



**David B. Edelson, *Chair, Hebrew Union College Board of Governors***

## **Congratulations**

### **Ordination 2026, Los Angeles, Hebrew Union College**

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I am honored to thank you today for being part of this joyful and moving ordination ceremony.

I feel especially privileged to congratulate our newly ordained Rabbis, six exceptional people poised to make a difference in other peoples' lives and thus in the world.

We come together in this sanctuary as the College celebrates 150 years, a remarkable legacy of scholarship, spiritual formation, and service to the Jewish people. That legacy continues with you.

We need you now more than ever.

The Board of Governors extends its wholehearted congratulations to you, the Class of 2026 / 5786. We also honor your families and loved ones who stood beside you through every challenge and triumph over these past five years.

Your path to this moment was not always easy. You pursued your calling during times of uncertainty and pain for the Jewish world, when the weight of October 7th and its aftermath have made the work of Jewish leadership feel more difficult than ever ... and also more urgent.

You rose to meet that moment. Thank you.

You leave HUC not only with knowledge and skills, but with purpose. And it is that sense of purpose, that resolve, that more than anything else will define your rabbinates.

The communities awaiting you are hungry for exactly what you bring: Vision, warmth, wisdom, and a deep commitment to Jewish life. You have the power to transform those communities, and through them, to help shape the Jewish future.

You take your place among more than twenty-five-hundred active rabbinical and cantorial alumni whose work spans the globe and touches countless lives. We have no doubt you will energize that network as you add your verve and vitality.

We ask much of you. We ask you to be guardians of Judaism's ethical tradition, a tradition that has guided our people throughout our history.



We ask you to strengthen the connections between North American Jewry, the State of Israel, and Jewish communities everywhere.

And we ask you to be voices for the values we treasure, like justice, compassion, dignity, and hope.

The arc of the moral universe does not bend on its own. It bends when people like you choose to bend it.

May you be sustained by the wisdom of your teachers, the friendship of your classmates, and the love of those who will walk with you through all that lies ahead.

May your work bring you joy. And may those whose lives you touch feel the full blessing of your presence.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, congratulations. May your lives be enriched by the time you spent together at Hebrew Union College.

We could not be prouder of you, or more hopeful because of you.