



Brandeis University

March 11–12, 2007

Pushing the Boundaries:

Abraham Joshua Heschel
A Centenary Conference

A two-day conference to mark the 100th birthday of Abraham Joshua Heschel, exploring major areas of his life and works.

Faithful to Jewish tradition, Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907–1972) pushed the boundaries of conventional approaches to scholarship and public life. He was a radical religious thinker, a masterful literary stylist, and a bold activist recognized across all faiths as the authoritative voice for biblical Judaism in the United States.

A charismatic and controversial public figure, Heschel was revered by Christians and Jews as an ally of Martin Luther King Jr. in the civil rights movement and for his actions related to Soviet Jewry, the Second Vatican Council, and the religious movement against the Vietnam War.

In this centenary conference, leading scholars and activists will explore how Heschel made original contributions to the fields of Bible, Talmud, Hasidism, religious education, and more. Both traditional and progressive, Heschel's religious philosophy and his social activism were inspired by Hasidism and the Hebrew prophets. Presentations will be made on two upcoming works on Heschel: *Spiritual Radical*, volume two of the first intellectual and cultural biography of Heschel, written by Edward K. Kaplan of Brandeis University; and *Praying with My Legs*, a documentary from filmmaker Steve Brand.

Presenters and respondents include Mary Boys, Steve Brand, Philip Cunningham, Arnold Eisen, Gordon Fellman, Peter Geffen, Arthur Green, Vincent Harding, Susannah Heschel, Moshe Idel, Edward K. Kaplan, Reuven Kimelman, Michael Lerner, Shaul Magid, Aisha Y. Musa, David Novak, Joseph Reimer, Jonathan Sarna, Leonard Saxe, Eugene Sheppard, Barry Shrage, Gordon Tucker, and Steven Zipperstein.



Sunday, March 11, 2007

Afternoon

Welcoming Remarks

Edward K. Kaplan, organizer

Opening Address

Susannah Heschel, Dartmouth College

Roundtable Discussion

No Religion Is an Island: Religious Pluralism and Interfaith Dialogue

Moderator: Or Rose, Hebrew College and Brandeis University

Mary Boys, Union Theological Seminary

Philip Cunningham, Boston College

Vincent Harding, Illiff School of Theology

Aisha Y. Musa, Florida International University

Evening

Dinner and Keynote Address

"Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Challenge of Religious Pluralism"

Welcoming Remarks

Marty Wyngaarden Krauss, provost, Brandeis University

Keynote Address

Arnold Eisen, Stanford University, chancellor-elect, Jewish
Theological Seminary

Film Presentation

Steve Brand, documentary film, work in progress: *Praying with
My Legs: The Radically Amazing Life and Legacy of Abraham
Joshua Heschel*

Monday, March 12, 2007

Morning Sessions

Plenary Address I: Heschel as a Model for Progressive Movements

Michael Lerner, editor, *Tikkun* magazine

Responses: Gordon Fellman and Leonard Saxe, Brandeis University

Concurrent Session 1: Education of the Spirit

Moderator: Sharon Feiman-Nemser, Brandeis University

Peter Geffen, founder, Heschel School, New York

Joseph Reimer, Brandeis University

Barry Shrage, president, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston

Concurrent Session 2: Modernity and Rabbinic Pluralism

Gordon Tucker, Temple Israel Center and Jewish Theological Seminary

Respondent: Reuven Kimelman, Brandeis University

Lunch: The Heschel Biography

Jonathan Sarna, Brandeis University

Steven Zipperstein, Stanford University

Response: Edward K. Kaplan, Brandeis University

Afternoon Sessions

Plenary Address II: Heschel's Hasidism and Mysticism

Moderator: Paolo Gamberini, Pontifical Theological Faculty of Southern Italy

Moshe Idel, Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Respondent: Arthur Green, Hebrew College

Break

Plenary Address III: Holiness and Moral Integrity

Moderator: Gianluca Giannini, University of Naples, Italy

David Novak, University of Toronto

Respondent: Eugene Sheppard, Brandeis University

Wrap-up Discussion: Heschel for the Future

Shaul Magid, Indiana University, and other participants

Registration

To register for the conference, please visit www.brandeis.edu/events/heschel. For more information, contact Masha Sud Lokshin at lokshin@brandeis.edu or 781-736-2314.

Registration fees:	<i>Until</i> February 12, 2007	<i>After</i> February 12, 2007
Conference registration	\$54	\$72
Student conference registration	\$18	\$18
Brandeis faculty/staff conference registration	Free	Free
Brandeis student conference registration	Free	Free
Sunday night banquet dinner, March 11, 2007	\$50	\$50
Monday lunch, March 12, 2007	\$10	\$10

Meals are kosher style. Glatt kosher and vegetarian options are available.

Parking

Sunday, March 11, 2007

Parking is available in **T-lot**. Please follow signs to the "Lower Campus," then watch for signs to the Hassenfeld Conference Center and the Faculty Club.

Monday, March 12, 2007

Parking is available in the **Charles River Lot (J-lot)**, which is off campus in the graduate residence complex, about a fifteen-minute walk to Hassenfeld Conference Center. Student parking monitors will direct patrons to J-lot from the corner of South Street and Angleside Road. Frequent shuttle buses will take patrons from the parking lot to Hassenfeld Conference Center.

For a map and directions to Brandeis University, visit go.brandeis.edu/directions.

Accommodations

Rooms are available at the Boston Marriott Newton, two miles from campus. To reserve rooms, please contact the hotel directly and ask for the Heschel Conference rate.

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