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## NEWS & VIEWS

May 18, 2017 | 22 Iyar, 5777

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## Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement: Critical Training for Today's Jewish Communal Professionals

Often, clergy, educators, community leaders and outreach practitioners provide pastoral care and guidance as they teach, influence and work with couples and families of mixed faiths in a variety of ways. They use their training, resources, knowledge, intuition and past experiences to help make decisions and provide support as best they can. While they generally feel qualified to do so and confident in their abilities, at times they may lack some of the critical skills to be as effective as possible.

Hebrew College's online [Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement \(IFJE\)](#) program equips Jewish professionals for success with the interfaith couples and families they serve. IFJE participants are trained and prepared to engage interfaith families in scholarly and communal discussions about intermarriage and interfaith issues. The program provides the knowledge and innovative skills to support the growing population of interfaith families and engage them in Jewish life.

Current IFJE participants recognize the importance of interfaith training in order to be fully prepared for the work they face. [Watch a video with them now.](#)

Program candidates range from early career educators to experienced clergy, heads of school and community directors. In addition to the learning aspect of the program, IFJE participants build a network of colleagues, providing a base of support throughout their careers when challenging issues arise.

According to IFJE Program Director Dr. Keren McGinity, "IFJE graduates are prepared to be change agents for the future. They understand how people marrying into or out of Judaism feel. They grasp the complexity and embrace the nuances."

Learn more about [Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement](#) or [contact Dr. Keren McGinity](#) directly.



## The Future of Jewish Philanthropy: Six Prozdor Students Among Those to Award \$45,000 in Grants

On Thursday night, in a ceremony at Hebrew College, 49 high school students will be presenting seven grants totaling approximately \$45,000.

For the past year, these students have participated in the [Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston](#) (JTFGB). The 49 students in JTFGB make up two separate boards, each meeting monthly — one at Hebrew College and one at Gann Academy. Of the 25 students meeting at Hebrew College, six are Prozdor students.

Students in the JTFGB run their foundation from the concept stage through the awarding of

grants. This year, the Hebrew College board selected domestic violence as its focus and will be awarding four grants — three to local organizations and one to a national organization — totaling just under \$25,000.

Prozdor student [Sam Cantor recently blogged](#), "JTFGB encouraged me to stay involved in philanthropy through a Jewish lens as I continue to grow. The tools that this program has provided me with will enable me to become a prepared adult later in life with strong Jewish values rooted in tzedakah and tikkun olam." When discussing what he valued about the process throughout the year, he noted that, "I learned how to do all of this while surrounded by a group of Jewish teens who all feel as passionate about making an impact as I do."

The foundation hones teens' leadership skills, educates them about the needs of their communities and instills in them the habit of charitable giving. Although JTFGB approaches philanthropy through a "Jewish lens," the vast majority of the nonprofits that receive grants are not affiliated with any religion. The teens are awarding grants to four organizations providing services and support to victims of domestic violence as well as education about the issues surrounding it: [Domestic Violence Ended \(DOVE\)](#) in Quincy, MA; [Jewish Family & Children's Service's TeenSafe](#) in Waltham, MA; [The Second Step](#) in Newton, MA; and the [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) in Denver, CO.

JTFGB is a program through [The Foundation Board Incubator of the Jewish Teen Funders Network](#). The JTFN Foundation Board Incubator is generously funded by Laura Lauder and the Maimonides Fund.

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## Summer Course Registration Continues



Register now for Hebrew College summer courses, including online and on-campus [Hebrew language courses](#) and the School of Jewish Music's [Prayer Leader Summer Institute](#). Summer offerings also include courses in Jewish education and Jewish Studies.

REGISTER ▶

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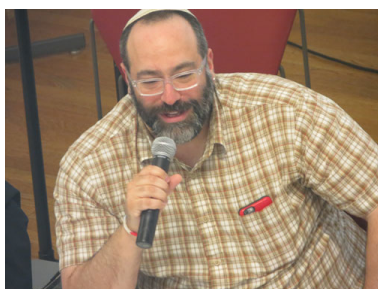
## Humans of Hebrew College



Learn more Hebrew College's [Parenting Through A Jewish Lens](#) (PTJL) programs and see what else Parenting Your TWEEN Through A Jewish Lens alumnus [Josh Jacobs had to say](#) about his experience. If you are interested in being featured, please contact [webmaster@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:webmaster@hebrewcollege.edu). You can also find Hebrew College alumni and students on the Hebrew College LinkedIn page. (Remember to update your LinkedIn profile!)

