Reimagining Jewish learning and leadership for an interconnected world. Making our lives more meaningful, our communities more vibrant, and our world more whole.

HEBREW COLLEGE 2021 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

LIVING OUR MISSION
REimagining Jewish learning and leadership for 
an interconnected world. Making our lives more 
meaningful, our communities more vibrant, and 
our world more whole. Hebrew College Mission Statement, 2021

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

It’s been two years since our lives were turned upside down by a world-wide pandemic.

During these two years, we have all been challenged to be imaginative and resilient, to find creative ways to strengthen the bonds between us. At Hebrew College, we have doubled down on our efforts to provide meaningful content and connection for individuals and communities, to prepare compelling and compassionate leaders for today’s world, and to sustain the substance and spirit that is at the heart of our life together.

A year ago, in the midst of the pandemic winter, we decided to revisit and renew our mission—to return to the most basic questions about who and whose we are, to find fresh language to give expression to our core values—values that are enduring precisely because they are always evolving and unfolding in new ways.

Our new mission statement was developed through a college-wide process of reflection and approved by the Hebrew College Board of Trustees in June 2020:

Reimagining Jewish learning and leadership for an interconnected world. Making our lives more meaningful, our communities more vibrant, and our world more whole.

This refreshed mission statement reflects a blend of achievement and aspiration as we mark our Centennial this year. It speaks to the heart of who we are and to the change we hope to inspire.

We celebrate our mission in this year’s Annual Impact Report—sharing stories of interconnection, content-rich community, meaning-making, local and global service, spiritual creativity, learning and growth—all possible thanks to your partnership, support, and shared vision.

While this Annual Impact Report looks back at the year that has passed, it also looks forward—to our Capital Campaign, to our new home on a shared campus in Newton, MA, and to our deepened partnerships and collaborations. I hope the stories in these pages will fill you with a sense of pride in all we have accomplished, and will enable us to look to the future together—with a renewed sense of responsibility, humility, and hope, and with hearts opening to joy.

With blessings of good health and sustaining connections,

RABBI SHARON COHEN ANISFELD
President, Hebrew College
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Mazel Tov to all the honorees who are helping to ensure that Hebrew College.

Thank you [Rabbi] Jordan [Schuster] for your endearing words. May Jill’s memory continue to be a memory in our community.”

Susan Schechter, Myra Snyder, and Diane Troderman.

Despite the event being virtual, we felt our community come together during the event. We received more than 60 video responses to our question “What makes a community?”, which we shared online, and we were uplifted and inspired by what people had to say:

“Mazel tov to all these amazing women—and a shout out to Hebrew College for creating, nourishing & maintaining this very special community!!!”

“We are fortunate to have it located in our community. It is a privilege to invest in our present and future scholars and leaders.” (Beverly Bally)

EXPLORING HISTORY THROUGH GENEALOGY

Hebrew College’s Me’ah Classic alumna Shirley Saunders became interested in the “conversos” community more than 30 years ago. Thanks to Saunders, a former program chair of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston (JGSGB) who has taken numerous Hebrew College classes, we hosted a screening of the film “Inquisition” in October 2020, followed by a live Zoom panel discussion with the executive producer, director, and guests. The event was so popular that the College held a second screening and discussion in November. In total, 500 people from the United States, Canada, Germany, Spain, and the United Kingdom participated! This event was made possible thanks to Saunders’ leadership and was co-sponsored by Hebrew College, JGSGB, and Temple Beth Sholom in Framingham, MA.

“I think it makes you feel a connection to yourself and your history. It’s a privilege to invest in our present and future scholars and leaders.” (Beverly Bally)

“You make a Community!

We were filled with deep gratitude for the more than 400 people who joined us for Hebrew College’s virtual spring event, “What Makes a Community?” on May 2, 2021.

Building Hebrew College’s Living Legacy Society

Thanks to the leadership of Hebrew College Board member Deborah Feinstein and Development Director Rosa Franck, along with Rabbi Van Lanckton and Dan Miller, Hebrew College planted the seeds for a new planned giving program called the Hebrew College Living Legacy Society in spring 2021.

Legacy gifts to Hebrew College support the education of future Jewish leaders, help create innovative and inspiring programming, and build interdenominational and interreligious understanding, while offering financial and tax benefits.


RECORD NUMBER OF ADULT LEARNERS ZOOM INTO ONLINE CLASSES

Hebrew College Adult Learning had a record number of students Zoom in for virtual classes during the 2020-2021 academic year. More than 1,400 students around the country and the world studied in Me’ah Classic and Select, Open Circle Jewish Learning, Parenting Through a Jewish Lens, and Ulpan Hebrew Language, all offered online due to the pandemic.

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RENEWING TORAH

HEBREW COLLEGE’S ROSH HODESH E-NEWSLETTER

We have so many reasons to thank our supporters—for their time, their generous financial support, their leadership—and their ideas! In fall 2020, when Hebrew College Board member David Hoffman suggested that the College share content each Rosh Hodesh (the “new moon” marking the Hebrew monthly calendar), we jumped at the chance to launch a new monthly newsletter called “Renewing Torah.”

