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NEWS & VIEWS

May 24, 2018 | 10 Sivan 5778

Inspiring Spiritual Leadership for a Changing World



Rabbinical Class of 5778 front row l-r: Lev Friedman, Laura Bellows, Rebecca Weinstein, Elizabeth Bonney-Cohen, Bryan Mann, Ayalon Eliach. Back row: Josh Weisman, Ben Barer, Stephen Slater, Daniel Schaefer, Philip Bressler, Salem Pearce, Jordan Schuster. They will be ordained on June 3 at Temple Reyim in Newton, MA.

We live in a changing Jewish world. The demands on clergy and the need for inspiring leadership have never been greater. Patterns of Jewish identification and involvement are shifting and people are searching for new ways of connecting to one another and to Jewish life.

At Hebrew College, this year's Class of 5778 — made up of 16 rabbis and cantors who will be ordained on June 3 — are stepping into this world well-prepared. And the Jewish community is eagerly anticipating the arrival of the newest graduates, as evidenced by the positions they have accepted.

"It is a privilege and a blessing to work with such talented and dedicated students as they shape their distinctive visions for the rabbinate and cantorate," said President-Elect Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld. "We are gratified that our graduates are highly sought after, and are finding meaningful placements throughout Greater Boston and around the country. They each bring their unique and vibrant voices to their work as spiritual leaders, but there is much that they share: a passionate desire to be of service to God and to the world, and a commitment to teaching a Torah of depth, openness, and compassion."

This year's class of 13 new rabbis will be taking on leadership roles in affiliated and independent congregations, Hillels, day schools, communal institutions and chaplaincy settings in 5 different states across the country. Among the positions and communities these newest rabbis will serve are:

- Director of Congregational Organizing, Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, NYC
- Assistant Director for Jewish Life, Georgetown University, Washington D.C.
- Senior Jewish Educator/Director of BIMA and Genesis, Brandeis University Precollege Department,

Waltham, MA

- Rabbi, Temple Beth-El, Birmingham, AL
- Assistant Rabbi, Temple Ohabei Shalom, Brookline, MA
- Director of Learning and Senior Communication, Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah, Brooklyn, NY
- Rabbinic Fellow, Kavanah, Seattle, WA
- Assistant Rabbi & Director of Outreach and Innovation, Kehillath Israel, Brookline MA
- Judaics Teacher, Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston, Newton, MA
- Associate Director of Open Circle Jewish Learning & Director of Mekorot, Hebrew College, Newton, MA

"This year's ordainees have made a tremendous impact on our school and to all the institutions they have been a part of while students here," said Rabbi Dan Judson, Dean of the Rabbinical School. "We are immensely grateful to and proud of them and eagerly anticipate all the blessings they will bring to the world and to the Jewish people as rabbis."

This year's graduates help the [Rabbinical School](#) mark it's 10-year anniversary and the milestone of having ordained more than 100 rabbis. [Learn more about where Rabbinical School alumni serve across the country.](#)

Similarly, our three graduating cantor-educators will be leading diverse Jewish communities in Texas, Virginia, and Maryland. This year also marks the ordination of the first COSEL class ([Cantorial Ordination for Spiritual and Educational Leadership](#)), the [School of Jewish Music's](#) accelerated three-year cantor-educator program launched in 2015. (Previously, cantorial ordination was a 5- year program.) After courting numerous job offers from Reform and Conservative synagogues, here's where the graduates will be headed:



School of Jewish Music Cantor-Educator graduates l-r: Monica O'Desky, Dara Rosenblatt, and Melanie Blatt. They will be ordained on June 3 at Temple Reyim in Newton, MA.

- **Monica O'Desky** will serve as Kol Bo, the synagogue's sole spiritual leader at Temple Mizpah, a Reform synagogue in Abilene, TX. In addition, she will serve as visiting Kol Bo at Temple Beth El in Longview and tutor b'nei mitzvah at Beth El Congregation in Fort Worth.
- **Dara Rosenblatt** will serve as cantor at Temple Beth-El, a Conservative congregation in Richmond, VA, where she will play an active role in congregational learning and growth for all ages, provide musical direction to the community on and off the bima, and will be a full member

of the clergy through assisting in pastoral care and other pulpit responsibilities.

