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## NEWS & VIEWS

November 20, 2018 | 12 Kislev 5779



### A Message from the President

This week, all over the United States, people will gather around tables to give thanks. As we join in that celebration of abundance and harvest, may we remember three of Judaism's most fundamental insights about gratitude:

- **Gratitude is a daily practice.** We are asked to begin each morning with the words *modeh ani* – thank you. Why? Because, in the rush of the day, it is so easy to fall into complacency or complaint, and forget how blessed we are.
- **The sister of gratitude is humility.** Gratitude wells up in the heart when we recognize that

whatever abundance we enjoy is not an entitlement or a reflection of our worth, but a gift.

- **Gratitude commands.** To truly know how much we've been given – by other people, by the Source of all life – is to know that we are obligated to give something in return.

Here at Hebrew College, we are grateful for the deep reservoir of blessing, of Torah, of community and friendship, of devotion and love and hard work upon which we draw every day. We are grateful for the commitment and dedication of so many people who care about creating a vibrant and purposeful Jewish future through deep learning and inspired leadership.

To all of you who have given over the past year – of your knowledge, skill, talent, time, energy, creativity, connections, financial resources, and inner resources – we are so grateful. And to the Holy One who has brought us to this moment, we offer thanks and we rededicate ourselves to the sacred work ahead.



*Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld  
President, Hebrew College*



## Hebrew College Begins Next Chapter

Excitement continues to build on the heels of last month's Presidential Installation of Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld as Hebrew College's ninth – and first female – president. Almost 600 people from the Boston area and beyond gathered to celebrate and mark the beginning of a new chapter in Hebrew College's history.

We were uplifted by the exceptionally beautiful words and music shared by all of the participants in the program. Rabbi Anisfeld delivered an inspiring message about the significance of Hebrew College's mission in today's world. She eloquently conveyed her passion for educating and empowering the next

generation of learners and leaders, so they can bring their wisdom, creativity, and compassion to the Jewish community and the world. You can find the full recording and transcript of her remarks, as well as photos, video highlights, and media coverage [here](#).

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*Conversants Jed Handelsman Shugerman (moderator), Fordham Law; Idit Klein, Keshet; Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer, Shalom Hartman Institute of New England; and Rabbi Angela Warnick Buchdahl, Central Synagogue, NY*



*Installation Chairs Rabbi Suzanne Offit, Rab`09 and Rabbi Sonia Saltzman, Rab`08*

Photos, Videos & Remarks

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We are so grateful for the outpouring of support in honor of the Installation. Thank you to our generous friends and colleagues, old friends and supporters who have renewed commitments, and our new friends and supporters.

Now, as we embark on Hebrew College's next chapter, each of you will play a vital role in our community. If you have not already, please consider joining the inaugural [President's Council](#), [Shabbat Table](#), or [making a gift of any amount](#) that is meaningful to you. As we approach Hebrew College's centennial in 2021, we are filled with hope for the future, and invite you to join us in the next chapter of our sacred journey.

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## Winter/Spring Course Registration Opens

Registration is open for all Hebrew College credit and non-credit courses for community members. Study alongside our graduate students or choose an adult learning course and learn with your peers. Explore our:

- Credit and non-credit courses
- Hebrew Language courses (online and on-campus)
- Non-credit Rabbinical School courses open to community members
- Non-credit Jewish music courses open to community members
- Non-credit Jewish education courses open to community members
- Adult learning courses offered by Hebrew College with support from CJP (Me'ah, Eser, Open Circle Jewish Learning, & Parenting Through a Jewish Lens programs)

[View Courses](#)

**Questions about courses? Please ask us!**

Rabbinical School: Contact [Rabbi Daniel Klein](#)  
 School of Jewish Music: Contact [Marcia Spellman](#)

Jewish education and Hebrew: Contact [Deb Ron](#)  
 Adult learning: Contact [Anna Katzevman](#)



## Hebrew College Out in Force at LimmudBoston 2018

[LimmudBoston](#) is the annual, volunteer-driven Jewish learning festival of culture and identity which includes everything from food demos and performances to panel discussions and individual talks. On **December 2**, more than two dozen Hebrew College students and alumni, and full-time and adjunct faculty, both past and present, will teach, entertain and explore both sacred and secular topics from a Jewish perspective.

