



המכללה העברית

HEBREW COLLEGE

JEWISH LEARNING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

WINTER/SPRING 2020

# COMMUNITY LEARNING

## Courses



January 2020 / Shevat 5780

Dear friends,

We are excited to share with you the vast array of learning opportunities now available to teens and adults in the Greater Boston area through Hebrew College.

I invite you to take a closer look and discover:

- The growing thirst for Jewish learning in our wonderful and diverse community
- The many talented teachers who delight in sharing their wisdom and expertise with learners of all ages and walks of life
- The many different ways you personally can connect and pursue your own intellectual and spiritual interests

I also invite you to let us know if you're looking for something that's not here. Our dedication to community education is fueled by a deep and enduring commitment to making high quality content available to all those who seek to learn more about Jewish literature and life, in ways that are accessible, inclusive, and inviting, and help strengthen bonds of friendship and connection throughout our community.

**I want to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston for being for being such a vital, generous, and visionary partner in this work.** From our nationally regarded Me'ah program, to our cherished programs for Jewish parents and grandparents, to our innovative Open Circle program which is growing in leaps and bounds, CJP's sustained leadership, collaboration, and support has made lifelong learning in our community a priority, and has helped turn it from a dream into a thriving reality.

Most importantly, as we embark on a new semester, I invite you to go deeper in your own Jewish learning. Martin Buber once remarked, "To be old is a glorious thing when one has not unlearned what it means to begin." Whatever your age, whether you are a first-time participant or a veteran learner, I invite you to take this opportunity to begin again. Look through this amazing catalog of programs and courses, and find a place to start. And consider inviting a friend, a *hevruta*, a study partner, who might want to join you!

May our community continue to be strengthened and sustained by a shared love of learning, and may you find a place for yourself in the wonderful opportunities reflected in these pages. And, please be in touch if you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas you'd like to share!

Sincerely,

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld  
*President, Hebrew College*

# DISCOVER OUR OFFERINGS

Not sure what program is right for you?  
Start by asking yourself these questions....

## NEW TO JEWISH LEARNING?

- Try an **Open Circle Jewish Learning** class
- Young adults: We offer **Open Circle Jewish Learning 20s & 30s** classes throughout the year and a 10-week Eser series each spring
- Parents and Grandparents: Check out **Parenting and Grandparenting Through a Jewish Lens**

## LOOKING FOR A DEEP, INTELLECTUAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR PEERS?

Try out **Me'ah Select**, our in-depth semester-long classes taught by academics from throughout Greater Boston, or enroll in **Me'ah Classic**, 100 hours of Jewish Learning, in the fall.

## LOOKING TO LEARN CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW?

Try our immersive **Hebrew language Ulpan** classes

## LOOKING TO ENRICH YOUR JEWISH LEARNING?

- Study alongside other adult learners in a **Me'ah Select** or **Open Circle Jewish Learning** semester-long class
- Try a **graduate-level rabbinical, cantorial, or Jewish education non-credit course**, where you'll study alongside Hebrew College ordination and graduate students

## Asking yourself these questions may help too:

Which topics are you interested in?

How intense do you want your class to be?

How often do you want to have class?

Where do you want to have class?

## LOOKING FOR JEWISH LEARNING FOR YOUR FAMILY AND/OR TEEN?

- Try **Prozdor, Makor, or Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston**
- Try **Parenting Through a Jewish Lens, Parenting Your Tween Through a Jewish Lens, or Parenting Your Teen Through a Jewish Lens**

Visit [hebrewcollege.edu/jewish-journey](http://hebrewcollege.edu/jewish-journey) to find the right program and courses to fit your learning style and schedule.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** Courses listings are up-to-date as of January 2020. Additional courses may be added.

Please check the Hebrew College website at [hebrewcollege.edu/community-learning](http://hebrewcollege.edu/community-learning) for course updates and changes.

For questions, email [adultlearning@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:adultlearning@hebrewcollege.edu).


# HEBREW LANGUAGE ULPAN

(ON CAMPUS)

February 7 - May 29, 2020

Hebrew classes meet once or twice a week. Choose from Level 1 (beginner) to Level 10 (advanced).

CONTACT: Iris Schor | [ischor@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:ischor@hebrewcollege.edu) | (617) 559-8618

Level	Classes meet ONCE a week on:	Classes meet TWICE a week on:
<b>Level 1 (beginner)</b>	Sundays 2:30-5:30 pm, beginning February 9 Tuesdays 9:30 am-12:30 pm, beginning February 11	Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 am-11:30 am <b>OR</b> 6:30-8:20 pm, beginning February 10
<b>Level 2 (mid-beginner)</b>	Sundays 2:30-5:30 pm, beginning February 9 Tuesdays 9:30-12:30 pm, beginning February 11	Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 am-11:30 am <b>OR</b> 6:30-8:20 pm, beginning February 10
<b>Level 3 (advanced beginner)</b>	Tuesdays 9:30-12:30 pm, beginning February 11 Fridays 9:30-12:30, beginning February 7	Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 am-11:30 am <b>OR</b> 6:30-8:20 pm, beginning February 10
<b>Level 4 (low intermediate)</b>	Tuesdays 9:30 am-12:30 pm, beginning February 11 Fridays 9:30 am-12:30 pm, beginning February 7	Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 am-11:30 am <b>OR</b> 6:30-8:20 pm, beginning February 10
<b>Level 5 (mid-intermediate)</b>	Mondays 6:30-9:30 pm, beginning February 10 Fridays 9:30-12:30pm, beginning February 7	Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 am-11:30 am <b>OR</b> 6:30-8:20 pm, beginning February 10
<b>Level 6,7 (high intermediate)</b>	Fridays 9:30 am-12:30 pm, beginning February 7 Mondays 6:30-9:30 pm, beginning February 10 Tuesdays 9:30 am-12:30 pm, beginning February 11 Wednesdays 9:30 am-12:30 pm, beginning February 12	
<b>Level 8,9 (mid-advanced)</b>	Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 pm <b>OR</b> 9:30am-12:30 pm, beginning February 11 Fridays 9:30-12:30pm, beginning February 7	
<b>Level 10 (advanced)</b>	Wednesdays 10 am-12 pm, beginning February 12	

REGISTRATION: [hebrewcollege.edu/ulpan](http://hebrewcollege.edu/ulpan)

# ME'AH PROGRAMS

Journey through Jewish texts and ideas from biblical times to the present through Hebrew College's two-year Me'ah Classic program. Or dive into a particular historic period, time, or personality through Hebrew College's one-semester Me'ah Select classes.

**CONTACT: Marilyn Stern | [meah@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:meah@hebrewcollege.edu) | (617) 559-8614**

## ME'AH CLASSIC (2-YEAR PROGRAM)

Classes begin each fall at synagogues throughout Greater Boston. To bring Me'ah Classic to your community, contact Marilyn Stern at [meah@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:meah@hebrewcollege.edu). Me'ah Classic classes begin in the fall semester.

## ME'AH SELECT (SEMESTER PROGRAM)

Every semester we offer a distinct catalogue of engaging and thought-provoking courses so students can pursue their interests and hone their passions as they navigate the landscape of Jewish learning.

### CRUCIAL MOMENTS IN THE ISRAELI EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE LENS OF SHORT STORIES

This course aims to introduce students to certain critical moments in the history of the modern state of Israel through short stories that range from the earliest days of the pioneers to the twenty-first century. Written by men and women, Ashkenazim and Sefardim/Mizrachim, Jews and Arabs, secularists and traditionalists, these stories open up for us uniquely visceral and imaginative windows on many of the compelling events that have shaped the history of Israel.

**Dr. Jacob Meskin | Beth El Temple Center, Belmont**

Tuesdays, 7 - 9 pm, January 21, 28; February 4, 11, 25; March 3, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 21.

\$250 for temple members, \$350 for non-temple members. Financial aid is available.

### JUDAISM & SCIENCE TALK TO EACH OTHER: A CLASS FOR THINKERS OF ALL KINDS

This course will attempt to have science and Judaism overlap each other, talk to each other, and inform each others' thinking. Stephen Jay Gould says that science discovers how things work. Religion talks about how things ought to be. They have different sources of authority. He calls them "non-overlapping magisterial." Each class will have its own focus, i.e. what does neuroscience tell us about the soul.

**Rabbi Rim Meierowitz | Bnai Abraham, Beverly**

Sundays, 7 - 9:30 pm, Feb. 5, 12, 26; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 22, 29.

