

## HEBREW COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES | BIOGRAPHIES FY24



**Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld** was appointed President-Elect of Hebrew College in the fall of 2017 and became President on July 1, 2018. She was Dean of the Rabbinical School from 2006-2017. Prior to assuming these positions, she served as an adjunct faculty member and then dean of students at the school. After graduating from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1990, Rabbi Anisfeld spent 15 years working in pluralistic settings as a Hillel rabbi at Tufts, Yale and Harvard universities. She served as a summer faculty member for the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel since 1993 and is co-editor of two volumes of women's writings on Passover, *The Women's Seder Sourcebook: Rituals and Readings for Use at the Passover Seder* (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2002) and *The Women's Passover Companion: Women's Reflections on the Festival of Freedom* (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2002). In 2015, Rabbi Anisfeld was named one of the 50 most influential Jews in the world by *The Jerusalem Post*. From 2011 to 2013, she was named to *Newsweek's* list of Top 50 Influential Rabbis in America.



**Mark Atkins** is a retired entrepreneur and longtime volunteer at Hebrew College. In 1990, Mark co-founded Vality Technology, Inc., a Big Data software company, where he served as Chairman and CEO until 2002, when Ascential Software (IBM) acquired the company. From 2002 until 2012, he served as Chairman and CEO of Invention Machine Inc., a global innovation software system that was acquired by IHS. From 2013 until 2018, he served as an adjunct professor at the University of Massachusetts-Boston College of Management, where he taught Entrepreneurial and Global Strategic Marketing courses to MBA and undergraduate students. Over the past decade, Mark has also served as a board director, consultant, and mentor to several technology companies. Mark is a member of the Board of Overseers of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He is a past Trustee and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Hebrew College and a former board member of the University of Massachusetts Foundation, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Boston, and The Vilna Shul. He is also a former trustee of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) New England and served on the AJC National Board of Governors from 2015 until 2018. Mark was an honoree and recipient of the Vilna Visionary Leadership Award, as well as the recipient of the Distinguished Business Leader Award by the University of Massachusetts College of Management. In May 2017, Mark delivered the keynote address at the College of Management Convocation for the University of Massachusetts-Boston School of Management. In 2019, he received an honorary doctorate degree from Hebrew College. Mark received his MBA from Babson College and his BA from the University of Massachusetts-Boston, where he set up The Mark E. Atkins Scholarship Endowment.



**Nancy Kaplan Belsky** has been devoted to Jewish communal service, investing her time, expertise, and philanthropy in numerous compelling community initiatives. Nancy has served on the CJP Board of Directors. As Chair of the Committee on Services for People with Disabilities and the CJP Housing Implementation Advisory Committee, she helped guide the CJP Disabilities agenda. As chair, she collaborated with CJP's family of agencies, professional staff, and lay leadership to develop programs and a variety of housing alternatives and services to suit the full range of needs of Jewish people with disabilities. Additional Leadership includes serving as Vice President on the Board of Directors of the Rashi Jewish Day School, Vice President of the Board of Trustees of The Fessenden School, and board membership on The Anti-Defamation League. More recently, Nancy served as Board Chair of The JCC of Greater Boston. Nancy Kaplan Belsky currently serves as President of the Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Family Foundation. In honor of their founders, the foundation allocates upwards of fifty percent of the annual budget to Jewish organizations that benefit the broader community. Powered by Jewish values, the foundation embraces entrepreneurship and innovation; believes risk-taking is essential to creating a better society; understands that arts and culture are critical building blocks of vibrant communities and is passionate about advocating on behalf of vulnerable people. Nancy and Mark Belsky are members of Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley. Mark R. Belsky, MD is retired from his medical practice in Hand Surgery at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. They have three children and four grandchildren, their greatest pride and joy. Some of Nancy's personal interests include hiking, biking, and Jewish study.



**Harvey Chasen** is a founder and original member of the Board of Directors of MetroWest Jewish Day School. He received his B.S. degree from Northeastern University in Mechanical/Industrial Engineering followed by an M.B.A. He is a past officer of Temple Israel and served as chairman of the Disaster Response Committee for the Metrowest Red Cross. He has been a participant with the speaker's bureau of the Boston Alzheimer Association. Harvey is a partner with his son, Allan, in their third-generation family business, HD Chasen, which supplies material to build and maintain bridges, power plants and oil refineries worldwide. Harvey is a 2015 graduate of Me'ah and has continued his studies with Me'ah Select.



