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## NEWS & VIEWS

October 26, 2017 | 6 Heshvan 5778

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## Prozdor: An Ongoing Evolution

By Dan Brosgol  
*Director, Prozdor*

As I enter my seventh year as Director of [Prozdor](#) and seventeenth year at Hebrew College, it is remarkable to think how the Prozdor program has evolved over that time. And make no mistake, Prozdor today is different than Prozdor in 2011, or Prozdor in 2003 (when I began teaching here), or Prozdor in 1995 (when all my peers who went to Prozdor graduated), or even 1926, when the school was founded, for in every generation, b'chol dor va'dor, Prozdor has challenged itself to offer high-quality Jewish education and programming to the community. In the era of Jewish engagement, that might be more challenging than in previous eras, but we are so proud of the work we are doing today and the programs that fall under the Prozdor umbrella.



The hallmark of our department remains our Sunday learning program here at Hebrew College. On Sunday mornings, nearly 200 tweens and teens in grades 6-12 fill our classrooms and hallways, along with the sound of Hebrew language and Klezmer music and the foot traffic between classes on Coding, Philosophy, Art, History, Halacha, and more. We continue to offer an unparalleled menu of courses and programmatic offerings to our Sunday students and remain the largest community Hebrew high school in the country, a title we have claimed since at least the turn of the century.

But, truth be told, that program, which many people believe is all that Prozdor "is", is barely half of the story of Prozdor today, as we teach, engage, and interact with 250 other students in our other programs: [Jewish Teen Funders of Grater Boston \(JTfGB\)](#) Teen Philanthropy; [Hevruta Gap-Year in Israel](#); Synagogue Partnerships.

>> [READ FULL STORY](#)



## Remembering Rabbi Reuven Cohn

Hebrew College, Ma'ayan, Maimonides School, Shaarei Tefillah, and CJP will be joining together on Thursday night, November 2, at 6:45 PM at Maimonides School (34 Philbrick Rd., Brookline) for *An Evening of Learning, Tribute, and Appreciation in Memory of Rabbi Reuven Zvi Cohn's (z"l)*.



Rabbi Cohn, who passed away earlier this month, was a longtime teacher who engaged hundreds of adult learners at Hebrew College "even before he became one of our first Me'ah instructors, 23 years ago," said Dr. Bernice Lerner, Director of Adult Learning at Hebrew College. "We mourn with the rest of our community the loss of our beloved teacher. His devotion to his students, passion for his subject matter, and brilliance were noted and appreciated by all who were honored to know him. Descriptors from his evaluations paint a picture—Reuven was deeply interested in others, modest and respectful, thoughtful and inspiring."

At the November event, the Cohn family will lead a Siyyum on the entire Mishnah. Whether you choose to learn an entire tractate of the 63 tractates of the Mishnah ([access it online](#)) or even a single mishnah teaching, join us to honor our teacher Reuven's memory through Torah study.

Register ▶▶



*Pictured l-r above: David Wolff, Jacob Harris, Jessica Woolf, Marc Stober, Jana Schachter and Rachel Slusky.*

## Meet the New COSEL Cohort

[The School of Jewish Music](#) welcomed six new students to its cutting-edge [Cantorial Ordination for Spiritual and Educational Leadership \(COSEL\) program](#); each will earn a Master of Jewish Education degree in addition to cantorial ordination. Students come from Boston, Maryland and Pennsylvania, with diverse backgrounds and portfolios, ranging from classical musicians to Jewish educators to software engineers. Three completed their undergraduate work in music conservatories.

**David Wolff**, professional musician and music educator: “I love using music to create a moving spiritual experience for a congregation. When I sing in shul, I work to create the most meaningful and beautiful music, but not to glorify myself. I sing to glorify our God-given capacity for feeling, for beauty, for music, and for togetherness.”

**Jana Schachter**, educator: “To this day, my grandparents remain my Jewish heroes. They are the ones who taught me the importance of Jewish continuity and of belonging to a Jewish community.”

**Jessica Woolf**, Oberlin Conservatory graduate: “Music is what brought me into the fold of Judaism and Judaism was going to be how I returned to the music. Through music, I receive Torah.”

**Marc Stober**, software engineer: “In seventh grade, I convinced my parents to buy a new computer. Computers couldn’t do much then, but this model had a synthesizer chip and built-in BASIC programming language. For fun, I taught it to play “I Have a Little Dreidel” and “Adon Olam.”

**Rachel Slusky**, Boston Conservatory graduate. “I have been telling stories and interpreting music by great composers for over half of my life. The love I have for choral music brings me closer to discovering my own spirituality..”

**Jacob Harris**, Longy School of Music graduate: “Being a cantor will fulfill me in a way that no other career could....I have a deep passion for singing as well as music composition....I want nothing else that to use the gifts that I have been given to serve God, the people of Israel and beyond.”

>> [READ FULL STORY](#)

*Meet these and other COSEL student on November 6 at our Open House & Day of Learning, Ta Sh'ma (Come & Hear).  
[Learn more and register](#)*

**Ta Sh'ma**  
**Come&Hear**



## AMIT To Honor President Lehmann

Hebrew College President Daniel Lehmann will be the honoree at AMIT’s Tribute to Educational Excellence on November 14. The annual event, which will take place at Hebrew College at 6 pm, will feature keynote speakers Jonathan Sarna, Professor of American History in the Department of Near Eastern & Judaic Studies at Brandies University and Miri Gil, Principal at AMIT Rehovot Jr. & Sr. High School for Girls.



