



NEWS & VIEWS

December 12, 2019 | 14 Kislev 5780



President Sharon Cohen Anisfeld with Deborah Feinstein, one of the new members of the Board of Trustees

Hebrew College Welcomes Six New Trustees

David Hoffman knew very little about [Hebrew College](#) until last spring. A retired consultant, he got to know Rabbi Jevin Eagle, Rab`19, nearly two decades ago through volunteer work in the Greater Boston Jewish community. In April, Rabbi Eagle, executive director of [Boston University Hillel](#) and a member of the Hebrew College Strategic Planning Committee, asked for Hoffman's help.

Less than a year later, Hoffman, a Jewish Day School alumnus and alumni parent who counseled energy companies at Oliver Wyman for more than 30 years, has become a passionate and dedicated Hebrew College volunteer, contributing his time and expertise in strategic planning, organization transformation, and operational improvement to foster Hebrew College's success. He comes to campus several times a week to help implement recommendations of the strategic plan, and was thrilled when Hebrew College Board President Andrew Offit asked him this fall to join the [Hebrew College Board of Trustees](#).

"I believe when you're a board member of any organization that it's a team approach. When you see an area where you can help – because of your background, expertise, or just desire – that you are responsible to the organization," Hoffman said. "So I've been helping out where I can with Hebrew

...of the program, the energy, all of the various opportunities for the community to interact, and the leadership — I think [Hebrew College President Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld](#) is fabulous in so many ways. I've also been lucky to meet many of the teachers, instructors, and staff members. I'm very impressed."

Hoffman is one of six people who have joined the 19-member Hebrew College Board of Trustees this year, bringing new ideas and insights to the College leadership team as the Board prepares for the second century of the College. The other new members are Rabbi Eagle, Deborah Feinstein (above), Susan Shevitz, Steve Targum, and Diane Troderman. Two others, Rabbi Van Lanckton, Rab`09 and Tara Mohr, joined the Board of Trustees last year.

Read more

70 FACES OF TORAH

Posts from this [Hebrew College-hosted blog](#) are published weekly in [Patheos](#).

Anchoring Ourselves in Torah

Parashat Vayishlach (Genesis 32:4-36:43)

By Rabbi Minna Bromberg, Rab`10
Director, [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#) Year-in-Israel
Program (Note: This piece was originally posted in 2016)



"Someday soon this rhyming volume, if you learn with proper speed/Little Louis Sanchez, will be given you to read." So wrote Robert Louis Stevenson in a poem for a young nephew who had been named for him but who he'd never met. The poem ends: "[W]hile you thought of no one, nearly half the world away/Someone thought of Louis on the beach of Monterey!"

The author wrote the poem for someone who was not yet able to read it, hoping that someday he would. When, as a child myself, I read "To My Name-Child," it gave me chills to imagine this poet imagining the nephew he had never met. Both Louises were long dead by then, yet the poem was still speaking to me who would never meet either of them.

I get that same, eerie, almost breathtaking feeling every time I read one particular, otherwise-anticlimactic verse in this week's Torah portion, Vayishlach. In the Genesis narrative, Jacob has just finished wrestling with an angel and has been given the name "Israel," meaning "one who wrestles with God." He is wounded in his hip and limps away from the encounter. Finishing this story of Jacob's struggle, the Torah then seems to tack on this historical note: "That is why the children of Israel to this day do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the socket of the hip, since Jacob's hip socket was wrenched at the thigh muscle" (Genesis 32:33).

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BLOGS

Enduring Traditions Meet Community Customs

By Cantor Becky Khitrik, Can`14, MAJS`14

From a speech by Cantor Khitrik at her installation as Cantor of Temple Sinai in Sharon, MA, on November 17, 2019



The chairs of the cantorial search committee asked me to give a teaching today, and I am going to honor their request. But I won't just give you one teaching — instead I will share five teachings, one from each of my mentors here on the *bimah*. Each of these individuals trained me, shaped me — gave me the diverse tools that qualified me to be here today, and perhaps most importantly, instilled in me a deep love of the cantorate. The role of a *chazzan* has undergone several shifts over the past decades, and the skill set that one needs to create a successful singing community has broadened. If I am able to fulfill the roles of your prayer leader, educator, pastor — it is because of the guidance of the people sitting behind me.

