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 Jewish learning and leadership for a pluralistic world

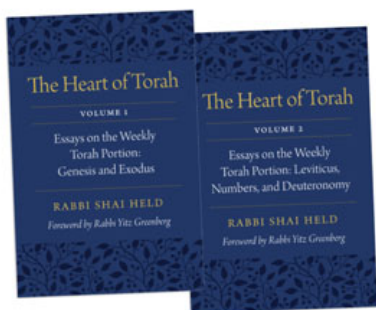
NEWS & VIEWS

August 31, 2017 | 9 Elul 5777

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The Heart of Torah *Essays on the Weekly Torah Portion*



Rabbis Shai Held & Sharon Cohen Anisfeld To Discuss "The Heart of the Torah"

Join us for "The Heart of Torah, Essays on the Weekly Torah Portion" with Rabbi Shai Held in dialogue with [Rabbinical School](#) Dean Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld (pictured below), Sunday, September 17 in Berenson Hall.

In his two-volume set of essays—two for each weekly Torah portion—Rabbi Held illuminates the centrality of empathy in Jewish ethics, the predominance of divine love in Jewish theology, the primacy of gratitude and generosity, and God's summoning of each of us—with all our limitations—into the dignity of a covenantal relationship. Books available for

purchase.

"It's an honor to welcome Rabbi Shai Held back to Hebrew College as we celebrate the recent publication of his collected Torah commentaries. His voice as a scholar and lover of Torah—insistently honest, probing, compassionate, and complex—emerges vividly in these two volumes. We are all fortunate that his teaching is now available to an even wider audience—at a time when the world so sorely needs it," said Rabbi Cohen Anisfeld.



There will be a light reception and book signing. The event is co-sponsored by LimmudBoston and Temple Reyim.

REGISTER ►



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Hebrew College HIGH HOLIDAY Companion

Purchase a copy for yourself, friends, or your shul

We are pleased to be accepting orders for the new Hebrew College High Holiday Companion with options for individual copies or bulk orders. The book was a collaborative process across all Hebrew College programs, spearheaded by Rabbinical School Dean Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, Associate Dean at the Rabbinical School Rabbi Daniel Klein, Adult Learning Director Dr. Bernice Lerner, Miller Center Director Rabbi Or Rose, and Chief Academic Officer Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, several of whom have authored pieces in the booklet.

"The book has been designed for both personal reflection and group study. As we begin the month of Elul, the month of preparation that culminates in Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we hope that the insights and reflections in this remarkable collection help you find greater meaning in the High Holidays and in your process of teshuva, repentance and returning," said Rabbi Shire.

"I feel grateful every day to be part of a community of learners and seekers at Hebrew College who are listening deeply, honestly, and creatively for the ways in which the words of our tradition speak to the needs of our world and our own hearts in this moment," Rabbi Cohen Anisfeld.

Dr. Lerner added, “My wish is for readers to find in this companion—the first Hebrew College effort of its kind—fresh perspectives, profound insights, and words that deepen their experience of our holy days. I hope, too, that it in some way accompanies us as we ‘write our stories’ in the coming year, as we choose our attitude and actions, and savor moments of awe.”

We hope that something you read in it helps you enter the words of the liturgy in a new way this year.

PURCHASE NOW



Study with Hebrew College Faculty & Students this Fall



There is still time to register for fall semester courses, including a number of offerings for community members at the [Rabbinical School](#), [Shoolman School](#), [School of Jewish Music](#) and in the [Hebrew Language Program](#). This is a great opportunity to get a taste of our programs by learning with our expert faculty and alongside students in our ordination and graduate education programs.

Rabbinical School courses* on campus which are open to the public include:

- **Introduction to Basic Cantillation** with Cantor Louise Treitman
- **Calling Out From the Depths: The Book of Psalms in Jewish and Christian Life** with Rabbi Or Rose and Dr. Andrew Davis
- **Genres and Themes of Biblical Literature** with Rabbi David Frankel
- **Introduction to Basic Nusach** with Cantor Lynn Torgove
- **Siddur** with Rabbi Dan Berman
- **Theories of Halakhah** with Rabbi Jane Kanarek
- **Theology of the Jewish Year** with Rabbi Or Rose
- **Torah for Transformative Social Change** with Rabbi Jane Kanarek

*Courses may require Hebrew language prerequisites and/or instructor permission. See [tuition](#) and [registration](#) information.

