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NEWS & VIEWS

May 25, 2017 | 29 Iyar, 5777

חג שבועות שמח

Chag Shavuot Sameach!

News & Views will not be published next week.

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Graduating Cantors Take on Leadership Roles

[The School of Jewish Music](#) at Hebrew College will ordain three cantors on June 4. The new cantors, (pictured l-r) Beth Strassler, Julie Newman and Audrey Klein, will be taking on diverse leadership roles in Jewish communities across the country.

Beth Strassler will work at her hometown Congregation Etz Chaim in Biddeford, ME, where she has been a lay leader while studying at Hebrew College. Strassler is a second-career cantor who has commuted from Maine to Hebrew College for her graduate studies.

After ordination, **Julie Newman** will lead services at Chavurat Shirah, an independent minyan in her hometown of Pittsburgh. She will also be leading High Holiday services for the second time in Singapore with the United Hebrew Congregation. In addition, Newman works to engage adults in spiritual practices — such as contemplative prayer practices, Jewish mindfulness meditation, Shirah and Mussar Yoga, and chant —through a Jewish lens. Like Strassler, Newman is a second-career cantor, who commuted from Pittsburgh to Hebrew College for her five years of cantorate studies.

Audrey Klein will be working as an educator at independent Jewish communities throughout Toronto. This fall she will also be the High Holiday cantor at Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom in Simbury, CT.

"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. "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!"

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Create the Next Hebrew College Success Story



"Hebrew College is the only place in the world where I could pursue simultaneous ordination as a rabbi and a cantor...My scholarship has made all of the difference for me in terms of being able to be present here; in terms of reducing anxiety; and knowing that this was the right place for me."

– Aliza Berger, Candidate for Rav-Hazzan (Rabbi-Cantor) ordination `17.

After her ordination on June 4, Aliza Berger will become Rabbi/Cantor at Temple Emanuel in Newton, MA – where she has been an intern while in Rabbinical School – developing programming for teens and young adults.

This year, Hebrew College awarded over \$750,000 in scholarships and fellowships, allowing talented students like Aliza to pursue their dreams and to become the leaders that will transform Jewish life into the 21st century.

We could not accomplish this mission without your support. Please accept our gratitude for your contributions to the scholarship appeal this year. If you have not yet donated to the scholarship campaign this year, we encourage you to **give generously before June 30** to help further our efforts.

HELP MAKE IT POSSIBLE ▶

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Prozdor Graduates Youth Leaders



On May 23, 40 outstanding 12th graders graduated from [Prozdor of Hebrew College](#), after their many years of Jewish education. During the graduation ceremony, the students were addressed by President Daniel Lehmann (above), Prozdor Director Dan Brosgol, Makor Director Ariel Margolis and four of their peers: Eli Krieger, Tamara Lord, Olivia Sinrich (who delivered her speech in Hebrew), and Jonathan Dickerman.

"You have been given a rare opportunity for an education that few people have. It's up to you to use it wisely since what you have received today is not only a certificate of completion, but a covenant for action," said President Lehmann.

Jonathan Dickerman told his peers: "Here at Prozdor, we have been given the multifaceted gift of knowledge,...Knowledge is seen as a light, and with knowledge we are enabled to light up those places which are dark, spread goodness where there is evil. It is not just a responsibility to us, it is a duty."

> [LISTEN TO JONATHAN'S SPEECH](#)



**Mazel Tov to all the members of the Prozdor Class of 2017
taking the next step in their education at the following colleges:**

American University (3) - Colgate University - Connecticut College - DePaul University - Emerson College (2) - Franklin W. Olin College - Harvard College (2) - McGill University - New York University - Reed College - San Diego State University - Syracuse University - Union College - University of Colorado at Boulder - University of Connecticut - University of Maryland (2) - University of Massachusetts at Amherst - University of Miami - University of New Haven - University of Pennsylvania - University of Rochester - University of Vermont (2) - Vanderbilt University - Wentworth Institute of Technology - Worcester State College - Yale University

Prozdor's Fall 2017 Program Guide will be available by June 1. It will be posted on Prozdor's website and sent to all Prozdor families and prospective families. The Guide will include exciting new developments and lab offerings, building on the academic successes of this year.

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Me'ah Graduation Ceremony Tonight



Tonight at Hebrew College, we celebrate 95 [Me'ah](#) graduates at Me'ah's graduation ceremony. We look forward to an evening of reflection and learning with our Hebrew College and Combined Jewish Philanthropies colleagues. The program will feature a analysis and discussion of the recent CJP community study. Me'ah, short for 100, is an adult learning course of 100 hours of study of the history of the Jewish people. We are thrilled and proud that Me'ah has educated over 3,800 students throughout the United States over the past 21 years.

Mazel Tov to all of our Me'ah graduates on their commitment to study, reflection, and learning through Me'ah. We welcome them to continue their studies through [Me'ah Select](#) and [Me'ah Online](#) classes and further study at Hebrew College.

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In Memoriam: Enid Shapiro

It is with great sadness that the Hebrew College community mourns the passing of Enid Shapiro. Enid was a Hebrew College 2007 Honorary Degree recipient, an active member of the Development Committee, and a member of the Board of Overseers. In addition, she was a 2001 and 2004 graduate of Me'ah, and a major benefactor and supporter of Hebrew College over the years.



