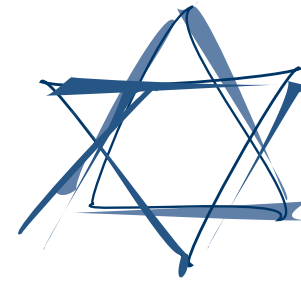


ORDINATION/GRADUATION 2007

On Monday, May 28, 2007, we will be celebrating our fifth ordination ceremony as well as the second graduation ceremony of our Chaplaincy Program. Held at Stephen S. Wise Temple, the event draws hundreds of friends, family and Academy supporters who come to honor this remarkable milestone in the lives of the ordinees/graduates. Eleven rabbinic students will be ordained this year. They are Michael Barclay, Julia Watts Belser, Bennett Blum, MD, Anthony Elman, Andrew Feig, Mark Goodman, Julie Kozlow, Jeffrey Lipschultz, Mark Rotenberg, Faith Tessler, and Cheryl Weiner. After studying in both the Rabbinical and Cantorial Schools, Mark Goodman is also being ordained as a cantor along with fellow cantorial student, Osnat Margalith. Bonnie Leopold will be graduating from the Chaplaincy Program. This will be the largest number of students being ordained/graduating in the Academy's history to date.



Front Row left to right: Osnat Margalith, Cheryl Weiner, Faith Tessler, Bonnie Leopold, Julie Kozlow, Mark Goodman Back Row left to right: Jeffrey Lipschultz, Anthony Elman, Michael Barclay, Andrew Feig Not pictured: Julia Watts Belser, Bennett Blum, Mark Rotenberg



Academy for Jewish Religion | CA

Serving as a bridge between the pillars of Judaism

Spring/Summer 2007 Volume 1 No.5



AJR, CA is a transdenominational, pluralistic institution dedicated to the training of rabbis, cantors, and chaplains. Our mission is to develop religious leaders steeped in Torah wisdom and tradition, and capable of transforming Jewish communities into places where all Jews can grow toward wholeness and well-being.



News briefs from...

The Rabbinical School

The first course offering from the *Savina J. Teubal Chair for Jewish Women's Studies*, "Construction of Gender," is being taught by Rabbi Julie Pelc. Ordained by Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, Rabbi Pelc also teaches at the University of Judaism. The Chair honors the late feminist scholar, prolific author and innovator of Jewish Ritual. It was endowed by Sarah's Tent, the organization that Dr. Teubal z"l co-founded with Rabbi Judith Halevy.

The Cantorial School

On March 16, the Dean of the Cantorial School, Hazzan Nathan Lam, along with AJR, CA alum, Cantor Judy Greenfeld, '05, led Shabbat Services at the Beit Warszawa Synagogue in Warsaw, Poland.

The Chaplaincy Program

AJR, CA students are currently doing Chaplaincy-related work at the Jewish Home for the Aging and Torrance Memorial Hospital's Home and Hospice Department.

Getting *Nachas* in Abundance

The Yiddish word *nachas* has been defined as "satisfaction, pride, pleasure;" as in "It is the task of the Jew to bring *nachas* to G-d, even as it is the task of the child to bring *nachas* to his or her parents." As we, the Administration of the Academy for Jewish Religion, CA (AJR, CA), look back over the last several months, we feel blessed with an abundance of *nachas*.

When the Academy was established in Spring 2000, its founders were determined to create the highest caliber institution; one that would attract the kind of students, faculty, and board members whose intellect and accomplishments were equaled by their commitment and dedication to the Jewish people. That goal has become a reality as evinced by the most recent honors and achievements earned by those who are affiliated with AJR, CA.

Among the articles in this issue, there are those that note the national and international organizations that have chosen Academy Faculty and Alumni for leadership positions within their organizations. You will learn about the impact that two of our Rabbinical School alumni are making at well-known Jewish Day Schools as well as the fact that a local newspaper ran a major profile on two alumni of our Chaplaincy Program. Finally, you will read about our upcoming Ordination/Graduation which will have the largest number of ordinees/graduates to date. As these tremendously talented men and women embark on their professional careers in the Jewish community we know that in the years to come, they too will be a source of pride for all of us who are blessed to be part of the Academy family.

Jacob Zigelboim, MD
Chair, Board of Governors

Rabbi Mordecai Finley, PhD
Provost

Rabbi Stan Levy, Esq.
President

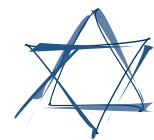
Hazzan Nathan Lam
Dean, Cantorial School

Rabbi Mel Gottlieb, PhD
Dean, Rabbinical School and Chaplaincy Program

Hazzan Eva Robbins
Director of Admissions and Recruitment

Tamar Frankiel, PhD
Dean of Students

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Academy for Jewish Religion | CA

The Yitzhak Rabin Hillel Center for Jewish Life at UCLA
574 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Alumni Making an Impact

The Academy is tremendously proud of the impact that our Alumni are making nationwide. In this issue, we profile two talented and accomplished individuals who are passionate about Jewish Education.

Rabbi Liat Yardeni-Funk, '06

Current position: School Rabbi and Director of Judaic Studies at Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School in Los Angeles.

Making an impact: The spiritual leader for over 500 students and 100 staff members, Rabbi Yardeni-Funk has created the innovative “Nosh ‘n Drash” program, enabling each of the approximately 200 fifth and sixth grade students to, twice a year, write about and then lead a discussion on how that week’s Torah portion has helped them to strengthen their Jewish values and become a better person. The students also get to share their favorite “nosh” with their classmates thereby perpetuating the Jewish tradition of eating and learning together.



