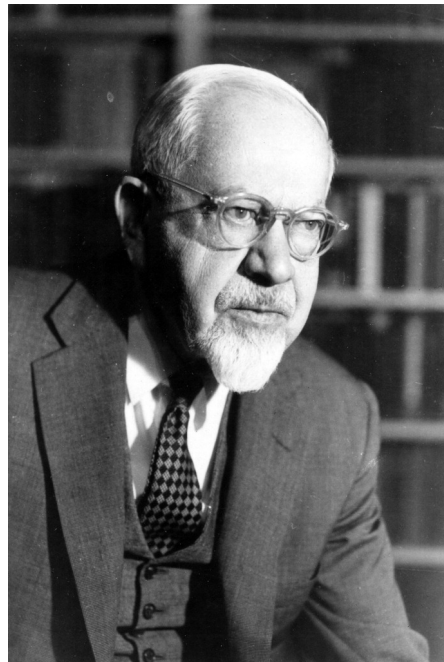


ARCHITECT OF THE JEWISH FUTURE

A CONFERENCE ON THE LIFE, WORK, AND LEGACY OF
RABBI MORDECAI M. KAPLAN
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY | COPLEY HALL, COPLEY FORMAL LOUNGE
SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND AND MONDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2014



SPONSORED BY:

THE MORDECAI M. KAPLAN CENTER FOR JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD
THE DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH STUDIES, MCGILL UNIVERSITY
THE PROGRAM FOR JEWISH CIVILIZATION, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
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GREETINGS FROM
THE MORDECAI M. KAPLAN CENTER FOR JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD

Mordecai M. Kaplan (1881-1983) is now almost universally regarded as one of the most influential Jewish thinkers of the 20th century. We believe that his thought may be even more important in the 21st century.

In celebration of the 80th anniversary of the publication of Kaplan's magnum opus, *Judaism as a Civilization*, and in commemoration of Kaplan's death just over 30 years ago, we, together with our partners at the Program for Jewish Civilization at Georgetown University and the Department of Jewish Studies of McGill University, are delighted and privileged to offer you this gathering focused on the past, present and future influence of Kaplan's ideas. We look forward to two days of in-depth conversations about Kaplan's interactions, both literal and figurative, with other important thinkers and movements and, most importantly, about the potential impact of the Kaplanian agenda on the future of the Jewish civilization that we are all helping to shape.

The Kaplan Center is an independent organization devoted to the transformation of Jewish community. Its mission is to disseminate and promote the thought and writings of Rabbi Kaplan and to advance the agenda of the Kaplanian approach to Judaism in the 21st century, perhaps most importantly by spurring creative experimentation in the formation or reorganization of various kinds of Jewish communities and institutions. The Kaplan Center's perspective is explicitly trans-denominational. Please visit us at www.kaplancenter.org.

Dan Cedarbaum
Executive Director

Eric Caplan
Mel Scult
Jack Wolofsky
Directors

GREETINGS FROM
MCGILL UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH STUDIES

The Department of Jewish Studies of McGill University is pleased to be a part of this important conference. Like Kaplan, we believe that Judaism is an ever-evolving, multi-faceted civilization that has been an essential piece of the general cultural fabric wherever Jews have lived. I would like to thank our gracious hosts, Jacques Berlinerblau of Georgetown's PJC, and his team, who have been wonderful partners in this project from the start. This conference would not have been possible without the tireless work of Dan Cedarbaum, the intellectual leadership of Mel Scult, and the vision of Jack Wolofsky, all of them partners in The Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood. We all hope that this conference will give you much to think about and highlight the extraordinary actual and potential contributions of Kaplan's thought to contemporary Jewish Life.

Eric Caplan
Professor and Chair of Jewish Studies

GREETINGS FROM
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S PROGRAM FOR JEWISH CIVILIZATION

On behalf of the Program for Jewish Civilization in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, I'd like to warmly welcome each of you to this landmark event dedicated to the life and thought of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan. As you may know, the spiritual founder of the PJC, Rabbi Harold White, studied under Rabbi Kaplan, a tutelage that amongst other glorious things resulted in the name of our program, the Program for Jewish Civilization. We look forward to the many interesting presentations and conversations that will take place over the next two days, and we hope you enjoy your visit to Georgetown.

