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# NEWS & VIEWS

May 10, 2019 | 5 Iyar 5779



**“Unorthodox” podcast host to honor his Hebrew College teachers at Hebrew College “fun”raiser**

Mark Oppenheimer has been an “unofficial student” at Hebrew College for more than two decades.

He learned from Hebrew College President Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld in the mid-1990s as an undergraduate at Yale, where she was his Hillel rabbi. And when he got married 14 years later, he reconnected with Rabbi Anisfeld, then Dean of the [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#), and asked her to marry him and his fiancée.

Later, as a religion columnist for the *New York Times* from 2010 to 2016, Oppenheimer learned from other Hebrew College faculty members -- reaching out to Rabbis Dan Judson, Or Rose, Ebn Leader, and others, whenever he had a question about Judaism for his biweekly “[Beliefs](#)” column.

Oppenheimer, a journalist, academic, storyteller, and host of Tablet Magazine’s podcast “Unorthodox,” will honor his Hebrew College teachers, as the emcee of [Hebrew College Live! Stories in Honor of Our Teachers](#), Hebrew College’s spring Moth radio-style storytelling fundraiser, at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, MA on May 30. Join us in 3 weeks! Please join Mark and honor your teachers too.

[Read more about Oppenheimer](#)

[Hebrew College Live! Info & Tickets](#)



## Prozdor Graduates Future Jewish Leaders

On Sunday afternoon, May 5, [Prozdor of Hebrew College](#) honored the members of the Class of 2019 – 22 of the most outstanding young Jews in Greater Boston. This year’s graduates join the many thousands of other Prozdor alumni since the school’s founding in 1926 and will soon take their place as the leaders of our community.

“This year’s graduating class is a remarkable group of young people,” said Prozdor Director Dan Brosgol. “Their passion and commitment for Jewish learning is truly commendable, and we are honored to have had the chance to teach them for the last several years. We wish them well as they move on to the next phase of their lives and look forward to seeing them become leaders on their college campuses and as young adults.”

In addition to the [student speakers](#), each of whom conveyed a unique message about the power of their Prozdor experience, President Sharon Cohen Anisfeld offered this message to the graduates: “The Talmud tells us, in the name of Mari ben R. Huna (Eruvin 64a), that when friends take leave of each other, they should teach each other something. That way when they remember each other, they will remember what they’ve learned. And when they remember what they’ve learned, they will remember each other. There is a deep truth here about the connection between learning and friendship. We hope that as you begin this next phase of your journeys, you’ll know that you’re not alone. We hope that you carry with you the connections you’ve made here – relationships with teachers and friends, with Torah, and with the unfolding story of the Jewish people, which is now yours to help write.”

Mazal Tov to the Prozdor Class of 2019!

Read student speakers' remarks



SIGHTS & SOUNDS

**Huzzah! La'Hazzan**





On May 6, the Hebrew College community honored Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer (top left), Dean of the [School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College](#) for his 10 years of dedicated leadership. During his tenure, Cantor Mayer created Hebrew College's 3-year accelerated [Cantorial Ordination for Spiritual and Educational Leadership Program \(COSEL\)](#), and, in collaboration with the Rabbinical School, the [Rav-Hazzan Program](#) and [Ani Kinor: Prayer Leader Summer Institute](#). Speakers paying tribute to Cantor Mayer included (clockwise from top right) alumna Cantor Hinda Eisen Labovitz, Can`14, Hebrew College Chief Academic Officer Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, and Hebrew College President Sharon Cohen Anisfeld. [Read President Sharon Cohen's remarks and blessing to Cantor Meyer.](#)

With Cantor Mayer stepping down at the end of the academic year, the community also celebrated the establishment of the Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer Scholarship, to be awarded to an outstanding Hebrew



College cantorial student who embodies the values of pluralism, academic and musical excellence, and Jewish leadership central to Cantor Mayer's legacy. Kol HaKovod, Cantor Mayer! (Photos by Sharon Katz.)

Give to the Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer  
Scholarship Fund

View more photos from the  
celebration

## Blessings and Cake Day



On May 7, graduating rabbinical and cantorial ordination students received blessings from their classmates, shared their capstone projects and Masters of Jewish Education theses, and celebrated the

traditional academic year-end "cake day" together. Pictured from top clockwise: Shaneh Heh classmates (l to r) Misha Clebaner, Ilana Zeitman, Joel Goldstein, Shuki Zehavi, Allison Poirier, Stephanie Sanger-Miller, Jessica Lowenthal Weber, Hayley Goldstein, Mona Strick, Dena Trugman, and Jevin Eagle; Jevin Eagle gets a cyber-blessing from new mom Gita Karasov; Allison Poirier presents her Masters in Jewish Education thesis "Godly Play and the Spiritual Health of Elders." [Cantorial and Rabbinical ordination ceremonies](#) will take place on Sunday, June 2 at 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. at Temple Reyim in Newton.

