



NEWS & VIEWS

July 25, 2019 | 22 Tamuz 5779



Hebrew College Pilgrimage to Ukraine

For nearly 60 years, Hebrew College Rector [Rabbi Arthur Green](#) has been studying the writings of the Hasidic masters, spiritual revivalists and mystics who lived and wrote in Ukraine during the 18th Century – creating a movement that emphasized the ability for all Jews to grow closer to God by noticing the divine presence everywhere, seeking the magnificent within everyday life, and doing all things with love and joy.

Rabbi Green, who started the [The Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#), is recognized as one of the

founders and leading scholars of the neo-Hasidic movement, applying the spiritual insights of the Hasidic masters to contemporary egalitarian Judaism as practiced by those who do not live within the strictly-bounded religiously conservative world of the modern-day Ultra-Orthodox Hasidic community.



And this summer, for the first time, Rabbi Green traveled to Ukraine to visit the graves of the Baal Shem Tov, or “Master of the Good Name,” the founding father of Hasidism, and his disciples. He brought with him nine students and friends, including Hebrew College professors Rabbi Ebn Leader, Rabbi Allan Lehmann, and Rabbi Jordan Schuster, Rab`18, and Hebrew College alumni Rabbi Lee Moore, Rab`10, Rabbi Getzel Davis, Rab`13, and Rabbi Elie Lehmann, Rab`17; as well as Ariel Mayse, a former PhD student of Green’s and professor of religious studies at Stanford; Rabbi Avram Mlotek, co-founder of Base Hillel; and Reb Mimi Feigelson, spiritual mentor of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary.

“You would call it a spiritual pilgrimage to see the places where Hasidism originated, to visit the graves of Hasidism’s early leaders, to get a sense of what the atmosphere was like,” Rabbi Green said. “These were mythical places for me. When I started studying this field in the early 1970s, this was all behind the Iron Curtain. You couldn’t go there. And the Holocaust memory was very alive. So this was a very moving and powerful experience.”

Pictured clockwise from top: Rabbi Elie Lehmann; Rabbi Art Green (far left), and members of the cohort; Rav Mimi Feigelson. Photos courtesy of Rabbis Getzel Davis, Elie Lehmann, and Allan Lehmann.

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Ordination Program Open House: November 18

Looking for a career with meaning? Are you or is someone you know considering a career as a rabbi, cantor, or rav-hazzan? Join us on **Monday, November 18** for Hebrew College's Open House and Day of Learning, *Ta Sh'ma* (Come & Hear) to experience the vibrant pluralistic community of our pioneering rabbinical, cantorial and rav-hazzan programs. Join with students and faculty for an inspiring day of learning, conversation, music and prayer. Optional: Visit classes on November 19.

[Learn More](#)



Hebrew College High Holiday Companion

The faculty, alumni, and students of Hebrew College have created the *Hebrew College High Holiday Companion*, a collection of reflections on the prayers, scriptural readings, and sacred practices of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Featuring original essays, poetry, and visual artwork, this booklet will help illumine the High Holiday liturgy and these sacred days of return and renewal. We warmly invite you to

journey with us as you begin thinking about the season of *teshuvah*.

Learn more & order your copy



Humans of Hebrew College #HumansHC

"I was brought up in a predominantly Jewish community in the Bronx with a mix of orthodox, conservative, reform and secular Jews. My parents were Holocaust survivors who brought with them the traditions of a nearly decimated eastern European Jewry. Influenced by orthodox, hasidic, and zionistic beliefs, they did not abandon their faith. They embraced it. And they did not focus on the question "Why me?" They courageously rebuilt their lives. When I sat next to my mother, during holidays, I would see my father's smiling face through the *mechitzah* as we experienced through prayer the presence of G-d. I knew deep in my heart, despite all the horrors and loss my parents had experienced, Jewish faith and belonging had been the core source of their sustenance. [Me'ah](#) gave me the foundation to integrate traditional faith and modernity. To understand the challenges and complexity of our books, our people and our land. To understand the perseverance of Jewish thought and community affected by the ebb and flow of tolerance and intolerance, destruction and survival."

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(Dr. Florence Rosenberg, above, right, pictured with her [Me'ah](#) class at their 2019 graduation ceremony. Hebrew College's Me'ah program is one of [Hebrew College's community learning programs](#) for all ages and stages, including teens, young adults, parents, grandparents, professionals and retirees, all within a pluralistic environment of open inquiry, depth, creativity, and compassion.)

IN THE NEWS



Rabbi Elisha Herb, Rab`16, MAJS`16 (above) was featured in the July 17 *Jewish Journal* [article and video](#) "Rosner's Torah Talk: Parshat Balak with Rabbi Elisha Herb," with host Shmuel Rosner.

Rabbi Jim Morgan, Rab`08 of Hebrew SeniorLife was featured in the July 15 *Newton Tab* [article](#) "A blessing of the fleet: Brookline seniors celebrate mobility."

On July 13, The Chatham Synagogue/Netivot Torah (TCS) marked its 20th anniversary celebration which featured remarks by **Rabbi Or Rose**—Director of [Hebrew College's Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#) and Visiting TCS Rabbi for 18 years—and other synagogue leaders. The evening also included a retrospective by **Lydia Kukoff**, event coordinator, a synagogue founder, and member of the Hebrew College Board of Trustees. [Read Rabbi Rose's remarks.](#)

70 FACES OF TORAH

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

Making Atonement for God's Imperfect World

Parashat Pinchas (Numbers 25:10-30:1)

By Rabbi Daniel Klein, Rab `10, MEd `10
Associate Dean of Admissions
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It was classic. Two strikes. Two outs. A runner on second in extra innings of the little league championship game. If my son's team could get one more strike, they would extend the game.

The pitcher threw a perfect pitch, but the batter connected solidly, hitting a line drive up the middle. It was most likely hopeless as soon as it went past the infield, but the center fielder and catcher did their part valiantly, as the kid in the outfield made an accurate throw to home and the catcher made a diving attempt to tag the runner, who touched home plate just ahead of the tag. My son's team had lost the little league championship.

The kids were heartbroken. They shed the requisite tears and we parents said the requisite platitudes about playing the game the right way and getting them next year. The main feeling I had though was not sadness and disappointment. Instead, I mainly felt gratitude and relief. No one had screwed up to end the game.

I kept imagining if the ball had been hit to someone who could have made the final out to end the inning but had dropped the ball, or let it go through his legs, which easily could have happened at this level. Learning to deal with the emotional challenge of an error in the midst of a game is an important, if hard, life experience. Making an error to lose the championship, even as a kid, I wouldn't wish that on anyone. Being a Red Sox fan for the last 40 years is one of the ways I learned that lesson.

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