In each issue, we introduce text and imagery for the Hebrew month, share the College’s popular “Seventy Faces of Torah” blog, and feature episodes of our Speaking Torah podcast. We also include links to faculty, alumni, and student writing from our “On Torah” web page.

The feedback has been so positive that we are continuing to publish the newsletter in May.

HEBREW COLLEGE REACCREDITED

Every 10 years, Hebrew College is required to go through a reaccreditation process through the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). After two years of in-depth data collection, review, and analysis by Hebrew College staff, culminating in a 12-page self-study, we are pleased to report that NECHE re-accredited Hebrew College during the summer of 2021. Accreditation of an institution of higher education by NECHE is a peer review process. An accredited college or university is one that has the necessary resources to achieve its stated purposes through appropriate educational programs and gives reasonable evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Institutional integrity is also addressed through accreditation.

“Planning what we leave for future generations is an act of trust, generosity, and caring for humanity. Hebrew College will carry on after us.”

Deborah Feinstein, whose mother was a 1930 Hebrew College graduate——

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES ONLINE

Hebrew College celebrated the Class of 2021/5781 on June 6, 2021, ordaining 10 rabbis and 3 cantors; conferring 31 masters degrees in Jewish Education and Jewish Studies; and awarding honorary degrees to Rabbi Nancy Flam, a pioneer in the field of Jewish healing and contemporary spirituality, and Melila Hazan-Eshed, a professor of Jewish mysticism.

To the ordination Class of 2021, $24,058 was raised for Hebrew College scholarships.

“MY fervent hope is that as leaders, as teachers and singers, and sacred weavers of Torah and life, you will strive to be a force for greater connection and compassion, greater empathy, greater humanity, and greater dignity for all,” President Sharon Cohen Anisfeld told the graduates.

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CLOSE TO 150 adult learners—including students in Israel, France, and the United Kingdom, some zooming in from different time zones in the middle of the night—enrolled in Hebrew College Rector Rabbi Art Green’s two-part course, “Old Wine, New Vessel: A Hasidic Master Addresses Today’s Seekers.” Based on teaching from his new translation of the Hasidic classic, The Light of the Eyes (Stanford University Press.).

“[These classes were community gatherings in the best sense of the word, even if they were virtual!]” said Sara Brown, director of Hebrew College Adult Learning. “We were excited to welcome so many students and are proud that our long-standing learners were able to pivot online in the face of the pandemic. It was wonderful to observe students, some well into their 80’s, exploring new technologies to learn and stay connected during this unprecedented time.”
Mazel Tov to all the honorees who are helping to ensure that Hebrew College goes from community?, which we shared online, and we were uplifted and inspired by on May 2, 2021.

We received more than 60 video responses to our question “What makes a community?”, which we received from more than 400 people who joined Hebrew College’s virtual spring event, “What Makes a Community?”

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Deborah Feinstein, whose mother was a 1930 Hebrew College graduate

You make a community!

Susan Schechter, Myra Snyder, and Diane Troderman.

“My father was always active in community work, so I grew up with a sense of belonging, it’s a sense of not being alone,” Saunders said.

“I think it makes you feel a connection to yourself and your history. It’s a sense of belonging, it’s a sense of not being alone,” Saunders said.

“Israel is a gardener in the garden of God. She is assigned to cultivate this garden, to plant seeds of joy and generosity and gratitude, and to guard it. That is also what Hebrew College is for our community.” (Nancy Belsky)

“I Round a community of learners, women who are there to learn, to share our intellect and our hearts. That’s possible because of a wealth of intellect and spirituality at Hebrew College and with our Hebrew College teachers.” (Susan Schechter)

“[Rabbi] Sharon [Cohen Anisfeld] is a gardener in the garden of God. She is assigned to cultivate this garden, to plant seeds of joy and generosity and gratitude, and to guard it. That is also what Hebrew College is for our community.” (Nancy Belsky)

“Hebrew College has made me so enthusiastic and so excited about learning. When people ask me what I do, I joke, ‘I’m taking four classes and raising $10 million for the Capital Campaign.’ I’m all in. It’s just wonderful.” (Myra Snyder)

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Hebrew College has one of the pillars of our educational institutions. We are fortunate to have it located in our community. It is a privilege to invest in our present and future scholars and leaders.” (Beverly Bavy)

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BUILDING HEBRWE COLLEGE’S LIVING LEGACY SOCIETY

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Legacy gifts to Hebrew College support the education of future Jewish leaders, help create innovative and inspiring programming, and build interdenominational and interreligious understanding, while offering financial and tax benefits.

