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NEWS & VIEWS

July 27 2017 | 4 Av, 5777

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Summer Edition

Hebrew College will be closed August 1 in observance of Tisha B'av

From the Hebrew College Blog (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.](#)



On Being Caught in the Thicket

By Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
Dean, [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#)



The ram's horn is silent at first
As is the ram.
Caught in the thicket,
Waiting for Abraham to lift his head and see,
It appears at the last minute,
Out of nowhere,
When it's almost too late.

Of course, it was there all along.
Since twilight
On the eve of the first Shabbat, we are told.
It was there before darkness fell.
(We barely knew what darkness was then.)

> [READ FULL POST](#)



SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

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

Lifting Each Other Up: Preparing for Tish'a B'av with Joy as well as Sorrow Parshat Devarim/Shabbat Hazon, Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

By Cantor Ken Richmond
Temple Israel, Natick MA



The Talmud says that when the month of Adar with its manic Purim holiday begins, joy increases, and conversely, when the current Hebrew month of Av arrives, with its impending ninth day, Tish'a B'av, which commemorates the destruction of the two Temples in Jerusalem, joy is diminished. I wonder annually how seriously to link my personal emotional fluctuations with our cycle of communal ones, and ponder what to do when one doesn't feel in sync with the community. Traditional Ashkenazic observances help one prepare for Tish'a B'av by avoiding shaving, live music, and weddings for three weeks, and abstaining from meat, wine, and swimming for the final nine days, on top of the traditional fast of Tish'a B'av itself. How do we balance the joy of summer, with its outdoor concerts, BBQs, short haircuts, lakes and pools, with participation in communal mourning for tragedies that happened long ago and far away?

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