Jacques Berlinerblau
Associate Professor and Director of Jewish Civilization

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2014
COPLEY FORMAL LOUNGE, COPLEY HALL

10:00-10:30	REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
10:30-12:00	<u>PANEL: KAPLAN AND HIS JTS STUDENTS</u> Rabbi Dr. Emanuel Goldsmith (Chair) <i>Queens College of the City University of New York</i> Rabbi Dr. William Kaufman <i>Temple Beth El (Fall River, MA)</i> Rabbi Elliott Spar <i>State University of New York at Stony Brook</i> Rabbi Max Ticktin <i>The George Washington University</i> Rabbi Harold White <i>Georgetown University</i>
12:00-1:00	LUNCH (PROVIDED)
1:00-1:15	WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
1:15-2:40	<u>KEYNOTE: KAPLAN, HESCHEL AND THE FUTURE OF NORTH AMERICAN JUDAISM</u> Dr. Mel Scult <i>Brooklyn College</i> Dr. Susannah Heschel <i>Dartmouth College</i>
2:40-2:50	BREAK
2:50-4:10	<u>PANEL: KAPLAN AND PEOPLEHOOD</u> Dr. Zachary Braiterman, “Kaplan and Virtual Civilization” <i>Syracuse University</i> Rabbi Bob Gluck, “Kaplan and the Arts” <i>State University of New York at Albany</i> Rabbi Dr. Deborah Waxman, “Kaplan and the Evolution of Peoplehood” <i>Reconstructionist Rabbinical College</i>
4:10-4:20	BREAK
4:20-6:00	<u>PANEL: KAPLAN AND REFORM JUDAISM</u> Rabbi Dr. Lance Sussman (Chair) <i>Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel (Elkins Park, PA)</i> Rabbi Dr. David Ellenson <i>Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion</i>

Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi
Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion

Rabbi Dr. Peter Knobel
Temple Judea (Coral Gables, FL)

6:00-8:00

DINNER (ON YOUR OWN)

8:00-9:30

CONCERT: *MAGDA FISHMAN & SHORASHIM*

(ICC AUDITORIUM – from the exit of Copley Formal Lounge, the ICC is the red brick building forward and to your left. The building entrance is the third floor of the building. The auditorium is on the second floor and may be accessed by the stairs on north end of the ICC Galleria or by the elevators located to your left when you enter the building.)

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014

COPLEY FORMAL LOUNGE, COPLEY HALL

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

PANEL: KAPLAN AND ISRAEL

8:15-8:30

Rabbi Dr. Yehoyada Amir (Chair),
“*Ha-Emuna ve-ha-Musar*”

8:30-9:55

Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion

Dr. Ari Ackerman,
“Kaplan and Jewish Nationalism”
Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies

Mr. Nadav S. Berman,
“Kaplan and Jewish-Israeli Renewal” *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

BREAK

9:55-10:05

PANEL: KAPLAN AND “THE PHILOSOPHERS”

10:05-11:40

Dr. Allen Scult (Chair)
Drake University

Dr. Randy Friedman,
“Kaplan and American Pragmatism”
State University of New York at Binghamton

Dr. George Yaakov Kohler,
“Kaplan and Hermann Cohen”
Bar-Ilan University

Ms. Catherine Madsen,
“Kaplan and Levinas”
Yiddish Book Center

Rabbi Dr. Allan Nadler,
“Kaplan and Spinoza”
Drew University

11:40-11:50	BREAK
11:50-1:00	<u>PANEL: KAPLAN AND SOCIAL JUSTICE</u> Dr. Eric Caplan (Chair) <i>McGill University</i> Rabbi Jill Jacobs <i>T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights</i> Rabbi David Saperstein <i>Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism</i> Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz <i>Uri L'Tzedek</i>
1:00-2:00	LUNCH (PROVIDED)
2:00-3:40	<u>PANEL: KAPLAN AND OTHER IMPORTANT JEWISH APPROACHES</u> Rabbi Dr. Elliot Cosgrove, “Kaplan and Milton Steinberg” <i>Park Avenue Synagogue (New York, NY)</i> Dr. Michael Fagenblat, “Kaplan and Theology” <i>Shalem College</i>
	Mr. Daniel Ross Goodman, “Kaplan and Orthodoxy” <i>Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School</i> Dr. Elliot Ratzman, “Kaplan and Mussar” <i>Temple University</i>
3:40-3:50	BREAK
3:50-5:15	<u>PANEL: KAPLAN AND THE FUTURE OF THE RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT</u> Rabbi Rachel Gartner (Chair) <i>Georgetown University</i> Rabbi Jessica Lott <i>University of Maryland</i> Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Schein <i>Jewish Education Center of Cleveland</i> Rabbi Dr. Sid Schwarz <i>CLAL: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership</i>
5:15-5:45	<u>CONCLUDING SESSIONS, INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF FUTURE PROJECTS OF THE KAPLAN CENTER</u>

