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Chaplain of the Year Awarded to Rabbi Bonita Taylor of HealthCare Chaplaincy by The New York Board of Rabbis

New York City—On Thursday, June 26, The New York Board of Rabbis (NYBR) presented the Zagelbaum Chaplain of the Year Award to Rabbi Bonita E. Taylor (Board-Certified Jewish Chaplain) of HealthCare Chaplaincy. Rabbi Taylor (Conservative) has been at the Chaplaincy since 1991, first as a student and for the past 9 years as Associate Director of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), where she is a pastoral care educator for all faiths.

Rabbi Taylor's Jewish students include rabbis, cantors, seminarians, and laity from across the Jewish denominational spectrum. The first two Lubavitch rabbis and the first two Satmar rabbis to become Board Certified Jewish (BCJC) Chaplains studied CPE with her.

"Her students are chaplains at world-class hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, prisons, and other facilities, which demonstrates that she has enriched the life of the entire Jewish community," said Rabbi Charles Sheer, Director of the Department of Studies in Jewish Pastoral Care at the Chaplaincy.

To qualify for NYBR's Chaplain of the Year Award, the recipient must demonstrate ongoing leadership skills in the field of chaplaincy, creativity and innovation in developing chaplaincy projects, and extraordinary professional chaplaincy skills—inspiring those in the field of chaplaincy and the larger rabbinate.

"Bonita displays all of the criteria for the award and much more. She is first and foremost a compassionate, caring, and skilled professional chaplain. Since the mid-1990s, she has provided direct pastoral care to patients at some of the major teaching hospitals in New York City," said Rabbi Stephen Roberts, Associate Executive Vice President, The New York Board of Rabbis.

For the past 16 years, Rabbi Taylor has led a Passover *seder* at Payne Whitney Psychiatric Unit. In 2001, she was a chaplain to the families of those who perished on September 11, as well as to the families of those who died in the airplane crash in Belle Harbor, Queens. More recently, she has offered programs to residents of FEGS, in addition to engaging rotating assignments at NYU Langone Medical Center, North General Hospital, and St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, Roosevelt campus.

"As a CPE supervisor, she is a pioneer. She has supervised more Jewish students, in both multi-denominational and multi-faith groups, than any other supervisor. Similar to the NYBR, her students come from all over the greater New York area, from all streams of Judaism, and from all walks of chaplaincy, including acute- and long-term care and social services," Rabbi Roberts added.

Rabbi Taylor also demonstrates ongoing leadership skills in the field of chaplaincy through her involvement in the umbrella chaplaincy associations. For nine years, she served as an officer of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC) in the positions of: Chair of the Conference Commission, setting the NAJC's educational agenda; member of Certification Committees; and CPE Chair. Currently, she serves on the NAJC Board of Directors as a member of Certification Committees and as the CPE Chair. From 2002 to 2003, she served on the Executive Planning Committee for EPIC-2003, the first International Conference that included the National Association of Jewish Chaplains, The Association of Professional Chaplains, the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, and The Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education (AJC, APC, NACC, and CAPPE-ACPEP).

In 2003, she was invited to join the Council of Collaboration (CoC, now the Spiritual Care Collaborative), which is composed of the major 6 chaplaincy organizations in North America, representing over 13,000 chaplains/pastoral counselors. Her task was to co-write the "Common Standards for Pastoral Educators/Supervisors." These standards were adopted in November 2004 by the member organizations of the CoC. Rabbi Taylor is a Clinical Supervisor with the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) and currently, she serves on the ACPE East/Northeast Certification and Strategic Planning Committees. She is also a member of the Association of Professional Chaplains.

Rabbi Taylor has published extensively. Articles of hers have appeared in "Chaplaincy Today" (the APC Journal); "The NAJC Chaplain"; "*PlainViews* eMagazine"; "The Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling"; and "The Journal of Supervision and Training in Ministry." She has written chapters in *The Jewish Handbook of Pastoral Care*, *Jewish Relational Care A-Z: We are Our Other's Keepers*, and *Spirituality and Palliative Care: A Time for Listening and Caring*.

The NYBR, established in 1881, and with a membership of about 700, is the oldest rabbinic association in America. HealthCare Chaplaincy is the world's leading multifaith center for pastoral care research, education, clinical services, and consulting. The Chaplaincy is a multifaith and multicultural community of professionals dedicated to caring for persons in spirit, mind, and body. The HealthCare Chaplaincy's mission is to advance the profession of pastoral care through visionary leadership and continuing excellence in innovative research, education, and clinical services.

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