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המכללה העברית
HEBREW COLLEGE
Jewish learning and leadership for a pluralistic world

NEWS & VIEWS

August 9, 2018 | 28 Av 5778



Fall Community Course Offerings at Hebrew College

Hebrew College has some exciting new course offerings for community members this fall. In addition to our graduate for-credit courses, there are myriad opportunities for community members to audit courses for their own enrichment. Among the [Rabbinical School](#) and [School of Jewish Music](#) offerings are:

- **The History of Zionism and Israeli Society. Thursdays from 2:30-4pm with Rabbi Dr. David Starr.** The course will focus on the seminal political events of early Zionism, the development of Israeli society, and the contentious relationship with the Palestinians and contemporary critiques of Zionism.
- **Inner Life and Social Justice Activism. Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm with Rabbi David Jaffe.** Explore inner, personal development and social change activism as an integrated spiritual path. Drawing on Mussar and Chassidic literature and the concept of *tikkun hamiddot* (personal ethical and spiritual development), examine the connections between spirituality and strategies for social justice organizing and advocacy for transformative social change.
- **How to Chant Torah. Online with Cantor Neil Schwartz.** Learn the history and analysis of the punctuation system underlying the chanting of the Hebrew Bible, a traditional Ashkenazic mode for the public cantillation of the Torah, and correct contemporary pronunciation of biblical Hebrew. Prerequisite: Facility for reading Hebrew.

[Hebrew language](#) classes continue to be available for beginning through advanced levels, on campus and online.

- [Ulpan](#), an on-campus language immersion program, with classes on weekday mornings, evenings or Sunday afternoons.
- [Modern Hebrew Online](#). Class levels Mekhina and 1, 1A and 1B will incorporate a proficiency approach, using interactive tools like audio, video, music, text and poetry. Graduate level Hebrew is also available.
- [Aramaic](#). Learn the basic features of Aramaic grammar, focusing on the dialect of Aramaic used in the Babylonian Talmud. Prerequisite: Solid knowledge of Hebrew grammar.

Courses on Jewish text, history, culture, arts, parenting and classes for young adults in their 20s and 30s are also available through Hebrew College's [Adult Learning](#) programs [Me'ah](#), [Open Circle Jewish Learning](#), [Parenting Through a Jewish Lens](#), and [Eser](#). Register online by visiting each program's site.

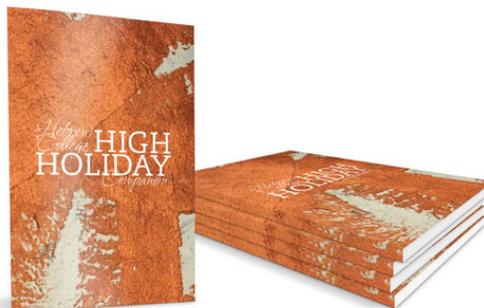
[Registration](#) will open shortly for Rabbinical School, School of Jewish Music and Hebrew language community courses. Let this fall be the time you add some Jewish learning to your life!

Pictured above: Rabbi Dan Judson, Dean of the Rabbinical School.

Courses Open to the Community

Adult Learning Programs

Your Study Guide for Elul: The Hebrew College *High Holiday Companion*



Last summer, Hebrew College published a *High Holiday Companion*, which was put together by a group of faculty, alumni and students who wanted to share some of the beautiful wisdom at Hebrew College with the rest of the Jewish world. It was also an opportunity to introduce the rest of the Jewish world to the Hebrew College community. It has been a success at accomplishing both of these goals, and we have received wonderful responses from people who have gleaned wisdom from its offerings.

For our alumni and friends who are spiritual leaders and educators, the *Companion* can serve as a resource when planning for the fall season of *teshuvah*.

We warmly invite you to journey with us during the upcoming season of *teshuvah*.

Order Your High Holiday Companion

Celebrating Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
 P R E S I D E N T I A L
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 C E R E M O N Y
 H E B R E W C O L L E G E
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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

Humans of Hebrew College #HumansHC



"I cannot imagine working in pluralistic settings without the remarkable experience of Jewish pluralism at Hebrew College—I continue to be most grateful for my education and the opportunities it has opened for me."

([Rabbi Jim Morgan, Rab'08](#), Chaplain at Center Communities of Brookline, MA, a division of Hebrew SeniorLife.)

Notable & Quotable

Rabbi Josh Breindel, Rabbinical School alumnus, was featured in an August 2018 [Metrowest Daily News article](#) entitled "New Sudbury rabbi aims to show Judaism as 'vibrant'."

Rabbi Alyson Solomon, Rab`09 was interviewed in a August 3 [JTA article](#) entitled "Living with the Volume Turned Up."

Cantor Vera Broekhuysen, Can`16, was featured on the front page of the July 20 The Jewish Advocate (paid subscription only) in [a story](#) entitled, "Area clergy protest separation at US-Mexico border."

Rabbinical School alumnus and Parenting Through a Jewish Lens instructor **Rabbi Philip Sherman's** [article](#) "Gratitude in the Morning" was featured in the July 12 issue of JewishBoston.com.

Upcoming Events



Free Webinar: Hebrew Online
August 19 | 12-1 pm
Online
[Register](#)

Presidential Installation of Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
October 15 | 6:15 pm
Temple Emanuel, Newton, MA
Free | [Reserve seats](#)

70 Faces of Torah



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

Blessing, Curse, and the Freedom to Choose

Parshat Re'eh (Deuteronomy, 11:26-16:17)

By *Rabbi Shira Shazeer, Rab`10*
School Rabbi at Metrowest Jewish Day School in Framingham, MA



I may have been at summer camp the first time I heard the story, attributed to the itinerant Rabbi Haim of Romshishok, of the difference between heaven and hell.

Reb Haim, the story goes, had the opportunity to visit the world to come, and was brought first to see hell. There, he observed banquet tables laden with food, surrounded by people clearly suffering from hunger. On closer inspection he could see that the people held spoons in their hands, but their elbows were splinted open, so they could not reach their mouths. Next, Reb Haim was taken to heaven. Here, too, were banquet tables laden with food, surrounded by people. But these people were satisfied, happily engaged in conversation. He saw that these people, too, had their arms splinted, but as he watched, one person filled a spoon and brought it to the mouth of the person across the table. That person thanked the first and returned the favor. Seeing this, Reb Haim went back to hell, to share the secret of how to eat and end the suffering. The inhabitants of hell, however, replied that they would rather starve than feed people whom they held in such great contempt. I remember feeling amazed that the difference between suffering and satisfaction lay in attitude and cooperation.

If you wonder what heaven and hell are doing in a Jewish story, when Judaism is supposed to be about the here and now, don't worry. There are a number of Jewish conceptions of an afterlife, including a hell-like realm called *gehenom*, where souls go to deal with their outstanding sins before entering the ultimate world-to-come. But in reality, I think this story is much more about the here and now.

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