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Follow the Program for Jewish Civilization on Twitter @PJCinfo

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Please use #kaplanconference for your social media.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION BY SESSION

PANEL: KAPLAN AND HIS JTS STUDENTS

Rabbi Dr. Emanuel Goldsmith (Chair)

Queens College of the City University of New York

Rabbi Dr. Emanuel Goldsmith is Professor Emeritus of Yiddish and Hebrew Languages and Literatures and Jewish Studies at Queens College of the City University of New York. He taught at the college for over 30 years. He has also taught at the University of Connecticut, Brandeis University, Clark University, Boston University and the Oxford University Program in Yiddish Studies. He has lectured widely on Modern Jewish Literature and Thought, and is a recognized authority on the writings of Mordecai M. Kaplan and Henry Nelson Wieman. He has co-edited both *The American Judaism of Mordecai M. Kaplan*, and *Dynamic Judaism: The Essential Writings of Mordecai Kaplan*. On the subject of Yiddish literature, his signal contributions include *Modern Yiddish Culture: the Story of the Yiddish Language Movement*, and the two-volume anthology in Yiddish, *Yiddish Literature in America, 1870-2000*. He has served as Vice President of the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation under Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, and as Assistant Editor of the Reconstructionist Magazine and the Reconstructionist Pamphlet Series. He is Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation M'vakshe Derech in Scarsdale, New York. Rabbi Goldsmith was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary, from which he also received his master's degree in Hebrew Literature. He holds a Ph.D. in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University and Doctor of Divinity degrees, *honoris causa*, from both the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Rabbi Dr. William E. Kaufman

Temple Beth El (Fall River, MA)

Rabbi Dr. William E. Kaufman received his rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1964 and earned his Ph.D. from Boston University in Philosophy in 1971. He is the author of 7 books including *Contemporary Jewish Philosophies* (Behrman House and the Reconstructionist Press, 1976). His most recent book is *A Jewish Philosophical Response to the New Atheists: Dawkins, Dennett, Harris and Hitchens* (Edwin Mellen Press). Kaufman has published numerous scholarly articles on Mordecai M. Kaplan's philosophical theology, process theology, and other theological topics. He is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth El, Fall River, MA and served as adjunct professor of Philosophy at Rhode Island College. He and his wife Nathalie currently reside in Needham, MA.

Rabbi Elliott Spar

State University of New York at Stony Brook

Rabbi Elliot Spar graduated from Yeshiva University and received a Master of Hebrew Letters and was ordained as a rabbi in 1962 at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In March of 1963, Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan installed Rabbi Spar as rabbi of Temple Beth Sholom in Smithtown, New York. Rabbi Spar also received a Master of Science degree in Guidance and Psychology and an Honorary Doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1988. Rabbi Spar served as adjunct professor of Jewish history and Hebrew language and was Hillel director at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Rabbi Spar was the senior rabbi at Temple Beth Sholom for forty years. He was also the founder and first president of Jewish Family Services of Suffolk County, New York, and he was the chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Suffolk County for eight years. Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan made an imprint on every aspect of Rabbi Spar's life.

Rabbi Max Ticktin

The George Washington University

Rabbi Max Ticktin is an Assistant Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at the George Washington University. Since arriving at George Washington in 1978 Rabbi Ticktin has taught courses on Israeli Literature, Yiddish Literature, Hebrew and Yiddish language, and Bible Studies in the Religion and Classics Departments. Prior to his appointment at George Washington he served as the National Director Of Hillel (1972-1978).

Rabbi Harold White

Georgetown University

Rabbi Harold White was the Senior Jewish Chaplain at Georgetown University's Campus Ministry when he formally retired in 2009. Hired in 1968 as the first full-time Jewish chaplain at a Catholic university, Rabbi White fostered Jewish-Christian dialogue in the Washington Metropolitan area. In addition to his interreligious activities, he studies Kabbalah and the Judaic roots of Christian literature and teaches in Georgetown's Theology Department; White helped establish the Program for Jewish Civilization in 2004. Prior to his appointment at Georgetown, he served as the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation director at American University and as congregational rabbi for Jewish congregations in Dublin, Ireland and Ann Arbor, Michigan. White was also a chaplain for the US Navy. He completed his undergraduate degree at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut and received his rabbinical ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City.

