



## NEWS & VIEWS

August 23, 2018 | 12 Elul 5778



### New Mindful Living & Mysticism Track

An introduction by Rabbi Jordan Schuster, Rab` 18  
Associate Director, Open Circle Jewish Learning

*Ha-melekh ba-sadeh / The King is in the field*

This is the image our tradition uses to make the transition between summer and autumn palpable. We move from the Hebrew month of Av into the month of Elul. Light sharpens and goes crisp. Humidity breaks open into wind and rain. The world seems to breathe again, coolly, with relief. Majesty looms up out of the transition. “The King is in the field.”

The *Yosher Divrei Emet*, a Hasidic text from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, sees a psychological truth reflected in this transition – the movement of our souls mirrored in the rhythms of the natural world.

[In Elul], the energies of nature are drawn back to their root.  
So too are the energies of the human soul. (*Yosher Divrei Emet*, *Kontres Sheni*, #53)

leaves to rest, the energies of the human soul self-expressing, more can consciousness arise from the extroverted and impassioned self-expressions of summer to quieter, more introspective modes of expression in autumn. We are called back to the root of who we are, to an examination and witnessing of the relationships and connections that most ground and inform us. As leaves settle to the forest floor, so our consciousness settles back to the foundation of our being. Majesty looms up out of this transition. “The King is in the field.”

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This year, [Open Circle Jewish Learning at Hebrew College](#) is working to expand its track in Mindful Living and Mysticism, a track that — in many ways — seeks to bring the inner movements of Elul into the rest of the year — with classes and workshops designed to help us foster not only an exploration of the inner self, but an exploration of the inner self’s devotion to people, community, a deep and ineffable sense of possibility. To this end, Hebrew College plans in the coming year to roll out the following kinds of programs:

- Workshops on cultivating and innovating Shabbat table ritual
- Jewish Meditation Circles
- Organized hikes in nature, infused with Jewish spiritual teachings and practice
- Workshops on *ktivat sta”m*, the traditional form of Hebrew calligraphy used in writing Torah
- An expanded selection of courses on Jewish Mysticism, Mussar, and Neo-Hassidism
- Musical, contemplative and/or more traditional Kabbalat Shabbat minyans in homes around the Greater Boston area

We aim to host the majority of these gatherings in intimate settings, out of living rooms and kitchens, in small groups of ten to twenty participants. If you are interested in participating in or helping Hebrew College to create a group for your community in Mindfulness, Mysticism, or Jewish practice more generally, please contact Rabbi Jordan Schuster at [jschuster@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:jschuster@hebrewcollege.edu).

Wishing you a rich and well-rooted Elul. May the majestic loom out of the transition.

[Learn More about Open Circles](#)

## MJEd Applications Now Open for Spring 2019

Earlier this summer, 13 Master of Jewish Education, rabbinical, and cantorial students went on a journey to learn about birth to aging adulthood from experts throughout the Boston area during Hebrew College’s intensive week-long “**Neurodiversity across the Jewish Lifespan**” course. The course was made possible thanks to The Nancy Lurie Marks Foundation, which provided support to develop the course and for scholarships.

Encourage your colleagues to learn more ways to serve our diverse community by enrolling in courses at Hebrew College’s [Master of Jewish Education program](#) with concentrations in Interfaith Family Jewish Engagement, Jewish Special Education Program, Early Childhood Education and Experiential Jewish Education. Students who enroll in these MJEd programs are eligible for generous mid-career scholarships.



To apply for a spring 2019 start, contact Debrah Ron at [dron@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:dron@hebrewcollege.edu).

(Pictured: Maayan Harel and Allison Poirier.)



## JTFGB: From Learning to Leading as a Teen

By Emily Drucker

[Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston at Hebrew College participant](#)

Applications are currently being accepted for 2018-19 on a rolling basis through September 14. [APPLY TODAY!](#)

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Three summers ago, I was on a bus in California having fun with some friends when I received an email from my dad. Its subject: “An interesting opportunity.” Intrigued, I opened the email and read about a new philanthropy program for Jewish teens in the Greater Boston area. As a 16-year-old eager to change the world, I knew I had to participate in the program.

