Religious Freedom and the Rule of Law

Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Views on Practicing Religion in a Pluralistic Society

Thursday, December 11, 2014
Location: Charles E. Young Research Library
Room 11360
Time: 4:00PM - 6:00PM
Reception to Follow

This event is the culmination of the upper-division seminar course Religion 120, which is designed to introduce students from a broad spectrum of academic disciplines, as well as cultural and religious backgrounds, to an analysis of the complex interrelatedness of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This event is also open to members of the wider UCLA and Los Angeles communities who are interested in exploring Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in dynamic interaction with each other and thus to experience the special atmosphere of the Religion 120 classroom.

Moderator
Dr. Reinhard Krauss
Lecturer, Center for the Study of Religion at UCLA

Panelists
Dr. Elliot Dorff
Rector and Professor of Philosophy
American Jewish University, Los Angeles

Dr. Douglas Kmiec
Professor of Constitutional Law, Pepperdine University; United States Ambassador (ret.)

Hussam Ayloush
Executive Director, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Greater Los Angeles Chapter

Free and Open to the Public
Co-sponsored by the Academy for Judaic, Christian and Islamic Studies at UCLA
www.religion.ucla.edu • csr@humnet.ucla.edu • @Official UCLA Center for the Study of Religion • @UCLA CSR/Religion

Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies
Conference in honor of Abraham Joshua Heschel
Moral Grandeur & Spiritual Audacity
May 3-4, 2015

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2015 • HILLEL AT UCLA

12PM ▶ WELCOMING REMARKS
KENNETH REINHARD (UCLA)
SUSANNAH HESCHEL (Dartmouth College)
CHAIM SEIDLER-FELLER (Hillel at UCLA)

12:15PM ▶ SESSION I
Introduction: DAVID N. MYERS (UCLA)
ARYEH COHEN (American Jewish University)
From JTS to Riverside Church: The Relationship Between Torah min Hashamayim and Heschel’s Anti-war Activism
Respondent: DAVID N. MYERS (UCLA)

1:30PM ▶ SESSION II
Introduction: KENNETH REINHARD (UCLA)
DONALD PEASE (Dartmouth College)
Heschel on the State of Moral Emergency from Selma to Ferguson
Respondent: MICHAEL BERENBAUM (American Jewish University)

2:45PM ▶ BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON HESCHEL’S WRITINGS
RABBI ED FEINSTEIN (Valley Beth Shalom) Heschel on Religious Education (selections)
RABBI SHARON BROUS (IKAR) The White Man on Trial, from The Insecurity of Freedom
RABBI ELIE SPITZ (Congregation B’hai Israel) God in Search of Man
RABBI CHAIM SEIDLER-FELLER (Hillel at UCLA) The Sabbath as Spiritual Revolution
RABBI PETER LEVI (Temple Beth El) Covet This!

4PM ▶ SESSION III
Introduction: SUSANNAH HESCHEL (Dartmouth College)
DROR BONDI (The Urban-Kibbutz Beit Yisrael, Jerusalem)
The Challenge: Translating Heschel into the State of Israel
Followed by Q&A with: SUSANNAH HESCHEL (Dartmouth College)

5:15PM ▶ SESSION IV
Introduction: JACK MILES (UC Irvine)
ELLIOT DORFF (American Jewish University)
Heschel’s Way of Finding God in Nature
Respondent: CHAIM SEIDLER-FELLER (Hillel at UCLA)

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2015 • UCLA FACULTY CENTER

6:30PM ▶ KEYNOTE ADDRESS: ON ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL
Introduction: DAVID THO GOLDENBERG (UC Irvine)
CORNEL WEST (Union Theological Seminary)
Followed by a conversation with: SUSANNAH HESCHEL and REVEREND JAMES M. LAWSON, JR.
Moderator: TODD PRESNER (UCLA)
A theologian of extraordinary eloquence and poetic vision, Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972) was also a key figure in social justice movements in the United States in the 1960s and early 70s, including the civil rights movement, the movement against the war in Vietnam, and the transformations of the Catholic Church known as Vatican II.

Born into a distinguished Hasidic family in Poland, Heschel received a traditional yeshiva education and studied for his Orthodox rabbinical ordination, before going on to study philosophy and theology in Berlin where he also received a liberal rabbinical ordination at the Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums. He escaped the Nazis and came to America in 1940 with the help of Hebrew Union College, teaching there until 1946, when he accepted a position at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Heschel was close friends with Martin Luther King, Jr., and participated in the 1965 march on Selma, in the front row with King, Ralph Bunche, and Ralph Abernathy.

Heschel’s books have had immeasurable impact on both Jewish and non-Jewish thinkers. Hence, this conference will feature talks by key figures in contemporary Jewish thought and practice, as well as Christian scholars and public figures. Panels will discuss Heschel and social justice, Heschel’s poetry and spiritual practices, and the continuing urgency of his life and ideas today.

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015 • UCLA FACULTY CENTER

10:30AM  ❀ SESSION V
Introduction: EFRAIN KRISTAL (UCLA)
- NADMI SEIDMAN (Graduate Theological Union)
  Heschel’s Languages: Translation, Difference, and Encounter in Heschel’s Work and Thought
Respondent: EFRAIN KRISTAL (UCLA)

11:45AM  ❀ SESSION VI
Introduction: HOWARD WETTSTEIN (UC Riverside)
- ROBERT ERLEWINE (Illinois Wesleyan University)
  In Marcion’s Shadow: Heschel, the God of Pathos, and the Prophets
Respondent: HOWARD WETTSTEIN (UC Riverside)

1PM  ❀ LUNCH BREAK

2PM  ❀ SESSION VII
Introduction: RACHEL ADLER (Hebrew Union College)
- ELLIOT WOLFSON (UC Santa Barbara)
  Time for the Sake of Eternity: Tempocentrism and the Quest for Transcendence in Rosenzweig and Heschel
Respondent: RACHEL ADLER (Hebrew Union College)

3:15PM  ❀ ROUNDTABLE: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN CONTEMPORARY RACE RELATIONS? WHAT WOULD ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL WORRY ABOUT TODAY?
- RABBI SHARON BROUS (IKAR)
- REVEREND JAMES M. LAWSON, JR.
- PROFESSOR AMIR HUSSAIN (Loyola Marymount University)
- REVEREND CECIL L. MURRAY (USC)
Moderator: CHAIM SEIDLER-FELLER (Hillel at UCLA)

4:30PM  ❀ COFFEE BREAK

5PM  ❀ KEYNOTE ADDRESS: JUST TO LIVE IS HOLY - THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL
Introduction: KENNETH REINHARD (UCLA)
- SUSANNAH HESCHEL (Dartmouth College)

Events are subject to change without notice. Please visit www.cjs.ucla.edu for up to date event information. Events are free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. Please email cjsrsvp@humnet.ucla.edu to RSVP.

Parking is available in Lot 2 on the corner of Hilgard and Westholme Ave for $12. Hillel at UCLA is located at 574 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024. The UCLA Faculty Center is located at 480 Charles E Young Drive North, Los Angeles, CA 90095.