The Inauguration of
Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D.

Hebrew Union College — Jewish Institute of Religion
Stained glass with epoxy edge gluing mounted on plate glass.
Cincinnati Skirball Museum; Gift of Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills, formerly Temple Beth El, Quincy, MA, and Temple Shalom, Milton, MA.
The Inauguration of Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D.

as the Tenth President of

Hebrew Union College — Jewish Institute of Religion

Sunday, October 27, 2019
כ”ח תשרי תשמ”ח
28 Tishrei 5780

Isaac M. Wise Temple / K.K. B’nai Yeshurun
Plum Street Temple
Eighth and Plum Streets
Cincinnati, Ohio
HINEI MAH TOV (CHARLES OSBORNE)
PSALM 133:1 (ADAPTED)

“Behold how good and how pleasant, when we are all together.”

A PLACE AND A TIME

Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass ’85, Isaac M. Wise Temple
Rabbi Karen R. Thomashow ’07, Isaac M. Wise Temple

Hinei mah tov . . . .
How good it is, indeed,
To welcome you to this historic place, at this historic time.
From this very pulpit, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise launched our Reform Movement,
But not our movement alone.
Ki mitziyon teitzei torah, “Torah emanates from Zion,” we were told;
So Wise envisioned an American Zion,
A Hebrew Union College, with Torah
For his time, for our time, for all time.

Time expands to eternity;
It is change, transformation, evolution,
A sunbeam that we vainly seek to grasp before it evanesces.
And yet, the sunbeam pauses on occasion, offering warm embrace;
For which we say, Halleluyah!, “Praise to God.”

Yamim y’dabeiru,
With God’s help, says the Book of Job, “Days can speak.”
So we gather, in community,
At this place and time,
To let this day of inspiration speak its promise,
That we may go forward, drawing from our past, living in our present, and working for the future.

Halleluyah, that we are here,
Inaugurating our new president.
Halleluyah, for the privilege
Of being softly cradled in the arms of Jewish history, Jewish destiny, a Jewish tomorrow.
HALLELUYAH (DEBBIE FRIEDMAN)
PSALM 115:18

Vaanachnu n’vareich yah, mei-atah v’ad olam, hal’luyah.
“As for us, we will praise God, now and always. Halleluyah!”

PITCHU LI (SHEFA GOLD)
PSALM 118:19

Pitchu li shaarei tzedek, avo vam odeh yah.
“Open the gates of righteousness for us, that we may enter to acknowledge God.”
**Announcement: The Organization of the Hebrew Union College**

The Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College, in the third adjourned meeting on Sunday last, in the vestry room of the Benai Israel Temple, succeeded in the final organization of the College. There was a considerable amount of labor to be done by the Board, and it was done with a will, to perfect this organization: to select the proper faculty; to provide a suitable locality for the school; to place its students in good families and under proper care; and to make the necessary arrangements with the high-school authorities. The temporary locality for the College, gratuitously tendered by the congregation Benai Israel, is in the magnificent rooms under the Mound Street Temple.

Students’ homes will be in the houses of teachers of the public schools and Hebrew Sabbath-Schools, and in other good families, always under the direct supervision of a special committee of which Solomon Levi, Esq., is chairman. The expenses per annum for any student, including all tuition, boarding, lodging, instruction in all branches of education except instrumental music, will be from $400-$500. The students of the Preparatory Department will frequent the high school; or if they prefer, any classical or commercial college. All who are desirous of obtaining a substantial education for any avocation in after life, and to be well informed in Hebrew lore and history, are welcome to the Hebrew Union College and the enjoyment of all the privileges and advantages it may offer.
Those were our beginnings,

And now we arrive at another beginning still.

How much has changed since classes first began
In those modest synagogue vestry rooms
On Mound Street, Cincinnati.

And how much has not changed as well,
Not just since 1875, but all the way back,
When learning Torah first began,
In Yavneh, let us say, Torah study’s cradle;
Or even earlier,
In the days of Hillel and Shammai.

Just last week, we, as they, recalled the beginning of all beginnings,
Creation’s promise from Parashat B’reshit,
How all that is was once mere chaos,
Until God shaped it and declared it good.

Just this week, we, as they, continue the story
With Parashat Noach, the tale of Noah, one good soul in a time of evil,
Whose reward, the rainbow, we still enjoy,
As herald of God’s promise: eternal hope,
An everlasting covenant,
Through the occluding darkness of storms,
When enshrouding chaos threatens us with despair.

Then, next week, we, as they, remember our own beginnings,
In the call to Abraham and Sarah, lech l’cha,
“Go forth . . . .”

To leave behind the comfort of convenience,
And risk the challenge of finding and of founding
“The Land that I will show you.”

Today we reimagine creation, with its promise of goodness,
The rainbow of hope and aspiration,
And the ever-present call to Jewish destiny.

As a College–Institute,
And as partners in league with God and history,
We meet in the place where we began,
To recapture all that is eternal,
And with it, build the spiritual home we call “Tomorrow.”
GENESIS 1:1–5
Cantor Richard Cohn ’92, Director, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music

“'When God began creating heaven and earth
(The earth a jumble of entropic chaos,
But God's vision sweeping across the waters),
God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.
When God saw how good light was,
God separated light from darkness,
Calling the light ‘day’ and the darkness ‘night.’
There was evening and morning — a first day!”

Rabbi Ramie Arian ’76, Founding Director, Foundation for Jewish Camp

READER: But this we know — there was not just light,
For in the story that we tell,
God had fallen in love with color.

Look freshly at the universe:
Nothing drab about cardinals or finches;
Sunsets, dusks, and harvest moons!
Creation did not turn out colorless.

Even before the rainbow, there was color.
Its fullness became God’s primal palette.
God’s tiniest finger became the brush,
Sweeping across the spectrum from indigo to red,
Dipping lovingly
Into springtime yellows, sapphire blues, and pinks for sweetheart roses,
Then autumn golds, emerald greens and lilac purples,
The clearest snow-white peaks
Reflecting sun through deep black craggy mountains.
Yes, God delights in colors: tints and shades and hues and dyes,  
Of infinite variety.  
Because color heralds hope and promise.

And one thing more God had, in that primeval time before time: 
The Torah,  
Which, the sages say, became God’s blueprint  
For the universe where we would someday dwell.

BERESHIT RABBAH 1:1
Cantor Claire Franco ’96, The Community Synagogue, Port Washington, NY;  
President, American Conference of Cantors

“In the normal course of things,
rulers who build palaces  
do not depend on their own mind’s eye.  
Rather, they consult an architect.  
Architects too do not depend  
on their mind’s eye alone.  
They use diagrams and blueprints  
as models for the rooms  
and doorways.  
Thus did the Holy Blessed One  
look first at Torah  
and only then create the world.”

CONGREGATION: Only then did God say  
“Let there be light”  
Only then did God pass the light through the rainbow prism of color,  
That it might shine through space in all its glory.  
Only then did God breathe souls into human beings,  
Souls of color-refracted light,  
For souls, too, do not come colorless.  
The blueprint of Torah demands a world  
With all the colors of love and passion,  
And human souls, with equal love and passion,  
Enough to celebrate the world as God once did.
“O God, our God
How glorious is your name throughout the earth!
You who have set your splendor upon the heavens!
When I behold the heavens, your handiwork,
The moon and stars that You set in place,
Who are we that You be mindful of us,
Mere mortals, that You should take note of us,
Making us little less than divine,
Crowning us with nobility and dignity?

O God, our God . . .
How glorious is your name throughout the earth.”

Rabbi Jack A. Luxenburg ’76, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Beth Ami, Rockville, MD

**READER:** O God, our God . . .

**CONGREGATION:** How glorious is your name throughout the earth!

Can we even conceive of the day
When God laid the earth’s foundation?
When the morning stars were a choir of song?
And divine beings shouted for joy?

When God closed off the sea behind doors,
As it gushed forth from creation’s womb,
And then clothed and swaddled it in clouds?
When God summoned the first daybreak,
And assigned dawn its place
At the earth’s far-off horizons?

**O God, our God . . .
How glorious is your name throughout the earth!**

Whence came the sea, vast and wide,
With its creatures beyond number?
The first intimations of life, small and great?
Or the green green grass and herbiage;  
Red red wine that cheers the heart?  
Oil that makes faces shine?  
And bread that sustains our very lives?

The trees that drink their fill,  
The cedars of Lebanon, God's own planting,  
The mountain heights for wild goats,  
The crags as shelters for rock-badgers?

