

# Graduation and Ordination 2022 / 5782



CINCINNATI  
JERUSALEM  
LOS ANGELES  
NEW YORK

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Class of 2022 / 5782,

It is with joy and gratitude that we join in celebrating your aspirations and achievements during these Ordination and Graduation ceremonies. Through your commitment, effort, and resilience in the face of a global pandemic, you have excelled and realized your goals.

We are all uplifted by the powerful Ordination ritual that publicly celebrates the transmission of sacred leadership upon you who have earned your place as rabbis and cantors in the eyes of God and the Jewish people.

We are inspired by the Graduation ceremony empowering you as educational and nonprofit management leaders, scholars, and pastoral caregivers, as you set forth to strengthen and transform communities far and wide.

These ceremonies take place on the milestone jubilee anniversary of HUC-JIR's ordination of Rabbi Sally Priesand as the first woman rabbi in North America. A pioneer who opened the way for generations across denominations and around the globe, Rabbi Priesand set in motion the first steps toward inclusion, diversity, equity, and empowerment for new cohorts of leaders for the Jewish people over the past 50 years. It is particularly meaningful to honor Rabbi Priesand and the journeys of all who followed her, as we confront painful moments of intolerance, exclusion, and abuse and begin to build a better future where all those who seek spiritual fulfillment within Judaism are respected and valued. They also occur during a year in which HUC-JIR is confronting fundamental changes in the world around us. Together, HUC-JIR will forge a path that has challenging implications for us all, while enabling a dynamic future as we train the next generation of leadership for the North American Jewish community.

As you leave these ceremonies, you take on the obligation to transmit our ethical values, tradition, and culture to your communities, using our tradition to comfort individuals in times of need, celebrate with them in times of joy, and build strong and vibrant communities. Your compassion and creativity will deepen Jewish education, identity, and engagement, while your commitment to advance justice and human rights for all will help bring healing to our society.

And as witnesses to the consequences of the largest refugee crisis in Europe since the Second World War, your actions will remind the conscience of the world of the sanctity of human life. For as we read in the Book of Esther (4:14), of the consequences of keeping silent at a time of crisis, "perhaps you have attained your leadership position for a time such as this."

We wish each of you the courage of your convictions and ideals, and great fulfillment and joy as you embark on your sacred paths to build a bright, just, and promising future for the Jewish people and all humankind.

*B'hatzlachah*, may you go from strength to strength!



Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D.  
President

# GRADUATION AND ORDINATION AT A GLANCE

## CINCINNATI

### GRADUATION

Sunday, October 3, 2021 — 27 Tishri 5782 — 2:00 pm ET  
Plum Street Temple — 720 Plum Street, Cincinnati

## JERUSALEM

### ORDINATION AND ACADEMIC CONVOCATION

Thursday, November 11, 2021 — 7 Kislev 5782 — 6:00 pm IT  
Blaustein Hall at Merkaz Shimshon Beit Shmuel — 6 Eliyahu Sham'a Street, Jerusalem

## NEW YORK

### GRADUATION

Thursday, May 5, 2022 — 4 Iyar 5782 — 4:00 pm EST  
Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York — 10 East 66th Street, New York

Our gratitude to Eastern Region Board of Advisors members Morris L. Kramer, Genevieve G. Wyner, z"l,  
and Justin L. Wyner for generously sponsoring the celebration for the graduates.

### ORDINATION

Sunday, May 8, 2022 — 7 Iyar 5782 — 9:30 am EST  
Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York — Fifth Avenue at 65th Street, New York

Our thanks to the Joseph Prize Endowment and the Joseph Family for their support of Ordination in New York.

## LOS ANGELES

### ORDINATION

Sunday, May 15, 2022 — 14 Iyar 5782 — 10:00 am PST  
Stephen Wise Temple — 15500 Stephen S. Wise Drive, Los Angeles

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Dorothy Corwin Ordination Endowment Fund.

### GRADUATION

Monday, May 16, 2022 — 15 Iyar 5782 — 10:00 am PST  
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion — 3077 University Avenue, Los Angeles

## CINCINNATI

### GRADUATION

Friday, May 20, 2022 — 19 Iyar 5782 — 11:00 am EST  
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion — 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati

### ORDINATION

Saturday, May 21, 2022 — 20 Iyar 5782 — 9:00 am EST  
Plum Street Temple — 720 Plum Street, Cincinnati

# MAZAL TOV TO THE ORDINEES AND GRADUATES OF 2022 / 5782\*

## RABBINICAL SCHOOL

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### RABBINICAL ORDINATION

Madeline Rose Anderson  
Sasha Nicole Baken  
Ashley Lynn Barrett  
Rodrigo Baumworcel  
Shani Tziporah Ben-Or  
Caitlin Joy Brazner  
Randall Burke  
Madeline Sarah Cooper  
Rebecca Anne Diamond  
Benjamin Jacob Dyme  
Naomi Efrat  
Jonathan Robert Falco  
Scott Ethan Goldberg  
Rebecca Onea Sabin Hecht  
Daniel Paul Hotary  
David Nathan Jaffe  
Rebecca Lynn Jaye  
Noach Lawrence

Michael Franklin Lewis  
Eliza Rosie Silk McCarroll  
Orli Moss  
Leah Michelle Nussbaum  
Elana Sara Rabishaw  
Amnon Ribak  
Rachel Ann Rothstein  
Tzvia Erin Rubens  
Jill Alana Rubin  
Eliza Reich Scheffler  
Dana Sharon  
Alexandra Happ Stein  
Brett Charles Weisman  
Samuel Myles Weiss  
Mira S. Weller  
Noah Albert Westreich  
Sofia Louisa Zway

### MASTER OF ARTS IN HEBREW LETTERS

Max G. Antman  
Taylor Shannon Baruchel  
Hannah Claire Bender  
Rebecca Benoff\*\*  
Madeline Torop Budman  
Anna Meyers Burke\*\*  
Aria Adele Caligiuri  
Jade Abronson Carter  
Rebecca Frances Chess  
Emily S. Dana  
Matthew Derrenbacher\*\*

Ashley Englander\*\*  
Timothy Wells Gaylord  
Shirah Coran Kraus  
Jerry Nathan Kudan  
Samuel Isaac Rheins  
Benjamin Rosen\*\*  
Franklyn Henry Salzman  
Ilana Yael Symons  
Samantha Rose Thal  
Aaron David Budman Torop  
Edith Yakutis\*\*

### MASTER OF ARTS IN HEBREW LITERATURE

George Louis Cheever Altshuler  
Yonatan Arnon  
Chelsea Rebecca Feuchs  
Lily Sklar Goldstein  
Jacob E. Leizman

Sienna Rachel Lotenberg  
Andrew Kaplan Mandel  
Daniel Dolph Reichenbach  
Heather Alexandra Shore  
Amanda Katherine Weiss

*\*All degrees are granted upon completion of all requirements*

*\*\*Awarded at Cincinnati Graduation on October 3, 2021*

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**DEBBIE FRIEDMAN SCHOOL OF SACRED MUSIC**

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**CANTORIAL ORDINATION**

Sara Lillian Anderson  
Shani Tziporah Ben-Or  
Jennifer Elise Benrey  
Stefanie Lynn Greene  
Suzanne Chaya Hamstra  
Michael Weir Jarvis  
Jenna Leigh Mark  
Jenna Rose McMillan  
Samuel Aaron Rosen

**MASTER OF SACRED MUSIC**

Shani Tziporah Ben-Or  
Ella Leila Gladstone Martin  
Jordan L. Goldstein  
Emily Anabeth Hoolihan  
Kalix Rosenbaum Jacobson  
Sydney Rose Lazar

Emma Rebecca Maier  
Becky Alaine Mann  
Isaac J. Sonett-Assor  
Ze'evi Simcha Tovlev  
Agnes Barroll Valdman  
Rachel Paula Weston

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**ZELIKOW SCHOOL OF JEWISH NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT**

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**MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT**

Adrián Asallas-Lederman  
Carrie Rose Bohn  
Miriam E. Hoffman  
Emily Anabeth Hoolihan  
Shir Horovitz  
Jessica Micole Jacobs  
Mikhail Kemerau  
Chayva Lindsay Lehrman  
Zachary Isaac Lempert

Lily Brielle Mandell  
Kal Adam Marcus  
Malcolm J. McElheney  
Justin Joseph Nemanpour  
Alexander P. Rubin  
Alyssa Jennifer Silva  
Hannah Rose Sullivan  
Tamara Ariana Zishuk

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION**

Samara Leader  
Andrew Max  
Shani Mink

Mark Pattis  
Suzy Sostrin  
Jasmine Tarkoff

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

---

### MASTER OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Rachel Jean Altfeld  
Julia W. Berg  
Elana Aura Ackerman Hirsch

Shirah Coran Kraus  
Malcolm J. McElheney

Eliana Shira Linsky Rubin  
Liana Marie Wertman

### MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH LEARNING

Malcolm J. McElheney

### MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH EDUCATION

Sarah Alicia Moody

### MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Shelley Claire Hubert

### MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, EXECUTIVE M.A. PROGRAM

Leslie Ann Bright  
David Andrew Eber  
Sarit Tsor Ferreira  
Margaret B. Shapiro Haskett  
Rina Liebeskind  
Meredith Ileen Lubin

Susan E. Potechin  
Eileen Fern Sadowsky  
Matthew A. Vogel  
Alison Kim Weikel  
Rachel Leigh Weinstein White  
Forrest Sidney Yesnes

### MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Emily Regina Baumgarten  
Sara Faye Goldrath  
Polly Ann Holzman

Laura Brooke Hussey  
Samantha Esther Parker  
Sarit Peisach

Charlene Rachel Niku  
Noah Ariel Scheindlin  
Shiri Surkin

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## **PINES SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

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### **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN JUDAIC, HEBRAIC, AND COGNATE STUDIES**

Matthew Alan Boersma\*\*  
Caleb A. Gilmore  
Sharon R. Love

Jared Wesson Saltz  
Keith R. Vande Vrede

### **DOCTOR OF HEBREW LETTERS**

Belle Michael

### **MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN JUDAIC, HEBRAIC, AND COGNATE STUDIES**

Julia Rose Olson

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH STUDIES**

Matthew Reed Liethen\*\*  
Gretchen Suzanne Johnson\*\*

William Evan Vossman  
Rebekah Jane Wallace

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## **PASTORAL CARE PROGRAMS**

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### **INTERFAITH DOCTOR OF MINISTRY FOR PASTORAL CARE**

Alexander Udekwe Agbata  
Luke C. Ibeh  
Andonios Christophero Prayannis

### **CERTIFICATE IN SUGIYOT CHAIM — BLAUSTEIN CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL COUNSELING**

Yonatan Arnon  
Bat El Meshasha Ashkenazi  
Hadar Ben-Yehuda  
Galit Bitan  
Dr. Leah Eckstein  
Yaki Hertz

Dganit Timor Jenshil  
Leora Lony-Barash  
Nurit Nof  
Vered Paz-Tsuk  
Liat Zichron-Yaffe

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## **LOUCHHEIM SCHOOL FOR JUDAIC STUDIES**

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### **BACHELOR OF ARTS MINOR IN JEWISH STUDIES AT USC**

Shelby Rebecca Chickman  
Alejandro Herrera  
Sione Ngalupepelo Tautalatasi Kefu  
Xinyu (Ciao) Zhao

# HONORING OUR ALUMNI

## RABBINICAL ALUMNI DOCTOR OF DIVINITY, *honoris causa*

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Jeffrey Richard Astrachan  
Alan M. Berlin  
Deborah Bodin Cohen  
Joshua Michael Davidson  
Renee Goldberg Edelman  
Ellen Flax  
Matthew D. Gewirtz  
Neal D. Gold  
Ari J. Goldstein  
Sheila Beth Goloboy  
Debora S. Gordon  
Mark Kaiserman  
Jonathan D. Klein

Daveen H. Litwin  
Michele Brand Medwin  
Sydney Mintz  
S. Robert Morais  
Leon A. Morris  
Jay Henry Moses  
Nancy Rita Myers  
Janet Offel  
Wendy Drucker Pein  
Jonah D. Pesner  
Sarah Reines  
Theodore Hirsch Riter  
Jennie Rosenn

Howard Jacoby Ruben  
Rick Schechter  
Zachary Rootberg Shapiro  
Lisa Beth Silverstein  
Adam Stock Spilker  
Elena Stein  
Andrea Lerner Steinberger  
Max W. Weiss  
David Hillel Wilfond  
David Dine Wirtschafter  
Mary L. Zamore

## DEBBIE FRIEDMAN SCHOOL OF SACRED MUSIC CANTORIAL ALUMNI DOCTOR OF MUSIC, *honoris causa*

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Melissa Lynne Adleman  
Kenneth Jaffe  
Michael Moses Mandel

Jacqueline Leigh Marx  
Jaime Shpall

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ALUMNI DOCTOR OF JEWISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, *honoris causa*

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Lauren Chizner  
Bryan Conyer

Julie Lebenson Lambert  
Rachel Stern

## ZELIKOW SCHOOL OF JEWISH NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT ALUMNI DOCTOR OF JEWISH NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT, *honoris causa*

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Judy Berkeley  
Michelle Landau Brooks

Julie Lynn Harris  
Mandi Richardson

# GRADUATION — CINCINNATI

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021 — 27 TISHRI 5782

**HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION**

Plum Street Temple — 720 Plum Street, Cincinnati

## PROCESSIONAL

### MARSHALS

Joel T. Wildermuth and David P. Johnson, *Graduate Student Association*

### WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass '85, *Senior Rabbi, Isaac M. Wise Temple;*  
*President, Central Conference of American Rabbis*

### WELCOME

Rabbi Jonathan L. Hecht '87, Ph.D., *Dean, Cincinnati*

### REMARKS

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., *President*

### PRESENTATION OF DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Rabbi Julie S. Schwartz '86, *Associate Dean,*  
*Certified Supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education,*  
*Adjunct Associate Professor of Human Relations, Director of the Stein Program*

Rabbi Richard S. Sarason '74, Ph.D., *Director, Pines School of Graduate Studies*

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D.

### PSGS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GREETING

Dr. John I. Kampen, *Distinguished Research Professor, Methodist Theological School in Ohio;*  
*Member, HUC-JIR Board of Governors*

### PRESENTATION OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, HONORIS CAUSA, AND GRADUATION ADDRESS

Rabbi Samuel K. Joseph '76, Ph.D., *Eleanor Sinsheimer Distinguished Service*  
*Professor Emeritus of Jewish Education and Leadership Development*

### MUSICAL INTERLUDE

## **CONFIRMATION OF DEGREES**

Sue Neuman Hochberg, *Chair, Board of Governors*

Rachel Margolis '07, RJE, *Senior Program Manager of Congregational Innovation,  
Union for Reform Judaism; Member, Board of Governors*

## **BENEDICTION**

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

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN HEBREW LETTERS**

Madeline R. Anderson  
Ashley Lynn Barrett  
Rebecca Gabriella Benoff  
Caitlin Joy Brazner  
Anna Meyers Burke  
Randall M. Burke  
Matthew Derrenbacher  
Rebecca Anne Diamond  
Ashley Englander  
Jonathan Robert Falco  
Daniel Paul Hotary, *in absentia*  
David Nathan Jaffe  
Eliza Rosie Silk McCarroll, *in absentia*  
Benjamin Rosen  
Jessica "Tzvia" Erin Rubens  
Edith E. Yakutis

## **MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN JUDAIC, HEBRAIC, AND COGNATE STUDIES**

Phillip Jordan Fischaber, *in absentia*  
Hara Jun  
Michael Walter Owen  
Ryan M. Replogle  
Chelsea Ann Simon  
Anthony Brian Stoller, *in absentia*

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH STUDIES**

Gretchen Suzanne Johnson  
Matthew Reed Liethen, *in absentia*  
Devin G. Olachea, *in absentia*

## **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN JUDAIC, HEBRAIC, AND COGNATE STUDIES**

Matthew Alan Boersma  
Phillip Marcus Bollinger  
Kyungji (Kevin) Ha  
John C. Johnson

Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion expresses appreciation to  
Michael Unger, Chair, Organ Department, University of Cincinnati, College–Conservatory of Music,  
for musical selections and arrangements.

