

## Graduation Ceremony HUC-JIR 2024

### Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the graduation ceremony of the Cincinnati Campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Our purpose today is to recognize the achievements of our students and recognize the work of scholars who are contributing to the ongoing engagement in, and study of, religion in public life.

Since our founding in 1875, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, has focused on the goal of applying modern academic methodologies to the study of the inherited wisdom our past. We do this in order to gain greater insight into these precious texts and so that we can renew these teachings in the present and, thereby, change the future.

On the official seal of the College – Institute are the words: *HaBoker Or*, “in the morning, light.” Our hope is that the graduates of this institution of higher learning -- rabbinic, Masters of Arts, and Doctors of Philosophy – will go on to serve in universities, congregations, and communities throughout the world, applying that light to help solve the problems of our day.

A few introductions are necessary!

Joining us in the Scheuer Chapel this morning we have Dr. Andrew Rehfeld, the President of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Rabbi Dr. Andrea Weiss, our Provost, Rabbi Dr. Richard Sarason, Director of the Pines School of Graduate Studies. We also welcome Dr. Ed Septimus, the Chair of our Central Region Board of Advisors and a member of the Board of Governors; Dr. Michael Graves, Chair of the Pines School of Graduate Studies Alumni Association; and, of course, Frederick M. Lawrence, the CEO of The Phi Beta Kappa Society, who will be our speaker this morning. Andrew, Andrea, and Fred, we are delighted that you are here this morning.

Thank you to all the members of our faculty, active, emeritus, and retired, who are here. Your devotion to our students is truly what makes this day possible!

We also want to say a special hello to Joan Pines, whose commitment to our school and our mission has been so great. She is joining us on live stream, but her presence is felt all around us this morning!

On behalf of the faculty and administration of the Cincinnati Campus, I welcome you all – both here and online – family, friends and students, to this morning's ceremony, and invite you to celebrate with us on this great day in the lives of our graduates.

The psalmist said: *Zeh ha-yom asah Adonai, nagilah v'nismicha bo*,  
“This is the day God has made, let us exult and rejoice...” (118:24)

It is now my pleasure to invite the President of Hebrew Union College –  
Jewish Institute of Religion, Dr. Andrew Rehfeld, to present the Doctor  
of Humane Letters and introduce our speaker.

Andrew Rehfeld

1. Words of welcome; introduction of speaker
2. Awards Honorary Doctorate

Dr. Rosenblum speaks

Andrew Rehfeld comes back to the podium

1. Jonathan calls up MAHLs (Gretchen, Marisa, Jamie, and Mark (in abstentia) to receive their hoods and faux degrees
2. Rick calls up PhDs (Stephen Donnally and Mark Shaffer) to receive their hoods and faux degrees
3. Rick calls up MPhils (David Johnson, Robert Murphy, Chris Slane) to receive their hoods and faux degrees
4. Rick calls up MAs (Jonathan Beck, Thomas Carroll, and Darhla Miles) to receive their hoods and faux degrees

Jonathan invites Michael Graves to offer greetings on behalf of the PSGS Alumni Association

Jonathan invites Ed Septimus to confirm degrees

Jonathan gives directions for recessional; robe return; festive luncheon in the Mayerson building auditorium.

Jonathan invites Rabbi David Aaron, PhD, Professor of Hebrew Bible and History of Interpretation to offer Benediction