O God, our God . . .
How glorious is your name throughout the earth!

מַה-אָדַיְרָךְ שֵׁם בָּכֵל-הָאָרָץ.

Rabbi Ron Segal '96, Temple Sinai, Atlanta, GA;  
President, Central Conference of American Rabbis

READER: Finally, in that time before time, God made goodness,  
The invisible essence of Torah,  
And the goal of human striving.  
On each and every day, God surveyed what was done,  
The radiant rainbow colors of plants and creatures, clouds and sunsets,  
And with Torah in hand, the measure of it all, God saw that it was good.

GENESIS 1:31

וַיָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֲתָכְלָאָשֶׂר עַשָּׂה וַחֲרֹחֲשׁוּב מַמְאָד  
וּמְחַרְבּ רַוְּחָבִיבָה לִפְן-מָשָׂשׁ  
“God saw all that had been made and found it very good!  
And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.”

As the sixth day ended,  
God looked to crown creation with the gift we call Shabbat.  
But first, with prescience far exceeding human comprehension,  
Say our sages,  
God fashioned timely things that the world would someday need,  
But whose time had yet to come,  
Among them Noah’s rainbow.  
Ba’erev shabbat bein hash’mashot,  
In the seconds of twilight, Shabbat just dawning,  
God made the rainbow.
God said:
I set this as the sign of the covenant
Between Me and you
And every living creature with you
For all time to come.
This is the symbol of the covenant
Linking Me to all flesh upon the earth.

-reader:
God knew:

-congregation: That the time would come for Noah,
As for every generation after,
When the brilliant colors of hope would fade,
When the promise of creation’s early days would be marred by history,
Or by fate and accident, nature’s very course that runs with iron laws that stop for no one,
Floods and droughts, earth tremors, even quakes, tornadoes, hurricanes;
And human greed: cruelty beyond what even God, perhaps, could contemplate.

For such a time, God knew:
We would need color, preserved,
God’s palette of hope and promise,
Set for all time across the sky, for all to see.

However dark the traumas,
There would always be our covenantal sign,
The rainbow.

-zot ot habrit (benjie elen schiller)
genesis 9:12

“This is the sign of the covenant that I make between Me and you
And every living being with you, throughout all time,
From generation to generation yet to be.”
Daryl Messinger, Chair, Board of Trustees, Union for Reform Judaism

**READER:** And this, too, about the rainbow:
Its very shape, a bridge from here to there.
The colors of creation,
Cast across the sky as Noah’s rainbow,
Led, in time, to Sarah and to Abraham,
Who saw in God’s covenant for all peoples
A particular charge for Israel.
*Lech l’cha,* God said,
Leave where you have been and go where I will show you,
The Land of Israel, certainly,
But more than that:
All the lands of history, where we have brought God’s word,
And not just lands of rivers, soil, lakes, and physical expanse,
But the eternal land of the spirit: of kindness, decency, justice, human goodness.
We aspire to bless humanity wherever we may find ourselves.
That was the charge of *lech l’cha:* to go where God wants us to be,
And to do what God wants us to do.

**CONGREGATION:**

*These are our first things:*

*The goodness of creation;*
*The rainbow colors of the covenant’s undying hope;*
*The Torah as our blueprint;*
*And the mandate to be heirs of Abraham and Sarah,*
*Heeding the eternal call to leave where we have been,*
*In search of greater promise for humanity.*

*On these things we stake our lives.*

*That is why we gather here:*
*To reaffirm them, our first things,*
*As we now mark our new beginning,*
*Our recommitment to all that God intended*
*At the birth of time itself.*
“How fortunate we are!
How good is our portion!
How pleasant our destiny!
How beautiful our heritage!”

שָׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהֹאָלֵוָה יְהוָה אֶלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל | אֶלֹהִים

Sh’ma Yisrael: Adonai Eloheinu. Adonai Echad.
“How fortunate we are! How good is our portion! How pleasant our destiny! How beautiful our heritage!”

ALL ARE SEATED
Inaugural Moment

Rabbi Andrea L. Weiss ’93, Ph.D., Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost

READER: Ashreinu; mah tov chelkeinu,
We are truly fortunate — immeasurably blessed
In heritage and history.

Andrew Rehfeld, we now charge you with that heritage and history,
That it may be not just our past but our future.

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., President-Elect

PSALM 121:1–2

אַשְׁרֵינוּ אֲלִיעָריֵיס מַלְאָךְ יָהִי זֶמַּא הָעֵרֵי
עַזְרֵי מַעַשׂ הָעָה עִשִּׂיחַ שֶפֶם צָאַרְרָא

“I turn my eyes to the mountains;
Where will I find help?
My help comes from Adonai
Maker of heaven and earth.”

JOEL 3:1

אֲשֶׁר לִפְנֵי נַחֲלָתֵינוּ בָאֲשֶׁר נְכַבְּרֵנוּ נַחֲלָתְנוּ
וְמִרְבְּתֵנוּ יָלְדוּת בְּמַרְבְּתֵנוּ חֵלֶטֶנָא יָרָא

“I will pour out My spirit on one and all.
Future generations will prophesy,
Your elderly shall dream dreams,
And your youth shall see visions.”

God plants within us dreams of tomorrow, visions of fulfillment.
We pray that you and we will make those dreams and visions real,
And toward that end, we offer you our fervent blessings:

כְּלַ שֶׁמֶם לְבָכֵרִי בְּרֵי זֶה מְשַׁשֶּׁה:

“To bless with embellished abundance is praiseworthy.”
FOR THE BOARD
Joy G. Greenberg, Chair, Inauguration Committee;
Chair, Presidential Search Committee
Psalm 121:3

BOARD MEMBERS RISE AND RESPOND, THEN REMAIN STANDING

“May God keep you from stumbling;
The God who guards you does not slumber.”

FOR THE FACULTY
Bruce A. Phillips, Ph.D., Faculty Chair;
Professor of Sociology and Jewish Communal Service,
Skirball Campus, Los Angeles
Psalm 121:5–6

FACULTY RISE AND RESPOND, THEN REMAIN STANDING

“May God guard you,
The shade at your right hand.
That you be not injured in sunlight,
Nor harmed in the darkness of moonlit nights.”

FOR THE STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION
Rabbi Jonathan L. Hecht ’87, Ph.D.,
Dean, Cincinnati
Psalm 121:7

STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION RISE AND RESPOND, THEN REMAIN STANDING

“May God keep you from all harm;
May God guard your very life.”
FOR THE ALUMNI
Rachel Margolis, MAJE/MAJCS ’07, Chair, HUC-JIR Alumni Leadership Council
Psalm 121:8

ALUMNI RISE AND RESPOND, THEN REMAIN STANDING

“May God guard your comings and goings, now and forever.”

FOR THE STUDENTS
Yael Dadoun ’20, MARE ’14, Rabbinical School
Tobias Glaser ’20, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music
Aviva Symons ’20, Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management
Michelle Blumenthal ’20, School of Education
Steven Donnally ’24, Pines School of Graduate Studies
Psalm 97:11

STUDENTS RISE AND RESPOND, THEN REMAIN STANDING

“May you know the light that is sown for the righteous,
The radiant joy for those who are upright.”

FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
Emma Greenberg Rehfeld and Hoben Greenberg Rehfeld,
Children of Miggie Greenberg and Andrew Rehfeld
Psalm 122:8

FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS RISE AND RESPOND, THEN REMAIN STANDING

“For all who gather here, in this house of God,
For all whom you will serve and who put their trust in you,
We pray that goodness, health, and happiness will be your lot.”
A BLESSING FROM JERUSALEM
Yaron Horovitz, Chair, Israel Board of Overseers
Psalm 128:5

“God bless you from Zion; May you see Jerusalem’s well-being All the days of your life.”

A BLESSING FROM US ALL
Rabbi Andrea Weiss, Ph.D.
Psalm 90:17

“Lead us, that we may know God’s favor. Guide us, that our labors be successful.”

ALL ARE SEATED
A PRAYER OF CONTINUITY AND HOPE
Lisa Messinger

Andrew Rehfeld: You have been blessed by us all, and presently, before the open ark, the Torah’s Priestly Benediction will be invoked upon you by Sue Hochberg, our Board of Governors Chair, and Rabbi David Ellenson, Chancellor Emeritus and past President of this College–Institute. But silently and invisibly, one more person will stand beside you as the blessing is conferred: my husband, Rabbi Aaron Panken, of blessed memory — who proudly served as the College’s President. Every single day, he dreamed of greatness for our College–Institute, and of God’s abundant blessing, through us, for the Jewish People and for all humanity. May you build on his dream as you bring your own vision; may his love for the College live on in you. May our beloved College–Institute continue to be a beacon of learning and thought leadership. Ken y’hi ratzon. Be this God’s will.