# ORDINATION AND ACADEMIC CONVOCATION – JERUSALEM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021 — 7 KISLEV 5782

**BLAUSTEIN HALL AT MERKAZ SHIMSHON BEIT SHMUEL**

6 Eliyahu Sham'a Street, Jerusalem

## PROCESSIONAL

*Shiru L'Adonai Shir Chadash*

Psalm 96

Music by Boaz Dorot, Shani Ben-Or, and Neta Rosner Wachs

Nigunim Ensemble

Boaz Dorot, *Musical Director, piano*

Neta Rosner-Wachs, *vocals*

Daniel Hoffman, *violin*

Yoel Dorot, *percussion*

## WELCOME

Rabbi Naamah Kelman '92, *Dean, Jerusalem*

*Hatikva*

Arranged by Paul Ben Chaim

Hebrew Union College Student Choir with Cantor Sarah Grabiner '19

## GREETINGS

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., *President*

## PRESENTATION OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, HONORIS CAUSA

Professor Raphael Walden

*Samachti Be'omrim Li*

Psalm 122, music by Charles Osborne

Hebrew Union College Choir

Cantor Sarah Grabiner, *conductor*

Anastasia Sobolev, *pianist*

**CERTIFICATES FOR GRADUATES OF  
THE BLAUSTEIN CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL COUNSELING**

Ruhama Weiss, Ph.D., *Director*

Dr. Leah Eckstein  
Yonatan Arnon  
Galit Bitan  
Hadar Ben-Yehuda  
Yaki Hertz  
Liat Zichron-Yaffe  
Leora Londy-Barash  
Bat El Meshasha Ashkenazi  
Nurit Nof  
Vered Paz-Tsuk  
Dganit Timor Jenshil

**CONFIRMATION OF DEGREES**

Sue Neuman Hochberg, *Chair, Board of Governors*

**BLESSINGS**

Anna Kislanski, *Executive Director, Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism*  
Rabbi Ayala Samuels-Ronen, *Director, MARAM*

*Or Zarua - Mizmor Laila*  
Psalm 97 and Leah Goldberg  
Music: Chassidic, Ahinoam Nini  
Nigunim Ensemble with Cantor Sarah Grabiner

**ORDINATION**

Rabbi Talia Avnon-Benveniste, *Director, Israel Rabbinic Program*  
Rabbi Andrea L. Weiss, Ph.D., *Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost*  
Cantor Richard Cohn, *Director, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music*

Naomi Efrat  
Rodrigo Baumworcel  
Shani Ben-Or  
Orli Moss  
Amnon Ribak  
Dana Sharon

Nigunim Ensemble

# GRADUATION – NEW YORK

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022 — 4 IYAR 5782  
CONGREGATION EMANU-EL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

10 East 66th Street, New York

## PROCESSIONAL

Pedro d'Aquino, *organist*

## MARSHAL

Kelly Whitehead, *New York Rabbinical School '24, Zelikow School '23*

## INVOCATION AND WELCOME

Rabbi David Adelson '99, D.Min. '16, *Dean, New York*

## MUSICAL SELECTION

*Hineih Mah Tov* (Becky Mann, DFSSM '23)

[How good and how pleasant it is for us to truly dwell together. *Psalm 133:1*]

Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music Class of 2023

Professor Joyce Rosenzweig, *pianist*

Becky Mann, *guitarist*

## REMARKS

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., *President*

## AWARDING OF THE SHERUT L'AM AWARD

Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker '06

## AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES TO ALUMNI

### CLASS OF 1997

#### Doctor of Jewish Religious Education, *honoris causa*

Lauren Chizner

#### Doctor of Music, *honoris causa*

Michael Moses Mandel

Jacqueline Marx

Jaime Shpall

#### Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*

Alan M. Berlin  
Deborah Bodin Cohen  
Joshua Michael Davidson  
Renee Goldberg Edelman  
Ellen Flax  
Matthew D. Gewirtz  
Neal D. Gold  
Ari J. Goldstein

Sheila Beth Goloboy  
Debora Sophie Gordon  
Mark Kaiserman  
Michele Brand Medwin  
Sydney Mintz  
S. Robert Morais  
Wendy Drucker Pein  
Jonah D. Pesner

Sarah Helaine Reines  
Jennie Rosenn  
Lisa Beth Silverstein  
Adam Stock Spilker  
Max W. Weiss  
David Hillel Wilfond  
David Dine Wirtschafter  
Mary L. Zamore

## CLASS OF 1996

### Doctor of Music, *honoris causa*

Julie Beth Berlin	Adelle Roberta Nicholson
Claire Franco	Judith Ovadia
Tamar Havilio	Rachel Stock Spilker
Fredda Rakusin Mendelson	Steven Weiss

### Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*

Batsheva Appel	Andrea Coustan London
Glynis Conyer	Rosalin Mandelberg
Elizabeth Amy Dunsker	Batsheva Hannah Meiri
Bruce Elder	Jay Charles Perlman
Peter Kessler	Jacqueline Romm Satlow
Michele Ellise Lenke	Ronald M. Segal
Daniel E. Levin	L. Shifra Weiss-Penzias
Alan E. Litwak	

## CLASS OF 1995

### Doctor of Music, *honoris causa*

Jennifer Bern-Vogel	Rogério Marx
Erik Contzius	Judith Seplowin

### Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*

Leslie Bergson	Barbara Metzinger
Lisa Greene	Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi
Shira Joseph	Joel Sisenwine
Sharon Young Marcus	Robyn Tsesarsky

## GRADUATION ADDRESS

Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker '06

## MUSICAL SELECTIONS

*Music Divine* (Cantor Erik Contzius '95) premiere performance  
[Hillel and Shammai received the oral tradition from them. Hillel used to say:  
Be of the disciples of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace,  
loving all peoples and drawing them close to Torah. *Pirkei Avot 1:12*  
If Torah is Divine, and music is Torah, then music is Divine. after  
*Judah Moscato (1530-1593)*]

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*Eitz Chayim Hi* (Cantor Robert Solomon)

[Torah is a Tree of Life to those who grasp it close, and those who uphold it are happy.

Its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace. *Prov. 3:18,17*

Return us to You, Holy One, and we will return; renew our days as of old. *Lam. 5:21*]

Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music Classes of 1995, 1996, 1997, and 2023

Professor Joyce Rosenzweig, *pianist*

Cantor Richard Cohn '92, *conductor*

## **AWARDING OF GRADUATE DEGREES**

### **INTERFAITH DOCTOR OF MINISTRY FOR PASTORAL CARE**

Jennifer Harper, M.Div., *Director, Interfaith Doctor of Ministry Program*

Alexander Udekwe Agbata

Luke Chinedu Ibeh

Michele Ellise Lenke\*

Aviva Miriam Levin\*\*

Andonios Christophero Prayannis

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Miriam Heller Stern, Ph.D., *Vice Provost for Educational Strategy;  
National Director, School of Education*

Shelley Claire Hubert, *in absentia*

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, EXECUTIVE M.A. PROGRAM**

Lesley Litman, Ed.D., *Director, Executive M.A. Program in Jewish Education*

Leslie Ann Bright

David Andrew Eber

Sarit Tsor Ferreira

Margaret B. Shapiro Haskett

Rina Liebeskind

Meredith Ileen Lubin

Susan E. Potechin

Eileen Fern Sadowsky

Matthew A. Vogel

Alison Kim Weikel

Rachel Leigh Weinstein White

Forrest Sidney Yesnes

\*Graduated Spring 2020    \*\*Graduated Spring 2021

## **MASTER OF SACRED MUSIC**

Cantor Richard Cohn '92, *Director, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music*

Shani Tziporah Ben-Or, *in absentia*

Ella Leila Gladstone Martin

Jordan L. Goldstein

Emily Anabeth Hoolihan

Kalix Rosenbaum Jacobson

Sydney Rose Lazar

Emma Rebecca Maier

Becky Alaine Mann

Isaac J. Sonett-Assor

Ze'evi Simcha Tovlev

Agnes Barroll Valdman

Rachel Paula Weston

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN HEBREW LITERATURE**

Rabbi Lisa D. Grant '17, Ph.D., *Director, New York Rabbinical Program*

Yonatan Arnon

George Louis Cheever Altshuler

Chelsea Rebecca Feuchs

Lily Sklar Goldstein

Jacob E. Leizman

Sienna Rachel Lotenberg

Andrew Kaplan Mandel

Daniel Dolph Reichenbach

Heather Alexandra Shore

Amanda Katherine Weiss

## **CONFIRMATION OF DEGREES**

David Edelson, *Chair-Elect, Board of Governors*

Rabbi Rick Jacobs '82, *President, Union for Reform Judaism*

## **MUSICAL SELECTION**

*Shehecheyanu* (Tzvika Pik)

Cantor Richard Cohn

Pedro d'Aquino, *organist*

## **BENEDICTION**

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

## **RECESSIONAL**

Pedro d'Aquino, *organist*

Our gratitude to Eastern Region Board of Advisors members Morris L. Kramer, Genevieve G. Wyner, z"l,  
and Justin L. Wyner for generously sponsoring the celebration for the graduates.

# ORDINATION – NEW YORK

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2022 — 7 IYAR 5782

## CONGREGATION EMANU-EL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Fifth Avenue at 65th Street, New York

### PROCESSIONAL

*Baruch Haba* (Stephen Glass)

*Baruch Haba* (Yaacov Bergman)

Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music Choir

Professor Joyce Rosenzweig, *conductor*

Pedro d'Aquino, *organist*

Cantor Robert Abelson '57, *soloist*

### MARSHALS:

Lara Tessler, *Rabbinical School Class of 2024*

Emma Maier, *Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music Class of 2023*

### WELCOME

Rabbi David Adelson '99, D.Min. '16, *Dean, New York*

*Samachti b'Omrin Li* (Cantor Charles Osborne)

Cantorial and Rabbinical Class of 2022

Professor Merri Lovinger Arian, *conductor*

Professor Joyce Rosenzweig, *pianist*

### GREETINGS

David Edelson, *Chair-Elect, Board of Governors*

### PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 ROGER E. JOSEPH PRIZE

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Accepted by Paolo Sison, *Director, Innovative Finance*

*Eilu D'varim* (Cantor William Sharlin '51)

Cantor Richard Cohn '92, *Director, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music*

Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller '87, *Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman Professor of Liturgy,*

*Worship and Ritual and Professor of Cantorial Arts*

Pedro d'Aquino, *organist*

## CEREMONY OF ORDINATION

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., *President*

### ADDRESS

Judith Plaskow, Ph.D., *American theologian, professor, and author*

*Lamdeini* (Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller)

Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music Class of 2022

Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller, *pianist*

### KAVVANAH

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

### PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Cantor Richard Cohn '92, *Director, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music*

Rabbi Lisa D. Grant '17, Ph.D., *Director, New York Rabbinical Program*

Sara Lillian Anderson	שרה ליבא בת יעקב ויהודית
Sasha Nicole Baken	טליה רות בת אסתר ופנחס
Jennifer Elise Benrey	חיה בת-שבע בת יוסף ודבורה
Madeline Sarah Cooper	מנדל שרה בת חנה נחמה ושלמה
Benjamin Jacob Dyme	יעקב אברהם בן זכריה ורבקה
Stefanie Lynn Greene	פרומע רחל בת שלמה וחווה
Suzanne Chaya Hamstra	שושנה חיה בת דבושה ויונתן
Rebecca Onea Sabin Hecht	רבקה שירה בת יונתן ולורה
Michael Weir Jarvis	עמנואל בן יצחק וחנה
Rebecca Lynn Jaye	רבקה אמת מרים בת דניאל וקטלין
Noach Lawrence	נח בן שלום ורות
Jenna Leigh Mark	נחמה לאה בת שנאיר זלמן ודליה
Jenna Rose McMillan	יוחנה שרון בת אברהם ומירה לאה
Leah Michelle Nussbaum	חנה לאה בת רחל שרה וזאב דוד
Samuel Aaron Rosen	שמואל בן דוד הלוי ורחל
Jill Alana Rubin	יוספה חנה בת לייבל ויעקובה
Eliza Reich Scheffler	עליזה בת מנדל וכרמל
Alexandra Happ Stein	אילנה בת זאוול וחנה
Samuel Myles Weiss	שמואל מאיר בן יעקב וגיטל
Noah Albert Westreich	נח בן אפרים ואלישבע

*Halleluyah – Psalm 150* (Louis Lewandowski)  
Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music Choir

(continued on next page)

### **FACULTY BLESSING**

Rabbi Lisa D. Grant, Ph.D.

### **BLESSING BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND RESPONSE**

*Shehecheyanu* (Tzvika Pik)

### **PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY**

(Rabbi Ayelet Cohen)

Rabbi Kim Geringer '99

### **PRAYER FOR PEACE FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

Rabbi Nancy Wiener '90, D.Min. '94

*T'fillah* (David Burger)

DFSSM Class of 2022 with the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music Choir

Cantor Richard Cohn, *conductor*

Professor Joyce Rosenzweig, *pianist*

### **A MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE**

Rabbi Joshua M. Davidson '97, *Senior Rabbi, Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York*

*Oseh Shalom* (Ben Steinberg)

Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music Choir

Professor Joyce Rosenzweig, *pianist*

Pedro d'Aquino, *organist*

### **CLOSING BENEDICTION**

Rabbi Lisa D. Grant, Ph.D.

Cantor Richard Cohn

Priestly Benediction (Cantor Richard Cohn)

### **RECESSIONAL**

*Ein Keiloheinu; Non Komo Muestro Dio* (Isadore Freed; anonymous Ladino)

Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music Choir

Professor Joyce Rosenzweig, *pianist*

Pedro d'Aquino, *organist*

Our thanks to the Joseph Prize Endowment and the Joseph Family for their support of Ordination in New York.

# ORDINATION – LOS ANGELES

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022 — 14 IYAR 5782

## STEPHEN WISE TEMPLE

15500 Stephen S. Wise Drive, Los Angeles

### PROCESSIONAL

### INVOCATION

Kristine Garroway, Ph.D., *Visiting Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible*

### WELCOME

Joshua Holo, Ph.D., *Dean, Jack H. Skirball Campus*

### PRESIDENTIAL CHARGE

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., *President*

### CONGRATULATIONS

Sue Neuman Hochberg, *Chair, Board of Governors*

### ORDINATION ADDRESS

Rabbi Laura Geller '76

### ORDINATION OF RABBIS

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

Rabbi Dvora Weisberg '11, Ph.D., *Director, Rabbinical School*

Scott Ethan Goldberg	שמחה איתן בן בערל אלכסנדר ושרה
Michael Franklin Lewis	אליהו חסדאי בן שלמה ורחל
Elana Sara Rabishaw	אילנה שרה בת הרב אברהם והדסה
Rachel Ann Rothstein	טויבה בת שמואל וברכה
Brett Charles Weisman	ברוך בן מרדכי ולאה
Mira S. Weller	מרים בת מנחה הלוי ואילנה
Sofia Louisa Zway	רפאלה נחשונה בת טוביה ורות

### READING

Ordination Class of 2022

### BENEDICTION

### RECESSIONAL

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Dorothy Corwin Ordination Endowment Fund.

# GRADUATION – LOS ANGELES

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022 — 15 IYAR 5782

**HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION**

3077 University Avenue, Los Angeles

## **PRELUDE**

*Symphony No. 1 in D (2nd Movement)* (Gustav Mahler)

## **INVOCATION**

Candice Levy, Ph.D.

