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## NEWS & VIEWS

August 3, 2017 | 11 Av 5777

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## Prophets on Guitar: A Free Webinar with Cantor Jeff Klepper

Cantor Jeff Klepper will be leading a free webinar on September 11 from 4-5 pm entitled "Prophets on Guitar," which weaves together 20th-century American history, popular music and Jewish social conscience. From European Socialist roots, through "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime" to "Blowin' in the Wind," Jewish songwriters have used the power of music to deliver potent political and social messages. With songs, stories, videos and photos, Prophets on Guitar is a powerful tribute to the visionary song-poets of our time.

Cantor Klepper is an adjunct faculty member at the [School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College](#) and is a practicing cantor as well as one of the world's leading composers of contemporary synagogue music. Several of his compositions, including "Modeh Ani" and "Lo Alecha" (both written with Klepper's former music partner, Rabbi Dan Freeland), have become synagogue standards. Their setting of "Shalom Rav," composed in 1974, is the defining Jewish melody of a new style of worship, bridging varied traditions and connecting multiple generations. Klepper, who has served since 2003 as cantor of Temple Sinai in Sharon, Mass., holds an honorary Doctor of Music from his alma mater, Hebrew Union College.



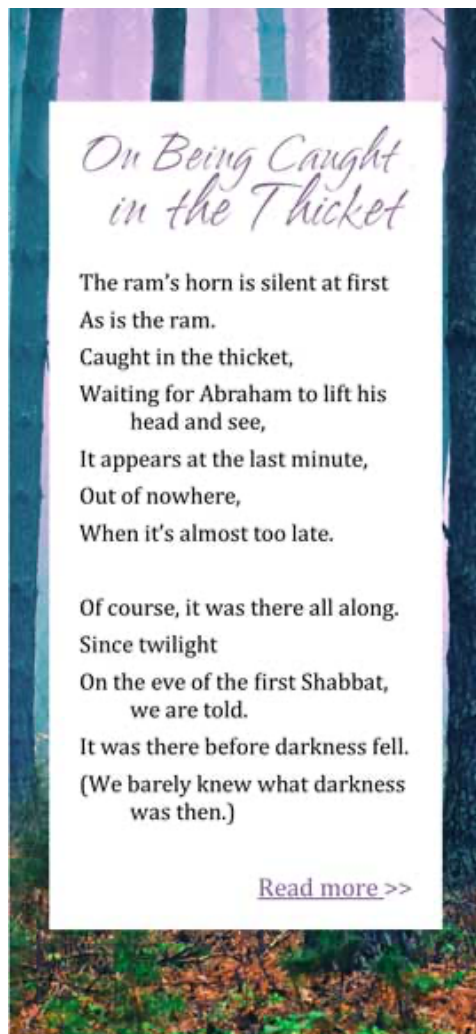
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## Excerpts from the Hebrew College High Holiday Companion

The faculty, alumni, and students of Hebrew College have created a collection of reflections on the prayers, scriptural readings, and sacred practices of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Featuring original essays, poetry, and visual artwork, this booklet will help illuminate the way into the High Holiday liturgy and these sacred days of return and renewal.

While the full book will be available for purchase later this month, we are sharing several pieces from it digitally over the coming weeks. We hope this will provide you with personal nourishment and materials for teaching and preaching as we move through the summer, the final months of the Jewish calendar, and the Days of Awe.

We invite you to [read a selection](#), "On Being Caught in the Thicket," by Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, Dean of the [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#). In this poetic reflection on the biblical story of the Binding of Isaac (read on Rosh Hashanah) and its relationship to the ritual of the sounding of the shofar, Rabbi Cohen Anisfeld urges us to courageously look into the "thicket" of our lives and envision a more compassionate and life-giving way forward. She calls us to listen intently to the wailing sounds of the ram's horn (beginning daily in Elul), awakening to the possibility of rebirth. We hope you find meaning in this piece, and that the coming days bring you inspiration, strength, and comfort.



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## Sights & Sounds



[The Prayer Leader Summer Institute](#) (#PLSI) presented Cantor and performer George Mordecai – with special guests Mitch Gordon, Hankus Netsky, Zafer Tawil and Rahel Musleah – took a standing-room-only audience on a journey of Jewish music from his family's roots in India and Iraq, through Australia and into North America.

Clockwise from top left (l-r) School of Jewish Music Dean Cantor Brian Mayer, Hankus Netsky, Cantor George Mordecai, Zafer Tawil, Rahel Musleah and Mitch Gordon; Hankus Netsky; Mitch Gordon; Rahel Musleah; Zafer Tawil; Cantor George Mordecai.



Last week's Jewish World Music Week at Hebrew College's [Prayer Leader Summer Institute](#) included a workshop with Hankus Netsky, founder of the Klezmer Conservatory Band. Pictured l-r: Dara Rosenblatt; Elaine Pollack, Rab'08; Monica Braverman; Cantor Julie



Newman, Can`17, MEd`17; Jinny Sagorin, Cantor Hinda Eisen Labovitz, Can`14, MAJS`14; Debby Gelber, CCA`02 and Netsky.

## Notable & Quotable

Rav-Hazzan Aliza Berger, Rab`17, Can`17 was featured in the July 30, 2017 Boston Globe Metro section "Up Close" [article](#) entitled "Newton's Temple Emanuel boasts rare rabbi-cantor." Rav-Hazzan Berger is the first gradaute of Hebrew College's flagship program. [Learn more.](#)



Ariel Margolis, Director, Makor; Director and Online Learning Instructor at the [Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education](#), led an overbooked session at the Schoology (online learning platform) conference. With over 3,000 attendees, this year's conference broke attendance records.



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From the Hebrew College Blog  
([blog.hebrewcollege.edu](http://blog.hebrewcollege.edu))

**SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH**

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

## Wisdom for Crossing Over

### Parashat Va'etchanan/Shabbat Nachamu, Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

By Rabbi Elisha Herb, Rab` 16

Rabbi, Temple Beth Shalom in Salem, OR

From the top of Mount Pisgah, Moshe surveys “the good land that is beyond the Jordan, that goodly hill-country and the Lebanon.” (Deut. 3:25) The land on which he would never set foot; the land that had been the collective Israelite destination for forty years; the land of their ancestors.



Now 120 years old, Moshe entreats God to allow him to cross over.

Surely, this cannot be all that Moshe seeks. For from the plains of Moab, all of Israel can see the “goodly hill-country” of which he speaks. But Moshe also asks to see “the Lebanon.” And, concealed in Moshe’s petition, is the wish to see fulfillment of the blessings of peace in the land after all the seven nations have been vanquished, and Israel, living in harmony with each other and God, live in peace and security on the land (Lev. 26: 3-13). “You have begun to show your servant our greatness and your strong hand ...” As if to say, “You have only begun to show me. But I want to see the full fruition of the promises; I want to guide Israel in the observance of the ‘statutes and the ordinances’ (Deut. 4:1) so that it may be well with them. Moshe asks to live beyond his 120 years and beyond the sharp physical boundary God has laid for him. But on the surface, he asks only to see the land.

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