PRESIDENTIAL CHARGE
Sue Neuman Hochberg,
Chair, Board of Governors

We pray indeed that you further the dream of your predecessor, Rabbi Aaron Panken; and the dream of his predecessor, Rabbi David Ellenson; and the dreams of predecessors farther back to Rabbis Stephen Samuel Wise and Isaac Mayer Wise, for all their dreams are part and parcel of a larger vision still, our age-old insistence on justice and compassion; righteousness and decency; learning and wisdom; the ennoblement of all whom God holds dear. In my capacity as Chair of the Board of Governors of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, on behalf of our governing Board, I charge you now as President Andrew Rehfeld, to work with us, and make our Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion ever more a carrier of blessing for all the world.

ALL RISE

BIRKAT KOHANIM: “THE PRIESTLY BENEDICTION”
Numbers 6:24–26
Rabbi David Ellenson ’77, Ph.D.,
Former President (2001–2013) and Chancellor Emeritus
Sue Neuman Hochberg,
Chair, Board of Governors
Presidential Prayer

SHEHECHEYANU (BENJIE ELLEN SCHILIER; TZVIKA PIK)

Baruch atah, adonai eloheinu, melech haolam,
shehecheyanu v’k’iy’manu v’higianu laz’man hazeh.

“Praise to You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe,
for giving us life, for sustaining us,
and for enabling us to reach this season,
ensuring us to reach this day. ”

One Voice

Presidential Address

ONE VOICE (RUTH MOODY)
READER: History is not given, not bequeathed or inherited, 
Not discovered or found by chance, 
Somehow coursing through the folds of time. 
It is made, 
And then captured, recorded, and archived, 
A chronicle of what humankind can cobble, 
When it colonizes time with purpose at its core.

Hear, then, this description of purpose by our founding president, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise:

As long as the intellect thinks logically and the heart beats sympathetically, God, providence, moral responsibility, immortality, the happiness of man and the solidarity of mankind will be the guiding stars of good people, and so long, must Judaism last; for these are its themes.

Your knowledge is your capital. There is nothing profane in learning, and what is usually called profane learning is an important department of your studies. All knowledge is sacred; it is all revelation of the same God addressed to the same human mind.

Judaism must be studied in the products of the Hebrew mind, and these are preserved in Israel's great literature. As little as one can possess an adequate knowledge of a country without surveying it, so little can one form a correct idea of Jewish history, ethics, metaphysics and theology without an intimate acquaintance with the original sources, in which the Hebrew mind has actualized itself. Just as, for the scientists, no object of nature is without interest, so, for us, not a line of Jewish literature is without significance.

Talmidei chachamim marbim shalom ba'olam. “The disciples of the sages augment peace in the world.” We will earnestly and steadily endeavor with the aid of a competent and distinguished faculty to open the treasures of Israel’s literature to Jew and Gentile, reformer and orthodox, in justice to all and in offense to none.
READER: We inhabit colonies of purpose,
Dots that deprive eternity of resolute simple sameness,
Points on the page of infinity,
Evidence for posterity that we lived and loved
And mattered.

CONGREGATION: The Temple in Jerusalem was such a Jewish dot,
As were synagogues, in unceasing sequence,
The center of our people’s never flagging spirit.
But:
Im yesh et nafsh’cha lada’at,
“If you really want to know”
The wellspring whence our people drew its strength,
The refuge that refreshed our people’s sacred calling,
Look to the bet midrash, our house of study.
There we went to renew our souls.

In long and desolate winter nights,
As in hot consuming summer days,
There we were mothered, fathered, loved, and nurtured.
Over tattered Talmud pages, we bid our daily toil farewell.
With midrashic imaginings of some eternal past
We transcended pain and hardship.
For world-weariness, we recited psalms.
For two thousand years, over study, every day, we have prayed:

“May we know peace, lovingkindness, sustenance and deliverance,
May God who brings peace on high bring peace to us.”

And in happy anticipation of that time of universal harmony
We have said, declared, proclaimed, and sung:

Halleluyah!
“Praise God!

Praise God in the sanctuary.
Praise God in the mighty heavens.
Praise God’s vast power.
Praise God’s abundant greatness.
Praise God with the sound of the shofar.
Praise God with lute and lyre.
Praise God with drum and dance.
Praise God with strings and flute.
Praise God with resounding cymbals.
Praise God with clanging cymbals.
Praise God, everything that breathes.
Praise God!”

ALL RISE

President Andrew Rehfeld

Let us, then, this day, reaffirm the mission
Of our own bet hamidrash, our house of study,
This Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion.

Through our commitment to it,
Let us vow:
To reaffirm the good that is inherent from creation;
To dip into the rainbow once again,
And paint the world as it was meant to be;
To hear the call to Abraham and Sarah,
“Go forth”
To the land that I will show you:
The unknown landscape of tomorrow,
Where we continue the saga of imagination
That makes the Jewish People who we are,
And who we can yet hope to be.
L’CHI LACH (DEBBIE FRIEDMAN AND SAVINA TEUBAL)  
BASED ON GENESIS 12:1-2

לְכִי לְחָל, לְכִי לְחָל,  
לְשָׁמַמְתֶּךָ מִיָּם, לְכִי לְחָל.

L’chi lach, to a land that I will show you;
Lech lecha, to a place you do not know;
L’chi lach, on your journey I will bless you,
And you shall be a blessing,
You shall be a blessing,
You shall be a blessing, l’chi lach.

L’chi lach, and I shall make your name great;
Lech lecha, and all shall praise your name;
L’chi lach, to the place that I will show you,
L’simchat chayim,
L’simchat chayim,
L’simchat chayim, l’chi lach.

And you shall be a blessing,
You shall be a blessing,
You shall be a blessing, l’chi lach.

HALLELUYAH (LOUIS LEWANDOWSKI)  
PSALM 150

Recessional
Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., is the tenth President in the 144-year history of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

A distinguished academic, President Rehfeld brings distinctive intellectual, spiritual, and professional qualities to lead the College-Institute’s mission to transform the Jewish community and the broader world. His passion for teaching and scholarship, as well as exemplary leadership skills, have set him apart as a dynamic visionary and community builder. His deep personal commitment to Reform Judaism and Jewish values, profound understanding of the impact of nonprofit Jewish institutions, and entrepreneurial spirit of innovation will lead HUC-JIR to greater excellence.

Dr. Rehfeld has bridged both the academic and Jewish worlds as Assistant Professor of Political Science (2001-2007) and Associate Professor of Political Science (2007-2019) at Washington University in St. Louis, and as President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis (2012-2019). A tenured Professor of Political Thought at HUC-JIR, he contributes an unusual combination of teaching and scholarship, experience in Jewish nonprofit administration, and volunteer community leadership to the College-Institute.

President Rehfeld earned a Ph.D. in Political Science (2000) and a Master of Public Policy (1994) from the University of Chicago, and a B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, in the Philosophy Honors Program at the University of Rochester (1989). The author of *The Concept of Constituency* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) and numerous articles, Dr. Rehfeld’s research focuses on contemporary democratic theory with related interests in the history of political thought and the philosophy of the social sciences. He has published on the political uses of the Hebrew Bible and has taught yearly courses on Zionism and Jewish Political Thought at Washington University in St. Louis.

As HUC-JIR President, Dr. Rehfeld leads the four-campus international institution of Jewish higher education and seminary for Reform Judaism. HUC-JIR’s campuses in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York provide the academic and professional training programs for the Reform Movement’s rabbis, cantors, educators, and nonprofit management professionals, and offer graduate programs for scholars of all faiths. Read more: huc.edu/rehfeld
From 1875–2013, the counting of formal HUC-JIR presidencies was based on the conventional practice of counting those who were appointed on a non-interim, “permanent” basis. Thus, in 2001, Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D., was inaugurated as the eighth President, even though more than seven individuals prior to him had served as “President” in some capacity.

Before Rabbi Aaron D. Panken, Ph.D., z”l, was elected to the presidency that followed Rabbi Ellenson’s, an administrative decision to count some but not all of the Interim, Acting, and Honorary Presidents, resulted in Rabbi Panken’s presidency being labeled as the twelfth.

At this moment in the school’s history, we return to our practice of numbering the permanent presidencies. Thus, Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., will be inaugurated as the tenth President of our institution.