- **Melanie Blatt** will be the Cantor-Educator and Director of Community Engagement at Temple Beth-El, a Conservative congregation in Pikesville, MD. She will collaborate with and support Beth El clergy in leading services, teaching congregants, and officiating at life cycle events and plans to establish a young professionals group and to work with clergy to strengthen the congregation's *Hesed* outreach initiative with a specific focus on *Bikur Holim*, the mitzvah to visit and extend aid to the sick.

"Our graduating cantorial students will be bringing creative and energetic practices, ideas and musical wisdom to their new positions in the Jewish world," says Cantor Lynn Torgove, MAJS'11, Can'12, Head of Vocal Arts at the School of Jewish Music. "Their spiritual and intellectual development over the last three years has been inspirational. We are looking forward to their continued teaching and music making as they grow into their roles. It will be a great honor to call our graduating students our newest cantorial colleagues!"

More about Commencement and Ordination

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Hebrew College High Holiday Companion

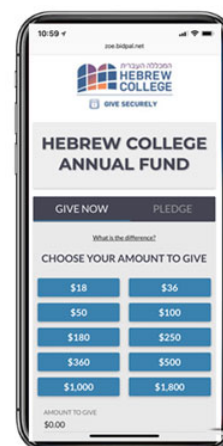
Jewish tradition teaches that as we traverse the winding path of *teshuvah* (return and renewal) each year during the High Holy Day season, it is wise to do so with fellow seekers.

To help guide your steps, the faculty, alumni, and students of Hebrew College have created a collection of reflections on the prayers, scriptural readings, and sacred practices of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. [Learn more and read excerpts.](#)

Text Your Gift to Hebrew College

Now you can make a secure gift to Hebrew College via text. If you haven't made your annual fund gift yet, help us reach our fiscal year-end goal by making a donation before June 30. Simply text **HCGIVE to 243275**. Thank you!

To learn more about all the ways to give, including gifts of stock, securities, and real estate, [visit our website](#).



Notable & Quotable

[Early Childhood Institute](#) Director Rachel Raz's article "[From Sinai to Outer Space](#)" appeared in the May 15 issue of eJewish Philanthropy.

The Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education's [Early Childhood Institute](#) Conference will be held at Hebrew College on October 28-31, 2018 and is now accepting papers until June 14. This year's theme is "Israel in Jewish Education." Save the date and [submit a proposal](#).

Upcoming Events



Webinar: Learn Hebrew Online
May 27, Noon-1pm
Free | [Learn more](#) | [Register](#)

Hebrew College Commencement
June 3 | 10 am- Noon
Hebrew College
[More Information](#)

Rabbinical & Cantorial Ordination

Dr. Keren McGinity, Director of the Shoolman School's [Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement program](#) was asked to serve on the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) Sexual Misconduct Task Force. Together with her fellow social scientist Ari Kelman, McGinity developed the survey about experiences and concerns that will soon be sent to all AJS members.

June 3

Cantorial 1:30 - 2:30 pm | Rabbinical 3-4:30 pm
Temple Reyim, Newton, MA
[More Information](#)

Boston Jewish Food Conference

Co-sponsored with [Beantown Jewish Gardens](#)
June 10 | Noon-7pm
Temple Israel, Brookline, MA
[Learn more](#)



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

Finding our Way Inside: The Priestly Blessing as a Model for Jewish Practice

Parshat Naso

(Numbers, 4:21-7:89)

By Rabbi Daniel Klein, Rab`10, MJE`10
Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Life
[Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#)



In his book *Lost Connections*, Johann Hari shares a fascinating and, for me, paradigm shifting study about the connection between work and mental health. The study, done by Australian scientist Michael Marmot in the 1970s, shows that workplace stress and depression is highly correlated to the amount of control people have over their work. The more control a person has over her work, the less stressed and depressed she will be.

I believe, as Hari does, that “Humans have an innate need to feel that what we are doing, day-to-day, is meaningful.” However, I have tended to presume that the meaning came largely from *what* we do, the particular work we are engaged in. It is a theory in line with Fredrick Beuchner’s wonderful and inspiring statement, “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” I remain convinced that the “what,” the substance of our work, is important, but what Hari via Marmot is highlighting is that *how* we work is also critically important. In fact, maybe more important. “When you are controlled,” Hari writes, “you can’t create meaning out of your work.”

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