Hebrew College [participants and presentations](#) include:

- **Rachel Adelman**, Rabbinical School faculty member: *Weaving the Messianic Light: Modern Midrash on the Book of Ruth*
- **Rabbi Katy Allen**, Adult Learning instructor: *How Can Jewish History Inform Our Response to Climate Change?; Earth Etudes for Elul: Spiritual Reflections for the Season, Author Readings*
- **Rabbi Daniel Berman**, Rab` 10: *Standing with Israel: What Does That Mean For Us in This Political Era?*
- **Misha Clebaner**, Rabbinical student: *The Living Psalms: How to Infuse the Poetry of the Torah into our Daily Lives*
- **Eli Cohn-Postell**, Adult Learning instructor: *Building Israeli-Palestinian Peace from Boston*
- **Fred Davis**, Adult Learning instructor: *How Can Jewish History Inform Our Response to Climate Change?*
- **Rabbi Lev Friedman**, Rab` 18: *Shabbos Candles, Hidden Light*
- **Sara Gardner**, Eser Associate Director: *Savoring the Sephardic Diaspora: Understanding Jewish Cultural Heritage through Flavors and Stories*
- **Rabbi Neal Gold**, Adult Learning instructor: *Older Than Forever: The Deathless Serach bat Asher*
- **Ellie Goldberg**, Adult Learning instructor: *Derech Eretz: Care for the Earth by Minimizing Your Carbon Foot Print*
- **Mitch Gordon**, School of Jewish Music instructor: *Embracing Conflict: Tools for a Healthier Synagogue (or Relationship, or Job)*
- **Jake Harris**, Cantorial student: *The Living Psalms: How to Infuse the Poetry of the Torah into our*

### Daily Lives

- Rabbi Eliana Jacobowitz, Adult Learning instructor: *Standing With Israel: What Does That Mean For Us in This Political Era?; Radical Hospitality and the Jewish Responses to the Refugee Crisis*
- Rabbi Allan Lehmann, Co-director of Hebrew College Beit Midrash: *Whose Hanukkah? The Maccabees, the Rabbis, the Halutzim, the Americans?*
- Bernice Lerner, Adult Learning Dean: *Grandparenting Then and Now: What's the Same? What's Different?*
- Rabbi Natan Margalit, Adult Learning instructor: *Holiness Isn't Either/Or, It Is Both/And!*
- Carol Marton, Adult Learning instructor: *Building Community Through Music*
- Rabbi Suzanne Offit, Rab`09: *Spirituality of Beekeeping*
- Rabbi Marcia Plumb, Adult Learning instructor: *Our Common Ancestors: Sacred Shared Stories in Judaism and Islam*
- Jonathan Sarna, Adult Learning Instructor: *America, American Jews and the Land of Israel--from Colonial Days to Our Days*
- Josh Schreiber Shalem, Adult Learning instructor: *Light in the Darkness: An Embodied Approach to Hanukkah*
- Talia Stein, Rabbinical student: *Standing with Israel: What Does That Mean For Us in This Political Era?*
- Cantor Louise Treitman, Sr. Advisor, School of Jewish Music: *Concert: The World of Salamone Rossi Hebreo, Musician of Mantua*
- Phyllis Werlin, CJSM`18: *Concert: The World of Salamone Rossi Hebreo, Musician of Mantua*



#### Torah Godly Play Training

Nov. 26 at Hebrew College

9:30 a.m. | \$100 per person

[Learn more](#) | [Register](#)

#### Annual Lecture on Jewish Genealogy with Rebecca Kobrin

"Credit to the Nation: East European Jewish Immigrant Bankers, Mass Migration and American Finance"

Co-sponsored by [Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston](#) and Hebrew College

Dec. 16 | 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Free

Hebrew College | [Learn more](#)

#### Early Registration for Eser 2019:

**10 Millennial Updates to Jewish Living**  
 Early registration ends December 10.  
 Classes begin March 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2019 in  
 Brookline, Brighton, Downtown Boston, Jamaica  
 Plain, Newton, Sharon, and Somerville  
 \$65 (before Dec. 10) | \$95 after Dec. 10  
[Register](#)



