

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2016

9:00—11:25am

University of Nebraska at Omaha

College of Public Affairs and Community Service, Room 132D

9:00 – 9:15am • Introductions

9:15 – 11:25am • Session I

9:15 – 9:55am Isaac Lifshitz, Shalem College, Jerusalem

“Jewish Democracy: From Medieval Community to Modern State”

10:00 - 10:40am Samuel Brody, University of Kansas

“Theocracy as Monarchy, Theocracy as Anarchy:
Martin Buber’s Biblical Writings and the Foundations of Modern
Jewish Democracy”

10:45 - 11:25am Shlomo Abramovitch, Bar Ilan University, Israel,
and visiting scholar, Beth Israel Synagogue, Omaha

“‘The Will of the People’ or ‘The Will of the Rabbis’:
Democracy and the Rabbis’ Authority”

11:30am – 12:00pm • Travel from UNO to JCC

12 – 5pm • 7:30 – 9:00pm

Jewish Community Center, 333 South 132nd Street

12:00 - 1:00pm • Lunch

1:05 - 2:30pm • Session II

1:05 – 1:45pm Ori Soltes, Georgetown University

“Democracy, Judaism, Art, and Demagoguery”

1:50 – 2:30pm Simcha Fishbane, Touro College and University
System

“*Mipnei Darkei Shalom* [in the interest of peace]:
A Domestic Tranquility”

2:30 – 2:50pm • Break

2:50 - 4:15pm • Session III

2:50 – 3:30pm Meirav Jones, University of Pennsylvania

“The Jewish State and the End of Democratic Judaism”

3:35 - 4:15pm Joshua Weinstein, Herzl Institute, Jerusalem

“If Not Democracy, Then What? Judaism in (and out of) the
Space of Regimes”

7:30 – 9:00pm • Session IV

Presider: Leonard Greenspoon, Klutznick Chair in Jewish
Civilization, Creighton University

Welcome: Alan Potash, CEO, Jewish Federation of Omaha

Introduction of Speaker: Jean Cahan, Harris Center for Judaic
Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Keynote Address

Lenn Goodman, Vanderbilt University

“Torah and the Norms of Constitutional Democracy”

Generous support for the Symposium is also provided by:

The Ike and Roz Friedman Foundation

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Creighton University Lecture, Films, and Concerts

The Creighton College of Arts and Sciences

The Henry Monsky Lodge of B’nai B’rith

The Drs. Bernard H. and Bruce S. Bloom Memorial Endowment

Gary and Karen Javitch.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2016

8:30am – 1:10pm

**Creighton University • Skutt Center Ballroom
2500 California Plaza**

8:30 – 8:45am • Introductions

8:45–10:10am • Session V

8:45 – 9:25am Baruch Alster, Givat Washington College, Israel

“The ‘Will of the People’ in Anti-Monarchic Biblical Texts”

9:30 - 10:10am David Brodsky, Brooklyn College

“The Democratic Principle Underlying Jewish Law:
Moving Beyond Whether It Is So to Why It Is So”

10:15 - 11:40am • Session VI

10:15 - 10:55am Elliot Ratzman, Swarthmore College

“Democracy After Alinsky:
The Jewish Community Organizing Tradition”

11:00 – 11:40am Joan Latchaw – David Peterson, University of
Nebraska at Omaha

“Linking ‘Egypt with Texas’:
Emma Lazarus’s Jewish Vision of American Democracy”

11:45am – 12:30pm • Lunch

12:30 – 1:10pm • Session VII

12:30 – 1:10pm Lawrence Schiffman, New York University

“Monarchy and Polity:
Systems of Governance in Jewish Tradition”

The 29th Annual Symposium on Jewish Civilization

“Is Judaism Democratic?”

Reflections from Theory and Practice Throughout the Ages”



October 30 - 31, 2016

Co-Hosted by

The Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization
Creighton University

The Kripke Center for the Study of Religion and Society
Creighton University

The Harris Center for Judaic Studies
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Natan and Hannah Schwalb Center for Israel & Jewish Studies
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