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NEWS & VIEWS

October 18, 2018 | 9 Cheshvan 5779



Introducing All Genders Wrap

[All Genders Wrap](#) was born out of [Rabbinical School](#) student Rachel Putterman's desire to empower Jews of all genders with the knowledge of how to put on tefillin, a sacred practice that has traditionally been solely within the purview of cis-gender men.

"As a relatively late-in-life rabbinical school student, I really wanted to learn how to put on tefillin... When I asked a friend my age how she learned, she said by watching YouTube videos. When I went on YouTube, I was shocked to discover that all the videos portray only men," said Putterman, creator and director of All Genders Wrap.

Putterman recruited fellow rabbinical student Gita Karasov to help her produce the videos. Gita was the perfect partner because she has a regular tefillin practice and experience teaching others how to

wrap. Together they assembled a cast of Rabbinical School students, alumni and faculty, hired a professional film crew, and launched a successful [crowdfunding campaign](#). After a full day of filming in the spring, Putterman, Karasov and the film editor spent the summer putting together a series of three videos showing a diverse group of Jews of all genders (including cis-gender women, transgender and non-binary) demonstrating how to put on tefillin. The [videos](#) went live on YouTube earlier this month.

According to Putterman, the videos serve multiple purposes. First, they make a visual statement regarding gender inclusivity within the realm of Jewish practice. Second, they provide cis-gender female, non-binary, and trans role models for those seeking to learn how to put on tefillin. Third, they offer easy-to-follow detailed instructions regarding how to wrap tefillin in an aesthetically pleasing format.

"Within the first 24 hours after the videos went live, they were viewed more than 1,500 times, and we've received overwhelmingly positive feedback," said Putterman. "People are impressed with the diversity represented in the videos, as well as their beauty and clarity, and are telling us how valuable they will be to the communities they serve. It's incredibly satisfying to have the videos out in the world where they can inspire and teach people how to engage in this holy practice."

Photo credit: Dena Trugman

Watch the Videos



Celebrating the Installation of Our New President

Approximately 600 members of our community came together on Monday to celebrate the installation of Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld as the ninth — and first female — president of Hebrew College.

The event drew both local and national educational, religious, and community leaders, including Consul General of Israel to New England Ze'ev Boker; Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller; Harvard University President Lawrence Bacow; Combined Jewish Philanthropies President & CEO Rabbi Marc Baker; Former

American Jewish World Service President Ruth Messinger; President of the American Federation of Teachers Randi Weingarten; and Boston Chief of Education Turahn Dorsey; as well as rabbis, cantors, deans, faculty members, and dignitaries and guests from across the country.

Speakers included Rabbi Angela Warnick Buchdahl, senior rabbi of Central Synagogue in New York; Idit Klein, founding executive director of Keshet; and Yehuda Kurtzer, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America; Andy Offit, chair of the Hebrew College Board of Trustees; and Rabbi Baker. Rabbinical School Rector Rabbi Arthur Green and Board Chair Andy Offit delivered the statement of affirmation to officially install Rabbi Anisfeld.

Rabbi Anisfeld spoke of the important work of Hebrew College: to promote the love of Torah and the study of Jewish texts, traditions, languages, literature, and ideas in a vibrant, pluralistic setting; to foster communities in which people listen to each other with open hearts and open minds; and to prepare religious and educational leaders who are knowledgeable, compassionate, and communally engaged.

“We are — we must be — witnesses to a deeper truth. One of connection and compassion. One of humility and hope. This is our sacred mission at Hebrew College. And never has it been more vitally important,” said Rabbi Anisfeld. “From the beginning, the Jewish journey has been one of engagement, of responsibility for rather than retreat from the world. This is what we ask of our students and each other again and again: go deep and go wide.”