I want to begin with a teaching from someone who might not be in your immediate line of vision, but is here today, and I'm so grateful for her presence. That person is Carol Marton. Carol conducted a choir of cantorial students at [Hebrew College](#) 10 years ago, where I was enrolled as a first year student. (Incidentally, that year our choir also came to Temple Sinai to sing a Shabbat service. Little did I know...) Thanks to Carol, I was introduced to a broad spectrum of Jewish choral music...

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COMMUNITY LEARNING



This year in Eser, hindsight is 2020

Beginning in February, young adult groups will meet throughout Greater Boston to examine some of the most unconventional moments over the many millennia of Jewish existence and how they relate to current themes and trends within the modern Jewish community. This year's [Eser Series](#) theme "Hindsight is 2020" will include topics from the "Discovery of Ethiopian Jewry" and the "Trefa Banquet" to the "Revival of Hebrew Language."

"The pun angle seemed too good of an opportunity to pass up. We're seeing the same issues over and over again with some really interesting examples from Jewish history," said Rebecca Strauss, a member of the Eser Committee. "We'll be learning everything from very ancient wisdom to contemporary interpretations and many issues are directly applicable to things I'm seeing in my everyday life," added Becky Price, who has been a member of the Eser Committee since its inception.

Eser (Hebrew for 10), part of [Hebrew College's Open Circle Learning 20s & 30s program](#), brings together young adults each spring to explore contemporary issues and ideas through the lens of a different top-ten theme. Each year's 10-week session is held in the home of a group member and facilitated by a Jewish educator or rabbi-in-training. No prior formal Jewish education or knowledge of Hebrew is required. Past participants include secular and religious Jews from a variety of movements, and non-Jews, including partners in interfaith relationships, and those considering going through conversion.

"Whatever your experience with Jewish learning or learning in general, Eser is a place where you can bring whatever you have and participate in the conversation," added Price. "Everybody is learning and everybody is teaching based on their own experiences."

[Learn more & register](#)

Hebrew College offers [community learning](#) programs for all ages, stages, and backgrounds, and [graduate leadership programs](#) in rabbinical, cantorial, education and Jewish studies, all within a pluralistic environment of open inquiry, depth, creativity, and compassion.

SIGHTS & SOUNDS





Celebrating Rabbi Allan Lehmann

On December 5, the friends, colleagues, and family of Rabbi Allan Lehmann gathered in the Hebrew College Beit Midrash for an evening of study and celebration for Allan Lehmann's 70th birthday. Speakers included Rabbi Getzel Davis, Rab`13, Rabbi Arthur Green, Rabbi Elie Lehmann, Rab`17 (pictured above left), and Rabbi Shayna Rhodes, Rab`08.

"Rabbi Allan is a rabbi, teacher, and mentor who embodies the Torah he teaches us. He's fun, brilliant, kind, and approaches each of us with an open heart and an open mind. I feel blessed to be one of his students. He brings an enormous amount of hesed, light, and love into our HC community, and I am forever grateful for the time I have had learning with and from him," said Rabbinical student Rebecca Weintraub. [Read more about Rabbi Lehmann.](#)

If you would like to make a gift to the Rabbinical School Scholarship Fund in honor of Rabbi Lehmann, please visit our [secure online gift form](#) and choose "rabbinical scholarships" or send a check to: Office of Advancement, Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Rd., Newton Centre, MA 02459.



Hebrew College at USCJ 20/20

Hebrew College cantors and cantorial and rav-hazzan students were reunited at this year's USCJ 20/20 Convention, which was held from December 6 to 10 in Boston. Cantor Dara Rosenbaltt, Can`17 (bottom left) led the opening prayer.

[Hebrew College speakers](#) included: Rabbinical School Dean Rabbi Dan Judson; Associate Dean Rabbi Jane Kanarek; Dr. Keren McGinity, Director of Hebrew College's Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement program; Rabbi Elie Lehmann, Rab`17; Ahava Rosenthal, Director of Hebrew College's Parenting Through a Jewish Lens; and Rabbi Becky Silverstein, Rab`14.