“I was born in Buenos Aires and grew up in a Jewish family. I am a trained cantor and spent five years in Hong Kong...When I was there, one of the fun things I started to do was to blog about Judaism in Spanish. I began translating authors I liked like Rabbis Art Green and Neil Gilman. I thought it was needed in the Spanish speaking world to read these amazing authors that we didn't have in Spanish. (Hazzan Diego Edelberg, MJE d`18)

[Read More](#)

## ~ In the News ~

On November 14, 2018, **Rabbi Adina Allen, Rab`14**, Co-Founder and Creative Director of the [Jewish Studio Project](#) (JSP) in Berkeley, CA, received the [Covenant Foundation's 2018 Pomegranate Prize](#), a prestigious award recognizing five rising leaders in the field of Jewish education. The cohort includes educators working in diverse settings across the country from Berkeley to Boston, each bringing fresh promise and deep commitment to continually elevating Jewish learning.

Hebrew College President **Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld** delivered the introduction at the November

18, 2018 Israeli Consulate event "A Night of Discussion: Peace & Democracy" to honor the memory of Yitzhak Rabin. The event was held at Hebrew College.

**Rabbi Or Rose**, Founding Director of the Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership at Hebrew College, led a panel discussion on the newly published book *Words to Live By, Sacred Sources for Interreligious Engagement* (Orbis, 2018) at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto last week. Rabbi Rose co-authored the book with Rev. Soren Hessler and Homayra Ziad.

Rabbinical School Rector **Rabbi Arthur Green's** piece "[American Jews After Pittsburg: Where do we stand?](#)" appeared in the November 7, 2018 issue of eJewish Philanthropy.

Early Childhood Institute Director **Rachel Raz, MEd`08** and astronaut Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman were guests on the November 11, 2018 broadcast of Global Day ON AIR 2018. The episode was entitled "[Torah in Orbit: Jewish Journeys in Space.](#)" Raz is the executive producer of [Space Torah](#), a documentary about Dr. Hoffman and the first Torah in Space.

Dean of the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education, **Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire**, contributed to the recently published Pardes Center for Jewish Educators comprehensive [online database](#) for the teaching of *tefilah* in Jewish Day Schools.

**Dr. Keren McGinity**, Director of Hebrew College's [Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement](#) program, was a featured speaker on the November 7, 2018 Innovation Exchange interfaith/interethnic/interracial podcast sponsored by the Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding at Queens College-City University of New York.

[In Case You Missed...](#)

**Rabbi Ayalon Eliach, Rab`18** co-authored the articles "[Should You Get Election Day Off? This Jewish Organization Says Yes](#)" and "[Can Jewish Wisdom Help Save Democracy](#)" in the October 23, 2018 issue of The Forward and the October 22, 2018 issue of eJewish Philanthropy respectively.



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

## Wrestling with Technology & Finding Connection

Parashat **Vayishlach (Genesis 32:4-36:43)**

By *Rabbi Daniel Schaefer, Rab`18*

Assistant Rabbi, Ohabei Shalom in Brookline, MA




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Thanksgiving is my favorite American holiday. More of my family gathers together in one place than at any other time of the year. We fill our bellies, share stories, give thanks, and fill our bellies again. Unfortunately, as with most areas of our lives, technology has slowly crept into our family celebration. Let me recap the last 12 years, with a brief timeline of family gatherings in the technology age:

2006 - Mom: Stop playing with your food.  
 2008 - Dad: Stop checking Facebook at the table.  
 2010 - Mom, put your phone away during dinner.  
 2012 - Let's have dinner with Grandpa over Facetime!  
 2014 - Grandma, let's take a selfie. #dinnerwithgrams  
 2018 - clickclickclickclickclick

We have reached saturation. Everyone has a phone, which means everyone has a camera, a video camera, a digital editing suite, dozens of apps, hundreds of books, thousands of pictures, millions of songs, and the ability to answer almost any trivia question ever in an instant.

Read more

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