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## NEWS & VIEWS

June 8, 2017 | 14 Sivan, 5777

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### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Training Spiritual Leaders](#)
- [Commencement & Ordination Recap](#)
- [Torah for Millennials](#)
- [Humans of Hebrew College](#)
- [Notable & Quotable](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Subscribe to News & Views](#)
- [Blogs](#)



The School of Jewish Music  
and  
The Rabbinical School  
of Hebrew College



## Training Spiritual Leaders for the Pulpit and Beyond

We live in a changing Jewish world in which the demands on clergy and the needs for their strong leadership have never been greater. Patterns of Jewish identification and

involvement are shifting and people are searching for new ways of connecting to one another and to Jewish life.

At Hebrew College, this year's Class of 5777 — made up of 14 rabbis and cantors — are stepping into this world well-prepared. And the Jewish community is eagerly anticipating the arrival of the newest graduates, as evidenced by the positions they have accepted. This year's class of 11 new rabbis — including our first rav-hazzan (rabbi-cantor) — has a **100 percent placement rate**, taking on leadership roles in affiliated and independent congregations, Hillels, day schools, communal institutions and chaplaincy settings in six different states across the country. Similarly, our three graduating cantors will be leading diverse Jewish communities across the world including Maine, Canada, and Singapore.

**Success Breeds Success: Talented Incoming Ordination Students**

The diverse opportunities a Hebrew College ordination affords is borne out by the record 22 incoming students joining the [Rabbinical School](#) and [The School of Jewish Music](#) this fall — representing the most successful total recruitment season for the two programs since their founding. The new rabbinical students hail from nine different states. Among the incoming students are individuals who grew up in all the major movements of Judaism and the spaces in-between, and come to Hebrew College with strong educational backgrounds and rich professional experiences, including working in Jewish and secular education, urban planning, elder care, communal service and Hillel.

"It is inspiring to welcome such an extraordinary group of people into our Rabbinical School community," said Rabbi Daniel Klein, Rab'10, MEd'10 (right), the Rabbinical School's Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Life. "It is an energizing reminder of the importance and resonance in the world of our expansive, creative, yet traditionally rooted approach to Judaism and spiritual leadership."



The School of Jewish Music will be welcoming five new students to its cutting-edge Cantorial Ordination for Spiritual and Educational Leadership (COSEL) program; each will earn a Master of Jewish Education degree in addition to cantorial ordination. Students come from Boston, Maryland and Pennsylvania, with diverse backgrounds and portfolios, ranging from classical musicians to Jewish educators to software engineers. Three completed their undergraduate work in music conservatories.

Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer (right), Dean of Hebrew College's School of Jewish Music, remarked, "The talent of this group of entering students is tremendous. They bring energy and creativity that we can already see as having a major impact on our school and the broader Jewish community, and we are gratified to welcome our largest class yet. The wind is in our sails."



*(Pictured above left, l-r) Newly ordained cantors Beth Strassler, Julie Newman and Audrey Klein. (Above right, front row l-r) Newly ordained rabbis Gray Myrseth, Aliza Berger (dual rav-hazzan ordainee), Mónica Gomery, Leora Abelson, Sarah Mulhern, Elie Lehmann. (Back row) Moshe Givental, Micah Shapiro, David Winship, Arielle Rosenberg and Ezra Balser.*

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## Commencement & Ordination 5777



On June 4, Hebrew College responded to that call as it celebrated its 92nd [Commencement and Ordination ceremonies](#), graduating 11 rabbinical students and four cantorial students – including the college's first Rav-Hazzan (dual Rabbinical and Cantorial ordainee) – as well as 42 master's degree students. The College also awarded 13 certificates.

In the morning graduation ceremony at Hebrew College, honorary degrees were awarded to Professor Judith Kates (right) of Hebrew College, and Professor Daniel Matt and Margot Pritzker for their collaboration to produce The Zohar: The Pritzker Edition. [Read Dr. Kates' remarks.](#)



Student speakers included Rabbinical School graduate, Mónica Gomery, Rab '17, MAJS '17 (top left), as well as Barbara Merson and Lori Riegel (top right, l-r), each of whom received a PhD in Educational Studies and a Certificate in Jewish Educational Leadership from the joint program between Hebrew College and Lesley University.

Also honored were Rabbinical School Hebrew Language Coordinator Harvey N. Bock, who received the Sidney Hillson/Rose Bronstein Memorial Award for distinguished leadership and commitment to the centrality of the Hebrew language in Jewish education, and Marion Gribetz, Shoolman School Director of Educational Initiatives, who received The Dr. Benjamin J. Shevach Memorial Award for distinguished achievement in Jewish educational leadership.

