

# PROGRAM SUPPORT

The College-Institute has been blessed to have Dr. Paul M. Steinberg as a part of its administration and faculty for over 40 years. Ordained at the Jewish Institute of Religion in 1949, he has served as a beloved mentor and teacher to generations of students. His distinguished career has seen service as Dean of the Rabbinical School, Dean of the School of Education, Dean of the School of Sacred Music, Dean of the New York School, Executive Dean of the Jerusalem School, Vice President of the College-Institute and, currently, the Eleanor Sinsheimer Distinguished Service Professor of Jewish Religious Education and Human Relations, and Special Assistant to the President.

To honor his commitment to the College-Institute and to the Reform Movement, and that of his wife Trudy Steinberg, Dr. Steinberg was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa* at a Special Academic Convocation in 1997. Trudy Steinberg was

*The Dr. Paul M. and Trudy Steinberg Visiting Professorship*

recognized as "a dedicated unofficial ambassador of the College-Institute," for her aid in the creation and implementation of HUC-JIR programs in the United States and overseas. HUC-JIR lauds their commitment to Jewish spiritual, intellectual, and cultural education and continuity.

To further celebrate the Steinbergs' devotion to HUC-JIR, the College-Institute created The Dr. Paul M. Steinberg and Trudy Steinberg Endowment Fund for the Teaching of Human Relations to establish a visiting professorship. Over 350 donors have already made contributions to the Fund, now totalling more than \$600,000.

The visiting professorship will be in the field of Human Relations, which will include counseling and group dynamics. In addition to the rabbi's significant mission as teacher, Dr. Steinberg views the rabbi as a skilled practitioner of human relations and sees counseling as a critical and integral component of the rabbi's service. Dr. Steinberg



Dr. Paul M. and Trudy Steinberg

notes that the newly established professorship will "enlarge upon the skills of the students who are preparing for service to our people." In addition to teaching responsibilities at the New York School, the Visiting Professor will also give public lectures and participate in College-Institute sponsored conferences.

Nearly 50 members of the HUC-JIR/NY Young Leadership Initiative, which seeks to acquaint younger Jewish professionals with the College-Institute, met for the first session of this year's innovative program, "The God We Believe In (or don't): Coming to Grips with Holiness in Liberal Judaism."

*New York Young Leadership*

This monthly program brings congregational leaders from the New York area to HUC-JIR/NY to study and engage in dialogue with some of the greatest teachers in Reform Judaism.

The first session met on October 19 with Rabbi Lawrence Kushner (C '69) on the

topic of *The God of the Kabbalists – Ancient and Modern*. Participants studied and discussed texts on spirituality, God, and Kabbalah. Teachers of future sessions are Professor Michael Meyer, Professor Tikva Frymer-Kensky, Rabbi Aaron Panken, Rabbi Jack Luxemburg, Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller, and Rabbi Andrea Weiss.

A reception was held at Todd Schiffman's home in Beverly Hills to kick off the fund-raising efforts for the Sexual Orientation Issues in Congregations and Community initiative. The afternoon raised more than \$45,000 for scholarships, internships, and program-

*An Inclusive Community Initiative*

ming to provide students with the skills necessary to successfully work within an inclusive Jewish community, and to transform commonly-held negative stereotypes. Rabbinic, education, and communal service students will benefit from the initiative. The program is chaired by John Altschul and Dr. Les Zendle.



(l to r) John Altschul, chair; Amy Sapowith, rabbinic student; Dr. Les Zendle, chair; Lisa Rosenberg, rabbinic student; and

Dr. Lewis M. Barth attended the reception at Todd Schiffman's home in Beverly Hills to initiate the fund-raising efforts for the Sexual Orientation Issues in Congregations and Community program.

It all began at an HUC-JIR Associates Program in Rockville, MD, last April. Ash Gerecht approached Rabbi Aaron Panken, Dean of the New

York School, with a simple question: "Does HUC-JIR have an Outreach Professor?" "No, but would you like to give us one?" quipped Rabbi Panken. "Maybe," was the response, and the rest, as they say, was history. With the assistance of Dru Greenwood, National Director of Outreach at the UAHC, and after a few months of thoughtful cooperative planning, the Gerecht Family Institute for Outreach at HUC-JIR was born.