**Rabbi Jevin Eagle** is excited to leverage his entrepreneurial talent, spiritual depth, and passion for Hillel's mission as the Executive Director of Boston University Hillel and University Chaplain. He also serves on the Faculty of Boston University Questrom School of Business, as Professor of the Practice, Strategy and Innovation and Executive Director of Social Impact Initiatives. Rabbi Jevin received rabbinic ordination from Hebrew College Rabbinic School in June 2019. Prior to attending rabbinical school, Jevin Eagle was the CEO of DavidsTea, a senior executive at Staples, Inc., and a partner at McKinsey & Company. He was one of the executives responsible for Staples' "Easy

Brand” Strategy and the famous “Easy Button.” Eagle says his career change from business to the Rabbinate was the fulfillment of a life-long dream to immerse himself in Torah study and serve the Jewish people. Illustrative of his commitment to the Jewish community while working in business, Jevin served as Board Chair of Harvard Hillel and Dartmouth Hillel from 2002 to 2006. Rabbi Jevin has an MBA from Harvard Business School, where he served as an executive committee member on the Jewish Students Association, and a bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College, where he majored in religion and government and served as Hillel student president. Before Harvard Business School, he helped found Jewish Lights Publishing. He serves on the board of directors of Carter’s, Inc., the leading branded apparel marketer for babies and young children, and as a trustee of Hebrew College.



**Deborah Feinstein** was a Museum Director/educator/curator for over 25 years. With her first graduate degree in Islamic art from Harvard University, Deborah lectured on religious, historical, and cultural connection of the three major religions through the visual arts in numerous universities and museum venues. She was also the Director/Curator of the Holyoke Museum in Holyoke, Mass., as well as an educational consultant for exhibits at the Springfield Museum of Art in Springfield, Massachusetts. Working for an international exhibit design firm, Christopher Chadbourne and Associates, Deborah was project manager and an exhibit writer. For the Vilna Shul, Boston’s Center for Jewish Culture, Deborah designed and wrote the panels for “The Boston Jewish Experience: Reconnect to the Tapestry” exhibit. After completing the master’s program in Jewish Studies at Hebrew College, Deborah has used the visual image as an interpretative tool in creating Jewish illuminated manuscripts. Her volunteer life has been full ... being president of the Board of Directors for the Vilna Shul for 5 years, Chair of the Capital Campaign that raised \$4 million for its renovation, co-chair of numerous missions in Europe for USHMM, co-chairperson for the Wings of Memory Society of New England for the USHMM, a Hebrew College overseer and member of the Leadership council, and member of many committees at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, Mass.



After a 30-year rewarding career consulting with clients worldwide, **David Hoffman** is retired and is now pursuing his diverse passions including studying diplomacy and contributing his time and expertise to fostering the perpetuation and growth of the Jewish community. David was the leader of the Global Energy practice at Oliver Wyman, where he counseled energy companies for over thirty years. He specialized in the areas of strategic planning, organization transformation, post-merger integration and operational improvement. David has expertise in the areas of competitive diagnostics, customer/market segmentation, organization design, and growth assessment methodologies. David is also a member of the Board and Finance Chair at Boston University Hillel. David grew up attending Jewish Day School. Later he consulted with Boston area day schools to help develop their strategic plans focusing on growth. David received his BS and MBA from Boston University where he was an active member of BU Hillel. David and his wife, Beryl, of more than 30 years, enjoy traveling and spending time with their two grown children, daughter-in-law and two grandsons.



**Rabbi Avi Killip** is the Executive Vice President at Hadar. A graduate of Hebrew College Rabbinical School, Avi also holds Bachelors and Masters from Brandeis University. She was a Wexner Graduate Fellow and a Schusterman Fellow. Avi teaches as part of Hadar's Faculty and is host of Hadar's podcasts, Responsa Radio and Ta Shma. Avi lives in Riverdale, NY with her husband and three children.