## **WELCOME**

Joshua Holo, Ph.D., *Dean, Jack H. Skirball Campus*

## **GREETINGS**

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., *President*

## **COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Stephen D. Smith, Ph.D.

*Executive Director Emeritus, USC Shoah Foundation, USC Visiting Professor of Religion*

## **AWARDING OF GRADUATE DEGREES**

### **ZELIKOW SCHOOL OF JEWISH NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT**

Mandi Richardson, *Associate Director, Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management*

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT**

Carrie Rose Bohn

Miriam E. Hoffman

Emily Anabeth Hoolihan

Shir Horovitz

Jessica Micole Jacobs

Mikhail Kemerau

Adrián Asallas Lederman

Chayva Lindsay Lehrman

Zachary Isaac Lempert

Lily Brielle Mandell

Kal Adam Marcus

Malcolm J. McElheney

Justin Joseph Nemanpour

Alexander P. Rubin

Alyssa Jennifer Silva

Hannah Rose Sullivan

Tamara Ariana Zishuk

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION**

Samara Leader  
Andrew Max  
Shani Mink  
Mark Pattis  
Suzy Sostrin  
Jasmine Tarkoff

## **RHEA HIRSCH SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

Miriam Heller Stern, Ph.D., *Vice Provost for Educational Strategy;  
National Director, School of Education*  
Rabbi Laura Novak Winer '94, '95, Ed.D., *Director, Master of Educational Leadership Program*  
Lauren Applebaum, Ed.D., *Director, DeLeT Master of Arts in Teaching Program*

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH EDUCATION**

Sarah Alicia Moody

## **MASTER OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Rachel Jean Altfeld  
Julia W. Berg  
Elana Aura Ackerman Hirsch  
Shirah Coran Kraus  
Malcolm J. McElheney  
Eliana Shira Linsky Rubin  
Liana Marie Wertman

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH LEARNING**

Malcolm J. McElheney

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING**

Emily Regina Baumgarten  
Sara Faye Goldrath  
Polly Ann Holzman  
Laura Brooke Hussey  
Charlene Rachel Niku  
Samantha Esther Parker  
Sarit Peisach  
Noah Ariel Scheindlin  
Shiri Surkin

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## **RABBINICAL SCHOOL**

Rabbi Dvora Weisberg '11, Ph.D., *Director, Rabbinical School*

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN HEBREW LETTERS**

Max G. Antman  
Taylor Shannon Baruchel  
Hannah Claire Bender  
Aria Adele Caligiuri  
Jade Abronson Carter  
Rebecca Frances Chess  
Timothy Welles Gaylord  
Shirah Coran Kraus  
Jerry Nathan Kudan  
Franklyn Henry Salzman  
Samantha Rose Thal

## **LOUCHHEIM SCHOOL FOR JUDAIC STUDIES**

Leah Hochman, Ph.D., *Director, Jerome H. Louchheim School for Judaic Studies*

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS MINOR IN JEWISH STUDIES AT USC**

Shelby Rebecca Chickman  
Alejandro Herrera  
Sione Ngalupepelo Tautalatasi  
Xinyu Zhao

## **AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES TO ALUMNI**

### **Doctor of Jewish Religious Education, *honoris causa***

Aviva Levin  
Rachel Stern  
Julie Levenson Lambert  
Bryan Conyer

### **Doctor of Music, *honoris causa***

Kenneth A. Jaffe  
Melissa Adleman

### **Doctor of Jewish Nonprofit Management, *honoris causa***

Aaron Levinson	Judy Berkeley
Andi Milens	Julie Lynn Harris
Ruth Ellen Cislowski	Michelle Landau Brooks
Laurence A. Nathan	Mandi Richardson

**Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa***

Camille Shira Angel  
Kenneth Milhandler  
Andrew Paley  
Richard Steinberg  
Richard Winer  
Scott Alan Meltzer

Michelle Parea Missaghieh  
Jonathan Klein  
Leon A. Morris  
Nancy Rita Myers  
Janet Irene Offel  
Theodore Hirsch Riter

Howard Jacoby Ruben  
Rick Schechter  
Zachary Rootberg Shapiro  
Stacia Deutsch  
Daveen Litwin

**REMARKS**

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

**CONFIRMATION OF DEGREES**

Sue Neuman Hochberg, *Chair, Board of Governors*

**STUDENT PERSPECTIVE**

Kal Marcus '22, *Master of Arts in Jewish Nonprofit Management*

**BENEDICTION**

Lauren Applebaum, Ed.D.

# GRADUATION – CINCINNATI

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022 – 19 IYAR 5782

**HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION**

3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati

## **PROCESSIONAL**

### **MARSHALS**

Graduate Student Association Officers

### **WELCOME**

Rabbi Jonathan L. Hecht '87, Ph.D., *Dean, Cincinnati*

### **REMARKS**

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., *President*

### **PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION**

Dr. Edward J. Septimus

### **PRESENTATION OF DEGREE RECIPIENTS**

Rabbi Jonathan L. Hecht, Ph.D.

Rabbi Richard S. Sarason '74, Ph.D., *Director, Pines School of Graduate Studies*

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D.

### **PSGS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GREETING**

Dr. John I. Kampen, *Van Bogard Dunn Professor of Biblical Interpretation,  
Methodist Theological School in Ohio*

### **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

Hyejung Jun, *University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music*

### **CONFIRMATION OF DEGREES**

Sue Neuman Hochberg, *Chair, Board of Governors*

### **BENEDICTION**

Rabbi Richard S. Sarason, Ph.D.

**MASTER OF ARTS IN HEBREW LETTERS**

Madeline Torop Budman  
Emily S. Dana  
Samuel Isaac Rheins  
Ilana Yael Symons  
Aaron David Budman Torop

**MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN JUDAIC, HEBRAIC, AND COGNATE STUDIES**

Julia Rose Olson

**MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH STUDIES**

William Evan Vossman  
Rebekah Jane Wallace

**DOCTOR OF HEBREW LETTERS**

Belle Michael

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN JUDAIC, HEBRAIC, AND COGNATE STUDIES**

Caleb A. Gilmore  
Sharon R. Love  
Jared Wesson Saltz  
Keith R. Vande Vrede

Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion expresses appreciation to  
Hyejung Jennifer Jun for musical selections and arrangements.

# ORDINATION – CINCINNATI

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022 – 20 IYAR 5782

## PLUM STREET TEMPLE

720 Plum Street, Cincinnati

### PROCESSIONAL

*Mah Tovv* (Louis Lewandowski)

### INVOCATION

Rabbi Lewis Kamrass '85, *Senior Rabbi, Wise Temple*

### WORSHIP SERVICE

Class of 2022 / 5782

Cantor Yvon Shore '95, *Director of Liturgical Arts*

### WORDS OF WELCOME

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., *President*

### SERMON

Rabbi Sally Priesand '72, *Rabbi Emerita, Monmouth Reform Temple*

### ORDINATION CEREMONY

Rabbi Andrea Weiss '93, Ph.D., *Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost*

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Rabbi Julie Schwartz '86, *Associate Dean, Associate Professor of Human Relations*

Madeline Rose Anderson	מרים בת דוד ואידיס רונייה
Ashley Lynn Barrett	שמחה בת רבקה
Caitlin Joy Brazner	שרי בת יאנקעל חנוך וליבע
Randall Burke	ראובן משה בן יוכבד ואריה הכהן
Rebecca Anne Diamond	רבקה בת אליעזר וקיילע
Jonathan Robert Falco	יונתן בן יהודית
Daniel Paul Hotary	דניאל בן ברכה
David Nathan Jaffe	דוד בן שרה
Eliza Rosie Silk McCarroll	שושנה בת אסתר
Tzvia Erin Rubens	צביה בת דוד ושרה

**GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND CONFIRMATION OF DEGREES**

Sue Neuman Hochberg, *Chair, Board of Governors*

**CLASS BLESSING**

Class of 2022

**SHECHEHEYANU**

Rabbi Jonathan Hecht '87, Ph.D., *Dean, Cincinnati*

**KADDISH YATOM**

Rabbi Karen Thomashow '07, *Associate Rabbi, Wise Temple*

**BENEDICTION**

Christine Thomas, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, Xavier University and HUC-JIR*

**RECESSIONAL**

*Psalm 150 (Louis Lewandowski)*

# RABBINICAL ORDINEES

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## MADELINE ROSE ANDERSON



יְכַתְּבוּ חֶרְבֵיהֶם לְאֵתִים וְחִנִּיתֵיהֶם לְמִזְמֵרוֹת לֹא־יִשְׂאוּ גֹי אֶל־גֹּי חֶרֶב וְלֹא־יִלְמְדוּן עוֹד מִלְחָמָה

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not take up sword against nation. They shall never again know war. (Micha 4:3)

Judaism is a call to action. We are obligated to rise from prayers and study, inspired to build a more just, compassionate world for all. As a rabbi, I hope to inspire others to join me in this calling.

*Madeline Anderson grew up in Northwest Indiana and graduated from the University of Indianapolis with a B.A. in Global Leadership. Upon graduation, she served as an AmeriCorps Member working at Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity and Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. She would like to thank the two most impactful organizations she served as a student rabbi: Temple B'nai Israel in Petoskey, MI, and the Cincinnati Jewish Community Relations Council. Madeline will soon be serving as the Senior Jewish Educator at the University of California, Santa Barbara Hillel. She is immensely grateful for the support of many teachers and mentors during her time at HUC-JIR. Madeline also expresses gratitude to her friends and family, especially her mother Ruth Anderson, brother Jacob Anderson, father David Anderson, z"l, and her dog, Chase.*

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## SASHA BAKEN



“The building of the outer Temple must depend on the building of the inner Temple which is the sanctity of the heart.” –*Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler*

Logic suggests one must first build a physical structure before enlivening the space with internal keepsakes and decor. Rabbi Dessler paradoxically teaches us a structure (physical or otherwise) is only as sound as its inner sanctity, as its essential goodness and disposition toward others. Each of us has spent years acquiring knowledge to teach our Jewish communities. But our intentions behind the structure we have learned, and our heart behind the teaching, will be what vivifies us and what infuses our relationships with the holiness of God.

*Sasha Baken is a graduate cum laude of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a B.A. in Jewish Studies. While at HUC-JIR, Sasha served as a rabbinical intern at Westchester Reform Temple (WRT) in Scarsdale, NY; Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Manhattan, NY; and Congregation B'nai Israel in Bridgeport, CT. In 2021-2022, Sasha was a Fellow and Program Coordinator for the Tisch Fellowship. Sasha is passionate about Mussar, the focus of her rabbinical thesis. She teaches Mussar at WRT, where she will be an Assistant Rabbi starting in July 2022.*

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## ASHLEY BARRETT



כִּי מִצִּיּוֹן תֵּצֵא תּוֹרָה וְדְבַר-יְהוָה מִירוּשָׁלַם

For Torah will come forth out of Zion, and the word of Adonai from Zion.

Five years ago, I stood next to my new friends and classmates and studied these words with Rabbi Aaron Panken, z”l. We began our studies by reflecting on our spiritual roots.

As I mark this milestone and become a rabbi of *Am Yisrael*, I am thankful for my academic roots at the historic Cincinnati campus of HUC-JIR; I am ready to serve our people because of this campus. I send special thanks at this moment to all of the Cincinnati staff and faculty.

I’m also thinking of my personal roots, those who taught me to love and be inspired by Judaism. I am a better rabbi because of the love and support from my parents Becky and Gary; my loving grandparents Gary and Ellen, z”l; my siblings Logan and Lindsey; Nicki and Simon; and the unconditional support of my fiancé Jon. I would not be here without the mentorship of so many rabbis and Jewish professionals. Thank you to Rabbi Josh Brown, the entire Temple Israel Akron community, and so many at URJ-OSRUI. And lastly, to Albert Spector, z”l, I am eternally grateful.

*Ashley Barrett was born and raised in Wooster, OH, and she calls her spiritual home Temple Israel in Akron, OH. Ashley earned her bachelor’s degree in History and Jewish Studies from Miami University in 2014 and her Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters from HUC-JIR in 2021.*

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## RODRIGO BAUMWORCEL



Following my studies at the National University of Rio de Janeiro, I returned to the school where I grew up to teach. I participated in and led every possible project that led to Israel. Between my time in Brazil and travels to Israel, I realized it was time to live my Zionism and immigrate to Israel. During my studies at HUC-JIR, I split my days between classes, work, and the library; the Taube Family Campus became my second home in the country.

*Rodrigo Baumworcel was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and joined Hashomer Hatzair, the youth movement, at the age of seven. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and anthropology from the National University of Rio de Janeiro. He soon immigrated to Israel and, after six months and certificates from two different*

*Ulpanim, he was accepted to the Hebrew University for a master’s degree in Jewish education. At that time, he also began his studies at HUC-JIR’s Taube Family Campus in Jerusalem and worked at the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Rodrigo currently works for META, an Israeli startup implementing a teaching system for teams of math teachers.*

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## CAITLIN BRAZNER



[תורה] לא בשמים הוא...כי-קרוב אליך הדבר מאד בפיך ובלבבך לעשתו.

[Torah] is not in the heavens...No, the thing is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart to observe it. (Deuteronomy 30:12)

Moses' reminder to the Israelite people of Torah's personal and eternal nature serves as inspiration for my rabbinical journey. I hope to carry the words of Torah – the sacred wisdom and stories of our tradition – in my heart always; may I find the courage to speak them with conviction throughout the days of my rabbinate.

*Caitlin Brazner was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI, and completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin. While at HUC-JIR/Cincinnati, Caitlin earned her Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters and Master of Education (Specialization: Administration & Jewish Education) through the HUC-JIR/Cincinnati and Xavier University Collaborative Degree Program. Caitlin is deeply grateful to the HUC-JIR/Cincinnati faculty and staff, as well as to the Jewish community of Cincinnati (especially Rockdale Temple!), for their kindness, guidance, and mentorship. Most importantly, Caitlin is truly thankful for the love and unwavering support of her husband Scott Larsen, her parents Lois and Bob Brazner, her family, and her friends in reaching this moment.*

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## RANDALL BURKE



The Mishnah teaches, "Appoint for yourself a teacher, and acquire for yourself a friend."

As I progress in my career, I consider this teaching and reflect on the teachers and friends that I acquired at HUC-JIR. I want to personally thank Rabbi Jan Katzew, Ph.D., Rabbi Julie Schwartz, Rabbi Haim O. Rechnitzer, Ph.D., Rabbi Richard Sarason, Ph.D., Jason Kalman, Ph.D., Rabbi Mark Washofsky, Ph.D., Cantor Yvon Shore, and Rabbi Josh Garroway, Ph.D., for welcoming me into their classrooms for study and their homes for Shabbat, and for their guidance, mentorship, and support throughout my rabbinical school journey.

*Rand Burke is a Chaplain Candidate in the U.S. Navy. Rand served as a student rabbi for two years in Acadiana, LA, and one year in Richmond, IN. Rand graduated magna cum laude from Arizona State University with degrees in History and Jewish Studies. Rand is married to Anna Burke, MAJE, who will be ordained by HUC-JIR in 2023, and they live in Kenwood, OH, with their son, Mason, and their dog, Callie.*

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## MADELINE COOPER



מִן־הַמָּצָר קָרָאתִי יְהוָה עֲנֵנִי בְּמִרְחֵב יְהוָה

From the narrow place, I cried out to God, and God answered me from the place of expanse. (Psalm 118)

During my time in rabbinical school, I have been so privileged to be part of communities who see expansiveness, even while facing real limits. I am inspired by the principle of Community Organizing, that we live in the world as it is, but must work together to build the world as it could be. As we engage in the work of creating a better future, may we see possibility and find our answers in the places of expanse in our own lives.

*Madeline Cooper grew up in Lexington, MA. She earned her B.A. in History from Dartmouth College and her M.A. in Jewish Nonprofit Management from the Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management at HUC-JIR. This summer, Madeline will launch the Makom Fellowship Program, cultivating transformative change in small Jewish communities, in partnership with Jewish Federation of North America and the Center for Small Town Jewish Life. Madeline is so grateful to her family, friends, professors, mentors, and classmates for their love and support, and for helping her to reach this moment of becoming a rabbi.*

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## BECCA DIAMOND



Hillel taught, “That which is hateful to you, do not do to another; that is the entire Torah, and the rest is its interpretation. Go study.” (Shabbat 31a)

Though we usually teach the part of the story about how to treat one another, this quote summarizes another one of Judaism’s core values: lifelong learning. This is central to our identity as Jews. In a modern iteration of this value, Jacob Rader Marcus said, “Without learning there is no Judaism. Count that day lost in which you have not opened a Jewish book.” Though ordination day is here, the learning does not stop. I have loved diving into Jewish learning these past five years, and I hope to live by Hillel’s and Dr. Marcus’ words and make learning a central part of my life and my rabbinate. May all of us continue to open up Jewish books and study them every day of our lives.

