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## NEWS & VIEWS

March 22, 2019 | 15 Adar II 5779

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## Hebrew College's Miller Center Awarded Arthur Vining Davis Foundations Grant for Interreligious Work

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations (AVDF) awarded [Hebrew College's Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#) a three-year \$250,000 grant to develop and expand the Boston Interfaith Leadership Initiative (BILI), an innovative fellowship program for undergraduate students.

The [BILI fellowship](#), currently in its second year, trains students from eight Boston-area colleges to serve as effective interreligious leaders on their campuses and in the broader community. The year-long program brings together undergraduate fellows from Bentley University, Boston University, Brown University, Harvard University, MIT, Northeastern University, Tufts University, and Wellesley College.

The grant will enable the Miller Center to expand and further diversify its interreligious programming.

"We are honored that AVDF chose to support this important intercollegiate initiative," said Rabbi Or Rose, director of the Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership, and a leading scholar and practitioner in the field of Interreligious Studies. "BILI's student-driven model provides fellows with an important opportunity for substantive learning and cooperative programming across multiple traditions. We are excited to continue developing this initiative with talented and passionate students and colleagues in Boston and beyond."

The [Arthur Vining Davis Foundations](#) were established in 1952 by former ALCOA chairman, Arthur Vining Davis. Grounded in Arthur Vining Davis's principled and innovative leadership in national corporate life

and philanthropy, The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations strengthen America's intellectual life, humane instincts, and democracy through philanthropic support for private higher education, public educational media, interfaith leadership and religious literacy, the environment, and palliative care.

*Pictured: Current BILI Fellows at their recent retreat.*

Read the Religion News Service Story



## Save the Date for Our Spring Fundraising Event

We're changing it up. . . This year, we are excited to invite you to this year's spring storytelling fundraising event: [Hebrew College Live! Stories in Honor of Our Teachers](#) on Thursday evening, May 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, MA.

We hope you will join us for this community event featuring Hebrew College faculty and alumni storytellers with emcee Mark Oppenheimer, host of Tablet Magazine's podcast "[Unorthodox](#)."

The evening will begin with schmoozing over plentiful hors d'oeuvres and wine, followed by five storytellers sharing memorable stories of their Jewish journeys, and conclude with a festive dessert reception.

Questions? Please contact Sharon Katz at [advancement@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:advancement@hebrewcollege.edu) or 617.559.8764.

Tickets & Giving Opportunities



## Hebrew College To Host Multi-Religious Conference

Conversations about what it means to live well until the very end have a powerful impact on how we live—and how we die. Conversations can help preserve personal autonomy and respect for our faith-based values and practices, and serve as an entryway to a deep spiritual practice. They can save families from making uninformed medical decisions when confronted by a crisis.

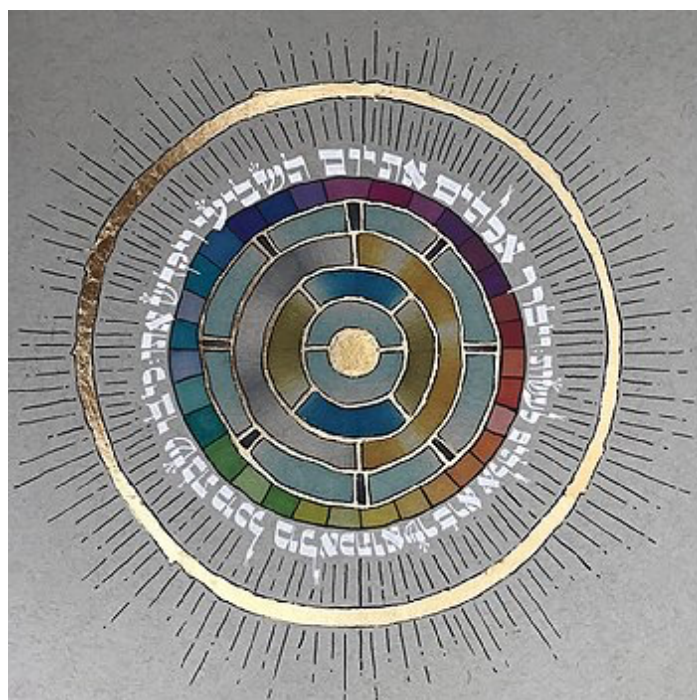
On April 2, from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Hebrew College will host the conference “Dying Well: Multi-Religious End of Life Conversations.” Members of the College's adult learning team have long been in conversation with lifelong learning staff from other Boston Theological Institute (BTI) schools about our common interest in organizing programs and classes that bring meaning to people's lives. As a result, Hebrew College and our BTI partners decided to offer a day of learning around "dying well," a topic with which all faith traditions grapple. The program will provide fresh insights and resources to help facilitate sacred conversations in your families and institutions about the end-of-life.

