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NEWS & VIEWS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Science of the Soul](#)
- [In Memoriam: Shira Tzur](#)
- [Apply to Hevruta Gap-Year Program](#)
- [Prayer Leader Summer Institute](#)
- [Eser Early Registration Deadline](#)
- [Winter/Spring Me'ah Select](#)
- [Hebrew College Gala](#)
- [Notable & Quotable](#)
- [Humans of Hebrew College](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Subscribe to News & Views](#)



Exploring Theology and Creation

Prayer, Neuroscience, and the Interconnection of Mind/Body

“Maimonides says religious people who have no awareness of science — he talks about astronomy in particular — are like people walking around the palace of the king who can’t find the gate. You really need science to enter the gate.”

— Professor Howard Smith, senior astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center

Dr. Smith will be the first of an array of presenters from the scientific community at the [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#)'s winter seminar "Science and the Soul" from January 23- 26. This year's seminar is a unique partnership between the rabbinical school and the [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#) (AAAS). All sessions are free.

As Dr. Se Kim, Associate Director of the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) explained, "The science for rabbinical training is an extension of DoSER's science for seminaries effort, which arose in response to the recognition that many people look to their religious leaders for guidance on the societal and contemporary issues brought by scientific discoveries."

[Rabbi Dan Judson](#) (right), Director of Professional Development and Placement at the Rabbinical School, developed the program with a group of rabbinical students and views the seminar as a unique opportunity for students to learn from scientists who are working in fields which have a direct bearing on the work that rabbis do. He said, "Be it an astrophysicist discussing the latest developments in cosmology and the impact that may have on theology or an epigeneticist presenting on the latest research regarding how trauma is passed through generations, which will impact an understanding of pastoral care, this seminar is sure to enlarge and enliven our understanding of the world."



The seminar is free and open to the public with advance registration. Please e-mail mstern@hebrewcollege.edu to register. [View the full schedule and sessions descriptions.](#)

LEARN MORE 

The winter seminar is funded by the John Templeton Foundation with support from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). AAAS supports efforts to integrate science into rabbinic training. As a science membership organization, it does not advise on or endorse the theological content of the program. Hebrew College is appreciative of their commitment to this work and to their work in bridging the worlds of the scientific and religious communities.



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In Memoriam: Shira Tzur

A Message from the Prozdor Director

It is with a heavy heart that I let you know of the death of Shira Tzur, a young woman who graduated from the The Hebrew Reali School in Haifa and participated in the Pirke Dorot program with [Prozdor](#) in the 2010-11 school year. Shira, along with three other soldiers, was killed on Sunday in Jerusalem during a horrific terrorist attack near the Tayelet Armon HaNatziv, a popular scenic viewpoint in southern Jerusalem that looks out over the Old City.



Shira was a remarkable young woman who met and befriended the Prozdor students that year and stayed in touch with many of them throughout her time at Reali and during her army service. I remember her soft and gentle nature, her genuine kindness, and her earnest and caring personality above all else.

The Prozdor community will gather together from 11:05-11:25 on Sunday morning, January 22, for a memorial service for Shira in Berenson Hall.

Dan Brosgol
Director of Prozdor

[Read a personal reflection on this tragic event by Hebrew College President Daniel Lehmann below.](#)

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High School Seniors: Apply Now for Our Hevruta Gap-Year Program in Israel



For high school seniors interested in a gap-year, the [Hevruta Gap Year program in Israel](#) – run by Hebrew College in partnership with the [Shalom Hartman Institute](#) – is a great opportunity for 20 North American high school graduates to spend a year learning and volunteering in Jerusalem alongside 20 Israeli high school graduates. No other gap-year program integrates American and Israeli peers in such an immersive environment.

The program runs September-May. Over the course of the 9-month experience, Hevruta participants engage in rigorous inquiry and text study, while taking advantage of Jerusalem's rich intellectual and spiritual resources. Beit Midrash, the process of active

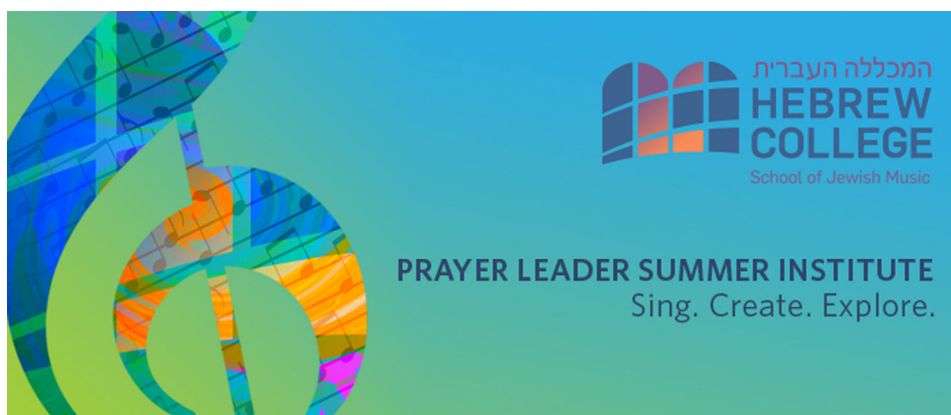
learning, is the core of Hevruta. Students receive a vast, deep and complex exposure to classical and modern Jewish texts through partnered learning and compelling discussion. The learning is designed to explore questions of identity and to develop leadership skills. Classes are taught in English, and North American students have the opportunity to study modern Hebrew to enhance their experience with Israel and Israelis.

