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NEWS & VIEWS

July 26, 2018 | 14 Av 5778

Your Study Guide for Elul: The Hebrew College *High Holiday Companion*



Last summer, Hebrew College published a *High Holiday Companion*, which was put together by a group of faculty, alumni and students who wanted to share some of the beautiful wisdom at Hebrew College with the rest of the Jewish world. It was also an opportunity to introduce the rest of the Jewish world to the Hebrew College community. It has been a success at accomplishing both of these goals, and we have received wonderful responses from people who have gleaned wisdom from its offerings.

"We felt it was important to offer to our whole congregation because each written piece told a very different story. It's hard to get a sense from a traditional *machzor* that we're

"This is a stunning collection of insights and poetry which I encourage people to order for their congregation, students, friends, parents, children,

essentially telling stories and interpretations from many different liturgical poets over many years," said Rabbi Dan Berman, Rab` 10, spiritual leader of Temple Reyim in Newton, MA. "The *Companion* gave us many new ways to enter the high holy days, with multiple voices, interpretations and experiences from people who encounter the texts of the high holy days from very different places. We're are committed to being more and more inclusive of all voices and experiences at Reyim and the *Companion* was a spiritual model."

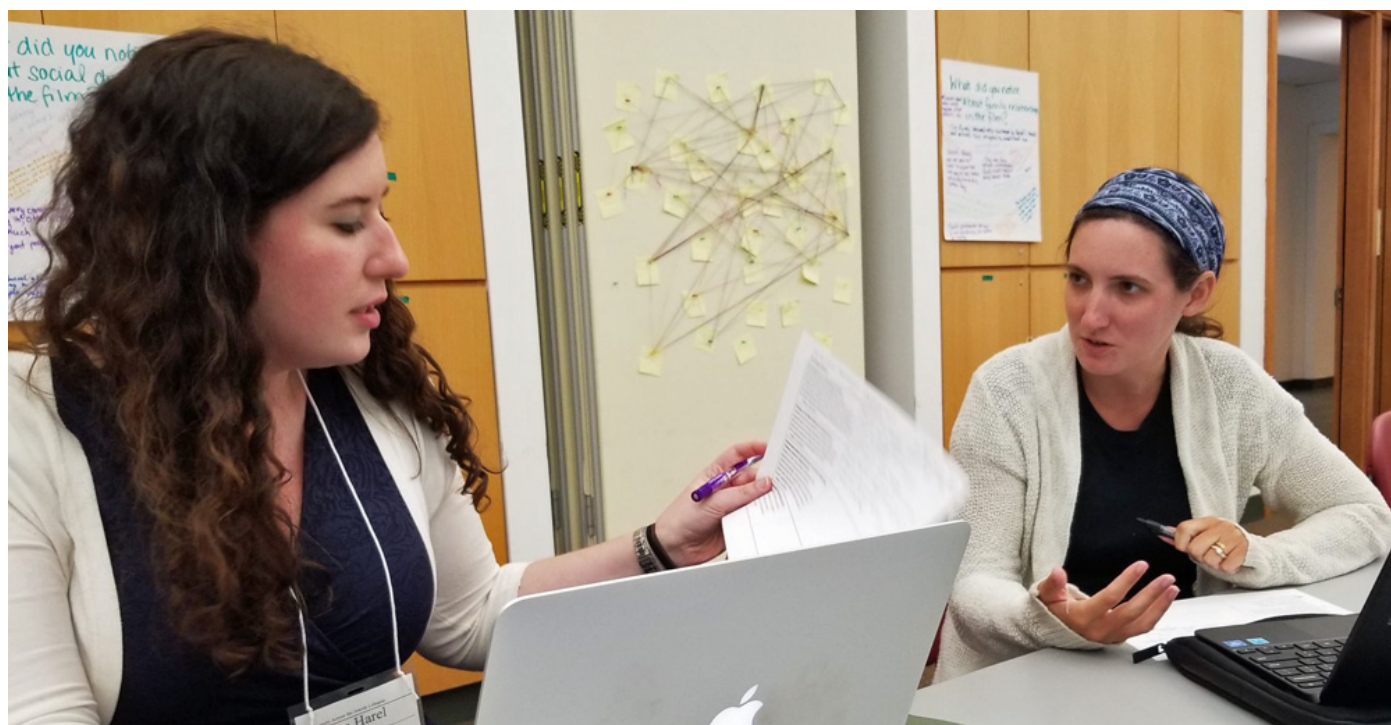
For our alumni and friends who are spiritual leaders and educators, the *Companion* can serve as a resource when planning for fall season of *teshuvah*. As Rabbi Michael Shire, Chief Academic Officer, points out, "In it you will find insights into new teaching opportunities for each teacher's professional and spiritual learning."

We warmly invite you to journey with us during the upcoming season of *teshuvah*.

*basically anyone
whose soul you care
about."*

-Rabbi Dan Judson
Dean, Rabbinical School
of Hebrew College

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Neurodiversity Across the Jewish Lifespan

Last week, 13 Master of Jewish Education, rabbinical, and cantorial students went on a journey from birth to aging adulthood, learning from experts throughout the Boston area during Hebrew College's intensive week-long "Neurodiversity Across the Jewish Lifespan" course. The course was made possible thanks to The Nancie Lurie Marks Foundation, which provided support to develop the course and for scholarships.

