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NEWS & VIEWS

April 18, 2019 | 13 Nissan 5779

Chag Pesach Sameach

With wishes for a joyous and uplifting Passover



As Passover approaches, Hebrew College prepares to launch new community social action program

Hebrew College is excited to launch the new community learning program, [Open Circle Social Action](#). According to Bernice Lerner, Dean of Adult Learning at Hebrew College, this new CJP-supported program is an opportunity for young adults who seek to engage in personally meaningful and socially responsible activity, who wish to deepen their knowledge of Jewish values, and who want to take action on issues they care about. “We want to channel the sense of urgency felt among young Jews and empower them to seek and find insight and direction in ancient and contemporary Jewish sources of wisdom,” says Lerner.

Open Circle Social Action reflects the College’s enduring commitment to *areivut* (communal

responsibility) as a core value – where Jewish learning is seen not only as an academic endeavor, but as a process that invites students to ask and wrestle with questions of meaning, purpose, and personal responsibility.

“Judaism asks us to imagine, and even remember what it was like to be slaves and to experience freedom. That foundational experience of liberation is something that we return to every day in our liturgy, and every year, most notably on Passover,” said Rabbi Daniel Schaefer, Rab‘18, who is co-teaching the Open Circle Social Action class *Organizing and Resilience: A Workshop for Jewish Urban Educators* this spring. “For us to talk about liberation, without working towards it for all people, would make the words and holidays ring hollow for me. By working for social change, I’m not only doing what I can to help others, but breathing new life into the central stories and teachings of Judaism.”

[Read more](#)

[View classes](#)



Shoolman School Receives \$200K Grant

Hebrew College's Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education has received a generous grant from a foundation to provide scholarships to incoming students in its online and on-campus Masters of Jewish Education (MJEd) program. The grant provides Midcareer Fellowships to 12 students who are more than five years out of college and have worked in Jewish institutions for three years, so they can advance their careers through Shoolman, while continuing to working in the Jewish world.

“We are so grateful to our donors for their continued support of our program, which makes a Shoolman MJEd a more affordable investment,” said Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Dean of the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education at Hebrew College. “We are proud of all that our scholars have achieved and will continue to achieve in their careers.”

Limited spaces are still available in Shoolman's Fall 2019 entering class. [Learn more](#) about earning a Masters of Jewish Education at Hebrew College9

Read more

(Pictured: Hebrew College alumna Rabbi Rebecca Weinstein, Rab`18, MJEd`18 and her students. Photo Courtesy of Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston.)



Hebrew College Spring Fundraiser Tickets & Gift Opportunities

We invite you to join us at our annual spring fundraising event [Hebrew College Live! Stories in Honor of Our Teachers](#) on May 30 at Temple Beth Elohim where we will be honoring your Hebrew College teachers through stories. Learn, laugh, and share a connection with our five storytellers — all master teachers — each inspired by their own beloved teachers. Your ticket(s) and/or celebratory gift in honor of a teacher helps support Hebrew College's mission to educate Jewish leaders and lifelong learners.

Meet Storyteller Rabbi Dan Judson

Rabbi Dan Judson (pictured above), Dean of the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, is no stranger to storytelling. He has appeared on PBS's *The Moth Radio Hour*, which calls him "a rabbi busted for speeding" in its promotion of his story "Speeding to Bible Study" and serves as the storyteller-in-residence for the Museum of Fine Arts Boston's annual Hanukkah Night, presented in collaboration with the Jewish Arts Collaborative. When he's not telling stories, Rabbi Judson teaches in the Rabbinical

School and in Hebrew College's Me'ah program. Don't miss his story "The Ladies' Malbishirum" at Hebrew College Live.

Esther Award for Leadership & Philanthropy

During the evening, we will also be presenting this year's **Esther Award for Leadership & Philanthropy** to **Leah Goldstein**, Director of Hebrew College's [Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston](#) (JTFGB). Leah has guided the teen philanthropy program, now in its fourth year, which teaches Jewish high school students with all different denominational backgrounds from across the greater Boston area the ins and outs of philanthropy and grant-making through a Jewish lens. Students raise funds and allocate grants to effect real change in the causes they care about most.

We hope you will join us for this celebratory evening, hosted by Mark Oppenheimer, host of Tablet Magazine's podcast "Unorthodox," and consider supporting the College with your ticket purchase and/or [a gift in honor of a treasured teacher](#).

Listen to Rabbi Judson's MOTH Radio
Story

RSVP & Make a Celebratory Gift to
Honor a Teacher

**HUMANS OF
HEBREW COLLEGE**





Communities Bond at Liberation Seder

“Church members were amazed that we were still telling a story from thousands of years ago. They didn’t have a means to tell their own exodus story. Our story inspired them to tell their own story.”
 – Rabbi Hannah Orden, Rab` 10, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Hatikvah in Summit, NJ with her co-facilitator Cecilia Flagg.

[Read more](#)

SIGHTS & SOUNDS





Hebrew College alum leads interfaith community sing

When the horrific October 2018 Pittsburgh shooting occurred, Rabbi David Fainsilber, Rab` 14, spiritual leader of the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe, VT, was in Israel with his family where he says "it was quite difficult that I was not there, for me and for the community." While in Israel, he experienced a [Koolulam](#) event – Koolulam is a mass singing initiative which hold events where participants learn a three-part arrangement of a Hebrew or English song, and then perform it for a video to be shared on social media. Koolulam's popularity has soared since it kicked off in Tel Aviv in April 2017, with Israelis jumping at the opportunity to come together with thousands of strangers to sing.

