



## Jewish Geriatric Chaplaincy Training

June 1 – August 13, 2020

Level I and Level II CPE

### **Introduction:**

In the last 100 years, Hebrew SeniorLife (HSL) has grown from a small residence for frail elderly in Dorchester to a highly integrated system of care with an international reputation. HSL's system encompasses 650 chronic care hospital patients, groundbreaking geriatric research (Marcus Institute for Aging Research), palliative and hospice care, new models of sub-acute care, post-hospital care, and home care.

Hebrew Rehabilitation Center (HRC) is the largest of HSL's institutions, with campuses in Boston and in Dedham. The Boston campus offers long-term care, short-term post-acute care, acute care, adult day care, and outpatient specialty services. Its most recent offering is the Center for Memory Health which provides diagnosis, education, treatment, and care coordination for older adults and their families. NewBridge on the Charles, located in Dedham, is HSL's newest campus. It offers independent and assisted living in addition to skilled nursing services and long-term chronic care. Most students will be assigned to clinical time on this campus.

Over 60% of our long-term chronic care patients in Boston are Jewish, with half of these being Jews from the former Soviet Union; in Dedham, closer to 85% are Jewish. Patients on our rehabilitation and post-acute services units reflect the more general population of the surrounding communities, including a broader mix of faiths and cultures.

### **Program Description:**

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CPE in a geriatric setting serves as important preparation for the congregational rabbinate/cantorate/ministry, as well as for health care chaplaincy positions. Chaplains support the spiritual and emotional lives of all patients in ways that enhance their overall health and wellbeing. In addition, chaplains help the caregiving staff manage the ongoing emotional demands of their work, which include the presence of death and loss on a regular basis, and understand the spiritual aspects of their patients' needs. Our setting requires that chaplains be attuned to the variety of Jewish religious/cultural approaches patients may draw from while facing the challenges of aging, loss, end of life decision making, dementia, and seeking spiritual fulfillment in their later years.

Our curriculum addresses spiritual care as it relates to aging, illnesses of aging (including dementia), family caregivers, bioethical decision-making, dying, and bereavement. Special attention is given to cultural and demographic diversity impacting the spiritual issues of older adults, including trauma-informed care, recognizing resilience, working with patients with dementia, LGBT identities, and being "not religious." Students serve as chaplain interns on assigned HSL units, providing spiritual care to patients, families, and staff. Our primary lens is that of Jewish spiritual care; students who wish to learn about spiritual care from the perspective of other religious/spiritual traditions are invited to make this one of their learning goals.

English is the predominant language of the educational program, and applicants must be fluent in spoken and written English. Special opportunities are available for Russian-speaking applicants, as a significant portion of HSL residents and patients speak Russian; some allowances can be negotiated individually for Russian-speaking students who need to do some of their assignments orally rather than in writing.

This unit of CPE is aimed at chaplains, congregational clergy, seminary and rabbinical students, and laypersons interested in pursuing spiritual care.

**Dates:** June 1 – August 13, 2020. No scheduled absences will be granted during orientation (June 1-5), midterms (July 7), or final evaluations (August 10, 11). All absences must be made up through compensatory time.

**Times:** Class and clinical time cover Monday–Friday, 9:00am–5:00pm. Some readings, written assignments, and preparation for event leadership are completed in addition to this time frame. Given the intensity of the program, work or study commitments beyond CPE are discouraged; weekends provide much needed time for rest. The CPE program does not require overnight call, and is appropriate for students who are shomer/et Shabbat.

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CPE at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center  
Accredited by ACPE: The Standard for Spiritual Care and Education  
55 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., Suite 835  
Atlanta GA 30308  
(404) 320-1472 Fax (404) 320-0849  
[www.acpe.edu](http://www.acpe.edu)

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**Faculty:** Rev. Mary Martha Thiel, ACPE Certified Educator and Director of CPE at Hebrew SeniorLife, will lead this unit. Several guest speakers will bring their expertise to the didactic part of the curriculum.

**Location:** 1200 Centre St., Boston MA 02131.

**Cost:** \$25 application fee. Suggested tuition payment is \$2000; minimum tuition payment is \$1200. For IRS purposes, value received per student is \$1200, with the balance of the tuition being a tax-deductible gift to Hebrew SeniorLife's Chaplaincy Institute. \$250 of tuition serves as a nonrefundable deposit when accepting a position in the program and is credited toward the total tuition payment.

**Who may apply?** This program is open to persons of any religious tradition interested in Jewish CPE with a focus on spiritual care of elders. E-mail Rev. Mary Martha Thiel with any questions.

**Application process:** Applications are due November 15, 2019. Applicants should read the [Annual Notice](#), [Admissions policy](#), [Use of Clinical Materials Consent Form](#), and [Financial policy](#) on the HSL CPE website and fill out the standard [ACPE application form](#).

**By email (preferred):** Please scan the above application and email to [cpe@hsl.harvard.edu](mailto:cpe@hsl.harvard.edu). We will collect the \$25 application fee at the time of the interview.

**By mail:** Along with the printed application, include a check for \$25 made out to "Hebrew SeniorLife CPE Fund," or fill out the [credit card payment form](#) and send them to:

Rev. Mary Martha Thiel, Director of CPE  
Department of Spiritual Care  
Hebrew SeniorLife  
1200 Centre St.  
Boston MA 02131.

When your application is received, we will set up an in person interview, or, for applicants outside the Boston area, by Zoom. Rev. Mary Martha Thiel and another member of the CPE program's Professional Advisory Committee or a member of the spiritual care department will share in the interviewing. We will send your references a form by email. Please let them know they do not need to send anything to us prior to that. You will be informed of the admissions decision within one month of the interview. The decision is at the sole discretion of HSL.

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**Transportation and Parking:** HRC Boston is accessible by Public Transportation: Orange Line T to Forest Hills, then 38 bus Wren St. via Centre St. Students living close by in Jamaica Plain or Boston often walk or bike to HRC. More adventurous bikers come from Brookline or Newton. Free parking is available.

**For more information contact:** Rev. Mary Martha Thiel,  
<[Marymarthathiel@hsl.harvard.edu](mailto:Marymarthathiel@hsl.harvard.edu)> Tel (617) 363-8804.

Or, go to our website at <https://www.hebrewseniorlife.org/education-programs/spiritual-care-education>.

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