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 Jewish learning and leadership for a pluralistic world

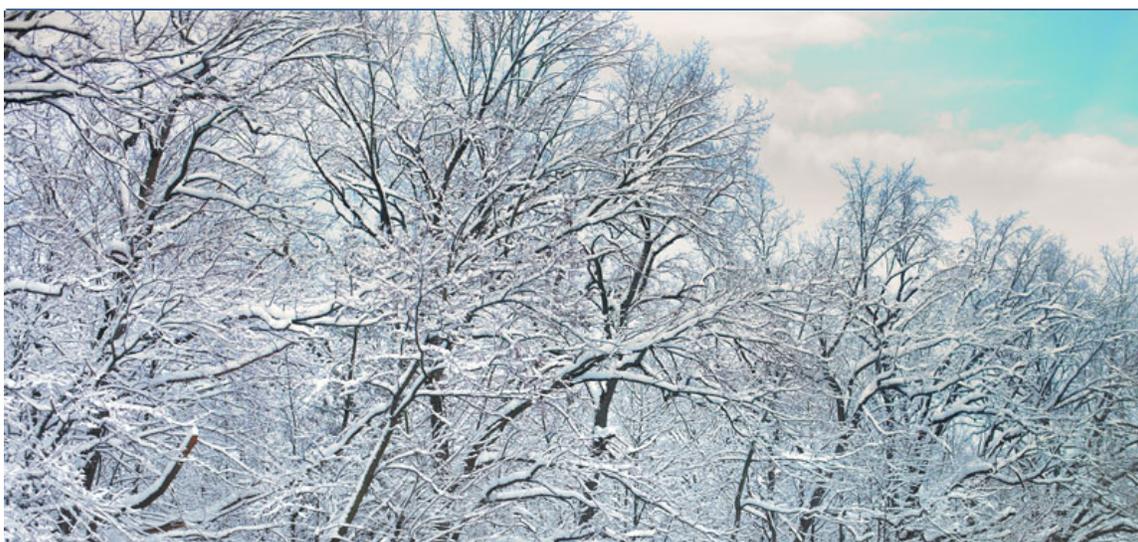
NEWS & VIEWS

January 25, 2018 | 9 Shevat 5778

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Winter Seminar 2018](#)
- [CEO Forum with Leonard Schlesinger](#)
- [Community Rabbinical School Courses](#)
- [Learn Modern Hebrew Language Online](#)
- [Me'ah Winter/Spring Classes](#)
- [Humans of Hebrew College](#)
- [Notable & Quotable](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Hebrew College Blogs](#)



Don't Miss Next Week's Winter Seminar

The [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#) and [The Miller Center for Interreligious Learning and Leadership](#) are convening a weeklong seminar January 29-February 1 on **Religious Leadership and Public Life: Balancing Pluralism, Justice, and Personal Integrity**. We will be hosting an extraordinary group of educators, communal leaders, activists, and intellectuals from the Jewish community and beyond, who are actively engaged in grappling

with these issues.

We invite you to join our students for study and dialogue with experts about topics ranging from: Contemporary Anti-Semitism, Understanding Intersectionality, Combating Islamophobia, Politics from the Pulpit, and the Jewish Ethics of Makhloket (Dispute).

View the [full schedule of events open to the public and register](#) to join us.



The banner features the Hebrew College logo on the left, which includes the text 'המכללה העברית' and 'HEBREW COLLEGE'. Below the logo, it says 'CEO FORUM' in large purple letters and 'April 10, 2018' in smaller blue letters. To the right of the logo, the text 'Keynote Speaker' is written in blue, followed by 'Leonard Schlesinger' in a larger blue font. On the far right of the banner is a portrait of Leonard Schlesinger, a man with glasses wearing a suit and tie.

Professor-Entrepreneur Headlines CEO Forum

A Conversation with Leonard Schlesinger
April 10 | Breakfast 7:30 a.m.; Program 8-9 a.m.
Free | Hebrew College

Join us for Hebrew College’s fifth CEO Forum, featuring Leonard A. Schlesinger (above), Harvard Business School Baker Foundation Professor. The CEO Forum will begin with a kosher breakfast and networking at 7:30 a.m. followed by the hour-long program.

Throughout his career, Professor Schlesinger has held leadership positions in academic and business settings. He served as President of Babson College (2008-2013), held several executive positions including Chief Operating Officer at Limited Brands (1999-2007), was Professor of Sociology and Public Policy and Senior Vice President and Counselor to the President at Brown University (1998-1999), and was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Au Bon Pain (1985-1988). He has lectured and consulted on strategy, service quality, customer satisfaction, entrepreneurship, human resources, and organizational change for over 250 major corporations, non-profit organizations, governments, and international leadership organizations around the world, and written extensively on entrepreneurship, service management and organizational management.