*Becca Diamond grew up in Ridgewood, NJ, and was a member of Barnert Temple. She went to Muhlenberg College and studied History and Jewish Studies. Her rabbinical thesis is “Barbarism, Pogroms, and Lawlessness: The Jewish Response to Lynching and Race Riots in the Jim Crow Era.”*

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## BENJAMIN DYME



אם אין אני לי, מי לי. וכשאני לעצמי, מה אני. ואם לא עכשיו, אימתי

“If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?” – Hillel (Pirkei Avot 1:14)

Hillel’s teaching has guided Ben in the world. These words reaffirm the importance of advocating for himself, while reminding him that he must work for a greater cause. Simultaneously Hillel’s words emphasize the importance of the present moment, and the value of time. We cannot afford to waste it. Let us all find in Hillel’s text the inspiration to work for a cause greater than ourselves.

*Benjamin Dyme hails from East Lansing, MI. He studied at the University of Michigan, and then moved to Philadelphia. While there, he earned a master’s degree in liberal arts, focusing on creative writing. Ben later started rabbinical school in Israel, and then moved to New York City. Ben is very grateful to family and friends, rabbis, professors, and classmates for helping him and teaching him during his time in rabbinical school. He looks forward to serving the Jewish community and the broader world in his new role as rabbi.*

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## NAOMI EFRAT



I devote a considerable time to working with couples in building a process towards their weddings. I guide couples in building a mutually beneficial relationship, and I also help couples towards a respectful, flexible, and inclusive separation process. As a rabbi, I will focus on developing and deepening work with couples in preparation for marriage and the separation processes, offering spiritual guidance through work with Jewish texts, and finding community and personal meaning.

*Naomi Efrat was born in Haifa to a family affiliated with the Conservative (Masorti) Movement, with roots in Turkey, Romania, Syria, and America. She founded Ramot Shalom Reform Congregation in Be’er Sheva, a Reform community. For the past four years, Naomi has served as the spiritual leader of Kehillat Ha’Lev in Tel Aviv, a Reform congregation that is part of the Daniel Centers. Naomi completed her bachelor’s degree in psychology at Ben-Gurion University, further studies in psychotherapy at Tel Aviv University, and earned a master’s degree in literature and creative writing at Ben-Gurion University. It was her passion for modern Hebrew poetry and a radical reading of the sources that led to the writing of her rabbinical thesis on the LGBTQ poetry of formerly Orthodox people. Her research focused on the creators’ revolutionary interpretation of the original ideas of the classical texts.*

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## JONATHAN FALCO



Ben Zoma said: “Who is wise? He who learns from every man, as it is said: ‘From all who taught me have I gained understanding...’”  
(Pirkei Avot 4:1)

Within community, people aspire toward those worthy of emulation: the wisest, the mightiest, the wealthiest, and the most honorable. However, our tradition teaches us to think differently about the kind of community we ought to foster. A community with wise ones – and those who know to learn from others. With mighty ones – and those who look inward for strength. With rich ones – and those generous of heart. With honorable people, and those who see others as though they too are accomplished. Community takes all kinds of people, and Torah is all encompassing. It weaves into life, just like these verses are lenses through which our tradition encourages us to interpret qualities like honor and wisdom. Ultimately, we are all made in God’s image, and the most important thing of all is to honor one another just as a person would the Highest of all Beings.

*Jonathan Falco hails from Westchester, NY, and received his B.A. in Jewish Studies from Emory University in Atlanta, GA, in 2014 and M.A. in Hebrew Letters from HUC-JIR/Cincinnati in 2021.*

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## SCOTT ETHAN GOLDBERG



“For if truly you have rejected us, bitterly raged against us...”  
(Lamentations 5:22)

The Scroll of Lamentations, a set of biblical poems grieving the destruction of the First Temple of Jerusalem, suggests that God permanently rejects the Jewish people. I translate the onset of this final verse, the phrase *ki im*, as a protasis, an “if” clause, despite knowing that the verse resolves without an apodosis, a “then” clause. Even in one of the bible’s most heart-wrenching poems, a flicker of hope remains.

As a rabbi, I know our world is incomplete. Our world demands connection, light, and love. Armed with eagerness and tales of Torah, I strive to bring hope to our incomplete world.

*A fifth-generation Nebraskan, Scott Goldberg graduated magna cum laude from Middlebury College with a B.A. in Economics and minors in Italian and Music. While at HUC-JIR, Scott also studied in the Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management and held pulpits in Fort Collins, CO; Fairbanks, AK; and Los Angeles, CA. Scott is particularly grateful to his family; his rock and future spouse, Liz; and his mentors, teachers, colleagues, and friends for their undying support. Scott is thrilled to remain in Los Angeles as Leo Baeck Temple’s Assistant Rabbi.*

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## REBECCA HECHT



“If the Bible is a flaming sword forbidding our entrance to the garden, it is also a burning bush urging us toward freedom. It is what we wrestle with all night and from which we may, if we demand it, wrest a blessing.” (Alicia Ostriker, *Feminist Revision and the Bible*, 86)

May we wrestle with the narrow places of our texts and the narrow places of our hearts, creating expansive communities of learning, ritual, action, and care, where each person is seen, heard, and celebrated as a blessing.

*Rebecca Hecht spent her childhood in Beijing, Ho Chi Minh City, and Watertown, MA. She received her B.A. in History and French and M.A. in East Asian Studies, both from Stanford University. She is endlessly grateful to the staff of Hillel at Stanford, particularly Rabbi Mychal Copeland, for giving her an entry point into Jewish learning, ritual, and community. Becca has been extraordinarily fortunate to serve as a rabbinical intern at Hebrew Tabernacle, Columbia/Barnard Hillel, and Congregation Shir Shalom in Woodstock, and to work as a Teaching Assistant for HUC's Bible, Hebrew, and Talmud classes. Becca's partner, Dan Shaffer, and her gigantic Sabin-Hecht-Kass family are constant sources of support, joy, and inspiration.*

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## DANIEL HOTARY



כי כל ארון יאצרו בו כסף וזהב וכל כלי חמודות שלא תועיל ולא תציל...ואני ארון אצרת' עץ השמור בגן עדן אשר היא נחלת צבי.

(Cairo Geniza)

Here a bookcase speaks. It contains the Torah, Judaism's treasure. This shelf contrasts its everlasting contents with the transient, superficial alternatives of silver and gold found in other bookcases. This image evokes a warning to us today. Our inheritance and responsibility are comprised of a communal history, actual bookcases, and archives. They must be safeguarded and utilized. Our own sacred bookcases are at risk of being shut away in their own *genizot*. How can they speak without rabbis to take up their intergenerational charge?

Our own cases are threatened by those who would overlook our sacred past and chase instead paltry things on other shelves, mere gold and silver, not our treasure and not our *ירושה*.

*Daniel Hotary is from Flint, MI, and was a member of the Conservative congregation there. He earned his bachelor's degree in Michigan, his master's degree in New York, and also worked for a nonprofit organization. Subsequently, Daniel went to California for a doctorate in the history of religions. Before transferring to HUC-JIR/Cincinnati, Daniel was a rabbinical student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.*

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## DAVID JAFFE



The priestly writers boldly command, “קְדָשִׁים תִּהְיוּ”  
You shall be holy!” (Lev.19:2)

In order for us to live out this *mitzvah*, we must first understand holiness or sacredness. On sacredness, Dr. David Aaron writes, “Sacredness is a human product. Nothing is intrinsically holy. Sanctification requires an activity – that is, it is not a passive state of being.” (*Genesis Ideology*, pg. 7) We are the ones who create sacredness. We are the ones who bring holiness into our world. In order for us to be holy, we must act and we must create. Let us each go out into the world and create sacredness. When we do, we will be holy and our world will be sacred.

*David Jaffe was born in Louisville, KY, and grew up as a member of The Temple. He attended Centre College where he majored in Music and then attended the University of Louisville where he received his Master of Music in Trumpet Performance. David was able to utilize his creativity in his capstone project, which is titled, “Anthology of Original Creative Liturgy and Music.”*

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## REBECCA JAYE



“Create a pure heart within me; let my soul wake up in your light.”

These words are excerpted from our Mishkan Tefilah, adapted from Psalm 51. What is greater than the sensation of opening one’s eyes to God’s light and love at the start of the day, knowing that our hearts may be molded and created anew? I endeavor to serve our communities by spreading the hope conveyed by the Psalmist’s words, so that we all may feel the singular, holy sensation of feeling renewed by God’s light, our hearts and souls ready to embark on God’s work.

*Rebecca Jaye is proudly from Brooklyn, NY. She earned her B.A. in American Studies from Yale College and her M.A. in Religion from Yale Divinity School. She is grateful to have interned at Temple Emanu-El of Westfield, NJ, and Temple Micah in Washington, D.C. Becky is excited to begin her rabbinical career at T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call For Human Rights. She is also deeply committed to providing safe spaces for Jews of Color to gather, learn, and pray. She thanks her beloved family, friends, and mentors who have encouraged her to reach this tremendous milestone in her life.*

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## NOACH LAWRENCE



The Talmud unpacks the Torah's calling Noach righteous "in his generation:"

א"ר יוחנן בדורותיו ולא בדורות אחרים וריש לקיש אמר בדורותיו כ"ש בדורות אחרים  
(סנהדרין ק"ח א)

"So said Rabbi Yochanan: 'In his generation, but not in other generations [only righteous compared to his era's wrongdoers].' And Reish Lakish said: 'In his generation – how much more so in other generations [truly righteous despite the wrongdoers around him].'" (Sanhedrin 108a)

Reish Lakish had quite a gladiator-bandit's life. He knew a thing or two about striving to act on God's voice even against currents around him. He knew how much companionship and love saved him – in his *chavruta*, study-partnership, with Rabbi Yochanan. And he understood that these goals, following God's compass and seeking human connection, each strengthen each other. I pledge to help my congregants find this sacred combination that Noach and Reish Lakish epitomize.

*Raised in Brookline, MA, Noach Lawrence lived in Israel for three years and worked in law and politics before the rabbinate. His writing can be found in CNN Opinion and the CCAR Journal. He received his B.A. from Yale and his JD from NYU. Noach is grateful and overjoyed to be joining Temple Isaiah in the Bay Area. His deepest thanks go to his parents Kathy and Fred, sister Miriam, and fiancée Katie.*

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## MICHAEL LEWIS



בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

"In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth?" Or maybe, "When God began to create heaven and earth?" Or maybe, "At the beginning of God's creating of the heavens and the earth?"

How should we translate the opening verse of the Torah? I still do not know. The grammar of the beginning of all beginnings throws curveballs and splitters at the most expert readers, mystifying all who try to translate. Yet this beginning starts the greatest conversation in human history: a conversation that spans continents, crosses language barriers, and transcends time. It inspires people to grapple with the toughest questions on what it means to be alive and how we go about making this awe-inspiring world better than it was when we found it. I am thrilled to help the next generation of Jews figure out our contribution to this everlasting conversation.

*Born in Sacramento, CA, Michael Lewis graduated with a degree in Political Economy from Tulane University, where he served as student body president. After school, Michael worked in politics in Washington, D.C. He is grateful to his friends and family for their support and to his teachers and classmates for putting up with his shenanigans.*

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## ELIZA ROSIE SILK McCARROLL

במקום שאין אנשים, השתדל להיות איש



“In a place where there are no people, strive to be a person.”  
(Pirkei Avot 2:6)

This short adage from the Ethics of our Ancestors reminds me that our task is to model what it means to be deeply principled in heart and mind. The quote further reminds me of how honored I am to be linked to a chain of transmission that has lasted through the centuries, as our sages passed on their wisdom to those of every generation, until today. As such, I aspire to be a rabbi who lives out the best of our tradition, and teaches others to do the same, too.

*Eliza McCarroll was born and raised in Sydney, Australia, where she graduated with a degree in Public Communication from the University of Technology. She is profoundly thankful to the friends and mentors with whom she has formed relationships throughout rabbinical school. Most of all, Eliza is grateful for the love of her family, who are the center of her world, even when they've been a world apart. She is immensely excited for the next chapter as Assistant Rabbi at the Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto.*

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## ORLI MOSS



I was born in South Africa and, when I was five, my family made *Aliya* and settled in Ra'anana, where my parents co-founded the Hod Vehadar congregation. The search for an egalitarian, open, and pluralistic approach to Judaism led them to join the founders of TALI Hod Hasharon School, and I am proud to be the fifth TALI graduate to be ordained at HUC-JIR/Jerusalem. During my studies at HUC-JIR, I also lived, worked, and studied in New York, where I developed a deeper understanding of what it means to be Jewish outside of Israel and the complexity of Israelis living there addressing their Jewish identity.

*Orli Moss received her bachelor's degree in sociology and anthropology from the Hebrew University, and her master's in Jewish pluralistic education in a joint program from the Hebrew University and HUC-JIR. She held positions of leadership in a variety of informal education organizations. In 2012, Orli and her family moved to New York City on Shlichut. As an HUC-JIR Golden Family Hanassi Fellow, she worked at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in New York City. After returning to Israel, Orli worked with teachers in the Meitarim network of schools for students from a variety of religious affiliations and TALI schools around the country.*

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## LEAH NUSSBAUM



Rabbi Yohanan, a healer, fell ill. Rabbi Hanina visited him, saying: “Is your suffering dear to you?” “I welcome neither its suffering nor its reward,” Yohanan replied. Rabbi Hanina said: “Give me your hand.” He did so, and he raised him up. Why did Rabbi Yohanan wait, and not just heal himself? A prisoner cannot free himself from prison, but depends on others to release him from his shackles. (BT Berakhot 5b)

This is a story about empathy and caring during times of pain. When we suffer, it’s important to honor and sit with our deep feelings. When we are caring, it’s important to make space for their feelings, and honor our own too. Rabbi Hanina met Rabbi Yohanan where he was, beside him when he was ready to heal. They sat until Rabbi Yohanan was ready, emerging out of the pit together. As I become a rabbi, I hope to build relationships filled with patience, empathy, prayer, and healing, like that of our ancient teachers.

*Leah Nussbaum is a community builder and emerging chaplain. They love inclusive Jewish spaces, praying, and connecting. They are grateful that, with the support of so many, they have reached this holy moment.*

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## ELANA RABISHAW



אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים הַיּוֹם כָּלְכֶם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם רְאִשֵׁיכֶם שְׁבִטֵיכֶם זְקֵנֵיכֶם וְשֹׁטְרֵיכֶם כֹּל אִישׁ  
יִשְׂרָאֵל... לְבָרֵךְ בְּבְרִית יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךְ וּבְאֵלֹתוֹ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךְ כָּרַת עִמָּךְ הַיּוֹם:

You all stand here this day, young and old, past, present and future, before your God... to enter into the covenant of your God, which your God is concluding with you this day, with its sanctions. (Deuteronomy 29:9-11)

Midrash Tanchuma teaches us that in this liminal moment, when the People of Israel entered the covenant, they became responsible for one another, culminating with God instructing them all to choose life through love. When they entered into this covenant, they became a holy people. Today, I will stand in front of the ark and become a rabbi, a teacher of Torah, and I stand here proudly because of everyone who has loved, taught, and journeyed with me to this moment.

*Elana Rabishaw is a born and raised Californian. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, majoring in Nonprofit Leadership and Modern Hebrew. While at HUC-JIR, Elana earned her M.A. in Hebrew Letters in 2019 and M.A. in Jewish Education in 2020. Elana is grateful for each learning opportunity in the last six years, and the countless teachers and teammates who have given her strength, love, and partnership. Elana especially wants to thank her parents for inspiring her by living their Torah.*

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## AMNON RIBAK



I grew up on Kibbutz Maabarot, where I developed my love for culture, music, written and sung word, and knowledge, along with pious secularism, and a commitment to equality, diligence, and hard work. From a young age, I was attracted to writing, and I continue to play music, sing, write prose and poetry, translate children's books, and especially study and gain knowledge in Judaism.

