

The Barbara and Stephen Friedman Chair in Liturgy, Worship, and Ritual at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, created through the generosity of Barbara and Stephen Friedman, was inaugurated at Founders' Day Ceremonies at HUC-JIR/New York on March 16. Dr. Lawrence A. Hoffman is the inaugural recipient of this new Chair. As the first of its kind at HUC-JIR, the Friedman Chair reflects HUC-JIR's curricular commitment to revising Jewish faith, thought, and practice by exploring new forms of liturgy, worship, and ritual that are meaningful and inspirational for Jews today.

In announcing the Friedman Chair, Rabbi Ellenson noted, "We are grateful to Barbara and Stephen for their visionary philanthropy which will ensure that HUC-JIR provides cutting-edge training for clergy, educators, communal professionals, and scholars. By designating this Chair in the area of Jewish liturgy, worship, and ritual, they and we recognize the important contribution of Rabbi Hoffman and Synagogue 2000, which he

co-founded, in envisioning and implementing the synagogue 'as the moral and spiritual center' for 21st century Jewry. As the Friedman Professor of Liturgy, Worship, and Ritual, Rabbi Hoffman will teach and inspire our students to build communities of learners and worshippers; they, in turn, will motivate congregations and their leadership toward Jewish spiritual renewal and help guarantee a vital Jewish future."

Barbara Friedman, Treasurer of HUC-JIR's Board of Governors, stated, "In establishing this new Chair, we pay tribute to our esteemed friend and mentor, the new President of the College-Institute – Rabbi David Ellenson – who has guided our journey in Jewish learning and activism. We feel particularly blessed to celebrate the first incumbent of this Chair, our beloved teacher and friend, Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman. Through our commitment to this new Chair, we are honored to advance the academic growth of the College-Institute, an institution of higher Jewish learning that we love."



**Dr. Lawrence A. Hoffman
and Barbara Friedman**

Dr. Lawrence A. Hoffman was ordained as a rabbi in 1969, received his Ph.D. in 1973, and has served since as Professor of Liturgy at HUC-JIR in New York. He directed HUC-JIR's School of Sacred Music from 1984 to 1987. For over twenty years, he has combined research in Jewish ritual, worship, and spirituality with a passion for the spiritual renewal of American Judaism. Rabbi Hoffman is internationally recognized as a preeminent scholar in Jewish liturgy, ritual, worship, and spirituality. A mentor to generations of students and teacher of distinguished North American Jewish lay leaders, he is the Co-founder and Director of Synagogue 2000, a trans-denominational project envisioning and implementing innovations in 21st century synagogue life.

Barbara and Stephen Friedman Chair in Liturgy, Worship, and Ritual Inaugurated



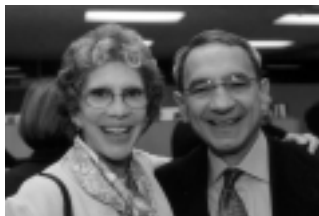
Barbara Friedman, Rabbi David Ellenson, and Burton Lehman, Chair, Board of Governors



Barbara Friedman with HUC-JIR/NY Overseers (from left) Robert Blank, Phyllis Friedman Perkins, and Nancy Blank



Barbara Friedman with (from left) HUC-JIR Governors Frances Hess and Nicki Tanner, and Sally Hoffman



Barbara Friedman and Rabbi Peter Rubinstein, Central Synagogue, New York City

He is the author or editor of over 20 books, including his most recently published book, *The Journey Home: Discovering the Deep Spiritual Wisdom of Jewish Tradition*, *Minhag Ami: My People's Prayer Book* (a multi-volume *Siddur* with pluralistic modern commentaries), *Two Liturgical Traditions* (an ongoing series on Christian and Jewish worship); *Israel: A Spiritual Guide* (a guide for modern Jewish pilgrims), a newly revised version of *What is a Jew?* (the most widely read introduction to Judaism), and *The Art of Public Prayer* (an indispensable, core resource for worship or ritual committees seeking to enrich congregational prayer).

A regular columnist on *Parshat Hashavua* for *The New York Jewish Week*, the largest Jewish newspaper in North America, Dr. Hoffman is past-president of the North American Academy of Liturgy, the professional and academic organization for those who set national and international worship policy in most Christian and Jewish denominations. He was selected by the U.S. Navy in 1990, as part of three-person team, to develop a continuing education course on worship for Navy chaplains.