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## Sights & Sounds



Rabbi Or Rose (left), Director of the [Betty Ann Greenbaum Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#); Celene Ibrahim, MDiv (middle), Hebrew College Islamic Scholar-in-Residence; and Jennifer Howe Peace, PhD (right) of Newton Andover Theological School, spoke at today's "Celebrating CIRCLE (Center for Interreligious and Communal Leadership



Education): Lessons from 10 Years of Interfaith Learning" held at Hebrew College. Rabbi Rose and Ibrahim are now continuing and expanding Hebrew College's interfaith work at the Miller Center, established in 2016 through a generous gift from Dan Miller, a member of the Hebrew College Board of Trustees and husband of the late Betty Ann Greenbaum Miller (of blessed memory), MAJS'05.



Our [Makor](#) students (middle school) had some fun with Lag B'Omer this past weekend with a combination of text study, cheers and challenges.



Hebrew College President, Rabbi Daniel L. Lehmann, taught on Jewish pluralism and communal unity at the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) Genesis Forum at Hebrew College on May 17.



[School of Jewish Music](#) students, faculty and alumni gathered at *Chanting the Word of God: Cantillation in the World's Religious Traditions*, a day-long symposium held at Northeastern University on May 8. Scholars, practitioners and students from three faith traditions came together for sessions that addressed theoretical and performance issues that all (or many) have in common. SJM faculty member **Dr. Josh Jacobson** not only organized the symposium, but delivered two papers during the program. **SJM Dean Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer** also delivered a paper at the symposium. Other Hebrew College attendees included Maayan Harel, Rabbi Danny Lehmann, Amy Lieberman, Linda Myer, Cantor Lynn Torgove, Lorel Zar-Kessler, Cantor Nancy Sargon and Cantor Linda Sue Sohn.

*Pictured: (back row) Cantor Lisa Kipen-Hershenson, Marc Stober, Cantor Neil Schwartz, Judy Greenblatt, Melanie Blatt, Cantor Sarah Bolts, Jeri Robins, Judy Pinnolis, Sherrill Stott, Dr. Joshua Jacobson. (front row) Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer, Cantor Louise Treitman, Phyllis Werlin, Debby Gelber, Dara Rosenblatt, Sharon Goldstein*

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## Notable & Quotable

Rabbinical School students, Jevin Eagle and Elie Lehmann are taking on leadership roles at Boston University Hillel, executive director and campus rabbi, respectively. Stories ran in a variety of locations including in the [Needham Times](#), [JewishBoston](#) and [Patch](#).



Rabbi Dan Judson, Rabbinical School Director of Professional Development and Placement, co-authored [Connections, Cultivation and Commitment: New Insights on Voluntary Dues](#), published this week on eJewishPhilanthropy.



Rabbi Steven Abraham, a student in our inaugural [Interfaith Jewish Families Engagement \(IFJE\)](#) cohort, wrote about keeping an eye toward history while acknowledging the realities of our modern world in [It's Time to Say 'Yes,'](#) published in eJewishPhilanthropy.



## May & June Hebrew College Events

([hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events](http://hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events))



**President Trump, Jews, and The First 100 Days of the Trump Administration - A Look Back with Jonathan Golden, PhD**  
May 20 at 1pm, following Shabbat Services  
Congregation Mishkan Tefila  
384 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA



**Power of Music: One More Sunday Morning of Jewish Music**  
May 21 - Cantor Becky Khitrik, Can`14 & Hankus Netsky  
Class runs 9:30-11:15 am  
Congregation Mishkan Tefila  
384 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA  
[Register](#)



**A Taste of P4C: Philosophy for Children**  
May 25, 2017 at 7 pm  
Hebrew College  
Free | [Learn more](#) | RSVP to [dron@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:dron@hebrewcollege.edu)

**Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality and the Jewish Tradition**  
June 3, 2017 at 12:30 pm  
Congregation Mishkan Tefila  
384 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA  
[Learn more](#)



**Hebrew College Commencement & Ordination**

June 4 | General Ceremony 10 am-12 pm at Hebrew College

Cantorial &amp; Rabbinical Ordination Ceremonies 1:30-4:30 pm, Temple Reyim, Newton

[Learn more](#)**Prayer Leader Summer Institute 2017**

June 6 - July 28

Hebrew College

Hebrew College's Prayer Leader Summer Institute (PLSI) offers a broad range of courses from single-morning master classes to multi-week programs.

[Learn more and register](#)**PLSI Presents: Jewish World Music Week**

July 24 - 28

Hebrew College

[View schedule and register](#)**PLSI Presents: A Journey of Jewish Music from Baghdad to Boston - George Mordecai,**  
with special guests Mitch Gordon, Hankus Netsky and Zafer Tawil

July 24, 2017

6:30 pm reception - 7 pm concert

Hebrew College

\$10

[Learn more and purchase tickets](#)CONGREGATION  
MISHKAN TEFLA*Denotes program offered by the  
Hebrew College - Congregation Mishkan Tefila  
Learning Series*

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## From the Hebrew College Blog ([blog.hebrewcollege.edu](http://blog.hebrewcollege.edu))

### PROZDOR & THE JEWISH TEEN FUNDERS NETWORK

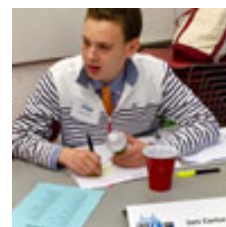
## I Am the Future of (Jewish) Philanthropy

By Samson Cantor

[Prozdor](#) student & [Jewish Teen Funders Network](#) participant

After reflecting on my year surrounded by other Jewish teens in JTFCB, I know that my peers and I are now ready to become the future of philanthropy.

My experience with the Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston has prepared me to help the world. While that sounds very ambitious, I have realized through this program that every single person, even teenagers, have the ability to make an impact.



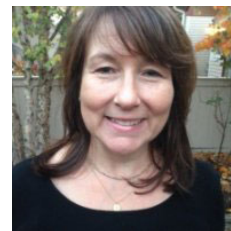
> [READ FULL POST](#)

### RABBINICAL SCHOOL DIVREI TORAH

## The Pit of Despair - A Reflection of Jerusalem

By Mona Strick

Student, [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#)



What plays on the soundtrack of your life? Take a minute... Close your eyes... if I say high school prom, or a memorable summer when you fell in love... what song immediately pops into your head?

For better or for worse, the night of my high school graduation is forever linked to Barry Manilow's Copa, Copa Cabana. I can't think of labor and delivery of my son Eli without Bob Marley and the Wailers "Three Little Birds" And my year at Hebrew U in 1981-82, when the Sinai was returned to Egypt, goes hand in hand with David Broza's Yihieh Tov.

And this fall the soundtrack accompanying my experience in Jerusalem- the thing I just couldn't get out of my head was... Avodah Zara (idol worship).

> [READ FULL POST](#)

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## SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

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

# To Be a Guest in the World

## Parshat Behar-Behukotai, Leviticus 25:1-27:34

By Rabbi Daniel Lehmann

President, [Hebrew College](#)



The two Torah readings of Behar and Behukotai (paired in a joint reading this week) conclude the book of Leviticus. The first portion, Behar, begins with the laws of the sabbatical and jubilee years (every seventh year and fiftieth year respectively). Both of these special years construct an alternative relationship between the Israelites and ownership of land, agriculture, and human servitude. One verse in the middle of chapter 25 puts forward a profound claim about the status of the Jews living on the land given to them by God. "But the land must not be sold beyond reclaim, for the land is Mine; you are but strangers resident with Me" (Leviticus 25:23).

The idea that even the land the Israelites are commanded to possess as an inheritance is fundamentally not theirs, that they are only guests even in their own homeland, and that God is the only one who truly possesses the holy land, presents a profound religious challenge to human self-understanding and experience.

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