\$350. Financial aid is available.

### FROM THE SECULAR TO THE RELIGIOUS: HOW LEADING JEWISH THINKERS SHAPED JUDAISM AND MODERNISM

Beginning with Spinoza and concluding with contemporary Jewish feminists, our class will consider how secular and religious Jews shaped modern Judaism and modernism itself. Often pairing religious and secular figures who were contemporaries, we will look at the enlightenment, beginning with Spinoza and concluding with contemporary Jewish feminists, our class will consider how secular and religious Jews shaped modern Judaism and modernism itself. We will look at the enlightenment, messianism, moral philosophy, Hassidism, life in Israel and the diaspora, the origins of the denominations and Feminism.

**Leonard Gordon | Lexington Collaborative: Temple Emunah**

Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:30 am, January 30; February 6, 13, 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26;

Apr. 2, 23. \$300. Financial aid is available.

## JEWISH LEARNING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### **STANDING ON ONE FOOT: ESSENTIAL JEWISH VALUES & CORE IDEAS**

What does it mean to be Jewish? Jewish life hopscoches across four different types of relationships: between the individual and God; between ourselves and others; between us and our world; and between each of us and ourselves. We will look at each of these domains—ultimacy, interpersonal ethics, peoplehood and stewardship, and personal responsibility—through the lens of core Jewish values. The course is designed for people—from beginners to advanced learners—who would like to embark on a sophisticated study of foundational Jewish values and core ideas. Your Jewish perspective will be reframed and refreshed.

**Rabbi Benjamin Samuels, PhD | Temple Isaiah, Lexington**

Fridays, 9:30 – 11:30 am, October 25; November 7, 22; December 6, 20; January 10, 24; February 7, 28; March 13, 27; April 17. Snow/sick day: May 1 \$300. Financial aid is available.

### **THE MODERN JEWISH EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE LENS OF SHORT STORIES**

Most of us learn the history of Jews and Judaism in the modern period from scholarly texts and original documents. This invaluable view of the big picture leaves out the lived dimension of the events. How did Jewish individuals in widely separated and quite different communities experience the challenges and changes of modernity? How did these experiences, and the feelings they evoked, shape new Jewish hopes and projects? This course uses Jewish short stories, beginning in the late 19th century, from England, Russia, Eastern Europe, Israel, and America.

**Dr. Jacob Meskin | Marblehead, JCC of the North Shore**

Thursdays, 7 – 9:30 pm, January 30; February 6, 13, 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2, 23, 30 \$300. Financial aid is available.

### **VALUES IN PRACTICE: THE JEWISH HOLIDAYS IN JEWISH LAW AND CUSTOM**

Over the cycling course of the Jewish year, we rehearse the Jewish story, shape our identities and reimagine our personal potential, reaffirm our national destiny, and experience the full gamut of human emotion – celebration, mourning, inspired responses to calls to kindness and justice, and reliving formative experiences as if for the first time. Embedded in all our ritual practices are the core values of Jewish living and aspiration. In this course, we will study the Jewish calendar and yearly holiday cycle. We will highlight the primary mitzvot and ritual practices of the year, and study deeply their historical roots and religious power.

**Rabbi Benjamin Samuels, PhD | Hebrew College**

Tuesdays, 9:30 am - 12 pm, February 25; March 3, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 21, 28; May 5, 12., \$350. Financial aid is available.

### **UNPACKING ANTISEMITISM: RELIGIOUS ORIGINS, MODERN FORMS AND CONTEMPORARY DYNAMICS**

In this course we will study the complex origins of ancient and medieval “antijudaism”, focusing on Christian and Islamic sources, on how different thinkers interpreted these sources in different times and places, and on the historical events that flowed from these interpretations. We will explore how Modern antisemitism has a dangerous variety of forms: it can be religious, or economic, or racial, or political, or all of these together, and so on. We will draw on this understanding to try to grasp the many currents and trends that drive antisemitism today in our contemporary world.

**Dr. Jacob Meskin | Hebrew College**

Thursdays, 9:45 am - 12:15 pm  
February 6, 13, 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2, 23, 30.

## THE MODERN JEWISH EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE LENS OF SHORT STORIES

Most of us learn the history of Jews and Judaism in the modern period from scholarly texts and original documents. This invaluable view of the big picture leaves out the lived dimension of the events. How did Jewish individuals in widely separated and quite different communities experience the challenges and changes of modernity? How did these experiences, and the feelings they evoked, shape new Jewish hopes and projects? This course uses Jewish short stories, beginning in the late 19th century, from England, Russia, Eastern Europe, Israel, and America.

**Dr. Jacob Meskin | Newton Centre Minyan, Hebrew College**

Wednesdays, 7:15 - 9:15 pm, February 5, 12, 26; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 22, 29; May 6, 13.

## THRICE-TOLD TALES: BIBLICAL STORIES IN CHRISTIAN, JEWISH AND MUSLIM TRADITIONS

You know the story of Joseph and his brothers? Its plot, its characters, its setting? But are you sure there's only one story of Joseph? What about Sarah, who sent out her husband's concubine Hagar? Or how about a story from Christian scriptures, such as Mary, the mother of Jesus? In this course, we will consider biblical stories as they are told and retold in early Jewish, Christian and Islamic texts to see how Jews, Christians and Muslims navigated their commonality and difference in antiquity and the early medieval period.

**Dr. Micha'el Rosenberg, Professor, Hebrew College | Temple Emanuel, Newton**

Wednesdays, 9:30 am - 12 pm, February 5, 12, 26; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 22, 29.

## JEWISH WOMEN OF LATIN AMERICA: PIONEERS AND ACTIVISTS

Centered on the interplay between gender and religion in Latin America, this course focuses on the women who impacted the cultural, social, and political landscapes of the Jewish communities and broader societies of which they were a part. Through an emphasis on literature from the region, students will learn of Jewish minority culture in the historical contexts of colonialism, national independence, modern revolutions, migrations, borderland politics, and diaspora-Israel relations.

**Dr. Dalia Wassner | MetroWest Sudbury: Bnai Torah**

Wednesdays, 7 - 9:30 pm, March 12, 19, 26; April 2, 23, 30; May 7, 14, 21; June 4.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM FOR JEWS

This course provides a general introduction to Islam with special attention given to its commonalities and differences with Judaism. We will explore the life of Muhammad and how Islam developed after his death, including the emergence of Sunni, Shi'i and other Islamic sects. We will discuss important forms of Islamic religious expression including Sufism (mysticism), Islamic philosophy and Shari'ah law. We will discuss Islamic ideas of religious toleration and how they relate to the concept of Jihad. Special attention will be paid to Islamic parallels with Judaism, e.g., the Qur'an and its relationship to the Bible, and Shari'ah and Halakhah. Finally, we will discuss contemporary relations between Muslims and Jews, including the impact of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

**Dr. Alan Verskin | Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley**

Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:30 am

Feb 12, 26; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 22, 29; May 6, 13, 20

**REGISTRATION: [HEBREWCOLLEGE.EDU/PROGRAMS/MEAH-SELECT/](https://www.hebrewcollege.edu/programs/meah-select/)**



# PARENTING & GRANDPARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

NAVIGATE THE CHALLENGES OF PARENTING KIDS, FOR TODDLERS TO TEENS, GUIDED BY JEWISH WISDOM.

**CONTACT: Ahava Rosenthal | [arosenthal@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:arosenthal@hebrewcollege.edu) | (617) 559-8734**

## PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS (NEWBORNS THROUGH AGE 9)

Join a group of fellow parents of newborns through nine-year-olds to discuss topics that matter to you as a parent; explore Jewish values that can enrich your family; reflect on the joys and challenges of raising kids today; and find support, encouragement, and connection. Free babysitting is available for all daytime classes. Our curriculum helps parents discover the many ways in which Jewish sources of wisdom can inform their choices. A few examples of the topics addressed include: How can I help foster my child's uniqueness? How can I nurture my child's resilience? How can I help my family through dark times? How do I talk to my child about God?

