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המכללה העברית
HEBREW COLLEGE
 Jewish learning and leadership for a pluralistic world

NEWS & VIEWS

May 11, 2017 | 15 Iyar, 5777

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Rabbinical School Class of 5777 Students to Take on Leadership Roles

On June 4, the [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#) will ordain 11 new rabbis who will be taking on leadership roles in affiliated and independent congregations, Hillels, day schools, communal institutions and chaplaincy settings in six different states across the country.

"It is a privilege and a blessing to work with such talented and dedicated students as they shape their distinctive visions for the rabbinate," said Rabbinical School Dean Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld. "We are delighted that our graduates are finding placements throughout Greater Boston and around the country where they can serve diverse communities and individuals and bring their visions and values to life."

Among the positions and communities these newest rabbis will serve are:

- Rabbi/Cantor at Temple Emanuel, Newton, MA
- Manager of Rabbinic and Lay Education at Shalom Hartman Institute-North America, New York, NY
- Senior Jewish Educator at Boston University Hillel, Boston, MA
- Steinhardt Innovation Fellow at University of Pennsylvania Hillel, Philadelphia, PA
- Rabbi at Congregation Agudas Achim, Attleboro, MA
- School Director at Kehilla Community Synagogue, Piedmont, CA
- Rabbi at Temple Beth David of the South Shore, Canton MA
- Associate Director at Svara: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva, Chicago, IL
- Assistant Rabbi at Shir Tikvah Congregation, Minneapolis, MN
- Rabbi at Temple Beth Sholom, Hull, 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. We are immensely grateful to and proud of them. Though we will miss their presence, energy, graciousness and wisdom, we eagerly anticipate all the blessings they will bring to the world and to the Jewish people as rabbis," said Rabbi Daniel Klein, Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Life at the Rabbinical School.

[Learn more about where Rabbinical School alumni serve across the country.](#)

(Pictured front row l-r: Gray Myrseth, Aliza Berger, Monica Gomery, Leora Abelson, Sarah Mulhern, Elie Lehmann. Back row: Moshe Givental, Micah Shapiro, David Winship, Arielle Rosenberg and Ezra Balser)

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Learn Hebrew This Summer!



Online & On-Campus Hebrew Language Programs Enrolling Now

Whether you want to decipher the aleph-bet, build vocabulary and grammar skills or master fluency, Hebrew College has the right Hebrew class for you.

This summer, we offer two Hebrew language programs:

Modern Hebrew Online – Learn Hebrew on your own schedule and at your own level. Designed for beginning to intermediate Hebrew students who want to improve their skills in understanding and speaking modern Hebrew. Classes begin 6/6.

Ulpan: Modern Hebrew – On campus, weekday evenings, at many levels. Designed for individuals interested in learning conversational Hebrew through the lens of Israeli culture. Classes begin 6/12.

All courses are taught by native Hebrew speakers with more than 15 years of teaching experience. For more information, visit our website, email Ulpan Coordinator [Tzila Barone](#) or contact her by phone at 617-559-8812.

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Summer Course Registration Continues



Register now for Hebrew College summer courses, including online and on-campus [Hebrew language courses](#) and the School of Jewish Music's [Prayer Leader Summer Institute](#). Summer offerings also include courses in Jewish education, Jewish Studies and Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement.

REGISTER ►

New Resources Will Support Students

Student success is of paramount importance at Hebrew College. To that end, the college is creating the Office for Student Academic Support. The new office will be led by **Ariel Margolis** (right), also an instructor in the [Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education](#) and the Director of Online Learning.



“We are fortunate to have Ariel as our Director,” commented Chief Academic Officer, Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire. “His background in special education and learning support will be tremendous assets as we build out this new department to further enhance the student experience at Hebrew College.”

The office will work with current and incoming students — both on campus and online — who seek out or are referred by faculty for academic support. A resource specialist will assess their learning needs, develop learning plans and accommodations and coordinate with faculty to ensure implementation. Additionally, the specialist will work with all the departments and programs of the college to ensure compliance with Federal and State regulations including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For more information or for support ahead of the fall semester, contact [Ariel Margolis](#).

Humans of Hebrew College



Learn more about [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#) alumnus [Rabbi Seth Wax, Rab'13](#). If you are interested in being featured, please contact webmaster@hebrewcollege.edu. You can also find Hebrew College alumni and students on the Hebrew College LinkedIn page. (Remember to update your LinkedIn profile!)

Sights & Sounds



As Hebrew College students, faculty and staff congregated outside the building during a fire drill this week, some of our [Rabbinical School](#) students didn't let the interruption interfere with their Talmud study – they simply continued on the hood of a car, demonstrating that the vastness of the sea of the Talmud can be explored anywhere.



The [Prozdor](#) Klezmer Band, under the direction of Glenn Dickson, performed at the Julian and Carol Feinberg Cohen Residences last Sunday morning for a full house of residents and friends. The band is composed of 8th through 12th grade Prozdor students, and rehearses every Sunday. The residences are part of the [Center Communities of Brookline](#), a community sponsored by Hebrew SeniorLife.

Notable & Quotable

Hebrew College rabbinical school student Ayalon Eliach was featured recently in eJewishPhilanthropy. In his essay, "[Bridging Generations, Building Jewish Lives](#)" (previously

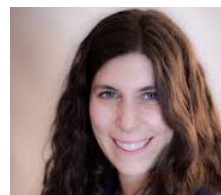
published in *Contact*), Ayalon discusses his experience as Rabbinic Educator for [DOROT's](#) Jewish Summer Teen Internship Program and the impact it had on its students.