*Amnon Ribak graduated from the Interdisciplinary Program for Fostering Excellence at Tel Aviv University and then began working as a Research Fellow at IBM's Scientific Center in Haifa, where he worked for 26 years. He received his B.A. in Judaism from the Open University, studied at the Hartman Institute, and had an active membership at Reform congregations in Jerusalem and in Haifa, leading to his decision to retire early and devote time to rabbinical studies and Jewish action. At HUC-JIR, Amnon was a Golden Family Hanassi Fellow and served as the interim student-rabbi at Or Hadash in Haifa and the solo student-rabbi in Ma'alot Tivon. He completed his M.A. in American Jewish Studies in the Ruderman program at the University of Haifa, and since then has served as co-chair of the Peoplehood Committee of the Boston Haifa Connection.*

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## RACHEL ROTHSTEIN



A song of ascents – When God brought us back to Zion, we were like dreamers. (Psalm 126)

My dream of becoming a rabbi began when I was preparing for my bat mitzvah. I had many questions about our rich Jewish tradition and when my dad ran out of responses, he exasperatedly suggested I become a rabbi. Becoming a rabbi has been an exercise in interpretation and answering my questions. I am grateful to everyone who has helped me make this dream come to fruition. Each teacher, mentor, and family member who has encouraged me has helped me figure out how to not just become a rabbi, but also become myself. In typical Jewish fashion, one answer yields many questions, and I am excited to continue to interpret questions and answers as an Assistant Rabbi at Temple B'nai Jehudah in Overland Park, KS.

*Rachel Rothstein was raised in Cincinnati, OH. She earned her B.A. in Comparative Religion from Miami University in 2010. Rachel's dream of becoming a rabbi was reinvigorated while working to build community amongst loosely affiliated young Jewish professionals, Jewish teens, and young Jewish and interfaith families at The Mayerson Foundation. She looks forward to incorporating her experience teaching our ancient Jewish tradition so it can continue to be relevant and accessible in an ever-changing world.*

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## TZVIA RUBENS



הלל אומר, הַיּוֹ מִתְּלִמְיָדָיו שֶׁל אַהֲרֹן, אוֹהֵב שְׁלוֹם וְרוֹדֵף שְׁלוֹם, אוֹהֵב אֶת הַבְּרִיּוֹת וּמְקַרְבֵּן לַתּוֹרָה

Hillel used to say, “Be of the disciples of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace, loving humanity, and drawing them close to the Torah.” (Pirkei Avot 1:12)

The challenge with this verse is that a peaceful world feels like an impossible task to achieve. In these moments of doubt, we must heed Hillel’s advice and become the beacons of love and peace for our communities. Rabbeinu Yonah understands this verse, explaining that it is not enough to “love truth and peace in your heart,” but those that act on these values, bring neighbors together.

It is our responsibility, as clergy, to act like disciples of Aaron, by loving one another despite our differences. Today I become a rabbi, an active pursuer of peace and love.

*Tzvia Rubens grew up in the suburbs of Chicago. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Bradley University. Tzvia thanks her parents for giving her a love of Judaism, her nearly-wed Yonah for absolutely everything, and their parents for all their mentorship. She also thanks her friends and the faculty at HUC-JIR/Cincinnati for helping her reach this auspicious moment.*

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## JILL RUBIN



In Mishnah Avot 2:4, Hillel teaches us:

אַל תִּפְרָשׁ מִן הַצִּבּוֹר;

Do not separate yourself from the community.

My family taught me the value of Jewish community when I was young, and I continue to be inspired by the things we can achieve together. In community, I feel God’s presence. In community, I feel held by the people that I love. And in community, I feel empowered to engage in the *tzedeck* work of our tradition. In community, we are stronger, and I hope to let this teaching shine through in the work I do as a rabbi.

*Jill Rubin grew up in Los Altos, CA. She received her B.A. in History and Spanish from Duke University, and her M.A. in Jewish Nonprofit Management from the Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management. During her time at HUC-JIR, she served as a student leader of the Soup Kitchen, co-chair of Kallah, and rabbinical intern at The Community Synagogue. Jill is thrilled to begin her career at Temple Shaaray Tefila in New York City. She is grateful to her classmates, teachers, friends, and family for their guidance and friendship. She would particularly like to thank her parents, siblings, and husband for their unending love and support.*

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## ELIZA SCHEFFLER



הַדְּבִק בְּדַרְכָיו – גַּמְל חֲסִדִים, קָבַר מֵתִים, בִּקֵּר חוֹלִים, כְּמוֹ שֶׁעָשָׂה הַקֹּבֵ"ה וְבוֹ תִּדְבְּקוּן.

(Rashi on Deuteronomy 13:5)

Once, a classmate suggested that a rabbi's role is to manifest God's presence on Earth. At first, I balked. Me, playing God?! But I have come to see that this is our highest calling: to manifest God's love for every person. In his commentary on Deuteronomy 13:5, Rashi puts this in the most practical terms: What does it mean to cleave to God? To cleave to God's ways: do acts of love, bury the dead, visit the sick. This is how we know God – through loving one another.

*Eliza Scheffler grew up in Larchmont, NY, where she belonged to Larchmont Temple. She then earned a B.A. in American Studies at Yale University. Upon graduation, Eliza moved to San Francisco, CA, where she worked in charity evaluation at GiveWell and started a Moishe House. Eliza decided to pursue the rabbinate in order to bring together her interests in social impact and community building with her love of Judaism. While studying at HUC-JIR, she has been fortunate to serve as rabbinical intern at Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn, NY. Upon ordination, Eliza is overjoyed to be heading to Barnert Temple in Franklin Lakes, NJ, to serve as Assistant Rabbi.*

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## DANA SHARON



I was born on Kibbutz Nachshon, the third generation of my family on this kibbutz, and raised in a secular home with a profound bond to the Hebrew language and Hebrew and Israeli culture. Following my completion of military service, I spent two years working as a counselor at a Jewish summer camp in the U.S. and was exposed for the first time to Reform Judaism. I began my journey to rabbinical studies and a spiritual and meaningful religious Jewish life.

*Dana Sharon holds a B.A. in General and Comparative Literature from the Hebrew University and M.A. in Contemporary Judaism and Jewish Art from the Schechter Institute. Dana served as a board member and chair of the Open House for Pride and Tolerance in Jerusalem, volunteered at the Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center, worked for six years as the Israel Reform Action Center's social media director, and serves as a board member and participant in Women of the Wall. At HUC-JIR, Dana served as a Golden Family Hanassi Fellow and undertook practical work at Har-El Congregation in Jerusalem. In addition to the invaluable importance of working in a community as part of the rabbinical training process, Dana developed a profound bond with the community and with its leaders. She now serves as rabbi of Kehilat Yuval in Gedera, and looks forward to confronting the challenges of work as a communal rabbi.*

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## ALEXANDRA STEIN



העולם מתחלה לא נברא אלא בחסד ... - אבות דרבי נתן ד'ה'

“The world, from the beginning, was only created on kindness ...”

(Avot D’Rabbi Natan 4:5)

There are not enough spaces in our world that are dedicated, at their core, to honoring and nurturing love and kindness; but I think Jewish communities *can* be those spaces, if we work at it, and much of Jewish tradition invites us to make that work central to our lives. (It also invites us to reimagine the traditions we receive in ways that make sense for our time, as Avot D’Rabbi Natan does in the passage following the opening above.) I am so grateful to the people and communities who have held me in kindness, and equally, so grateful to be able to join with others in working to build a world of and from love.

*Alexandra Stein grew up in Washington, D.C. She earned her B.A. in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Yale University, and her M.A.H.L. from HUC-JIR. She is enormously grateful to her family, friends, teachers, and HUC-JIR cohort, as well as to the communities, staff, and past and present clergy of Congregation Beth Emeth in Albany, NY, and Temple Sinai in Washington, D.C.*

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## BRETT WEISMAN



לדעת חכמה ומוסר להבין אמרי בינה: לקחת מוסר השכל צדק ומשפט ומשרים: לתת לפתאים ערמה  
לנער דעת ומזמה: ישמע חכם ויוסף לקח ונבון תחבולות יקנה:

To know wisdom and discipline; to understand discerning speech; to acquire the discipline of success, righteousness, justice, and equity – to bestow the naive with prudence and youth with knowledge and purpose – the wise who listen gather wisdom; the discerning acquire counsel. (Proverbs 1:2-5)

These verses convey foundational values of a Jewish life, namely the pursuit of wisdom and discernment through education and relationships. Connecting the responsibilities of the teacher with the potential of the learner, this text demonstrates the way in which the teacher and learner elevate each other to a higher plane of wisdom and understanding. The mutuality and perpetual nature of this relationship provides the learner and teacher with an abundance of possibilities.

*Brett Weisman grew up in Cleveland, OH, earning his B.A. in Comparative Religions at The Ohio State University where he met Molly, his wife, inspiration, and mother of their son Daniel. While at HUC-JIR, Brett earned a M.A. in Hebrew Letters and a M.A. in Jewish Education. Brett extends gratitude to his family, friends, and teachers who perpetually elevate Brett to higher and higher planes.*

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## SAMUEL WEISS



ויראו ישבי קצות מאותותיך מוצאי בקר וערב תרנין:

And those who dwell at earth's ends are awed by Your signs;  
The portals of morning and evening You gladden. (Psalms 65:9)

*Samuel Weiss is from Andover, MA. He earned a B.A. in Rhetoric from the University of California, Berkeley in 2014, and M.A. in Hebrew Letters and Literature from HUC-JIR in 2021. He is grateful to his family, his friends, his teachers, his classmates, and to all those with whom he has trudged the road of happy destiny over these past five years. After ordination, he will move to Bangor, ME (not quite “earth’s ends,” but close!) with his wife Erin and their son Milo, to serve as rabbi of Congregation Beth El.*

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## MIRA WELLER



אֲשֶׁר בְּיָדוֹ נְפֹשׁ כָּל-חַי וְרוּחַ כָּל-בֶּשֶׂר-אִישׁ:

In God's hand is every soul, and the breath of all human flesh.

I recite this line from Job every night when I pray the bedtime Shema and when I say the words of Adon Olam, but most people may recognize the line from the spiritual “He’s Got The Whole World in His Hands.” What makes these words so resonant? To know that our world rests in God’s hands is to know that we are held together in the palm of a force beyond us.

God allows us to look into the eyes of the people around us and find our calling towards a richer, deeper, and moral life. In God’s palm, the sacred gently comes to us in our engagement with others. God helps us know our worthiness, smallness, and interconnectedness. In the face of grief, I find strength knowing that I can surrender myself in God’s palm. Here, I find myself held *just so* in a world that challenges me, surprises me, and bonds me here with others. May I care for others with the palms of my hands and the hope that holds me in God’s hands.

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## NOAH WESTREICH



טבא חדא פלפלתא חריפתא ממלי צנא דקר

One spicy pepper bests a basketful of squash.

What's better: one spicy pepper or a basketful of pumpkins? It's the pepper, according to the early rabbis who adopted this Aramaic folk saying as an axiom for their discursive activity in the Beit Midrash. In the best cooking, spices like pepper bring out the flavors of whatever is on the menu, be it squash or seitan. But spice does not supplant; it sharpens. So it is in Jewish life: dialectical acuity (*pilpalta harifta*) seasons the heap of latent scriptural verses (*tsana d'karei*). As a rabbi I will always prize the quality of the *pilpalta* first and foremost as a means of bringing out the raw material in the basket.

*Noah Westreich was raised in Montclair, NJ. He graduated from Macalester College in 2014 with a B.A. in Sociology. In tandem with his studies at HUC-JIR, Noah completed a two-year teaching fellowship at SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva. He has served as the student rabbi in El Centro, CA, and Congregation Kolot Chayeinu in Brooklyn, NY. He is grateful for these experiences and the endless support of his teachers, friends, and family.*

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## SOFIA LOUISA ZWAY



“To the place my heart loves, there my feet lead me.”

The moment I first sang these words at Netzer camp fifteen years ago, I knew I was home. They have guided me ever since – a reminder that despite the great unknowns in life, the heart knows where it's going. As I take my first steps into the rabbinate, I strive to create communities grounded in intention and love and rooted in the search for God, *Hamakom*. No matter the journey we are on, may our hearts always guide us home, and may we feel at home in our Judaism.

*Sofia Zway grew up in Ecuador and South Africa, where she found her Jewish home at Netzer and then Temple Israel, Cape Town. She graduated from the University of Cape Town with an Honours degree in Applied Drama and Theatre. Sofia feels blessed by the professional experiences she had during her time at HUC-JIR, most notably as a Spiritual Counselor at Beit T'shuvah in Los Angeles, CA; Student Rabbi at Temple Beth El in Las Cruces, NM; and Chaplain Intern at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Sofia is grateful to her teachers, friends, and family for their guidance, love, and support, and to her partner, Brett, her chavruta in life and love.*

# CANTORIAL ORDINEES

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## SARA LILLIAN ANDERSON



As an instrument of Torah, I strive to help Jewish people find meaning and beauty in prayer. I believe that, as we cultivate deeper relationships with one another, we inch closer to God. My role as a cantor is to foster connection with the melodies that preserve our history and to create community as we sing new songs together.

*Sara Lillian Anderson was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. She earned her bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her master's degree in Vocal Performance from Mannes College, The New School for Music. During her time at HUC-JIR, she was Star Fellow, a Chaplain Intern at Los Angeles County Hospital, the Cantorial Intern at Stephen Wise Temple in Los Angeles, her home synagogue, and at East End Temple in Gramercy. In the past two years, she has served Temple Emanu-El of the City of New York as Student Cantor and is honored to become their Assistant Cantor following her ordination. Sara is the daughter of Kevin and Joyce, the sister of Ian and Darci, and the wife of Peter Young, whose unconditional support and love has enabled her to reach this moment.*

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## SHANI BEN-OR



I aspire to establish a thriving liberal cantorate in Israel: one that is authentic and relevant to the multicultural climate of Israeli society, fluent in the musical treasures of Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jewish traditions, and one that creates music for a variety of sacred spaces and occasions that are unique to *Eretz Yisrael*.

*Shani Ben-Or is the first person to be ordained simultaneously as a cantor and a rabbi in the progressive community of modern Israel, and the first cantor ordained by HUC-JIR on the Jerusalem campus. She earned her M.A. in Jewish Pluralistic Studies from Ono Academic College, and has taught in various batei midrash in Israel. She is an active member of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, both as a professional and lay leader. In 2013, she established T'lamim, a community of young Reform Jewish adults in Israel, and led their minyan in Jerusalem. She is an HUC-JIR Golden Family Hanassi Fellow and has served in cantorial roles in Israel and around the world: as the cantorial soloist of the United Jewish Congregation in Hong Kong and student cantor of Central Synagogue in New York. She and Boaz Dorot co-founded the Nigunim Ensemble, a pioneering ensemble that creates, arranges, and performs sacred music to accompany religious services throughout Israel.*

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## JENNIFER BENREY



I am extraordinarily blessed to have reached this transcendent *Shehecheyanu* moment and to have found my sacred calling as a cantor. In this holy work, may I go forth inspiring others to connect spiritually with God, with themselves, with the world around them, and with each other. May I use my voice to help lift up their voices and their spirits and to reach them wherever they are.

*Jennifer Benrey was born and raised in Miami Beach, FL. She earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree in Choral Music from the Florida State University and has had the privilege of learning and growing during her time at HUC-JIR serving Temple Har Shalom in Warren, NJ; Central Synagogue in New York, NY; Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom in Reading, PA; Temple Israel Reform Congregation of Staten Island; Temple Beth-El in Jersey City, NJ; and Temple Beth Sholom in Miami Beach, FL. She is beyond grateful for the love and support of her clergy mentors, teachers, family, friends, and amazing wife, Maira, who helped her move mountains.*

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## STEFANIE GREENE



Rav Kook teaches, “*Hayashan yitchadesh, v’hechadash yitkadesh*” – the old shall be made new and the new shall be made holy. One of the biggest blessings of being a cantor is the opportunity to share Judaism with people through heartfelt, accessible, and meaningful moments throughout their lives. My most formative experiences at HUC-JIR were the practica, text studies, and conversations, which allowed me to envision the marriage of Jewish music, our sacred texts, and pastoral moments in creative and innovative ways. I look forward to using these experiences and skills in helping shape the future of the Jewish people.

