



Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg

Letter from an Unknown Woman: Joseph's dream

Joseph dreams provocative dreams; his brothers' hatred grows because of them; Jacob apparently dismisses them. But according to Freud, all dreams contain a 'navel,' a spot that defies understanding, that 'reaches into the unknown.' In the midrash, that unfathomable element in the lives of Jacob and Joseph is represented by Rachel, the 'unknown woman' in their narrative. Literature, film, and psychoanalytic thought will enrich our study.

Wednesday, November 4th, 2009

**The Sue and Leonard Miller Center
for Contemporary Judaic Studies—beginning at 11:15**

Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg's latest book, *The Murmuring Deep: Reflections on the Biblical Unconscious*, explores biblical commentators' understanding of the interplay between conscious and unconscious levels of experience. Other acclaimed books include *Genesis: the Beginning of Desire* which was awarded the National Jewish Book Award for non-fiction in 1995 and *The Particulars of Rapture: Reflections on Exodus* (2001). She was born in London and grew up in Glasgow, Scotland, where her father was a Rabbi and the head of the Rabbinical Court. She studied with him from childhood; he was her most important teacher of Torah. She holds a BA and PhD in English Literature from Cambridge University. After teaching English literature at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, she turned to teaching Torah. For the past twenty-five years, she has taught Torah in Jerusalem at Matan, Pardes and the Jerusalem College for Adults. Dr. Zornberg also holds a Visiting Lectureship at the London School of Jewish Studies. She travels widely, lecturing in Jewish, academic and psychoanalytic settings.

