

09:01:43 From Elizabeth Caplun : Hello from Bishop, CA everyone!

09:02:52 From Dan Cedarbaum : dan@kaplancenter.org

09:03:13 From Dan Cedarbaum : <https://kaplancenter.org/naturalism/>

09:03:57 From Dan Cedarbaum : <https://kaplancenter.org/religious-naturalism-conference-speakers-biographical-information/>

09:26:51 From Dan Cedarbaum : <https://kaplancenter.org/religious-naturalism-conference-speakers-biographical-information/>

09:27:10 From Dan Cedarbaum : dan@kaplancenter.org

09:29:22 From Howard Laibson To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : For Ari Ackerman: What evidence can you present to indicate that self-realization is a legitimate concept psychologically or theologically?

09:34:00 From Mel Scult : in light of your presentation of mmk as naturalist and pragmatic how do you account for Kaplan's frequent reference to the presence of God?

09:34:42 From Jane Susswein To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : Kaplan speaks often (and derisively) about his reaction to Heschel's concept of the ineffable

09:35:16 From Carol Stern & Mim Eisenstein To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : is there any difference between Buber's concept of God and Heschel?

09:38:19 From Elizabeth Caplun : I wonder how Kaplan see God's covenant with Abraham in the context of God as a cosmic process rather than personal

09:58:58 From Adrian Strizhak : can this. paper be other put into the chat or sent out to participants?

10:00:33 From James Thomas : Yes! Do make this text available in a printable form!

10:02:53 From Mark Weisstuch : This paper demands a closer look, a download would be very helpful.

10:08:46 From Leslie Cook : I would like to add my own request to those shared here. The paper was beautiful, and I would like to be able to sit with it and savor it and reflect on it. I hope it will be made available in some way.

10:09:21 From Carol Anshien : YES!

10:09:42 From Jonathan Weidenbaum To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : Dan, as you requested, all questions are sent to you, correct?

10:10:00 From Howard Laibson : I, too, ask that Art's paper be made available to us.

10:10:26 From Jonathan Weidenbaum To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : My question for Green's mystical panentheism and monism: how does he handle the problem of evil? If all is One, and the One is good; whence evil?

10:10:28 From Dan Cedarbaum To Jonathan Weidenbaum(privately) : Yes

10:10:38 From Jonathan Weidenbaum To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : Thank you

10:10:43 From Rabbi Joan Sacks To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : I very much agree. I hope Dr. Green's paper will be possible. While a draft, I still hope it will be made available for us to read and contemplate. Thank you very much, Joan Pitzele Sacks

10:12:04 From Dan Cedarbaum : Tuling book: <https://jps.org/books/thinking-about-god/>

10:13:32 From Stuart Rose : yes, it really needs to be reread and savored, as Leslie said. His understanding of key Hebrew terms really makes it impossible to embrace the tradition while understanding it anew.

10:15:09 From Jane Susswein To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : This is fabulous!!

10:19:02 From Dan Cedarbaum : <https://kaplancenter.org/religious-naturalism-conference-speakers-biographical-information/> dan@kaplancenter.org

10:22:07 From Michael Graff To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : That site only gives the first page of the bios. It cuts off in the middle of Art Green's bio.

10:22:51 From Dan Cedarbaum To Michael Graff(privately) : It is a pdf. You can download, or use the "next page" button at the top of the frame.

10:24:33 From Michael` Graff To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : Ah.

10:28:11 From Rabbi Joan Sacks To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : Thank you Dan for mentioning to all speakers that we would very much like an opportunity to have a copy, at least in some form, preferably lengthy, of their talk, so that we can reflect on them?

10:37:52 From Arthur Green To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : Can I ask Kari a question? (About Hartman and Heschel)

10:37:54 From Stuart Rose : thank you, Dan

10:39:58 From Shlomit Finkelstein To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : For Tuling: Can you speak some about the built tension between the self, the individual vs. the community as the most basic unit. Can this difference be discussed by Hartman?

10:40:33 From Erica Guerra To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : For Rabbi Tuling: In Hartman- your lecture infers that question of G/d is also investigated in the ways that tradition and halacha are not always accessible or open to all seekers, at least in the same way--which seemed to leave him bereft in some ways. This makes me wonder about joy...is the wrestling with the challenges of tradition in the world how one finds a path to joy in one's faith path...or is that wrestling (challenging as it is) a face of joy? Question open to other speakers as well.

10:41:05 From Carol Anshien : But... secular Jews do have spiritual dimension?