Each of HUC-JIR’s Presidents — whether permanent, Interim, Acting, or Honorary — left behind a legacy of achievement, leadership, and stability. To honor their service, an account of each of these individuals follows, as prepared by the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives.

RABBI ISAAC MAYER WISE (B. 1819, D. 1900)
FOUNDER, HEBREW UNION COLLEGE (HUC)
PRESIDENT, HUC 1875-1900

Isaac Mayer Wise was born in Steingrub, Bohemia, where he received a traditional Jewish education. He came to America in 1846 and soon began serving as rabbi at Congregation Beth El in Albany, New York. While in Albany, Wise implemented reforms such as an abbreviated service, mixed gender choir, and a weekly sermon. After a much-publicized break with the congregational leadership, Wise and some of his Albany constituents established a new temple, Congregation Anshe Emeth, where he insisted on a then radical innovation: freedom of the pulpit. It was at Anshe Emeth that the first appearance of “family” pews — mixed gender seating — in American Reform occurs. In 1854, Wise was invited to become the rabbi of Congregation B’nai Jeshurun (known today as Isaac M. Wise Temple) in Cincinnati. He insisted on receiving a lifetime appointment as a condition for accepting the post in what, at that time, was the largest city west of the Allegheny Mountains and one of the largest Jewish communities in America. Wise flourished in Cincinnati, remaining there until his death in 1900.

For fifty-four years, Wise was a charismatic leader on the pulpit, delivering fiery sermons and sharing his reforming spirit with congregants and those he encountered. As publisher of The Israelite, which he established in 1854, and contributor to numerous publications, Wise became a national voice who
advocated for unification of the burgeoning American Jewish community. He commented with authority on public events and advocated for social causes.

Wise recognized the unique character of the growing American Jewish community. Even prior to his arrival in Cincinnati, Wise argued for the creation of a seminary that would train students to serve in pulpits for a united American Jewry. Over time, Wise came to believe that he could succeed in funding a Jewish theological school by establishing a congregational union that would provide an annual source of dependable income. In the summer of 1873, twenty-eight congregational leaders met in Cincinnati to establish the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), whose mission was to establish a “Hebrew Theological Institute.” Wise’s long sought-after ambition came to fruition in the Fall of 1875, when Hebrew Union College (HUC) held its opening exercises at Plum Street Temple, and its first classes, with nine young students, in the basement of Bene Israel’s Mound Street Temple (known today as Rockdale Temple). In 1880, HUC purchased a private mansion on West Sixth Street located near the Reform temples. The building was dedicated in April 1881 and served HUC until the move to its current location on Clifton Avenue in 1912.

The number of HUC’s faculty, students, and alumni, along with the institution’s own resources, had grown as well. HUC’s library, established at the College’s founding, increased greatly in size by the end of the nineteenth century. At the time of Wise’s death, the faculty consisted of nine eminent scholars, two of whom were graduates of HUC, 64 alumni in the field, and a total of 73 students attending classes.

Isaac Mayer Wise was, without question, one of the most significant and influential American Jewish leaders during the last half of the nineteenth century. His creative and ambitious hand touched virtually every aspect of Jewish communal life. His accomplishments were many: he published his own prayer book, Minhag Amerika (1857); established the Central Conference of American Rabbis (1889); and was a prolific writer, penning numerous books, articles, editorials, and fiction. Wise was a visionary, organizer, and unifier. Read more: huc.edu/AJA-imwise
Moses Mielziner was born in Schubin, Grand Duchy of Posen (now Poland), where he studied and began his rabbinical career. He headed a Jewish school in Copenhagen, Denmark while earning his Ph.D. from the University of Giessen (1859). After immigrating to the United States in 1865, Mielziner served as a congregational rabbi and educator in New York City until 1879, when Isaac Mayer Wise appointed him professor of Talmud at Hebrew Union College.

In 1900, as the senior faculty member, Mielziner was asked to become the Acting President of the College while a search ensued to replace Isaac Mayer Wise. Holding the College on its course, he held this position until his death in 1903.

Gotthard Deutsch was born on January 31, 1859, in the village of Dolne Kounice (Kanitz), Moravia, then a province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Descended from a line of scholars and teachers, Deutsch received his early education in Dolne Kounice and Nikolsburg. In 1876, he entered the Breslau Jewish Theological Seminary and the University of Breslau. Upon completing his studies at Breslau, Deutsch entered the University of Vienna in 1879 and was awarded a Ph.D. in History in 1881.

Thereafter, Deutsch obtained the position of religious school instructor in the city of Bruenn, Austria, serving from 1881 until 1887. Shortly after he was elected a permanent teacher at Bruenn, he decided to enter the rabbinate. His sole post was in the city of Most (Bruex), in Bohemia, where he was rabbi from 1887 through 1891.

After responding to an advertisement for faculty published by Isaac Mayer Wise, Deutsch was appointed Professor of Jewish History and Philosophy at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio. serving as a professor for thirty years (1891-1921), Deutsch built a reputation among the students and the faculty for his teaching and the depth of his knowledge. One of his most renowned students was Jacob Rader Marcus (1896-1995), the distinguished historian and founder of the American Jewish Archives. For a period of four months, after the death of Moses Mielziner in 1903, Deutsch became Acting President of HUC until the election of Kaufmann Kohler as the second President of HUC.
Kaufmann Kohler was born in Fuerth, Bavaria, the son of an Orthodox rabbi. Influenced at an early age by the writings and philosophy of Samson Raphael Hirsch (b. 1808, d. 1883), he pursued his doctoral studies in Berlin and Erlangen.

Although his upbringing and early schooling were Orthodox, Kohler was strongly affected by the teachings of Abraham Geiger (b. 1810, d. 1874), one of the most prominent German leaders of Reform. The radicalism of his doctoral dissertation, one of the earliest examples of the higher criticism of the Bible (analyzing Scripture in light of modern knowledge), made Kohler ineligible to serve in many German-Jewish communities. He immigrated in 1869 to the United States, where he was welcomed by the eminent Reform rabbi David Einhorn (b. 1809, d. 1879), whose daughter he married. Kohler served several prominent congregations in his early years in America: Congregation Beth El in Detroit (1869–1871); Chicago’s Sinai Congregation (1871–1879); and, in 1879, he succeeded his father-in-law at Temple Beth El, New York.

In 1903, after a lengthy search for a suitable replacement for Isaac M. Wise, Kohler was invited to interview for the presidency of HUC. He was unanimously approved by the HUC Board and accepted the position, which he retained until his retirement in 1921. His presidency included many significant accomplishments: the restructuring of the HUC curriculum (with emphasis on new and scientific approaches); expansion of the faculty; the move of the College from downtown Cincinnati to its present location on Clifton Avenue (1912); and the establishment of the College’s Union Museum (1913).

A creative theologian and a passionate and persuasive speaker, Kaufmann Kohler emerged as one of the spokespersons for American Reform Judaism during its formative years. He is remembered as the “chief architect” of the 1885 Pittsburgh Platform, which set forth American Reform positions on such topics as the idea of God, the Jewish mission, and the need for Jews to be actively involved in social justice causes for the betterment of humankind. This famous platform is considered to be a landmark development in the history of American Judaism. Read more: huc.edu/AJA-kohler
Julian Morgenstern was born in Illinois in 1881. After his ordination at HUC in 1902, he studied in Europe and received his doctorate from the University of Heidelberg. He served several small congregations in the Midwest, and then returned to HUC in 1907, the first American-born scholar to be appointed to the HUC faculty. He was named Acting President of HUC in 1921 and served as President of HUC from 1922 until his retirement in 1947. Morgenstern was the first American-born President of HUC and the first HUC alumnus to lead the school.

During Morgenstern’s presidency, HUC grew dramatically. He established the departments of social studies, education, and music, and launched the Hebrew Union College Press and the Hebrew Union College Annual (both of which remain in existence).

A courageous and far-sighted leader, Morgenstern’s greatest accomplishment may well have been his work on behalf of the “refugee scholars project,” which brought scholars and students from Germany to Cincinnati prior to the U.S. entry into World War II. Most of the refugees that Morgenstern helped during those dark years went on to enrich the American Jewish community by serving on the faculties of seminaries (including HUC) and major universities. Some became leading congregational rabbis in North America. Abraham Joshua Heschel (b. 1907, d. 1972) — one of the renowned rescued scholars — referred to Julian Morgenstern as “the least appreciated man in American Jewry.”