**BURLINGTON** - Temple Shalom Emeth, Sundays, 10 - 11:30 am, beginning January 26

**WATERTOWN** - Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, Sundays, 10:15 - 11:45 am, beginning January 5

**ACTON** - Congregation Beth Elohim, Sundays, 10 - 11:30 am, beginning February 9

## PARENTING YOUR 'TWEEN THROUGH A JEWISH LENS (AGES 9-13)

## PARENTING YOUR TEEN THROUGH A JEWISH LENS (AGES 13-19)

The practical and emotional challenges of raising pre-teens and teens in today's world often seem overwhelming. Learn from both ancient and contemporary sources of wisdom that you are not alone in your journey through these complicated life stages. Parenting Your 'Tween Through a Jewish Lens and Parenting Your Teen Through a Jewish Lens create supportive communities of parents where you will explore compelling Jewish texts and traditions and share stories and ideas about raising preteens and teens today.

## GRANDPARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

Grandparenting today is a rewarding and challenging experience. In this 4-session class, you'll will come together to learn how Jewish wisdom can help us navigate our role in our children's and grandchildren's lives.

**WAYLAND** - Congregation Or Atid, Thursdays, 7 - 8:30 pm, beginning March 12

Classes are being scheduled for Fall 2020. For information or to schedule a class in your area, please contact Ahava Rosenthal 617-559-8734 or [arosenthal@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:arosenthal@hebrewcollege.edu).

**REGISTER: [HEBREWCOLLEGE.EDU/PARENTING](https://www.hebrewcollege.edu/parenting)**

# OPEN CIRCLE JEWISH LEARNING

In Hebrew College's Open Circle Jewish Learning, classes, ask big questions, explore relevant topics, and find meaning in Jewish sources of wisdom. Learn and make a difference through a social justice community group; instead of, participate in a conversation group focused on mysticism and mindfulness; or create your own salon on any topic ranging from Israel to the Torah.

We also offer courses specifically for young adults.

**CONTACT: Helaine Denenberg | [hdenenberg@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:hdenenberg@hebrewcollege.edu) | (617) 559 - 8674**

## **CULTIVATING AN AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIP TO SELF, OTHERS, AND GOD THROUGH THE LENS OF THE HEBREW MONTHS**

These sessions will include Torah text study, mindfulness and body centered exercises, journaling and compassionate listening partnerships to help cultivate an authentic relationship with self, others and G-d.

**Ketriellah Goldfeder | Private Home, Sharon**

Sundays, 7:30 - 9 pm, January 12, 26; February 9, 23; March 8, 22; April 26; May 10, 24; June 7, 21

## **MUSSAR — A JEWISH PATH TO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

Mussar asks us: What steps can I take to bring my life closer to my spiritual potential? How do I make lasting changes in my life? What lessons can I learn from previous generations? Mussar is a path of spiritual development. By refining personal soul traits such as patience, humility, trust, and gratitude, you become more aware of your inner life and thus are able to contribute to Tikkum Olam (repair of the world).

**Rabbi Carol Glass | Or Atid, Wayland**

Mondays, 7 - 9 pm, January 13, February 3, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1

## **SPIRALING THROUGH TIME: RADICALLY RETHINKING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO LAND**

How could Shabbat, Shmitah (sabbatical), and agricultural cycles disrupt our assumptions about what it means to own, rest, and relate to the earth and each other? We will delve into rabbinic and biblical agricultural wisdom to inform our contemporary understandings and practice.

**Rabbi Getzel Davis and Leora Mallach | Hebrew College**

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8 pm, January 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25; March 3

## **FEEDING THE HUNGRY**

Help feed the hungry at Tuesday Meals Soup Kitchen at First Parish in Cambridge, and learn about the Jewish values of justice, feeding the hungry and repairing the world. The class alternates between social action weeks - helping to wait tables and ensure all of the guests enjoy their warm meal; and learning weeks - with Simcha Halpert-Hanson, reflecting on the volunteer work and putting it in a Jewish context through text and discussion.

**Simcha Halpert-Hanson**

**First Parish in Cambridge (volunteer portion), Lamplight Brewing Company (learning portion)**

Tuesdays, 5:15 - 7:30 pm, January 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25

## JEWISH LEARNING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### **ZIVUG: FROM FINDING LOVE TO TRANSITIONING TO MARRIAGE**

Join Rabbi Getzel for a 6-class series directed toward couples on love, 'beshert,' and the conscious transition to marriage. Through Jewish wisdom, text study, guided exercises, and frank conversations, we will explore the growth and maintenance of vibrant relationships. Open to couples (all gender and multifaith expressions of partnership strongly welcome) in the year preceding or following a wedding.

**Rabbi Getzel Davis | Private Home, Brighton**

Mondays, 7:30 - 9 pm, January 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 2

### **SIX JEWS OF VILNA**

As the Vilna Shul returns to its renovated, historic location in Beacon Hill, we will seize the opportunity to look, close-up, at Vilna of the Old Country, the "Great City of Israel, Jerusalem of Lithuania," whose emigres founded this Boston synagogue a century ago. Examinations of six specific lives will provide a window through which to see diverse religious and secular aspects of this East European Jewish cultural center, and to consider what its legacy means for us today.

**Rachel Greenblatt | Vilna Shul**

Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 pm, January 29; February 12, 26; March 11, 25; April 1

### **JEWISH MINDFULNESS (a course for young adults)**

Taught by Beni Summers, this 6 part class will look at relevant intersections between Jewish practice and mindfulness - and more specifically will move through a typical day in a busy life and how we can infuse more moments of life with present moment awareness. We will look at some Jewish texts, the latest research pertaining to mindfulness and its benefits on the brain, and will also play around with creating our own mindful Jewish rituals. No previous mindfulness experiences necessary.

**Benjamin Summers | Private Home, Somerville**

Wednesdays, 7:15 - 8:45 pm, January 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26; and March 4

### **THE KABALLAH OF RELATIONSHIPS**

The familial stories of Genesis are the foundations of the Jewish people, but in Midrashic and Kaballistic thought, they represent more than just the history of our nation. Each story, taken out of its historical context, contains layers of meaning that can stir one's soul and deepen our bonds to others. Join us as we continue last year's journey through the Book of Genesis, with a unique and meaningful lens on spiritual growth.

**Layah Lipsker | Vilna Shul**

Thursdays, 12 - 1:30 pm, February 6 and 27; March 12 and 26 and April 2, 23

### **CRISES OF LEADERSHIP IN THE WILDERNESS**

This course explores crises in leadership in the Torah, from populist revolts to rivalry on high. We will review the sin of the Golden Calf and the breaking of the Tablets and Moses' response to the ministering women and their gift of mirrors. We will also address several crises in the desert sojourn: the grumbings for meat, questions of prophecy, the sin of the spies, and Korah's rebellion. Readings will draw from classic and modern sources, including Erica Brown's, *Leadership in the Wilderness* (2013) and Avivah Zornberg's *Bewilderments* (2015), as well other articles. This course is at an intermediate level. Prior text experience with the Hebrew Bible or Meah course required.

**Rachel Adelman | Hebrew College**

Mondays 4 - 5:30 pm, February 10, 17, 24; March 2, 16, 23 and 30; April 20 and 27; May 4

## **ISRAEL 101+: CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF ZIONISM AND ISRAEL**

This 6-session course is designed to connect participants to foundational knowledge about Israel and show how these facts affect key stances. Originally developed as part of the My Israel program for Gann students, it is a lively interactive class based on recitation of source material, dual-instructor explanation, and probing group discussions. Each session also includes role-playing demonstrations that bring to life seminal arguments between figures of historical importance, and between supporters of conflicting viewpoints for the future of Israel, and its people and neighbors.

**Jonathan Golden and Yoni Kadden | Gann Academy**

Mondays, 7 - 9 pm, February 24, March 2, 16, 23 and 30, April 20

## **ESER 2020 Hindsight is 2020: Judaism's Ten Most Surprising Moments (a course for young adults)**

Looking back on many millennia of Jewish existence, there have been some particularly unconventional moments in our tradition. In Eser 2020, we're looking at these moments in relation to current themes and trends within the modern Jewish community, using these past events to offer new insights into how we understand contemporary Jewish identity for young adults.