KEYNOTE: KAPLAN, HESCHEL

AND THE FUTURE OF NORTH AMERICAN JUDAISM

Dr. Mel Scult

Brooklyn College

Dr. Mel Scult, professor Emeritus of Brooklyn College, is the author of "The Radical American Judaism of Mordecai Kaplan" which has just appeared. He also authored "Judaism Faces the Twentieth-Century: A Biography of Mordecai Kaplan." He is the editor of a selection from the twenty-seven-volume Kaplan diary entitled, "Communings of the Spirit." In addition, he has published essays on Solomon Schechter and Henrietta Szold. He is a member of West End-Synagogue—a Reconstructionist Congregation—and lives in New York City with his wife Barbara Gish Scult.

Dr. Susannah Heschel

Dartmouth College

Dr. Susannah Heschel is the Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College in the Department of Religion. Her scholarship focuses on Jewish-Christian relations in Germany during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the history of biblical scholarship, and the Wissenschaft des Judentums. Her books include *Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus* (University of Chicago Press), which won a National Jewish Book Award, the Abraham Geiger prize, and was published in German translation, and *The Aryan Jesus: Christian Theologians and the Bible in Nazi Germany* (Princeton UP).

PANEL: KAPLAN AND PEOPLEHOOD

Dr. Zachary Braiterman

Syracuse University

Dr. Zachary Braiterman is Professor of Religion in the Department of Religion at Syracuse University. The author of *The Shape of Revelation: Aesthetics and Modern Jewish Thought* (Stanford University Press, 2007), *(God) After Auschwitz: Tradition and Change in Post-Holocaust Jewish Thought* (Princeton University Press 1998), he is co-editor of *The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy: The Modern Era* (2012).

Rabbi Bob Gluck

State University of New York at Albany

Rabbi Bob Gluck is Associate Professor of Music at the State University of New York at Albany. He is a pianist, composer and writer. As a Reconstructionist rabbi, he has served congregations and as an official in various capacities within the Reconstructionist movement. Gluck studied music at the Julliard, Manhattan and Crane schools, the University at Albany (BA), and at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Interactive Electronic Arts program (MFA). He also completed a Master's in Social Work (Yeshiva University) and Master's in Hebrew Letters (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, title of Rabbi). As a scholar Gluck has published numerous essays on topics ranging across the international history of electronic music, modern jazz, and Jewish life. His book *You'll Know When You Get There: Herbie Hancock and the Mwandishi Band* (University of Chicago Press, 2012) was named a "Best of 2012" in Spin magazine, New York City Jazz Record, and, in 2013 the Ottawa Citizen. A second book about Miles Davis is scheduled for University of Chicago Press release in 2015. Gluck has released nine recordings of jazz and electronic music, several with Jewish themes. The New York Times' Allan Kozinn called him "an accomplished jazz pianist... [displaying] virtuosic fluidity." Please see www.electricsongs.com.

Rabbi Dr. Deborah Waxman

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Rabbi Dr. Deborah Waxman is the president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities. At RRC, she has worked as a faculty member and administrator, where she has served as the liaison to the board of governors and staffed strategic planning, assessment and accreditation initiatives. She is a graduate of Columbia College, Columbia University, where she was elected Phi Beta Kappa, and was graduated as a rabbi from RRC in 1999. In 2010, she received a Ph.D. from Temple University in the field of American Jewish history, where she focused on twentieth-century constructions of American Jewish identity, with special focus into Reconstructionist sources. Publications include "'A Lady Sometimes Blows the Shofar': Women's Religious Equality in the Postwar Reconstructionist Movement" in *A Jewish Feminine Mystique?: Jewish Women in Postwar America* (Rutgers

University Press, 2010), “Distinctiveness and Universalism: How to Remain Jewish if Jewish Isn’t Better” (*Zeek*, fall 2010); “The Challenge of Implementing Reconstructionism: Art, Ideology and the Society for the Advancement of Judaism’s Sanctuary Mural,” co-authored with Joyce Norden (*American Jewish History*, September 2009); a review of the National Museum of American Jewish History for *Pennsylvania History* (winter 2012); and a forthcoming chapter on bar/bat mitzvah, co-authored with Rabbi Joshua Lesser, for *The Guide to Jewish Practice*.

