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NEWS & VIEWS

November 1, 2019 | 3 Cheshvan 5780



Hebrew College Fund Kicks-Off "Chai" Challenge

Every year, Hebrew College inspires future rabbis, cantors, educators, and community learners who go on to make an impact in communities throughout Greater Boston, across the country, and around the world.

As with most important things, this takes teamwork. It takes your support.

This year, your support can have an even bigger impact. Thanks to a challenge grant from an anonymous donor, your gift to the Hebrew College Annual Fund will be amplified. If **180 donors** who gave between \$0 and \$500 last year **increase their donations** by any amount **before Dec. 31**, a generous donor will contribute **\$18,000** to the College. New gifts count too!

"I love this campaign because it captures the spirit that I witness in our community every day," said Hebrew College President Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld. "People are eager to step up and help, and each act of goodness and generosity inspires the next. Together, we are creating a beautiful and vibrant whole that is so much greater than the sum of its parts."

Help us meet this challenge by [increasing your gift \(or making a new one\)](#) to Hebrew College. Join us in fostering Jewish learning and leadership that is infused with substance, spirit, and a sense of purpose.

I accept the challenge

If you'd like a reminder of how much you gave last year, simply [email us](#) and we will let you know. And if you have sent your gift already, we are most grateful.

Donor Engagement Officer Returns to Hebrew College



Rosa Kramer Franck's professional Jewish journey started with Yiddish books. It included two stops at a *mikvah*, two Jewish federations, an educational institution, and one historical *shul*.

Now Franck, who served as Senior Advancement Officer at [Hebrew College](#) from 2011 to 2014, has returned as the College's new Donor Engagement Officer.

"It's great to be back. It feels like reconnecting with old friends," said Franck, who previously served as Director of Development at the Vilna Shul. "I have always been excited by the College's mission and have been so impressed with what I have seen happening here over the years – people I had known as students in the [Rabbinical School](#) have gone on to do incredible things, creating new communities and organizations, providing points of entry into Judaism that hadn't existed before, and reaching people all over the world."

"Everyone is so excited by President Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, by what she's doing here, by the changes she's making. It's galvanizing," she added. "It feels like a great time to be part of what's happening, and it feels like a gift to be able to focus on building relationships with people who can make a big impact on our future."

Franck said she has always loved speaking with donors, hearing their stories, and learning about their passions. She discovered this while working at the Calling Center as a student at UMass Amherst. After graduating, she worked in development at the [Yiddish Book Center](#) in Amherst, where she found that she also enjoyed working for Jewish organizations.

Read more

70 FACES OF TORAH

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

Belief and Disbelief in the Face of Climate Change

Parashat Noach (Genesis 6:9-11:32)

By Rabbi Avi Killip, Rab`14
Vice President of Strategy and Programs at [Hadar](#)



Noah is a man of little faith. This is what Rashi, the great commentator on the Torah, tells us. This sets the bar pretty high. If Noah – who builds the ark and gathers all of the animals at God’s request – is not a man of great faith, what could faith possibly look like? Rashi makes this claim at the very moment that Noah enters the ark. In chapter seven verse 7, we are told that Noah and his family enter the ark “because of the flood waters.” Rashi lingers on the word “because.” Noah shouldn’t be boarding the ark because of the falling rain pooling at his ankles, maybe even his knees. He should have entered the ark “because God said so.” If Noah had really *believed*, if he were a man of greater faith, Rashi implies, he would already be inside the ark when the rain begins.

And so Rashi tells us: BECAUSE OF THE FLOOD WATERS Noah, also, was of little faith: he believed and did not believe that the Flood would come, and he would not enter the Ark until the waters forced him to.

This is a radical rethinking of the idea of faith. We usually think of faith as believing in something positive. “Have faith” and “Don’t stop believing” are meant to be words of encouragement. We invoke the language of “complete faith” when we dream about the coming of a messiah. Rashi presents us with an entirely different definition of faith. Here, *emunah* – faith, is not about believing that salvation is on its way, but quite the opposite. Sometimes faith is believing that the worst is coming. This is an altogether different and maybe even more challenging kind of faith. For Noah, faith means really believing that God is about to destroy the entire world through flood waters.

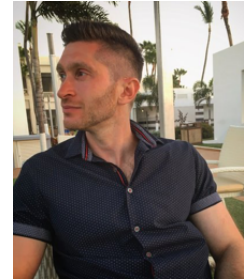
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COMMUNITY LEARNING



Finding Jewish Community through Open Circle's Eser Series

By Jacob Sugarman
Participant, [Hebrew College Open Circle Jewish Learning
20s & 30s Eser Series](#)



Open a Jewish encyclopedia and look up the phrase “Unaffiliated Jew,” and I’m almost positive that some versions have my photograph printed alongside the entry.