Applications for Hevruta 2017-18 are now open and there are only 20 spots for North Americans. Apply by March 1. Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis.

LEARN MORE



Prayer Leader Summer Institute II



Sing, Create, Explore. Whether you are a lay leader, student, musician or teacher—if you are interested in honing your musical skills and expanding your understanding of prayer—join us for [School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College](#) Prayer Leader Summer Institute II from June 6-July 28. We're back with classes in liturgy, sacred drumming, World Jewish Music and more. Flexible options: Register for an individual class, weekly class or for a session(s).

LEARN MORE



Last Day for Eser Registration Discount



Today is the last day to get the early registration discount for [Eser's](#) 2017 learning series: **Ten Ethical Dilemmas: What Would You Do?** This spring, groups will be talking about big issues and sticky situations. Topics include:

- Dating and Technology
- Student Debt
- Ethical Eating
- Community Responsibility
- Privacy
- Globalization and Commerce

Hebrew College's Eser program is for Jewish young adults (and the Jew-curious) in their 20s and 30s looking to make new friends, skip the small talk and explore Jewish takes on modern issues. Eser groups come together in living rooms across Boston, meeting once a week from March to May.

[Visit the Eser website](#) for exact dates and locations or [contact Ashley Arnold](#) for more information. General registration will remain open until March.

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Winter/Spring Me'ah Select Classes



Register Now! Winter/Spring [Me'ah Select](#) registration will be closing soon. Me'ah Select classes are one semester, in-depth courses that examine key themes, personalities or time periods in Jewish history. Choose from 12 classes—eight evening and four daytime offerings.

Register ►►

Save the Date

**Hebrew College's
2017 Gala**


Honoring
the
Grossman Family

Louis Grossman
The Grossman Companies, Inc.
Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands, Rab` 16

and

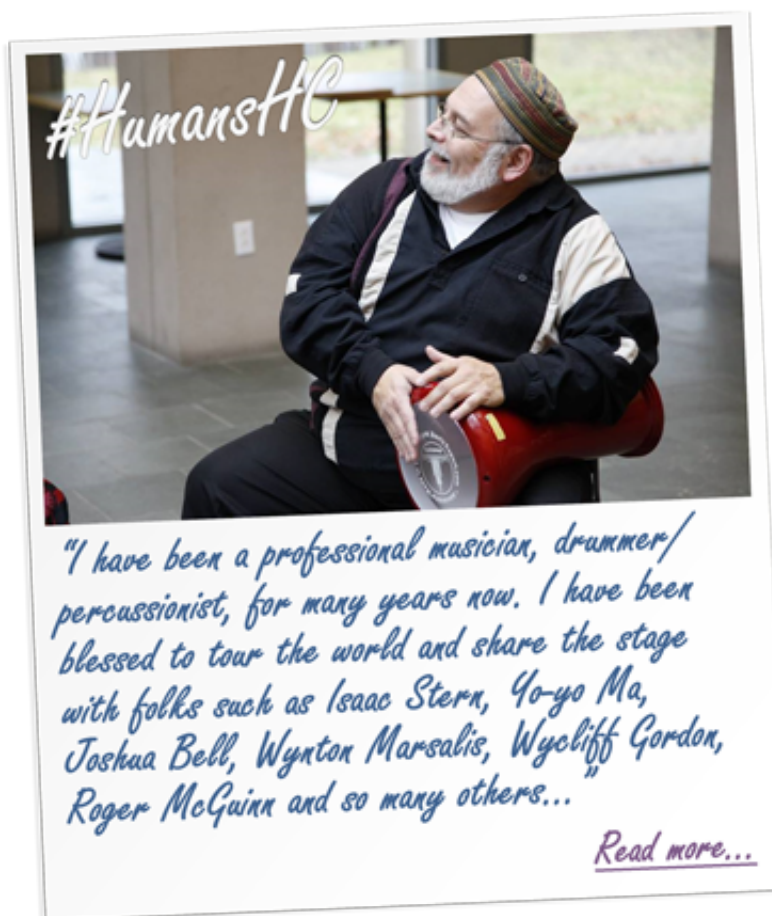
Susan Ain
*Recipient of the Esther Award
for Leadership and Philanthropy*

Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
Back Bay Events Center
180 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA

 **המכללה העברית
HEBREW COLLEGE**

For information, [corporate sponsorships](#) or questions about the [Gala](#), please contact
Lauren Hobler at lhobler@hebrewcollege.edu or 617.559.8847.