(Pictured clockwise from top: Cantorial students Rachel Slusky and Marc Stober; Cantor Maayan Harel, Can`19; Rav-Hazzan student Matt Goldberg; Cantor Rosenblatt; Cantor Matt Austerklein; and cantorial students Marc Guttman and David Wolff.)



Hebrew College at Hillel International Conference

Rabbinical School Associate Dean Rabbi Daniel Klein (center) met up with Hebrew College students and alumni at the 2019 Hillel International Global Assembly, which was held on December 9-12 in Atlanta.

(Pictured l-r: Rabbi Joel Goldstein, Rab`19; Rabbinical student Gita Karasov; Rabbi Klein, Rab`10; Rabbi Hayley Goldstein, Rab`19; and Rabbi Stephanie Sanger-Miller, Rab`19.)

IN THE NEWS

On December 8, 2019, Hebrew College Rector **Rabbi Art Green** spoke to over 200 people about his and Ariel Mayse's recently released two-volume *A New Hasidism*. He spoke in the context of an all-day Neo-Hasidic Festival, held at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, co-sponsored by several area congregations. He shared the stage with Rabbi David Ingber of Congregation Romemu, discussing "Neo-Hasidism: Theory and Practice." While in New York, Rabbi Green also taught on Shabbat afternoon at Congregation Anschev Chesed, and on Saturday evening addressed members of Nitzotzot, an organization of onetime ultra-Orthodox Jews, searching for new approaches to Jewish living.

Mazal tov to **Leah Goldstein**, Director of [Hebrew College's Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston](#) teen philanthropy program, who has been named one of CJP's [Chai in the Hub Honorees](#). The 12 honorees, leaders who have demonstrated what it means to make a bigger difference in our community, will be honored on Feb 8, 2020 at the Royal Sonesta Boston.

Rabbi Sarah Tasman, Rab`12 was featured in a November 25, 2019 [Jewish Louisville Community online newspaper article](#) entitled "Sarah Tasman returns home, talks creativity at AJ, Spirit of Sophia."

Cantor Vera Broekhuysen, Can`16, spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill, MA, was named a [Global Justice Fellow by the American Jewish World Service](#). The AJWS Global Justice Fellowship is a "selective program designed to inspire, educate and train key opinion leaders in the American Jewish community to become advocates in support of U.S. policies that will help improve the lives of people in the developing world," according to the organization's website.

Cantor Becky Khitrik, Can`14, is featured in a November 20, 2019 [Wicked Local Sharon article](#), "Temple Sinai of Sharon installs new cantor."

Rachel Raz, MEd`06, Director of the Hebrew College Early Childhood Institute, is mentioned in a [CollectSpace.com](#) article entitled "Postage stamps feature first Torah in space, support documentary." Raz is executive producer of the film.

"**A New Hasidism: Study, Reflection, and Celebration**," Hebrew College's day of learning and music in honor of Hebrew College Rector **Rabbi Art Green** and Dr. Ariel Mayse's new work on Neo-Hasidism, was

EVENTS

DECEMBER



Refugee Crisis in Tijuana

With Dr. Alan Lobovits, a Newton-based pediatrician, who recently returned from two weeks volunteering in Tijuana, Mexico

December 16 | 7:30 - 9 pm
Hebrew College

Sponsored by Hebrew College
[RSVP](#)

Azamra: Alternative Shabbat Community Minyan

With Rabbi Lev Friedman, Rab`18. Supported by the [Hebrew College Innovation Lab](#).

December 21 | 10 am - 12 pm
Hebrew College Beit Midrash
[Learn more](#)⁸



Torah Godly Play Training

Master a Torah-telling practice used in religious education designed to enhance the spiritual lives of children.

December 15 & 16
Hebrew College
[Learn more](#)

Jewish Arts Collaborative's Hanukkah at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Featuring storytelling by Rabbinical School of Hebrew College Dean & Moth Radio winner Rabbi Dan Judson.

December 18 | 4:30 -10 pm | Free
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Hebrew College is proud to be a co-sponsor
[Learn more & RSVP](#)



\$18K
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Please help us meet this challenge! If 180 donors who gave \$0-\$500 last year (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019) increase their gifts **BY ANY AMOUNT** by December 31, an anonymous donor will donate \$18K to Hebrew College! #chaichallenge

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