

# 29th Annual Symposium on Jewish Civilization

## “Is Judaism Democratic? Reflections from Theory and Practice Throughout the Ages”



Sunday Morning, October 30  
UNO College of Public Affairs and Community Service  
Room 132D

9:00 – 9:15 am Introductions

9:15 – 9:55 Isaac Lifshitz, Shalem College, Jerusalem  
“Jewish Democracy: From Medieval Community to Modern State”

10:00 - 10:40 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 - 11:25 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”

Sunday Afternoon, October 30  
Omaha Jewish Community Center

12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch

1:05 – 1:45 Ori Soltes, Georgetown University  
“Democracy, Judaism, Art, and Demagoguery”

1:50 – 2:30 Simcha Fishbane, Touro College and University System  
“*Mipnei Darkei Shalom* [in the interest of peace]: A Domestic Tranquility”

2:50 – 3:30 Meirav Jones, University of Pennsylvania  
“The Jewish State and the End of Democratic Judaism”

3:35 - 4:15 Joshua Weinstein, Herzl Institute, Jerusalem  
“If Not Democracy, Then What? Judaism in (and out of) the Space of Regimes”

7:30 – 9:00 Introductions and Keynote  
Keynote Speaker: Lenn Goodman, Vanderbilt University  
“Torah and the Norms of Constitutional Democracy”

Monday, October 31  
Creighton University, Skutt Center Ballroom

8:30 – 8:45 am Introductions

8:45 – 9:25 Baruch Alster, Givat Washington College, Israel  
“The ‘Will of the People’ in Anti-Monarchic Biblical Texts”

9:30 - 10:10 David Brodsky, Brooklyn College  
“The Democratic Principle Underlying Jewish Law: Moving Beyond Whether It Is So to Why It Is So”

10:15 - 10:55 Elliot Ratzman, Swarthmore College  
“Democracy After Alinsky: The Jewish Community Organizing Tradition”

11:00 – 11:40 Joan Latchaw – David Peterson, UNO  
“Linking ‘Egypt with Texas’: Emma Lazarus’s Jewish Vision of American Democracy”

11:45 am – 12:30 pm Lunch

12:30 – 1:10 Lawrence Schiffman, New York University  
“Monarchy and Polity: Systems of Governance in Jewish Tradition”

Symposium co-hosts:

The Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization at Creighton University, The Kripke Center for the Study of Religion and Society at Creighton University, The Harris Center for Judaic Studies at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, The Natan and Hannah Schwalb Center for Israel & Jewish Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. With the Jewish Federation of Omaha

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**All events are free and open to the public.**

For further information, please contact Colleen Hastings 402-280-2303 or [colleenhastings@creighton.edu](mailto:colleenhastings@creighton.edu) or [www.creighton.edu/klutznick](http://www.creighton.edu/klutznick)