



## NEWS & VIEWS

January 16, 2020 | 19 Tevet 5780

Economic Justice Issue

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*Leah Penniman of Soul Fire Farm will be speaking at Hebrew College on January 27*

### Winter Seminar 2020 Tackles Economic Justice Questions

Behind many of the headlines that vie for our attention every day are deep and complex questions of economic justice. These questions touch our lives in countless ways, from the broadest public policy debates to the most intimate family discussions and matters of personal choice. What constitutes socially responsible investing? What is the proper role of inheritance in an economy with widening social inequity? What are the ethical issues raised by the gig economy? What is appropriate and inappropriate philanthropy? What does fairness demand regarding reparations for African Americans?

These topics are complex and often entail competing value claims; there are no obvious answers. They beg the questions: What can we do about economic injustice? What should we do? What do we owe each other? *What might Judaism have to say about these timeless questions, in a way that speaks meaningfully to our own time?*

“Jewish tradition has wisdom around what a *just* economy should look like, but Judaism doesn’t speak in a single voice. This seminar is a way of trying to respond to real questions that the society is grappling with and understanding that Jewish tradition has something to teach us in a nuanced way

Uber has existed, but it's not the first time in history that Jewish tradition has thought about some of the value struggles inherent in a 'gig' economy."

Hebrew College students, faculty, and alumni will wrestle with these issues at this year's Winter Seminar entitled, "What Do We Owe Each Other: Jewish Conversations on Equality and the Challenges of a Just Society," which will be held the last week in January. Community members are invited to four public lectures.

- "Ownership, Access, and the Question of Belonging: Towards a Just Land Ethic in America," a conversation with **Leah Penniman** (pictured above), co-director and farm manager of [Soul Fire Farm](#): January 27, 2 pm, Hebrew College.
- "Tainted Money: Jewish Philanthropy in a Troubled Time," a conversation with **Len Fishman**, former CEO of [Hebrew SeniorLife](#), the largest nonprofit provider of senior housing and healthcare in New England, and **Rabbi Sara Paasche-Orlow**, Director of Spiritual Care at Hebrew SeniorLife: January 28, 9:15 am, Hebrew College.
- "Investing for Equity," a conversation with **Aliana Pineiro**, Impact Director for the [Boston Impact Initiative Fund](#): January 28, 1:15 pm, Hebrew College.
- "Income Inequality and the Problem of Inheritance," a discussion with **Chuck Collins**, author of *Born on Third Base*, **Molly Schulman** of [Resource Generation](#), and **Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman**, Rab` 14, Hebrew College Director of Professional Development: January 28, 7:15 pm, Hebrew College.

[Read more](#)

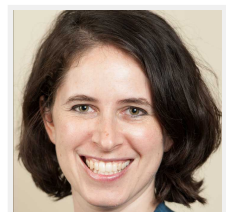
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# BLOGS



## What Do We Owe Each Other? Winter Seminar 2020/5780

By **Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman, Rab` 14**  
*Director of Professional Development, Ordination Programs*



Six weeks after my son, Abraham, was born, our financial advisor encouraged us to set up a 529 college savings account for him. We would make a recurring monthly deposit into the account and slowly save up for his college education. It made financial sense to do it, our advisor explained, because the money you put into a 529 isn't taxed.

I hung up the phone with our financial advisor. I felt conflicted. A few years back I had read Chuck Collins' book *Born on Third Base: A One Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good*. Collins claims that 529 savings plans are one way our tax code perpetuates inequality. When folks set money aside, he says, it takes away from the

Would my opening a 529 for Abraham make a difference? What could I do to help? What could *the Jewish people* do to help?

I'm going to ask Collins later this month, when he comes to [Hebrew College](#) as part of our week-long Hebrew College Winter Seminar: "*What Do We Owe Each Other: Jewish Conversations on Equality and the Challenges of a Just Society.*"

[Read more](#)

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# 70 FACES OF TORAH



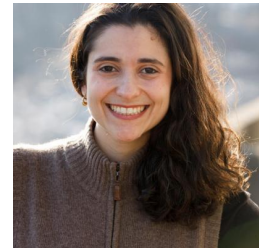
Posts from this [Hebrew College-hosted blog](#) are published weekly in [Patheos](#).

## How to Use Your Privilege

*Parashat Shemot (Exodus 1:1-6:1)*

By Rabbi Avi Killip, Rab` 14

Vice President of Strategies and Programs, [Hadar](#)



Moses is the original social justice lobbyist. When Moses wakes up to the injustice of the Israelite slavery, he is not in a position to make any grand changes to the social and economic structures of Egypt. He is not the Pharaoh. But he is a “prince of Egypt” and that comes with some privilege and avenues for changemaking. Lobbyists use relationships to influence the decision makers in power. *Shemot Rabbah*, our midrashic collection on the Book of Exodus, imagines several different potential interventions from Moses to improve the lives of the oppressed.

**Option One: Direct Service.** In *Shemot Rabbah* 1:27, Moses offers direct help. The midrash tells us that when Moses saw a person struggling with an unjust burden, “he would use his shoulders to assist each one of them.” Moses is not afraid to get his hands dirty. He gets down in the mud with the slaves and tries to help. This kind of direct, one-to-one justice work is real, impactful, and potentially life-changing for individuals.

**Option Two: Smalltime Resistance.** Then Moses starts to think a little bigger. Perhaps he realized that the problem won’t be solved one burden at a time, and so Moses seeks a way to help more people at once. He looks for people with particularly harmful burdens and starts shifting things around, changing the job assignments to be more reasonable...