In moving ordination ceremonies held in the afternoon at Temple Reyim in Newton, each ordainee was presented with a tallit (prayer shawl) by a faculty member from his or her school. At the Rabbinical School ceremony, Rector of the Rabbinical School Rabbi Arthur Green, encouraged “seekers to become rabbis and rabbis to become seekers.” He also emphasized that, “in our mission as people of love,” we must understand, “there is no separation possible between the call for love and the demand for justice. [Read his remarks.](#)

At the Cantorial Ordination ceremony, Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer told the new cantors, “*Shir Hashirim*. Go forth daughters of Zion...you have gone forth seeking wisdom. From long distances and over high hurdles, each of you has gone out of your way to attain this wisdom...We're grateful to Hebrew College for giving us the opportunity to teach the cantors of the next generation for 21st Century Jewry.”

[Commencement Photos](#) | [Rabbinical Ordination Photos](#) | [Cantorial Ordination Photos](#)

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## Torah for Millennials: Rabbinical School Voices on Teaching for the Eser Young Adult Series



[Rabbinical School](#) students have the unique opportunity to hone their curriculum development and teaching skills as teachers for [Hebrew College's Eser Young Adult Learning Series](#) offered in conjunction with CJP.

Eser (which means 10) is an adult learning program for young adults. For ten weeks, Eser groups meet in private homes to explore 10 topics relevant to millennials. Topics have ranged from gun control and tattoos, to student debt and euthanasia – all taught through a Jewish lens. Each year, several Hebrew College Rabbinical School students take on teaching roles; each teacher is responsible for developing one of the teaching units, peer-reviewing all the units and then running an Eser group where they teach all 10 units over 10 weeks.

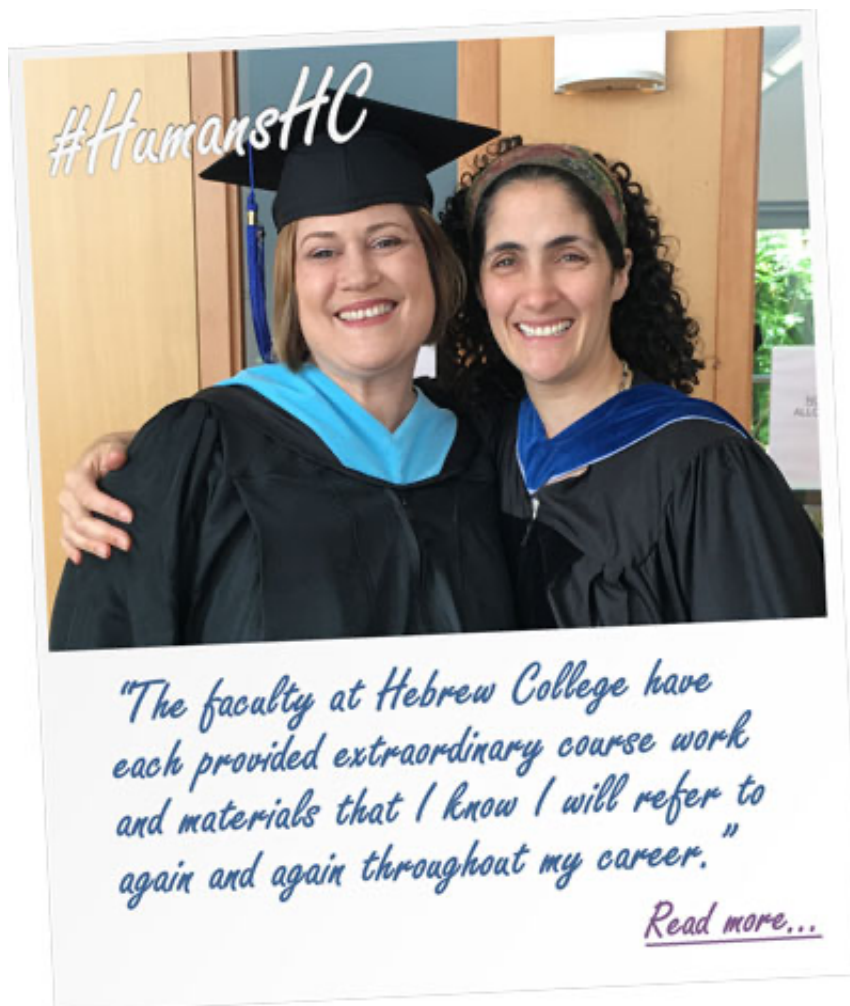
This spring, Hebrew College Rabbinical School students Ben Barer and Ilana Krakowski were among the cohort of Eser teachers. Ben, who developed a unit on student debt, and Ilana, who developed a unit on "fast fashion," share their insight into teaching in Eser and how it has impacted their Rabbinical School experience.

> [WATCH NOW](#)

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## Humans of Hebrew College #HumansHC





Learn more about [Julie Zorn, MJE'd '17](#) (above, left with Shoolman Associate Dean Dr. Deborah Skolnick Einhorn) and the Shoolman School's online [Master of Jewish Education \(MJE'd\)](#) program — still accepting applications.