PANEL: KAPLAN AND REFORM JUDAISM

Rabbi Dr. Lance Sussman (Chair)

Keneseth Israel Congregation (Elkins Park, PA)

Rabbi Dr. Lance J. Sussman began his service as the eighth Senior Rabbi of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in July 2001. A "Rabbi Doctor" in the tradition of KI's Dr. Bert Korn, Sussman is a renowned author and dynamic lecturer. Rabbi Sussman has published numerous books and articles, including *Isaac Lesser and the Making of American Judaism*, and *Sharing Sacred Moments* (a collection of his sermons), and served as an editor of *Reform Judaism in America: A Biographical Dictionary and Sourcebook*. His online and print book and movie reviews attract wide attention. He has appeared in several PBS specials on Judaism in America and has co-produced a documentary of his own, *Voices for Justice* with Dr. Gary P. Zola. He currently teaches American Jewish History at Princeton University and Modern Jewish History at Temple University and Gratz College.

Rabbi Dr. David Ellenson

Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion

Rabbi Dr. David Ellenson has been named Chancellor upon his retirement from the position of President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, effective January 1, 2014. Internationally recognized for his publications and research in the areas of Jewish religious thought, ethics, and modern Jewish history, Rabbi Ellenson served for twelve years as President of the seminary of the Reform Movement (2001-2013). Rabbi Ellenson's extensive publications include *Tradition in Transition: Orthodoxy, Halakhah and the Boundaries of Modern Jewish History* (1989), *Rabbi Esriel Hildesheimer and the Creation of a Modern Jewish Orthodoxy* (1990) (nominated for the National Jewish Book Council's award for outstanding book in Jewish History, 1990), *Between Tradition and Culture: The Dialectics of Jewish Religion and Identity in the Modern World* (1994) and *After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to Modernity*, which won the National Jewish Book Council's Award as the outstanding book in Jewish Thought in 2005. *Pledges of Jewish Allegiance: Conversion, Law, and Policymaking in 19th- and 20th-Century Orthodox Responsa*, co-authored with Daniel Gordis (2012), was named a Finalist for the National Jewish Book Council's Award in Scholarship in 2012. His newest book, *Jewish Meaning in a World of Choice*, will be published in the Jewish Publication Society-University of Nebraska Scholar of Distinction Series in 2014.

Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi

Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion

Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi serves as the National Director of Recruitment and Admissions, President's Scholar, and Director of the Office of Community Engagement at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Cincinnati, Ohio. Rabbi Sabath was previously a Senior Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, where she has also served as Vice President and Director of Rabbinic Leadership Programs. Concurrently, she has taught for over a decade at the HUC-JIR in Jerusalem. Ordained at HUC-JIR in New York in 1995, Rabbi Sabath earned a Doctorate in Jewish Philosophy from the Jewish Theological Seminary, where she wrote her dissertation on the covenant theology of Eugene Borowitz.

Rabbi Dr. Peter Knobel

Temple Judea (Coral Gables, FL)

Rabbi Dr. Peter Knobel is Interim Rabbi of Temple Judea, in Coral Gables, Florida, and Rabbi Emeritus of Beth Emet The Free Synagogue, in Evanston, Illinois, where he served as Senior Rabbi from 1980-2010. A graduate of Hamilton College, he was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in 1969, and earned a Master's in philosophy and a Ph.D. from Yale University. He came to Beth Emet from Temple Emanu-El in Groton, Connecticut. Rabbi Knobel serves in leadership roles in the Reform movement on a national level as well as being actively involved in the Chicago-area community. He is a past president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) and served as the CCAR of Siddur Editorial Committee. He is a past Chair of the Liturgy and Reform Practice Committee and was a member of ad hoc committees on human sexuality, homosexuality and the rabbinate, and patrilineal descent.

PANEL: KAPLAN AND ISRAEL

Rabbi Dr. Yehoyada Amir (Chair)

Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion

Rabbi Dr. Yehoyada Amir is a Professor of Jewish Thought at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem. He received his Ph.D. from Hebrew University (1994). He served for ten years (1999-2009) as the director of HUC-JIR's Israel Rabbinic Program. He received rabbinic ordination from that institute in 2004. His academic works deal with wide range of modern Jewish philosophers (among others: Krochmal, Gordon, Cohen, Kaplan, Buber and Rosenzweig) and Post-Holocaust theology. He has published two books: *Reason out of Faith: The Philosophy of Franz Rosenzweig* (Hebrew), 2004 and *A Small Still Voice* (Hebrew), 2009.

Dr. Ari Ackerman

The Schechter Institute

Dr. Ari Ackerman is a lecturer in Jewish Education and Jewish Thought at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, where he teaches Jewish philosophy and education. He received his Ph.D. in Jewish philosophy from Hebrew University. He is a coeditor of *The Jewish Political Tradition, Volume Two*.