"As a successful businessman and a noted author and professor of entrepreneurship, Len Schlesinger has learned a great many lessons 'in the trenches' and shared those lessons generously in the classroom and in the chapters of his books," said David Teplow, who is co-chairing the CEO Forum with Carl Chudnofsky, MAJS`13. "In sharing those

The callout box is a dark blue rectangle with white text. It contains a quote from Carl Chudnofsky, MAJS`13, which is enclosed in large white quotation marks. The quote reads: "There is a strong synergy between those who have an interest in learning and their professional careers. Hebrew College answers that call, providing a wide variety of learning opportunities including the CEO Forum Series." Below the quote, the name and affiliation of the speaker are listed: "—Carl Chudnofsky MAJS`13".

lessons with the Hebrew College community, we expect Professor Schlesinger to show the link between what he's learned in business and what he's learned by practicing and studying Judaism."

"There is a strong synergy between those who have an interest in learning and their professional careers. Hebrew College answers that call, providing a wide variety of learning opportunities including the CEO Forum Series," says Chudnofsky.

Hebrew College's CEO Forum Series aims to bridge academic Jewish studies and community needs by serving as a resource for leaders who want to engage in Jewish values and Jewish community. "Interest in adult learning has exploded as people realize that Jewish learning can help in every stage of our lives. Through the CEO Forum, I hope people will also realize that Jewish learning can help in every aspect of our lives, including our careers," said Teplow.

Executives of all backgrounds are welcome to attend this free event at Hebrew College, but advance registration is required and space is limited.

REGISTER ▶



Community Rabbinical School Courses

The [Rabbinical School](#) has a number of courses open to the public for the spring semester. We have a range of courses on Jewish theology and practice taught by some of the leading scholars in their field.

- **Jewish Theology Workshop with Michael Fishbane and Rabbi Art Green:** Tuesdays, March 13, 27, April 10, 24 and 31 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A rare opportunity to study with two premier Jewish theologians, this course will explore the creative and constructive task of contemporary Jewish theology. It will emphasize theological thinking and expression, and the role of the interpreter and the selection of sources to produce an honest but viable theology for our times. Note: This course is limited to people with some background in Jewish theology, and Hebrew proficiency is

required.

- **Midrash with Michael Fishbane:** Mondays, March 12, 26, April 9, 23, 30 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Renowned scholar and writer Professor Michael Fishbane's in-depth text seminar on Mekhilta de Rabbi Ishmael, a work of midrash on the book of Exodus. Hebrew proficiency is required.
- **Leadership on the Line: Critical Conversations with Religious Activists & Organizers:** Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. As part of our ongoing engagement in interfaith learning, Rabbi Or Rose leads this unique class exploring several outstanding modern and contemporary religious leaders engaged in various civic and political initiatives for social and environmental transformation. Read works by and about Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Joshua Heschel and Oscar Romero, and meet (in-person and by video conference) with leaders from the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, American Jewish World Service, and GreenFaith.
- **Modern Jewish Thought with David Starr:** Thursdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Explore the writings of major Jewish thinkers living in the modern era and place them in the context of their historical setting. The class will focus on the various ways these thinkers understood the dynamic relationship between inherited tradition and modern conceptions of religious life.
- **Contemporary Jewish Thought with Rabbi Dan Judson:** Wednesdays, 2 to 3:30 p.m. An introduction to American Jewish history and American Jewish thought. The first part of the course introduces students to themes and events in American Jewish history. The second half of the course is a survey of the seminal Jewish thinkers who wrote in an American context such as Mordecai Kaplan, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Joseph Soloveitchik, Judith Plaskow and others.

Please contact Rabbi Dan Judson, Dean of the [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#), at djudson@hebrewcollege.edu or 617.559.8638 if you are interested in enrolling in any of these courses.

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Want to Learn Modern Hebrew Online?

Experience Hebrew College's new [Modern Hebrew Language Online](#) program by watching a free demo webinar presented by instructor Shir Twerski (right).

Learn about the easy-to-use online technology, how the proficiency method approach immerses learners in Hebrew language through videos, exercises, and online discussions with teachers and peers (both during class and between classes for practice and support) and more. Winter online classes begin February 5.



LEARN MORE ▶



Last Call: Me'ah Winter and Spring Classes

Join us to learn, discuss, and explore with [Me'ah Select](#).

Me'ah Select classes are one-semester, college-level classes for interested adult learners. From learning about Hasidism, to Israeli short stories, Judeo-Christian relations, to exploring King David, our classes are engaging and enlightening. Daytime and evening options are available. Generous financial aid available for all Me'ah classes.