Through the generosity of Ash and Gloria Gerecht and the National Center to Encourage Judaism, this Institute will be endowed with a \$1 million gift. This major gift will enable the College-Institute to develop comprehensive outreach education for students at all three stateside centers of learning and to create opportunities for advanced study for rabbis in the field. In an interview, the Gerechts remarked: "We are pleased that this new Institute will further the goals of outreach in the Reform Movement, and it is our hope that it will also encourage other sectors

of Judaism to become more active in outreach as well."

In expressing deep gratitude to the Gerecht family for their foresight and their generous support of this vital initiative,

*Empowering Outreach Training:  
The Gerecht Family Institute for  
Outreach at HUC-JIR*

Rabbi Panken noted: "Outreach to those on the margins of the Jewish community, to the



HUC-JIR rabbinical students participating in the "Promoting Jewish Identity in an Age of Choice" Seminar, Buffalo, 1999



Rabbi Nancy Kasten (NY '90), teaching at "A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?" class in Dallas



Rabbi Sam Joseph teaching at an Outreach Fellows Program at HUC-JIR/Cincinnati, where Reform lay leaders, under the supervision of their rabbis, are trained to work with those in the process of conversion

intermarried, and to those who are

interested in exploring Judaism, is a critical part of the role of the rabbi in our current American context. Training our graduates to face the real world they will see in congregations is imperative."

Ash and Gloria Gerecht established a public foundation in 1980 which became a private

family foundation, the National Center to Encourage Judaism (NCEJ), in 1995. NCEJ subsidizes the advertising of introductory Judaism courses by Jewish organizations in the secular press. These grants have been given to many Reform congregations in the past five

years, with the cooperation of the UAHC Outreach Department.

Ash Gerecht is chair of CD Publications, a national subscription newsletter firm that he and his wife, Gloria Lantz Gerecht, founded in 1961 in Washington, DC. A Kansas City, MO, native, he is a graduate of Washington University, St. Louis and the University of Chicago. Gloria Gerecht grew up in Dallas and Houston, TX and is a graduate of the University of Chicago.

In 1958, the *HUC-JIR Bulletin* (a predecessor of *The Chronicle*)

proudly announced "Rabbinic Study Goes Electronical!" Reel-to-reel tape recording and slide projection were in the vanguard of teaching tools for students at that time.

Today, HUC-JIR has advanced to a new level of technology:

- The Administrative Video Conferencing systems, made possible by the generous gift of Manuel and Rhoda Mayerson, are in place at the Cincinnati, Los Angeles, and New York Schools, and the installation of this system at the Jerusalem School is projected for the late Fall. With this remarkable new system, it will be possible to conduct regular meetings of small groups via video conferencing – another important step in the integration of our four centers of learning!

*Technology, Then  
and Now*

- Through the generous support of the Klau family, the College-Institute has been able to substantially upgrade and computerize all four Schools. In addition, the Klau family has funded the Automated Library System, and laid the foundation for video- and web-based Distance Learning.

- The HUC-JIR website [www.huc.edu](http://www.huc.edu) is now located on the same server as the UAHC and the CCAR, allowing users to search the entire Reform web presence using a single search function.

- Plans for raising funds to create an integrated Student Information Service database to unify the information of the four Schools, including financial information, donor information, student records, and student inquiries, are underway.

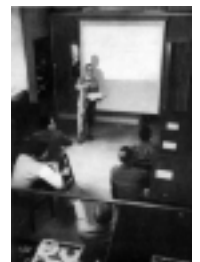
For more information or to donate to the Student Information Services Fund, please contact John Bruggeman, Director of Information Services, at (513) 221-1875, ext. 269 or [jbruggeman@huc.edu](mailto:jbruggeman@huc.edu)

Further information about the implementation of new technology can be found in *Library News* on page 46.

**Look how far we've come!**



At weekly conferences, staff checks student progress and adjusts teaching tempos. Professor Ezra Spicehandler is seated, holding paper. (From HUC-JIR Bulletin, Vol. 10, No. 2, January 1958.)



Using slides, instructor drills class in sight translations and grammar. (From HUC-JIR Bulletin, Vol. 10, No. 2, January 1958.)



IBM digitizer, 1999