



## **Ninth Annual Semikha Ceremony**

### **Abigail Tambor**

### **Executive Board Chair**

Thank you so much for joining us today and every day to celebrate these amazing leaders and this extraordinary endeavor. This has been a year like no other, a year of loss for many and disruption for all. But if we are wise, nimble, and creative, this year of disarray can be a portal to a new beginning. In the words of JRR Tolkien, "From the ashes, a fire shall be woken. A light from the shadows shall spring." I will leave the Torah to the experts.

In our 12th year, Maharat is ready for her next phase of growth. Our board, in collaboration with our faculty and staff, has adopted a new strategic plan that will guide us as we seek to broaden our reach, support our growth, and solidify our success. We will continue to invest deeply in our programs and create a new model of 21st-century leadership for the Jewish community around the world that is learned, compassionate, and inclusive. We will seek new avenues to bring the Torah of Maharat to the world, a Torah of compassion, wisdom, and intelligence, a Torah that meets people where they are and invites them in. We strive to create leaders for the community of today and for the community that we envision for tomorrow. That is our goal. And we hope we can count on your continued support as we nurture the spark of this holy experiment.

Please join us, not just today, but every day. For without you, our stakeholders, our congregants, our students, our lay leaders, our family, and our friends, we are nothing more than an idea. With your financial support, we become a reality and a new tomorrow, a bright light springing from the shadows.

Mazal tov to our esteemed and beloved musmakhot. On behalf of myself and the board, I wish you every success and *khayil*. May your work bring you joy and satisfaction as it brings joy and satisfaction to all you serve.

Mazal tov to our alumni. Your ranks are growing, and the multitude we have envisioned is becoming a reality before our collective eyes. We all relish your successes. Thanks to your commitment and your



dedicated learning. dynamic leadership.

example, communities around the world are acknowledging the learning and leadership of women. Titles are being embraced and applied more widely as more women demand the recognition they and their learning deserve.

Mazal tov to our faculty and staff. The fruits of your labor are before you, and, by God, they are good.

Mazal tov to our board. Your tireless efforts and wise counsel have brought us to this illustrious time.

Mazal tov to our founders, Rav Avi and Rabba Sara. Your vision has changed the face of the world.

Thank you for sharing this vision with us.

And to you all, mazal tov. May this be a time of unity, growth, serenity, and peace. May we all continue to be united in effort and purpose.

Amen.