Read more: huc.edu/AJA-morgenstern
Stephen Samuel Wise was born in 1874 in Budapest, Hungary, the son and grandson of rabbis. Wise immigrated to New York as an infant with his family. His father became rabbi of Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Manhattan. He studied at the College of the City of New York, Columbia College (B.A., 1892), and Columbia University (Ph.D., 1901). Immediately following personal ordination in 1893 from the liberal rabbi of Vienna, Adolf Jellinek (b. 1821, d. 1893), Wise became Assistant Rabbi of New York City’s Congregation B’nai Jeshurun and assumed full responsibility after the death of the congregation’s Senior Rabbi, Henry S. Jacobs (b. 1827, d. 1893).

In 1900, Wise was named rabbi of Temple Beth Israel in Portland, Oregon. For the next six years, he became active in the areas of interfaith cooperation, social service, and civic leadership. In 1905, Wise was under consideration to serve as rabbi of Temple Emanu-El in New York. When he learned that his sermons would be reviewed in advance by the Temple’s Board of Trustees, he withdrew himself from consideration and founded a “free” synagogue where he and others who occupied the pulpit would be able to exercise the American right of free speech.

Wise was among the first to warn of the dangers of Nazism to the Jewish and non-Jewish world. After World War I, he founded the American Jewish Congress and, in 1936, he organized the World Jewish Congress to act as “the diplomatic arm of the Jewish people.” As a Zionist leader, he presented the Jewish cause to President Franklin D. Roosevelt (b. 1882, d. 1945) and the U.S. State Department as well as to the general public. His dynamic activism and charismatic oratory on behalf of the Jewish people, and for the betterment of society in general, enabled him to become one of the most prominent Jewish religious leaders during the first half of the 20th century.

In 1922, under the auspices of the Free Synagogue, Wise launched the Jewish Institute of Religion (JIR), which provided training of rabbis to serve all branches of Judaism, education of Jewish scholars, and preparation of leaders for community service. Notable scholars who taught at JIR over the years included Henry Slonimsky (b. 1884, d. 1970); Salo W. Baron (b. 1895, d. 1989); Harry A. Wolfson (b. 1887, d. 1974); and Chaim Tchernowitz (b. 1871, d. 1949). Between 1926 and 1949, JIR ordained more than 200 rabbis.

Stephen S. Wise was a forthright, forceful, and influential preacher of social concerns. His opinions and attitudes were expressed in his fiery sermons — many of which were famously delivered at Carnegie Hall — as well as in his numerous published works. Read more: huc.edu/AJA-swise
Emil G. Hirsch was born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg in 1851. He came to the U.S. in 1866 when his father, distinguished German reformer Samuel Hirsch (1815–1889), was invited to assume the pulpit at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In Philadelphia, Hirsch attended the Episcopal Academy and, subsequently, the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1872. He then traveled to Germany, where he studied at the universities of Berlin and Leipzig (Ph.D., 1876). Hirsch also studied at the Hochscule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums, the liberal rabbinical seminary in Berlin. Hirsch returned to America and served pulpits in Baltimore (1877–1878) and Louisville (1878–1880). In 1880, Hirsch assumed the pulpit of Chicago Sinai Congregation, a position he held until his death in 1923.

Emil G. Hirsch was a social activist who was known as one of America’s most powerful preachers. Hirsch successfully advocated various practical social reforms and laid the foundation for several welfare organizations in Chicago.

At Hirsch’s 70th birthday celebration in 1922, Stephen S. Wise, rabbi at the Free Synagogue in New York, offered Hirsch the “Honorary Presidency” and a visiting professorship on behalf of the Board of Governors at the Jewish Institute of Religion, which was to open in October. Hirsch held this official position until his death in 1923.

Nelson Glueck was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1900 to Lithuanian-Jewish parents. He began his studies at Hebrew Union College while still attending high school, receiving his rabbinical ordination in 1923. He received his Ph.D from the University of Jena in Germany in 1926. By 1928, he was a member of the Hebrew Union College faculty. It was during this time period that he first visited the Holy Land and studied with famous archaeologist William Foxwell Albright (b. 1891 d. 1971). From then on, Glueck alternated between teaching at HUC (as Professor of Bible and Biblical Archaeology) and conducting archaeological digs in the Middle East. From 1932–33 and 1936 to
1940, he was director of the American Society of Oriental Research in Jerusalem, part of that time serving as the institute’s annual professor in Baghdad, Iraq.

As a biblical archaeologist, Glueck attained international fame, in both the Jewish and secular communities, appearing on the cover of *Time* Magazine in 1963. During his lifetime, he excavated remains of the civilization of the ancient Nabataeans in Transjordan, described a biblical copper-mining industry at the shore of the Red Sea, and proposed how the Negev could support a large population if proper irrigation techniques were used.

In 1947, Glueck was elected President of Hebrew Union College. He assumed the duties of his office just as merger plans of HUC and JIR coalesced. With the retirements of HUC President Julian Morgenstern in 1947 and JIR President Stephen Wise in 1948, Glueck became the first president of the newly formed HUC-JIR. He served as President of HUC-JIR until his death from cancer in 1971. His presidency marked years of unprecedented growth and expansion. In Cincinnati he authorized the founding of the American Jewish Archives, the School of Graduate Studies, and the construction of the new Klau Library building to house a massive expansion of its holdings. Glueck established the Los Angeles campus of the HUC-JIR in 1954 and the Jerusalem campus as a post-doctoral center of archaeological and biblical studies in 1963.

It was during Glueck’s presidency that the school instituted the Year-in-Israel program (1970), which required all rabbinical students to spend their first year in Israel, a curricular innovation that would change the nature of the rabbinate and of Reform Judaism in Israel.

Alfred Gottschalk was born in Oberwesel, Germany, on March 7, 1930, the only son of Max and Erna (Trum) Gottschalk. His father fled to New York in 1938 after narrowly escaping arrest by the Gestapo. Gottschalk and his mother joined him in 1939. After graduating from Brooklyn College, Gottschalk attended HUC-JIR, first in New York and then in Cincinnati, where he received his rabbinical ordination in 1957. The president of HUC-JIR, Nelson Glueck, took note of young Gottschalk and selected him from the ordination class to serve as dean of the fledgling Los Angeles campus. Gottschalk completed his doctorate at the University of Southern California (USC) in 1965 and simultaneously spearheaded an ambitious expansion and relocation of the Los Angeles campus to its present site adjacent to USC (1971). He served as Dean of the Los Angeles campus for twelve years.
Upon Glueck’s death in 1971, Gottschalk was elected to serve as HUC-JIR’s sixth President and, subsequently, the school’s Chancellor. As President of HUC-JIR for a quarter century, Gottschalk guided the development and expansion of HUC-JIR’s four campuses in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York into vibrant resource centers of academic excellence for both scholars and laity.

Gottschalk’s tenure as President and Chancellor effected historic milestones. He ordained the first woman rabbi in America (1972); the first woman cantor in America (1975); the first Reform rabbi in Israel (1980); and the first woman rabbi in Israel (1992). His efforts helped to pave the way for the entrance of women into the mainstream of the American Reform rabbinate and cantorate and set a precedent of gender equality in Reform Judaism.

Gottschalk was a founding member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council and its Museum since its inception, with appointments by Presidents Jimmy Carter in 1978, Ronald Reagan in 1993, and Bill Clinton in 1996. Upon retiring from the College-Institute, Gottschalk served as President of the Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York (2000–2003), where he initiated and planned the sixty-thousand square foot Robert M. Morgenthau Wing and continued to serve as a Senior Fellow and Trustee.

Alfred Gottschalk passed away on September 12, 2009.

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**RABBI SHELDON ZIMMERMANN (B. 1942)**
**PRESIDENT, HUC-JIR 1996–2000**

Born in Toronto, Canada, in 1942, Sheldon Zimmerman received degrees in Philosophy from the University of Toronto and pursued post graduate studies in Philosophy and Hebrew studies at New York University.

Zimmerman was ordained at HUC-JIR’s New York campus in 1970 and represents the eleventh generation of rabbis in his family. He served as the Senior Rabbi of one of the largest and most vibrant congregations in America, Temple Emanu-El of Dallas, Texas (1985–1995), and previously served as Senior Rabbi (1972–1985) and as Assistant Rabbi (1970–1972) of Central Synagogue in New York City.