**Lydia Kukoff** created and for thirteen years led the Reform movement's Outreach program, the Jewish Community's first national program for intermarried couples and Jews-by-Choice. In that capacity she traveled widely throughout North America, leading seminars and speaking about intermarriage, conversion, and the changing demography of the North American Jewish Community. Lydia created and taught a professional development class for rabbinic, cantorial, and education students at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in New York. With Rabbi Steven Foster, she created the Denver Outreach Internship, which brought groups of these students to Temple Emanuel in Denver and enabled them to experience a complete Outreach program in a congregational setting. Lydia is the author of *Choosing Judaism*, and also co-authored *Every Person's Guide to Judaism* and *Introduction to Judaism: A Course Outline* with Rabbi Steven Einstein. She produced the videos "Choosing Judaism: Some Personal Perspectives" and "Intermarriage: When Love Meets Tradition". She has also written numerous articles on the subject. She was executive editor of a library of training manuals and resource books for professionals working with intermarried couples, parents, and their children, and guides to enable synagogues to deal with issues around welcoming intermarried couples and Jews-by-Choice. She served as the North American Director of the Avi-Chai Foundation. She was one of the founders, a past president and serves on the board of The Chatham Synagogue-Netivot Torah in Chatham Center, New York. She also served on the boards of Jewish Jumpstart and Interfaith.com. Currently, she is president of the Crandell Theatre, a historic movie house in Chatham, NY. She holds a B.A. in English Literature from Beaver College (now Arcadia University) in Glendale, PA, and an M.A. in Jewish Studies from (HUC-JIR) in Los Angeles where she was awarded the Faculty Award for academic achievement. Lydia lives in New York's Upper Hudson Valley with her husband, Ben, a retired writer and producer, and their Goldendoodle, Goldstein. She and Ben have two children and three grandchildren.



**Rabbi Van Lanckton** is a 2009 graduate of the Rabbinical School. He is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple B'nai Shalom in Braintree, MA, where he served in a student pulpit from 2007 to 2009 and then as Rabbi from 2009 to 2017. Van was the founder of the Hebrew College Clergy Alumni Association, where he served as Executive Vice President from its creation in 2008 until his decision to retire from that role in 2023. He also served as an officer and director of the Rabbis and Cantors Retirement Plan, which he co-created in 2012. Van practiced law in Massachusetts for 36 years, serving initially as Director of the Community Legal Assistance Office and Teaching Fellow in Law and Clinical Practice at Harvard Law School and then in two positions in the Massachusetts state government. Following

his subsequent 25 years in private practice, he retired from law in 2003 to become one of the seventeen founding students of the Rabbinical School. Van graduated cum laude from Yale College in 1964 and Harvard Law School in 1967.



**Myra Musicant** is a CPA by training. She has devoted herself to raising three children and being an active volunteer in non-profit organizations. Myra graduated magna cum laude from Smith College with a major in religion. She studied in the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Department at Brandeis University for three and a half years. She received a master's degree from the Simmons Graduate Program in Management. She obtained her CPA and had seven years' experience with the firm of Coopers & Lybrand. Myra was a member of the board of trustees at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Boston, serving as Treasurer and First Vice President. She also served as President of Temple Beth Zion in Brookline for four years. She is an alumna of the Me'ah program at Hebrew College.



**Tara Sophia Mohr** is an author, teacher and coach devoted to exploring the intersections of spirituality, personal growth, and social change. Tara is the author of the bestselling book on the inner work of leadership, *Playing Big: Practical Wisdom for Women Who Want to Speak Up, Create, and Lead*, published by Penguin Random House, and named a Best Book of the Year by Apple's iBooks. She is the creator of the pioneering *Playing Big* leadership program, and *Playing Big Facilitators Training* for coaches, mentors and managers who support others in their personal and professional growth. Her work has been featured in publications ranging from *The New York Times* to *Harvard Business Review*. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her partner, three children, and spirited pup, and loves dance, art, and long walks with her family.



In the spring of 2017, **Andy Offit** embarked on a journey as Chair of the Board of Hebrew College. This was his goal: Hebrew College to be in a new home, debt free with a balanced and sustainable budget for the first time in over 25 years. Andy enjoys a steep learning curve and a good challenge. He also demands hard-working and high-energy partners, honest reflection for necessary adjustments, vision, detailed plans, and collaboration with an eye on the numbers. Andy is a numbers guy. Andy also likes to accomplish his goals. And he did. Hebrew College affirmed his skillset—and an opportunity to learn many new skills!! He chaired the Hebrew College board while taking the LSAT, applying, attending and graduating from law school, and passing the bar. And as Hebrew College stepped into its strong and healthy future, so did Andy as a lawyer, his third professional iteration. Andy's passion for learning includes voracious reading about American history, United States presidents, his beloved New England Patriots, the criminal justice system, and anything his three adult sons are also interested in. He loves boats, trucks and bicycles. He has dedicated energy and time to understanding and mitigating the structures that create inequality and instability in this country. Andy's other past

board work includes Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston, Social Innovation Forum, My Life My Choice, Courageous Parents Network, and Beaver Country Day. Andy was born and raised in Pikesville, MD, surrounded by a big, warm and loving family. He attended Emory University, and with his CPA, worked in public accounting for three years in Atlanta. He attended the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania followed by 13 years at Fidelity Investments as an analyst and portfolio manager. He enjoyed 12 wildly successful years as a partner at Wellington Management. He left the investment business after 25 years influenced by his wife's soulful and meaningful work as a second career, Hebrew College Rabbi. Andy then graduated from the Harvard Kennedy School with a MPA degree, followed by working for the City of Somerville as special assistant to Mayor Joe Curtatone for seven years. The eye-opening experience led him to believe that change in the system happens in the courtroom. In spring of 2021, he graduated from Suffolk Law School. He is admitted to the bar in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Andy is adored by and devoted to his three sons, Adam, David and Yoni, and his wife, Rabbi Suzanne Offit '09.



