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NEWS & VIEWS

January 18, 2018 | 2 Shevat 5778

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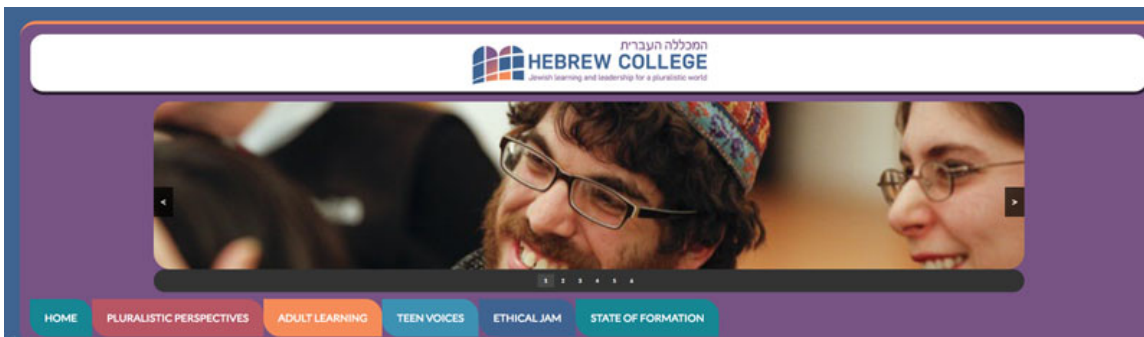
Hebrew College Gala

Honoring Rabbi Daniel L. Lehmann

and his decade of leadership at Hebrew College

6:30 p.m. at Gann Academy, 133 Forest Avenue, Waltham, MA





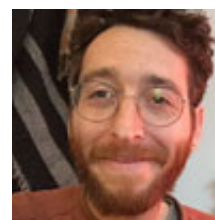
From the Hebrew College Blog (blog.hebrewcollege.edu)

SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

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

On Confronting the Tyrannical Heart Parshat Bo (Exodus 10:1-13:16)

By [Jordan Schuster](#)
Student, [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#)



There is this scene from a tale by Rabbi Nakhman of Breslov that's been hounding me lately. In it, the world has fallen under the sway of a handful of tyrants. Each tyrant claims a different moral truth. Each truth-claim begets a different moralizing discourse. As these moralizing discourses proliferate, the world divides, polarizes, rends itself apart. Mountains quake. The earth comes undone.

Into the midst of this trembling, tyrannical world, Nakhman places the figure of a zaken - an elder - bearded, pious, frail - who draws a circle of protection around himself and his family. One day, Nakhman tells us, one of the world's royal tyrants approaches this elder and begs him for healing. A healer by trade, the elder welcomes the tyrant into his circle, then restores his vitality. In thanks, the tyrant yields to the elder a weighty tome: "This book contains a list of all the demons known to rage in the heart of the human-being," the tyrant says. "By identifying which demon is active in which individual's heart, you will be able to seize control of that individual."

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