Rabbi Avraham Navah, '06

Current position: Campus Rabbi of Kadima Hebrew Academy in West Hills, CA.

Making an impact: Recognizing the important role that a school can play in helping its students identify right from wrong, Rabbi Navah has implemented a “Value of the Month” program. The goal is to apply the value system that has given meaning to Jews throughout the ages and is still relevant today. Each month, a specific value is emphasized in class discussions, reading and writing projects, art projects and actual deeds. Each grade is responsible for choosing a value and leading the monthly “Value Assembly.”



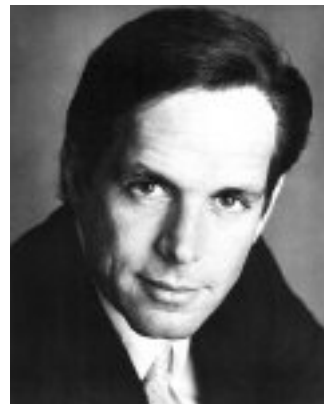
NEW CHAIR ELECTED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dr. Jacob Zigelboim has been unanimously elected to serve as the Chair of AJR, CA's Board of Governors. Rabbi Stan Levy, one of the Academy's co-founders and the founding Board Chair will now serve as President. A long time board member, Dr. Zigelboim is also a Professor of Philosophical Thought in the Academy's Rabbinical School and Chaplaincy Program. He is a former Professor of Medicine (Hematology-Oncology) and Microbiology and Immunology at UCLA's Medical School, and has authored some 90 peer-reviewed scientific research papers and co-authored 10 chapters in medical science books.



Dr. Zigelboim is a recognized expert on the subject of healing and is the author of *From Fear to Awe: A New Understanding of the Book of Job* and *To Health: The New Humanistic Oncology*. “I am committed to the Academy,” he says, “because it is developing the kind of Jewish religious leaders that I, a non-affiliated Jew, have yearned for. These are leaders steeped in Torah wisdom and tradition who are fully committed to serve the individual and collective needs of *all* Jews.”

Cantors Assembly Chooses AJR, CA Faculty Member as President and Honors Dean



The Academy is proud to announce that Hazzan Joseph Gole, the hazzan of Sinai Temple in West Los Angeles and a member of our Cantorial School Faculty, has been chosen as the new President of the Cantors Assembly, the largest professional organization of cantors in the world. Hazzan Gole is being installed on May 7th as part of the Cantors Assembly's 60th Anniversary Convention being held in Los Angeles. The installation will include a concert featuring members of the Cantors Assembly as well as guest appearances by Theodore Bikel and Mike Burstyn. Part of the proceeds from the concert will benefit the

Israel Air Force Memorial and Heritage Project. Hazzan Nathan Lam, the Dean of the Academy's Cantorial School and the hazzan of Stephen S. Wise Temple, will also be honored at the event. Hazzan Lam is a former President of the Cantors Assembly and the current President of the Cantors Assembly Foundation.

If you know of a synagogue or other Jewish institution that needs a Rabbinic, Cantorial or Chaplaincy intern, contact Rabbi Mel Gottlieb at 310-824-1586.

Judaism and the Creative Life

On March 20th, the Academy, together with Hillel at UCLA, co-sponsored “Judaism and the Creative Life”, the first in a series featuring celebrities from the worlds of art and entertainment. Held at the Yitzhak Rabin Hillel Center for Jewish Life at UCLA, the inaugural program featured Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, David Mamet, and noted actress and singer/composer, Rebecca Pidgeon, who discussed the role that Judaism plays in their lives. The program was moderated by Rabbi Mordecai Finley, PhD, the Provost of AJR, CA and founding rabbi of Ohr HaTorah Congregation.

OHALAH Appoints AJR, CA Alums

A number of AJR, CA alumni have assumed prominent positions within OHALAH, the Association of Jewish Renewal Rabbis. The Association brings together rabbis as well as cantors from a wide spectrum of the Jewish people to participate in the transformation and renewal of Judaism and the Jewish people. Rabbi Yocheved Mintz, '04 has recently been appointed Secretary of the Executive Board and Rabbi Paula Marcus, '04 is the incoming Chair of the Ethics Committee. Rabbi Alicia Magal, '03 is the incoming Chair of the Membership Committee and Rabbi Min Kantrowitz, '03 is the Chair of the Member Services Committee. Rabbi Elisheva Beyer, '06 who is also an attorney, has been appointed Counsel to the Association's Ethics Committee.

International Center Appoints Rabbi Lynn Brody, '05

The Center for Jewish Culture and Creativity, a non-profit educational institution in both the United States and Israel, has recently appointed Rabbi Lynn Brody, '05 as President. The Center functions as a global fellowship of creative and performing artists, scholars and benefactors committed to evolving the dynamic national Jewish culture envisioned by Zionist philosopher Ahad Ha'am. Rabbi Brody is the spiritual leader of the Sun City Jewish Congregation in Palm Desert, CA.

AJR, CA IN THE NEWS

On Sunday, January 21st, the South Bay's major newspaper, the *Daily Breeze*, ran “Chaplains at Little Company of Mary reach across faiths: Jewish ministers find a calling and place at the Torrance Catholic medical facility.” The lengthy article profiled hospital chaplains and AJR, CA alumni Ruth Belonsky, '06 and Judith Sommerstein, '06. To read the article in its entirety, visit <http://ajrca.org/news.shtml>.

