

# Securing HUC-JIR's Future



## **I**rwin Engelman is a passionate advocate for HUC-JIR's mission.

The continuity of progressive and pluralistic Jewish values inspires Engelman's commitment to place HUC-JIR "on a firm financial footing by increasing the size of our endowment while invigorating annual giving." As the new Chairman of the Board of Governors, succeeding Barbara Friedman's distinguished tenure, he is applying his broad expertise in finance and leading institutional change to the implementation of *A New Way Forward*, HUC-JIR's five-year plan for financial sustainability.

Born to a Sephardic mother from the island of Rhodes and an Ashkenazic father born in Czernovitz, he became a *bar mitvah* at the Young Israel of the Bronx. He earned his B.B.A. at City College Downtown, then known as the 'Harvard for the poor'

and today as City University of New York's Baruch College. Morning classes as an accounting major were followed by work at Howard Clothes, a major New York clothing chain, until 9 p.m. each night. "Eighty percent of the stu-

dents in my day were Jews and, to date, Baruch has graduated more Fortune 500 CEO's than any other school in the country," notes Engelman. "As a fellow Baruch trustee best expressed it, 'It's time we started paying our tuition' and I have spent six of the past 10 years as President of the Baruch College Fund."

He and his life's partner, Rosalyn, met on a blind date and married in 1956. He earned his J.D. at Brooklyn Law School at night, while working as a C.P.A. and as the controller of an emerging technology opto-electronic company. "I then joined Xerox just when the corporate culture was beginning to relax its anti-Semitic attitudes," he recalls. He held positions of increasing responsibility at Xerox Corporation (1966-1978), including Vice President of Finance and Administration of U.S. Copier/Duplicator Operations, Vice President and Regional General Manager, and Vice President and Manager of the Reprographics Business.

As Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of The Singer Company (1978-1981), he played a central role in its turnaround. Thereafter, he served as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and a member of the Board of Directors of General Foods Corporation (1981-1987); Executive Vice President of The Blackstone Group (1987-1988); President and Chief Operating Officer of CitiTrust Bancorporation (1988-1990); and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of GAF Corporation (1990-1992). At MacAndrews and Forbes Holdings (1992-2000), he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and as Vice Chairman and Chief Administrative Officer of Revlon. Until 2002, he served as Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President, and a Director of YouthStream Media Networks. He currently serves on the Boards of Directors of eMagin Corporation and WellGen Corp.

A member of the HUC-JIR Board of Governors since 2005, Engelman has served as Chair of the Audit Committee, Chair of the Task Force Oversight Committee, and Chair of the Implementation Committee. He has served as an Officer of Temple Shaaray Tefila, member of the Finance Committee of the UJA of New York, President of the National Corporate Theater Fund, and Trustee of the University of Bridgeport and Long Wharf Theatre.

Engelman takes great pride in Rosalyn's accomplishments as a human rights activist and prominent contemporary artist, who was awarded the Lorenzo di Medici "Il Magnifico" Gold Medal at the Biennale Internazionale dell'Arte Contemporanea di Firenze and recently exhibited at the Grand Palais in Paris. They are blessed with a closely-knit family: accomplished daughters – writer Madeleine Engelman Cohen, married to internet entrepreneur Scott Cohen, and public interest attorney Marianne Engelman-Lado, married to Dr. Fred A. Lado, Chief of Service, Neurology, Montefiore Hospital Group – and beloved grandchildren Natasha Cohen, and Elana and Nathan Engelman-Lado.

**"The future of Judaism lies with the Reform Movement, which gains its vitality from the leadership that is produced by HUC-JIR in North America, Israel, and beyond," asserts Engelman. "As we reach out to others to support our vision, we need to impress upon them that if they're interested in the future of the Jewish people, they should be interested in HUC-JIR."**

Rosalyn and Irwin Engelman with Israeli President Shimon Peres during the Board of Governors Israel Committee Mission to Israel