AMIT enables Israel’s youth to realize their potential, and strengthens Israeli society by educating and nurturing children from diverse backgrounds within a framework of academic excellence, Jewish values and Zionist ideals. Founded in 1925, AMIT operates 110 schools, youth villages, surrogate family residences and other programs in 29 cities, constituting Israel’s only government-recognized network of religious Jewish education incorporating academic and technological studies.

If you are interested in attending the event, contact Robbie Pearlstein at 410-484-2223 or [robbiep@amitchildren.org](mailto:robbiep@amitchildren.org) or purchase tickets and tributes on the [AMIT website](#).

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## Humans of Hebrew College #HumansHC



Learn more about [Isaiah Goldsmith](#), a member of last year's Hebrew College [Jewish Teen Funders of Greater Boston \(JTfGB\)](#) teen philanthropy board, co-led by Prozdor at Hebrew College and Gann Academy. This year the growing JTfGB program is being solely led by Prozdor and comprises three teen boards.

If you are interested in being featured as one of our #Humans, please contact [webmaster@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:webmaster@hebrewcollege.edu). You can also find Hebrew College alumni and students on the Hebrew College LinkedIn page. (Remember to update your LinkedIn profile!)

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## Notable & Quotable

**TONIGHT!** Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, Dean of the [Rabbinical School](#), will be delivering the keynote address at the Leo Trepp Memorial Lecture tonight at 7 pm at Boston University. She will speak on "Reimagining Rabbis: Perspectives on an Ancient Profession in 21st Century America," followed by a conversation with three panelists: Boston University alumna Maharat Rachel Kohl Finegold, and Rabbinical School of Hebrew College alumni **Rabbi Suzie Jacobson** and **Rabbi Elie Lehmann**. The lecture will take place at the Boston University School of Education Auditorium, Room 130.



The [Shoolman School's](#) Associate Dean Deborah Skolnick Einhorn, PhD (pictured) and adjunct instructor Nina Price had [their article](#) "Finding Strength in Classroom Neurodiversity" published in the fall 2017 issue of *HaYidion: The Prizmah Journal*.



On October 22, Celene Ibrahim, [The Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership's](#) Islamic Studies scholar-in-residence, and Ilana Krakowski, a student at [The Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#), were panelists at Weston-Wayland Interfaith Action Group's Interfaith Panel Discussion on Empowering Women.



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## Fall Events

([hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events](http://hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events))

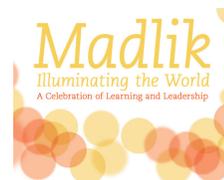
**Ta Sh'ma (Come & Hear)**  
 Ordination programs Open House & Day of Learning  
 November 6  
 Hebrew College  
[Register](#)

**Ta Sh'ma**  
**Come & Hear**

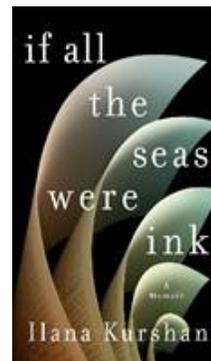
**Jewish Art Music from St. Petersburg to Palestine and Beyond**  
 Kol Arev - Hebrew College Chamber Choir-in-Residence  
 November 16 at 7:30 pm  
 Hebrew College  
 Free Admission



**Madlik: Illuminating the World:**  
**A Celebration of Learning and Leadership**  
 Rabbinical School of Hebrew College  
 Saturday, Dec 2 - 8 pm  
 Hebrew College  
[Purchase Ticket](#)



If All the Seas Were Ink  
A Presentation by author Ilana Kurshan  
Wednesday, November 15 - 7:30 pm  
Beit Midrash, Hebrew College  
Free Admission



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## From the Hebrew College Blog ([blog.hebrewcollege.edu](http://blog.hebrewcollege.edu))

### SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

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

## The Torah of Beginner's Mind Parshat Lech Lecha (Genesis 12:1-17:27)

By Rabbi Mónica Gomery, Rab`16  
Associate Director, [Svara: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva](#), Chicago, IL



The day after I became a rabbi, I taught a room full of men how to sing the alef-bet.

The men in the Jewish Spirituality Group at the Essex County Jail, where I served last year as the Jewish chaplain, had requested I teach them some Hebrew. And so, on Sunday I was ordained, draped in a tallis and called rabbi for the first time in front of hundreds of people, and on Monday I wrote the letters up on the board and we sang the familiar song in call-and-response. Alef bet vet... alef bet vet. Gimmel daled hey... gimmel daled hey. We sang the alef-bet over and over, and then my students trained their eyes to read right to left, first the letter, then the vowel beneath and then across to the next letter. Just as I was starting to wonder whether this activity was boring or altogether foolish, one of the men exclaimed, “This is so fun! Why weren’t you teaching us to do this all along?” Hearing his comment, I realized that learning the alef-bet couldn’t possibly be boring—that there is something vital about being at the beginning of the learning process, deeply focused and curious, when anything is possible.

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