



Reading, Class of 2026

Los Angeles Ordination 2026, Hebrew Union College

Rabbis...!

An abundant love has loved us into this moment. Love from our ancestors, our communities, and the Divine.

THANK YOU and WOW and! Been waiting five years for that.

We each feel the joys and pains of the world differently, and yet we have shared five years of *growing together* and uplifting the unique sparks that each of us will offer to our communities. Here are some little snapshots of those sparks from our time together at Hebrew Union College:

- Rabbi Rebeca Carrillo proudly representing Latin American Jewry in our cohort while also drawing incredible sketches of Rabbi Akiva, or Aaron's sons, or a wild story from the Talmud in the margins of her notes.
- Rabbi Erika Purdy-Patrick adopting a new Hebrew Union College student each year, making sure no one was left to navigate rabbinical school alone.
- Rabbi Tori Greene bringing t'filah music to the next level with melodies from all over the world, including a Moroccan Yedid Nefesh that's still stuck in our heads.
- Rabbi Julie Fishbach asking a professor about a Hebrew pun and being told, yet again, "I'm not sure. But that would be an interesting thesis." (Which she then wrote.)
- Rabbi Sarah Livschitz showing up to class with her bicycle, a bag packed with forged fruits, and a laptop full of questions.

- [Rabbi Sarah Livschitz speaking:] And Rabbi Lizzie Frankel opening her viola case and playing the soulful notes of Mi Shebeirach.

Our cohort enters the rabbinate with deep Jewish joy, unending curiosity, and vibrant creativity. We are eager to serve as *klei kodesh*, as vessels of holiness, and to respond to the joys and pains of the world with abundant love.

When we reflected on what we wanted to offer to you in our first moment as rabbis, we thought of blessing you with a song from Batya Levine called “May I Be Empty.” We’ve sung this song together since our year in Israel, and it has been a source of comfort and a call to action: In times of both emptiness and fullness, may we be open to receiving and sharing life’s light.

[All singing:]

May I be empty and open to receive the light / May I be empty and open to receive

May I be full and open to receive the light / May I be full and open to receive

May I be empty/full and open to receive the light / May I be empty/full and open to receive