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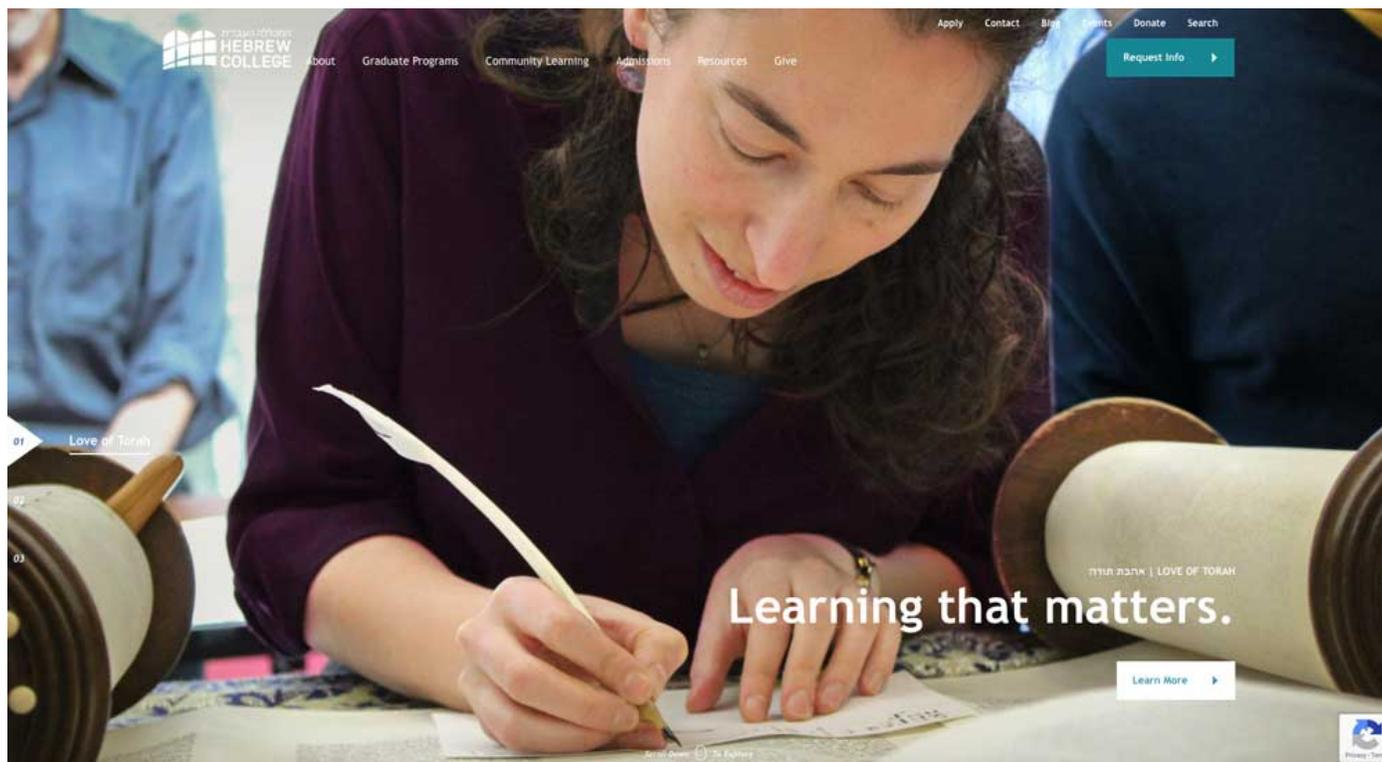


## NEWS & VIEWS

December 6, 2018 | 28 Kislev 5779

# Happy Hanukkah | תנוכה שמח





## Hebrew College Launches New Website

Hebrew College has a new presence in cyberspace. Six months in the works, we are excited to announce the launch of the [new mobile-friendly Hebrew College website](#).

Our goal was to create a desktop-, tablet- and mobile-friendly site that captures the feeling of our vibrant, pluralistic community through storytelling, multimedia, and strong visuals while maintaining the depth of content from the old site.

The new site includes many new features, including:

- A page to showcase Hebrew College’s thought-leadership called “[Perspectives & Publications](#)”
- An [alumni](#) section as well as school-specific [alumni pages](#) and profiles
- A [search tool](#) called “Find the right program for you.”
- Easy search and navigation to all of Hebrew College’s [community learning opportunities](#), including our highly-acclaimed adult learning programs (offered with generous support from CJP), our teen programs, professional development opportunities, and select courses in the rabbinical, cantorial, and Jewish education graduate programs..

Our special thanks to all the Hebrew College alumni, students, and faculty who lent us their words and images for the stories and testimonials that add so much throughout the site. Their voices and faces make the site come to life.

Please bookmark the site at [hebrewcollege.edu](http://hebrewcollege.edu), visit often, and [send us your stories](#).

Start browsing!

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## Letter from the Board Chair

“This is a new day.” I began my remarks with these words at the recent Installation of Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld as Hebrew College’s ninth President, and they have never been more true. We are on a journey and I want to invite you to join us.



The generosity of our donors - people just like you - has allowed us to reach this moment and look to the future with great hope. Here are just a few examples:

- Hebrew College is moving forward with a new vision and strategy, assessing strategic priorities and charting a bright future
- Last month Hebrew College welcomed its largest group ever of future community leaders - prospective rabbinic and cantorial students for the annual Open House.
- And for the first time in more than two decades, Hebrew College has both a balanced budget and a debt-free balance sheet

Our bright future, new growth, and renewed financial strength are all thanks to our community’s faithful support. This is **your** Hebrew College. Its rabbis, cantors, educators, adult learners and teens enhance and enrich our diverse Jewish communities. I am inviting you in. Get to know us better, engage, come and learn, and help shape the future of Jewish communal life.

