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NEWS & VIEWS

March 28, 2019 | 21 Adar II 5779

Blogs & Events Issue

70 FACES OF TORAH

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

Making Space for Mystery

Parashat Shemini (Leviticus 9:1-11:47)

By Rabbi Adina Allen, Rab`14
Co-founder & Creative Director, [The Jewish Studio Project](#)



Aaron's first role as High Priest is to make the inaugural sacrifice on the newly-completed altar. Moses commands Aaron to offer up – amongst other animals – an *egel* (calf) to atone for himself and the people. That Moses commands the sacrifice of an *egel* is curious. Rather than a *par* (bull), as Leviticus

4:3 dictates for this kind of purification offering, Aaron is told to sacrifice an *egel*. Nowhere else in Torah is an *egel* mentioned as a sacrificial animal, making this all the more notable.

It wasn't so long before that Aaron had a different experience with an *egel*. A few weeks ago, we read of Aaron's construction of the *Egel HaZahav* – the Golden Calf. In *Parshat Ki Tissa*, Moses goes up the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments from God. The people, distressed and forlorn as they await Moses' return, demand Aaron make them a god to go before them, saying "for that man Moses, who brought us from the land of Egypt – we do not know what has happened to him" (Exodus 32:1). Aaron responds by asking the people to bring him gold rings from their wives, sons, and daughters. He then takes the gold he has collected and melts it down into the *Egel HaZahav*, saying, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt!" (Exodus 32:7). The creation of the *Egel HaZahav* provoked God's wrath and led to the Israelites' punishment.

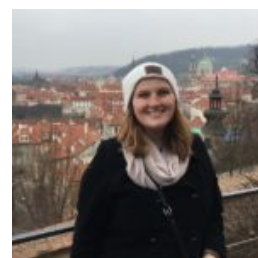
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State of Formation is a joint venture of [Hebrew College's Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#) and [Boston University's School of Theology](#). Elizabeth Little, a senior at Bentley University, is a fellow in the [Boston Interfaith Leadership Initiative \(BILI\)](#), a program for undergraduate students run through the Miller Center at Hebrew College. BILI trains students from Boston-area colleges to serve as effective interreligious leaders on their campuses and in the broader community.

An Interfaith Holiday Display: How I Grew to Celebrate Difference

By Elizabeth Little
BILI Fellow, Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership



The excitement, preparation, and unique family traditions that accompany religious holidays are seen across every religious and spiritual tradition. I know firsthand how easy it is to become so excited and invested in my own religious traditions that I forget to think about how my friends and family from other faith traditions also may be celebrating. As an Orthodox Christian, Christmas is a significant holiday in my household. All my life, we have celebrated Christmas with family on December 25th and with my church on January 7th, which is Eastern Orthodox Christmas due to the following of the Gregorian calendar. Each year, I become wrapped up in the Christmas traditions of picking out a tree, decorating our house, and preparing for a twelve-dish dinner for our second Christmas Eve on January

6th.

I love all the feelings that accompany this time of year and the traditions that go along with them. Being able to share in the excitement surrounding Christmas in my predominantly Catholic community and then share in the traditions of the Eastern Orthodox Church with my parish not long after has always been special to me. I was always eager to explain to my friends, teachers, and coworkers why January 7th is an important date to me and my religious traditions.

[Read more](#)

EVENTS

Dying Well: Multi-Religious End-of-Life Conversations - **SOLD OUT!**

A one-day conference on religion and its role in end of life care

Sponsored by the Boston Theological Institute Lifelong Learning Consortium

Featuring Hebrew College's Rabbi Or Rose & Rabbi Joel Baron, Rab` 14

April 2 | 9:30 am-3 pm

Hebrew College

\$10-\$25

[Learn more](#)

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



HEBREW COLLEGE
LIVE
STORIES IN HONOR OF OUR TEACHERS

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019 • 6:30 PM
TEMPLE BETH ELOHIM, WELLESLEY, MA

התכנית ללימודים
HEBREW COLLEGE

SPRING FUNDRAISING EVENT!

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](#)

[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

Torah Godly Play

May 19-20

8 am-3 pm

Hebrew College

[Learn more](#) | [Register](#)

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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