



NEWS & VIEWS

March 7, 2019 | 30 Adar I 5779



Learning Philanthropy Through a Jewish Lens

The [Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston \(JTfGB\)](#) teaches local high school students about fundraising, civic leadership, grant-making, and collective giving. The four-year-old program at Hebrew College recently kicked off its 2019 fundraising campaign with an event featuring nearly a dozen philanthropists and fundraisers who shared their knowledge, expertise and passion with the teenagers in the program. The keynote speaker was Aron Ain, CEO of Kronos.

The program, which launched at Hebrew College in 2015, asks teens to choose a philanthropic mission, raise money for that effort, and to partner with non-profits - both Jewish and non-Jewish - to make a difference. Over the past three years, the program has donated \$146,000 to various organizations that help fight sexual assault, mental health, and substance abuse, amongst other issues. This year, the teens are seeking to raise thousands of dollars from hundreds of different donors from across the world for organizations that support immigration rights, various environment issues, and combat child abuse. The program itself, which received four years of funding as a Foundation Board Incubator program within the Jewish Teen Funders Network (JTFN), is also now doing its own fundraising to become a self-sustaining Hebrew College program.

“You’re sent out into the world and you’re faced with so many organizations, around Boston, around America, around the world.... Who are you going to pick, how are you going to help, to what extent are you going to help them?” said Isaiah Goldsmith, 17, of Brookline, a high school senior who has been involved in the program since tenth grade. “This type of philanthropy forces you to think about issues, societal ills, and everything that can be improved. You get to improve that reality, ameliorate some of the issues.”

[Read More](#)

[Support JTFGB](#)



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SPRING COMMUNITY EVENT!

Join us Thursday evening, May 30 at 6:30 p.m. for [Hebrew College Live! Stories in Honor of Our](#)

[Teachers](#) at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, MA. The evening will feature Hebrew College faculty and alumni storytellers with emcee Mark Oppenheimer, host of Tablet Magazine's popular podcast "[Unorthodox](#)."

Watch for invitations and giving opportunities coming soon. Questions? Please email advancement@hebrewcollege.edu.

HUMANS OF HEBREW COLLEGE



Thirty Year Cantor

"I applied to cantorial school 30 years ago but the time wasn't right. Then work and family took over. A year ago my daughter said 'It's really about time you did this. You've been talking about this for 35 to 40 years. Stop talking about it and do something about it. So I did! My goal is to graduate at the same time as my daughter who is currently a freshman in college.'"

(Dan Nesson, first-year [Cantorial Ordination for Spiritual and Educational Leadership](#) student and Hazzan Sheini & Ritual Director at Temple Emanuel, Newton, MA)

SIGHTS & SOUNDS





Rabbinical Student **Rachel Putterman** received the [Linda Friedman Memorial Award](#) on Feb. 27 in recognition of her work on the [All Genders Wrap project](#) and her extensive past work with the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute. Pictured: Rachel, Rabbi Lev Friedman, Rab`18 and Joyce Friedman.



On February 23, the [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership of Hebrew College](#) held the second annual Boston Interreligious Leadership Initiative (BILI) retreat. Participants explored issues of identity, learned with and from outstanding religious and civic leaders, and shared best practices in interreligious engagement across campuses.

[Read about the event](#)

EVENTS

Community Hevra Kadisha Zayin Adar Commemoration Dinner
 Hebrew College President Sharon Cohen Anisfeld will be the featured guest speaker
 March 12 | 6-9 pm
 Temple Emanuel, Newton, MA
 Guests \$20 | Free for Hevra Kadisha members
[Learn more](#) | [Reservations](#)

Dying Well: Multi-Religious End-of-Life Conversations
A one-day conference on religion and its role in

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

SPRING COMMUNITY EVENT!
Hebrew College Live! Stories in Honor of Our Teachers
Featuring stories by Hebrew College Faculty & Alumni, with emcee Mark Oppenheimer, host of Tablet Magazine's podcast "Unorthodox"

end of life care
Sponsored by the Boston Theological Institute
Lifelong Learning Consortium
Featuring Rabbi Or Rose &
Rabbi Joel Baron, Rab` 14
April 2 | 9:30 am-3 pm
Hebrew College
\$10-\$25 | [Register](#)

May 30 | 6:30 pm
Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley, MA
[Ticket and Sponsorship Information](#)



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

Oh I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free

By Rev. Brandon Harris
College Chaplain
Georgetown University



A Series on Black Personhood and Freedom

I had just finished morning prayer at the local Episcopal church near my office, a place where I go to find strength and renewal in the middle of the week. It was the feast day of one of my favorite saints; I felt encouraged, renewed, and hopeful, ready to face the day ahead. Joining with my fellow worshippers, I walked to the fellowship hall for a cup of coffee and breakfast. With a cup of coffee in her hand, a seemingly well-meaning, smiling Caucasian woman sitting next to me turned and asked “So,

Reverend Harris, I don't understand all this frustration about Confederate statues in the news. It's just a statue, and it's history, after all."

My face hardened, and my smile turned into an expressionless mask of rage.

Read more

70 FACES OF TORAH

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

To Begin is Human, To Finish is Divine

Parashat Pekudei (Exodus 38:21-40:38)

By Rabbi Jordan Braunig, Rab`14
Rabbi, Tufts University Hillel



I've always had a much easier time beginning things than finishing them. With a poem, a household project, a painting, a college course, or, even, a dvar Torah, starting is no problem – ending, that's another story. Beginnings are openings, expanses, vast plains of possibility; a strong start fills you with excitement and yearning. Completions, on the other hand, are boundary lines, points of distinction, painful goodbyes. The appeal of the starting point feels almost intuitive, yet, when I have the opportunity to watch someone complete a project, I stop whatever I'm doing and I pay close attention. This week, after five *parshiyot* and 15 chapters, the greatest creative endeavor of the people of Israel comes to a close. This week's Torah portion, *Pekudei*, details the finishing touches of the *mishkan*, the ornate mobile sanctuary that was to serve as Divine resting place in the wilderness. Towards its conclusion, it reads, *Vayachal Moshe et ha'melacha* – and Moses completed the work; with those words, my ears perk up.

What does it feel like for the artist to place their final brushstroke on the canvas, to trust or to know that they're done? After years of writing, is it a relief for the author to pen the final lines of a novel or is it more of a dispossession? Similarly, does the end of this artistic process that dominates the second half of the Book of Exodus seem like a triumph ("now the Holy One is dwelling in our midst") or a letdown ("there goes the communal generosity, the abundance of heart-wisdom"). Interestingly, the construction of the *mishkan*, which heretofore has been described in inspiringly communal terms, is finished off by Moses almost single handedly. If the earlier stages of construction were exemplified by the artisanship of Bezalel and the munificence of the people, the finale of the project feels more like a one man show. Moses placing sockets. Moses laying planks. Moses erecting poles. Moses arranging bread. Moses setting up the courtyard. And, finally, Moses completing the work.

Read more



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