Also featured in eJewishPhilanthropy was Barbara Merson, PhD candidate in joint Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education-Lesley University program. Barbara is the Executive Director of the [Maine Jewish Film Festival](#) and, in "[Maine Jewish Film Festival Celebrates 20 Years of Community Engagement](#)," she shares her insights on the festival's 20 years of success in what many would consider to be a seemingly challenging region.



Cantor Vera Broekhuysen, Can'16 is quoted in a May 5 [The Jewish Advocate](#) article (paid subscription only) about sanctuary entitled, "Merrimack Jews aiding undocumented immigrants."



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May & June Hebrew College Events

(hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events)



CIRCLE 10th Anniversary Celebration
 May 18 at 8 am - 4pm
 Berenson Hall | Hebrew College
[Register or learn more](#)

President Trump, Jews, and The First 100 Days of the Trump Administration - A Look Back with Jonathan Golden, PhD

May 20 at 1pm, following Shabbat Services

Congregation Mishkan Tefila

384 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA



Power of Music: One More Sunday Morning of Jewish Music

May 21 - Cantor Becky Khitrik, Can`14 & Hankus Netsky

Class runs 9:30-11:15 am

Congregation Mishkan Tefila

384 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA

[Register](#)



A Taste of P4C: Philosophy for Children

May 25, 2017 at 7 pm

Hebrew College

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

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](#)



CONGREGATION
MISHKAN TEFLA



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

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From the Hebrew College Blog

(blog.hebrewcollege.edu)

RABBINICAL SCHOOL

"We are all vessels, infinitely precious in the eyes of God"

By Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld

Dean, [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/rabbinal-school)

A midrash from Vayikra Rabbah on this week's Torah portion, Parashat Emor, teaches:

Rabbi Aba bar Yudan taught: All that God prohibited in an animal sacrifice, God accepts in a human being. What is prohibited in an offering? When a person offers, from the herd or the flock, a sacrifice of well-being to the Lord...it must, to be acceptable, be without blemish; there must be no defect in it. Anything blind, or broken, or maimed, or with a wart, such you shall not offer to the Lord."

All these things, which render a sacrifice unfit, God fully accepts, God sees as fitting in a human being.

> [READ FULL POST](#)



*A Jewish - Muslim
Conversation*



ICJS INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC • CHRISTIAN • JEWISH STUDIES

CAN WE TALK?

Death, Mourning and the AfterLife

By Rabbi Sue Fendrick (below left),
Editor, writer, teacher and spiritual director

Celene Ibrahim, MDiv (below right)
Hebrew College Islamic Scholar-in-Residence



What are the rhythms and practices of mourning a loved one in Muslim or Jewish tradition? How have you experienced them personally, and how have you found them meaningful? Challenging? What is the relationship between the individual and the community in a time of mourning? What does your tradition teach about the existence of an afterlife?

Dear Celene,

It's hard to think of any category of Jewish ritual where there is more intersection of the personal and the communal than in the area of death and mourning.

When my father-in-law died, the traditional intense seven-day period of mourning, shiva, was cut short—reduced to just a couple of hours b/c of the intrusion, right after the burial, of the holiday of Sukkot. Nothing makes you yearn for the inherited rhythms of your own faith tradition more than having them shaken up. My husband, Ben, instead was expected to observe the holiday—with its painful commandment to be “only joyful”—and then return to regular life and work. In this circumstance, communal norms, including the observance of the holiday, trumped personal ones. This quirk is an odd, and often difficult, aspect of Jewish tradition—in which our mourning customs are otherwise often praised as being psychologically wise...

> [READ FULL POST](#)

Posts from this Hebrew College-hosted blog are also published in [Huffington Post](#). “Can We Talk?” is a project of the [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership of Hebrew College](#) in Newton, MA, and the [Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies](#) in Baltimore, MD. This series provides a context for public discussion among Jewish and Muslim intellectuals and community leaders on a broad range of topics — religious, cultural, civic, and political — modeling constructive personal engagement across our communities. Each month, we feature a new conversation between one Jewish and one Muslim writer on a designated topic.

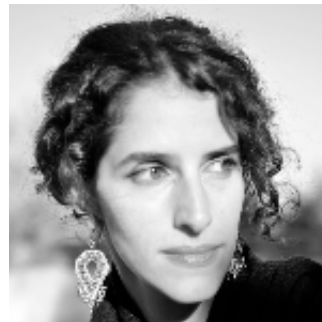
SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

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

A House of Prayer for All

Parshat Emor, Leviticus 21:1-24:23

By Rabbi Jessica Kate Mayer, Rab'14
Rabbi, [Romemu](#) in New York City



A friend of mine once described the pain he experiences each year when this week's Torah portion rolls around. Ever since a spinal injury left him hemiplegic, he hears the verses Leviticus 21:16-23 as alienating and "othering," and degrading his connection to the Divine and community:

God spoke to Moses saying: "Speak to Aaron and say: 'A man from your seed (for all time) who has a blemish, will not come forward to offer the bread of God. For any man who possesses a blemish cannot come close, no blind man nor lame nor disfigured nor malformed, nor a man who has a broken leg or a broken arm, nor a hunchback nor a midget nor one with a cataract in his eye nor scab nor skin flake nor crushed testicle. Any man who has a blemish from the seed of Aaron the Priest will not approach to offer the fire of God. He has a defect; he will not approach to bring forward an offering...He will not come toward the curtain, and he will not approach the altar, for he has a defect; and he will not desecrate my sacred spaces, for I am God who sanctifies them.'"

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