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NEWS & VIEWS

February 23, 2017 | 27 Shvat, 5777

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Ruderman Summit at Hebrew College](#)
- [Hebrew College Annual Report](#)
- [CJP Panel at Hebrew College](#)
- [Invitation to Gala 2017](#)
- [Humans of Hebrew College](#)
- [Notable & Quotable](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [Subscribe to News & Views](#)



Ruderman Summit on Philanthropy, Power and Democracy in the Jewish Community of the 21st Century to be Held at Hebrew College

Sunday, April 2, 2017
 Hebrew College, Newton Centre, MA
 \$50 | [Register](#)

The [Ruderman Family 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. The program will take place on Sunday, April 2 from 11:30 am - 6 pm at Hebrew College. The summit's purpose is to explore and discuss the ways we govern ourselves in the American Jewish community and how changes in recent years may require different structures to respond to the current political and social culture.

Communal leaders, social activists and cultural commentators, including Lisa Eisen (Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation), Allison Fine (social media expert), J.J. Goldberg (Forward), Tiffany Harris (Moishe House), Rabbi Elie Kaunfer (Mechon Hadar), Idit Klein (Keshet), Rabbi Daniel Lehmann (Hebrew College), Gil Preuss (CJP), Jay Ruderman (Ruderman Family Foundation), Andres Spokoiny (Jewish Funders Network), Dr. Steven Windmueller (Hebrew Union College), will share their thoughts and generate conversations around the following questions:

- How can the structure and decision-making processes of the Jewish community respond to 21st century sensibilities?
- What roles can Jewish foundations and federations play in creating a more multi-vocal and democratic community?
- What can we learn from other Jewish communities, non-Jewish communities and American political life that can help the North American Jewish community develop a more responsive and bottom-up organizational structure?

Advance registration and fee of \$50 required. Kosher lunch included. Discounts available for students by contacting mstern@hebrewcollege.edu.



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Hebrew College Annual Report



Hebrew College is pleased to release the 2016 Annual Report, which includes an overview of the year's achievements, stories, and financial review.

READ THE ANNUAL REPORT ▶

President Lehmann to Speak at CJP Community Study Input Session



2015 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study

Strategic Planning Community Input Session

Wednesday, March 15, 2017
 Hebrew College | Berenson Hall
 160 Herrick Road, Newton Centre
 Doors open at 6:30 pm | Program begins 7pm

[The Combined Jewish Philanthropies](#) invites you to Strategic Planning Community Input Session, at which a panel of local leaders will guide a discussion of the [2015 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study](#). Conducted every 10 years, the study provides critical information about the Greater Boston Jewish community. [Read an overview](#), which highlights the most important results of the study, and attend the session with panelists:

- Rabbi Daniel Lehmann, President, Hebrew College
- Gil Preuss, Executive Vice President, CJP
- Karyn Cohen Leviton, Director of Jewish Life and Israel, one8 Foundation



For more information, please contact Kathy at kathyr@cjp.org.

LEARN MORE ▶



We invite you to celebrate with us at [Hebrew College's annual Gala](#) on April 27 at the Back Bay Events Center in Boston.

Join us at 5:30 pm for an evening of inspirational stories to celebrate Hebrew College's profound impact on Jewish learning, Jewish life and Jewish leadership – past, present and future.

We are delighted this year to honor the Grossman Family, represented by siblings **Louis Grossman, Me'ah`00** and **Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands, MAJS`93, Rab`16**. The Grossman family (founders of Grossman Lumber and the Grossman Companies) will be honored for their support of Hebrew College for generations, through their munificence and exemplary community leadership. Louis is a member of the Board of Trustees at Hebrew College and Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands received her ordination from the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College. Both of them have discovered unique pathways to leadership through Jewish learning.

Susan Ain, Me'ah`02, MAJS`11 will be the recipient of the prestigious Esther Award for Leadership and Philanthropy. Susan's extraordinary devotion to Hebrew College, her commitment to Jewish education and her philanthropic giving have been a beacon of inspiration to our community and beyond.

[Purchase tickets, tables and tributes online](#) or by contacting Lauren Hobler at lhobler@hebrewcollege.edu.



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Humans of Hebrew College



Learn more about [Orna Siegel, MEd'16](#) and other Hebrew College #Humans on [Facebook](#) and [our blog](#). If you are interested in being featured, please contact webmaster@hebrewcollege.edu.



Notable & Quotable

[Shoolman School](#) adjunct faculty member **Andrea Katzman** has been named Head of School at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island (JCDSRI) beginning July 1.



"Jewish fatherhood needs a makeover," writes [Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement](#) Director [Dr. Keren R. McGinity](#) in a Feb. 17 Lilith Magazine article entitled, "[Let's Stop Romancing the Womb.](#)"



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Upcoming Winter & Spring Events

(hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events)



[Read more about Jeffrey Summit and the March 2 event "Singing God's Words"](#)

Jewish Genealogy: Discover Your Family History (8 sessions)

March 1-April 26, 2017 at 7 pm

Hebrew College

\$250 | [Register](#)

Singing God's Words: Religious Experience, Chant & Sacred Text with Jeffrey Summit (pictured above; [Read more about the event](#))

With comments by Rabbi Ebn Leader, Hebrew College

March 2 at 7:30 pm

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



2015 Greater Boston Community Study and Strategic Planning Community Input Session

March 15 at Hebrew College's Berenson Hall

Doors open at 6:30 pm | Program at 7 pm

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](#)



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



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



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

SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

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

The Virtuous Circle of Ethical Sensitivity

Parshat Mishpatim, Exodus 21:1-24:18

By Rabbi Nehemia Polen

Professor of Jewish Thought, [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#)



The set of community regulations collected in Exodus 21: 1- 23: 33, which make up the bulk of Parshat Mishpatim, shows many points of similarity with other ancient legal collections from the Ancient Near East, such as the famous Code of Hammurabi. But, as scholars such as Moshe Greenberg and Nahum Sarna have pointed out, there are significant differences as well, such as the avoidance of capital punishment for theft and other crimes against property.

This set of laws begins with those governing debt servitude for the *eved ivri*, the Hebrew “slave”. This institution is troubling to us modern readers—why would the Torah condone any form of slavery, especially just after the Exodus from Egypt? The historical context here is important; in a society without banks or state welfare, debt servitude “serves a necessary social and economic function... [providing] a way for struggling households to borrow essential resources ...” (Carol Myers, Exodus, p. 190). And it was generally limited in time, for six years.

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