Students grappled with big questions about how individuals with neurologically based disabilities can be successfully included in Jewish education and community spaces. "Through our experiences and conversations, students came to understand that neurodivergent individuals exist in all of our communities, and that there is immense opportunity for Jewish community to include those whose brains develop and function differently," explained Hebrew College visiting instructor Rachel Figurasmith.



The class visited [Mayyim Hayyim](#), a mikveh in Newton, MA, and URJ 6 Points Sci Tech Academy (pictured above), where they observed programming developed specifically with a goal of hyper-inclusivity, and where neurodivergent individuals experience success because of the way intake, resources, and relationships are organized. They joined a social-based art program for adults with disabilities and learned about the value of separated spaces like these. The students also heard from experts from early childhood and Jewish day schools, where strategic inclusion of neurodivergent individuals is increasing an area of focus and interest.

In the classroom, students infused their understandings of neurodiversity with knowledge of social justice and dignity. "As Jewish educators and clergy, we are asked to serve neurodivergent students constantly, but our understanding of their lives as full humans, and our ability to successfully serve them, often has real limitations," said Figurasmith. She says her students have already been reflecting on the ways in which this week changed or deepened their understanding of how to build relationship with members of their communities and students with whom they interact. She added, "As students move into the second half of their summer, I hope to have left them with multiple perspectives to reflect on, and to integrate into their practice as clergy and educators."

Pictured l-r: Cantorial student Maayan Harel and Rabbinical Student Allison Poirier.

ICYMI: Hebrew Online Webinar

August 19 | 12-1pm

Want to Learn Modern Hebrew Online?

Experience Hebrew College's new [Modern Hebrew Language Online program](#) by watching a **free** demo webinar on August 19 from noon to 1pm, presented by instructor Shir Twerski.

Learn about the easy-to-use online technology, how the language acquisition approach immerses learners in Hebrew language through videos, exercises, and online discussions with teachers and peers (both during class and between classes for practice and support) and more.



[Register Now](#)

If you interested but are unable to attend the live webinar, please register to receive a link to the webinar on-demand.

Celebrating Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
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Humans of Hebrew College #HumansHC



"It's my first day 'on the job' as Temple Emanu-El's spiritual leader, and I'm sitting in Boston Logan Airport practicing my leyning for Pinchas and waiting to catch a flight to San Diego for two days of immigration rights advocacy and learning with Mijente and HIAS. I'm so grateful for T'ruah's organization of this trip (here's looking at you, Rabbi Salem Pearce) and for the fellowship that makes it possible, and I'm eager to get my feet on the ground."

([Cantor Vera Broekhuysen](#), Spiritual Leader, Temple Emanu-El, Haverhill, MA. [Learn more](#) about the School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College.)

Notable & Quotable

[Rabbinical School](#) Rector Rabbi Arthur Green was interviewed in the HUC-JIR podcast "Bully Pulpit." In the episode, entitled "[Serving God in Joy](#)," Rabbi Green discusses Neo-Hasidism, Kabbalah, the Zohar and the search for a contemporary Judaism. [Listen now](#).

Hebrew College Library Director Harvey Sukenic was the Program Chair for the Annual Association of Jewish Libraries conference held at Temple Israel in late June.

Cantor Vera Broekhuysen, Can` 16 was featured in the [July 5 Jewish Journal article](#) "Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill has new spiritual leader." She started her new position on July 1, 2018.

Upcoming Events



Free Webinar: Hebrew Online
August 19 | 12-1 pm
Online
[Register](#)

Presidential Installation of Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
October 15 | 6:15 pm
Temple Emanuel, Newton, MA
Free | [Reserve seats](#)

70 Faces of Torah



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

Shabbat and the Persistence of Slavery

Parshat Va'etchanan (Deuteronomy, 3:23-7:11)

By Rabbi Jim Morgan, Rab`08

Chaplain, Center Communities of Brookline, MA

A Division of Hebrew SeniorLife



“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”
- James Baldwin

Nearly seventy years after its publication, Ralph Ellison’s masterpiece, *The Invisible Man*, continues to resonate with our nation’s continued experience of race, violence, and blindness. The horrifying scene of white cop murdering an unarmed black man, Brother Tod Clifton, finds echoes in too many American places, as does the almost perverse refusal to see the ongoing effects of slavery and oppression, including the benefits that continue to accrue to the descendants—in the broadest sense of the term—of the oppressors.

In Ellison’s account, this blindness has two aspects, the moral and the historical. Paraphrasing William Faulkner, he writes that “what is commonly assumed to be past history is actually...part of the living present. Furtive, implacable and tricky, it inspires both the observer and the scene observed...and it speaks even when no one wills to listen.” This willful historical blindness enables what he calls the “feigned moral blindness” of most American whites, allowing them to ignore ongoing discrimination and violence by assigning slavery and its effects to “past history.”

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