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NEWS & VIEWS

May 2, 2019 | 27 Nissan 5779



Hebrew College alumna and teacher blends clinical and spiritual approaches in her work

Meet Rabbi Margot Meitner, LICSW, Rab`14, MAJS`14, rabbi, social worker, psychotherapist, teacher, Story Slam winner, and featured storyteller at the Hebrew College upcoming spring fundraiser [Hebrew](#)

[College Live! Stories in Honor of Our Teachers](#) on May 30 at Temple Beth Elohim. Please join us as we learn, laugh, and share a connection with Rabbi Meitner and our other four storytellers — all master teachers — each inspired by their own beloved teachers. Your ticket(s) and/or celebratory gift in honor of a teacher helps support Hebrew College's mission to educate Jewish leaders and lifelong learners.

“Hebrew College was invested in nourishing my soul. The way that I experienced community with my classmates and the tight bonds that we formed - and the ways the teachers modeled that for us - was integral to my experience. I’m so grateful to be able to take even just a small piece of the specialness of Hebrew College and bring it out to other places,” says Rabbi Margot Meitner.

Rabbi Meitner has had a private practice in Boston since her ordination in 2014. She currently serves on the Adult Learning faculty of Hebrew College and will join the Rabbinical School faculty next fall, teaching pastoral care. “I’m getting to do work that I feel good about now. I have the blessing in both worlds – clinical and rabbinical – of just being able to be present with people in the most intimate moments of their lives, and sharing the most intimate stories of their lives.”

Meitner says she continues to feel enriched by her Hebrew College experience and looks forward to sharing her story “Bubbe and the Boichick” at [Hebrew College Live! Stories in Honor of Our Teachers](#) on May 30.

[Read more about Margot](#)

[RSVP | Make a Celebratory Gift](#)

IN THE NEWS



[Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#) alumna, [Shabbat Table member](#), and children's book author **Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands, Rab` 16** recently published her second book, *Nobody ever told them they are different*.

“It’s an important story. Bear, Lion and Tiger teach us that *all* living things are precious. When children and adults read and discuss it together, they will be embraced by its message of hope and inspired to share in the work of making our world safer and more equitable for all its inhabitants,” says Sands.

[Read more](#)

Rabbi Jane Kanarek, Associate Dean for Academic Development and Advising will deliver the benediction and receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree from the New England Law School Commencement ceremony on May 17.

Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Hebrew College Chief Academic Officer, will speak at the Mussar Conference at Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Brookline, MA on May 5.

Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer, Dean of the [School of Jewish Music](#), will receive the Samuel Rosenbaum Award for Scholarship and Creativity at the 72nd Annual Cantors Assembly Convention in Louisville, KY on May 20.

President Sharon Cohen Anisfeld will be speaking at Temple Ohabei Shalom for the installation of **Rabbi Daniel Schaefer, Rab` 18**, on May 11. She will also deliver the keynote address at the Legacy Heritage Fund Educators Conference in New York on May 20.

Rabbinical School Rector Rabbi Arthur Green will speak on “Judaism’s 10 Best Ideas: A Brief Guide for Seekers” at Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, VA.

Cantor Lynn Torgove, Can` 12, MAJS` 11, Head of Vocal Arts at the [School of Jewish Music](#), is singing the role of Martha in Boston Lyric Opera’s production of “The Handmaid’s Tale” May 5-12.

Dr. Keren McGinity, Director, [Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement Program](#), will speak on “The Changing Narrative of Intermarriage and How to Embrace Interfaith Families” at the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts on May 15.

Jeff Finkelstein, Prz` 86, CEO and President of the Pittsburgh Jewish Federation, was featured in an April 22 [Israelnationalnews.com article](#) “Pittsburgh community representative will light torch” about his being chosen to carry the Diaspora Beacon at Israel’s 71st Independence Day.

BLOGS



STATE OF
FORMATION



The State of Formation blog is a joint venture of the [Miller Center of Interreligious Learning &](#)

[Leadership and Boston University's School of Theology.](#)

Implicit Bias: A Biological Obstacle in Interreligious Engagement (Part I of II)

By Hannah Larracas
State of Formation Fellow



A recently published book by renowned social psychologists Dr. Mahzrani R. Banaji from Harvard University and Dr. Anthony G. Greenwald from the University of Washington, *Blindspots: The Hidden Intentions of Good People*, reveals the role of implicit bias, or what they identify as “mindbugs,” in people’s daily lives. Mindbugs are “ingrained habits of thought that lead to errors in how we perceive, remember, reason, and make decisions” which hinder us from perceiving objects, people, and situations as they are. Banaji and Greenwald begin to uncover the presence of these mindbugs first through uncanny visual illusions. How is it that two figures which appear incongruous are actually the same shape and size?

Or that two colors that appear different are actually the same shade?

Blindspots reveals that humans are biologically predisposed to certain biases regarding the way we interact with the world. When these adaptive processes first appeared as resources for our ancestors, they helped promote social cohesion among community members while attempting to mitigate both the frequency of impending physical dangers and their intensity...

[Read more](#)



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

After Death, There is Ritual

Parashat Acrei Mot (Leviticus 16:1-18:30)

By Avi Killip, Rab `14
Vice President of Strategy & Programs and Director of Project Zug at Hadar



The Yom Kippur ritual, described in this week’s *parsha*, stages the ultimate drama. On this one day, the

high priest is invited to peek behind the curtain. The danger is real, and the thrill of coming closer than ever to God is almost palpable. You can imagine his heart racing as he draws near.

And while most temple rituals are remembered only through the chanting of a Torah service, we make a stronger attempt to relive this one. Through the liturgy of the Avodah service in our modern *Machzor*, we stage a dramatic storytelling, if not a complete reenactment.

The Yom Kippur rituals inspire us to be better people and to better appreciate the gift of our lives. Through the words of the *Machzor* we approach the edge of the abyss, and together we look over that edge. We imagine a world where our deeds determine our fate, and where we can be saved through *Tshuvah*, *Tfillah* and *Tzedakeh*. We allow ourselves to have a near death experience, to remember our mortality and be humbled by it. As I learned from Rabbi Jason Rubenstein, the Yom Kippur ritual allows us to experience “post-traumatic growth” without ever having been through a trauma.

Read more

EVENTS

Prozdor Graduation

May 5 | 12:30 pm
Hebrew College
[Information](#)

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

SPRING FUNDRAISING EVENT!

Hebrew College Live! Stories in Honor of Our Teachers

May 30 | 6:30 pm
Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley, MA
[Information](#) | [Purchase Tickets](#) | [Make a Gift](#)

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](#)

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](#)

JTFGB Grant Ceremony
May 29 | 6-8 pm
Hebrew College
[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](#)

Me'ah Graduation
June 5 | 6:30-8:30 pm
Hebrew College
[Information](#)



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