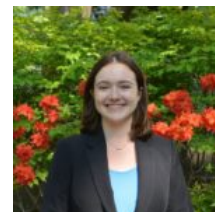
# BLOGS

## STATE OF FORMATION

*The State of Formation blog is a joint venture of the [Miller Center of Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#) and [Boston University's School of Theology](#).*

### A Community of Communities

By Sarah Bickford  
Junior at Boston University and BILI Fellow



One of the first things that I looked for when I arrived at Boston University was a religious community. I believed that finding such a group would serve as a great way to meet other students and ease the transition into university life. However, nothing could prepare me for the sheer number of groups that presented themselves as an option. Coming to college from a town where religious expression is mostly limited to cultural and familial obligations, seeing hundreds of my peers excited to talk about their beliefs was a bit of a culture shock. A meeting with a hometown priest during winter break caused me to realize that this was not the norm. Most people find themselves struggling to find and keep faith when immersed into a college environment, yet I had found an abundance.

As a Christian, I spent the first few weeks trying to find a group that I would enjoy. I eventually found my way to Marsh Chapel's Episcopal ministry, and I have been a part of the leadership ever since then. Through that, I became aware of the [Boston Interfaith Leadership Initiative](#) (BILI), as several BU students active at Marsh Chapel were fellows. I had heard the name in passing but did not know much about it until I was invited to apply this fall. What excited me most about the opportunity was that the folks organizing it seemed to have a very good understanding of the need for interaction and interfaith

dialogue in college settings.

[Read more](#)



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

## What My Neighbor Needs

***Parashat Kedoshim (Leviticus 19:1-20:27)***

By Rabbi Josh Weisman, Rab`18  
Jewish Emergent Network Rabbinic Fellow  
The Kavana Cooperative



When you live in San Francisco some of your neighbors are likely to be Catholic. From the early Spanish missionaries and settlers to later Mexican and Central American immigrants, from Irish, Italian, Filipino, and Maltese immigrants to their descendants, San Francisco is a Catholic town. This might seem to contradict San Francisco's more widely known image first as a city of libertines and later as a center for gay movements and cultures, but the two realities have long lived side by side, and often mingled with each other. Sometimes this mingling has been tense, and occasionally tragic, as when Irish Catholic Supervisor Dan White assassinated Mayor George Moscone and gay Jewish Supervisor Harvey Milk in San Francisco City Hall in 1978. Often it has been quotidian. Sometimes it has been neighborly, and occasionally truly so.

One place where these two cultures - Catholic and LGBTQ - are particularly visible as neighbors is the corner of Dolores and 16<sup>th</sup>, between the historically Latino Mission District and the famously gay Castro District (itself previously the Irish neighborhood of Eureka Valley). On one corner stands Mission Dolores Basilica, a Spanish Baroque church located next to the original Spanish mission where colonial settlement of the Bay Area began in 1776. Right across the street is Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, the City's LGBTQ synagogue, one of the first in the world, founded nearby in 1977 and now located in this brightly-painted wooden two-story building. From the sanctuary in Sha'ar Zahav you can see the cupola of Mission Dolores through the windows just beneath the ceiling. It's a lovely, if seemingly incongruous, view.

[Read more](#)

# EVENTS

## Nava Tehila Ensemble Concert

Co-sponsored by Hebrew College

May 12 | 7-9 pm

Temple Beth Zion, Brookline, MA

\$20 General Admission | \$15 Students & Seniors

[Purchase Tickets](#)

## A Mini-Symposium: Ethnic Identity and Choral Singing

Sponsored by Zamir Chorale of Boston Alumni

Association and the School of Jewish Music at

Hebrew College

May 15 | 7:30-9:30 pm

Hebrew College

[Learn More](#) | Free Admission

## Torah Godly Play

May 19-20

8 am-3 pm

Hebrew College

[Learn more](#) | [Register](#)

## JTFGB Grant Ceremony

May 29 | 6-8 pm

Hebrew College

[Information](#)

## SPRING FUNDRAISER

Hebrew College Live! Stories in Honor of Our Teachers

May 30 | 6:30 pm

Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley, MA

[Information](#) | [Purchase Tickets](#) | [Make a Gift](#)

## Commencement

June 2 | 10 am

Hebrew College

[Information](#)

## Cantorial Ordination

June 2 | 1:30 pm

Temple Reyim, Newton MA

[Information](#)

## Rabbinical Ordination

June 2 | 3 pm

Temple Reyim, Newton MA

[Information](#)

## Ani Kinor: Prayer Leader Summer Institute Two-Day Intensive

June 3-4

Hebrew College

[Learn more](#) | [Register](#)

## A Joyful Concert for Body & Soul

with Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer `14, Dr. Hankus

Netsky & Cantor Becky Khitrik `14

June 3 | 7-9 pm

Hebrew College

\$10 General Admission

[Learn More](#) | [Purchase Tickets](#)

## Me'ah Graduation

June 5 | 6:30-8:30 pm

Hebrew College

[Information](#)





Hebrew College | 160 Herrick Road | Newton Centre, MA 02459  
617.559.8600 | [www.hebrewcollege.edu](http://www.hebrewcollege.edu) | [Donate](#)