Contact Director of Me'ah, Sara Brown, via [email](#) or phone (617) 559-9807 for more details.

REGISTER ▶

Humans of Hebrew College #Humans HC



Learn more about [Rabbi Suzanne Offit](#), 2009 graduate of the [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#) and Staff Chaplain at Hebrew SeniorLife.

If you are interested in being featured as one of our #Humans, please contact webmaster@hebrewcollege.edu. You can also find Hebrew College alumni and students on the Hebrew College LinkedIn page. (Remember to update your LinkedIn profile!)



Notable & Quotable



On January 10, **President-Elect Sharon Cohen Anisfeld** (center) moderated a dialogue entitled "Left and Right: CommUNITY Israel Dialogue" with distinguished columnists JJ. Goldberg, Editor at Large of the Jewish Daily Forward, and Jonathan S. Tobin, Editor of JNS.org, Contributing Writer for National Review and Columnist for the New York Post. The event, held at Temple Emanuel in Newton, MA, was sponsored by CJP.

On January 21, **President-Elect Sharon Cohen Anisfeld** gave the opening plenary address at the Temple Beth Zion Women's Retreat on the topic: "Living Our Truth: Finding Resilience and Wisdom in the #MeToo Movement."



Rabbi Dan Judson's new appointment as Dean of the [Rabbinical School](#) was featured in the Jan. 26 issue of [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#). Rabbi Judson was named Dean on Jan. 4. [Read the press release.](#)



[Early Childhood Institute](#) Director **Rachel Raz's** article "[Another Kind of Birthright](#)" appeared in the Jan. 24 issue of eJewish Philanthropy.



Upcoming Events

CEO Forum with Leonard Schlesinger

April 10, 2017
7:30 am | Free
Hebrew College
Includes Kosher breakfast
[Register](#)



Hebrew College Gala 2018

Honoring Rabbi Daniel Lehmann and his decade of leadership at Hebrew College
May 3, 2018 | 6:30 pm
Gann Academy
Information, tickets and sponsorships, please contact [Sharon Katz](#), 617.559.8764



SAVE THE DATE

Presidential Installation Ceremony

Celebrating Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
October 25, 2018 | Evening
Hebrew College
Information coming soon



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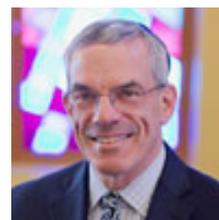
From the Hebrew College Blog (blog.hebrewcollege.edu)

SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

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

Components of Faith Parshat B'Shallach (Exodus 13:17-17:15)

By Rabbi Ben Besser, Rab` 10
Rabbi, Temple Beth Shalom, Bloomington, IN



A congregant I'll call K. just found out she has cancer. "I can't halt the parade of anxious thoughts," she tells me. "All my hair will fall out. What if the treatment doesn't work? I'm going to die." K. has a good relationship with God. She says "*modah ani*," wraps tefillin, and meditates every morning. With the news, however, none of her spiritual practices seem to help. "How fickle my faith turns out to be! Now is when I need it most."

This week's Torah portion B'Shallach begins with God's extraordinary deliverance. "When Israel saw the great hand that Adonai wielded against Egypt, then the people had faith (*va-ya'aminu*) in Adonai." (Exodus 14:31) Of course, they have faith! After marching through the sea on dry ground, the waters piling up in great walls on either side, who wouldn't believe God's awesome might at that point? On the other hand, "faith" isn't really the right word. Faith, *emunah*, operates in the realm of doubt and uncertainty, whereas the Israelites witnessed the miracle with their own eyes. "To have faith" has to mean something more than "to know."

>> [READ FULL POST](#)

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STATE OF FORMATION

[State of Formation](#) is published by the [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership at Hebrew College](#) and the [Boston University School of Theology](#).

Otherness and Authenticity: A Jew By Choice

By Andrew Webber
Student, [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#) and [2017-18 State of Formation Fellow](#)



One late summer afternoon, sitting at my computer, I googled a number of words and phrases: "synagogue," "Jewish services," and "rabbi near me." I was nineteen years old and a recent high school graduate. I wanted to talk to a rabbi. Alone in my bedroom, I started dialing. I thought to myself, "What should I say? How do I explain my interest in conversion? How does one actually become Jewish?" The phone rang and rang—no answer.

Flash forward to the fall of my sophomore year at Linfield College. I was delighted to hear that a rabbi was coming to campus for the first time to meet with students. I walked upstairs to find familiar faces and an older man wearing a kippah.[1] After the meeting, I lingered. Rabbi Gary looked at me and could tell that I wanted to speak but could not find the words. One of those same questions from years ago overcame me: “How do I become Jewish?” I uttered the phrase with vulnerability and excitement. Rabbi Gary smiled.

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