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## NEWS & VIEWS

March 16, 2017 | 18 Adar, 5777

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## Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement Program: Join our Second Cohort

As the [Shoolman School's Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement \(IFJE\) program](#) enters its second semester, the first cohort of graduate students illustrates the importance of Jewish education about intermarriage and engagement. They are all Jewish community leaders working in a wide range of positions in the U.S. and Canada. Together with Hebrew College faculty, they form a dynamic online community, rich with diverse personal and professional perspectives and lively discussions in an interactive virtual classroom.

Fueling the meaningful exchange among students and faculty are relevant and engaging courses. **Rabbi Steven Abraham** (right), **spiritual leader at Beth El Synagogue, Omaha, NE** notes, "I am really enjoying the class so far, and the readings are fantastic. In one week, we covered more material on intermarriage than I got in six years of rabbinical school." (Read more about Rabbi Abraham and IFJE in this [article from the Omaha Jewish News.](#))



Jewish intermarriage is a reality in the American context. Effective Jewish engagement of interfaith couples and families requires specialized knowledge as well as the ability to translate that knowledge into action that suits the needs of a wide variety of constituencies. "As an intermarried Jew myself, I know firsthand that inclusivity in Jewish organizations is paramount, and yet not always there," observed **Alachua Nazarenko** (right), **Director of Programming at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life in Jackson, MS.** "When the opportunity arose for me to learn how to make intermarried couples and interfaith families feel welcome and to provide meaningful and engaging programming...I knew I had to take it!"



Commenting on what drew her to the IFJE program, **Tema Smith** (right), **Director of Community Engagement for Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, Ontario** said, "IFJE is the only program of its kind in the Jewish world. As a Jewish professional working in the engagement sphere, the knowledge, tools, and community it would bring seemed invaluable to me to be able to better serve my congregation."



"I am beyond impressed with the caliber of analytical thinking, collegiality, and commitment that the IFJE fellows contribute to this nascent program. Based on this year, I am optimistic that the second cohort will be just as invested in their educational journey and to the Jewish engagement of interfaith families," said **Dr. Keren McGinity**, Director of the IFJE program.

Cookie Mandell, Alachua Nazarenko and Tema Smith are all students in the inaugural cohort of the IFJE program at Hebrew College. Recruitment for fall 2017 is underway, and we look forward to being able to offer **generous scholarships** to more successful candidates.

[Contact Dr. Keren McGinity](#) with questions or to nominate someone for the program.



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## Ruderman Summit on Philanthropy, Power and Democracy in the Jewish Community of the 21st Century



SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017  
 11:30 am - 6 pm at Hebrew College  
 \$50 (\$25 General discount rate) | [Register](#)  
 \$20 Student discount rate available by contacting [Marilyn Stern](#)

Responsive to recent shifts in Jewish engagement and the commitment to Jewish life, it is time to examine how we govern ourselves as a Jewish community in the information age. If not now, when? [The Ruderman Foundation](#), together with [Hebrew College](#) and the [Jewish Funders Network](#), invites you to a summit and public conversation on Jewish communal governance for the 21st century. [Learn more](#) about the panelists, topics of discussion, and how to register.

LEARN MORE ►

## Prayer Leader Summer Institute II



**Sing, Create, Explore.** Whether you are a lay leader, student, musician or teacher—if you are interested in honing your musical skills and expanding your understanding of prayer—join us for the [School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College's Prayer Leader Summer Institute II](#)

from June 6-July 28.

In addition to classes in cantillation, liturgy, accompanied repertoire and *nusach*, this year's offerings also include a one week extravaganza of [Jewish World Music](#) from July 24-28 featuring:

- Jewish music of India with Rahel Musleah
- Jewish music of Iraq and Yemen with George Mordecai
- History and Sounds of Spain and Argentina with Joel Bresler and Cantor Elias Rosemberg
- Musical World of Eastern Europe with Hankus Netsky

We offer flexible options through out the summer, including one-day or morning-only options for Jewish World Music Week. Join us!