Legacy Society members include: Ellen Kanner Bresnick and William Bresnick, The Cohen Family, Martha Cohen, Deborah and Ron Feinstein, Susan Fish, Judge Rand Hoch, Anne and Rabbi Van Lanckton, Cantor Harold Lew, Marsha “Mikki” Wittenberg Lewin, Daniel Miller, Lyte Ryter, Marsha Slotnick, and two anonymous donors. Visit Learn more at hebrewcollege.edu/legacy
Reimagining Jewish learning and leadership for an interconnected world

In spring 2021, Hebrew College announced plans for its new home on a shared Jewish campus in the Auburndale neighborhood of Newton and launched its capital campaign, “Branching Out, Building Together.” With this upcoming move, Hebrew College will create an interdisciplinary hub of Jewish learning, spirituality, and innovation, reimagining Jewish learning and leadership for an interconnected world.

MATAROT: SUPPORTING & TRAINING JEWISH EDUCATORS FOR AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD

Last spring, Hebrew School teachers and administrators from as close as Newton and as far as Montreal gathered on Zoom with David Moss, a Jerusalem-based artist whose artwork hangs throughout Hebrew College, to talk about their journeys during the pandemic; to explore artistic and creative expressions of journeys, maps, and itineraries; and to discuss how to implement these ideas with their students. This was part of Hebrew College’s “For Our Teachers and Their Students,” a professional development program generously supported by CJP. MATAROT is living up to its slogan: Your Goals. Your Growth. Learn more at hebrewcollege.edu/matarot

TEEN BEIT MIDRASH STUDENTS COMBINE CREATIVITY & TEXT

Is squid ink Kosher? Can you time travel on shabbos? Students in Hebrew College’s Teen Beit Midrash program tackle these questions together using creativity, text study, and pluralistic perspectives, and learn about themselves and their classmates in the process. At the end of the year, students do hazarah, meaning they review all that they have learned during the year. Then they identify the themes of the year, pick their favorite quotes, and make their own Talmud of the quotes. Last spring, Teen Beit Midrash students also honed their creativity to create promotional videos about their program encouraging other teens who love to learn to come together to explore big questions and issues through Talmud.

BRANCHING OUT. BUILDING TOGETHER.

We asked you to enlarge the tent of our community. To stretch your imagination wide. Not hold back. And you answered our call with extraordinary generosity. Thanks to our Capital Campaign donors and a generous $1M matching grant from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation, we will have a new, shared campus home that will serve as a national model for Jewish communities around the country. Three years ago, Hebrew College made the decision to sell the College’s current campus to eliminate debt, reduce operating costs, re dedicate resources to people and programs, and seek new opportunities for strategic partnership and collaboration. Today, we have broken ground and are preparing to move to our new home in Newton, MA in January 2023.

We are grateful to our Capital Campaign chairs, who worked tirelessly to turn our vision into a reality: Beverly Bavly, Nancy Kaplan Belsky, Andy Offit, Susan Schechter, Myra Snyder, and Diane Froedeman. We are also thankful to donors who have lent their names to parts of the new building, and to our Honorary Committee Community Leaders & Scholars. Your extraordinary support helped us meet this goal:

Lawrence Bacow
Rabbi Marc Baker
Michael Bohnen
Rabbi Angela Warrick Buchdahl
Anita Diamant
Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum
Rabbi David Eilenson
Sharon Feiman-Nemser
Michael Fishbane
Rabbi Arthur Green
Celene Ibrahim
Joshua Jacobson
Judith Kates
Idith Klein
Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum
Ruth Messinger
Shula Reinhart
Judith Rosenbaum
Terry Rosenberg
Jonathan Sama
Barry Shrage
Rabbi Mark Sokol
Carol Targum

View campaign donors on p. 21
Learn more at hebrewcollege.edu/campaign

MORRIS LEVENTHAL TEACHING PRIMARY SOURCES w. GARY MARSHALL LEWIS: WOMEN & ARCHIVE
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Due to the growing success of these programs, Hebrew College established MaTaRoT (Goals): Hebrew College’s Center for Jewish Professional Development. And with a full slate of offerings in 2021-2022 that have attracted Jewish educators from around the country, MaTaRoT is living up to its slogan: Your Goals. Your Growth.

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In a year when finding meaning was more essential than ever, Hebrew College answered the call with innovative programs for the heart and soul. Thanks to generous grants and gifts, we brought online music, art, and moments of calm to communities around the world.

**“FAITH IN ISOLATION EXPRESSED” PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT**

How does one worship alone? How have people of different religions embraced their faith traditions during the pandemic? How have sacred texts and rituals provided comfort in these times of isolation? Hebrew College embraced these questions in a pandemic-inspired photography show curated by Beacon Hill photographer and teacher Brenda Bancel entitled “Faith in Isolation Expressed,” which ran April 12 to June 6, 2021.

“All religions have beautiful things to share with one another. I wanted to show how different religious practitioners who were isolated from their communities were strengthened by their faith, revealing the core values of their inherent purpose,” said Bancel. “I wanted to show how they embraced this time with grit and grace.”

Bancel’s show was the first in-person public event at Hebrew College since the start of the pandemic. The exhibit was coordinated by the College’s new Arts Initiative, which was established in 2020, creating an invigorating outlet for fostering love of Torah, social justice, pluralism, and creativity through visual art. The Arts Committee—with members Dorothea Buckler, Deborah Feinstein, Bette Ann Libby, Joshua Meyer, and Susan Schechter—selected various artists whose work focuses on creative dialogue with sacred texts and related sources of wisdom.