Upon his return, Rabbi Fainsilber drew from that experience to bring healing to his community. The Jewish Community of Greater Stowe brought the greater community together, inviting 10 clergy, multiple churches, and several arts not-for-profits to learn and perform [the piece in the video](#) around the Chanukah/Christmas season.

"This experience of singing together across the diversity of our community allowed for greater light and love to grow from this darkest place," said Fainsilber. "The singing is a testament to the fact that healing is possible. There may be scars left over, and there is surely more work to be done—yet we are moving forward stronger and more fierce in our love."



Last week, Rabbinic, Cantorial and MEd students participating in Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire's "Spiritual Development for Jewish Education" class experienced the process of cultivating creativity first hand. Along with visiting instructor Jacquie Sebrani-Kesner, Rabbi Shire introduced his students to a new paradigm of Holistic (*Shlemut*) Jewish education through the medium of clay.



School of Jewish Music students performed their spring recital at Hebrew College on Monday, singing works in Hebrew, English, and Yiddish. (Pictured: Cantorial students Rachel Slusky and DJ Fortine) [See more photos on Facebook.](#)

IN THE NEWS

On April 12, The [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#) hosted "Preparing Our Hearts for Passover & Easter" in partnership with the Rabbinical School at Hebrew College, Boston College, School of Theology (BC-STM) and Ministry and School of Theology - Boston University (BU-STH). The interreligious exploration with students from the three institutions included the

plenary session “Ritual Reflections on the Season” with panelists Dr. David Schnasa Jacobsen (BU -STH), Dr. Michael Simone (BC-STM) and Rabbi Dr. Jane Kanarek, Rabbinical School of Hebrew College.



(l-r) Drs. Schnasa Jacobsen, Simone, and Kanarek

Kol HaKavod to [Rabbinical School](#) Associate Professor Rachel Adelman who received tenure this month.

[Rabbinical School](#) alums Rabbi Becky Silverstein, Rab` 14 & Rabbi Avi Killip, Rab` 14 were featured in the April 8 [eJewish Philanthropy](#) article “Schusterman Family Foundation Announces 27 Outstanding Fellows For Global Leadership Program” on their selection in the next cohort of Schusterman Fellows.

Hebrew College's \$250K Arthur Vining Davis Grant to the [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#) was highlighted in the April 12 [The Jewish Advocate](#) article (paid subscription only) "A trio of education grants."

Inspired by a recent visit to the Soule Early Childhood Center in Brookline, [Early Childhood Institute](#) Assistant Director Linna Ettinger wrote a piece about how the custom of having regular family meals, as is encouraged by the Jewish holidays of Shabbat and Passover, can protect against teen anxiety, depression and suicide. The [article](#), "Setting the Table for Life," appeared in the April 15 issue of [eJewish Philanthropy](#).

On March 23, Adjunct [School of Jewish Music](#) faculty member Amy Lieberman presented a voice workshop at the Metropolis of Boston Greek Orthodox Church Music Institute for choral singers and conductors in preparation for the vocal and musical demands of the upcoming Greek Easter season. On April 5, Lieberman led a choral masterclass for the upper school choir of the Ramaz school while they were on a performance tour of Boston, and on May 1, she will be conducting a Yom Hashoah program of music and poetry with the Temple Beth Elohim choir in Wellesley.

EVENTS

Prozdor Graduation
May 5 | 12:30 pm
Hebrew College
[Information](#)

Huzzah! la'Hazzan

SPRING FUNDRAISING EVENT!
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](#)

Celebrating Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer and the Establishment of the Scholarship in his name
 May 6 | 1:30 pm
 Hebrew College
[RSVP](#) | [Make a Gift in Cantor Mayer's Honor](#)

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](#)

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](#)



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

First Day of Pesach

By Rabbi Avi Strausberg, Rab `15

Director of National Learning Initiatives, [Hadar](#)



How do you *shecht* a Leviathan? Just like us, the rabbis wrestled with their own pressing questions whose answers could not be found in the Torah. According to Vayikra Rabba, in the World to Come, the righteous would witness a dazzling duel between the mythical creatures the Behemoth and the Leviathan. After this contest of strengths, they'd get to eat the meat of these mythical creatures. But the rabbis wondered, how would these animals, that were unheard of in the Torah and did not exist in their times, be properly slaughtered so that the righteous might feed on them?

Don't worry, answers Rabbi Avin bar Kahana. As the Holy One says in Isaiah 51:4, "A *Torah* will go forth from Me." Noting the future tense of "will go forth," Rabbi Avin bar Kahana explains, what is this Torah that will come forth from God? It's a *torah hadasha*, a new Torah, or *hiddush*, an innovation, that until now, did not exist in this world. We may not know the proper way to slaughter the Behemoth and the Leviathan, and for good reason, they didn't exist in the time of the Torah and they don't exist now. But, when we get to the time when that question becomes necessary, God will provide us with a new Torah, with a *hiddush*, to speak to the pressing questions of our times.

Read more



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

The Folly of a Black Church A Series on Black Personhood and Freedom

By Rev. Brandon Harris
College Chaplain, Georgetown University
State of Formation Fellow



I didn't understand the faith or the worship practices of my church. Why would solidly middle and working class black folks—who, during the week, were principals, teachers, executives, and middle

management in corporations—come into church bedecked in suits, ties, dresses, and hats and then work themselves into a spiritual and emotional frenzy? I tried to explain away our faith with history, sociology, and theology. I tried to push away my Pentecostal roots. I tried to push away the African spirituality of my childhood that believed in surrendering our lives, our very bodies, through tears, dance, through uplifted arms to God.

This form of religion was folly.

I dismissed it as so heavenly minded that it was no earthly good.

I dismissed it as unsophisticated, not well thought, and lacking spiritual rigor.

Read more



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