LEARN MORE ▶

## Prozdor Open Houses: March 19 & April 30



Sunday, March 19 | Sunday, April 30

10 am -12pm at Hebrew College  
160 Herrick Road | Newton Centre, MA 02459  
RSVP to [Aliza Auslander](#) (617.559.8806)

[Prozdor at Hebrew College](#) is the largest supplemental Hebrew high school in the country. Come see what all the excitement is about at our winter Open House **this Sunday, March 19**. If you can't make it, save the date for the **second Open House on April 30**.

Visit classes, meet instructors, and speak with students and staff. With our broad range of course offerings, diverse student body, and world-class educators, Prozdor has something to offer every Jewish family. For example, check out the [Peoplehood Podcast](#) on SoundCloud, produced each Sunday by Prozdor students.

We hope to see you this Sunday or April 30 and can't wait to welcome you into our thriving community. If you already attend Prozdor, please spread the word to family and friends.

LEARN MORE ▶

# Seeking Higher Ground: Religion and Conflict Transformation

**Seeking Higher Ground:  
Religion and Conflict  
Transformation**

*A workshop for community leaders*

**A Workshop for Community Leaders**  
 Tues., March 28 9am - 4:30 pm  
 Hebrew College  
 \$20 | [Register](#)

The Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership is holding a one-day workshop for community leaders to explore the vision of our religious communities as contexts for the discovery of "higher ground." The presentations will be interactive and will offer specific skills and practices from the world of conflict transformation to assist professionals and lay leaders in realizing this vision.

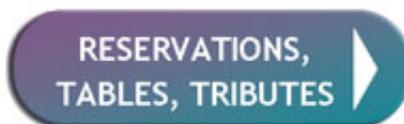
"The Higher Ground workshop offers community leaders an important opportunity to gain practical skills in dialogue and relationship-building from a gifted team of mediators, religious leaders, and scholars," said Rabbi Or Rose, Director of the [Miller Center for Interreligious Leadership & Learning at Hebrew College](#). "In this moment of intense political polarization in our country, we need such gatherings to help us center ourselves and find a new way forward."

LEARN MORE ▶

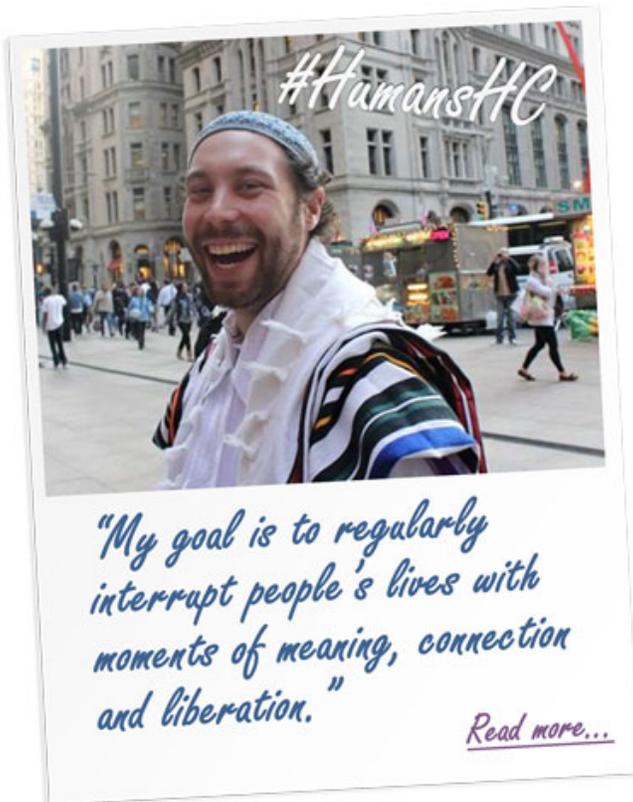


There is still time to purchase your tickets and tributes for this year's [Gala celebration](#) at the Back Bay Events Center in Boston. During the evening of inspirational stories to celebrate Hebrew College's profound impact on Jewish learning, Jewish life and Jewish leadership, we will be honoring the Grossman Family, represented by siblings **Louis Grossman, Me'ah`00** and **Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands, MAJS`93, Rab`16**. **Susan Ain, Me'ah`02, MAJS`11** will also be presented with Hebrew College's Esther Award for Leadership and Philanthropy.

Even if you can't attend the event, please consider honoring our award recipients with a tribute or gift using our secure online form. Thank you!