[Read more](#)

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# COMMUNITY LEARNING

## The Universal Experience of Shabbat

By Matt Ponak

***Rabbinical student & instructor***

***[Open Circle Jewish Learning 20s & 30s](#)***



Shabbat, at its essence, is about finding rest, refreshment, and pleasure. It is about connecting with who we really are as a regular practice. This semester I had the pleasure to teach a diverse group of students at the Common Street Spiritual Center in Natick. Their backgrounds ranged from formerly Christian Spiritual-But-Not-Religious, to secular Israeli, to people with Jewish background wanting to reconnect. Inspired by the teachings of Hebrew College Rector Rabbi Arthur Green, Zalman Schachter Shalomi, Zvi Ish-Shalom, and Tirzah Firestone, we engaged with Shabbat as a spiritual practice to be integrated into our lives no matter who we are. So the Hassidim say: as much as Shabbat is a day, it is also a state of consciousness. We can enter into Shabbat Consciousness with the right preparation and intention.

In today's world, meaningful rest is truly needed. We are all living such fast-paced, technologically-oriented lives. It is really hard to keep our eyes away from the news or social media for a minute, let alone an evening, or a whole day. But, it can be difficult find an oasis in time on our own. After a couple of classes this past semester, a few of the students started coming early to share snacks and just hang out. By the end of our eight weeks we felt like a mini-community. Two of our students, both yoga teachers from different traditions, hosted their own Shabbat dinner which capped off our learning in December. Three students are now interested in starting to learn Hebrew.

[Read more](#)

*Hebrew College offers [community learning](#) programs for all ages, stages and backgrounds, and [graduate leadership programs](#) in rabbinical, cantorial, education, and Jewish studies, all within a pluralistic environment of open inquiry, depth, creativity, and compassion.*

## IN THE NEWS

[The Hebrew College website](#) won a merit honor in the 2019 Educational Digital Marketing Awards competition.

Rabbi Jane Kanarek, Rabbi Avi Killip, Rab` 14 and Rabbi Avi Strausberg, Rab` 15 were panelists on the topic "2711 Pages Later: Insights Gleaned from Seven and a Half Years of Talmud Study" at [Hadar's](#)

Bavli Kiddushin."

**Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire**, Chief Academic Officer of Hebrew College, led a session on "Jews and Money" in a time of increased antisemitism and convened a panel on Jewish Education for the 21st century at the 2019 Limmud Festival in Birmingham, England over the winter break. He will also be the scholar-in-residence at Temple B'nai Torah in Seattle, Washington, January 31-February 2.

Former [cantorial program](#) Dean Cantor **Dr. Brian Mayer's** "This I Believe" essay reflecting on the friendship between Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel 55 years after they marched together from Selma was aired on NPR on January 5.

# IN MEMORIAM



## Remembering Patti Grossman

It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of Patti Grossman, z"l, beloved wife of long-time Hebrew College trustee Louis Grossman. Patti was a lifelong learner and leader at Hebrew College. She completed Me'ah and took many other adult learning classes. She and Lou are cherished friends of the College and the entire Grossman family has been woven into the fabric of Hebrew College since its earliest days. We extend our deepest condolences to the family during this difficult time.

May Patti's memory be a blessing and may her family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

# EVENTS



**April 29, 2020**

Save the Date

*Leadership, Learning, and Love*  
*An evening of music, conversation, and celebration*

Hebrew College Spring Event

More details coming soon!

## JANUARY

### Azamra: Alternative Shabbat Community Minyan

With Rabbi Lev Friedman, Rab`18. Supported by the [Hebrew College Innovation Lab](#).

January 25 | 10 am - 12 pm  
Hebrew College Beit Midrash

[Learn more](#)

### Ownership, Access, and the Question of Belonging: Towards a Just Land Ethic in America

A discussion with Leah Penniman, co-director and farm manager of Soul Fire Farm.

January 27 | 2 - 4 pm  
Hebrew College

[Learn more](#)

### Tainted Money: Jewish Philanthropy in a Troubled Time

A conversation with Len Fishman and Rabbi Sara Paache-Orlow, Hebrew SeniorLife

January 28 | 9:15 am  
Hebrew College

[Learn more](#)

### Investing for Equity: A Conversation with Aliana Pineiro

Aliana Pinerio is Impact Director for the BII Fund.

January 28 | 1:15 - 2:30 pm  
Hebrew College

[Learn more](#)

### Income Inequality & The Problem of Inheritance

Panel discussion with Chuck Collins, author of *Born on Third Base*; Molly Schulman of *Resource Generation*; and Rabbi Shoshana Meria Friedman, Rab`14.

January 28 | 7:15 pm

## FEBRUARY

### Taking it "Seriously": Doubt, Trust and Halakhah with Rabbi Avivia Richman

Hebrew College is co-sponsoring this event.

February 11 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Hadar Institute  
190 Amsterdam Ave., New York City

[Learn more & register](#)

### Azamra: Alternative Shabbat Community Minyan

With Rabbi Lev Friedman, Rab`18.

February 22 | 10 am - 12 pm  
Hebrew College Beit Midrash

[Learn more](#)

### February Yom Iyyun: Teen Mental Health

The Rabbinical School of Hebrew College will be holding a Yom Iyyun on Teen Mental Health thanks to generous support from The Ruderman Family Foundation.

February 26 | 9 am - 3:30 pm  
Hebrew College

[Learn more](#)

## MARCH

### Seeing Torah Gallery Opening

"Seeing Torah" is a visual diary documenting artist Anita Rabinoff-Goldman's study and artistic response to each of the 54 portions of the Torah over the cycle of a single Jewish year. Refreshments will be served.

March 24 | 6 pm  
Hebrew College

[Learn more](#)

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