**Mondays in Boston or Newton:** March 2, 16, 23, 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4, 11;

**Tuesdays in Cambridge or Brookline:** March 3, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12;

**Wednesdays in Somerville:** February 26; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 22, 29; May 6, 13;

**Thursdays in Jamaica Plain, Sharon, and Somerville:** March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2, 23, 30; May 7, 14 and May 21 (Sharon and Jamaica Plain) or May 22 (Somerville)

## **LOSS AND TRANSFORMATION: MAINTAINING HOPE WHEN OPTIMISM IS ELUSIVE**

This course will be taught by Rabbi Katy Allen. An interactive class designed to awaken within participants new and deeper awareness of the tools at their disposal for coping emotionally, spiritually, and psychologically with climate disruption, rising levels of hatred, and other global concerns, as well as challenges in their personal lives. Sessions will focus on the inter-connections between personal and communal loss and between loss and transformation and the possibility of moving from chronic toxic stress or post-traumatic stress disorder to post-traumatic growth. Exercises will involve exploring and connecting four kinds of "sacred texts": the texts of the Earth, the texts of our lives, the texts of our communities, and the texts of our tradition, as a way to find deeper connections to and among all of them, along with options for exploring vehicles for activism.

**Rabbi Katy Allen | Temple Reyim, Newton**

Tuesdays, 7:15 - 8:45 pm, March 12, 19; April 2, 23, 30; May 14

## **WRITING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS: A JEWISH WOMEN'S WRITING WORKSHOP**

Good writing is an act of discovery not just for the reader but for the writer. In this workshop, we will explore and reflect on our lives through the act of writing. Our texts will be short pieces by writers who will be our teachers in our study of the writer's craft. Topics will range from childhood to Jewish life to motherhood/daughterhood, work, travel, home, and the nature of memory itself. This class is open to anyone who has a desire to explore life through writing. No prior experience or coursework required.

**Joan Leegant | Hebrew College**

Tuesdays, 7 - 8:45 pm, March 17, 24, 31; April 7, 21, and 28

## JEWISH LEARNING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### **ARTISTIC RESPONSE TO SACRED TEXT**

We will spend each session studying a chosen text as a group, in chevruta (study partners), and immersing in an artistic modality. Each week will offer a different modality. No level of expertise as scholar or artist is required. Bring your curiosity and willingness to explore and play as Holy Inquiry. By course end, each participant will share a creative response to something that moved them from our collective studies.

**Rabbi Carol Glass and Julie Leavitt | Hebrew College**

Tuesdays, 7 - 8:45 pm, beginning in March

### **JEWISH PATHS OF TRANSFORMATION: FIND THE HIDDEN LIGHT WITHIN**

Sometimes when we ignore a problem it goes away, but most of the time it doesn't. This is true for our outer lives as much as it is for our inner lives. Join Student Rabbi Matt Ponak for an exploration of mystical teachings on facing negativity head-on. For millennia, Jewish spiritual teachers have interpreted sacred texts with the understanding that suffering, if we approach it with intention, can be a blessing in disguise. Along with these teachings, Matt will lead body-centered meditations that can allow the transformation of darkness into light to be felt experientially. Come join us to learn the universal wisdom from this ancient source.

**Matt Ponak | Common Street Spiritual Center**

Sundays, 1 - 2:30 pm, April 19, 26; May 3, 10, 24, 31

### **COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS: ENGAGING ACROSS LINES OF DIFFERENCE**

How do we express our deeply held values and convictions while remaining open to learning with and from people who hold different, even opposing, views? Whether internal to the Jewish community or across religious or cultural lines, holding the tension between our particularity and universality is an ongoing challenge. In this course, we will explore a number of case studies relating to religious, political, and ideological challenges, asking both how we would weigh in on the matters at hand and how we might do so with passion and compassion. Our study will also include exploration of a number of Jewish and general sources related to issues of dialogue, humility, pluralism, dignity, and truth and reconciliation.

**Rabbi Or Rose | Temple Israel of Natick**

Thursdays, 9:30 - 11 am, April 23, 30; May 7, 14, 21, 28

### **IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL: RESILIENCE TOOLS FOR EDUCATORS**

In a context where US structures and systems devalue public education and the sacred work of teachers, we'll dig deep into Jewish tradition, which holds teaching and learning with the highest reverence. Exploring a variety of topics, such as the relationship between teachers and students, methods of transmitting knowledge, and learning as an act of resistance, we join generations of thought partners, who also wrestled with the challenge, joy, opportunity and, yes, despair of being a teacher. This is an opportunity for teachers to talk, strategize, lament, laugh, and learn together. Drawing on Jewish spiritual practices to build resilience, we'll learn about and practice strategies for nourishment, resistance, and strength, to help us stay in it for the long haul.

**Rabbi Leora Abelson | Private Home, Boston**

Saturdays, 5 - 7 pm, May 2, 9, 16, 23; June 6 and 13

## **THE JEWISH ROAD TO CHARACTER: A TASTE OF MUSSAR**

Mussar is a Jewish spiritual discipline that helps us to nurture depth of soul and spirit. Through the exploration of Jewish wisdom and insight, we develop a way of living that reflects inner-peace, ethical living, and deepened appreciation for life's blessings.

**Rabbi Eric Gurvis | Temple Beth Torah, Holliston**

Dates TBD

## **TIME AND TRANSFORMATION**

This course will introduce participants to Jewish ways of marking time and engaging in transformative practices. As a community of secular Jews, participants will explore how these cycles and themes might be adapted and integrated into their lives to bring meaning and connection. We will also consider what strengths and wisdom from secular Jewish lineages might have to offer the evolving Jewish tradition. Sources will include classical and modern rabbinic texts as well as modern and contemporary literature, art, and commentary. We will approach all of these sources as an ongoing, trans-generational conversation that we are all fully invited to lend our voices to.

**Rabbi Leora Abelson | Boston Workers' Circle**

Dates TBD

**REGISTER: [HEBREWCOLLEGE.EDU/OCJL](https://hebrewcollege.edu/ocjl)**



# GRADUATE RABBINICAL, CANTORIAL, AND EDUCATION COURSES

Study texts and theory; Jewish history, culture, and spirituality, and social justice and the Jewish life cycle; alongside future rabbis, cantors, and Jewish educators in non-credit graduate courses.

## CONTACT

**RABBINICAL CLASSES** | Laurena Rosenberg | [lrosenberg@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:lrosenberg@hebrewcollege.edu) | (617) 559-8632

**JEWISH MUSIC CLASSES** | Marcia Spellman | [mspellman@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:mspellman@hebrewcollege.edu) | (617) 559-8643

**JEWISH EDUCATION CLASSES** | Deb Ron | [dron@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:dron@hebrewcollege.edu) | (617) 559-8624

## BIBLE

### **BIBLICAL ORIGINS OF CIVILIZATION: STUDIES IN GENESIS 1-11** BIB548X

In this course we will study the major stories of Genesis 1-11: Creation, Garden of Eden, Cain and Abel, the Sons of Elohim and Daughters of Man, the Flood, Noah's Drunkenness, and the Tower of Babel. In each narrative we will focus on the major interpretive ambiguities and exegetical alternatives in an attempt to achieve deeper understanding of its themes and message. We will also study parallel narratives from ancient Greece and the ancient Near East with the aim of uncovering cross-cultural continuities as well as the unique characteristics of the biblical world-view. Finally, attention will be given to Midrashic interpretation and to the ethical implications that the texts may bear.

**David Frankel | Online**

### **CORE TEXT – TORAH 4: BEMIDBAR - THE BOOK OF NUMBERS** BIB700X

This course on the Book of Numbers (BeMidbar) will focus on crises of leadership in the Wilderness. This period tracks the transition of the Israelites from being slaves in Egypt to their formation as a self-determining nation, prepared to settle the land. We will grapple with the complaint narratives, challenges to Moses' prophecy, the spies report, Korah's rebellion, and the social and legal innovations in settling the Promised Land. We will engage in a wide-range of sources – from Tannaitic Midrash (Sifre) and classic Medieval exegesis to source criticism – with an eye to broadening our reading strategies. Students will also be invited to extend and personalize issues of leadership, in anticipation of their own transition to "Rabbanut."

**Rachel Adelman | Thursdays, 11:30 am - 1 pm**

(optional Beit Midrash preparation 9-11:15 am)

*Non-Hebrew College students may take this class with permission from the instructor*

*Requires Hebrew 7 or above*

## **CORE TEXT – TORAH 1: BERESHIT 2** BIB501X

In this course, we will consider the second half of Sefer Bereshit. In addition to developing a stronger sense of the poetry, rhetoric, and narrative structuring of the book, we will familiarize ourselves with various 20th and 21st century modes of biblical hermeneutics (Buber-Rosenzweig's redactor-critical lens, Julia Krysteva's French feminist lens, Eliade and Bachelard's topoanalytic lens, CG Jung's psychoanalytic lens). To supplement our reading of Bereshit, we will also be turning to medieval commentary, rabbinic midrash, and a smattering of hasidic sources.