*Stefanie Greene grew up in New Jersey, but spent her most formative years in Highland Park, IL, and the Chicagoland area. She received her Bachelor of Music at the University of Rochester in 2011, and completed additional graduate studies in Choral Music Education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and in Vocal Performance at North Park University (IL). Stefanie has worked at several congregations as a cantorial intern: Beth Emet the Free Synagogue in Evanston, IL; Temple Beth El in Jersey City, NJ; Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York, NY; and Temple Ohav Shalom in Pittsburgh, PA. She currently serves as the Senior Jewish Educator at the Edward and Rose Berman Hillel Jewish University Center of Pittsburgh – the first cantor to serve in this capacity at Hillel International. A special thank you to her family, her fiancé Barry, classmates, friends, mentors, and congregants who supported her during her time at HUC-JIR – it truly takes a village to raise a cantor!*

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## SUZANNE HAMSTRA



The words “דע לפני מי אתה עומד”: “Know before whom you stand,” are set above many Arks. I have always known, standing before the Ark, that I stand before G-d, Torah, and all the history and tradition that those sacred scrolls represent. Embarking now on life as a cantor, I think of the people I face when I turn around: Jews of all ages, races, sexual orientations, genders, backgrounds, and life experiences, and community members of other faiths. To stand before the Holy One, to me, means to be in relationship with each of the people I serve. I am honored and humbled to work towards making the synagogue a genuine sanctuary for everyone, one in which all feel safe – where people can raise their voices in prayer together to connect with the Holy One of Blessing and honestly know before whom they stand.

*Suzanne Hamstra, originally from Santa Cruz, CA, holds a Bachelor of Music from The Boston Conservatory and a Master of Music from San Francisco Conservatory of Music, both in vocal performance. She spent several years as a freelance opera singer before pursuing the cantorate. While at HUC-JIR, she has served as the Cantorial Intern at Kehillat Yozma in Modi'in, Israel; Student Cantor at Temple B'nai Chaim in Georgetown, CT; and Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel in South Orange, NJ. She also participated in the ARZA Fellowship. Suzanne will relocate to Washington, D.C., this summer where she is thrilled to begin her cantorial career at Washington Hebrew Congregation. She is immensely grateful for the love and support of her mentors, friends, and family during this time of learning, growth, and change.*

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## MICHAEL WEIR JARVIS



“Have no fear, these are nowhere near the best years of your life.” In his 2007 single “Letter to Me,” songwriter Brad Paisley offered this message to his sixteen-year-old self as a response to the confusion and depression he felt hearing from so many adults that his teen years would be his happiest. As adults we often forget the difficult times we experienced as young people and the difficult times young people experience now. As a cantor, I feel uniquely called to guide them through this wilderness with the lessons and values of Judaism, giving them the tools to meet their challenges with pride, self-esteem, and Jewish identity, and helping them believe that every day will be brighter than the one before it.

*Michael Jarvis was born and raised in Northern Virginia and attended James Madison University in Harrisonburg, earning degrees in Vocal Performance and Religion. As an HUC-JIR student, he was honored to serve The Temple in Louisville, KY; The Temple in Atlanta, GA; and Temple Shaaray Tefila in New York City. Michael would like to thank his parents and extended family for their endless love and patience and his beloved HUC-JIR teachers and classmates, whose support was invaluable and immeasurable.*

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## JENNA MARK



Judaism can raise all peoples' spirits and cultivate connections to each other, to the Jewish community, and to the Divine. I am inspired each day by the meaningful relationships built through partnership, innovative worship, and learning together. It is an honor to help build these relationships through music and prayer and to be a reminder to each individual that they are a blessing.

*Born and raised in Houston, TX, Jenna Mark holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Nebraska Wesleyan University. She is an alumna of the URJ's Kutz Camp and Greene Family Camp, as well as the iCenter's iFellows Israel Education Fellowship program, where she received a Master's Concentration in Israel Education. Prior to cantorial school, Jenna worked as a full-time educator at Central Synagogue. As a student, Jenna has been honored to serve as the Cantorial Intern at Kehilat Har-El in Jerusalem, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Short Hills, NJ, and currently at Temple Shaaray Tefila in Manhattan. She is thrilled to join Woodlands Community Temple in White Plains, NY, as their cantor this coming July. Jenna is so grateful for the love and support of her friends, family, mentors, classmates, and fiancé, Zach.*

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## JENNA McMILLAN



As I reflect on the last five years, what stands out the most are the incredible personal relationships, inspiring mentors, and the holy partnerships created between my class every day as we each traveled our path to the cantorate. In my cantorate, I commit myself to helping others to foster a sacred love and renewed passion for Judaism, music, and community as I assume the title for which I have worked so hard.

*Jenna McMillan grew up in Wixom, MI, and received a B.A. in Judaic Studies and Anthropology from the University of Michigan. During her studies at HUC-JIR, she had the distinct honor of serving North Country Reform Temple in Glen Cove, NY, and Central Synagogue of New York, NY, where she will begin her career. She is grateful for the unending support of her cantorial and rabbinical mentors, her family, and her soon-to-be husband, Connor.*

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## SAMUEL A. ROSEN



As a cantor and historian, my ancestors' stories are my fuel. My family's Sephardi and Ashkenazi cultures, music, foods, and journeys inspire me every day. I feel deep gratitude for the individuals who sacrificed so much to make it possible for me to exist as I am and to become a cantor in the 21st century. Serving as a cantor will allow me to celebrate this precious heritage and impart it to all who seek God and community.

*Samuel A. Rosen was born and raised in Sugar Land, TX, and completed bachelor's degrees in Music (Ethnomusicology) and Jewish Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. After five years in Austin, he moved to New York City with his partner, Jason, and earned a master's degree in Jewish History from The Jewish Theological Seminary. An avid home cook, Sam loves sharing recipes and culinary creations with friends and family near and far. Sam was honored to serve as Student Cantor at The Community Synagogue in Port Washington for two years. After Ordination, Sam will serve as Cantor at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, following two years as Cantorial Intern. He sends gratitude to the mentors, family, and friends who have supported him on this journey.*

## DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

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### MATTHEW BOERSMA



I am grateful for my time at HUC-JIR, where the faculty and students have challenged me to grow in scholarship and as an individual. Many thanks to Rabbi Dr. David H. Aaron, who served as the first reader of my dissertation and pushed me to improve and become a better scholar. Thanks also to Rabbi Dr. Dvora Weisberg, who served as the second reader, for guiding me to more nuanced understandings of the texts I was studying. The other faculty of HUC-JIR have encouraged me to expand my areas of focus as I worked through their courses, and my editor, Vanessa Phin, helped tremendously with the production of the final manuscript.

*Matthew Boersma was born in Fort Worth, TX. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Manchester College (now University), a Master of Arts from Bethany Theological Seminary, and a Master of Philosophy at HUC-JIR. He currently works as an adjunct professor at Bethany Theological Seminary and the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. His spouse, Dr. Nykki Boersma, has supported him relentlessly despite her job as a physician. He would also like to thank his children, Miriam, Malachi, and Salome, for their support and understanding.*

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## CALEB GILMORE



I cannot adequately express in words my gratitude for HUC-JIR. The level of education I received is virtually unrivaled. The gift of an interfaith learning environment has changed me forever and given me a deeper appreciation for the various ways religious communities make sense of the world. My thinking has become much more complex thanks to the opportunities to study with Rabbi David H. Aaron, Ph.D., Rabbi Richard S. Sarason, Ph.D., Nili S. Fox, Ph.D., and Jason Kalman, Ph.D. I hope to share the treasures of Jewish learning and interfaith dialogue with a world in which pluralism is increasingly under threat. I hope that HUC-JIR can continue to be a refuge for such hopeful engagement in the years to come.

*Caleb Gilmore was born in Bristol, TN. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Johnson University and his Master of Arts and Master of Philosophy at HUC-JIR. He currently works as an adjunct instructor at Johnson University and pastor in Knoxville, TN. He would like to acknowledge and thank his spouse, Kristi, without whom he could not have achieved this milestone. Much love to Randall, Beth, Seth, Harvie, and Elliana.*

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## SHARON LOVE



Becoming a part of the HUC-JIR family has enriched me professionally and personally in so many ways. Having the opportunity to learn from professors with various areas of expertise has given me a well-rounded background in philology, history, literature, and method. These experiences have formed my own areas of scholarly interest and have given me the skills with which to engage in further scholarship. From a personal perspective, the opportunity to learn alongside peers with similar passions has provided me with a lifelong collaborative community that continues to provide direction in my journey.

*Sharon Love is originally from South Carolina where she earned a B.A. in English/Secondary Education and a master's in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of South Carolina. In preparation for doctoral studies in Hebrew Bible, Sharon earned an M.Div. (Academic Ministries) from Columbia International University and a M.Phil. (Judaic, Hebraic, and Cognate Studies) at HUC-JIR. Sharon's dissertation topic covers the significance and socio-political function of insults in the Hebrew Bible's depiction of the early monarchy period.*

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## JARED SALTZ



From the first day I arrived at HUC-JIR until the day that I left, I knew Cincinnati was the right place for me. The faculty, staff, and fellow students at HUC-JIR/Cincinnati welcomed me in and made me a part of their community. It was as part of the Cincinnati community that I flourished and it is to the Cincinnati community that I extend my thanks for the help they provided to my endeavors in classes, at conferences, and as part of the academy as a whole.

*Jared W. Saltz was born and raised in Alabama. He received his B.A. from Florida College in Temple Terrace, FL, where he double-majored in Biblical Studies and Liberal Studies, and received his M.A. in Biblical Studies from Amridge University in Montgomery, AL, before attending HUC-JIR. Although it is his name on the diploma, Jared wants to share the success with his wife, Kathryn, and his two daughters, Hadassah and Abigail, without whom he would never have been able to accomplish what he has.*

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## KEITH VANDE VREDE



The time I have spent at HUC-JIR has been simply remarkable. The faculty, staff, and administration have provided an unforgettable experience that has driven me intellectually and personally. I am especially grateful for the mentorship of Rabbi Dr. David H. Aaron, whose striving for excellence throughout the dissertation process has made me a better scholar. Thanks also to Dr. Jason Kalman for his helpful comments and whose classes on rabbinics have given me invaluable insights on the interpretation of texts that were manifested in my dissertation. I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to Dr. Adam Kamesar, whose grasp of Hellenistic Judaism is prodigious. Studying with him was a phenomenal experience.

*Keith Vande Vrede was born and raised around Grand Rapids, MI. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies from Grace Christian University, a Master of Divinity from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, and a Master of Philosophy from HUC-JIR. His love goes out to his wonderful and supportive wife, Victoria Vande Vrede, and his little boy, Garrett.*

# ROGER E. JOSEPH PRIZE

The Roger E. Joseph Prize was established by Burton Joseph and Betty Greenberg, of blessed memory, to honor the memory of their brother, Roger, a man of exceptional personal courage and passionate devotion to principle and justice. In 1978, the first Joseph Prize was presented to Victor Kugler, who risked his and his loved ones' lives to shelter Anne Frank and her family. For the past 44 years, the Joseph Prize has been presented to outstanding individuals, organizations, or institutions whose work fulfills the highest ethical and humanitarian values of our tradition.

The 2022 Roger E. Joseph Prize is presented to

**GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE**

Accepted by Paolo Sison, *Director, Innovative Finance*

Whose global mission, inspired by the conviction that all lives have equal value, has saved lives and protected people's health by greatly increasing the equitable and sustainable use of vaccines,

Whose humanitarian initiative has helped vaccinate almost half of the world's children against deadly and debilitating infectious diseases by providing affordable vaccines for the poorest of countries,

Who, by improving access to new and under-used vaccines for millions of the most vulnerable children, is boosting the economies of lower-income countries and making the world safer for everyone,

Whose partnership with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is strengthening primary health care and bringing us closer to the sustainable development goal of universal health coverage,

Who, in vaccinating more than 888 million children around the world, thereby preventing 15 million future deaths, has ensured that no one is left behind,

And whose impact on the generations of today and tomorrow exemplifies the Talmudic teaching that "to save one life is to save an entire world."

May 8, 2022 7 Iyar 5782

*Our thanks to the Joseph Prize Endowment and the Joseph Family  
for their support of Ordination in New York.*



Dear Ordinees and Graduates of the Class of 2022 / 5782,

As we celebrate the culmination of our 147th academic year, we are all grateful for the resumption of campus life, albeit with some disruptions, and the joy of gathering together as a learning community. You are to be congratulated for your resilience in overcoming the challenges of the pandemic, while forging ahead to reach your goals.

We are very proud of your achievements as graduates of our Rabbinical School, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music, Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management, School of Education, Pines School of Graduate Studies, and Interfaith Doctor of Ministry Program. We are uplifted by the rabbinical and pastoral counseling graduates of our Taube Family Campus in Jerusalem. Each of you will be builders of vibrant Jewish communities for the generations to come.

As you embark on the exciting and rewarding paths ahead, you carry the legacy of HUC-JIR's founders with you. Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise sought to educate modern American Jewish leaders who would meet the challenges of religious freedom, assimilation, and acculturation. Rabbi Stephen S. Wise shaped Jewish leaders who would strive for social justice, human rights, and Jewish national expression in the State of Israel. Your careers represent the continuity of their commitment and values, which endure as a source of support and strength.

May your journeys be blessed and may you be guided by the teachings of your professors, the collegiality of your classmates, and the love of your families. On behalf of the Board of Governors, I extend our heartfelt congratulations and wish you continued fulfillment and joy as you carry forward your ideals and realize your hopes and dreams! And remember to visit us often – we'll keep the lights on!

*Mazel Tov!*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Sue N. Hochberg'.

Sue Neuman Hochberg  
*Chair, Board of Governors*



Dear Ordinees and Graduates of the Class of 2022 / 5782,

On behalf of the Boards of Advisors in North America, it is our great honor and pleasure to congratulate you on the latest achievement in your life journey. We are so proud of what you have accomplished. Every degree brings with it a certain measure of difficulty. With a global pandemic, you faced something unknown in our lifetimes; you persevered, and you succeeded.

We likewise extend our congratulations to your family and friends.

We thank our faculty and administration for their leadership and adaptiveness. Without their dedication, you would not be here for this auspicious occasion.

Life has changed. In particular, your life has changed.

Now, many of you will continue on your path as leaders of the Jewish People and others will pursue careers consistent with their degrees. Whether as a rabbi, cantor, educator, scholar, or Jewish nonprofit professional, we know you will bring your strength, wisdom, and creativity to whatever you do. You will remain forever connected with HUC, and we hope to see you as an active participant in the numerous opportunities available for alumni.

Savor this moment, celebrate your milestone, and be a model for those seeking justice, righteousness, and meaningful lives.

Mazal tov,

Cary Davidson  
*Chair, Western Region*  
*Board of Advisors*

Richard Krantz  
*Chair, Eastern Region*  
*Board of Advisors*

Debbi K. Sorrentino  
*Chair, Central Region*  
*Board of Advisors*

Dear Rabbis, Cantors, and Graduates of 2022,

It is with great honor and pleasure that I greet you and congratulate you and your families today on behalf of the Jerusalem Board of Advisors, from the Jerusalem campus of our beloved college.

You are graduating and being ordained in a world far more troubled than the one you knew when you began your journey at the College. The Covid pandemic and the war in Eastern Europe have changed, and will continue to change the world. No doubt they will confront you with new challenges.

Today I wish to remind you of a challenge which is not new, but does change over time. One of the roles you are taking upon yourselves as newly ordained rabbis, cantors, educators, and Jewish leaders is your role as bridges between North American Jewry and the Jews of Israel. More specifically, you are appointed as two-way ambassadors connecting the American Reform world and that of Israel. Many of you spent your first year at HUC here in Israel, some participated in the Zelikow School Israel Seminar or in the Pines School Summer-In-Israel program. You have all been studying and experiencing the notion of כלל ישראל. I am certain these have laid the foundations for each of you to build your individual path in fulfilling this sacred task.

Despite the many challenges, we hope to see you back in the Jerusalem campus, as often as possible. We will do our best to ensure you continue to feel at home in Israel, and work together to create a tolerant, pluralistic, and peaceful society. Let us pray together, in the words from Psalms 122:

שָׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַם; יִשְׁלֵוּ, אֶהְבֶּךָ. 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may they prosper that love thee.