**Professor Sara S. Lee** was the Director of the Rhea-Hirsch School of Education at the Los Angeles, CA campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion from 1980-2007. She served as Adjunct Professor Emeritus of Jewish Education from 2007-2012 teaching a variety of courses such as Sociology of Jewish Education, Curriculum and Organizational Development. She has served as a consultant to schools and organizations and lectured extensively on Jewish Education, and has written articles for *The Jewish Principal's Handbook*, *Religious Education*, and *Jewish Education*.

Sara served as a member of the Wexner Foundation Graduate Fellowship Committee and as a vice chair of the URJ Commission on Lifelong Jewish Learning. She served as the Project Director for the Hebrew Union College Mandel Fellows Program for Visionary Rabbinic Leadership from 2007-2012. Her research interests include Jewish institutional transformation, interreligious education, approaches to leadership of Jewish religious institutions, and the impact of American religion on Jewish religious life and institutions. Sara has edited three books: *A Congregation of Learners* (with Isa Aron and Seymour Rossel); *Touching the Future: Mentoring and the Jewish Professional* (with Michael Zeldin); and *Communities of Learning: A Vision for the Jewish Future*. With Dr. Mary C. Boys of Union Theological Seminary, Sara edited a special issue of *Religious Education*, "Religious Traditions in Conversation". She also co-authored *Christians and Jews in Dialogue: Learning in the Presence of the Other* with Dr. Boys in 2006. The Lilly Endowment awarded Sara and Dr. Boys a grant in 1992 to support a colloquium for Catholic and Jewish educators, and a second grant in 1996 for the study of pluralism and particularism in religious education. She is a past president of the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education (APRRE), and received the Distinguished Merit Citation from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She was awarded the Sara and Samuel Rothberg Prize in Jewish Education by Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1997, Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1999, Pras HaNasi, the President's Award for Distinguished Leadership of Jewish Education in the Diaspora in 2005, and a Doctor of Humane Letters from Hebrew Union College in 2012.

Sara was born in Boston, M.A. She received her B.A. in Social Relations from Radcliffe College, an M.A. in Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College, and an M.S. in Education from University of Southern California.



**Steven Lewis** received rabbinic ordination from Hebrew College Rabbinic School in 2011. He served as the Rabbi of Temple Ahavat Achim, Gloucester, Massachusetts from 2011 until 2022. Prior to attending rabbinical school, Steven received his B.S. degree from Brown University and a Master's Degree in Environmental Planning from UC Berkeley. He worked as an educator and theater director. In both of these professions he used the oral histories of local seniors to create performances and curricula that told the story of local changes in landscape and culture.

He currently resides with his wife, Laura Wiessen, who serves on the Gloucester School Committee, and their two children.



**Suzanne G. Priebatsch**, CLU®, ChFC®, is Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor, and Senior Investment Management Consultant at Morgan Stanley, an American multinational investment bank and financial services company. Suzanne is a graduate of Smith College and Harvard University. She began her investment management career in 1986. She serves on the boards of our partnering organization, the Jewish Arts Collaborative, and Hadassah – Brandeis Institute, Boston branch of the

American Jewish Committee, Boston branch of Anti-Defamation League, and Boston branch of Birthright Israel. She serves also as an Honorary Trustee of the Children's Museum of Boston.



**Ross Silverstein** is the President and CEO of the Wayland, MA company iPROMOTEu, one of the largest and fastest growing companies in the promotional products industry. The company has a network of more than 1,000 promotional products sales professionals throughout the U.S. and Canada. Ross is a member of Congregation Or Atid in Wayland, MA and serves as co-Chair of its Ritual Committee. Ross also is a member of Temple Emanuel in Newton and The Adams Street Shul in Newton and is involved with Temple Israel in Boston and the Community Hevra

Kadisha of Greater Boston. Ross and his family were early supporters of The Rashi School, where Ross served on the Board of Directors for several years. Ross graduated summa cum laude from Boston College with a B.S. in Management and later earned an S.M. in Management from the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a J.D. from Boston University School of Law. Prior to founding iPROMOTEu, Ross worked as a corporate attorney for many years at Goodwin Procter in Boston and later worked as an executive for the RE/MAX real estate organization, helping expand RE/MAX into parts of the U.S., Canada, Europe and the Middle East (including Israel).