Many have stepped up already; please join them with your year-end gift. Share your time, your resources, and your wisdom. Tell us your ideas about what Hebrew College can be over the next five years. We hope you’ll be a part of our next chapter. And if you have already made your gift this year, please accept our heartfelt appreciation.

It really is a new day at Hebrew College. Please join us.

In gratitude,

Andy Offit  
Chair, Board of Trustees

P.S. Learn more about our new [President’s Council](#) and [Shabbat Table](#), and find out how you can become more involved. Please consider making a gift that will be meaningful to you.

Give Now

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## Winter/Spring Course Registration Open

Registration is open for all Hebrew College credit and non-credit courses for community members. Study alongside our graduate students or choose an adult learning course and learn with your peers. Explore our:

- Credit and non-credit courses
- Hebrew Language courses (online and on-campus)
- Non-credit Rabbinical School courses open to community members
- Non-credit Jewish music courses open to community members
- Non-credit Jewish education courses open to community members
- Adult learning courses offered by Hebrew College with support from CJP (Me'ah, Eser, Open Circle Jewish Learning, & Parenting Through a Jewish Lens programs)

View Courses

**Questions about courses? Please ask us!**

Rabbinical School: Contact [Rabbi Daniel Klein](#)  
 School of Jewish Music: Contact [Marcia Spellman](#)

Jewish education and Hebrew: Contact [Deb Ron](#)  
 Adult learning: Contact [Anna Katzevman](#)

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# Sights & Sounds



The Hebrew College community celebrated Hanukkah this week with nightly community candle lighting and teachings in President Anisfeld's office. (l-r) Associate Dean of Admissions & Student Life, Rabbi Daniel Klein led the candle lighting blessings; President Anisfeld reflected on Hanukkah as a time of rededication and hope, and led a ritual of Hanukkat Habayit (the dedication of a new home) as she hung a mezuzah on her office door. The mezuzah was a gift, made by Polish artists who have created bronze casts out of the holes left behind on the doorposts of old Jewish homes in Cracow and elsewhere, where Jews once lived. These beautiful mezuzot are a witness to the Jewish life that once filled those homes, and a symbol of our own rededication to a vibrant and purposeful Jewish future. Learn more at <https://mipolin.pl/>.

# ~ In the News ~

## Chai in the Hub Honors Rav-Hazzan

Rav-Hazzan Aliza Berger, Rab` 17, Can` 17 is among 10 young adults being honored by CJP on Feb. 9, 2019 for a [CJP Chai in the Hub 2019 Award](#). Also being honored is Nathan Vaughan, who served on the committee for Hebrew College's [Eser Young Adult Program](#). Each year, CJP honors young adult leaders for their amazing personal and professional work to better Greater Boston's Jewish community.



### Annual Lecture on Jewish Genealogy with Rebecca Kobrin

"Credit to the Nation: East European Jewish Immigrant Bankers, Mass Migration and American Finance"

Co-sponsored by [Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston](#) and Hebrew College

Dec. 16 | 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Free

Hebrew College | [Learn more](#)

### Early Registration for Eser 2019:

#### 10 Millennial Updates to Jewish Living

Early registration ends December 10.

Classes begin March 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2019 in Brookline, Brighton, Downtown Boston, Jamaica Plain, Newton, Sharon, and Somerville  
\$65 (before Dec. 10) | \$95 after Dec. 10

[Register](#)



**Rabbi Lenny:** My interest in creating a braille *sefer* scroll began when I had some vision issues in one eye due to Type II diabetes some years ago. I began to learn braille as a way to continue my love of reading if there should be a day when I lose my eyesight. . .By creating a braille *sefer* scroll, we can include Jewish blind and visually impaired people in congregation Torah reading.

**Michael:** My focus right now is on learning English braille, then Hebrew braille. I will need to be

conversant on the specifics of braille reading and writing, especially if I create any education materials to assist clients using the braille Torah.

(Rabbi Lenny Sarko and his son, Michael Sarko, [MJEd`18](#))

[Read More](#)



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

## Experiencing Exile

Parashat Vayishlach (Genesis 32:4-36:43)

By Rabbi Leora Abelson. Rab`17  
**Congregational rabbi and health care chaplain**



A caravan makes its way through the desert. Exhausted and hungry, families travel from a place of hardship and make their way towards hope and uncertainty. Traveling towards a land of plenty, a land of opportunity, they seek the well-being, the survival, of their families. They know not what awaits them at their destination: welcome or hostility. They are prepared to offer everything they have in exchange for food, for safety. Will the plenty be shared? Will they be turned away? Worst, will they be met with violence?

This is a contemporary story. Exhausted, hungry people make the impossible decision to leave their homes because the only thing more unbearable than leaving is staying. In the words of Warsan Shire, “you only leave home / when home won’t let you stay.”

This is an age-old story. Our ancestors have migrated in search of food, in search of survival, for tens of thousands of years. Humans have always migrated, navigating different climates, cultures, languages, crossing geographic and political borders, remaking our lives in new places.

This is a Jewish story. It is in our history; our ancestors have fled and remade their homes, fled and

remade their homes, sometimes more than once in the same generation. Seeking safety, seeking survival.

Read more

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