יְהִי-שְׁלוֹם בְּחֵילֶךָ; שְׁלוֹה, בְּאַרְמוֹתֶיךָ. 7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

לְמַעַן, אַחֵי וְרֵעֵי-- אֲדַבְרָה-נָא שְׁלוֹם בְּךָ. 8 For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say: 'Peace be within thee.'

מזל טוב!



Yaron Horovitz  
Chair, Israel Board of Advisors

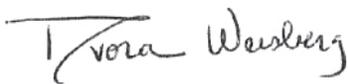
## THOUGHTS ON RABBINICAL ORDINATION

The Hebrew word for ordination is *semikha*, meaning the laying on of hands. When God instructs Moses to invest Joshua with authority, Moses places his hands on Joshua's head, letting his qualities flow into his successor (Numbers 27:23). The opening words of Pirkei Avot teach us that "Moses received Torah from Sinai and transmitted it to Joshua," beginning a chain of transmission that continues today as Rabbi Weiss ordains the students who have completed their rabbinical training.

Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 5a reports that when a rabbi was ordained by his teacher, he would be pronounced fit to "teach, sit in judgment and permit firstborn animals [that are blemished]." Although the ritual of ordination and the duties of a rabbi have changed over time, our new rabbis follow in the footsteps of their predecessors. They go out to serve the Jewish people, prepared to teach the Torah they have learned at HUC-JIR, a portion of which they have shared with us today in this program. They will be called upon to exercise good judgment, weighing the call of Jewish tradition and the needs of an ever-changing world. Finally, they will be asked to prioritize, to decide what comes first, in a world with competing claims and limited resources, and to decide when to permit and encourage new ideas and when to uphold that which is already in place.

Today we honor the decision of our newly ordained rabbis to devote their lives to the service of God, Torah, and the Jewish people. They have spent their time at HUC-JIR immersed in study, grounding themselves in Jewish texts, and acquiring the skills needed to be effective rabbis. They have served congregations and organizations throughout the United States, gaining practical experience in their profession. Their commitment to *Am Yisrael* is recognized by the members of the faculty of the College-Institute, who have signed their *semikha* certificates, by the rabbis who will present them to Rabbi Weiss for ordination, and by all those who are gathered to witness this ceremony. We pray that God will grant each of them strength and wisdom to engage in their sacred work and that they will be blessings to the Jewish people and the world.

Rabbi Lisa Grant, Ph.D., Director of the New York Rabbinical Program, and Rabbi Jonathan Hecht, Ph.D., Director of the Cincinnati Rabbinical Program, join me in wishing you much fulfillment in the years ahead.



Rabbi Dvora E. Weisberg, Ph.D.  
Director, HUC-JIR Rabbinical School,  
Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Professor of Rabbis

#### ON BECOMING ORDAINED AS A CANTOR

In his essay, "The Vocation of the Cantor," Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel asserts: "...it is the task of [humankind] to reveal what is concealed; to be the voice of the glory, to sing its silence, to utter, so to speak, what is in the heart of all things...[Humanity] is the voice; [our] task is to be the song. The cosmos is a congregation in need of a Cantor."

Through singing, cantors energize our connection to an eternal presence that fills creation, sustaining life and spirit in every moment. The cantor does so in profound relationship with a community, as the song emerging from "the heart of all things" connects each individual soul to the next. We do so through the cantillation of ancient text, the creative retrieval of melodies transmitted through time, the musical interpretation of meaning, and the resonant embrace of communal contemporary song.

When the Israelites reach the far shore of freedom's sea, they join Moses in singing, each one declaring in the singular, *Ashira lAdonai*: "I will sing to God." Miriam leads the people with timbrel and in dancing, exhorting them in the plural, *Shiru lAdonai*: "Everyone sing together to God." A cantor conjoins the spiritual archetypes of Moses and Miriam – the individual voice interwoven with the collective – while holding in awareness through music the well-being of the entire community.

The cantors who now become ordained have devoted themselves to a deep exploration of Jewish music in its relationship to the formative and ever-emerging texts of our people. They have immersed themselves in the many dimensions of clergy formation, preparing for the pastoral, educational, and leadership roles of the cantorate. They have served communities large and small, bringing breadth and depth to prayer, learning, and observance. The faculty of the College-Institute affirm these achievements by way of their signatures on the ordination certificates, and Rabbi Weiss will offer each student a personal blessing of ordination. May the Holy One sustain your hearts and voices in service to *K'lal Yisra'eil* and all humanity.



Cantor Richard Cohn  
*Director, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music*

## CELEBRATING THE NONLINEAR LEARNING LIFE

Graduation is not an end; it is a moment of pause. It is a threshold we cross, from one stage of lifelong learning to the next. With each chapter of academic and professional learning, we harvest wisdom, glean everything we can to nourish this moment, and the next, and the one after that.

The familiarity and routine of graduation suggests its inevitability, a predictable moment at the end of an academic journey. You may think of your path to this moment, to graduate school, as having been linear. A natural step in launching your careers. You made the right moves, you strengthened the right skills, you connected with the right people; you applied, you were accepted. You've been building your education and your career to this moment.

Today we celebrate your achievement, despite disruption, uncertainty and challenge, features of life in a new normal. At this graduation, we recognize and validate your navigation of tumultuous times. As Bruce Feiler explains in his book, *Life is in the Transitions: Mastering Change at Any Age*, "the world no longer adheres to predictable, linear mandates. Instead, life is filled with chaos and complexity, periods of order and disorder, linearity and nonlinearity. In place of steady lines, observers now see loops, spirals, wobbles, fractals, twists, tangles and turnabouts."

Graduation is not the end of a linear path. Graduation is a mile marker where you are invited to pause and catch your breath, between the tangles and turnabouts, both behind you and before you. Knowing that graduation is also commencement – a beginning – is an opportunity to feel grateful and accomplished in the wisdom you have gained, standing at the crossroads between this chapter and the next, knowing that you must be prepared for the unknown. Wisdom will not make life easier; but it can make it safer when you need to take risks, lead, and seek peace. Proverbs 3, verses 13 and 17, explain that חֵכְמָה, wisdom brings us fulfillment in the pathways it paves:

אֲשֶׁר י אָדָם מֵצָא חֵכְמָה וְאָדָם יִפְיֵק תְּבוּנָה:

Happy is the one who finds wisdom; the one who attains understanding.

דְּרָכֶיהָ דְרָכֵי-נֵעִם וְכָל-נְתִיבוֹתֶיהָ שְׁלוֹם:

The ways [of wisdom, Torah] are pleasant ways, and all its paths, peaceful.

May the wisdom you have gained at HUC-JIR bring you peace, wholeness, and understanding; above all, may your wisdom reveal pathways to more wisdom. In the future, as you continue to cross thresholds in your career, whatever your path, know that your faculty and mentors will continue to stand with you at every new beginning.



Miriam Heller Stern, Ph.D.  
Vice Provost for Educational Strategy,  
National Director, School of Education,  
Associate Professor of Education



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE | JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

Dear Graduates of the Zelikow School 2022 / 5782,

It is an honor and privilege to congratulate you on your graduation from the Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. In this transformative moment, we wish to remind you that your leadership of Jewish communal life is both a responsibility and a calling. Echoing Pirkei Avot 2:5, if, from time to time on your leadership journey, you should find yourself in a place where our community needs strengthening, do not hesitate to share your willingness to lead. And when you do so, as we know you will, lead authentically, lead creatively, and lead without the concern of failure. For rest assured, the work you have already accomplished and your studies at the Zelikow School will serve a capable guide for your shaping of our Jewish future.

May you bring the light we know you hold into the world so that the wisdom and joy of community is known to you and to all those who you encounter.

*Bechatzlacha!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Ludwig'.

Erik Ludwig, Ph.D.  
*Director, Zelikow School of  
Jewish Nonprofit Management*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mandi Richardson'.

Mandi Richardson MAJCS, MSW  
*Associate Director, Student Affairs  
& Professional Development  
Zelikow School of Jewish  
Nonprofit Management*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Garai'.

Melissa Garai MAJCS, MPA  
*Associate Director, Development  
& Community Relationships  
Zelikow School of Jewish  
Nonprofit Management*



## PINES SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### GRADUATION GREETINGS

Congratulations to all our degree recipients as we conclude another academic year and celebrate your achievements. For those who have earned the Ph.D. or MAJS degrees, these graduation exercises mark the completion of your work in the Pines School of Graduate Studies and the beginning of your next steps into the worlds of academia and beyond. For recipients of the M.Phil. degree, they mark the successful completion of all your formal requirements for the Ph.D. except for the dissertation, on which you are now embarking. For the recipient of our DHL, they mark the significant achievement of an academic doctorate while engaging in full-time rabbinical work. On behalf of all the graduate faculty and support staff who have worked with you and assisted you on your journey to this point, I want to extend our heartiest best wishes for all your future endeavors.

Your dedication to disciplined, intensive, thoughtful work and mastery of your areas of study is commendable in and of itself, yet it represents only the first step in what we hope will be a lifetime of engagement with, and dedication to, the life of the mind and the spirit as researchers and writers, inspiring teachers, mentors, and public intellectuals. The skills of rigorous analysis, careful reading and interpretation, and consideration of multiple points of view that you have cultivated here through your engagement in humanistic learning—learning that embraces both the human and the humane—will additionally serve you well as concerned and informed citizens of the world. And, in studying religion, you deal, of course, with people's responses to those questions of meaning and purpose that are the quintessence of what it is to be human and to wrestle with our mortality.

So go forth now with our blessings and our hope for you to shed light on those dark corners of the world and of human understanding so much in need of illumination and of your own distinctive sparks.

Rabbi Richard S. Sarason, Ph.D.  
*Director, Pines School of Graduate Studies,  
The Deutsch Family Professor of Rabbinics and Liturgy*



## INTERFAITH DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

### GRADUATION GREETINGS

On behalf of the Interfaith Doctor of Ministry program faculty and students, it is my deep honor to salute the graduating members of the HUC classes 2021 and 2022.

With your cohorts you joined incredible adventures of teaching and learning together, engaging the great questions that discern your work in religious education and leadership, that brought you here for personal and professional formation and renewal, to deepen and (re)vision your questions for new chapters of your work in congregational and organizational leadership and pastoral care.

You arrived at HUC knowing and not knowing what you needed here. We took the risk of discovering with you the requirements specific to your unique arrival at this culminating occasion for honoring your (re) discovered selves with new visions for serving the great human needs that surround us. Through long hours of study, piles of reading and writing, learning to listen in new ways to those who seek your counsel and care, and finally, with your Capstone and Demonstration Projects, and Dissertations, you have deepened and (re) imagined new ways for meeting our world's emerging and timeless needs.

We come together today to launch you into new regions and realms for your work. We celebrate our Doctor of Ministry graduates: you brought forward a new language for healing the healers! You created new space for intimacy with ritual gatherings in our virtual lives during these extraordinary times that have changed us all, forever. You developed new ministries for addressing cultural stigmas of alcoholism, and for attending to traumatic loss and bereavement, for your communities in Nigeria. Each of you are revitalizing pathways for leading and caring in our time.

Together, we join in celebrating with our fellow HUC graduates and ordinees on this auspicious day! Carry on! Blessed with our hopes for your enriched journeys. With head and heart aligned, continue to serve the needs that rise to meet you. Bring discernment to the struggles you encounter, and the *love* so needed to care for and lead in our world today. Bring your vision, your talents, and your strength, into the new world we are building, together!

Jennifer R. Harper, MDiv, DD, NCPsyA  
*Director, Interfaith Doctor of Ministry*



**LOUCHHEIM SCHOOL  
OF JUDAIC STUDIES**

## GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS

The English word “integrity” comes from the same root as “integral” meaning “whole” or “complete.” The sense of having integrity—strength of character, of being honest—requires a fullness of self, a wholeness of being, a completeness in one’s bearing in the world.

As we mark the completion of your undergraduate degree at USC and, thus, the end of your studies in the Louchheim School for Judaic Studies at HUC-JIR, let’s think about what it means to be complete, to be whole, to have integrity. It is a short linguistic hop to move from the English word “whole” to the Hebrew word “shalem” which shares its letters with “shalom” and “salaam”; and it would be easy to link the idea of integrity with the notion of “peace.” But the last several years has shown us that there has been nothing easy about achieving this milestone.

Here’s an alternative way of approaching the idea. Let’s describe graduation as the continuation of a spiral—a circular enclosure that grows and expands and moves forward and upward and out in ways that incorporate all that came before it while allowing the inclusion of fresh ideas, new influences, and unforeseen experiences. The spiral generates its own kind of energy; as it grows it allows us to think about completion as a dynamic, as a vibrant source of re-utilizing knowledge without re-tracing our exact steps. The spiral urges us to think about wholeness as a continual state of growth and development; we can become complete *because* we continue to mature, to progress, and to spread our wings.

The spiral invokes Rabbi Tarfon for me, who reminds us *lo alekah hamlikah ligmor v’lo atah ben chorim l’hibatel mimena*. “You are not required to complete the work but neither are you free to cease from doing it.” In other words, go forward and continue learning. Use the fullness of your Jewish Studies major as the impetus for a life of spiraled learning, of moving forward while deepening and expanding that which you already know. Strive for the kind of integrity that will allow you work toward the ideals that are treasured and true but never tried and tired. It has been a thrill to see you get this far. Come back in 5, 10, 15, and 20 years and show us what you’ve got.

Congratulations and Fight On!

Leah Hochman, Ph.D.  
*Director, Louchheim School for Judaic Studies*  
*Associate Professor of Jewish Thought*

April/May 2022

Nisan/Iyar 5782

Dear HUC-JIR Class of 2022,

You are stepping into leadership at a moment when the world is finally beginning to emerge from a long and torturous trek through the wilderness of pandemic – a time of loss, fear, and uncertainty. As a new era of Jewish life commences, communities of faith and seekers alike will look to you for spiritual healing, guidance, and innovation. Thankfully, you have shown the idealism, imagination, backbone, and agility to navigate the complexities and opportunities that stand before us.

Some of you will serve in our almost 900 Union for Reform Judaism congregations, some on college campuses, some as chaplains in hospitals or in the military, others in summer camps or in Jewish startups. From Charlotte to Montreal to Beersheva, a host of dedicated individuals who live Reform Jewish lives of depth and commitment await your leadership.

You are also called on to inspire:

- Young people who have yet to experience a Judaism that respects their minds and touches their souls
- Interfaith couples, Jews of Color, and LGBTQ Jews who aren't sure the Jewish community includes them
- Former temple members who have lost interest
- Countless souls that can't yet identify the gnawing hunger they feel for a deeper, clearer purpose in life.

Our demanding Torah of *tzedek* expands your universe of obligation to fight for the lives and dignity of:

- Asylum seekers and refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan seeking a safe harbor just like our forbearers
- People of color and others who live in fear of deadly violence because of their skin color
- LGBTQ people who still face an epidemic of discrimination, often from those who call themselves religious leaders

In the face of rising tides of anti-Semitism and all other forms of hatred, racism, and bigotry, we call on you to summon forth reservoirs of moral courage and activism of moral courage and activism.

In her Shirat Asavim, the Israeli composer Naomi Shemer, has an inspiring message for all who lead our people:

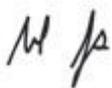
דַּע לְךָ שֶׁכָּל רוֹעֵה וְרוֹעֵה יֵשׁ לוֹ נֵגוֹן מִיּוֹחַד מְשֻׁלֵּו

*"Know that each and every shepherd has their own melody."*

To our newest leaders, we've already begun to hear the songs of your hearts – let your voices rise as you animate this new landscape of Jewish life and may the grasses of the field and all seekers of light be awakened and comforted by the words, deeds, and melodies that flow forth from your hearts. Resist being caretakers of the status quo. Bring Torah to every burning issue.

As part of the Movement of change and growth, make the Jewish world your greenhouse for bold experimentation as you find ever new ways to help people live lives of *kedushah*, *tzedek* and *chesed*. We look forward to being your partners in shaping the world as it ought to be.