Mr. Nadav S. Berman

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Mr. Nadav S. Berman is a Ph.D. student at the Department of Jewish Thought, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His research is entitled: *Pragmatism and American Jewish Thought in the Twentieth Century: New Perspectives on the writings of Hayyim Hirschenson, Mordecai M. Kaplan and Eliezer Berkovits*.

PANEL: KAPLAN AND “THE PHILOSOPHERS”

Dr. Allen Scult

Drake University

Dr. Allen Scult is National Endowment for the Humanities Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Rhetoric at Drake University. His areas of interest include the philosophy of religion, hermeneutics and biblical interpretation, and the philosophy of Martin Heidegger. Among his publications are *Rhetoric and Biblical Interpretation* (with Dale Patrick), and *Being Jewish/Reading Heidegger: An Ontological Encounter*.

Dr. Randy Friedman

Binghamton University

Dr. Randy L. Friedman is Associate Professor of Judaic Studies at Binghamton University. He is currently working on a book manuscript in which he examines the relationship between Mordecai Kaplan, Martin Buber, and John Dewey.

Dr. George Yaakov Kohler

Bar-Ilan University

Dr. George Yaakov Kohler was born in 1966 in East Germany and currently works as journalist and radio DJ. In 1998, he immigrated to Israel, where he worked as teacher, project manager, and guide. He earned Ph.D. in 2010 in Jewish Studies at Ben Gurion University of the Negev (on the reception of Maimonides' philosophy in German 19th century Reform Judaism). He later completed his Post Doctoral studies at the University of Frankfurt, and in 2012, published his Dissertation as Book. Since 2012, he has been a senior lecturer at Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan. He is most interested in the fields of reform theology, religious ethics, and Jewish-Christian relation.

Ms. Catherine Madsen

Yiddish Book Center

Ms. Catherine Madsen is a Bibliographer at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts. She is the author of *The Bones Reassemble: Reconstituting Liturgical Speech* and has been a contributing editor to the interreligious journal *Cross Currents*. She co-leads High Holiday services at the Jewish Community of Amherst and wrote the libretto for Robert Stern's acclaimed oratorio *Shofar*.

Rabbi Dr. Allan Nadler

Drew University

Rabbi Dr. Allan Nadler (B.A., McGill, M.A. and Ph.D. Harvard), Professor of Jewish Studies, has been on the Drew faculty since 1998. Prior to his appointment at Drew, Dr. Nadler was, for seven years, the Director of Research at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City, and Dean of YIVO's Graduate Training Program, the Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies. From 1991-94 Dr. Nadler was Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. In 1994-95 he served as Adjunct Professor at the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. In 1998 he was the Ezra Sensibar Visiting Professor at the Spertus Institute for Jewish Studies in Chicago. In 2005 Dr. Nadler was Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at McGill University in Montreal, where he had previously been a faculty member from 1982-1990.

PANEL: KAPLAN AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Dr. Eric Caplan (Chair)

McGill University

Dr. Eric Caplan was born in Montreal, Canada. He received his B.A. in Jewish Studies and Religious Studies from the University of Toronto, where he graduated in 1985. Between 1986 and 1990, Eric lived in Israel and pursued M.A. studies at the Samuel M. Melton Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Eric received his Ph.D. from McGill University in the fall of 1998. He is the author of *From Ideology to Liturgy: Reconstructionist Worship and American Liberal Judaism*, published by Hebrew Union College Press in 2002. Eric continues to research Reconstructionist Judaism and liberal Jewish life in general. He is currently studying social activism in contemporary North American Jewish life and preparing for publication a volume of excerpts from the diaries of Mordecai Kaplan, 1951-1978.

Eric is the Director of McGill's Jewish Teacher Training Program, Chair of its Department of Jewish Studies, and an associate professor in its Faculties of Arts and Education. He is vice-president of The Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood.

Rabbi Jill Jacobs

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Rabbi Jill Jacobs is the Executive Director of *T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights*, which mobilizes 1800 rabbis and cantors and tens of thousands of American Jews to protect human rights in North America and Israel. She is the author of *Where Justice Dwells: A Hands-On Guide to Doing Social Justice in Your Jewish Community* (2011) and *There Shall Be No Needy: Pursuing Social Justice through Jewish Law and Tradition* (2009). Rabbi Jacobs has been named three times to the Forward's list of 50 influential American Jews, to *Newsweek's* list of the 50 Most Influential Rabbis in America every year since 2009, and to the *Jerusalem Post's* 2013 list of "Women to Watch."