**Rachel Adelman | Mondays, 11:30 am - 1 pm and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:30 pm**

(optional Beit Midrash preparation Mondays, 9 - 11:15 am and Wednesdays 10:35 am - 12:35 pm)

*Non-Hebrew College students may take this class with permission from the instructor*

*Requires Hebrew 6 or above*

## **CORE TEXT – TORAH 2: SHEMOT 2** BIB601X

From Sinai to the consecration of the Mishkan (Tabernacle), this course engages in a deep reading of the narrative and legal sections in the book of Shemot following the redemption of Israel from slavery. We will focus on the main events in the wilderness: the theophany at Sinai, the Sin of the Golden calf, and the building of the Tabernacle. We will draw upon interpretations primarily from classic rabbinic midrash and Medieval commentaries: the Mekhilta, Rashi, Ramban, and Ibn Ezra. We will also engage in a reading of the Revelation at Sinai and other selected passages through the lens of modern biblical criticism (the documentary hypothesis).

**Rachel Adelman | Tuesdays, 9:15 - 10:45 am and Thursdays, 2:30 - 4 pm**

(optional Beit Midrash preparation Mondays, 2:30 - 4 pm, and Thursdays 9 - 11:15 am)

*Non-Hebrew College students may take this class with permission from the instructor*

*Requires Hebrew 7 or above*

## **HAMESH MEGILLOT – ESTHER, SONG OF SONGS, RUTH** BIB750X

In this course students will engage a deep reading of three of the Five Megillot: Esther, Song of Songs, and the Book of Ruth. We will consider the historical context and genre of their composition, as well as their significance with respect to the liturgical year (Purim, Passover, and Shavuot). Special attention will be given to the dramatic presentation and character development, along with accompanying classical parshanut, midrash, literary commentary, modern feminist readings and creative responses to these texts. We will explore some of the existential issues each scroll presents: Jewish identity in the context of exile (galut) and assimilation; the virtue of the stranger (ger) in our midst; the tension between Law and Narrative; the problem of hester panim (the Hidden Face of God).

**Rachel Adelman | Fridays, 11:30 - 1 pm**

(optional Beit Midrash preparation 9-11:15 am)

*Requires Hebrew 7 or above*

## **CANTORIAL ARTS**

### **BASIC NUSACH** CAN517X

An introduction to the modes and motifs of traditional synagogue prayer. Emphasis will be on not only acquiring the musical skills to lead services, but also exploring the spiritual and textual underpinnings of nusach. We will be discussing issues of prayer leading, including improvisation and congregational participation, as well as the historical context of traditional davening. We will be studying Weekday and Shabbat nusach and melodies with a concentration on how to learn the modes. There will be reading assignments, and weekly recording assignments.

**Lynn Torgove | Fridays, 9 - 10:45 am**

*Requires Hebrew 4 or permission of the instructor*



## EDUCATION

### **THEORY AND PRACTICE OF 21ST CENTURY JEWISH EDUCATION** EDU834X

This course explores the theories of 21st century Jewish education and ways that these theories inform practice. We will examine different tools for learning and teaching across educational venues. The course will explore how different applications support current theories in Jewish education and will also identify the pedagogic implications for integration of technology and ideas of 21st century education into learning experiences for Jewish education.

**Orah Levin-Minder | Online**

### **THE JEWISH CALENDAR** EDU545X

This course will explore the Jewish holidays, across time and space. Participants will study Biblical, Rabbinic and contemporary sources to uncover the central themes and values, symbols, rituals and practices associated with each holiday. After reaching a deeper knowledge of their origins and central messages, we will develop a repertoire of resources and strategies appropriate to our individual educational settings and target audiences. Particular attention will be paid to the cycles of nature and the agricultural seasons, the historical milestones of the evolving Jewish People, and the ways in which our celebrations of the holidays enhance our relationships with the Divine.

**Susie Rodenstein | Online**

### **PHILOSOPHIES OF EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP IN JEWISH THOUGHT AND PRACTICE** EDU720X

Our work in this course is divided into two areas. In the first area, we will examine some important modern philosophers of Jewish education, in order to become familiar with some of the different approaches in this field and the purposes of Jewish education. In the second area, we will attempt to move from these more abstract levels of reflection to contemplate concrete areas and issues in contemporary Jewish education. This will give us a chance to explore how philosophical perspectives inform educational strategies and practices, whether explicitly or implicitly; it will also provide an opportunity for students to begin to spell out their own philosophical positions on real topics in day-to-day Jewish education, as they contemplate their educational leadership in these areas and challenges.

**Michael Shire | Thursdays, 2:30 - 4 pm**

## HEBREW LANGUAGE

### **BIBLICAL HEBREW** HBW607X

This course is intended to equip students for precise and nuanced reading of Biblical Hebrew and explores important features of the phonology, morphology and syntax of Biblical Hebrew. A thorough prior knowledge of basic Hebrew grammar, including the system of niqqud and the verb system, is presumed.

**Harvey Bock | Fridays, 11 am - 1 pm**

*Prerequisite: Hebrew Grammar Intensive or equivalent*

### **HEBREW 6** HBW506X

In the Academic Modern Hebrew 6 course, students will continue to develop in each Modern Language skill area: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Intermediate to advanced level content will be covered: advanced vocabulary and idiomatic expressions within Hebrew text, which will be taught with a lens into the classical and modern texts; next step syntax templates and vocabulary, will be implemented as well. Genres are diverse (academic scientific articles, lit reviews, editorials, poetry, songs) representing the multi historical layers of our Hebrew language. Spoken Modern Hebrew is used in all meetings.

**Adva Alpert | Mondays 10:15 am - 12:30 pm and Thursdays 9:45 am - 12 pm**

*Prerequisite: Hebrew 5*

**RABBINIC HEBREW** HBW608X

This course surveys the Hebrew of classic rabbinic works, with the goal of refining the students' ability to accurately read and understand the language of major genres of post-biblical literature. Representative texts from the Mishnah through medieval biblical commentary and law are examined sequentially. Secondary literature about the Hebrew of the genres covered is also read and discussed.

**Harvey Bock | Thursdays, 11:30 am - 1 pm**

*Requires Hebrew 7 or above*

**HISTORY**

**HISTORY AND MEMORY: MEDIEVAL AND MODERN PERIODS** HIS534X

Working within a chronological framework, this course will trace the creative transformation of Judaism and the Jewish people in the medieval period and the profound challenges posed by modernity. Students will have the opportunity to critically engage with primary sources. Major events and personalities of these two historical periods will be considered. Research methods and approaches to Jewish Studies and Jewish history will be examined.

**Barry Mesch | Online**

**THE HISTORY OF ZIONISM AND ISRAELI SOCIETY** HIS510X

In the first part of the seminar we will explore the history of Zionism both by studying the social development of the movement in Palestine up until 1948 and via close reading of the various streams of Zionist thought. The course will focus on the seminal political events of early Zionism: the Zionist congresses, the Balfour Declaration, the successive waves of aliyot, etc. The latter part of the course will focus on the development of Israeli society, looking at questions of Jewish identity, the democratic nature of Israel, Ashkenazi-Sephardi tension, and the contentious relationship with the Palestinians. We will end the course by looking at contemporary critiques of Zionism, raising the charged questions of whether Zionism is at its end.

**David Starr | Fridays, 9 - 10:30 am**

Non-Hebrew College students may take this class with permission from the instructor

**JEWISH THOUGHT**

**CONTEMPORARY JEWISH THOUGHT** JTH918X

This course has two components. In the first half of the semester we will explore American Jewish history focusing on themes of particular importance to rabbinical students like the emergence of denominations and the evolution of the American synagogue. The second half of the course is a survey of the seminal Jewish thinkers who wrote in an American context such as Mordecai Kaplan, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Joseph Soloveitchik, Judith Plaskow and others. We will ultimately be aiming to place our own historical moment and our own theologies within broader historical/theological frameworks.