Fast-forward to May 2018 when I was standing on the stage at my third and final grant presentation celebration for the Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston amazed at the work this program has done since 2015. Each year, we have focused on different issue areas ranging from poverty, youth education, and mental health to substance abuse and sexual assault. Over these last three years, we have raised over \$145,000, and just as importantly, we have helped create positive societal change...

[Read More & Apply](#)

(This article first appeared in *JewishBoston.com*.)

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## Jewish National Fund to Hold Town Hall

Hebrew College is proud to be one of the co-sponsors of the Jewish National Fund's Town Hall on the Gaza border Crisis. The event will take place on Tuesday, August 28 at 6:30 pm at Temple Israel Boston.

Meet a mother, a young pioneer, and a farmer—residents of Gaza border communities—who will share their personal stories of living under attack. Hear about the needs in their communities and the issues they face on the ground: Their experiences running to bomb shelters and sleeping in safe rooms, their fears of a ruined economy, the ecological disaster, and their challenges dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

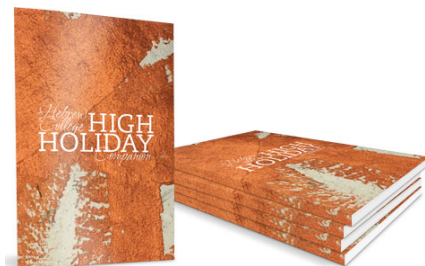
Please note that for security purposes, government-issued photo identification will be required for entry. All bags are subject to search and absolutely no backpacks or large bags will be allowed. Kosher refreshments will be served. [View the flyer.](#)

[Learn More and RSVP](#)

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## High Holiday Companion

Journey with us during this season of *teshuvah*. The Hebrew College *High Holiday Companion* includes reflections by our faculty, alumni and students that can serve as a resource for you and your congregation.



[Order Now](#)

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Celebrating Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld  
**P R E S I D E N T I A L  
I N S T A L L A T I O N  
C E R E M O N Y**  
H E B R E W C O L L E G E  
TEMPLE EMANUEL, NEWTON  
OCTOBER 15, 2018, 6:15 PM

[WWW.HEBREWCOLLEGE.EDU/INSTALLATION](http://WWW.HEBREWCOLLEGE.EDU/INSTALLATION)



Save the date and join us for this event at  
Temple Emanuel, 385 Ward Street, Newton, Massachusetts.  
**Bookmark the installation website** and reserve your seat now.

[Make a Reservation](#)

## ~ In the News ~

Hebrew College's announcement about the building sale was reported widely in the media including [The Boston Globe](#), WBUR Radio, WBZ, [Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#), [Times of Israel](#), [eJewish Philanthropy](#), [JewishBoston.com](#), [Newton Patch](#), [The Newton Tab](#), [The Jewish Advocate](#) (paid subscription only), [The Cleveland Jewish News](#) among others.

An [article](#) entitled "Elul, or the Jewish Month of Alarms" by Sara Gardner, Associate Director of Young Adult Programs at Hebrew College, was appeared in the August 14 issue of [JewishBoston.com](#).

# 70 Faces of Torah



Posts from this [Hebrew College-hosted blog](#) is published weekly in [Patheos](#).

## The Torah Needs a Trigger Warning Parshat Ki Tetzei (Deuteronomy, 21:10-25:19)

By Rabbi Avi Killip, Rab`14  
Vice President of Strategy & Programs and  
Director of Project Zug at Hadar



My summer began at a panel conversation about “[What Feminist Torah Needs to Look Like](#).” Professor Judith Plaskow, a gadol (one of the greats!) in the field, challenged the 300 people in the room to not skip over the difficult parts of Torah in our teaching and sermons: “There is so much richness in the Torah that it is easy in any specific instance to look away from the parts that are most awful in favor of passages that are more inviting.” She cautioned that “when we pass over toxic texts in silence, we normalize what they have to say...it is essential to confront these painful texts in order to shift the habits of mind that they foster and sustain.”

Her words echoed in my ear as the summer wore on, and I found myself reading one of these “toxic texts,” in the first verses of Parshat Ki Tetzei.

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