Rabbi David Saperstein

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Rabbi David Saperstein is the Director and Counsel of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC). For over 30 years, Rabbi David Saperstein represented the Reform Jewish Movement to Congress and the Administration as the Director of the RAC. His leadership has received many commendations: *Newsweek* has referred to him as the most influential rabbi in the country, on the *Jerusalem Post's* 2013 "Most Influential Jews in the World" list he was the highest-ranked rabbi, and in a *Washington Post* profile he was referred to as the "quintessential religious lobbyist on Capitol Hill." During his over three-decade tenure at the helm of the RAC, Rabbi Saperstein has headed several national religious coalitions, including the Coalition to Protect Religious Liberty.

Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz

Valley Beit Midrash, Uri L'Tzedek, Shamayim V'Aretz Institute

Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz is the Executive Director of the Valley Beit Midrash. He is also the Founder and President of Uri L'Tzedek and the Founder and CEO of The Shamayim V'Aretz Institute. Rav Shmuly completed his Masters at Yeshiva University in Jewish Philosophy, a Masters at Harvard in Moral Psychology and a Doctorate at Columbia in Epistemology and Moral Development. Rav Shmuly is the author of four books on Jewish ethics and was listed in *Newsweek's* "America's Top 50 Rabbis for 2012 and 2013."

PANEL:

KAPLAN AND OTHER IMPORTANT JEWISH APPROACHES

Rabbi Dr. Elliot Cosgrove

Park Avenue Synagogue

Rabbi Dr. Elliot J. Cosgrove began his tenure as rabbi at Park Avenue Synagogue in 2008. Ordained at The Jewish Theological Seminary in 1999, Rabbi Cosgrove earned his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago Divinity School. His dissertation on Rabbi Louis Jacobs, a leading Anglo-Jewish theologian of the 20th century, reflects his passion for the intersection of Jewish scholarship and faith. Rabbi Cosgrove is the author of four collections of selected sermons, *In the Beginning* (2009), *An Everlasting Covenant* (2010), *Go Forth!* (2011), and *Hineni* (2012). He is the editor of *Jewish Theology in Our Time: A New Generation Explores the Foundations and Future of Jewish Belief*, hailed as a provocative and inspiring collection of essays by leading rabbis and scholars.

Dr. Michael Fagenblat

Shalem College

Dr. Michael Fagenblat is Research Fellow at Shalem College in Jerusalem and Adjunct Senior Lecturer at Monash University of Australia. He has published in phenomenology and philosophy of religion, including *A Covenant of Creatures: Levinas's Philosophy of Judaism* (Stanford UP, 2010).

Mr. Daniel Ross Goodman

Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School

Mr. Daniel Ross Goodman is a rabbinical student at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah (YCT) in New York, where he is Editor of *Milín Havivin*, the Jewish Studies journal of YCT. He received his Bachelor's degree from Yeshiva University, and graduated as Valedictorian of Yeshiva University's Beit Medrash Program of Jewish Studies. He holds a law degree, and has lectured at the Institute of American and Talmudic Law. He is also a writer, and his articles on religion, the arts, law, and Jewish Studies have appeared in *The Weekly Standard*, the *Journal of Religion & Film*, *South Texas Law Review*, *Bright Lights Film Journal*, *Moment Magazine*, the *Religious Studies Review*, and the *Harvard Divinity School Bulletin*.

Dr. Elliot Ratzman

Temple University

Dr. Elliot Ratzman teaches courses in secular Jewish thought, culture, and politics at Temple University in Philadelphia. He is also a faculty fellow of the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History. He is politically active with Partners in Health, Jobs With Justice, and efforts for Middle East Peace between Israelis and Palestinians. He can be reached at eratzman@temple.edu.

PANEL: KAPLAN AND THE FUTURE OF THE RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT

Rabbi Rachel Gartner (Chair)

Georgetown University

Rabbi Rachel Gartner graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2002. She currently serves as the Director of the Jewish Chaplaincy at Georgetown University. Rabbi Gartner is a co-author of Moving Tradition's *Rosh Hodesh: It's A Girl Thing Sourcebook*, and the author of multiple articles. Rabbi Gartner serves on the boards of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and the National Religious Coalition Against Torture Action Fund. She is an active member of T'ruah: A Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.