Learn more at hebrewcollege.edu/hebrew-college-arts-initiative

**PSALMSEASON: AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE WISDOM OF PSALMS**

In response to the unfolding global pandemic and upheaval over racial injustice, the Miller Center for Intercultural Learning & Leadership at Hebrew College partnered with Interfaith Youth Core to launch a major new digital initiative on the Book of Psalms entitled “PsalmSeason: An Online Encounter with the Wisdom of the Psalms”. Miller Center Director Rabbi Or Rose envisioned the project to serve as a space for reflection and support, where participants could workshop their projects with one another to elicit critique and feedback.

“The arts became essentially important when people were constrained from being together face-to-face. If anything, there was a huge proliferation of innovative projects to engage people through music, dance, creative expression, and visual arts,” said Rabbi Jeffrey Summit, director of the Hebrew College Innovation Lab and Research Professor in Tufts University’s Department of Music and Judaic Studies. “Our focus was how to use our tools at hand to keep cultural and spiritual and artistic life vibrant under the constraints of today’s world.”

The Innovation Lab at Hebrew College provided funding to current or recent Hebrew College ordination students and alumni to design and implement innovative approaches to spirituality. Participants took part in a weekly seminar where they discussed models of leadership and characteristics that are essential to a leader’s success, as well as practical models of project development and management, including evaluation and fundraising. The seminar also served as a space for reflection and support, where participants could workshop their projects with one another to elicit critique and feedback.

“We talked about what it meant to be able to assess what people needed and what the current situation demanded of us as leaders, and we looked at the creativity that the Jewish community used when we had to go through crises in the past,” Rabbi Summit said. “The members of the Innovation Lab were thought leaders at a time when the Jewish community needed innovative leadership more than ever.”

**ELUL TOGETHER 5781: PREPARING FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS IN A TIME OF UPHEAVAL**

Elul, the month leading up to the High Holy Days, is traditionally an opportunity for introspection, reflection, and self-growth. In response to the isolation of the pandemic, Hebrew College created Elul Together: Preparing for the High Holidays in a Time of Upheaval in fall 2020—bringing teachings, music, and the sound of the shofar into the homes of the broader community during a time of isolation.

Each week of Elul 5781, during High Holy Day preparation, Hebrew College posted videos, art, and journal prompts. “We invited people to watch, listen, write, make art, and share their reflections on social media with the hashtag #ElulTogether because we were in it together,” said Rabbi Shoshana Friedman ’14, who spearheaded the project with Rabbi Suzanne Offit ’90.

Learn more at hebrewcollege.edu/elultogether

**INNOVATING ART, MUSIC, AND SPIRITUALITY IN A TIME OF CHALLENGE**

How can the arts enhance our spiritual connection—even when we cannot be together? Last year, students in the Hebrew College’s Innovation Lab tackled this question—implementing innovative creative visual, musical, movement-based, and personal narrative projects to enhance congregational and religious life during the unprecedented time of COVID-19.

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**“SPEAKING TORAH” PODCAST**

Torah is one of the most profound sources of wisdom available to us. So in 2019, when Hebrew College Board member Tara Mohr offered to support the launch of a new Hebrew College Torah podcast, “Speaking Torah” was born and continued to grow in 2020-2021 with new episodes.

Each season features writers and readers thinking creatively about how Torah is relevant to today. Hebrew College faculty and rabbinical alumni and Jewish leaders from around the world read essays from colleagues about how Torah can help us navigate the most pressing issues of our time. Together, we explore the ways Torah can help us approach the world with creativity, healing, and hope.

“After listening to the podcast, we hope listeners feel inspired, uplifted, and excited to engage with Torah in a modern, transformative way,” said Hebrew College President Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld.

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Learn more at hebrewcollege.edu/hebrew-college-arts-initiative
“FAITH IN ISOLATION EXPRESSED” PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

How does one worship alone? How have people of different religions embraced their faith traditions during the pandemic? How have sacred texts and rituals provided comfort in these times of isolation? Hebrew College embraced these questions in a pandemic-inspired photography show curated by Beacon Hill photographer and teacher Brenda Bancel. Entitled “Faith in Isolation Expressed,” which ran April 12 to June 6, 2021.

“All religions have beautiful things to share with one another. I wanted to show how different religious practitioners who were isolated from their communities were strengthened by their faith, revealing the core values of their inherent purpose,” said Bancel. “I wanted to show how they embraced this time with grit and grace.”

Bancel’s show was the first in-person public event at Hebrew College since the start of the pandemic. The exhibit was coordinated by the College’s new Arts Initiative, which was established in 2020, creating an invigorating outlet for fostering love of Torah, social justice, pluralism, and creativity through visual art. The Arts Committee—with members Dorotha Buckler, Deborah Feinstein, Bette Ann Libby, Joshua Meyer, and Susan Schechter—selects various artists whose work focuses on creative dialogue with sacred texts and related sources of wisdom.

