

Student Scholarships Support Study and Establish Meaningful Relationships

As a graduate student pursuing her master's degree in social work at the University of Southern California, Dr. Louise Horvitz would often accompany a friend, who was a student in the School of Jewish Communal Service at HUC-JIR, to the College-Institute's Los Angeles School and together they would sit in on Rabbi David Ellenson's classes. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Dr. Horvitz had long been aware of the College-Institute and its mission to educate rabbis, cantors, educators, and communal professionals. It was a belief in the importance of education that led her back to HUC-JIR over a year ago, accompanied by Hugo de Castro, a longtime friend for over forty years and a member of the Los Angeles Board of Overseers. Dr. Horvitz met with Dean Lewis Barth and rabbinical student David Novak to begin a relationship that grew out of a rabbinical scholarship that she had endowed in memory of her mother.

Dr. Horvitz credits the influence of her mother, Eleanor Shone Siegman, of blessed memory, as her primary reason to support HUC-JIR. Eleanor was a strong role model for her daughter, encouraging Dr. Horvitz to return to school later in life and to pursue her doctorate in psychoanalysis, which she received three years ago. "My mother felt that education was of the highest priority. Her father was a rabbi but while her brothers studied *Torah*, she, as a girl, was not permitted a full Jewish education. This is why she pursued education all her life and why having a *bat mitzvah* at the age of 83 was so important to her," Dr. Horvitz recalls. "It is in her memory that I have established the Eleanor Shone Siegman Rabbinic



Endowed Scholarship to put forth that strong belief in education to benefit others who share the desire to grow and learn as a Jew."

As a third-year rabbinical student and a second-career student, David Novak has a demanding schedule, which includes a student pulpit at Congregation Beth HaTikvah in Bremerton, Washington, in addition to his extensive academic responsibilities. The financial support he receives from the Eleanor Shone Siegman Rabbinic Endowed Scholarship helps lift some of the financial burden that goes along with a full-time commitment to his studies. Over 80 percent of HUC-JIR's students receive scholarship assistance and/or financial aid in order to pursue their education and fulfill their aspirations of Jewish leadership.

Dr. Horvitz and David formed an instant connection at their first meeting. She vividly recalls his "capacity for attunement to people, his quick wit, excellent mind, and his sense of pride about his studies at HUC-JIR." As a result of this bond, she invited David to be a tutor for her grandson, Mark, as he prepared for his *bar mitzvah*.

David has become a teacher, friend, and spiritual mentor for Mark, whose great-grandmother was a role model for his commitment to Jewish life. "It's much more than just the prayers for my *bar mitzvah*: we talk about many of the core ideas of being a person of faith," remarks David. "It's been an inspiring experience for me because the 'chain of tradition' is not just a metaphor – in this case it is a reality."

The meaningful relationship that has developed between this rabbinical student and the Horvitz-Fishman family reflects the impact that HUC-JIR's students and alumni have on the lives of the people with whom they come into contact on a daily basis. Dr. Horvitz feels that the establishment of the Eleanor Shone Siegman Rabbinic Endowed Scholarship honors her mother's values and enables students like David to forge their futures.

Rabbinical student David Novak, the recipient of the Eleanor Shone Siegman Rabbinic Endowed Scholarship, established by Dr. Louise Horvitz (right).