**Rabbi Dan Judson | Wednesdays, 1:15 pm – 2:45 pm**

**HASIDUT – NO'AM ELIMELECH: THE ROLE OF THE TZADDIK** JTH801X

This course will explore the models of spiritual leadership presented in the book No'am Elimelekh. Rabbi Elimelekh of Lezansk, the author, is one of the most important figures of early Hasidism precisely because he articulated a theory of leadership which had tremendous impact on the entire movement from the generation of his disciples onwards. We will study R Elimelekh's teachings and reflect on their relevance to contemporary rabbis. Students should have the capacity to read the Hasidic teachings in the original Hebrew.

**Rabbi Ebn Leader | Tuesdays, 9:15 - 10:45 am**

*Prerequisite: Hebrew 7 or above*

## JEWISH LEARNING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE HASIDIC TALE** JTH515X

In this course, we will delve into the world of the Hasidic tale. Whereas secondary readings will offer us the historical and philosophical contexts out of which these tales emerged, our primary source materials will put us face-to-face with Hasidic Hebrew, Hasidic thought, and Hasidic narratology. The tales we will be reading will focus primarily on tropes of spiritual initiation – on the process by which a person assumes the mantle of a spiritual leader.

**Rabbi Jordan Schuster | Mondays, 11:30 am - 1 pm**  
(optional Beit Midrash preparation Tuesdays 9 - 11:15 am)  
*Requires Hebrew 4 or above*

### **KETER SHEM TOV** JTH710X

The Baal Shem Tov, called the founder of Hasidism, was not only a powerful mystic but also a wisdom teacher who expounded scripture and Talmud with fluidity and suppleness, against the grain, prizing insights that defamiliarized, startled, and led to a new awakening. This course will focus on an early collection of his teachings called Keter Shem Tov, now available in a vocalized text.

Among the topics explored in Keter Shem Tov are:

- why the goal of religious knowledge is not knowing;
- the role of laughter on the spiritual path;
- how to make tough ethical choices;
- the hasidic view of evil and good;
- how the sefirot are realized in human beings;
- why one must pray for one's enemies;
- why the greatest teachers have just one thing to teach;
- how to turn everyday activities into sacred acts;
- why the spiritual life must involve pleasure;
- Moshe's leadership and the quest for self-discovery.

A central ideal in Keter Shem Tov is integration of all aspects of the self, including those perceived to be undesirable, in a spirituality that caps but does not replace the physical. In this vein Ecclesiastes 9:10 is read to mean "Whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with all your mindful awareness." Non-dualism is achieved when the person simultaneously manifests thought and deed, mind and action, spirit and body, linking but not collapsing the different states. Inhabiting the linkage engenders a kind of apotheosis that channels blessing and unlocks power. Closely related to this is the Baal Shem Tov's understanding of Prov. 3:6, "In all your ways acknowledge Him," heard as a call not simply to recognize God in all aspects of life, but in all levels of one's being: holistically integrating one's corporeal and spiritual sides, so that their respective yearnings are satisfied not just serially or even in tandem, but in mindful embrace of their totality, an inhabitation of the unified Self.

**Rabbi Nehemia Polen | Tuesdays, 4:30 - 6 pm**

### **THEOLOGY OF JEWISH PRAYER** JTH600X

Prayer is the very core of religious life, yet our understanding of how and why to pray has varied throughout Jewish history. This course will survey ideals of tefillah in all periods beginning with Tanakh, but our main focus will be the teachings and practices associated with Hasidism, emphasizing interiority, fervor, and embodied expression. We will explore davening modalities and postures such as contemplative, petitionary, thanksgiving, ecstatic; the role of niggun, dance, and silence. We will study texts and tales of the hasidic masters, and will develop the idea of prayer as sonic offering. Based on a Baal Shem Tov tradition, we will develop a schema based on the rubric P.R.A.Y.=Presence/Resonance/Alignment/Yes!

**Rabbi Nehemia Polen | Thursdays, 2:30 pm – 4 pm**  
*Prerequisite: Hebrew Grammar Intensive or equivalent*

## LITERATURE

### **INTRODUCTION TO READING RABBINIC LITERATURE** LIT501X

This course is a companion to Introduction to Talmud, and will provide students with the opportunity to focus on the Hebrew content of the textual material of that course and to acquire familiarity with basic features of Rabbinic Hebrew. The students will also receive instruction regarding basic Hebrew verb paradigms.

**Harvey Bock | Thursdays, 2:30 - 4 pm**  
 (optional Beit Midrash preparation 12-1)  
*Requires Hebrew 5 or above*

## LITURGY

### **LITURGY AND POETRY OF YAMIM NORAIM** LGY625X

Students will study the classic liturgy for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, including the history of the mahzor and close reading of piyyutim (liturgical poetry). Texts will be taught in Hebrew.

**Rabbi Allan Lehmann | Fridays, 10:45 am - 1 pm**  
*Requires Hebrew 7 or above*

## MUSIC HISTORY

### **HISTORY OF JEWISH MUSIC 2** HIS506X

This course provides a detailed look at music composed by Jews as Jews from the nineteenth century to the dawn of the twenty-first century. Students not only examine music for its own intrinsic structure, but also consider it in the context of its cultural milieu. Study involves harmonic, melodic and formal analysis of selected compositions, as well as historical analysis through close reading of primary sources.

**Joshua Jacobson | Tuesdays, 11:15 - 1:15 pm**  
*Prerequisite: Jewish Music History 1 or permission from instructor*



# PROZDOR

Prozdor is Hebrew College's program for Jewish teen learning and engagement, bringing together high school students from diverse communities throughout Greater Boston and beyond to learn and connect within a pluralistic environment of open inquiry, depth, creativity, and compassion.

Students meet once a week on Sundays at Hebrew College. They can choose from a variety of courses taught by committed teachers including current and future Hebrew College rabbis.

**For more information visit: [hebrewcollege.edu/prozdor](http://hebrewcollege.edu/prozdor)**

**CONTACT: Rabbi Laura Bellows | [lbellows@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:lbellows@hebrewcollege.edu) | (617) 559-8802**

## Spring 2020 Courses

All **Hebrew** classes are full-year courses and will continue into spring semester. This course guide includes only non-Hebrew classes, as there is no need to re-register for Hebrew classes.

Interested in learning or keeping up your **Hebrew**? Prozdor offers a popular Modern Conversational Hebrew track for teens at many learning levels, from new Hebrew learners to near-fluent speakers and students coming from day schools across the region. These year-long courses are taught by an excellent, dedicated faculty of native Hebrew speakers as part of our Sunday morning program.

### **AND, IF ELECTED... JEWS IN AMERICAN POLITICAL LIFE**

#### **Norm Finkelstein**

As we look forward to this presidential election year we take a closer look at the role of Jews in American politics. Since colonial times Jews have been involved in America's political life as candidates, appointees and activists on the local, state and federal levels. A generation ago there was but one Jewish member of the United States Senate. Today there is a minyan. In this course, we will go back in time to trace the evolution of Jewish involvement in American politics, from Frances Salvador to Joseph Lieberman and from "The Jew Bill" to AIPAC. We will examine the myth of the "Jewish vote" and trace the development of Jewish political activism. At the same time, we will follow today's presidential candidates and their views/connections with Jewish issues/concerns and Israel.

### **AYEKA: BECOMING A SOULFUL LEARNER**

#### **Rabbi David Ehrenkranz**

Why is it that so many people are choosing not to learn in Jewish Day Schools? Why do so many people have a disconnect between our religion, heritage, and soul? Please come to this class if you want to be inspired (all over again...come to the class to see what "all over again" means).

## **THE BIGGEST BOOK CLUB IN THE WORLD: TALMUD, THEATER, AND WHAT KEPT THE RABBIS AWAKE AT NIGHT**

**Heather Renetzky**

Imagine one book series that contains singing trees, talking animals, magically morphing objects, heated deathbed debates, and mysterious voices. Join us as we dive into the Babylonian Talmud, a recording of the oral tradition of our ancient sages, with a rotating cast of characters who are smart and sharp-tongued as the plot takes a series of unexpected twists and turns. We'll explore a selection of Talmudic tales, from the wacky to the wild to the epic questions that kept our ancestral rabbis awake at night. This course is part moral dilemma debate and part creative writing, as we use the Talmud to inspire our own exploration of moral questions and curiosities.

## **COOL JEWS OF THE 21ST CENTURY**

**Hindy Finman**

This course will use various forms of arts, crafts, and media to learn about influential Jews of the twenty first century. From RBG to Julian Edelman we will explore their backgrounds, ask what makes them a “cool Jew”, and how do they practice being Jewish in 2020.