The program is appropriate for all ages and stages of life and education. Students are especially encouraged to attend. Admission is \$25 for community members and \$10 for students.

[Learn More & Register](#)



# HUMANS OF HEBREW COLLEGE



In the words of this week's parsha, B'reishit,  
the entire world is created

The sages asked:  
how did G'd create light on day one, but the sun, moon and  
stars weren't created until day four?!

The light of the first day was the EIN SOF  
the endless light of divinity.

Deemed too intense for this world, the light was hidden away,  
they say, for us to find in Torah.

Torah can be thought of as anything in your life  
that connects you to G'd

This week of B'reishit, approach the world with a spirit of  
newness and curiosity. Can you sense the light of the first  
day when you take a breath, sing a song, see the sun rise or set,  
look into the eyes of someone you love?

When you find it, know that  
you're connecting to the infinite.

## #Instadrash

"I was thinking about the text when the sages asked, 'How did G'd create light on day one, but the sun, moon, and stars weren't created until day four?' It's weird, right? They are describing a different light than the sun. That inspired me to write about where that light is hidden - in Torah - meaning literal Torah or in the people you love, in connection, in joy, and in song. Then [my partner] Lizzie created this piece, which has seven circles representing the seven days of creation. She captured the light I was writing about by making one of those circles gold. I love how the gold bleeds into the rest of the picture in a subtle way to hold everything together."

***(Rabbinical student Hayley Goldstein, discussing B'reishit from her Instagram project, Nireh Or. )***

Read More about Nireh Or

# SIGHTS & SOUNDS



Graduates of the Shoolman School of Jewish Education at Hebrew College doctoral program in Jewish Educational Leadership with Rabbi Michael Shire at the March 2019 Prizmah Conference in Atlanta. (l-r: Dr. Yehiel Hoffman, Dr. Sara Levy, Dr. Micah Lapidus, Dr. Jared Matas, Dr. Galya Greenberg, and Shoolman School Dean Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire.



On March 18, Hebrew College's Rabbi Ebn Leader, Rabbi Or Rose (both pictured, right), and Rabbi Nehemiah Polen spoke at a Purim program, co-sponsored by the Israeli-American Council of Boston (IAC) & Hebrew College, called "Jewish Mystical Insights for Contemporary Life."

# BLOGS



# STATE OF FORMATION

*State of Formation is a joint venture of the [Miller Center of Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#) and [Boston University's School of Theology](#)*

## Sounds Without Words

By Jenn Lindsay, PhD  
State of Formation Contributor



The nun across the table had devoted much of her life to the academic study of religious conversion. “One knows what religion one is meant to be,” she said to me over herbal tea, “when one finds a religious environment where the sounds of the music, the prayer, the rituals and even of the echoes in the sacred space feel like home.” I thought of my synagogue and my cherished Friday night Shabbat service. For decades I heard those familiar tunes, many of them in the reformed Jewish environments composed in the ‘70s and ‘80s by Jewish folksinger Debbie Friedman. If I hear *Mi Shebeirach* or *Lecha Dodi* sung in a certain tune, in those sounds I am home.

Those harmonies and melodies are in my blood. Without conscious decision, my body will rise up on tiptoes when we sing the word *kadosh*, holy. I find myself, without thinking, bending into a shuffling bow at the beginning of the *Amidah* prayer, or preparing my throat for the high note at the end of the *Aleinu*, like a long jumper who knows exactly when to launch into the skies at the edge of the runway track. I know the sonic contour of the reformed Jewish Shabbat liturgy very well; I know the sound of every word of those prayers and every sound means something to me. Yes, the aesthetics of this religion, particularly the sounds, feel like home to me.

