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Hebrew College ordains ten new rabbis and three new cantors in online ceremonies

NEWTON, MA -- Hebrew College [honored](#) more than 30 rabbis, cantors, and Jewish educators during [virtual graduation ceremonies](#) on Sunday, June 7. The ceremony marks the 99th graduation in the College's history, but the first to be held virtually. Graduating students are going on to serve Jewish institutions throughout Greater Boston and across North America.

During the ceremony, Hebrew College bestowed an honorary degree upon Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman, president of Rabbis for Human Rights, and the founding rabbi of Kol Haneshama, a synagogue and influential center of progressive Judaism in Israel. Rabbi Weiman-Kelman spoke powerfully on the spiritual challenges of the pandemic, exhorting graduates to help others find meaning in both *simchas* [joyous times] and in struggle.

Hebrew College President Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld also spoke of the challenges facing the world and the critical role that Hebrew College graduates must play in "bringing the world that we see a little closer to the world that might be."

"While we are all profoundly grateful for the virtual technology that has allowed us to continue to study and pray together, that allows us to celebrate together today, there is nothing virtual about the reality of our connections to one another. And there is nothing virtual about the world in need of your care, in need of your courage, compassion, and creativity. In need of your imagination," she said. "Please remember it is not just Zoom that allows us to stay connected when we're physically apart. It is imagination. It is imagination that allows us to inhabit worlds outside of our own, that allows the voices on the pages of our holy texts to mingle with the voices around the tables of our *Beit Midrash*, that allows us to pray to a God we can't see or touch, that allows us to work for a world of dignity for all people."

Following graduation, Hebrew College held [ordination ceremonies for its graduating Rabbis and Cantors](#). This year's graduates will work in Reform, Conservative and Independent synagogues, Hillels, and pastoral care settings across the United States and Canada. Greater Boston placements include Rabbi Mimi Micner, who is joining Temple Beth Torah in Holliston, Mass.; Rabbi Talia Stein, who is joining Temple Sinai in Brookline; and Cantor David Wolff, who is joining Temple Beth Am in Framingham.

"I have learned so much at Hebrew College about community," Cantor Wolff said. "I learned from the constant flow of real, vulnerable communication in our community. I saw the community's authentic compassion in response to struggle, and its overflowing joy in response to success. I am so excited to take the compassion of our community into my new position, as cantor and co-education director at Temple Beth Am in Framingham, MA."

“My experience at Hebrew College has given me the tools to understand what values, what learning, what actions are important to me because they are important to me and not because someone else says they are important. I learned a lot of text, but most importantly, I learned how to authentically teach and live my Torah,” added Rabbi Stein. “I am thrilled to be continuing my work at Temple Sinai in Brookline, MA as their assistant rabbi. This community embodies what it means to be a *kehilah shel hesed*, a community of loving-kindness.”

Graduates and Ordainees

BACHELOR OF JEWISH EDUCATION

Brooke Anne Fisher
Ari Pinchas Huberman

MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH STUDIES

Leah Skylar Beck
Alicia Dansker DePaolo
Valeria Forte
Jessica Sarah Goldberg
SAM Luckey
Michal Sharon Micner
Melinda Gordon Nearhoof
Sarah A. Noyovitz
Matthew Rubin Ponak
Rachel Amy Putterman
Shimon David Solkowitz

MASTER OF JEWISH EDUCATION

Leah Skylar Beck
Alicia Dansker DePaolo
Brooke Anne Fisher
Jessica Ann Schwartz Green
Paula Hoffman
Gita Dalia Karasov
Kelly Kossar
Noam Vered Raye Berl Lerman
Alison Faith Levy
Arielle Nicole Hersh Levy
Devora Bena Rohr
Rachel Slusky
Shimon David Solkowitz
Talia Eve Stein
Marc Louis Stober
Rebecca Lee Weintraub
David Daniel Wolff

MASTER OF JEWISH EDUCATION, PARDES EDUCATORS PROGRAM

Tova Dorit Messer
Lara Hannah Rodin
Joseph Nadiv Simcha Schiff

CERTIFICATE IN INTERFAITH FAMILIES JEWISH ENGAGEMENT

Jennifer Nicole Boyle
Robyn Keri Hurvitz
Lorin James Troderman
Marla Weiner

CERTIFICATE IN JEWISH SACRED MUSIC

SAM Luckey
Noele Lorraine Shahan

CANTORIAL ORDINATION

Jennifer Nicole Boyle
Rachel Slusky
David Daniel Wolff

RABBINIC ORDINATION

Jessica Sarah Goldberg
Gita Dalia Karasov
Noam Vered Raye Berl Lerman
SAM Luckey
Michal Sharon Micner
Sarah A. Noyovitz
Matthew Rubin Ponak
Rachel Amy Putterman
Talia Eve Stein
Rebecca Lee Weintraub