I never felt like I was part of the local Jewish community. No matter what organization, group, or synagogue I reached out to or visited in the hopes of getting involved, it was as if I had a scarlet letter imprinted on my forehead – a warning to other Jews that I was different. I learned to expect the judgmental looks I got when sharing that I grew up in the city, and that I had a different Jewish experience with Hebrew School and a bar mtzvah than my peers from the suburbs. I always had to be prepared to answer heated questions about my perceived level of Jewishness, that my responses would prove my worth to the community. And as I grew older, I had to tolerate comments about being gay, that it was “such a waste” that I would never produce Jewish children, and in some cases the shame I’ve brought to my family for marrying a non-Jewish man. More often than not, it felt abundantly clear to me that I did not belong.

So, like many other young Jews, I disconnected.

I was introduced to Hebrew College’s [Eser program](#) four years ago by a close friend. She saw something in me that I did not - as a young professional who felt abandoned by the Jewish community and had a desire to be a part of it.

Read more

Hebrew College offers [community learning](#) programs for all ages and stages, and [graduate leadership programs](#) in rabbinical, cantorial, education and Jewish studies, all within a pluralistic environment of open inquiry, depth, creativity, and compassion.

EVENTS

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY! A New Hasidism: Study, Reflection, Celebration

Celebrate the publication of Hebrew College Rector Rabbi Art Green's and Dr. Ariel Mayse's new work on the history, development, and contemporary practice of Neo-Hasidism.

November 3 | 2 - 8 pm
Hebrew College

[Learn more and rsvp](#)

Note: Dinner is sold out

Blossoming: The 2019 Hebrew College Jewish Education Conference

November 11-12
Hebrew College

[Register](#)

Heidi Urich Annual Lecture on Jewish Genealogy with Saskia Coenen Snyder

Diamonds, Jews, and the Expansion of 19th Century Global Trade

November 17 | 3:30-5:30 pm
Hebrew College

Co-sponsored by [Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston](#) and Hebrew College
[Learn more & Register](#)

Azamra: Alternative Shabbat Community Minyan

Join Rabbi Lev Friedman, Rab` 18 for this monthly morning service in the Hebrew College Beit Midrash, followed by a pot-luck vegetarian kiddush luncheon. Supported by the [Hebrew College Innovation Lab](#).

November 23 | 10 am -12 pm
Hebrew College
[Learn more](#)

DECEMBER



A Night of Learning 70th Birthday Tribute to Rabbi Allan Lehmann

December 5 | 7 pm
Hebrew College
[Learn more](#)



Don't Miss LimmudFest 2019

Sunday, November 17 | 9 am-5:30 pm
 KI Campus | 384 Harvard St., Brookline, MA

Hebrew College is proud to be one of LimmudFest 2019's community partners for this year's special 10th anniversary event honoring LimmudBoston founder Steffi Aronson Karp. LimmudBoston offers inspiration and education for learners of all ages and stages, with session on everything from storytelling, music, and meditation to Torah and Talmud.

Several Hebrew College faculty, alumni, and students will be speaking, including Hebrew College Rector Rabbi Art Green; Hebrew College faculty member Rachel Adelman, PhD; Rabbinical School alumni Rabbi Joshua Breindel, Rabbi David Finkelstein, Rabbi Margie Klein Ronkin, and Rabbi Jim Morgan; and rabbinical students Joey Glick, Naomi Gurt Lind, and Jackson Mercer.

Hebrew College community learning faculty and alumni speakers include: David Bernat and Rabbi Neal Gold (Me'ah); Rabbi Eric Gurvis and Rabbi Marcia Plumb (Open Circle Jewish Learning); Zoe Lang, Sandy Slavet, and Howard Tachtman (Me'ah alumni); and Ruth Nemzoff and Leann Shamash (Grandparenting Through a Jewish Lens).

[Learn more & purchase tickets](#)



IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to share the news of the passing of **Morton L. Mandel** on October 24, 2019. He passed on the same day he was recognized in New York City with the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy. Mandel, who was Chairman and CEO of the Mandel Foundation, received an honorary degree from Hebrew College in 2013. The Hebrew College community extends heartfelt condolences to the Mandel family. May they be comforted among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Please email us if you would like us to share the loss of a loved one with the Hebrew College community. To make a gift to Hebrew College in memory or in honor of a beloved member of the Hebrew College extended community, please [visit our website](#).



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