## **EARTH, AIR, FIRE, TORAH: JEWISH CLIMATE JUSTICE**

**Rabbi Laura Bellows**

Have you been to one of the Climate Strikes this year? Feeling anxious about the future of our planet? Our people have wandered, farmed, and built resilient societies across the globe for thousands of years, connecting Judaism with the natural world for generations. Roll up your (metaphoric) sleeves and dive into this discussion-based class to explore a Jewish take on today's Environmental Justice issues and climate change, and how we, together, can build a more resilient, more just world!

## **EVOLUTION, THE BIG BANG THEORY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE TORAH**

**Rabbi David Ehrenkranz**

We will explore and examine the opening sections of the Torah and compare and contrast scientific principles with the Biblical narrative of the Creation of the Universe. Do we have to reject one over the other or can we find a happy medium between what the Torah says and what our scientists tell us? Come to the class in order to find out the various opinions about the “clash” of science and Torah.

## **FUNNY JEWS: THE SHAPING OF AMERICAN COMEDY**

**Norm Finkelstein**

Just what is Jewish humor? Is it the nice-but-clueless-guy-making-his-way-in-the-world humor of Woody Allen or Jerry Seinfeld? Could it be the loveable character roles of Sid Caesar, the charming boyish humor of Adam Sandler, or the wacky-to-the-extreme humor Sacha Baron Cohen or Sarah Silverman? From the vaudeville stage and silent films, to radio and television, and up to the viral comics of today, this small population of American Jews has always been a force in show business. Jewish comedians heavily influenced the entertainment industry in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries and mirrored on-going American history. Let's share some corny jokes together, listen to and look at some classic Jewish comedians and talk about celebrities ranging from the Three Stooges and the Marx Brothers to Mel Brooks, Jon Stewart, and beyond.

## JEWISH LEARNING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### **LET'S READ OTHER PEOPLE'S MAIL: PERSONAL GLIMPSES INTO THE AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE**

Norm Finkelstein

Of course, it's not polite to read other people's mail. But don't worry. The writers of the letters we will read and discuss will not mind. Through their words we will relive important moments in the over 350-year history of Jews in America. You will recognize the names of some of the writers: others will not be familiar. Yet, each letter will give us a personal contemporary look into an event or timeframe which affected the American Jewish community.

### **SAY IT AIN'T SO: MYTHS AND TRUTHS ABOUT AMERICAN JEWS**

Norm Finkelstein

Today, descendants of Jewish immigrants – who often find themselves invisible in history texts – are largely unaware of their own rich American-Jewish heritage. As much as they are familiar with George Washington, Roger Williams, and Susan B. Anthony, they know little or nothing about Asser Levy, Ernestine Rose, or Henrietta Szold. In a multicultural society, Jews need a better appreciation of their historic role in the building of America.

**As part of our class discussions we will consider some popular myths:**

1. The first Jews in America came from Eastern Europe.
2. The only Jewish hero of the Revolutionary War was Haym Salomon.
3. Reform Judaism in America began with the arrival of German Jews.
4. Jews did not play an active role in American military life.
5. Jews only became active supporters of Civil Rights in the 1950s.

### **WHY ARE THERE SO FEW MEZUZOT ON THE DOORPOSTS AT PROZDOR AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?**

Rabbi David Ehrenkranz

This course will examine the unique Mitzvah of Mezuzah. We will discover why this Mitzvah is important and discuss day to day issues related to this Mitzvah such as: Do I have to put a Mezuzah on my dorm room? Do I have to put a Mezuzah up on my office door at work and why does El Al not have Mezuzot on the airplane doors? And why do we never put a Mezuzah on our Sukkot?

### **WIZARD OF OZ, THE GODFATHER, THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION AND STAR WARS: WHY SOME MOVIES ARE GOOD FOR OUR SOUL (AND OTHERS, NOT SO MUCH)**

Rabbi David Ehrenkranz

We will examine how what we see and watch affects our mind and psyche. We will also explore what Jewish Law says about what movies, t.v. shows and plays might inspire us to be better human beings. Please bring your popcorn to this class.



# MAKOR

Makor is Hebrew College's program for Jewish learning and engagement for students in 6th-7th grades from diverse communities across Greater Boston. Students meet on Sundays at Hebrew College to connect with peers and build new friendships through inquiry-driven, project-based learning, hands-on arts, Jewish history, Torah study, modern conversational Hebrew, and contemporary and social justice issues. Many students continue their learning a second day of the week at their home synagogue. We welcome students from all Jewish backgrounds.

**For more information visit: [hebrewcollege.edu/makor](http://hebrewcollege.edu/makor)**

**CONTACT: Rabbi Laura Bellows | [lbellows@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:lbellows@hebrewcollege.edu) | (617) 559-8802**

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### THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...!

**Jonathan Tatelman**

At the completion of the Torah (The Five Books of Moses), Moses has led the Israelites to the Promised Land. The adventure continues as we move into the next section of the Bible, Nevi'im (The Prophets). Who are the new leaders? How do they form a nation? We will explore texts, commentaries, and video to learn about this next important step in our people's story as we meet key players such as Joshua and Deborah, Samson and Samuel, as well as our early kings Saul, David and Solomon. Together, we'll examine the issues, dilemmas, and moral choices they faced and consider how the Books of the Prophets can still speak to us about leaders and leadership even today.

*This course will include in-depth text study on a variety of challenging topics.*

### BAD MEN OF THE BIBLE

**Ben Einsidler**

"Bad Men" play a large role in our religious texts. Can we learn anything from them? Are they truly bad, or just victims of their environment? In "Bad Men of the Bible", we will examine the lives of some of the "bad men" in the Tanakh and attempt to discern the true nature of their character. Guided by our essential questions "Are there any positive qualities about this character?", and "Do these characters' positive qualities offer a glimpse into mensch-like behavior?", we will examine the characters' interpersonal relationships and discuss issues regarding contemporary masculinity and codes of behavior. Among other personalities, we will examine the lives and actions of Korah, Cain, Amnon, Samson, Joseph's brothers, and Saul.



## JEWISH LEARNING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### **COOL JEWS OF THE 21ST CENTURY**

**Hindy Finman**

This course will use various forms of arts, crafts, and media to learn about influential Jews of the twenty first century. From RBG to Julian Edelman we will explore their backgrounds, ask what makes them a “cool Jew”, and how do they practice being Jewish in 2020.

### **HADASHOT YEHUDIYOT: JEWISH CURRENT EVENTS**

**Wayne Goldstein**

Stay up to date on all that is happening in the Jewish world today. We will discuss events occurring in Israel, current news related to Judaism in America and around the world, and even talk about what is happening in your town from a Jewish angle. The course will include guest speakers, multi-media presentations, lively and interesting conversation, and much more. Class participation is a must if you enroll in this course – everyone’s voice is important.

### **JEWDO – THE JEWISH WAY TO BE A LEADER**

**Yigal Pe’eri**

What does it mean to be a leader? Join this lively, discussion-based course on leadership through a Jewish lens. We will explore the concept and practice of leadership through contemporary and historical examples and through challenging ourselves to think deeply about what it means to act as a Jewish leader in today’s world.

### **KRAV MAGA**

**Yigal Pe’eri**

Krav Maga is the Israeli self-defense method designed for face to face combat. We learn how to react to an attacker, using their energy and power against them. Mostly we will train our brain in staying calm in any emergency situation.

### **#MINDBLOWN: EPIC JEWISH STORIES**

**Rav Hazzan Aliza Berger**

You know that moment when you think you know all there is to know and someone blows your mind with a new juicy tidbit of information? This class is designed to do just that. We’re going to be visiting texts and prayers that you think you know, but just wait, we’ll discover the coolest stories and gems of wisdom concealed inside. From original Jewish hip-hop, ancient wiki-leaks smuggled out in coffins, to epic heroes hidden within plain sight – this class will blow up your Jewish experience!

### **STUDIO SIDDUR**

**Heather Renetzky**

Our siddurim (prayer books) are full of hundreds and hundreds of words. But what do these words even mean?! We’ll dive into the colorful kaleidoscope of Shabbat morning tefillot (prayers) as we use all forms of art to explore their meaning. Each week, we’ll explore a new prayer using a different form of visual art. Get ready to get your creative wheels turning and your hands dirty as we paint, color, sculpt, and collage!