Panelists: [Shalom Hartman Institute of North America](#) President Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer; [Keshet](#) Founding Exec. Director Idit Klein; President Anisfeld; [Central Synagogue](#) Senior Rabbi Angela Warnick Buchdahl; and Fordham Law Prof. Jed Handelsman Shugerman



Hebrew College Head of Vocal Arts Cantor Lynn Torgove, Can`12; Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer, Rab`14; Rav-Hazzan Aliza Berger, Rab`17, Can`17; and Rabbi Buchdahl



President Anisfeld with Harvard University President Lawrence Bacow



Installation Chairs Rabbi Suzanne Offit, Rab`09 and Rabbi Sonia Saltzman, Rab`08



CJP President & CEO Rabbi Marc Baker and Hebrew College Board Chair Andy Offit led the processional and delivered opening remarks



President Anisfeld delivered "Words of Reflection and Hope" after formally being installed and receiving a Book of Blessings. Read and watch her remarks [here](#)

[View videos, remarks and more photos from the event](#)

Make a celebratory gift in honor of President Anisfeld's installation by joining the inaugural Shabbat Table, President's Council, or by making a donation of any amount that is meaning to you. [Learn more and make a gift.](#)

Fall Ordination Programs Open House & Day of Learning

If you or anyone you know is interested in the rabbinate or



cantorate, join the students and faculty in Hebrew College's pioneering [rabbinical](#), [cantorial](#) and [rav-hazzan](#) programs at our fall Open House on **November 12** for an inspiring day of learning, conversation, music and prayer.

[Learn more & register](#)

For more information about our rabbinical or rav-hazzan programs, contact [Rabbi Daniel Klein](#). For information about our 3-year, accelerated cantorial program, contact [Marcia Spellman](#).

Midcareer Fellowships Available

The Shoolman School is recruiting Midcareer Fellows. This is a great opportunity since this is the final year of the midcareer fellowship grant. Applications for spring 2019 are due November 15, 2018. For additional information, please contact: dron@hebrewcollege.edu.

[Learn More](#)



Words to Live By
Book Launch & Panel Discussion
 Oct 23 at Hebrew College
 7:30 p.m. | Free
 Reservations: Email mstern@hebrewcollege.edu

Shoolman School Education Conference
"Israel's Multiple Dimensions"
 Oct. 28-31 at Hebrew College
[Information & Registration](#)

An Evening in Memory of Dr. David Ariel z"l

Ta Sh'ma: Fall Ordination Programs
Open House & Day of Learning
 Nov. 12 | Hebrew College
[Information and Registration](#)

Torah Godly Play Training
 Nov. 26 at Hebrew College
 9:30 a.m | \$100 per person
[Learn more](#) | [Register](#)

The Heidi Urich Annual Lecture on Jewish
Genealogy with Rebecca Kobrin

Nov. 1 at Temple Emanuel
8 pm | Free
Co-sponsors: Hebrew College & Temple Emanuel
[Learn more](#)

Sweet Sounds of Peace:
Imilonji KaNtu Choral Society
Nov. 8 - Workshop & Concert
Workshop 4-6 p.m. | Free
Concert 7:30 p.m. | \$10
[Purchase Concert Tickets](#)

"Credit to the Nation: East European Jewish Immigrant Bankers, Mass Migration and American Finance."
Co-sponsored by [Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston](#) and Hebrew College
Dec. 16 | 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Free
Hebrew College
[Learn more](#)

~ In the News ~

Monday evening's **Hebrew College Presidential Installation Ceremony** was featured in an October 16 Boston Globe article entitled [Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld Installed as first female president of Hebrew College](#), an October 16 JTA News Brief article entitled [Hebrew College installs its first female president](#), and an October 16 article in The Newton Tab entitled [Hebrew College in Newton Installs First Female President](#).

Early Childhood Institute Director **Rachel Raz**'s article [The Multiple Dimensions of Israel](#) appeared in the October 17 issue of eJewish Philanthropy.



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

Sarah's Silent Cry

Parashat Lech Lecha (Genesis 12:1-17:27)

By Rabbi Elizabeth Bonney-Cohen, Rab' 18
Assistant Rabbi and Director of Outreach & Innovation
Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA



He didn't mean to...
He wouldn't have, if only...
There was nothing he could have done to prevent it...
It only happened because she was too...

With these words, we subtly dismiss the perpetration of violence and subjugation inflicted on those least protected by our social and political systems. They all too easily roll off the tongue when we hear news of some horrific violation.

Did you hear that she had been drinking too?
He is such a nice guy, he couldn't have possibly done that.
That's just what happens at parties.

Perhaps we want to assume the best in people—innocent until proven guilty. Or maybe we say these words as a kind of defense mechanism, because as long as there is a “logical” explanation for such incomprehensible behavior, we can maintain the facade that we are not at risk of falling prey to it.

Read More



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