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NEWS & VIEWS

November 16, 2017 | 27 Heshvan 5778

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Storytelling with Torah Godly Play

Torah Godly Play Practitioner Training | December 11 & 12 at Hebrew College

How do we help nurture the innate sense of God in our children? Drawing upon the sacred stories of the Bible, Godly Play invites children into the entrancement of the narrative while leaving room for wonder, creativity and imagination as children build their own picture of a spiritual search and a Divine presence in their lives. Originating over 40 years ago from founder Jerome Berryman, a student of Maria Montessori, this methodology is in widespread usage in churches, early childhood centers, hospitals and hospices and now

synagogues all over the world.

The method requires a unique approach to storytelling coupled with artifacts around which children sit in a circle. The entrancement comes from inviting children 'into' a story through special guidance of the storyteller followed by opportunities for wondering, exploration, and creativity. This enables the very youngest children to make sacred stories their own and live within them as they imagine their own notions of God, Covenant, Promise, Joy, Sadness and Love. Artifacts and objects for telling stories are carefully and intentionally designed for maximum spiritual resonance using wood, stone, cloth or sand.

In 2012, Rabbi Michael Shire, Chief Academic Officer of Hebrew College and Dean of the [Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education](#), established a community of practice for a Torah-based Godly Play methodology and brought the method to Boston-area synagogues and schools. Today, there are over 17 synagogues in our region using this curriculum. In addition, MetroWest Jewish Day School began a weekly Torah Godly Play story and this has spread to other day schools and JCCs. Torah Godly Play is now practiced in New York, Indiana, New Hampshire, and Ohio.

[Experience it for yourself](#) as Rabbi Shire tells the Exodus story:



Over the last five years, Hebrew College has spearheaded the writing of new stories for Torah Godly Play classrooms, particularly ones that do not appear in the core curriculum. Current and new practitioners are welcome to attend the [December training sessions](#) at Hebrew College.



Learn more about the Shoolman School's [master's and certificate programs](#) in early childhood education, now accepting applications.



Madlik

Illuminating the World

A Celebration of Learning and Leadership

Rabbinical School Alumni Spotlight

Whether you live you live in Newton, Cambridge, Somerville, Brookline, downtown Boston, Jamaica Plain, Metro West, in the North or South Shore and beyond chances are you've encountered students or alumni from the [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#). Please join us in celebrating these remarkable teachers and leaders and the communities they serve at [Madlik: Illuminating the World December 2, 7PM](#). at Hebrew College. It will be a joyful evening of study, story and song followed by followed by delicious desserts lovingly prepared by students and alumni of the Rabbinical School. [Purchase tickets here](#).



Check out two of our Madlik alumni stories featuring [Rabbi Getzel Davis](#) (left), who is illuminating life on campus at Harvard Hillel and [Rabbi Suzie Schwartz Jacobson](#) (right) who is illuminating prayer at Temple Israel, Boston.

In Memoriam: Gerald Elovitz

It is with great sadness that the Hebrew College community mourns the passing of Gerald Elovitz, a.k.a. Jerry Ellis. Elovitz was a major benefactor and supporter of Hebrew College over the years—the College's Elovitz Board Room is named for him and his family. Elovitz was the co-founder of Building #19, a bargain hunter's dream store for nearly a half century until it closed its doors in 2013.



May his memory always be for a blessing, and his legacy and impact continue to shine for generations. May his family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Humans of Hebrew College #Humans HC



Learn more about [Laura](#), a student in the [Jewish Studies](#) program at Hebrew College (now

accepting applications).

If you are interested in being featured as one of our #Humans, please contact webmaster@hebrewcollege.edu. You can also find Hebrew College alumni and students on the Hebrew College LinkedIn page. (Remember to update your LinkedIn profile!)

Sights & Sounds



Tuesday evening, **President Daniel Lehmann** was honored for his decade of leadership at Hebrew College at [AMIT's](#) Tribute to Educational Excellence dinner. The annual event, which took place at Hebrew College, also featured keynote speakers Jonathan Sarna, Hebrew College alumnus and Professor of American History in the Department of Near Eastern & Judaic Studies at Brandeis University and Miri Gil, Principal at AMIT Rehovot Jr. & Sr. High School for Girls. Cantor Elias Roseberg and his sons and President Lehmann sang at the event.

Notable & Quotable

Dr. Keren McGinity, Director of the [Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement](#) program, was featured in a Nov. 6 [article in Moment Magazine](#) entitled "Is Inter marriage Good for the Jews?"



Rabbi Lev Meirowitz Nelson, Rab` 13, [Director of Education at T'ruah](#), is one of five recipients of the Covenant Foundation Pomegranate Prize. The Prize is awarded to rising Jewish educators. Rabbi Meirowitz Nelson and the award were featured in the Nov. 13 issue of [EJewish Philanthropy](#).



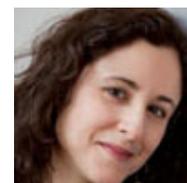
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Fall Events

(hebrewcollege.edu/upcoming-events)

TONIGHT! OPEN REHEARSAL

Jewish Art Music from St. Petersburg to Palestine and Beyond
 Kol Arev - Hebrew College Chamber Choir-in-Residence
 Nov. 16 at 7:30 pm
 Hebrew College
 Free Admission



The Environmental Crisis: Our Spiritual Responsibility

2017 Burstein Scholars-in-Residence Weekend
 Featuring Peter Fox Penner, Mitch Thomashow, and
 Rev. Mariama White-Hammond (pictured)
 Nov. 17-19

Temple Israel of Boston
 Co-sponsored by Hebrew College
[Information and Registration](#)



Madlik: Illuminating the World: A Celebration of Learning and Leadership

Rabbinical School of Hebrew College
 Dec. 2 at 7 pm
 Hebrew College
[Purchase Ticket](#)



NEW! The Rag Trade: How Jews Made It in America with Adam Mendelsohn

Dec. 10 from 3:30 - 5:30 pm
 11th Annual Lecture on Jewish Genealogy
 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](#)



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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](#).

Bringing the Personal Into the World

Parashat Toldot (Genesis 18:1-22:24)

By Rabbi Becky Silverstein, Rab`14

Jewish Spiritual Advisor, Northeastern University Center for Spirituality, Dialogue, and Services

When people hear that I am a twin, the usual first question is “are you identical or fraternal?” Upon seeing us, it is clear that we are fraternal. The second question people ask is “who is older?” And sometimes I’ll be asked, “which one is the good twin?” The answers to these questions are linked—I am older because my sister is the bad twin. Just before we were born, my twin “put” her arm around my neck. The doctors took me out first to ensure that I was breathing. Thus, I am the older and the good twin. If this doesn’t make sense to you biologically, that’s okay. Family stories and science don’t always line up.



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