Learn more at hebrewcollege.edu/hebrew-college-arts-initiative

PSALMSEASON: AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE WISDOM OF PSALMS

In response to the unfolding global pandemic and upheaval over racial injustice, The Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership at Hebrew College partnered with Interfaith Youth Core to launch a major new digital initiative on the Book of Psalms entitled “PsalmsSeason: An Online Encounter with the Wisdom of the Psalms”. Miller Center Director Rabbi Or Rose envisioned the project and enlisted long-time interfaith colleague Rev. Paul Brandes Raushenbush, senior advisor at IFYC, to bring the project to life.

The project began with an online PsalmsSeason Concert, followed by the launch of the PsalmsSeason digital platform—an 18-week exploration of the psalms focusing on one psalm each week. The selected psalms and contemporary reflections addressed the feelings of sadness, shock, dislocation, and fear brought on by the pandemic and social upheaval. They also provided solace, strength, and hope for a better future.

Learn more at hebrewcollege.edu/psalmseason

ELUL TOGETHER 5781: PREPARING FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS IN A TIME OF UPEHAVAL

Elul, the month leading up to the High Holy Days, is traditionally an opportunity for introspection, reflection, and self-growth. In response to the isolation of the pandemic, Hebrew College created Elul Together—Preparing for the High Holidays in a Time of Upheaval in fall 2020—bringing teachings, music, and the sound of the shofar into the homes of the broader community during a time of isolation.

Each week of Elul 5781, during High Holy Day preparation, Hebrew College posted videos, art, and journal prompts. “We invited people to watch, listen, write, make art, and share their reflections on social media with the hashtag #ElulTogether because we were in it together,” said Rabbi Shoshana Friedman ’14, who spearheaded the project with Rabbi Suzanne Olliff ’99.

Visit the site at hebrewcollege.edu/elultogether

INNOVATING ART, MUSIC, AND SPIRITUALITY IN A TIME OF CHALLENGE

How can the arts enhance our spiritual connection—even when we cannot be together? Last year, students in the Hebrew College’s Innovation Lab tackled this question—implementing innovative creative visual, musical, movement-based, and personal narrative projects to enhance congregational and religious life during the unprecedented time of COVID-19.

“The arts became essentially important when people were constrained from being together face-to-face. If anything, there was a huge proliferation of innovative projects to engage people through music, dance, creative expression, and visual arts,” said Rabbi Jeffrey Summit, director of the Hebrew College Innovation Lab and Research Professor at Tufts University’s Department of Music and Judaic Studies. “Our focus was how to use our tools at hand to keep cultural and spiritual and artistic life vibrant under the constraints of today’s world.”

The Innovation Lab at Hebrew College provided funding to current or recent Hebrew College ordination students and alumni to design and implement innovative approaches to spirituality. Participants took part in a weekly seminar where they discussed models of leadership and characteristics that are essential to a leader’s success, as well as practical models of project development and management, including evaluation and fundraising. The seminar also served as a space for reflection and support, where participants could workshop their projects with one another to elicit critique and feedback.

“We talked about what it meant to be able to assess what people needed and what the current situation demanded of us as leaders, and we looked at the creativity that the Jewish community used when we had to go through crises in the past,” Rabbi Summit said. “The members of the Innovation Lab were thought leaders at a time when the Jewish community needed innovative leadership more than ever.”

“SPEAKING TORAH” PODCAST

Torah is one of the most profound sources of wisdom available to us. So in 2019, when Hebrew College Board member Tara Mohr offered to support the launch of a new Hebrew College Torah podcast, “Speaking Torah” was born and continued to grow in 2020-2021 with new episodes.

Each season features writers and readers thinking creatively about how Torah can help us navigate the most pressing issues of our time. Together, we explore the ways Torah can help us approach the world with creativity, healing, and hope.

“After listening to the podcast, we hope listeners feel inspired, uplifted, and excited to engage with Torah in a modern, transformative way,” said Hebrew College President Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld.

Watch for new seasons in 2022 at hebrewcollege.edu/podcast
Making our communities more vibrant, and our world more whole

In response to the upheaval that ignited in the summer of 2020 and beyond, Hebrew College faculty and students went into action to help heal our communities. Using the College’s signature combination of creativity, innovation, and deep wisdom from our Jewish texts, they addressed topics ranging from racial injustice to climate change, and COVID-19 education and vaccine adoption to criminal justice, domestic abuse, education inequity, and pediatric cancer.

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT: HEBREW COLLEGE TEEN AMBASSADORS AND FELLOWS TAKE ACTION TO HELP HEAL OUR CITY AND OUR WORLD

Food insecurity, Homelessness, Health education. These systemic problems have been amplified during the pandemic, particularly for underserved populations. “We can’t just stand by,” said Rabbi Dr. Rose, Founding Director of the Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership at Hebrew College. “We have to respond to the moment with care and creativity. Who better to step forward than teens, with their energy, idealism, and fresh thinking?”

Last spring and summer, Hebrew College’s Miller Center quickly launched into action—initiating three new hands-on programs for youth and young adults: The Dignity Project, The COVID Youth Commission, and the COVID-19 Faith in the Vaccine Ambassador Program.