If you are interested in being featured as one of our #Humans, 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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## Notable & Quotable

Rabbinical School student **Jevin Eagle** was featured in the [Boston Globe May 27 Metro section cover story](#), "Boardroom to bimah" about his new position as executive director of BU Hillel. Eagle and **Rabbi Elie Lehmann, Rab'17, MAJS'17**, were also featured in the May 27 Jewish Advocate and a June 5 [story in BU Today](#) about their new roles at BU Hillel.



[Early Childhood Institute](#) Director Rachel Raz was invited to serve on a panel entitled, "Research on Professional Development in Jewish Education: What do we have and what do we need?" at the June 5 Network for Research in Jewish Education conference (NRJE) at Brandies University.



Rabbi Dr. Dan Judson, Director of Professional Development & Placement for the Rabbinical School and an expert on synagogue dues, was featured in a June 2 [New York Jewish Week article](#) entitled, "Synagogues Upending Old Model for Dues."



## June & July Hebrew College Events

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



### Celebrate Israel Festival

June 11 from 2-6 pm

The Arsenal Mall | 485 Arsenal Street in Watertown, MA

\$20/family until June 8 | \$25/family & \$10/individual after June 8

Organizers: The Israeli American Council (IAC) & Boston and Combined Jewish Philanthropies in collaboration with community partners & sponsors including Hebrew College

[Learn more & Purchase Ticket\(s\)](#)

### 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 at 6:30 pm reception - 7 pm concert

Hebrew College | \$10  
[Purchase tickets](#)

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## From the Hebrew College Blog (blog.hebrewcollege.edu)

### RABBINICAL SCHOOL DIVREI TORAH BLOG

## Our Deepest Service in this World

By Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld  
 Dean, [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#)

*"Every individual is a small world unto himself... No person has ever been identical to another person since the creation of the world, and therefore each and every person has a special shlichut, a distinctive purpose for which he was sent... The beginning of all avodah, all service, is discovering for what particular purpose one was sent to this world."*

— Rabbi Sholom Noach Berezovsky, Netivot Shalom



The longing to live a life that matters is universal, but it is not generic. It is deeply personal and particular. In many Hasidic teachings, this idea is powerfully conveyed through the language of "shlichut" — the idea that every person is "sent" to this world to fulfill a unique and particular purpose.

Needless to say, the task of discerning our particular purpose is not simple, and our responsibility to the world does not remain static. According to the Netivot Shalom, it requires that we pay close attention — in every hour and season of our lives — both to our greatest struggles and our greatest strengths. We each have places within ourselves that

are in need of deep repair — limitations we will wrestle with throughout our lives. And we each have our own distinct talents, our particular ways of serving God.

> [READ FULL POST](#)

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## COMMUNITY BLOG

### My Rabbinate

By [Rabbi Arthur Green](#)

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

(Delivered at Rabbinical School Ordination on June 4, 2017)

Today marks the fiftieth anniversary of my ordination as a rabbi. I was ordained on June 4, 1967 — the day before the outbreak of the Six-Day War. It was a moment of high drama for all involved. Elie Wiesel was the graduation speaker; the air was thick with tremors of a new Holocaust, while we as a community were just beginning to fully absorb the shock of the last one.



I had come remarkably close to missing that event. I was a pretty radical young man in those days. Within weeks of graduation, I had been ready to tell the institution that I wanted no part of its degree, that the rabbinate had become so corrupt an institution, and the title so debased, that I would not accept it. That was 1967, after all. Even two years later, I published a now embarrassingly self-righteous piece in a Judaism Magazine symposium, where I complained about the vacuousness of synagogue life and railed against rabbis who shared the bourgeois lives and values of their congregants. If you want to be generous, you may call it my Heschelian prophetic period.

> [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](#).

### If Only God's People Were Prophets!

#### Parashat B'ha'alot'cha, Numbers 8:1-12:16

By Dr. Rachel Adelman

Assistant Professor of Bible, [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#)

The Israelites journeyed through the wilderness when the Divine Presence still whispered in their midst. Though the sense of God's footfall has long faded in our own turbulent times, the two rhetorical questions that punctuate this week's Torah reading still resound. In one, the people complain, "If only we had meat to eat!"—more literally, who will feed us meat?; in the other, Moses calls for shared leadership: "If only all God's people were prophets"—more literally, who will make all of God's people prophets? These two questions by definition have no answers, yet they point to greater, real questions: To whom do we cast our eyes when hungry? What should we really desire?





In Numbers, chapter 11, two incidents are interwoven: the first centers on the people's craving for meat, which prompts the second: the transference of prophecy from Moses to the seventy elders. A cry of complaint opens each story. The first moves from the riffraff who "felt a gluttonous craving," to the Israelites' demand: "'If only we had flesh to eat!'" (v, 4). Moses expresses the second in exasperated response: "'Have I conceived all this people? Have I given birth to them, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nursing father carries a suckling child...'" (v, 12). He is fed up; the people are feckless, too heavy a burden for him to bear.

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