Klutznick-Harris Symposium
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Founder of Shomrei Adamah, the first national Jewish environmental organization, Bernstein is at present preparing a unique ecological studies program at Hebrew College. She will be speaking about the “natural intelligence” of the Song of Songs.

Between the first and second sessions is a lunch, at noon, to which all are invited. The second of Sunday’s sessions features three speakers: Jonah Steinberg, Dean Bell, and Barbara Lerman-Golomb.

Steinberg is Director of Talmudic Studies at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College. This experience ties well with the topic of his presentation, “Classical Rabbincal Steps Toward a Theology of Cosmic and Environmental Torah.”

Through his leading role in Hebrew College’s Open Bet Midrash, Steinberg has frequently taught about Judaism and the environment throughout the United States and England.

In his presentation, Dean Bell, of the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies -- where he serves as Dean and Chief Academic Officer -- will summarize and analyze the results of his research on Jewish descriptions of earthquakes in the early modern world. As Bell notes, earthquakes “haunted” his graduate study. On his first night in California at Berkeley, he experienced one of the area’s most severe earthquakes!

Barbara Lerman-Golomb recently stepped down as executive director of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) and now serves as a consultant for another leading Jewish environmental organization, Hazon. In addition to her continuing work as an environmental educator, Lerman-Golomb was a coordinator for the Million Mom March and serves on the Commission on Social Action of the Union for Reform Judaism. From these perspectives, she will address her audience on “Reconnecting to Nature for Our Very Survival.”

Philip Hollander, who teaches Hebrew literature and culture at Tulane University, will lead off Sunday’s third session. He will look at -- and invite us to view -- changing attitudes toward the environment in two Israeli films: the now classic Sallah Shabati and the recent James’ Journey to Jerusalem. Outside of the classroom, Hollander takes an active role through teaching to work by bike and supporting efforts to restore wetlands along the Louisiana coast.

There are few people in Omaha who are unfamiliar with Marty Shukert or untouched by his numerous efforts in both the public and the private sector: city planning, redevelopment, building design, and promotion of trails and open space. Bicycling, photography, drawing, music, and baseball are among the multi-faceted Shukert’s many habits. As the title of his presentation -- “Green Judaism and the Design of Communities: A Practitioner’s View” -- makes clear, he will draw from his decades of experience for the Symposium.

These seven presentations, concluding at 5 p.m., are open and free to the public, as are other events associated with the Symposium -- which resumes, Sunday, 7:30 p.m., in the JCC Theater, with the keynote address of Aloe Tal, from Ben-Gurion University. Tal will talk about “What Makes Jewish Environmentalism Jewish?”

Just before Tal speaks, Lindsey Paige Savoie will introduce the Symposium audience to the concept of a Jewish CSA (community-supported agriculture) as a possibility for Omaha. A native of Omaha (many will remember her as Lindsey Tasman), she presently lives in Silver Spring, MD, where she is an avid bike rider and Jewish environmental educator.

Sunday at the JCC concludes with a dessert reception, which follows Tal’s keynote address.

Throughout the day, Symposium guests are invited to enjoy a special art show in the gallery (the show runs from Oct. 27-30). With Jenni Schlossman as curator, the exhibit is titled “Tikun Olam: Repairing the World, One Artist at a Time.” It includes work from local and national artists, all highlighting the importance of environmental concerns.

Guests are also encouraged to browse the Symposium-themed books for sale, courtesy of Soul Desires Bookstore; there will be an additional display of books in the Kipple Library. Moreover, local and national environmental groups have been invited to provide materials for the benefit of those in attendance.

Six more presentations are scheduled for Monday, Oct. 29, all taking place in the Skutt Student Center on the campus of Creighton University. The first session of the day begins at 8:45 a.m., with a presentation by Lawrence Troster, of GreenFaith (an interfaith environmental...Continued on page 5