Ross lives in Weston, MA with his wife Amy. Together, they have four children. Their three older children all graduated from Prozdor at Hebrew College (their youngest child attended Gann Academy); Ross, himself, graduated from Prozdor when it was located on Hawes Street in Brookline, MA.



Following a successful Hi Tech career in marketing, sales and financial communications, **Susan Schechter** retired in 2000. Since that time, she has been involved in a number of educational, health and cultural organizations. Susan was a co-chair of Branching Out, Building Together: A Capital Campaign for Hebrew College. Presently she serves on the Foundation Board of Boston Arts Academy and is an Overseer at MSPCA Angell. She is Trustee Emerita of the Mass College of Art Foundation Board which she previously chaired, and also served as a Trustee of Mass College of Art for

10 years. She has been a long-term supporter and co-chaired annual fund philanthropic events for The Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center, the Mass Art Auction and the MSPCA Angell gala. Since 1998 Susan has been engaged in Jewish studies with a group of women, fondly known as the Torah Babes and is a Me'ah alum. Susan and her husband Bob have been members of Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, MA for over 20 years. They have two grown sons, daughters-in-law and a beautiful granddaughter, all in Brooklyn. They enjoy traveling, hanging out with friends and poodles in Boston and the Berkshires, and counting their blessings.



**Susan Shevitz** is associate professor emerita at Brandeis University where, for over twenty-five years, she taught in and then directed the Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service (now Jewish Professional Leadership). She has helped numerous foundations, schools, synagogues and agencies plan, implement and/or evaluate programs such as Hebrew charter schools, family education, and professional development programs for Jewish educators. Susan recently served as faculty on the OnBoard

initiative that prepares newly appointed board members of Jewish non-profit organizations for their responsibilities. She has also served on several boards including the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston, JESNA (Jewish Educational Service of North America), and the Jewish Communal Service Association. Susan's research and teaching focus on organizational culture and change, leadership in non-profit organizations, and pluralism in Jewish life. She has published numerous articles and monographs and is finishing a book on pluralism in Jewish education. Susan holds undergraduate degrees from the Jewish Theological Seminary (history) and Columbia University (urban planning) and a doctorate from Harvard University in educational planning and social policy. When not working, Susan especially enjoys art, architecture, gardens, travel, and time with her family – her husband, children, step-children and, especially, her four young grandchildren.





**Myra Snyder** has been a long-time supporter of Hebrew College, serving on its Board of Overseers before joining the Board. Myra is a founder of B'nai Torah in Sudbury, Temple Shir Tikvah in Wayland, MA and MetroWest Jewish Day School in Framingham, MA. Myra serves on the boards of MetroWest Jewish Day School, B'nai Torah of Sudbury, and BOLLI at Brandeis. She has worked in development for many institutions and Jewish organizations, including Mayyim Hayyim, Boston Jewish Film Festival, Brandeis (BOLLI program), Hebrew College, B'nai Torah in Sudbury, MetroWest Jewish Day School, New England branch of University of Haifa, and Combined Jewish Philanthropies. Myra graduated from the Forsyth School for Dental Hygienists at Tufts University and worked as a Registered Dental Hygienist, mostly in pediatrics with special needs children. She received her B.S. degree at Northeastern University. She is a 1997 graduate of Hebrew College's Me'ah program and received her Master's in Jewish Studies at Hebrew College in 2001.



**Steven Targum** has spent his professional career involved in academics, drug development research, and clinical practice. He is a psychiatrist-psychopharmacologist who has been founder and/or chief medical officer at several small biotech or pharmaceutical companies. Steve moved to Boston in 2005 with his wife, Carol, to live closer to their children. He has been delighted to have three grandchildren come along the way. He has served on the boards of several Jewish charitable organizations including the Institute of Jewish Spirituality in New York and has been committed to his own, evolving Jewish education. He is a proud graduate of the Me'ah program and has continued to take Me'ah Select classes. Steve received his B.A. in biology from Colgate University and an M.D. from Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He has been Professor of Psychiatry and Vice-Chairman of the Department of Mental Health Sciences at Hahnemann University School of Medicine (Philadelphia) and a consultant in psychiatry at the Massachusetts General Hospital.



**Diane Troderman** has held numerous leadership positions on a local, national, and international level especially focused on Jewish education. She currently serves as a trustee of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and board member of Hebrew College, The Hadassah Brandeis Institute, and the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. She also sits on the advisory boards of New England Public Radio and Boston Symphony Orchestra.