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NEWS & VIEWS

November 21, 2017 | 3 Kislev 5778

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



“The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings.” - Eric Hoffer

Thanksgiving is a time to spend time with family and friends, to eat (when don't Jews celebrate with food?), and count our blessings.

At Hebrew College, this Thanksgiving we reflect on our mission of promoting excellence in Jewish learning and leadership within a pluralistic environment of open inquiry, intellectual rigor, personal engagement and spiritual creativity, and realize we are blessed to be making a difference in the world. This is thanks to our students, alumni, faculty, administration, alumni, donors and friends like you. And through all of you, we are blessed to expand Hebrew College's reach to our extended family, which includes:

- Rabbinical School alumni who touch more than **300,000** Jews worldwide
- Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education alumni who have shaped more than **90,000** students over the past two years alone
- School of Jewish Music alumni who have inspired nearly **30,000** individuals
- Approximately **8,000** adult leaders who have been enriched by our Me'ah, Eser, Parenting through a Jewish Lens, and Open Circle Jewish Learning programs
- More than **5,000** teens over the last 95 years who graduated from Prozdor, our supplemental Jewish high school

These are the blessings we at Hebrew College are adding up this Thanksgiving. From the faculty, students, and administration, we wish you and your family peace, goodness, blessing, and kindness at this Thanksgiving and throughout the year to come. Thank you for all you do for Hebrew College.



December Hebrew College Events (hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events)

**Madlik: Illuminating the World:
A Celebration of Learning and Leadership**
Rabbinical School of Hebrew College
Dec. 2 at 7 pm
Hebrew College
[Purchase Ticket](#)



**The Rag Trade: How Jews Made It in America
with Adam Mendelsohn**
11th Annual Lecture on Jewish Genealogy
Dec. 10 from 3:30 - 5:30 pm
Hebrew College
Free | No registration required
*Co-sponsored by: Hebrew College and
The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Boston*



Torah Godly Play Practitioner Training
New and current practitioners welcome
December 10 and 11
Hebrew College
[Information and Registration](#)



**Early Childhood Institute Conference:
People of the Book**
Dec. 11-12
Hebrew College
[Information and Registration](#)



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

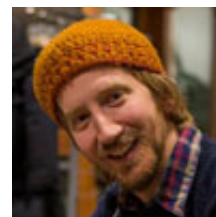
SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH

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

When the Holy One is a No-Show Parashat Vayetze (Genesis 28:10-32:3)

By Rabbi Jordan Braunig, Rab` 14

Director of the [Initiative for Innovative Community Building at Tufts Hillel](#)



Perhaps the most memorable words from this week's parasha, Parashat Vayetze, are the oft-quoted words of Jacob, who having awoken from a holy vision of a ladder connecting the heavens and earth says:

אכן יש ה במקום הזה ואנוכי לא ידעתי

Surely Adonai was in this place, and I...I didn't know it.

The line is in some ways the quintessential expression of spiritual awakening. Eyes are opened to a new world of metaphysical possibility, and it was all there before—just unnoticed. So, our teachers and rabbis have expounded on these words to remind us that opportunities to commune with the Divine are all around us. On subway cars, at political rallies, in the grocery store, a homeless shelter, the gas station, a soccer game—we have been given countless examples of people surprised by a chance encounter with the Transcendent. We hear it time and again, “the Holy One was right here and I didn't even know it.” Don't get me wrong, I am not complaining; it is good Torah. We need the reminder!

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