

# SERVING COMMUNITIES AROUND THE GLOBE

HUC-JIR's students come from all over the world and, upon completion of their studies, some return to their countries of origin, including: **Argentina, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Iran, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, and Uruguay.**

*"The student-run HUC-JIR Soup Kitchen, which has welcomed the homeless and fed the hungry in our area for the past 22 years, is the expression of our commitment to social justice. Our Reform ideals become reality as we teach Jewish children volunteers about their role in addressing society's problems, collaborate with other community organizations, and, most importantly of all, treat with honor every guest who walks through our doors."*

**Rabbinical/education student  
Daniel Kirzane, NYSOE '12, N '14**

*"I harvested over 500 pounds of tomatoes this past summer at Kayam Farm Kolllel in Maryland as a leader of a summer-long program engaged in building an intergenerational, pluralistic Jewish community. Through working the land, learning Jewish agricultural law, and sharing Torah values and a commitment to a more sustainable world, this experience enriched my own appreciation for Jewish ethical practices, taking care of God's creation, and Jewish peoplehood in all its diversity."*

**Mandel Fellow rabbinical/education student  
Jessy Gross, RHSOE '10, L '12**

*"Volunteering at the Mevasseret Absorption Center was my most challenging and rewarding activity during my first year of study in Israel. Our classroom discussions about the challenges, obstacles, and successes of Ethiopian immigrants in Israel came alive through my work with an Ethiopian family. By teaching them English and helping them with household chores, I aspired to make their adjustment to Israel a bit easier."*

**Rabbinical student Ethan Prosnit, N '14**

*"Inspired by the legacy of Abraham Joshua Heschel, who walked hand in hand with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in support of racial equality, approximately fifty students, staff, and faculty walked with signs of support, prayer shawls, and shofarot from our campus on West Fourth Street to 51 Park Place, where a Muslim community center is set to be constructed. As we sang prayers for peace and brotherhood on our way downtown, our feet did most of the praying."*

**Schusterman Fellow rabbinical student  
Joshua Stanton, N '13**

*"Our community-wide benefit to help Cincinnati's needy reflects our ideals as future rabbis and community leaders who are committed to social and economic justice, as well as pluralism, by reaching out to those of all faiths and backgrounds. Our working together in order to learn, work, and live together is made all the more meaningful when we appreciate how our diverse cultural heritages reflect a common purpose to help those less fortunate."*

**Rabbinical student Ariel Plost, C '11**

*"I have applied the knowledge gained from both the Jewish Nonprofit Management and Rabbinical programs in my work at the Center for Muslim-Jewish Engagement (CMJE), a joint project of HUC-JIR, the University of Southern California, and the Omar Ibn Al Khattab Foundation and the only Muslim-Jewish think tank in the U.S. that benefits from the equal investment of both faith communities. I conducted the first comprehensive survey of Muslim-Jewish groups in the United States and developed content for CMJE's Muslim-Jewish sacred text study program, which we are expanding and transforming into a replicable online resource for Muslim-Jewish groups to use throughout the world."*

**Rabbinical/Jewish Nonprofit Management student Sara Bassin, L '11, SJNM '11**

*"Attending the Catholic-Jewish Emerging Leaders Conference in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, taught me that the primary goal of interfaith dialogue is to forge relationships and foster an inherent level of trust and good will. That feeling of mutual respect enables communities to come together in difficult times and respond to crises with a sense of shared responsibility. As the world grows ever more interconnected, Jewish leaders need to be able to communicate with those who see through a different theological and religious lens."*

**Cantorial student Jamie Marx, SSM '11**

*"I am inspired by the example of Rabbi Alexander Goode, a Reform rabbi and lieutenant in the U.S. Army who was one of the four chaplains who gave their lives to save others during the sinking of the USAT Dorchester during World War II. My aspiration is to support our men and women in uniform, and I look forward to deploying to Afghanistan as a military chaplain with the 27th Infantry Brigade in January 2012, following my investiture."*

**Cantorial student David Frommer, SSM '11**

*"I joined the Reform Movement in Israel because of its egalitarian theology. In Israel, where the religious establishments are Orthodox, freedom of religious opinions cannot be taken for granted. I plan to bring the fruits of my doctoral studies back home with me, and expose Israeli society to egalitarian and Reform theology."*

**School of Graduate Studies student Rabbi Oshrat Morag, J '08**

*"While participating in the American Jewish World Service rabbinical students' delegation to Senegal, Africa, I contributed to service projects in a small community and studied both traditional Jewish texts regarding social justice responsibilities as well as the complexities and realpolitik of current issues. This opportunity to both physically and figuratively 'get my hands dirty' in the work of social justice and to share the experiences with future rabbis from seminaries across the Jewish spectrum gave me the chance to experience the positive tension between universalism and Jewish particularism, to debate where my responsibilities lie as a Jew, and to remember that all of us, together, form Klal Yisrael."*

**Schusterman Fellow rabbinical student David Spinrad, C '13**

European rabbinical and cantorial students from HUC-JIR's sister Progressive seminaries — the Leo Baeck College in **London, England**, and the Abraham Geiger Kolleg in **Potsdam, Germany** — study side-by-side with HUC-JIR's first-year rabbinical, cantorial, and education students in the Year-In-Israel Program.