With abundant blessings,



Rabbi Rick Jacobs



Jennifer Brodkey Kaufman



With the greatest joy, we offer wishes of mazal tov to you on your ordination as a rabbi, even as we also warmly embrace you as a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis! You will bring your own unique talents and gifts to our people, advance the ideals and ideas of our faith, and serve in an unbroken chain of tradition of rabbinic leadership that shapes, molds, challenges and comforts the Jewish people to be ever vital and responsive to changing times. Since our founder Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise began our Union, our College and our Conference, he envisioned that path, and today you fulfill his vision with your ordination and the promise you bring to Jewish life in whatever rabbinic path of leadership you follow.

At the Central Conference of American Rabbis, we are here to help you nurture your own rabbinic growth, to provide a trusting sense of community, to support you in your professional development, and to gather you with colleagues who care for each other. We look forward to being here for you in the decades to come, to help you, teach you, learn from you, and together share the joys and the challenges of life as a rabbi. As you join us today, we warmly welcome you to our embrace as a caring rabbinic community.

We also offer wishes of mazal tov to your family who celebrates with you, having supported you in your journey of studies through the years, sacrificed for you, and cared for you. Your ordination is an achievement shared with them, and we offer our appreciation for the continued support and nurturing that they will offer to you in your rabbinate.

Most of all, as you become a rabbi on this day, and as we welcome you to the Central Conference of American Rabbis, we pray that today begins a lifetime of meaning and fulfillment in the rabbinate, filled with achievement and with much joy!

Mazal tov!

Rabbi Lewis Kamrass  
President

Rabbi Hara Person  
Chief Executive



## AMERICAN CONFERENCE *of* CANTORS

*Sacred music. Spiritual leadership. Jewish life.*

Dear Cantors Anderson, Ben-Or, Benrey, Greene, Hamstra, Jarvis, Mark, McMillan, and Rosen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you as our newest colleagues on behalf of the American Conference of Cantors. I extend a hearty Mazal Tov to you and your Rabbinic classmates on this very special day. I am particularly excited for you to be able to ascend the steps at Temple Emanu-El to receive your Cantorial ordination. I know that the sanctity of this profound day will stay with you as you begin your careers in pulpits and institutions across the country.

You will always be the ordination class of 2022. And matter how far you are from each other, no matter how diverse your careers become, no matter how different your individual paths may be, you are bound together by this collective identity. Together you have weathered years of a pandemic that upended traditional models of education. And you have done so with remarkable aptitude.

While you have been learning from your teachers at the college we, your mentors and colleagues have been learning from you as well. Each of you has shown us how to be flexible, creative, and resourceful. You have adapted your talents, first to the computer screen and then back to the bima and classroom with grace and good humor.

In the coming months, you will trade classrooms for offices, and you, my cantors, will continue the sacred work that you have started together. Your marvelous journey to this day has gifted you experiences and memories that only you share. You have been classmates and will now be colleagues and friends. Let the memories and comradery of the last five years sustain you in the years to come.

זֶה הַיּוֹם עָשָׂה יי נְגִילָה וְנִשְׂמְחָה בּוֹ

Today is a magical day and you have earned it.

*This is the day that Adonai has made, be glad and rejoice in it.*

*Mazal Tov!*

Cantor Claire Franco  
*President, The American Conference of Cantors*

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*The American Conference of Cantors is a 501c3 organization. An Affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism*



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Reform Jewish Educators  
Since 1955

Spring 2022

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Dear Distinguished Graduates and Ordinees,

In Brachot 17 be we read:

May you live to see your world fulfilled,  
May your destiny be for worlds still to come,  
And may you trust in generations past and yet  
to be.

May your heart be filled with intuition  
and your words be filled with insight.  
May songs of praise ever be upon your tongue  
and your vision be on a straight path before you.  
May your eyes shine with the light of holy words  
and your face reflect the brightness of the heavens.

May your lips speak wisdom  
and your fulfillment be in righteousness  
even as you ever yearn to hear the words  
of the Holy Ancient One of Old.

- Translated by Lawrence Kushner

In this blessing, said when leaving the House of Study, we find the hopes and dreams of Jewish professional life. As the Association of Reform Jewish Educators, we hope that learning and teaching is always at the center of your work and serves as an inspiration.

As the professional organization of everyone who supervises learning, adult, family, and child, formal and informal, we are here for you. The ARJE brings together Reform Jewish educational leaders who aspire to live out their sacred calling with passion, dedication, and a commitment to Jewish values and ideals. ARJE members enrich lives by challenging minds, nurturing souls and strengthening one another.

We look forward to supporting you in your career trajectory and hope that you will formally affiliate with us. May you go from strength to strength. We are so proud to celebrate you, our future, and to see how you will shape our world.

Rabbi Stacy Rigler, RJE  
ARJE Executive Director

Marisa Kaiser, RJE  
ARJE President



Dear HUC-JIR Class of 2022,

On behalf of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), we wish you all a hearty mazal tov as you embark on a new phase of your professional journey. As you join the ranks of honored scholars, educators, nonprofit professionals, cantors, and rabbis who serve our community, we know that you will add your unique skills and talents to serve with distinction and integrity.

This is both a challenging and exciting time to lead the Jewish community. It is an era of transition and change, ripe with opportunities for creativity and innovation. We know you are well-prepared to take on the mantle of leadership in this moment, and that you will follow in the footsteps of those who came before you to guide our community wisely into the future.

WRJ has been a proud supporter of HUC-JIR since we were founded in 1913. Through student scholarships, awards, prizes, and capital support we have been partners with the College-Institute for over 100 years. We take great pride in the accomplishments of HUC-JIR and its students and we look forward to celebrating your many successes in the coming years. Please know that WRJ women are here to support you throughout your career and your leadership journey.

May you go from strength to strength,

Sara B. Charney  
President

Rabbi Marla J. Feldman  
Executive Director

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Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) strengthens the voice of women worldwide and empowers them to create caring communities, nurture congregations, cultivate personal and spiritual growth, and advocate for and promote progressive Jewish values.

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Toll-free: 866.WRJ.5924 · Email: [info@wrj.org](mailto:info@wrj.org) · Website: [www.wrj.org](http://www.wrj.org)



## ALUMNI LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

DEAR GRADUATES,

Mazel tov! We rejoice today as we participate with you in this joyous celebration of your achievements and in this ceremony of transition in which you become an alum of HUC-JIR. It is a wonderful day for you, and for all of us. With the addition of you and your class to the College-Institute's circle of alums we become a stronger intellectual, spiritual, and leadership force in the Jewish world and in our contributions to all of humanity.

בן בג-בג אומר: חפך-בה והפך בה, דכולה בה, ובה תחזי, וסיב ובלה בה, ומנה לא תזוע, שאין לך מדה טובה הימך

(Abot 5:25). (Ben Bag-Bag says: Turn it and turn it again for all is in it. Pore over it, grow old and frail over it, do not move away from it, for there is no better guide than it.)

Elsewhere this saying is ascribed to Rabbi Hillel who is said to have been Ben Bag-Bag's teacher. In this mishnah is found both a description of your experience as a student at HUC-JIR and an injunction for your continuing life after this day. In your deep encounter with the classical texts of the Jewish tradition and of human civilization, you have turned it and you have turned it again. In your critical engagement with the literature and practices of your profession, you have turned it over and over as you imagined your future in the Jewish communities and organizations you will serve and as you longed to have an impact on a world in need of hope and direction. The injunction: remember. Remember how central study was to the transformation you experienced as a student and recognize that ongoing study will permit you to continue that process throughout your life. Study is central to all academic life. It is the heart of the Judaism you have encountered in your years at HUC-JIR.

As alums we assume some responsibility for assuring that the College-Institute will continue to be the instrument of vision and transformation which we experienced and admired. We want this instrument, this vision, to grow and to be available for subsequent generations. We do this as a network of mutual growth and support. The vision of HUC-JIR lives through us and our collective self. This network is broad, deep, diverse, and intense.

The College-Institute will look to you for specific types of help and assistance. All of the schools and campuses have an expectation that they can rely upon you to serve in a variety of mentoring and other support roles for students. As alums you are critical to student recruitment, assuring that top-level students within your circles of contact and influence are encouraged to consider enrollment at HUC-JIR. Most of us are here because of some contacts or encouragement from earlier alums. This is an important tradition. Of course, financial support is important as well. You now take your place helping to assure that future rabbis, educators, cantors, communal leaders, and scholars will continue to benefit from the educational experiences that equipped you to live into the important and successful careers and lives characteristic of the vast majority of your fellow alums.

L'shalom,

John Kampen, Ph.D.

Chair, Alumni Leadership Council



## RABBINICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### DEAR COLLEAGUES:

Mazal tov on reaching this momentous occasion!

When you began your HUC-JIR journey, you likely could not have imagined the reality in which you have been living, learning, and leading. And yet, with passion, dedication, and resilience, you continued along your path and find yourself reaching this milestone here today.

As our sage Rabbi Ben Bag Bag taught, “turn it and turn it, for everything is in it.” (Avot 5:22) Undoubtedly, you have done this many times already with both big “T” Torah and little “t” torah. You have gained insight and inspiration; you have learned and taught. You have forged relationships and experiences; you have developed your sense of self and your sense of responsibility to the Jewish people. You have sharpened your sense of flexibility and adaptability. May you continue to draw on the wisdom of our tradition as you transition into your new role, turning it over many many times to come.

As you embark on the next step in your journey, continue to apply the texts and traditions of our people in all that you do. As you bring the texts and traditions to life, remember to bring your authentic self to these texts and traditions. Continue to be curious, to learn to teach, to do, and simply to be the extraordinary graduate of HUC-JIR that you already are.

Additionally, welcome to your new status as an esteemed alum of the College-Institute! All of us who are a part of the Alumni Association are glad to have you as our colleague! We look forward to engaging with you in this new way in the weeks, months, and years to come!

Mazal tov on this achievement and *b'hatzlacha* on your next endeavor!

B'vracha,

Rabbi Leah A. Citrin  
*Chair, Rabbinical Alumni Association*



**DEBBIE FRIEDMAN  
SCHOOL OF  
SACRED MUSIC  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

#### MESSAGE TO THE CLASS OF 2022

On behalf of the DFSSM Alumni Association, we are proud to congratulate the entire Class of 2022/5782. During these past few years of extraordinary challenges, you have benefited from the luxury of a built-in chevruta of classmates and gifted faculty whose roles were often interchangeable. There is nothing that can approach the intense beauty of this precious time together. As your DFSSM Alumni Co-Chairs, we hold out to you the promise of the next step upon ordination; a wider community of Chazzanim eager to know you and to collaborate with you from around the world.

You have each demonstrated unique abilities, skills, and leadership qualities to “sing a new song” and bring much needed compassion and inspiration to many different communities.

We are honored and excited to invite you to become members of our Alumni Association and join us in the support of HUC-JIR, the students, faculty, and now – YOU! Together, we will strive to build a meaningful network of alumni and friends, enhance the efforts of the DFSSM, and assist in fundraising to ensure the same levels of excellence for those who come after us.

“Let the heavens rejoice...!” as together we offer you blessings and congratulations.

Mazal tov!

Cantors Fredda Mendelson and Ida Rae Cahana  
*Co-Chairs, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music Alumni Association*

**TO OUR NEWEST COLLEAGUES:**

*Mazal Tov!* As you mark your graduation today, we hope you are celebrating your accomplishments during your years at HUC-JIR while you eagerly anticipate the future.

This is a momentous milestone on your journey, and as you reach it, we are thrilled to welcome you to the HUC-JIR School of Education Alumni Association! The SOEAA is a strong and supportive network of alumni from many programs and generations of HUC's School of Education. We serve in a wide variety of professional settings across the globe and teach learners of all ages from tots to adults. The thread that ties us all together is having had the opportunity to study at HUC, and we are excited to count you among our alumni family.

Our SOEAA mission statement is grounded in five pillars, including *kehillah* (building community), *kavod* (honoring our alumni), *limud* (ongoing learning), *t'micha* (financial support), and *l'dor va'dor* (cultivating the next generation). Through these values from our tradition, we strengthen our *alma mater*, our professional community, and one another.

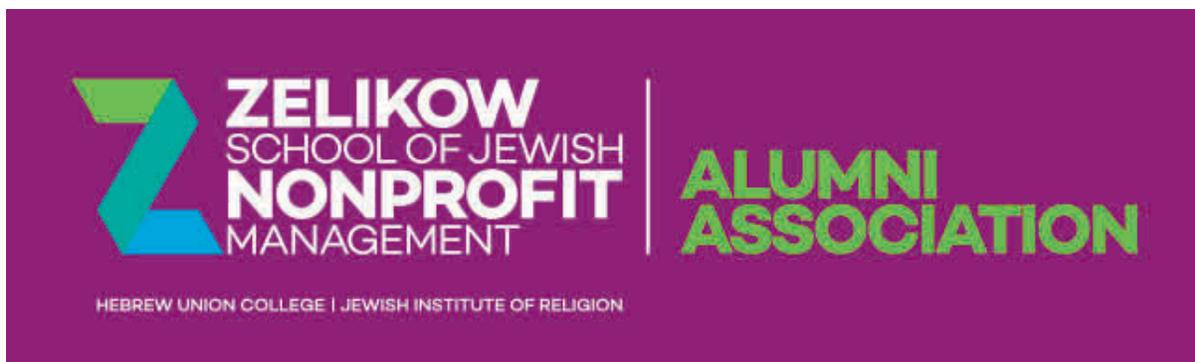
We hope that as a School of Education graduate, you will continue your connection to HUC-JIR, to your classmates and professors, and that you begin to build new connections to the many alumni in our network. In addition, we hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities the College offers to you as an HUC-JIR alum. We look forward to sharing more about these upcoming opportunities to connect and learn together. Please check out the School of Education Alumni page on the HUC website and do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or would like to learn more about getting involved.

This is a challenging time to be a practitioner in our field, to be working to keep our people connected and whole, no matter where we are and what our setting. We've had to stretch, grow, and learn in new and unexpected ways. It is important to remember that we are part of a collective network, that we are not alone in this work and that together we creatively build our field and our world. We cannot wait to welcome you!

Again, we want to wish you a *Mazal Tov* on all your graduation and all your accomplishments. We look forward to greeting you as a colleague!



Sarah Lauing and Jo-Ellen Unger  
Co-Chairs, School of Education Alumni Association



Dear HUC Zelikow School Graduates,

*Mazal Tov* on your graduation and your continued journey in the field of Jewish nonprofit management.

One could argue that we are facing one of the most challenging times in our field's history. One could also argue that this is the most exciting moments in our field's history, one filled with possibilities and potential. The opportunity you've been given is to reconnect people with the Jewish community, to remind them there is value in community, and to create new, uncharted pathways, so they will feel brave enough to take this rich 4,000-plus year history and find relevance to their lives today.

Know that you are not alone. The partnerships you have made and will continue to make will empower you and inspire your work. We, as the alumni committee of HUC-JIR's Zelikow School, are excited to tackle these problems together and come up with these ideas together. We are here to encourage and challenge you. We will be your colleagues, your supervisors, and your mentors.

The alumni community is strong and we are a global network. We hope it is a comfort to know that wherever you may find yourself, an HUC-JIR alum is not far.

Ronnel Conn  
*Co-President*

Cassie Weinstock  
*Co-President*

Amanda Abrams  
*Vice President*



**PINES SCHOOL OF  
GRADUATE STUDIES  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Dear Graduates of the Class of 2022,

The Pines School of Graduate Studies Alumni Association congratulates all those who are receiving degrees, certificates, and ordination as part of the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion Class of 2022 Graduation and Ordination ceremonies. The completion of your training at HUC–JIR constitutes an impressive achievement. Today marks a significant moment in the lives of those who will serve as leaders, scholars, educators, cantors, and rabbis. We celebrate this joyful day with each of you.

We offer a special word of congratulations to the new graduates of the Pines School of Graduate Studies. You are receiving your degree today from an institution with world class resources and a rich intellectual heritage. As many of our alumni can attest, HUC–JIR provides outstanding preparation for a variety of careers in teaching and scholarship. We look forward to seeing how your HUC–JIR education will serve you in your future endeavors, including students you will teach, books you will write, and academic leadership you will provide. We encourage you to employ your scholarly acumen with the kind of academic rigor and sustaining values that animate our institution. Lastly, we want to welcome you to the family of the Pines School of Graduate Studies Alumni Association!

Dr. Michael W. Graves  
*Chair, Pines School of Graduate Studies Alumni Association*

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