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## NEWS & VIEWS

July 20, 2017 | 26 Tammuz, 5777

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## Hebrew College Publishes High Holiday Companion

Jewish tradition teaches that as we traverse the winding path of teshuvah (return and renewal) each year during the High Holy Day season, it is wise to do so with fellow seekers.

To help guide your steps, the faculty, alumni, and students of Hebrew College have created a collection of reflections on the prayers, scriptural readings, and sacred practices of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Featuring original essays, poetry, and visual artwork, this booklet will help illuminate the way into the High Holiday liturgy and these sacred days of return and renewal.

While the full booklet will be available for purchase later this summer ([learn more here](#)), we are sharing several pieces from it digitally over the coming weeks. We hope this will provide you with personal nourishment and materials for teaching and preaching as we move through the summer, the final months of the Jewish calendar, and the Days of Awe.

Commenting on this new project, Rabbi Or Rose, Director of the [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#), said, "We are honored to share the heartfelt reflections of a diverse group of Hebrew College students and teachers with a broad audience. These pieces all emerge from the contributors' own ethical and spiritual journeys through the Yamim Noraim (Days of Awe)."

We invite you to [read the first selection](#), which is an exploration of the meaning of the sounding of the shofar by Rabbi Daniel Lehmann, president of Hebrew College. In this thought-provoking piece, Rabbi Lehmann explores the laws of this ancient and evocative ritual, and ponders the spiritual significance of the sequence of the shofar blasts.

LEARN MORE ►

## Two Weeks Left Until Shoolman Application & Fellowships Deadline



Don't miss this opportunity to take advantage of increased fellowship funding for the Shoolman School's graduate master's programs in [Jewish Education](#) and [Jewish Studies](#). We have extended the fall 2017 application deadline until July 31 to allow prospective students to take advantage of these generous scholarship awards.

If you have questions or would like to refer someone for either of these programs, please contact the [Admissions Office](#).

APPLY ►



## Jewish World Music Week | July 24-28 and A Journey of Jewish Music: From Baghdad to Boston

[Study with masters of Jewish music](#) of India, Iraq and Yemen, Sephardic and Ladino influences, and the music of Eastern Europe during Jewish World Music Week at Hebrew College. Prayer Leader Summer Institute 2017 (PLSI) concludes with this weeklong program offering single- and multi-day courses highlighting Jewish music traditions from around the world.

Take a musical tour on Monday evening, July 24, in [A Journey of Jewish Music: From Baghdad to Boston](#) featuring Cantor and performer George Mordecai, along with his star-studded ensemble including Mitch Gordon, Hankus Netsky and Zafer Tawil. Immerse yourself and experience a journey of Jewish music from Cantor Mordecai's family's roots in India and Iraq, through Australia and into North America. Reception begins at 6:30 pm, concert at 7:00 pm. [Reserve your tickets](#).

## Rachel Raz to Produce *The Torah Space Project*



Did you know that Shoolman School [Early Childhood Institute](#) Director Rachel Raz (bottom, right) is also the executive producer of the forthcoming movie *The First Torah in Space: What Lessons Can We Learn From It?*

When the Shoolman School hosted American Jewish astronaut Dr. Jeff Hoffman last January, he played footage of himself reading from the Torah in space and explaining its significance. "The educator in me immediately felt that this was a missed opportunity, and I asked him if he would be open to making a documentary movie about his story and the story of the specific Torah that he brought with him," said Raz.

Dr. Hoffman was one of the first American Jewish astronauts to fly to space. Over five missions, he chose to take with him several Jewish artifacts such as mezuzahs and dreidels. The highlight was a small and light Torah scroll that he took with him in 1996. "Going into space did not make the Torah more special, the Torah made space more special," said Hoffman.

Raz has already begun promoting the movie. In June, she gave a session at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life conference in Jackson, MS in which she examined the questions: What can outer space teach us about Jewish education? Why was it so important to Dr. Hoffman to bring those Jewish objects aboard the space shuttle? And what can we learn from him about priorities and choices?



> [LEARN MORE AND WATCH THE TRAILER](#)

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## Humans of Hebrew College #HumansHC



Learn more about [Alison Kanarek](#), [Parenting Through a Jewish Lens](#) participant.

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!)

## Sights & Sounds



Graduate students in the Shoolman School's [Jewish Education](#), [Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement](#) and [Jewish Studies](#) online programs spent this week on campus for the one-week residential portion of their programs. [Learn about all of Shoolman's programs](#). Fall application deadline: **July 31**.



Professor Joshua Jacobson (fourth from left), this year's recipient of the North American Jewish Choral Festival HALLEIL V'ZIMRAH Award for Lifetime Achievement in the field of Jewish choral music, with [School of Jewish Music \(SJM\) COSEL](#) students and faculty at this week's Choral Festival. Pictured l-r: Rav-Hazzan Scott Sokol, Cantor Jeff Klepper, Maayan Harel, Josh Jacobson, Dara Rosenblatt, Jennifer Boyle, Monica Braverman, Melanie Blatt, Marcia Spellman, and SJM Dean Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer.

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# July Hebrew College Events

([hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events](http://hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events))



## Prayer Leader Summer Institute (PLSI): Jewish World Music Week

July 24 - 28 | Hebrew College

[View schedule and register](#)

PLSI Presents: A Journey of Jewish Music from Baghdad to Boston - George Mordecai, with special guests Mitch Gordon, Hankus Netsky and Zafer Tawil

July 24 | 6:30 pm reception - 7 pm concert

Hebrew College | \$10

[Purchase tickets](#)

## **NEW!** Free Webinar: Prophets on Guitar (Jewish Songwriters & the Music of Protest)

with Cantor Jeff Klepper

Sept. 11 | 4-5 pm

[Learn more and Register](#)

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

### HIGH HOLIDAY COMPANION

Posts are excerpts from Hebrew College's High Holiday Companion, which will be available for purchase in August. [Learn more.](#)

## The Dual Nature of Shofar

By Rabbi Daniel Lehmann  
President, Hebrew College

The sounding of the shofar, the ram's horn, during the month of Elul leading up to Rosh Hashanah and on Rosh Hashanah itself, has a dual nature.

In one of the classic medieval codes of Jewish law, the Arba'ah Turim, the laws of Rosh Hashanah are introduced by describing the custom to blow the shofar during the month before Rosh Hashanah. Two verses are brought to support this practice. The first, from Psalms 47:6, reads: "God ascends amidst the blast, the Lord with the sound of the shofar." The code of Rabbi Yaakov ben Asher explains that this verse recalls the moment when Moses ascends the mountain to receive the second set of covenantal tablets, and the shofar is sounded to mark Moses' ascent and God is also raised up by the blasts of the shofar.



> [READ FULL POST](#)

### SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

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

## How Pure Does the Coalition Have to Be? Parshat Mattot/Massei, Numbers 30:2-32:42

By Rabbi Avi Killip, Rab` 14

Vice President of Strategy and Programs and Director of [Project Zug at Mechon Hadar](#)

How pure does the coalition have to be? This is the question of the moment. Within the Jewish community, as well as in the broader political world—groups on both sides of the aisle are looking at the people standing next to them, working with them for a joint cause, and wondering how much room there is for difference when it comes to vision and goals. We recognize the need to work together and the need for participation and support from as many people as possible. And yet, when someone reveals a motive we don't share—and that we might not understand, we get scared and even more so, we get angry. What makes diversity within our ranks so scary? What is it that we are we afraid of?



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