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NEWS & VIEWS

June 29, 2018 | 16 Tammuz 5778

Blog Edition

Join us TODAY, Friday, June 29 at 10am ET | Facebook Live Event: The Role of Faith-Based Organizations in the Immigrant Family Separation Crisis

Please join [Hebrew College](#), [CJP](#) and [JewishBoston.com](#) for a special [Facebook Live event](#) today at 10 a.m. discussing the current immigrant family separation crisis.

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, who just returned from the Texas/Mexico border, will be joined by **CJP's Sarah Abramson** and **Catholic Charities' Marjean Perhot** to discuss the unique role faith-based organizations play in addressing this crisis.

To watch the Facebook Live, visit facebook.com/cjpboston

If you are unable to join today at 10am, the video will be available to stream after the event concludes. The recording will also be published as a JewishBoston podcast, available at jewishboston.com/podcast next week.

Facebook Live Event

COMMUNITY BLOG

Prayer for Interfaith Vigil at Tornillo Detention Camp

By Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
President-Elect, [Hebrew College](#)



[Hebrew College](#) President-Elect Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld spent the day in El Paso and Tornillo calling for an end to the inhumane policy of family separations and detentions and the violations of the basic rights of asylum seekers. She joined a national delegation of labor, educational, and faith leaders organized by the AFT (American Federation of Teachers). Rabbi Anisfeld commented, “Amidst the heartbreak, it was truly inspiring to be with such a humble, down-to-earth, focused, dedicated and in-it-for-the-long-haul group of educators, activists, and religious leaders.”

Rabbi Anisfeld was among those who offered prayers during an interfaith vigil at the Tornillo Detention Center where children are still being held. The delegation sought to deliver books and toys to the children but were denied entry.

Pictured above (L to R) at the courthouse in El Paso, TX: Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, Hebrew College; Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah in New York City; Rabbi Stephanie Rusky, Jewish Theological Seminary.

Read Rabbi Anisfeld's Prayer



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

Something of Redemption

Parshat Balak (Numbers, 22:2-25:9)

By Rabbi Dan Judson
Dean, [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#)



This week's Torah portion contains one of the more famous verses from the Torah, "How good are your tents Jacob, your dwelling places Israel/ *mah tovu ohalekha Yaakov, mishkanotekha Yisrael*" The context for the verse is the unusual tale of Balaam. Balaam is a foreign prophet who is called to curse Israel by Balak, a king who fears Israel's might. But every time Balaam comes to curse Israel, blessings come out. In his final curse/blessing, he looks out over Israel and says the famous line that has become a standard part of Jewish liturgy. The story is one of inversion. Curses are turned into blessings.

Because the Balaam story is one of such hope that blessings will fall on Israel, it is a distinct surprise to read Yehuda Amichai's poem about this moment in the Torah which has become a prayer. While Balaam has curses becoming blessing, Amichai, Israel's most renowned poet, goes the other way.

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