Hebrew courses include:

- On campus: [Ulpan](#), [Hebrew Language and Culture](#)
- Online: [Modern Hebrew Online](#)

The Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education and School of Jewish Music are offering the following online classes at the special community tuition rate of \$500, plus a \$55 registration:

- Inner Life and Social Justice Activism with Rabbi David Jaffe
- Biblical, Rabbinic and Contemporary Perspectives on Inter marriage and Conversion with Rabbi Ilan Fuchs
- Hebrew in Jewish Education with Dr. Shiri Katz-Gershon
- How to Chant Torah with Cantor Neil Schwartz

REGISTER ▶

Ulpan registration only:
[CLICK HERE](#)

Ta Sh'ma

Come & Hear

Fall Ordination Programs Open House & Day of Learning
November 6, 2017

If you or anyone you know is interested in the rabbinate or cantorate, come and experience the vibrant pluralistic communities of Hebrew College's pioneering [rabbinical](#), accelerated [cantorial-educator](#) and [rav-hazzan](#) programs at our fall Open House. This is an opportunity to join with our students and faculty for an inspiring day of learning, conversation, music and prayer.

LEARN MORE ▶

Sights & Sounds



Rabbi Or N. Rose (pictured top right), Director of the [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#), participated in a public gathering at Temple Israel in Boston on August 18, 2017, with Governor Charlie Baker, Attorney General Maura Healey, Mayor Marty Walsh, and many area religious leaders in response to the horrific events in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the planned free speech rally on Boston Common the next day. The gathering was organized by the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and unveiled a [joint statement](#) from Boston Area Religious Leaders on the events in Charlottesville. Several Hebrew College alumni and faculty attended the event including (pictured clockwise from top left) Rabbi Suzie Schwartz Jacobson, Rab`15; Rabbi Rose; Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman, Rab`14 and School of Jewish Music adjunct faculty member Cantor Jeff Klepper; and Rabbi Ma'ayan Sand, Rab`17. [View more pictures from the event.](#)

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Notable & Quotable

Rabbi Dan Judson, Associate Dean of Professional Development and Placement at the Rabbinical School, was interviewed on the "It's Who You Know Podcast" in August about his research on synagogue dues. [Listen now.](#)



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Fall Hebrew College Events

<http://hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events>

[Knocking at Our Hearts: Transforming Teshuvah with Song](#)

Sunday, Sep 10, 2017 - 3:30-6 pm

Temple Reyim, Newton, MA

Sponsored by Mayyim Hayyim & Hebrew College

Admission: \$36

[Register](#)



[Webinar: Prophets on Guitar \(Jewish Songwriters & the Music of Protest\)](#)

with Cantor Jeff Klepper

Monday, Sep 11, 2017 - 4:00 pm

Admission: Free

[Register](#)



[The Heart of Torah, Essays on the Weekly Torah Portion:](#)

Rabbi Shai Held (right) in dialogue with Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld

Sunday, Sep 17, 2017 - 7:30 pm

Hebrew College

Admission: Free

[Register](#)



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

HIGH HOLIDAY COMPANION

Posts are excerpts from *Hebrew College's High Holiday Companion*, which is available for

purchase. [Learn more and order your copy.](#)

"One Thing I Ask of YHWH: Humility and the Spirituality of Speech"

By Rabbi Or Rose

Director, [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#)



It is customary to begin reciting Psalm 27 on the first day of Elul, one month before Rosh Hashanah, and continuing through Sukkot. Like the sounding of the shofar, this twice-daily practice (morning and night) is intended to help us reflect on our beliefs, questions, hopes and fears as we prepare for a new year.

When I revisit the psalm this year, I find myself drawn to verse 4:

“One thing I ask of YHWH; this do I seek:
to dwell in the house of YHWH all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of YHWH and to
visit God’s abode.”

> [READ FULL POST](#)

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SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

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

First Questions

Parashat Ki Tetzei, Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

By Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld

Dean, [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#)



In Jewish sacred time, we have entered the season of teshuva. Often translated as repentance, teshuva comes from the Hebrew root meaning to return. However lost we feel, however far we have wandered - there is a way back. It is possible to find our way home - to God, to ourselves, to one another. At the heart of this season, then, is both a summons and an embrace.

The period of teshuva begins in earnest with the start of the Hebrew month of Elul, which we celebrated last week. Elul provides us with a preparatory period of personal and communal soul-searching leading up to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The Hebrew name of the month is understood as an acronym for the verse from the Song of Songs: Ani l’dodi v’dodi li. I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine.

> [READ FULL POST](#)

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