Humans of Hebrew College



Learn more about School of Jewish Music sacred drumming instructor [Mitch Gordon](#) and other Hebrew College #Humans on [Facebook](#) and [our blog](#). If you are interested in being featured, 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

Head of vocal arts at the [School of Jewish Music](#) Cantor Lynn Torgove, Can'11, MAJS'11, will be singing in a concert with the [Cantata Singers](#) on Jan. 20 at 7:30 pm at Jordan Hall in Boston. She will be performing Yiddish Art Songs by Lazar Weiner and as well as pieces by Kurt Weill with various members of the Cantata Singers, as part of a series of concerts celebrating composer Yehudi Weiner and his father's music.



[Rabbinical School](#) alumnus Rabbi Van Lanckton, Rab'09's article "[Fake news and Jewish Truth](#)" was published in the Jan. 6 edition of The Jewish Advocate. "Speaking only the truth is one of the highest Jewish ethics. The Hebrew word for 'truth' is *emet*. In Yiddish, it's *emess*, as in, 'I'm telling you, it's the *emess*,'" says Rabbi Lanckton.



[Shoolman School](#) Adjunct Instructor Ronit Zvi-Kreger's article "[Implementing Project-Based Learning in Congregational Schools](#)" was published in the NewCAJE journal "The Jewish Educator." Zvi-Kreger designs and facilitates project-based learning training for the Shoolman School's [Congregational Educational Initiative \(CEI\) project](#).



Rabbi Alana Alpert, Rab'14 was featured in a Jan. 10 article in the Detroit Jewish News entitled "[36 Under 36: Rabbi Alana Alpert](#)." An advocate for social change, Rabbi Alpert works at Temple T'chayah in Detroit as a rabbi and community organizer.



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Register for Winter Events

(hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events)



A Woman Walks into a Bar: Surprising Tales of Rabbinic Betrothal

Torah Study with Rabbi Dr. Jane Kanarek during Shabbat morning services. Then following services, she will discuss the laws of marriage through the lens of Talmudic stories.

Jan. 14 at Congregation Mishkan Tefila, 384 Harvard Street, Brookline
Part of the Hebrew College-Mishkan Tefila Learning Series

Transitioning to a New Week: A Community Havdalah and Post-Shabbat Celebration

With Rabbi Nehemia Polen and Musician Lev Friedman
 Hebrew College
 Feb 4, 2017 - 8pm
 \$10 | [Purchase Ticket](#)

In Search of Peace and Wholeness: An Evening of Music and Storytelling
 With the Yuval Ron Ensemble & Friends (pictured above)
 Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017 - 7:30pm
 Hebrew College
 Free | [Register](#)

Jewish Genealogy: Discover Your Family History (8 sessions)
 March 1-April 26, 2017 - 7pm
 Hebrew College
 \$250 | [Register](#)

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

COMMUNITY BLOG

Two Intersecting and Divergent Songs

By Rabbi Daniel Lehmann
[President, Hebrew College](#)

This past Sunday was the last day of my annual trip to Israel and my son and I were driving from Yad Vashem to visit with a friend in the Talpiyot neighborhood of Jerusalem. It was mid-afternoon and I no longer had access to cell phone service. I was observing the fast of the 10th of Tevet, and my increasing hunger was exacerbating my frustration over the amount of traffic on the way. I also noticed a heightened police presence as we



drove into Talpiyot.

When I finally reached my friend's apartment, I apologized for being late due to the traffic and he informed me that a terrorist attack on soldiers took place not long before my arrival just a few blocks away. Having just come from the Yad Vashem holocaust memorial into the hustle and bustle of vibrant Jerusalem, I was thrown back into a deep sadness as the news that four soldiers were murdered at the Jerusalem promenade sunk in. Only when I arrived back in Boston did I discover that one of those soldiers who died in the attack was Shira Tzur, a 20 year old soldier who hosted and befriended high school students from our Hebrew College Prozdor program during the 2010-11 academic year.

> [READ FULL POST](#)

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SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

Posts from this Hebrew College-hosted blog are published weekly in [Huffington Post Religion](#).

Hope is the Thing We Can Do

Parshat Vayechi, Genesis 47:28-50:26

By Rabbi Elisha Herb, Rab'16
Rabbi, Temple Beth Shalom, Salem, OR

Diversity can be an excruciating experiment. One person's story can unravel another's; our all-too-human desire to be able to narrate our lives in some coherent way can be profoundly challenged by someone else's need for coherence. At times, diversity fosters a sense of chaos, and efforts to find coherence become especially challenging as our perceptions of difference come into focus. We may feel as if things are coming apart, the fabric of our lives being torn apart.



In this week's parasha, Vayechi, Jacob is on his deathbed, and he gathers his 12 very different sons, saying he will tell them of "the end of days"—in Hebrew, b'aharit hayamim. According to many of the medieval commentators—Rashi, Rashbam, Ramban, and Sforno—Jacob intends to tell his children of the final redemption of the world, the distant future, the days of the Messiah. Then, abruptly, he utters a lengthy and very carefully structured poem that--like much of what is deemed prophetic in the Tanakh--is almost unintelligible. Despite its careful composition, there is no single characteristic that binds this poem together, and no strategy to decode the obscurity of the words. Oddly, no mention of any apocalypse or final redemption ensues.

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