



Dear JTS Community,

Several months ago, we announced Chancellor Shuly Rubin Schwartz's decision to step down from her position in June 2026 and launched a comprehensive search to identify our next chancellor. I am excited to share with you today that the Board of Trustees has appointed Rabbi Mike Uram to lead JTS in its next chapter of growth and evolution.

Thanks to Chancellor Schwartz's dedicated stewardship and that of her predecessors, we are making this transition as a stronger and more resilient organization. And we are well prepared to build on the solid foundation she has laid as we advance our position as a leading center of Jewish scholarship, learning, and thoughtful, compassionate dialogue.

I often emphasize that what makes JTS so special is our people and community—from our faculty, students, and staff to our remarkable alumni and supporters. And so it gives the Board and me great pleasure and pride to welcome as our next chancellor, Rabbi Uram, who is one of our own: a JTS-ordained, truly innovative voice in the American Jewish community. Most recently, Rabbi Uram was the Chief Jewish Learning Officer for the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and previously the Chief Vision and Education Officer for Pardes North America. Before that, he led the University of Pennsylvania's highly successful Hillel as its Executive Director and Campus Rabbi for over 16 years. Through these experiences and his other work with dozens of Jewish organizations, Mike has been serving the broader Jewish community as a thought leader, deeply committed to fostering inclusive engagement and learning.

This is a time of challenge among Jewish communities, and Rabbi Uram is the right person to help JTS meet this important moment. He brings to our institution a rabbinic voice, a connection to a new generation of current and emerging Jewish leaders, and deep experience serving the broader Jewish community that we need to engage as part of the vital center. And with that, a personal knowledge of and deep appreciation for what is so special about JTS and the critical role we play in educating future leaders in our tradition, just as we work to expand those we reach.

I would like to thank the Search Committee, chaired by Alan Klein, for their thorough work throughout this process. Their efforts were essential in reaching this successful outcome.

Rabbi Uram will be relocating to New York, and I know he looks forward to meeting many of you in the days, weeks, and months to come. Please join me in welcoming him back to JTS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Levine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Levine
Chair
JTS Board of Trustees