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## NEWS & VIEWS

December 21, 2017 | 3 Tevet 5778

*Hebrew College will be closed for winter break beginning at 1pm on 12/22/17, and reopening on 1/2/2018.*

*There will be no News & Views the week of December 24*

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*"It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes all the difference in the world." Pirkei Avot 1:17*

When you [donate to Hebrew College](#) you are supporting a special community and our mission to promote excellence in Jewish learning and leadership within a pluralistic environment of open inquiry, intellectual rigor, personal engagement and spiritual creativity. You are sustaining:

- *Ahavat Torah*: a love of learning
- *Areivut*: Embracing Communal Responsibility
- *Elu v'Elu*: Engaging Diversity
- *Yetzira*: Fostering Jewish Creativity

...and programs that educate and train caring, creative alumni ambassadors like (l-r below) preschool teacher [Lisa Moritz](#), [Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer](#), [Cantor Michael McCloskey](#), and teen philanthropist [Sarah Winn](#).



Donations\* to Hebrew College's Annual Fund are made for many reasons. You may consider giving in honor of your experience at Hebrew College or at local programs like Me'ah, to pay tribute to a faculty member or current student, honor a life-cycle event, remember a loved one, provide general support to a special community, or simply as an act of *tzedakah*. Consider this number: **10** days.

**Tax Benefit:** With the calendar year end only **10 days** away, please remember that you can take advantage of 2017 tax deductions with a donation to Hebrew College.

**Matching Gift:** AND you can maximize the value of your contribution thanks to a generous donor who has offered to match all gifts dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000 if donated by December 31, 2017.

Your donation helps ensure funds are readily-on-hand to support our faculty, facilities and operations, create new and exciting programs, and support the great current programs you have come to expect.

#### Other ways to donate to Hebrew College:

[Marketable Securities](#) | [Real Estate or Personal Property](#) | [Charitable IRA Rollover](#)

Thank you for your past and current support and all future contributions - whether they yield you tax savings, *kavod* (honor), comfort or pride. And don't forget the match!

*Give Today*

\* Please consider a recurring monthly, quarterly, or sustaining donation and including Hebrew College in your estate plan.

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## Eser Early Bird Registration Discount



Looking for a new way to expand your network and take part in Boston's young adult Jewish community? [Eser](#) (Hebrew for the number 10), Hebrew College's young adult learning series, which runs from March to May, features 10 sessions of conversation and learning for those in their 20s and 30s. Eser groups are led by facilitators and meet in living rooms across the Greater Boston area to discuss timely topics. This year's theme **Not-So-Small Questions**, will include discussions about how we give our lives meaning, how we create deep community, what is the Jewish concept of hell and more.

Take advantage of the early bird registration \$65 discount rate until Jan. 1. (Regular rate: \$95.) Scholarships are available. Please contact [Sara Gardner](#), Associate Director of Young Adult Programs, with any questions.

REGISTER ►



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## Romemu Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Rabbi Arthur Green

If you are in the New York City area from Thursday Jan. 18 to Sunday, Jan. 21, we invite you to spend the weekend at [Romemu](#) for their scholar-in-residence program with Hebrew College Rector and world renowned Jewish theologian and historian, [Rabbi Arthur Green](#).

Romemu—where Rabbinical School alumna [Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer](#), Rab' 14 is one of spiritual leaders—is a welcoming, experiential, irreverently pious, intergenerational Jewish community committed to powerful prayer and transformative spiritual practices.



REGISTER ►

## Free Modern Hebrew Online Demo



We are pleased to offer a free [30-minute webinar](#) about our new Modern Hebrew Online courses. Join *Mekhina* instructor [Shir Twerski](#) on January 14 from 1 to 1:30 pm for a program overview, to sample the new interactive platform, and to ask questions. New interactive curricula utilize learning materials in written, audio, and video formats.

The program focuses on everyday language relating to personal introductions, food and eating, transportation, and even some Hebrew slang. Students also learn about Israeli culture by listening to popular Israeli music, viewing segments of Israeli television programs and documentary clips, and learning about Israeli currency.

REGISTER



## Humans of Hebrew College #Humans HC





Learn more about [Rev. Soren Hessler](#), Associate Director of the [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#).

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

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## Sights & Sounds



Approximately 250 educators gathered on campus on December 11 and 12 for "People of the Book," the Eighth Annual Early Childhood Jewish Education Conference organized by the [Shoolman School's Early Childhood Institute](#). Among the speakers were (left) lunchtime keynote speaker Dr. Jeff Hoffman, American astronaut and MIT professor, who took a torah to space, (right) Itty Prus, who taught a workshop entitled "The Big Book of Chanukah," and

Early Childhood Institute Director and Conference organizer, Rachel Raz, MEd`06.



The Hebrew College campus community gathered on Dec. 13 for the annual Hanukkah party, complete with latkes, suganiyot, a musical performance by the College's Choir-in-Residence Kol Arev (directed by Amy Lieberman pictured right), and remarks by President Daniel Lehmann (left).



On Dec. 3, Kol Arev performed "Jewish Art Music" at [School of Jewish Music](#) Dean Cantor

Brian Mayer's shul, Temple Emanu-El in Providence, RI. The concert included Jewish music ranging from St. Petersburg to Palestine to modern times and also featured musicologist Sam Zerin (left at the podium), who added historical commentary throughout the program. The performance was followed by Russian high tea (including delicious sweets prepared by the congregation! Also pictured, right, cantorial student Maayan Harel.

## Notable & Quotable

The announcement of Dean of the [Rabbinical School](#) Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld as the next President of Hebrew College was featured in several publications including [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#), [EJewish Philanthropy](#), [The Jewish Advocate](#) (paid subscription only), [The Jewish Journal](#), and [JewishBoston.com](#).



Rabbi Michael Shire, Chief Academic Officer and Dean, [Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education](#) and [Jewish Studies Program](#) will be a presenter at the annual [Limmud Festival](#), in Birmingham England from Dec 24-30th. Also attending will be [School of Jewish Music](#) faculty member Jeff Klepper as well as Ilana Zeitman, currently studying in the [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#). Hebrew College alumni, including rabbinic alumni, Pardes educators and Shoolman alumni, will be among the 3000 participants.



## From the Hebrew College Blog ([blog.hebrewcollege.edu](http://blog.hebrewcollege.edu))

### SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

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

## How Will the Story End? Parashat Vayigash (Genesis 44:18-47:27)

By Rabbi Suzanne Offit, Rab`09  
Lead Chaplain, [Hebrew SeniorLife](#)

*"Hinei mah tov u'ma na'im shevet achim gam yachad."*  
"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers sit all together." —  
Psalm 133:1

I first learned these words and several musical renditions of this textual snippet as a child, long before I could even translate the psalmist's words into English. Years later, having learned the literal meaning of this verse, I





began to contemplate its meaning more deeply, knowing how difficult it can be to experience such unity within one's family, community, or beyond.

The words of psalmist rang in my ears as I read this week's Torah portion, Vayigash.

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