10:46:38 From Diana Heller To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : per Art Green's distinction between evil of human torture of others and indifference of nature - what about global warming, which is result of human selfishness and indifference to science. lease ask about the blurring here of the human and the natural and our responsibilities to each other and the future and our obligations and demands of our political leaders

10:49:41 From Gordon Tucker : When Carl Stern asked Heschel about optimism, he said "I'm an optimist against my better judgment".

10:49:59 From Elizabeth Caplun : Regarding Joy - it reminds me of Levinas and the joy of being of service to others

10:50:25 From Robert Weintraub To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : To Art: If one is able to develop a true monist mindset and corresponding general practice, how capable would Heschel, Kaplan or you say they are to behave accordingly in their daily human interactions without rules and regulations?

10:50:34 From Erica Guerra : Props to Rabbi Tucker for capturing my mood of late

10:52:59 From Shulamit Widawsky : Frightening, perhaps, but also makes our lives having extreme consequence. Our choices matter like never before. There is something energizing about being important--if we let it feel that way.

10:56:03 From Dan Cedarbaum : Green book: <https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300249989/judaism-world>

10:56:27 From Howard Wettstein To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : For Ari: You said that Heschel's God is not dialogical. Story: Mother Teresa was asked about all her ours of prayer. She said, "I listen." Then she was asked, "What do you hear? What does God say?" Her answer: "God listens also."

10:58:24 From Shulamit Widawsky To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : I had to miss most of this morning to see a client. When I came back on, my chat doesn't have all the chat history. Please save the chat before signing off, so you can provide it as well as the recording. THANK YOU!

10:59:10 From Gail Shuster-Bouskila : תודה רבה לכולם!! שנה טובה

10:59:46 From Carol Anshien : Thank you all for inspiring presentations.

12:00:42 From Dan Cedarbaum : dan@kaplancenter.org

12:01:23 From Dan Cedarbaum : <https://kaplancenter.org/religious-naturalism-conference-speakers-biographical-information/>

12:05:37 From Manny Solon : Re: A.M. conf: Amen!

12:11:52 From Rabbi Joan Sacks To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : I believe that the term predicate theology was a concept created by Harold Schulweis. Would you please ask Melt if I am correct, and if he disagrees, why? Thank you.

12:12:46 From Dan Cedarbaum To Rabbi Joan Sacks(privately) : It was made famous by Schulweis, but he, properly, credited it to Kaplan.

12:22:06 From Eric Caplan To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : It might be good to ask Mel about this quote from the Future of the American Jew. This seems to point to a different sense of presence than Mel implies. p.304 "The essence of religion is the affirmation of the worthwhileness of life. Belief in God is belief in a Power that assures the possibility of experiencing life as worth living. When, therefore, we are gratefully appreciative of the good in life, both the realized good and the hoped for good, we are experiencing the reality of God and communing with Him". (FAJ)

12:23:02 From carole kessner To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : Is the musical direction in the score "sehnsucht" an expression of the search for the "supranatural?"

12:28:34 From Eric Caplan To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : No more need for this quote. It's in the diaries if he fully grapples with it.

12:30:29 From Lewis Eron To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : Question to Mel: How does MMK's involvement with Hermann Cohen and Jewish neo-Kantism play out in his understanding of the mind and ideas? Is MMK a Kantian and if so to what extent?

12:35:02 From Allen Scult : One of the "take-aways" I'm getting from today's speakers is that Kaplan as a THINKER is alive and well in the work of these scholars.

12:39:18 From Rabbi Joan Sacks To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : Thank you for clarifying. It then seems a shame that Kaplan is not given the credit he is due at so many meetings and conferences when a discussion of predicate theology comes up. Can you send me some sources (or perhaps Melt) so that I can see this? Thank you Dan.

12:42:27 From Rabbi Joan Sacks To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : This way I have a way to explain this when predicate theology is discussed in other circumstances. Plus, personally, I would appreciate having the opportunity for myself to have these sources.

12:44:31 From Gail Shuster-Bouskila : Very heartwarming idea, Allen

12:46:12 From Stuart Rose : a companion take-away is that reading and thinking

12:46:29 From Rabbi Joan Sacks : Thank you Allen for pointing this out.

12:47:07 From Stuart Rose : and thinking about Kaplan would benefit Jews of all stripes

12:47:56 From Adrian Strizhak : what happens when the Jews aren't liberal?

12:49:47 From Rabbi Joan Sacks : I was thinking of the ultra orthodox, certainly today and certainly in Israel as an example of this Adrian.