The funeral will be held at Temple Sinai in Brookline on Monday, May 29 at 11 am.

May her memory always be for a blessing and her legacy and impact continue to shine for generations. May her family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Sights & Sounds



On May 18 at Hebrew College, 49 high school students (including six [Prozdor](#) students) who participated in the [Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston](#) (JTFGB) presented grants totaling more than \$46,000 to seven community organizations. The students chose to award grants to organizations that provide services and support to victims of domestic violence and those who struggle with mental illness. JTFGB is a part of the Foundation Board Incubator, a project of the Jewish Teen Funders Network, which has been generously funded by Laura Lauder and the Maimonides Fund. (Pictured l-r: Grant recipient Trudy Benoit, DOVE, Inc. Shelter Coordinator, and Prozdor student Mark Goldwater, Gil Rosenthal and Emily Drucker.) *Photo by Jackson Megar.*



Melanie Blatt, a COSEL student in the [School of Jewish Music](#), led the Temple Emunah religious school students in song at their Zimriyah and graduation ceremony in Lexington, MA. For the past year, Melanie has been a cantorial intern at Temple Emunah, serving as a temple educator, the religious school music teacher, and Kadima advisor.

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Notable & Quotable



The Hebrew College gala and honoree Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands, MAJS'93, Rab'16 were featured in a May 18 article in [The Jewish Advocate](#) (paid subscription only) and a May 18 [Brookline Tab article](#) entitled, "Hebrew College gala honors Brookline rabbi." (Pictured l-r: Hebrew College Board Chair, Harold Kotler, Me'ah'99; Esther Award recipient Susan Ain, Me'ah '02, MAJS'11; President Rabbi Daniel Lehmann; honoree Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands; and honoree Louis Grossman, Me'ah '00.)

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May & June Hebrew College Events

(hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events)



TONIGHT! A Taste of P4C: Philosophy for Children

May 25, 2017 at 7 pm

Hebrew College

Free | [Learn more](#) | RSVP to dron@hebrewcollege.edu

Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality and the Jewish Tradition

June 3, 2017 at 12:30 pm

Congregation Mishkan Tefila

384 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA

[Learn more](#)



Hebrew College Commencement & Ordination

June 4 | General Ceremony 10 am-12 pm at Hebrew College

Cantorial & Rabbinical Ordination Ceremonies 1:30-4:30 pm, Temple Reyim, Newton

[Learn more](#)

Prayer Leader Summer Institute 2017

June 6 - July 28

Hebrew College

Hebrew College's Prayer Leader Summer Institute (PLSI) offers a broad range of courses from single-morning master classes to multi-week programs.

[Learn more and register](#)

PLSI Presents: Jewish World Music Week

July 24 - 28

Hebrew College

[View schedule and register](#)

PLSI Presents: A Journey of Jewish Music from Baghdad to Boston - George Mordecai,

with special guests Mitch Gordon, Hankus Netsky and Zafer Tawil

July 24, 2017

6:30 pm reception - 7 pm concert

Hebrew College
\$10
[Purchase tickets](#)



Denotes program offered by the Hebrew College - Congregation Mishkan Tefila Learning Series

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From the Hebrew College Blog
(blog.hebrewcollege.edu)

COMMUNITY BLOG

On the 50th Anniversary of Jerusalem's Reunification

By Rabbi Daniel Lehmann
[President, Hebrew College](#)



I was just 5 years old when Jerusalem was reunified in 1967. I have no memories of the Six Day War, the great anxiety that gripped our people as the ravages of war unfolded or the euphoria that engulfed the Jewish world in its aftermath. I have a very hard time even imagining what it was like to live in a Jerusalem divided between Israel and Jordan or an old city of Jerusalem that was inaccessible to Jews. Jerusalem – old and new, East and West, Israeli and Palestinian, Jew, Muslim and Christian – is one complex and holy city to me.

> [READ FULL POST](#)



RABBINICAL SCHOOL DIVREI TORAH

We Do Not Make the Journey from Sinai Alone

By Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
[Dean, Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#)



Next week, Jewish communities around the world will gather to celebrate the holiday of Shavuot and the anniversary of the giving of the Torah.

We have been preparing for seven weeks. Counting each day, from the second night of Passover to the first night of Shavuot, through 49 days of wilderness, 49 days of wandering. We offer a blessing each night before we count – a quiet reminder, if we are paying attention, that it is a blessing simply to be able to count each day.

> [READ FULL POST](#)



SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

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

A Web of Family and Friends Parshat B'midbar, Numbers 1:1-4:20

By Rabbi Avi Strausberg, Rab'15
[Director of Congregational Learning at Temple of Aaron, St. Paul MN](#)



For many years, I've felt like a person without a home. Since I left for college, my mom has moved many times. I have family in Arizona and Israel, New York and New Jersey and even New Zealand, but there's no obvious single place to go when everyone else goes "home for the holidays." It's not just my family that's far-flung; I've done my own share of moving over the last ten years, among Chicago, New Zealand, Connecticut, Michigan, New York, Israel, Boston, and Minnesota. So for me, the idea of living close to family, of having a home base to which one can always return, is

a foreign and yet appealing concept.

> [READ FULL POST](#)



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