



## **The Past and Future of Synagogues**

A one-day conference bringing together scholars, thought leaders and practitioners to discuss the problems and potential of synagogues in America.

### **Sponsors:**

The Rabbinical School of Hebrew College  
The Leadership Development Institute of Combined Jewish Philanthropies  
Brandeis University Press

### **When:**

January 28, 2019  
At Hebrew College  
160 Herrick Road  
Newton MA

Free and open to the public [lunch is \$12]

### **Schedule**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Davenning

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. – Breakfast and Welcome to the Conference

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. – Lessons from American Synagogue History

Dr. Jonathan Sarna, *University Professor and Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University*, will be interviewed by Dr. Deborah Skolnick Einhorn, *Assistant Professor of Jewish Education*

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. – Creating, Transforming and Sustaining Communities: Three Stories of Synagogue Success

*Three Rabbis who have created three different kinds of successful synagogues will discuss their visions and strategies for creating strong Jewish communities*

- Rabbi Alana Alpert, *Congregation T'chayah, Oak Park, MI & Founder of Detroit Jews for Justice*
- Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann, *Mishkan Chicago, Chicago, IL; Founding Rabbi*
- Rabbi Michael Segal, *Anshe Emet, Chicago, IL; Senior Rabbi*

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. – Lunch and conversation with Lizzi Heydemann, *Starting a Synagogue: Dreams and Realities*

*Rabbi Heydemann will discuss how she created a successful “emergent synagogue”*

1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Mincha

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Judaism Unbound Live: Music and the Transformation of Synagogues  
*Lex Rofeberg, Co-host of the podcast Judaism Unbound will interview two Hebrew College graduates who have used music to create deep communities of prayer and vitality*

- Lex Rofeberg, Co-Host, Judaism Unbound podcast
- Rabbi David Fainsilber, Jewish Community of Greater Stowe, Stowe, VT
- Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer, Rabbi/Chazzan, The Kitchen, San Francisco, CA

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. What Mosques and Churches Can Teach Synagogues

*The Executive Director of the largest mosque in New England and the Executive Pastor of the largest church in New England will discuss their organizational and institutional visions and what synagogues may glean from their different approaches*

- Yusufi Vali, Executive Director, Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center
- Rev Bill Burke, Executive Pastor, Grace Chapel, Lexington, MA

7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. Book Event, *Pennies for Heaven: The History of American Synagogues and Money*

*Rabbi Dan Judson, Dean of the Hebrew College Rabbinical School, will discuss his new book, Pennies for Heaven: the History of American Synagogues and Money, recently named a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award.*