### **NOTE**

*During 3rd and 4th period, we offer the unique opportunity for interested Makor students to enroll in a Prozdor high school class at no extra charge. To find out more about available Prozdor courses, please contact Rabbi Laura Bellows at [lbellows@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:lbellows@hebrewcollege.edu).*

## JTFGB (Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston)

The Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston (JTFGB) is a year-long, pluralistic program for Jewish high school students from across the greater Boston area. Together, they develop strong leadership and communication skills, learn the ins and outs of professional philanthropy and grant-making through a Jewish lens, and allocate grants to effect real change in the causes they care about most. JTFGB, now in its fifth year, is proud to be a part of the Foundation Board Incubator, which is a project of the Jewish Teen Funders Network, generously funded by Laura Lauder and the Maimonides Fund.

JTFGB is a one-year academic year commitment. Applications are closed for the 2019-2020 school year. Please contact Leah Goldstein with any questions or to be notified when registration opens for our 2020-2021 academic year program.

**CONTACT | Leah Goldstein | [lgoldstein@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:lgoldstein@hebrewcollege.edu) | (617) 559-8803 | [hebrewcollege.edu/jtfgb](http://hebrewcollege.edu/jtfgb)**

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Betty Ann Greenbaum Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership

#### **CALLING OUT FROM THE DEPTHS: JEWISH & CHRISTIAN INTERPRETATIONS OF THE PSALMS** A Guided Reading Group and One-Credit Course

For those familiar with Mussar and practice, bring your creative curiosity and enthusiasm to this advanced group that meets at a home in Lexington. With guidance from an outside off site consultant who provides some materials and helps shape sessions, participants determine middot studied, take turns co-facilitating each session, and innovate kabbalot practices. Sessions involve experiential learning and draw upon creative proclivities of facilitators.

**Rabbi Or Rose, Hebrew College and Dr. Andrew Davis, Boston College | Hebrew College**  
Wednesday, 4:30 - 6:30 pm – Six Sessions (dinner included)  
February 12, 19, 26; March 18; April 1 and 22

#### **LEADERSHIP ON THE LINE: CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS WITH RELIGIOUS ACTIVISTS & ORGANIZERS**

In this course, we will encounter several outstanding modern and contemporary religious leaders engaged in various civic and political initiatives for social and environmental transformation. This will include reading works by and about such historical figures as Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Joshua Heschel and Oscar Romero, and meeting (in-person and by video conference) with leaders from the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, American Jewish World Service, and GreenFaith. Through these encounters, we will explore core leadership capacities, organizational structures, and practices for personal growth and sustainability.

**Rabbi Or Rose | Hebrew College**  
Mondays, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

**CONTACT | Tom Reid | [treid@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:treid@hebrewcollege.edu) | (617) 559-8816 | [hebrewcollege.edu/miller-center](http://hebrewcollege.edu/miller-center)**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit [hebrewcollege.edu/events](http://hebrewcollege.edu/events) for the most up-to-date listing

JAN

## **RABBINICAL SCHOOL WINTER SEMINAR PUBLIC EVENTS** | Hebrew College

*What Do We Owe Each Other? Jewish Conversations on Equity & The Challenges of a Just Society*

### **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

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

A conversation with Len Fishman, former CEO of Hebrew SeniorLife, and Rabbi Sara Paasche-Orlow, Director of Spiritual Care at Hebrew SeniorLife. January 28 | 9:15 am

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

Aliana Pinerio is Impact Director for the Boston Impact Initiative Fund. January 28 | 1:15 - 2:30 pm

### **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 Friedmans, Rab`14. January 28 | 7:15 pm

FEB

## **YOM IYYUN: TEEN MENTAL HEALTH** Generously supported by The Ruderman Family Foundation.

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

MAR

## **SEEING TORAH GALLERY OPENING** 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. The exhibit will run until June 14.*

March 24 | 6 pm | Hebrew College

## **CEO FORUM WITH JON HIRSCHTICK**

Hebrew College's sixth CEO Forum includes breakfast and featured speaker Jon Hirschtick, executive vice president of SaaS at PTC and former founder and CEO of Onshape and SolidWorks. Moderated by Aron Ain, CEO of Kronos. March 25, 7:30 - 9 am | Free | Hebrew College

## **EMBRACING INTERFAITH COUPLES AND FAMILIES**

One day program including panel discussion, text study, and presentations.. Supported by the Hebrew College Innovation Lab. March 26th, 2020 | 8 am - 4 pm | Free | Hebrew College

## **YOM IYYUN: "PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR PASSOVER/EASTER"**

Open to Hebrew College ordination students and Boston University and Boston College Schools of Theology students. March 26-27 | 8:30 am - 12 pm | Hebrew College

APR

## **OR NOGAH/RADIANT LIGHT: SYNAGOGUE MUSIC FOR CHOIR AND ORGAN**

Featuring Kol Arev Chamber Choir of Hebrew College.

**April 2, 7:30 pm** | Free | Church of the Covenant | 67 Newbury Street in Boston

**April 5, 4 pm** | Follen Community Church, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation | 755 Massachusetts Avenue in Lexington

## **KLEZMER KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE**

Featuring Kol Arev Chamber Choir of Hebrew College and the KlezKabShab Band.

April 24, 7:30 pm | Temple Sinai, Brookline

## **"CHILDREN OF THE INQUISITION" FILM SCREENING**

Followed by a conversation between Rabbi Or Rose, Director of the Miller Center for Interreligious Engagement at Hebrew College, and Joseph Lovett, the film's director.

April 23, 6:30 pm | \$10 | Hebrew College

## **HEBREW COLLEGE SPRING EVENT: LEADERSHIP, LEARNING, AND LOVE**

An evening of music, conversation, and celebration.

April 29, 6:30 pm | Temple Israel, Boston

MAY

## **"MUSICAL SIBLINGS" CONCERT**

Featuring Kol Arev Chamber Choir of Hebrew College. May 5, 1:30 pm | Free | Hebrew College

## **HEBREW COLLEGE'S JEWISH TEEN FOUNDATION OF GREATER BOSTON: GRANT PRESENTATION CEREMONY**

May 27, 6-8 pm | Hebrew College

JUN

## **THESIS PRESENTATION DAY**

June 4 | Hebrew College

## **COMMENCEMENT & ORDINATION**

June 7

**Commencement** | 10 am | Hebrew College | **Ordination** | 1:30 pm | Temple Reyim, Newton, MA

## **MONTHLY EVENTS AZAMRA: ALTERNATIVE SHABBAT COMMUNITY MINYAN**

Rabbi Lev Friedman, Rab`18. Supported by the Hebrew College Innovation Lab.

Saturdays (once a month) | 10 am - 12 pm | Hebrew College Beit Midrash

# LIFELONG JEWISH LEARNING

at Hebrew College



## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS for teens and adults

**Makor and Prozdor** *middle and high school*

**Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston** *high school*

**Open Circle Jewish Learning** *conversation-based learning, with groups for 20's and 30's, as well as adults of all ages*

**Parenting & Grandparenting Through a Jewish Lens** *new parents, parents of teens and tweens, grandparents*

**Me'ah and Me'ah Select** *rigorous learning over two years or an academic semester*

**Rabbinical, Cantorial & Graduate Education Classes** *non-credit courses open to the community*

**Hebrew Language Ulpan** *intensive Hebrew language*

**Professional Development** *Hebrew College Fall 2019 Educator Conference and more...*

## GRADUATE AND ORDINATION PROGRAMS for Jewish leaders and learners

**Rabbinical Ordination · Cantorial Ordination**

**Master of Jewish Education · Master of Arts in Jewish Studies**

**Dual Master of Jewish Education/Master of Arts in Jewish Studies**



"Participating in the Open Circles course was a gift I gave to myself... I experienced renewed delight and connection within Jewish community and with learning *lishmah* (for the sake of learning). If we Jewish educators are to 'talk the talk' — encouraging others to invest in their Jewish education and Jewish engagement, then we ourselves must first 'walk the walk' — investing in our own personal Jewish journeys."

- Arinne Braverman, educator, consultant, community organizer, and Open Circle Jewish Learning participant

**HEBREW COLLEGE** is a Boston-area institution of Jewish learning and leadership with a dual focus on community learning and graduate leadership — each of which strengthens the other — within a pluralistic environment of open inquiry, depth, creativity, and compassion.

