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NEWS & VIEWS

November 14, 2019 | 16 Cheshvan 5780

*We are grateful that you are part of the Hebrew College community.
Have a Happy Thanksgiving!*



Rabbi Laura Bellows, Class of 2018, Brings Her Passion for Teen Learning and Community Back to Hebrew College

Rabbi Laura Bellows never loved Hebrew School.

Raised in a *Havurah* community in Washington, D.C. that didn't have a formal educational program, she

attended Hebrew School at another synagogue that left her “longing for more.”

But Shabbat mornings were different. In her family’s spiritual egalitarian community where everyone was a teacher and a learner, Laura leaned into Jewish leadership. She led services, taught children’s classes, and offered a *b’nai mitzvah* seminar. She also got involved in the National Havurah Committee Summer Institute, where she and a group of friends created their own winter-break learning and service *Shabbatonim* starting at age 13.

Then, on a summer trip to Israel at age 15, she saw first-hand how engaging Jewish teen education could be. Her program took her out of her comfort zone, combining creative Jewish study and workshops in the visual, performing, and literary arts. For Rabbi Bellows, Torah came alive in a pluralistic, multi-denominational artistic space.

“It was the first time I was in a space where I felt like I could completely engage both my artistic expression and my passion for Jewish learning. It was a pivotal experience,” said Rabbi Bellows. “I was hungry for real connection with other teens. This trip, along with the Havurah movement, showed me models of engaged, relevant, and pluralistic Jewish community, and ultimately catalyzed me into going to [Hebrew College](#) and being the educator that I am today.”

Read more

70 FACES OF TORAH

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

Sarah Rabah: Or, An Abundance of Sarahs *Parashat Chayei Sarah (Genesis 23:1-25:18)*

By Sara Gardner
Collaboration Manager, [Jewish Arts Collaborative](#); [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership Boston Bridges Fellowship Alumna](#) and former Associate Director of [Young Adult Programs at Hebrew College](#)



When I was first assigned to write about this week’s *parsha*, *Chayei Sarah* (Genesis 23), I couldn’t help but be impressed by the coincidence. Putting aside the obvious overlap in name, I have always found Sarah, our originating matriarch, a fascinating figure who escapes easy categorization. Indeed, one of my favorite moments that displays Sarah’s vibrant spirit comes a few chapters earlier in Genesis 18, when it’s announced that Sarah will have a son as a 90 year-old woman, and what does she do? She laughs. Such a reasonable, real, and unexpected response from a biblical character that to me exemplifies her essential relatability. So, of course, I was excited to learn more about her.

To my surprise, however, upon a closer inspection of the *parsha*, I found that although the portion is named for Sarah's life, it doesn't really spend much time on Sarah herself. It is only the first two lines, explaining that "Sarah's lifetime—the span of Sarah's life—came to one hundred and twenty-seven years" and that after her death "Abraham proceeded to mourn for Sarah and to bewail her" (Genesis 23:1-2), that offer any hint at Sarah as a person.

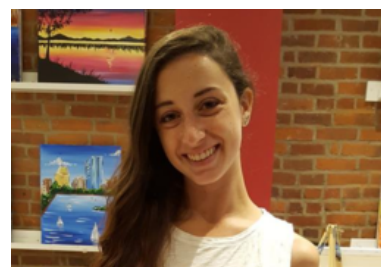
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COMMUNITY LEARNING

Finding My Jewish Community in Boston

By Deborah Greene

Participant, [Hebrew College Open Circle Jewish Learning 20s & 30s Eser Series](#). Visit the [Open Circle website](#) on Nov. 25 to find out this year's Eser theme.



I grew up in a small town in Arkansas where the Jewish population was about 50 families; enough to sustain two small synagogues and one Chabad. The majority of my Jewish education came from home practice led by my two amazing parents and from summers at Camp Ramah Darom. Out of the 600 students I graduated from high school with, three of them were Jewish. Often, I found myself justifying my culture and religion to those who had never met a Jewish person before. While these interactions were rooted in curiosity and genuineness, it was an exhausting job.

When applying for college, I knew I wanted to be in an area with a thriving Jewish population, and Boston became my home. During college, I found a beautiful Jewish community with which I could have stimulating conversations and make connections unlike any other. This community meant so much to me, especially since it was not something I had regularly while growing up. After graduation, I knew I wanted to maintain that connection to the Jewish community, especially the young Jewish community. This community was a big reason for me to stay in Boston after college.

