, working in the Missions Department.

Matt Kahn (MAJE/MAJCS) lives in Los Angeles and works as the Religious School Special Programs Director at Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot in Irvine, CA.

Laurel Klein (MAJCS/MSW at University of Texas) is living in New York and working with Eden Village, a Jewish camp with a focus on earth based education and social justice, helping them to prepare to open their doors this summer. She also volunteers with Jewish Farm School and Teva's Jewish Climate Change Topsy Turvy Bus.

Shira Liff-Grieff (MAJCS/MA in Communications Management at USC) is living in Cambodia where she is working for the Cambodian Women's Movement Organization (CWMO) as an American Jewish World Service volunteer, and then traveling throughout Asia.

Luisa Moss (MAJCS/MAJE) currently resides in Sherman Oaks, CA and thrilled to serve as the Assistant Director of the Religious School at Temple Adat Elohim in Thousand Oaks, California.

Anna Schwartz (MAJCS/MPA at USC) is the Campaign Communications Manager at the Jewish Federation of Greater Long Beach.

Adynna Swarz (CJCS/MBA, UCLA '08) is working at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and oversees the Emergency Cash Grants Program and the Volunteering Initiative.

Laura Siegel (MAJCS/MAJE) is living in Johannesburg, South

We hosted a Summer salon with **Ruth Messinger**, who we were honored to have as Scholar in Residence for the 2009 Culmination exercises

We celebrated the **40th Anniversary of the SJCS** with the following events:

- **Founders' Day** in LA was dedicated to the SJCS. Gerry Bubis spoke and many alumni, not just local ones, came to HUC to take part in the festivities
- The summer edition of the **Journal of Jewish Communal Service** was dedicated to the SJCS, with articles written by faculty, staff and alumni.

Richard Siegel was appointed director of the SJCS (from his previous post as Interim Director) and the SJCS strategic plan was passed by the Board of Governors.

This summer, Richard chaired a Jewish Communal Professionals of Southern California (JCPSC) event with large number of alumni attendees.

We **hired a staff person**, Jessica Ingram, to work with the Alumni Association. Her thesis, a 40th Anniversary Alumni Study is being used a resource for moving forward with Alumni planning and programming.

The recent HUC Webinar featured keynote speaker **Dale Glasser, an SJCS alum**, as well as other alumni presenters and responders.

We are well on our way to having a full **Executive Committee** who will help to determine future directions and engage new Alumni leadership.

Stay tuned to our **Facebook Fan Page** for more details about these accomplishments and others!

www.facebook.com/schoolofjewishcommunalservice

Looking for Ways to get Involved?

Interested in getting involved? Here are just a few options!

Develop SJCS Alumni Continuing Education

Have a great idea for a professional development or learning opportunity? Chances are there are other alumni out there who are curious about the same things! Your knowledge and interests can help keep all our alumni engaged with what's happening in the field and in our tradition!

Connect with Students and New Alumni

Help us build stronger relationships with current students and recent grads! There are numerous opportunities already on the table, but they need your personal touch!

Write for the alumni e-learning blog

The Department of E-Learning has asked for volunteers out in the field who would be interested in writing for the alumni blog. If you are working on an interesting project, or feel that you have an interesting point of view to share, we'd love to hear from you!

To volunteer for a project, if you want more information, or if you have any questions, contact Jessica at SJCSAlumni@huc.edu or 202.487.3585

Africa and serving as Director of Development for the Jewish National Fund of South Africa, where she is spearheading their Global Warming Education and Action campaign for 2010. She is also serving as a consultant for a synagogue as they navigate a change process, helping to shape their future as a vision driven organization.

Emily Walsh (MAJCS/MAJE) is working as the Assistant Director of Education for Youth and Family at B'nai Jeshurun in New York City.

Congratulations to these Distinguished Alumni on Receiving their Honorary Doctorate Degrees

On May 18, 2009 (25 Iyar 5769), the faculty and the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion conferred the Honorary degree of Doctor of Jewish Communal Service upon:

Mark L. Goldstein
Mark David Gurvis
Cheryl Kessler, z"l
Zev A. Kessler
Amy Dover Neistein
Steven A. Reitman

SJCS Alumni Asst. Executive Committee

Lori Lander Goodman, Co-Chair and Alumni Council Rep.
Esther Cohen, Co-Chair
Larry Nathan, Past Chair and Alumni Council Rep.
Joy Wasserman, National Director of Alumni Affairs
Richard Siegel, ex-officio
Lori Klein, ex-officio
Jessica Ingram, Coordinator of Alumni Affairs

Use the HUC-JIR Online Alumni Directory

Looking for an old friend or lost classmate? You can find any HUC alum in the online directory. Simply go to www.huc.edu/alumni/private/. The directory is password-protected. For the username and password, please contact Jessica Ingram and SJCSAlumni@huc.edu.

Once there, please make sure that your own information is correct. Have you moved, changed jobs, married, or had children? Your entry might be outdated. Updates you send to the SJCS Alumni Association are shared with the national directory maintainers, but it is a separate database.

[Visit www.huc.edu](http://www.huc.edu)

[Contact HUC-JIR](#)

[Continuing Alumni Education Blog](#)