During his presidency, the rabbinical program was expanded, allowing for students to complete the four-year stateside program at not only the Cincinnati and New York campuses, but the Los Angeles campus, as well. During his tenure, Sheldon Zimmerman also oversaw the renovation and dedication of two major facilities on the Cincinnati campus: The Cecil W. Herrman Learning Center (1996) and The Jacob Rader Marcus Center Repository of the American Jewish Archives (1999).
Norman J. Cohen was born in Astoria, New York, in 1943. He received his B.A. from Columbia in 1964 and studied at Hebrew University and The Jewish Theological Seminary prior to attending HUC-JIR. He was ordained in 1971 and received his Ph.D. in Midrash from HUC-JIR in 1977. He began work at HUC-JIR as an instructor in 1967 and was appointed to the HUC-JIR faculty in 1975. A gifted teacher of Midrash, he was named Director of the Rabbinical School in 1988, Dean of the New York campus in 1989, and Provost in 1995. During his time as Provost, Cohen revitalized the faculty through the appointment of over 20 emerging scholars, half of whom were women, promoting an egalitarian faculty representation. He nurtured the faculty's scholarly development and their integration across the campuses through biennial faculty retreats and the use of new technology that has strengthened partnership in teaching areas and introduced the innovation of team-taught courses in e-classrooms. He also led an institution-wide effort to create the present-day Rabbinical School curriculum.

Norman Cohen served as Acting President of HUC-JIR in 2000 during its 125th anniversary year and provided vital direction in advance of David Ellenson becoming President.

David Ellenson was born in 1947 in Brookline, Massachusetts, and grew up in an Orthodox Jewish family in Newport News, Virginia. He was ordained at HUC-JIR in 1977 and received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1981. He holds master’s degrees from Columbia University, HUC-JIR, and the University of Virginia; and a bachelor’s degree from the College of William and Mary.

In 1979, Ellenson became a member of HUC-JIR’s faculty, specializing in Jewish religious thought. From 1981 to 1997, he served as the Director of the Jerome H. Louchheim School of Judaic Studies, the undergraduate program in Jewish Studies at USC conducted under the aegis of HUC-JIR on the Skirball Campus in Los Angeles. In 2001, Ellenson became the eighth president of HUC-JIR.
Ellenson is internationally recognized for his publications and research in the areas of Jewish religious thought, ethics, and modern Jewish history and specifically for his research and writing on topics related to the tension between tradition and modernity. He has authored or edited several books and over 300 articles and reviews in a wide variety of academic and popular journals and newspapers.

During his tenure as President, David Ellenson united the four campuses by creating electronic classrooms that allowed for cross-campus teaching and meetings. He nurtured a new generation of deans and directors, increased the number of women faculty and expanded the number of women Board members from 13% to 40%. He steered HUC-JIR through the challenges of the 2008 economic recession and implemented strategic planning initiatives to secure HUC-JIR’s four campuses in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York as viable and essential venues providing service to the Reform Movement’s congregations and educational and cultural outreach to communities throughout these regions.

Aaron Panken was born in Manhattan on May 19, 1964. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University’s electrical engineering program and earned his doctorate in Hebrew and Judaic studies at New York University (2003). He served as rabbi at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York and as a rabbinical intern at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, N.Y., before he began teaching at HUC-JIR.


During his presidency, Panken implemented his transformative vision by forging strategic planning initiatives: embedding new technology in support of student learning and administration; launching Jewish education, nonprofit management, and entrepreneurship programs; and invigorating the ties linking HUC-JIR’s four campuses and their larger communities and regions.

Aaron Panken was a staunch advocate for religious pluralism in Israel and ordained the 100th Israeli Reform rabbi graduating from HUC-JIR’s Israeli Rabbinical Program on November 16, 2017. It was his
vision to renovate and transform the Taube Family Campus in Jerusalem into a dynamic educational and cultural center for the larger public. He exponentially increased the number of Israelis studying for the rabbinate, as educators, pastoral caregivers, and interfaith teachers for tolerance.

Aaron Panken died in a tragic accident on May 5, 2018.

RABBI DAVID ELLENSON, PH.D. (B. 1947)
INTERIM PRESIDENT, HUC-JIR 2018–2019

In May of 2018, after the tragic death of his successor Rabbi Aaron Panken, Ph.D., Chancellor Emeritus David Ellenson returned to serve as Interim President. His experience, knowledge of the institution, compassionate humanity, and devotion to HUC-JIR’s sacred mission, brought the HUC-JIR community through a difficult and trying time.

Read more about Hebrew Union College: huc.edu/AJA-hucrecords
Read more about the Jewish Institute of Religion: huc.edu/AJA-jir
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This Inauguration Ceremony reflects the guidance and participation of many. The Inauguration Ceremony Committee responsible for its composition was chaired by Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman ’69, Ph.D. ’73, The Barbara and Stephen Friedman Professor Emeritus of Liturgy, Worship and Ritual; and Presidential Inauguration Ceremony author. The Committee included fellow faculty members and alumni: Merri Lovinger Arian, Faculty in Liturgical Arts, Music Education, and Conducting, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music (DFSSM); Cantor Richard Cohn ’92, Director, DFSSM; Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass ’85, Senior Rabbi, Isaac M. Wise Temple and member, Board of Governors; Rabbi Amy R. Perlin ’82, Founding Rabbi Emerita of Temple B’nai Shalom in Fairfax Station, Virginia, and member, Board of Governors; Joyce Rosenzweig, Artist-in-Residence (DFSSM); Rabbi Richard S. Sarason ’74, Ph.D., Director of the Pines School of Graduate Studies; Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller ’87, The Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman Professor of Liturgy, Worship and Ritual, and Professor of Cantorial Arts (DFSSM); Rabbi Julie S. Schwartz ’86, Associate Dean, Cincinnati; Cantor Yvon F. Shore ’95, Director of Liturgical Arts, Cincinnati; and Rabbi Joseph A. Skloot ’09, Ph.D., The Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Assistant Professor of Modern Jewish Intellectual History.

The Inaugural Moment was developed in close consultation with Rabbi Amy R. Perlin, Rabbi Richard S. Sarason, Ph.D., Rabbi Julie S. Schwartz, and Rabbi Andrea L. Weiss ’93, Ph.D., Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost. Research support was provided by Rabbi Richard S. Sarason, Ph.D., and Rabbi Joseph A. Skloot, Ph.D., assisted by Rabbi Gary P. Zola ’82, Ph.D. ’91, Executive Director of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives (AJA), and AJA Managing Editor of Publications Dana Herman and AJA Archivist and Special Projects Coordinator Elisa Ho.

Cantor Richard Cohn chaired the Inauguration Music Committee, composed of faculty members who selected, developed, and integrated the music for the ceremony: Merri Lovinger Arian, Joyce Rosenzweig, Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller, and Cantor Yvon F. Shore.

We thank the Isaac M. Wise Temple and its clergy and staff for their gracious partnership in hosting this celebration at the historic Plum Street Temple.