## Humans of Hebrew College



Learn more about Rabbinical School alumnus and Harvard Hillel rabbi [Getzel Davis](#) and other Hebrew College #Humans on [Facebook](#) and [our blog](#). If you are interested in being featured, 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

Rabbi Ezra Balsler, Rab'17, was mentioned in a March 3 [Jewish Advocate](#) article (paid subscription only) "Rabbis assemble against white supremacists" about area rabbis going to Whitefish, Montana in support of the Jewish community.



[Me'ah](#) teacher, Rabbi Natan Margalit was featured in a March 3 [EJewish Philanthropy article](#) entitled, "Returning to Natural Wisdom, Expanding Our Love," about teaching the power to expand our communities, and to move about from contraction and isolation.



# Sights & Sounds



[Rabbinical School](#) students (and little family members) celebrating Purim last weekend.



On March 15, CJP held a panel discussion at Hebrew College on the [2015 Greater Boston Community Study](#). Conducted every 10 years, the study provides critical information about the Greater Boston Jewish community and is an essential resource for everyone who cares about its future. Panelists included l-r: **Rabbi Daniel Lehmann**, President, Hebrew College; **Gil Preuss**, Executive Vice President, CJP; and **Karyn Cohen Leviton**, Director of Jewish Life and Israel, one8 Foundation.

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# March and April Events

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



**Grandparenting Through a Jewish Lens**  
 March 22, 29 and April 5 from 10 am-12 pm  
 Congregation Mishkan Tefila  
 384 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA  
 Open to the Public | [Register](#)



**Learning to Read Talmud with Habits of Heart and Mind**  
 with Rabbi Jane Kanarek, PhD and Marjorie Lehman, PhD  
 March 23 at 7:30 pm  
 Hebrew College  
 Free | [Register](#)



**Ruderman Knesset Mission Town Hall Meeting**  
**Strengthening the Relationship: Town Hall Meeting with Israeli Knesset Members & Interactive Conversation with the Community**  
 March 29 at 7:30 pm  
 Congregation Kehillath Israel | 384 Harvard Street, Brookline  
 RSVP to [rsvp@rudermanfoundation.org](mailto:rsvp@rudermanfoundation.org)

**Ruderman Summit on Philanthropy, Power and Democracy**  
**in the Jewish Community of the 21st Century**  
 April 2 from 11:30 am - 6pm  
 Hebrew College  
 \$50 (\$25 General discount rate; \$20 Student rate)  
[Learn more](#) | [Register](#)

**Hebrew College Gala 2017**  
 April 27 at 5:30 pm  
 Back Bay Events Center  
[Learn more](#) | [Purchase Tickets and Tributes](#)

**NEW! Power of Music: Three Sunday Mornings of Jewish Music**  
 April 30 - Cantor Lynn Torgove, MAJS'11, Can'12  
 May 7 - Rabbi Nehemia Polen  
 May 21 - Cantor Becky Khitrik, Can'14 & Hankus Netsky  
 All classes run 9:30-11:15 am (choose 1, 2 or 3)  
 Congregation Mishkan Tefila  
 384 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA  
[Register](#)





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

# Spread the Word about News & Views

Know someone who is interested in subscribing to [News & Views](#)? Please direct them to our subscription page so we can add them to our mailing list.

Thank you!



# 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 [Huffington Post Religion](#).

# What Went Wrong, and Other Questions Parshat Ki Tissa, Exodus 30:11-34:36

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

What went wrong?

That is the question that hovers over this week’s Torah portion, *Ki Tissa*.

One moment, we are with Moses on top of Mount Sinai, silent witnesses to his intimate encounter with the Divine Presence, watching as he receives the tablets of the covenant, the perfect revelation of God’s word. This is the gift we imagine we long for: The Definitive Truth, placed into human hands. Irrefutable, immutable instructions, tenderly etched into stone by God’s own finger.



And then, in the very next moment, barely out of sight but worlds away, we are standing with the Israelite people at the base of the very same mountain, watching as they wait with growing restlessness for Moses to return. Anxiety quickly turns to agitation, restlessness to outright rebellion. The people want a god they can see. They gather against Aaron, demanding: “Come, make us a god who shall go before us, for that man Moses, who brought us from the land of Egypt - we do not know what has happened to him.”

> [READ FULL POST](#)



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