12:51:22 From Fred Scherlinder Dobb : Full circle, to Art Green addressing the centrality of the climate crisis to the moral-religious project today: Dr. Filler cites Kaplan as noting that "good intentions, when not backed by enforceable law, are bound to be distorted" (and see her text #3 as well). For decades, Jewish environmentalists have insisted that the notion of halacha (bein adam l'Makom that is!) itself -- and its insistence on regulation, for public health and public good -- is a unique Jewish contribution to the survival of civilization in this moment. In doing so, we're just restating Kaplan from the 1950s! Thank you...

12:51:35 From Carol Anshien : re: the destiny of the Jews to warn the world ... Only the Jews?

12:53:39 From Zach Mann : For Emily: Can you say a bit more about your method, which allows you to read Kaplan (and potentially other American Jewish thinkers) Theo-politically, when the impulse to do so has not always been there? Why and how can we read more non-statist thinkers as having a politics?

12:55:09 From Sydney Nestel To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : Can Dr Filler comment on Kaplan's view of Democracy and Muticulturalism vs "National" Democracy

12:55:15 From Rabbi Joan Sacks : Aren't diary entries our best opportunity to understand how a person's speaking evolves, and I use the word "evolve" very intentionally. It also expands the kinds of questions that are asked to oneself that may not be developed later on paper or on speech for whatever reason?

12:56:19 From Rabbi Joan Sacks : I meant to write how a person's thinking evolves not his speaking, although that too.

12:57:34 From Stuart Rose : excellent point. diaries fill in the gaps between books. they also often subtleties and qualifications the major works do not.

12:57:46 From Gordon Tucker : Yes, they are invaluable in filling out the picture of how a thinker's thought develops. We just need to remember just how dynamic and mutable they are, which is certainly not the same as their being unimportant!

12:58:59 From Manny Solon : Even not perfectly "true" it may be the best we have of that part of Kaplan's thinking/growth.

13:01:25 From Rabbi Joan Sacks : So often I have heard of Kaplan ignoring the possibility of evil. But, it is being made clear here that Kaplan certainly was conscious and dealing with it in his own way, focusing on democracy.

13:02:08 From Carol Anshien : ...look at state of liberal democracy today!

13:17:00 From Tonda Marton To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : I missed the last two points in Jonas's description of Agnosticism (couldn't write them down fast enough). Cld they all be repeated, pls?

13:18:44 From Eric Mendelsohn : I think Gnosticism has its origins in Hinduism

13:24:51 From Sanford Goldberg To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : @ Dr. N. Berman: you mentioned Spinoza's (unpalatable) views on foreigners as evidence of the "slippery slope" of rationalism; but why blame these views on rationalism, rather than on Spinoza's employment

of rationalism on this occasion? (And how can rationalism itself be a “slippery slope”? I am not sure I understand this claim in the first place.)

13:27:36 From Stuart Rose : ah, the Aryans

13:29:20 From Dan Cedarbaum : Plevan book: <https://www.amazon.com/Personal-Theology-Gillman-Perspectives-Post-Rabbinic/dp/161811168X>

13:39:04 From Sanford Goldberg To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : @ Rabbi Dr. W. Plevan: A question about your characterization of Gillman’s view on religious epistemology. When we make knowledge claims about the Knicks’ passing game, I take it that these can be understood as shorthand for many other more concrete knowledge claims we’d make on the basis of particular observations of events involving passes and catches. How is this like our knowledge claims about God? I am not sure I see the analogy.

13:45:48 From Manny Solon : If we get a time machine and go back and no revelation at Sinai; can one still be a Jew? [For me, yes]

13:47:27 From Eric Mendelsohn : The Exodus never happened. I know because I saw you there.

13:53:44 From Sanford Goldberg To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : Dan: I think Plevan may have given his answer to my question; not sure we need to re-ask the question. ...

13:54:16 From Stuart Rose To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : what does Gillman mean in that God Patterns passage by God having a personal dimension, relating personally to creation?

13:54:37 From Shulamit Widawsky To Dan Cedarbaum(privately) : Will we be able to get the documents the panelists presented from? Would love to be able to read them as well as listen.

13:59:28 From Catherine Madsen : Re: Sehnsucht, C. S. Lewis thought so (I'havdil)...

14:03:40 From Dan Cedarbaum To Shulamit Widawsky(privately) : Yes

14:07:09 From Janet Rice : This is the 1st time I've heard Jews discussing Gnosticism. Usually it's been American conservatives criticizing today's society. I read Karen King's book & beginning to read Boyarin. I thought Gnosticism was a modern way of being a heresiologist & not a "real" phenomenon! :)

14:07:36 From Rabbi Joan Sacks : Thank you so much for this Dan.