[Read more](#)

# 70 FACES OF TORAH

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

## The Paradoxical Freedom of Routine

Parashat Tzav (Leviticus 6:1- 8:36)

By Benjamin Barer, Rab`18  
Jewish Chaplain, Georgetown University



Judaism has always concerned itself with proscribing ritual actions that govern our lives, not simply those related to prayer or the rituals of our holy days. In the modern world, this all-encompassing focus can seem oppressive, but paradoxically it can also be freeing. Buried within the seemingly endless descriptions of the sacrifices the Israelites offered in the *mishkan*, or portable Tabernacle, lies a hint as to why this might be.

*Parshat Tzav* opens by describing the burnt offering, or *olah* (lit. “raised up”). It is to be consumed by the fire of the altar, meant to be fully for God’s pleasure. While all sacrifices offered in ancient Judaism “went up” to God, the *olah* left nothing over. The priests are instructed that “a perpetual [*tamid*] fire shall be kept burning on the altar, not to go out” (Lev. 6:6), presumably so that many such offerings could be offered and burned each day. The most well-known *olah*, however, was the twice-daily *olat tamid*, the constant *olah* offered to inaugurate and conclude each day’s sacrifices. This sacrifice, in addition to being offered in a constant way, was offered identically each time — a year-old lamb along with a tenth of a measure of flour and a quarter of a biblical measurement (a *hin*) of both oil and wine (Ex. 29:38-41).

[Read more](#)

## EVENTS

**Dying Well: Multi-Religious End-of-Life Conversations**  
*A one-day conference on religion and its role in end of life care*  
Sponsored by the Boston Theological Institute  
Lifelong Learning Consortium  
Featuring Rabbi Or Rose &

**Torah Godly Play**  
May 19-20  
8 am-3 pm  
Hebrew College  
[Learn more](#) | [Register](#)

**SPRING FUNDRAISING EVENT!**



Rabbi Joel Baron, Rab`14  
 April 2 | 9:30 am-3 pm  
 Hebrew College  
 \$10-\$25 | [Register](#)

**Preparing Our Hearts for Passover & Easter**  
 Featuring Hebrew College's Rabbi Ebn Leader,  
 Rabbi Or Rose, Rabbi Jane Kanarek, Tom Reid  
 April 12 | 8:30 am - Noon  
 Temple Beth Zion, Brookline, MA  
[Information](#) | [RSVP](#)

**Huzzah! la'Hazzan**  
 Celebrating Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer and the  
 Establishment of the Scholarship in his name  
 May 6 | 1:30 pm  
 Hebrew College  
[RSVP](#) | [Make a Gift in Cantor Mayer's Honor](#)

**Nava Tehila Ensemble Concert**  
 Co-sponsored by Hebrew College  
 May 12 | 7-9 pm  
 Temple Beth Zion, Brookline, MA  
 \$20 General Admission | \$15 Students & Seniors  
[Purchase Tickets](#)

**A Mini-Symposium: Ethnic Identity and Choral Singing**  
 Sponsored by Zamir Chorale of Boston Alumni  
 Association and the School of Jewish Music at  
 Hebrew College  
 May 15 | 7:30-9:30 pm  
 Hebrew College  
[Learn More](#) | Free Admission

**Hebrew College Live! Stories in Honor of Our Teachers**  
*With stories by Hebrew College Faculty & Alumni*  
 May 30 | 6:30 pm  
 Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley, MA  
[Information](#) | [Online Tickets & Gift Opportunities](#)

**Commencement**  
 June 2 | 10 am  
 Hebrew College  
[Information](#)

**Cantorial Ordination**  
 June 2 | 1:30 pm  
 Temple Reyim, Newton MA  
[Information](#)

**Rabbinical Ordination**  
 June 2 | 3 pm  
 Temple Reyim, Newton MA  
[Information](#)

**Ani Kinor: Prayer Leader Summer Institute Two-Day Intensive**  
 June 3-4  
 Hebrew College  
[Learn more](#) | [Register](#)

**A Joyful Concert for Body & Soul**  
 with Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer `14, Dr. Hankus  
 Netsky & Cantor Becky Khitrik `14  
 June 3 | 7-9 pm  
 Hebrew College  
 \$10 General Admission  
[Learn More](#) | [Purchase Tickets](#)



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 617.559.8600 | [www.hebrewcollege.edu](http://www.hebrewcollege.edu) | [Donate](#)