Teens chosen for these highly-selective Hebrew College programs hailed from diverse backgrounds, neighborhoods, and faiths, but shared a common passion for addressing the challenges of the pandemic and our world today. Each program provided teens with mentorship, leadership training, interreligious and cross-cultural collaboration, and connections to new and different people and ideas.

DIGNITY PROJECT

The Miller Center began planning for The Dignity Project before the COVID outbreak because of a growing need to help teen leaders in Boston navigate the diversity of American life during a time of widespread political and cultural polarization. But the pain and isolation of the pandemic and the social uprising made the mission of this new project even more urgent and relevant. So in fall 2020, the Miller Center launched the project to train an initial cohort of 15 outstanding high schoolers from Greater Boston to serve as interreligious and cross-cultural leaders, with the capacity to engage the diversity of Boston (and broader society) with thoughtfulness, skill, and care.

COVID YOUTH COMMISSION

To help spread COVID vaccination education and resources to underserved communities in Boston, The Miller Center established The COVID Youth Commission in spring 2021 in partnership with the Center for Teen Empowerment. The teens from diverse communities and neighborhoods throughout Greater Boston were committed to addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, including some longstanding justice issues that the health crisis has brought to light or exacerbated. Student commissioners worked on one of three project teams: Advocacy, Direct Service, or Multimedia, meeting weekly.

FAITH IN THE VACCINE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

In spring 2021, the Miller Center teamed up with Interfaith Youth Core to pioneer a national program for teen student volunteers to help increase vaccine adoption in Boston-area neighborhoods where vaccine hesitancy was high. Interfaith Youth Core spearheaded the project nationally, and Hebrew College organized the Greater Boston effort, with help from local partners Turn In Reach Out, We Got Us, and Black Boston COVID Commission.

GETTING BIGGER AND BOLDER: THE NEW JEWISH CLIMATE MOVEMENT

“We have no time to waste,” wrote Rabbi Shoshana Friedman ’14 in a spring blog post about climate change. “Jewish climate warriors are emerging in pulpits, pews, and on campuses. They are bringing their institutions along with them, which in turn are starting to shake off ‘ecades of paralysis to join the urgent fight for our lives.”

The College was a co-sponsor of 2021’s Big Bold Jewish Climate Fest, an online seminar to activate more Jews and Jewish institutions to take meaningful collective action. Co-founded by Rabbi Josh Weisman ’19, the event included more than 100 sessions on topics ranging from text study and climate policy to racism and spiritual adaptation to the crisis.

Hebrew college students also stepped up, forming a new environmental sustainability committee called Admat Kodesh, dedicated to issues of environmental sustainability.

WINTER SEMINAR: BUILDING A MORE JUST SOCIETY

In response to the events of summer 2020, which raised a collective awareness of continued police brutality, white supremacy, and systemic racism, the Rabbinical School hosted its 2021 Winter Seminar on the topic of racial justice. Thanks to a generous donor, students learned from a range of inspiring rabbis, organizers, and teachers, who explored the deep suffering of racism has caused in and out of Jewish communities and offered strategies and visions for dismantling that racism and building a more equitable and life-giving future.

STUDENTS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Ordination students responded to growing gun violence with a new Hebrew College Gun Violence Prevention Group, founded by rabbinical student Daniel Dubin. The group’s mission is to advocate for sensible gun laws in Massachusetts and amplify voices that are already doing this work, primarily through the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. The group hosted events and discussions throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

“If we truly believe that all of humanity is connected, then how could we possibly stand idly by while others are senselessly dying? One does not need to look deep into the halakha to understand that too many divine lives are dying,” said Dubin.

TORAH & CREATIVITY FOR REPAIRING A BROKEN WORLD

On election day President Anisfeld shared a prayer demonstrating how Hebrew College’s signature commitment to creativity, Torah, and communal responsibility do indeed help us see that Torah is everywhere.

In this excerpt from her poem “A Prayer to the One Who Holds Us All,” President Anisfeld wrote:

We know that it is so much easier—and faster—to tear things apart
Than it is to stitch them together.
But we will keep showing up for as long as it takes
Because we are children ourselves
Because we are parents
Because we are teachers
Because we are witnesses
Because we are weavers
Because we are threads
in the tapestry of Your creation.
We will stitch together what has been torn apart.
Dear God, please give us strength. Give us wisdom. Give us courage.
 Gather us all in the embrace of your unending love.
Shema Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad.
Listen, you who wrestle,
And bear witness to the One who holds us all.

HEBREW COLLEGE TEEN LEADERS DONATE $75,000 IN GRANTS

The Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston (JTFGB), a Hebrew College program that teaches local high school students about philanthropy, civic leadership, and grant making, awarded $75,000 in grant funding—the most students in the program have ever raised—in June 2021 to 12 organizations chosen by teen leaders that focus on criminal justice, domestic abuse, education inequity, and pediatric cancer.

