

# Newsweek

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Steve Brand  
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Dear Mr. Brand:

I am very excited by your proposed project on Abraham Heschel and am eager to tell you about my relationship with him. Surely you must know that he is one of the half dozen most important figures in 20<sup>th</sup> century American religion. His prophetic role within the Jewish community is well known, of course. But his impact on Christians was, I would argue, even greater. Not many Jews or Catholics today know that it was his personal appeals to Pope Paul VI and his work in Rome during Vatican Council II that made possible the historic breakthrough in relations between these two traditions. All subsequent work of reconciliation owes him enormous debt. But, as Newsweek's Religion Editor for 38 years, I would say Heschel's lasting impact on American religion lies in his writings and in the personal effect these have had on a wide range of important American religious thinkers. He is one of the few 20<sup>th</sup> century American figures in any field whose writings continue to instruct and inspire. Hope you can demonstrate all this in your project. Let me know if I can be of help.

Sincerely,



Kenneth L. Woodward  
Contributing Editor, Newsweek