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## NEWS & VIEWS

October 17, 2019 | 18 Tishrei 5780

חג סוכות שמח  
Happy Sukkot 

# 70 FACES OF TORAH

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

## Building our Sukkot, Rebuilding Ourselves *Sukkot*

By Deborah Skolnick Einhorn, Ph.D.  
Hebrew College Associate Dean for Academic Development and  
Assistant Professor of Jewish Education



As a shul-goer and parent (and as a grocery shopper), I spend a lot of the fall wondering why the *hagim* come so fast and furious. They are relentless, with days off of school and work, seemingly limitless preparation and/or travel, and practically daily trips to the store.

The quickest, most whiplash-inducing turnaround, of course, comes between Yom Kippur and Sukkot, with only four days intervening. More dramatic even than the lack of time between is the intense physical and emotional shift demanded of us. Depleted from a 25 hour fast, we are urged to

immediately – after a quick refueling – begin building our *sukkah*. So basically, "don't eat for a day, then build a new house." In the dark. This ideal, of going directly from one *mitzvah* to the next, only adds to the frenetic fall feeling.

But as a true believer in the wisdom of Jewish tradition, I wanted to interrogate the proximity and pace of these *hagim* before just complaining about it again this year. So, what if we generously assume for this exercise that the fall *hagim* are actually strategically positioned on the calendar? What if their sequence and pace is a message in and of itself?

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## Finding Mussar through Hebrew College Open Circle

By Rick Thau

A few years back, I was looking up a friend from college who had become a rabbi and whose name had come up in a conversation. His bio said that he had been studying this thing called "Mussar" daily for several years.



I had done a lot of Jewish learning, but had never heard of Mussar. I looked it up, but left it at that.

A week or two later, my wife and I were in the Berkshires and entered a store with considerable Judaica. There, right in front of the checkout counter, were several stacks of *Every Day, Holy Day*, one of the key works by Alan Morinis, the founder of the Mussar Institute and one of the leaders of the Mussar resurgence.

Coincidence? Message? Who knows. What I do know is that I bought the book and quickly became intrigued. I read it nightly – sometimes with my wife – and bought other books by Morinis. Then I asked Terri Swartz Russell, Temple Emanuel's director of Adult and Family Education, to see if she could find a course for our *shul*.

Terri brought in Rabbi David Jaffe, one of the foremost Mussar teachers in North America and, with eight other learners, I began learning Mussar through [Hebrew College Open Circle Jewish Learning](#). We have now met every other week for the past two years. In between sessions, we meet for one-on-one sessions with a *chevruta*, or study partner, from the class.

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# EVENTS

## OCTOBER

### Azamra: Alternative Shabbat Community Minyan

*Join Rabbi Lev Friedman, Rab`18 for a morning service in the Hebrew College Beit Midrash, followed by a pot-luck vegetarian kiddush luncheon. Occurs monthly. Supported by the [Hebrew College Innovation Lab](#).*

October 26 | 10 am -12 pm  
Hebrew College  
[Learn more](#)<sup>8</sup>



**עברית במרכז**  
**HEBREW AT THE CENTER**

### Digital Pedagogy for Literacy: The Hebrew Class of the Future

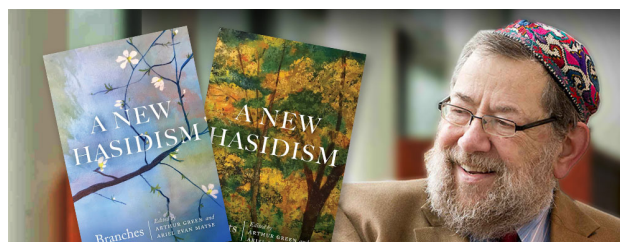
Webinar and independent study for Hebrew teachers, offered jointly by Hebrew College & [Hebrew at the Center](#)

October 28 | Online  
[Register](#)

## NOVEMBER

### Blossoming: The 2019 Hebrew College Jewish Education Conference

November 11-12  
Hebrew College  
[Learn more](#)



### A New Hasidism: Study, Reflection, Celebration

*Celebrate the publication of Hebrew College Rector Rabbi Art Green's and Dr. Ariel Mayse's new work on the history, development, and contemporary practice of Neo-Hasidism.*

November 3 | 2 - 8 pm  
Hebrew College  
[Learn more and RSVP](#)

## DECEMBER

### 70th Birthday Tribute to Rabbi Allan Lehmann

December 5 | 7 pm  
Hebrew College  
[Learn more](#)

## Hebrew College Faculty Fall Speaking Engagements

Hebrew College faculty members speak and teach at synagogues, conferences, and institutions throughout Greater Boston, North America, and beyond this fall.



[View the speaking schedule](#)

## IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to share the news of the passing of **Dr. Seymor Schiff, Prz`48**. Dr. Schiff went to Yeshiva University and New York University Dental School and worked as a dentist in the Boston area until moving to New Jersey in 2011. He is survived by his wife Judy`56, Prz`53, who worked as a librarian at Hebrew College in the Brookline building, as well as a daughter and three sons. The Hebrew College community extends heartfelt condolences to the Schiff family. May they be comforted among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

*Please email us if you would like us to share the loss of a loved one with the Hebrew College community. To make a gift to Hebrew College in memory or in honor of a beloved member of the Hebrew College extended community, please [visit our website](#).*



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