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OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR


Hebrew College launched celebrations of our 100th year in fall 2021 around the theme “Remember. Renew. Reimagine.”

Throughout the year, we will host special events including a Centennial Lecture Series with leading Jewish scholars from the U.S. and Israel, Centennial art exhibits and concerts, the groundbreaking for our new shared campus, and our Centennial Gala in June. In addition, plan to listen to our Centennial season of our “Speaking Torah” Podcast; read stories, view historical photos, and learn about Hebrew College’s exciting next chapter on our new shared campus in Newton, MA.

We are also pleased to be working on a new historical centennial volume entitled Hiddushim, edited by Rabbi Arthur Green, Dr. Jonathan Sarna, and Dr. Michael Fishbane.

Learn more at hebrewcollege.edu/centennial

OUR NEW HOME ON A SHARED CAMPUS

Thanks to the ongoing generous support for our Capital Campaign, “Branching Out, Building Together” our vision for a new shared campus is becoming a reality.

We are planning for our move to a new shared campus in January 2023, where we will join with Temple Reyim, Jewish Arts Collaborative, Keshet, Jewish Women’s Archive, Kesher Newton, the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis, Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and Education Center, and Zamir Chorale to create an interdisciplinary hub of Jewish learning, spirituality, and innovation. We are enlivened by this vision of deep connection and collaboration, enabling us to better serve the Jewish people and the world by branching out and building together.

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RENDERINGS OF OUR NEW HOME

Looking Forward
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- Organizations and communities being served by our alumni are growing and thriving in Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Washington D.C.
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**HEBREW COLLEGE 2020-21 FINANCIALS**

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- Hebrew College students and alumni are playing leadership roles in innovative national organizations like BASE, Hillet, CLAL: National Center for Learning and Leadership, the Emergent Synagogue Network, Machon Hadar, the Shalom Hartman Institute, Hazan, Keshet, Jewish Studio Project, Lippman-Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah, Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and Education Center, the Schusterman Fellowship, Svara: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva, Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, and more.
- The adult learning programs we have created in collaboration with Combined Jewish Philanthropies have created a vibrant culture of Jewish learning in Greater Boston, and nurtured one of the most literate Jewish communities in North America, with 1,400 adult learners participating in our classes last year alone.
- The Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership does groundbreaking work with local teens, undergraduates, and young professionals, and is a national thought leader in the field of interreligious learning and engagement—promoting a more just, compassionate, and sustainable world through study, dialogue, and joint action.
The following foundations are generously supporting the new shared campus we are creating with Temple Reyim and nine other mission-aligned organizations.

The Dorot Foundation

The Dorot Foundation is supporting the Capital Campaign through a five-year grant.

The Beker Foundation

The Beker Foundation made a donation to the campaign.

The Dorot Foundation

The Dorot Foundation made a donation to the campaign.

The Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Foundation

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donated to Hebrew College's Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership's BILI program. It will help BILI to add additional states in the North and South working with the Bridge Builders Charlottesville Campus Network. Funds will also be used to develop an open-source website that will provide practitioners and scholars with outstanding multimedia interreligious resources for use in organizing settings.

The Interfaith Youth Core donated and teamed up with Hebrew College's Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership to pioneer a new COVID-19 Faith in the Vaccine Teen Ambassadors Program. IPYC is spearheading the project nationally, and Hebrew College is organized the Greater Boston effort.

The Krupp Family Foundation donated to Hebrew College's Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership's Dignity Project.

The Jim Joseph Foundation

The Jim Joseph Foundation donated money for the College to develop a case study about the new “hub” we are creating with Temple Reyim, and nine other mission-aligned organizations.

Through the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries, the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation donated to Hebrew College's Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership's Dignity Project, a year-round program of experiential education in which graduate theological students provide interfaith and intercultural leadership development for seminary and high school students, parents, religious leaders, and educators in an intentionally diverse setting, while receiving training, coaching, guidance, hands-on learning, and peer support.

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations donated to Hebrew College’s Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership’s Boston Interfaith Leadership Initiative (BILI). The BILI program is designed for outstanding undergraduate students with a demonstrated commitment to interreligious and cross-cultural engagement on their respective campuses. This fellowship provides participants with the opportunity to engage with peers from other schools in a structured program of dialogue, study, and leadership development.

In addition to the Capital Campaign, the Dorot Foundation renewed a grant to Hebrew College’s Open Circle Jewish Learning program.

The Bettman Foundation

The Bettman Foundation awarded a $5,000 grant to Hebrew College's Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership's Boston Interfaith Leadership Initiative (BILI). The BILI program is designed for outstanding undergraduate students with a demonstrated commitment to interreligious and cross-cultural engagement on their respective campuses.

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HEBREW COLLEGE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, “BRANCHING OUT, BUILDING TOGETHER”

The following foundations are generously supporting the shared campus we are creating with Temple Reyim and nine other Jewish organizations through the Hebrew College Capital Campaign. They recognize our vision aligns with their foundations’ missions such as supporting organizations that:

- Are doing work that is creative, community-centered, and collaborative
- Support progressive social change
- Empower people and inspire hope through the arts, education, health, and social organizations
- Invest in leadership development to create just, inclusive, compassionate, and democratic societies to flourish and improve quality of life

The Beker Foundation made a donation to the campaign.