Readings were led by (in order) Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass ’85, Senior Rabbi, Isaac M. Wise Temple; Rabbi Karen R. Thomashow ’07, Isaac M. Wise Temple; Rabbi Peter B. Schaktman ’89, Temple Emanu-El, Utica, NY; Rabbi Brigitte Rosenberg ’01, Senior Rabbi, United Hebrew Congregation, St. Louis, MO; Rabbi Ramie Arian ’76, Founding Director, Foundation for Jewish Camp; Cantor Claire Franco ’96, The Community Synagogue, Port Washington, NY/President, American Conference of Cantors; Rabbi Jack A. Luxemburg ’76, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Beth Ami, Rockville, MD; Rabbi Ron Segal ’96, Senior Rabbi, Temple Sinai, Atlanta, GA/President, Central Conference of American Rabbis; Cantor Richard Cohn; Daryl Messinger, Chair, Board of Trustees, Union for Reform Judaism; Rabbi Rick Jacobs ’82, President, Union for Reform Judaism; Rabbi Hara Person ’98, Chief Executive, Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Rabbi Andrea L. Weiss, Ph.D., introduced The Inaugural Moment blessings, which were offered by Joy G. Greenberg, Chair, Inauguration Committee, and Chair, Presidential Search...
Committee, for the Board of Governors; Bruce A. Phillips, Ph.D., Faculty Chair and Professor of Sociology and Jewish Communal Service, Skirball Campus, Los Angeles for the Faculty; Rabbi Jonathan L. Hecht ’87, Ph.D., Dean, Cincinnati, for the Staff and Administration; Rachel Margolis, MAJE/MAJCS ‘07, Chair, HUC-JIR Alumni Leadership Council, for the Alumni; Yael Dadoun ’20, MARE ’14 (Rabbinical School), Tobias Glaser ’20 (Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music), Aviva Symons ’20 (Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management), Michelle Blumenthal ’20 (School of Education), and Steven Connally ’24 (Pines School of Graduate Studies) for the Students; and Rachel Margolis, MAJE/MAJCS ’07, Chair, HUC-JIR Alumni Leadership Council, for the Alumni; Rachel Margolis, MAJE/MAJCS ’07, Chair, HUC-JIR Alumni Leadership Council, for the Alumni; Rabbi Jonathan L. Hecht ’87, Ph.D., Dean, Cincinnati, for the Staff and Administration; Rachel Margolis, MAJE/MAJCS ’07, Chair, HUC-JIR Alumni Leadership Council, for the Alumni; Yael Dadoun ’20, MARE ’14 (Rabbinical School), Tobias Glaser ’20 (Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music), Aviva Symons ’20 (Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management), Michelle Blumenthal ’20 (School of Education), and Steven Connally ’24 (Pines School of Graduate Studies) for the Students; and Emma Greenberg Rehfeld and Hoben Greenberg Rehfeld, children of Miggie Greenberg and Andrew Rehfeld, for Family, Friends, and Community Members. “A Blessing from Jerusalem” was offered by Yaron Horovitz, Chair, Israel Board of Overseers, and “A Blessing from Us All” was led by Rabbi Andrea L. Weiss, Ph.D. Lisa Messinger offered a prayer that evoked the memory of her late husband, Rabbi Aaron D. Panken ’91, Ph.D., z”l, Past President (2014–2018). Birkat Kohanim, “The Priestly Benediction,” was recited by Rabbi David Ellenson ’77, Ph.D., Former President (2001–2013) and Chancellor Emeritus, and Sue Neuman Hochberg, Chair of the Board of Governors, who also presented the Presidential Charge to President Rehfeld.

For the music integral to the Inauguration liturgy, we are indebted to the following artists: Merri Lovinger Arian; Cantor Richard Cohn; Pedro d’Aquino, pianist and organist; Tobias Glaser ’20, percussion; Emma Greenberg Rehfeld, Music and T’fillah Coordinator, Larchmont Temple; Joyce Rosenzweig; Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller; Cantor Yvon Shore; and Wesley Woolard, trumpet. We are grateful to the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music Choir, featuring DFSSM students and faculty, including Sara Anderson ’22, Agnes Barroll ’23, Cantor Joshua Breitzer ’11, Cantor Richard Cohn, David Fair ’21, Ella Gladstone Martin ’23, Tobias Glaser ’20, Jordan Goldstein ’23, Stefanie Greene ’22, Suzanne Hamstra ’22, Emily Hoolihan ’23, Sydney Lazar ’23, Emma Maier ’23, Rebecca Mann ’23, Jenna Mark ’22, Jenna McMillan ’22, Samuel Rosen ’22, Gabriel Snyder ’23, Isaac Sonett-Assor ’23, and Rachel Weston ’23.

The coordination of the Inauguration weekend was led by Joy G. Greenberg, Chair, Inauguration Committee, and Chair, Presidential Search Committee; Elizabeth M. Squadron, Vice President for Program and Business Development; and Kristin Young, Program Assistant, Program and Business Development.

Jean Bloch Rosensaft, Assistant Vice President for Communications and Public Affairs, provided aesthetic guidance and oversight of the production of the Inauguration Ceremony program, designed by Jessica Weber Design and Nostradamus Advertising. Special gratitude to Rabbi Amy R. Perlin, Allison Glazer, and Dr. Joel M. Hoffman for their great help.

Many members of the administration and staff were indispensable to ensuring the success of this historic event (see the inside back cover).
Notes on the Presidential Inauguration of Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D.

Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman ’69, Ph.D. ’73
Barbara and Stephen Friedman Professor Emeritus of Liturgy, Worship and Ritual;
Presidential Inauguration Ceremony Author

Except as noted below, all readings for this Presidential Inauguration were written specifically for this occasion by Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, Ph.D. The translations of classical sources reflect a preference for poetic and liturgical impact.

Page 1
Processional: Hinei Mah Tov (Psalm 133:1); Music by Cantor Charles Osborne (1951–).

“A Place and a Time”: The Welcome draws on Jewish sources through the centuries: time as “part of eternity” is from Jerusalem, by philosopher Moses Mendelssohn (1729–1786); time as “change, transformation, evolution” is from Yiddish poet Y. L. Peretz (1852–1915), Alle Verk 13:9. The image of a sunbeam is from B’chinot Ha’olam, by Provencal poet Jedaiah ben Abraham Bedersi (c. 1270–1340); “Drawing from our past, living in our present, and working for the future” is attributed to Abraham Geiger (1810–1874), founder of Reform Judaism in Germany (cf. Menorah Journal [1917, iii, 6] and CCAR Journal 54:225). Yamim y’dabeiru is from Job 32:7.

Page 2

Page 3
“Announcement”: Taken directly from The American Israelite, the newspaper founded by Isaac Mayer Wise in 1854. Accompanied by instrumental version of Awake, My Soul, by Cantor Alois Kaiser (1840–1908), editor of the first Reform hymnal (1897).

Page 5

Page 6
“In the normal course of things”: Bereshit Rabbah 1:1.

Page 7
Psalm 8 (verses 2, 4, 5, 6, 10): Music by Simon Sargon (1938–). This introduces and concludes “O God our God, How Glorious,” a reading drawn primarily from Psalm 8, but also Job 38 and Psalm 104.

Page 8
“God saw all that had been made”: Genesis 1:31.

Page 9
“God said, I set this as the sign”: Genesis 9:12, 17.

Zot Ot Habrit (Genesis 9:12): Composed by Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller ’87 (1958–), Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman Professor of Liturgy, Worship and Ritual and Professor of Cantorial Arts, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music, HUC-JIR, New York.

Page 11
Ashreinu: From the early morning liturgy; music by Bonia Shur (1923–2012), composer and Director of Liturgical Arts at HUC-JIR, Cincinnati (1974–2003). The music for the following Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4) is by Max Helfman (1901–1963).
The “Inaugural Moment”: A liturgy of blessing drawn primarily from Psalms. The President-elect begins it, reading Psalm 121:1–2. The vision of Joel 3:1 follows. In keeping with rabbinic adage (Otsar Hageonim, Ketubot, 462), “To bless with embellished abundance is praiseworthy,” and wishing to envelop the President-elect with blessing from all assembled, we call up representatives of the various College-Institute constituencies with words of blessing from the Bible: Psalm 121:1–3, 5–8; Psalm 97:11; Psalm 122:8. We conclude with a “Blessing from Jerusalem” (Psalm 128:5), and a “Blessing from Us All” (Psalm 90:17).

“A Prayer of Continuity and Hope”: Lisa Messinger offers a prayer that evokes the memory of her late husband, Rabbi Aaron D. Panken ’91, Ph.D., z”l, Past President of HUC-JIR, 2014–2018.

“Presidential Charge”: Sue Neuman Hochberg, Chair, Board of Governors, formally invests President Rehfeld with the authority of the College-Institute presidency.


Shehecheyanu: Standard blessing of celebration known as Birkat Z’man, “the blessing of [special] time”: a combination of two settings, first by Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller, then by Tzvika Pik (1949– ).

One Voice: By Ruth Moody (1975– ); Arranged by Marcelline Moody and adapted by Cantor Richard Cohn ’92, Director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music, integrating elements of Cantor Charles Osborne’s Hinei Mah Tov, with which the ceremony began.

“As long as the intellect”: From David Philipson (ordained 1883) and Louis Grossman (ordained 1884), Selected Writings of Isaac Mayer Wise (Cincinnati, Robert Clarke Company, 1900), p. 392–3; and The American Israelite, Sept. 3, 1875, p. 4.

“If you really want to know”: Adapted from poem by Chaim Nachman Bialik (1873–1934), Im yesh et nafsh’kha lada’at.

“May we know peace”: From the conclusion of the Kaddish, originally not a prayer for the deceased but a prayer of hope that followed study of Torah.

Halleluyah: Choral setting of Psalm 150 by Tzvi Avni (1927– ).

L’chi Lach: By Debbie Friedman (1951–2011) and Savina Teubal (1926–2005).