"I happened upon Eser because a colleague of mine recommended it ... For so long, my exposure to Jewish perspectives was very limited. Through Eser, I was able to hear unique perspectives on life and Judaism. I found a space in which my Jewish identity could grow on a regular basis."

Read more

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.



Record Attendance for Hebrew College Ordination Open House

On Monday, 35 prospective rabbis, cantors, and rav-hazzanim attended *Ta Sh'ma* (Come & Hear), Hebrew College's Open House & Day of Learning for our ordination programs. They started their day in the Beit Midrash with *tefillah*, followed by a day of learning with current students, faculty, and deans. (Above: Rabbi Art Green speaks to current and prospective students.)

"We were honored to host 35 people, all talented and passionate, considering a path of Torah and service as rabbis and/or cantors and interested in joining us here at Hebrew College," said Rabbi Daniel Klein, Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Life. "We were grateful for the opportunity to invite people into our vibrant and inspiring learning community, and as always, the experience of hosting renewed our commitment to the sacred work we are doing here."



\$18K
CHALLENGE

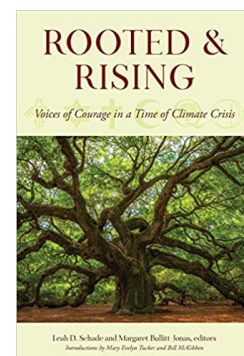


Please help us meet this challenge grant! If 180 donors who gave \$0-\$500 last year (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019) increase their gifts **BY ANY AMOUNT** by December 31, an anonymous donor will donate \$18K to Hebrew College! #chaichallenge

I accept the challenge

IN THE NEWS

Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman, Rab `14, Director of Professional Development at the [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#), contributed a chapter in the book [Rooted and Rising: Voices of Change in a Time of Climate Change](#) (Rowman & Littlefield). The anthology, which was released on November 15, 2019, includes writings from 21 faith leaders, scientists, community organizers, theologians, and grassroots climate activists to offer wisdom for fellow pilgrims grappling with the weight of climate change.



President Sharon Cohen Anisfeld was a guest speaker at the [installation of Dr. Dalia Hochman](#) as the new Head of School at Gann Academy in Waltham, MA on November 10, 2019.

Rabbi Dan Judson, Dean of the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, [delivered a lecture on Judaism in America](#) on October 21, 2019 at the University of Rhode Island as part of the University's Honors Colloquium, "Religion in America."

EVENTS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Azamra: Alternative Shabbat Community Minyan

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

November 23 | 10 am - 12 pm
Hebrew College Beit Midrash
[Learn more](#)

Kol Arev Concerts: "Musical Siblings "

Hebrew College's choir-in-residence will perform works by Jewish women composers and their more well-known male counterparts.

November 24 | 3:30 pm | Free
[Orchard Cove](#), Canton, MA

December 3 | 1:30 pm | Free
Hebrew College
[Learn more](#)

A Night of Learning in Honor of Rabbi Allan Lehmann's 70th Birthday

Brandeis University Jewish Studies Colloquium featuring Rabbi Or Rose

Rabbi Rose, Director of the [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership at Hebrew College](#), will speak on "Sons of Light: Zalman Schachter, Thomas Merton and Modern Monasticism."

December 10 | Free & Open to the Public
Brandeis University Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry
Waltham, MA
[Learn more](#)

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

December 5 | 7-9 pm
Hebrew College

[Learn more & RSVP](#)

[Make a donation in honor of Rabbi Lehmann](#)

*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](#)

Neo-Hasidic Symposium & Festival

[View the flyer](#)

*Rabbi Arthur Green joins friends and
contributors to his new book for a day of
teaching, conversation, meditation, and song.*

December 8 | noon-6:30 pm | \$50

Marlene Myerson JCC

334 Amsterdam Avenue at 76th Street, NYC

[Learn more & purchase tickets](#)



To make a gift to the Rabbinical School Scholarship Fund in honor of Rabbi Lehmann, please [email Sharon Katz](#), Development Officer, or [use our secure online gift form](#) (please choose "rabbinical scholarships") or send a check to Hebrew College. Thank you!

[Learn more & RSVP](#)



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