

**HUC-JIR/CN Graduation Invocation**

Provost Rabbi Andrea L. Weiss

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In an article entitled “Mixed Blessings,”

HUC-JIR Bible Professor Dr. Adriane Leveen

observes that “the noun *beracha*

appears almost exclusively in just 2 books of Torah:

Genesis and Deuteronomy.”

Noting that blessings provide a frame

at the beginning and end of our sacred story,

Dr. Leveen teaches:

“in moments of transition and flux,

we need blessings to strengthen us for what lies ahead.”

At this time of transition

for our graduates,

at this harrowing, heartbreaking juncture

in the history of our people Israel

and the wider world,

may blessings strengthen each of us

for what lies ahead.

With high expectations,  
we applaud those who will go forth  
to a life of scholarship and sacred service,  
a life of teaching and learning,  
a life committed to community  
and the pursuit of justice and peace.  
As we begin this graduation ceremony  
with words of blessing,  
we pray that God will watch over our graduates  
and all of us  
on our life's journeys:

יְהוָה יִשְׁמַר-צֵאתְךָ וּבֹאֲךָ  
מִמְעַתָּה וְעַד-עוֹלָם:

May God guard our going and our coming,  
now and forever more.

*And let us say: Amen*

