

HUC-JIR'S JACK H. SKIRBALL CAMPUS CELEBRATES FOUNDERS' DAY WITH FOUNDING DEAN, RABBI ISAIAH ZELDIN

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

On Tuesday, March 11, 2014, HUC-JIR's Jack H. Skirball Campus in Los Angeles observed Founders' Day with speaker Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin, founding Dean of the College-Institute's campus in Los Angeles, and founder of Stephen S. Wise Temple in Los Angeles.

Rabbi Zeldin led students, faculty, and staff on an exciting narrative of the campus's foundation with stories imbued with spirituality, emotion, and humor. He emphasized innovation and perseverance as the key to nurturing our Jewish institutions. "We are all fundraisers," he stated, underscoring the need for each one of us working in the Jewish community to be entrepreneurial and comfortable with "asking" for support.

Dr. Joshua Holo, Dean, Jack H. Skirball Campus in Los Angeles, stated, "Few guests — if we can call Rabbi Zeldin a guest — could have been more appropriate for Founders' Day. Not only did he regale us with stories and lessons from the campus' establishment, but he also described his relationship with Stephen S. Wise himself. Rabbi Zeldin's wit and tremendous personal experience brought Founders' Day to life."

Born in New York City, Rabbi Zeldin received his B.A. from Brooklyn College and his M.A. and Ordination from the Cincinnati campus of HUC-JIR. Upon Ordination, Rabbi Zeldin became the assistant rabbi of the largest Reform congregation in New Jersey, Temple B'nai Jeshurun, now in Short Hills. In 1953, Rabbi Zeldin came to California to serve in the dual capacity of Director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now URJ), Western Region, and Dean of the Los Angeles College of Jewish Studies. One year later, he became Founding Dean of the Los Angeles branch of HUC-JIR. From 1958-1963, Rabbi Zeldin served as the spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills. In early 1964, he founded the Stephen S. Wise Temple, which has become one of the largest Jewish congregations in the world. Rabbi Zeldin was also the founder of Milken Community High School, the largest full-day Jewish high school in the United States.

Founded in 1875, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion is North America's leading institution of higher Jewish education and the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism. HUC-JIR educates men and women for service to North American and world Jewry as rabbis, cantors, educators, and nonprofit management professionals, and offers graduate programs to scholars and clergy of all faiths. With centers of learning in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York, HUC-JIR's scholarly resources comprise the renowned Klau Library, The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, museums, research institutes and centers, and academic publications. In partnership with the Union for Reform Judaism and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, HUC-JIR sustains the Reform Movement's congregations and professional and lay leaders. HUC-JIR's campuses invite the community to cultural and educational programs illuminating Jewish heritage and fostering interfaith and multiethnic understanding. www.huc.edu



From left: Dr. Joshua Holo, Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin, and Dr. Michael Zeldin