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# NEWS & VIEWS

June 6, 2019 | 3 Sivan 5779

What a week of celebration! Mazal Tov to all of our graduates and teen philanthropists, and thank you to all who celebrated our teachers at the Hebrew College Live! storytelling event.

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## Hebrew College 94th Commencement

Hebrew College celebrated its 94th [Commencement Ceremonies](#) on Sunday, June 2, 2019 awarding 128 graduates who completed their studies this year from our Prozdor Community High School Program, our signature Me'ah Adult Learning Program, and our graduate leadership programs for rabbis, cantors, and educators. In the afternoon, our rabbinic and cantorial graduates received *semikha* at special ordination ceremonies at Temple Reyim in Newton, MA.



President Sharon Cohen Anisfeld



Commencement speaker and Honorary Degree recipient Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg



Cantorial student Rachel Slusky delivers the closing prayer



Honorary Degree recipient Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker



President Anisfeld and honorary degree recipient Mark Atkins, Prz`65



Honorary degree recipient Dr. Alice Hildegard Shalvi delivered her message remotely from Israel



President Anisfeld and Sefaria's Joshua Foer and Brett Lockspeiser, recipients of the Shevach Memorial Award



President Anisfeld and Hillson/Bronstein Memorial Award winner Ross Levine



Rabbi Jevin Eagle receives a blessing from Rabbi Arthur Green at Rabbinical School Ordination



Cantor Maayan Harel receives a blessing from Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer at Cantorial Ordination

[View Photos & Videos](#)

## Laughing & Learning at Hebrew College Live!

Thank you to everyone who attended and/or made a gift for the [Hebrew College Live! Stories in Honor of Our Teachers](#) annual fundraiser on May 30, 2019 at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, MA. More than 200 people celebrated a generation of teachers at the MOTH Radio-style storytelling night which featured emcee Mark Oppenheimer, host of Tablet Magazine's "Unorthodox" podcast, five storytellers, the presentation of the Esther Award for Leadership and Philanthropy, Yiddish music, and plenty of shmoozing, food and wine. Other evening highlights included remarks by President Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, and a welcome by Rabbi Philip Sherman, Rab` 13 of Temple Beth Elohim and Andy Offit, Chair of the Hebrew College Board of Trustees.



Storyteller Rabbi Margot Meitner, Rab` 14, MAJS` 14 tells her story "Bubbe and the Boichick"



Emcee Mark Oppenheimer



The Richmond-Shazeer Family Band



Storytellers Celene Ibrahim and Rabbis Jordan Schuster, Tiferet Berenbaum, and Margot Meitner



Rabbi Dan Judson, storyteller and Dean of the Rabbinical School tells "The Ladies' Malbishirum"



President Sharon Cohen Anisfeld presents JTFGB Director Leah Goldstein with the Esther Award for Leadership and Philanthropy



Among the 200 attendees were (front row l-r) Mark Atkins, Prz `65; Rabbi Suzanne Offit, Rab `09; and Board Chair Andy Offit

[View Photos & Videos](#)





## Me'ah Graduates 72 Adult Learners

Last night, 76 adult learners graduated from Me'ah Classic at Hebrew College, a program sponsored by [Combined Jewish Philanthropies \(CJP\)](#). The oldest Adult Learning program at Hebrew College, Me'ah (Hebrew for 100) includes 100 hours of coursework over two years with outstanding faculty from the Greater Boston area. Students journey through the narrative of the Jewish people through readings, text study, lectures and discussions focused on core texts from biblical, rabbinic, medieval, and modern times. Mazal tov to the graduates. [Learn more about Me'ah.](#)

*(Pictured l-r) Members of the Me'ah Class at Temple Beth Shalom in Cambridge, MA; Student speaker Florence Rosenberg.*



## JTFGB Grant Ceremony

On May 29, [The Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston, \(JTFGB\)](#), a [Hebrew College](#) program held its annual awards ceremony. The program, which teaches local high school students about fundraising, civic leadership and grant-making, awarded \$60,265 in grant funding raised by 61 teen leaders to eight organizations that support immigration rights, fight climate change, and combat child abuse and trafficking. This year's group included high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors from 16 communities from Boston to Worcester.

Since the program launched in 2015, teens have donated \$146,000 to various organizations that help fight sexual assault, substance abuse, and promote mental health, amongst other issues.

*Pictured l-r: Shea Nugent from TRII, Simone Klein, Danny Richmond, Alejandro Bracamontes from TRII, and Shay Bloom*

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## Ani Kinor: Visions of Prayer Leadership

On June 3-4, Hebrew College held a special two-day intensive called “Visions of Prayer Leadership” to kick off [Ani Kinor: Prayer Leader Summer Institute](#). Over the two days, 30 participants studied with Hebrew College faculty and students on the philosophy and practice of *shlichut*, prayer leading. The intensive included presentations and Beit-Midrash style text study, and workshops exploring the theme of “Listening to Text and Context,” including both physical and intellectual approaches to becoming an effective prayer leader.

Participants studied with Hebrew College Rector Rabbi Art Green, Rabbi Ebn Leader, Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer, Cantor Lynn Torgove, and others.

Ani Kinor classes run through the end of July with flexible weekly options. [View courses and register.](#)



## Just Released! *Judaism Unbound* Podcast Bonus Episode Recorded Live at Hebrew College

"Communal Singing - David Fainsilber and Jessica Kate Meyer"

We're thrilled that the [Judaism Unbound](#) podcast episode about Communal Singing with Rabbis [David Fainsilber](#) and [Jessica Kate Meyer](#) was released yesterday. The episode, with host Lex Rofeberg, MJE'd `18, was recorded live during the Rabbinical School's January Winter Seminar "The Past and Future of Synagogues." David Fainsilber, Rab` 14 serves as rabbi of [The Jewish Community of Greater Stowe](#) in Vermont, and Jessica Kate Meyer, Rab` 14 serves as rabbi and *chazzan* of [The Kitchen](#), an emergent Jewish community in San Francisco. Download and listen!

Listen Now

# 70 FACES OF TORAH

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

## The Power of Teaching Torah

*Parashat B'midbar (Numbers 1:1-4:20)*

By Rabbi Daniel Schaefer, Rab` 18  
Assistant Rabbi of [Temple Ohabei Shalom](#) in Brookline



Last Sunday, I had the privilege to witness some of my most cherished friends and beloved classmates become rabbis. The magic of Hebrew College ordination is something that everyone should experience firsthand. The room is filled with family and friends, song, laughter, and joy. As I watched eleven colleagues take on their new status, I was reminded of a verse from this week's *parasha*, B'Midbar. The first Torah portion in the book of Numbers finds the Israelites in the wilderness of Sinai, before they begin their journey to the Holy Land. As Moses and Aaron conduct a census of the whole Israelite community, the Torah states:

These are the generations of Aaron and Moses at the time that God spoke with Moses at Mount Sinai. (Numbers 3:1)

Six times in the book of Genesis, the phrase “these are the generations” (אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדוֹת) appears, to introduce the genealogy of a significant figure. However, outside of Genesis, that phrase only appears once more, in this week's *parasha*. But what is really surprising, is that the next verse proceeds to list Aaron's sons and *only* Aaron's sons.

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