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 Demogouery”

1:50 – 2:30pm Simcha Fishbane, Touro College and University System
“Mipnai 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
University of Nebraska at Omaha
The Jewish Federation of Omaha