The Dorot Foundation made a donation to the campaign.

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation set up a major challenge grant that was reached.

The Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Foundation is supporting the Capital Campaign through a five-year grant.

Additional Notable Grants, Fellowships, and Scholarships

Through the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries, the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation donated to Hebrew College’s Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership’s Dignity Project, a year-round program of experiential education in which graduate theological students provide interfaith and intercultural leadership development for seminary and high school students, parents, religious leaders, and educators in an intentionally diverse setting, while receiving training, coaching, guidance, hands-on learning, and peer support.

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The Gottesman Fund donated to Hebrew College’s Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership’s BILI program. It will help BILI to additional states in the North and South working with the Bridge Builders Charlotte Campus Network. Funds will also be used to develop an open-source website that will provide practitioners and scholars with outstanding multimedia interreligious resources for use in undergraduate settings.

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Thank You to Our Donors

We deeply appreciate our donors, whose steadfast support sustains Hebrew College. Your commitment to the institution and your presence in our community are integral to our sacred work. With gratitude, we acknowledge our donors who have made a gift to our annual operating campaign through the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries, the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, Boston-Haifa Connection, Bancel Foundation, Open Circle Jewish Learning Classic Programs, Open Circle Jewish Learning Social Action, Open Circle Jewish Learning Young Adults, Parenting Through a Jewish Lens, Grandparenting Through a Jewish Lens, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, Congregational Education Initiative, and the Women’s Philanthropy Council of Greater Boston.

We are forever grateful to the 139 foundations, corporations, community groups, and individual donors whose gifts have supported the Hebrew College Capital Campaign.

We have listed our donors alphabetically. These donors are organized by categories: Support Foundation, Community Learning, Professional Development, and Congregational Education Initiative.

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I am deeply grateful to Hebrew College and my teacher, Molly Schumman, for creating the [Open Circle Social Action class, ‘Transformative Philanthropy: Grounding in Jewish Tradition to reflection and sweetening, but also a launching - [Joanne and William Segal

Leslie Brisman

Elizabeth Anisfeld

Rabbi Adina Allen and Jeff Aowitz

Anonymous (3)

Shoshanah and Yitzhak Zaritt

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Rabbi Richard Abell

Marcia Bokosky

Barbara Wax

Jennifer Wasser

Robert Stein

Rabbi Joel Pachter and Helen Weisman

Lori Kravitz and Dave Gofa"
I am deeply grateful to Hebrew College and my teacher, Molly Schuman, for creating the [Open Circle Social Action class, "Transformative Philanthropy: Grounding in Jewish Tradition to Give for the Long haul"] as not only a space for reflection and sweetening, but also a launching pad for action.

- Beca Levin, Adult Learning student, Washington D.C.
"Hebrew College prepared [my daughter Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer ‘14] well for her dual roles as Rabbi and Cantor. In the most wonderful ways, it deepened and strengthened her remarkable spirituality… I feel a deep sense of gratitude for Hebrew College and am excited about the College’s next chapter. The geographic location of Temple Rehym and Hebrew College has tremendous potential for both institutions—and for the future of Judaism in the Boston area and in the nation."

-Rabbi Meyer
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As a parent, we believe that our children are our most precious gift. We hope that by showing them the value of education and lifelong learning, we can inspire a love for knowledge and a desire for continued growth. We are proud to support the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College as it strives to educate and empower the next generation of rabbis and religious leaders. 

Liliana Togue and Alexander Guren

Our children are the future of our community, and we want to ensure that they have the opportunity to receive a high-quality education that will prepare them for leadership roles in our faith and in society. The Rabbinical School of Hebrew College is dedicated to this mission, and we are grateful for their work in educating future rabbis.

Sandra and Tony Schwartz

There are so many talented and dedicated students at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, and we are proud to support them in their journey towards becoming rabbis.

Marta and Michael Geller

We believe in the importance of education and lifelong learning, and we are committed to supporting the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College as it continues to educate and inspire future religious leaders.

Karen and Jordan Schwartz

The Rabbinical School of Hebrew College is a beacon of learning and growth, and we are proud to support it in its mission to educate and inspire the next generation of rabbis.

Sara and Michael Holveck

The Rabbinical School of Hebrew College is a vital institution that prepares the next generation of rabbis. We are proud to support its mission and to see the positive impact it has on our community.

Elissa and Michael Weiss

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Max and Beth Weisberg

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The Richmond Family

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Nora and Harold Weiss

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Sara and David Weiss

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Tina and Ron Weitz

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“As a parent and a teacher, I have a unique and precious opportunity to show my children that learning is a lifelong endeavor, that growing closer to our Creator is an ever-present challenge and that we must always strive to improve ourselves.”

— Rabbi Saul Perlmutter
THANK YOU

We thank our lay leaders, who dedicate themselves to our community.

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DESIGN: EMILY HOADLEY

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