Dr. Andrew Rehfeld, President  
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion  
3101 Clifton Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Dr. Rehfeld,

It is both a professional privilege and a personal pleasure to congratulate you on becoming the tenth president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. You are assuming a distinguished office held by a prominent array of great Cincinnatians whose careers transformed them into American Judaism’s most honored leaders: Isaac Mayer Wise, Kaufmann Kohler, Julian Morgenstern, Nelson Glueck, and Alfred Gottschalk. I am sure you will be a worthy successor to all those who have led the College-Institute since the day it was established here in Cincinnati back in 1875.

It is not possible to overstate how much Cincinnati and the great State of Ohio treasure the school you now lead. It is one of the academic and cultural gems that gives our city international prominence. The Klau Library, the American Jewish Archives, and the Skirball Museum are truly world-class resources that benefit all of us who live in Cincinnati. All students, faculty, and administrators associated with Hebrew Union College have contributed significantly to the character of our city over generations past, and we are confident that under your leadership this historic school will flourish. It is my hope that Hebrew Union College will continue to serve as a beacon of learning and light for American Jewry and for all good people everywhere.

On behalf of the City of Cincinnati, I extend my very best wishes to you and the College-Institute on this happy occasion. I know you will be spending a great deal of time on the historic Cincinnati campus, and I look forward to working with you in the years that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Cranley  
Mayor, City of Cincinnati
Dear friends,

The city of Jerusalem is one of the most important cities in history. Today, Jerusalem is also the thriving, modern, reunited and eternal capital of the Jewish State.

We are proud to have a good partnership with many Jewish communities around the world, as we see Jerusalem as the home of every Jewish person.

The Hebrew Union College is an important institution and its contribution to the city since 1963 is appreciated. I am pleased to congratulate Dr. Andrew Rehfeld on his inauguration as President of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

I was delighted to meet Dr. Rehfeld in Jerusalem a few months ago, and I am certain the Taube Family Campus of HUC-JIR in Jerusalem will continue to thrive under Dr. Rehfeld’s leadership.

I look forward to continue our warm partnership and wish Dr. Rehfeld much success.

Sincerely,

Moshe Lion
Mayor of Jerusalem
October 27, 2019

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, it is my pleasure to join you in congratulating Dr. Andrew Rehfeld on being inaugurated as the tenth president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR).

Dr. Rehfeld’s leadership will no doubt strengthen the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and power its ascent. Dr. Rehfeld’s experience, character, and inspired ideas will benefit both HUC-JIR and Los Angeles for years to come.

I send my best wishes to Dr. Rehfeld and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion on this memorable occasion.

Sincerely,

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor
October 27, 2019

Dear Dr. Rehfeld:

It is a great pleasure to join the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and all those gathered in congratulating you on your inauguration as president of HUC-JIR.

Jewish communities have long shaped every facet of life in our city, and the faith leaders at their helm have offered wisdom, compassion, and support to people of all backgrounds and beliefs in the five boroughs and far beyond. Under your professional, academic, and spiritual guidance, HUC-JIR will continue to offer a strong foundation for fellowship and growth throughout the nation. As you reflect upon HUC-JIR’s legacy of providing an outstanding Jewish education to the next generation of leaders in the Reform Movement and your role in this proud institution’s future, I am delighted to add my voice to the chorus of well-wishers celebrating you today. I look forward to the many ways that your leadership will serve congregations across the globe for years to come.

On behalf of the City of New York, I offer my best wishes for a memorable ceremony and continued success.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Prior to the Civil War, the 200 families of K.K. B’nai Yeshurun (now also known as the Isaac M. Wise Temple) envisioned a magnificent building to house their growing twenty-year-old congregation that had already gained national prominence because of their rabbi, Isaac Mayer Wise. With his energy and vision, the congregation and Cincinnati were fast becoming a center of national Jewish life. The lot on the corner of Eighth and Plum Streets was purchased, and after delays caused by the Civil War, the building was erected in 1866.

Designed by James Keyes Wilson, a prominent American architect and first President of the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the building exhibits a Byzantine-Moorish architectural style that had emerged in Germany in the nineteenth century. It reflects the Golden Age of Spain and Rabbi Wise’s optimism that the American Jewish experience would be the next Golden Age. All other examples of such architecture in Germany were destroyed by the Nazis and only one other synagogue of similar style is extant in America, New York City’s Central Synagogue. The complex design of Plum Street Temple mirrors many cultures: from the outside, the tall proportions, three-pointed arched entrances, and rose window suggest a Gothic revival church; the crowning minarets hint of Islamic architecture; the motifs decorating the entrances, repeated in the rose window and on the Torah Ark, introduce a Moorish theme; and the fourteen bands of Hebrew texts surrounding the interior were selected by Rabbi Wise and are chosen primarily from Book of Psalms.

The building has been carefully preserved. The original flooring, pews, and pulpit furnishings are still in use. The chandeliers and candelabra, formerly gaslight and now electrical, are the original fixtures. The original pipe organ, itself historic and unique, was built by the Cincinnati firm of Koehnken and Company and was recently restored.

Plum Street Temple is not a museum; it is a dynamic sanctuary sustained by a congregation devoted to its preservation and use. The building offers on a nearly weekly basis Sabbath services, programs, life-cycle events, religious functions, concerts, and community events. It has been the venue for the Inauguration of every President in the 144-year history of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, including today’s ceremony for President Andrew Rehfeld.

Beyond its history and its beauty, Plum Street Temple is the fountainhead of Reform Judaism in America. It was from this edifice that Rabbi Isaac M. Wise established the core pillars of Reform Judaism, which prior to his active career had consisted of ideology without an institutional structure. Rabbi Wise was the founder and President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (1873, now the Union for Reform Judaism), the Hebrew Union College (1875), and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (1889), while leading K.K. B’nai Yeshurun until his death in 1900.

The Temple annually hosts the ordination of rabbis from the Cincinnati campus of HUC-JIR. This majestic synagogue continues to reflect Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise’s vision of a distinctly American Reform Judaism, where “a religious Jew can also be a citizen of a free country, a member of society, a reasoner of modern thought.”
HUC-JIR is appreciative of the dedication and assistance of those who have coordinated this inauguration, led by:

Joy G. Greenberg, Chair, Inauguration Committee; Chair, Presidential Search Committee
Elizabeth M. Squadron, Vice President for Program and Business Development

Judy Ashton, Manager of Outreach, Cincinnati
John Bruggeman, Chief Technology Officer
Loria Carter, Development Assistant, Central Region
Lissie Diringer, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Lisa B. Frankel, EMA ’14, Director of Programs and Administration, American Jewish Archives
Allison Glazer, Director of Marketing and Communications
Shelly Goldfarb, Pines School of Graduate Studies Assistant
Michael Gropper, Assistant Director of Development, Western Region
Rabbi Jonathan Hecht ’87, Ph.D., Dean, Cincinnati
Andrea Kann, Executive Secretary to the Board of Governors/Stewardship Manager
Rabbi Elliott A. Kleinman ’92, Chief Engagement Officer
Sally F. Korkin, Public Relations and Community Engagement Manager, Cincinnati
Michael A. Meyer, Ph.D. ’64, Adolph S. Ochs Professor Emeritus of Jewish History
Jean Bloch Rosenshaft, Assistant Vice President for Communications and Public Affairs
Shane Sampson, Network Administrator, Cincinnati
Abby Schwartz, Director, Skirball Museum, Cincinnati
Rabbi Julie S. Schwartz ’86, Associate Dean, Cincinnati
Julia Sharp, Assistant Director of Development, Central Region
Cheryl Slavin, Director of Institutional Giving and Grants Management
Samantha Tananbaum, Social Media and Communications Associate
Phyllis Volan, Director of Development, Central Region
Rabbi Andrea L. Weiss ’93, Ph.D., Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost
Autumn Wheeler, Executive Assistant to the Dean, Cincinnati
Kristin Young, Program Assistant, Program and Business Development
Serena Young, Senior Director, Philanthropic Leadership
Rabbi Gary P. Zola ’82, Ph.D. ’91, Executive Director, Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Founded in 1875, Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion is North America’s premier institution of higher Jewish education and the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism. HUC-JIR educates leaders for service to North American and world Jewry as rabbis, cantors, educators, and nonprofit management professionals, and offers graduate programs to scholars and clergy of all faiths. With centers of learning in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York, HUC-JIR’s scholarly resources comprise the renowned Klau Library, The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, research institutes and centers, museums, and academic publications. In partnership with the Union for Reform Judaism and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, HUC-JIR sustains the Reform Movement’s congregations and professional and lay leaders. HUC-JIR’s campuses invite the community to cultural and educational programs illuminating Jewish heritage and fostering interfaith and multiethnic understanding. huc.edu