Rabbi Jessica Lott

University of Maryland

Rabbi Jessica Lott, Maryland Hillel's Associate Director for Jewish Life and Learning, is a Chicago native who graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2012. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Jewish and Near Eastern Studies from Washington University in St Louis and a master's degree in Social and Cultural Foundations of Education from DePaul University in Chicago. She loves to teach Torah and has done so with people of all kinds - from toddlers to seniors, at synagogues and summer camps, on Israel trips, in interfaith dialogue groups, and on college campuses. Her interest in stories, how we tell them, and what we learn from hearing and telling them is what led her to the rabbinate. A deep investment in innovation and pluralism lead her, through Reconstructionist training, to Hillel.

Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Schein

Jewish Education Center of Cleveland

Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Schein is currently director of the adolescent initiative and special projects at the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. Before that, he was for twenty years a Professor and director of the Education Department at the Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies in Cleveland. He also served for nine years on the faculty of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Rabbi Schein is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (1977) and of the doctoral program in curriculum studies of Temple University (1980). He is the author (or co-author) or numerous journal articles and other works about Jewish, general, and religious education. Rabbi Schein's leadership positions have included serving as national program chair for the Coalition for Alternatives in Jewish Education and President of the association for Institutions of Higher Jewish Learning of North America. Rabbi Schein was also the founding rabbi of Congregation Kol HaLev, the Reconstructionist Congregation of Cleveland.

Rabbi Dr. Sid Schwarz

CLAL: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership

Rabbi Dr. Sid Schwarz is a senior fellow at CLAL: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership where he directs the Clergy Leadership Incubator (CLI), a program that trains rabbis to be visionary spiritual leaders. He is also the director of the Rene Cassin Fellowship Program, a yearlong fellowship on Judaism and human rights for young professionals with hubs in New York, London and Jerusalem.

Rabbi Schwarz founded and led PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values for 21 years. He is also the founding rabbi of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda, MD where he continues to teach and lead services. Rabbi Schwarz holds a Ph.D. in Jewish history and is the author of two groundbreaking books--*Finding a Spiritual Home: How a New Generation of Jews Can Transform the American Synagogue* (Jewish Lights, 2000) and *Judaism and Justice: The Jewish Passion to Repair the World* (Jewish Lights, 2006).

CONFERENCE MODERATOR

Mr. Daniel Cedarbaum

The Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood

Mr. Daniel Cedarbaum is the Executive Director of The Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood. Organized at the end of 2010 and based in Evanston, Illinois, the Kaplan Center is a not-for-profit organization devoted to the transformation of Jewish community through the dissemination and promotion of the thought and writings of Mordecai Kaplan and the advancement of the agenda of the Kalanian approach to Judaism in the 21st century. The Kaplan Center's perspective is explicitly trans-denominational.

From 2002-2006, Mr. Cedarbaum was the President of the JRF, and a member of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Mr. Cedarbaum became the Director of Movement Growth Initiatives and Special Projects of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) in September 2009, having previously served for almost 20 years as a member of JRF's Board of Directors. He was also the JRF's Acting Director of Individual Giving and staffed the JRF's Chicago-area office. Mr. Cedarbaum worked professionally for the JRF through November 2010, when he left to start the Kaplan Center, together with Mel Scult, Eric Caplan and Jack Wolofsky. Mr. Cedarbaum is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

CONFERENCE BOOKSTORE (AVAILABLE TITLES)

The Meaning of God in Modern Jewish Religion
by Mordecai M. Kaplan

*Judaism as a Civilization:
Toward a Reconstruction of American-Jewish Life*
by Mordecai M. Kaplan

Communings of the Spirit—The Journals of Mordecai M. Kaplan
edited by Mel Scult

Dynamic Judaism, The Essential Writings of Mordecai M. Kaplan
edited by Emanuel Goldsmith and Mel Scult

*Judaism Faces the Twentieth Century
—A Biography of Mordecai M. Kaplan*
by Mel Scult

The Radical American Judaism of Mordecai M. Kaplan
by Mel Scult

THE CONFERENCE BOOKSTORE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE FOYER OF COPLEY FORMAL
LOUNGE DURING THE FOLLOWING HOURS:

SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

MONDAY, MARCH 3RD
12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

CONFERENCE VIDEO

Live stream of conference available at:
<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/pjc-media>

Following the conference, find video & audio at:
www.pjcmedia.org

The Program for Jewish Civilization (PJC) is an interdisciplinary research and teaching unit in Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. This innovative program, established in 2003, focuses not only on foreign policy and international relations, but also on the wider cultural, religious, political, historical philosophical, scientific, and literary contributions of the Jewish people.

To learn more about the PJC, visit pjc.georgetown.edu.