



APJ News

As we turn the page on this past (Jewish) year, and we celebrate the second anniversary of the founding of the Association for the Philosophy of Judaism (APJ), we thought it would be a good idea to take stock of where the APJ has been and where it's going. This newsletter is the first of what we hope will be a semi-annual update for the APJ members.

Symposia

We have already hosted nearly fifteen online symposia, on topics/papers in the areas of Jewish philosophical theology, Talmudic metaphysics and logic, the nature of Jewish philosophy, philosophy of halakha, religious epistemology, and Jewish ethics. Many of these symposia have attracted thousands of hits. We hope the range of topics reflects the diverse interests of our readers, and we welcome your suggestions of papers or topics for future symposia. We have two upcoming symposia:

1. November 30 – December 07 2013:

Symposium on Jerome (Yehudah) Gellman's *God's Kindness has Overwhelmed Us: A Contemporary Doctrine of the Jews as the Chosen People* Chapter 4

Participants include Luvell Anderson (Memphis) and Berel Dov Lerner (Western Galilee)

2. January 13 – 20 2014:

Symposium on Joshua Golding's "The rational defensibility of being a traditional religious Jew" (*Religious Studies* 35: 4, December 1999, pp. 391 – 423)

Participants include: Shira Weiss (Yeshiva University), Matthew Benton (Oxford University), and Silvia Jonas (Van Leer Institute)

These next two symposia should be quite thought-provoking, and your comments are welcome, as always, throughout the course of each symposium.

Conferences

The first APJ conference was held on December 28th, 2012 in conjunction with the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division meeting. The theme of the conference was "What can be said? What should be said?"

and the keynote address was delivered by our first honorary president, David Shatz (Yeshiva), who spoke on the topic, "Should theists eschew theodicies?" The other invited speakers were Silvia Jonas (van Leer Institute) and Howard Wettstein (UC-Riverside). Tyron Goldschmidt (Notre Dame), Jed Lewinsohn (NYU), and Yonatan Brafman (Columbia) served as commentators.

The second APJ conference will be held in Chicago on the morning of February 27th in conjunction with the American Philosophical Association Central Division meeting. The incoming honorary president, Josef Stern (University of Chicago), will deliver the keynote address. His talk is (tentatively) titled, "The Epistemology of Prophecy: The False Prophet, the Parable of Mount Sinai, and the Maimonidean Circle." Alongside Professor Stern, the program will include two submitted papers (which were chosen from a very impressive pool of submissions): Shira Weiss (Yeshiva) will be speaking on "Can Love be Reasonless: A Philosophic Analysis of Divine Love" and Yonatan Brafman (Columbia) will be speaking on "Philosophy of Halakha and Moral Theory: Normativity and Motivation." **We are soliciting commentators for these papers. If you would like to serve as a commentator, please email Aaron Segal at communications@theapj.com.**

Essay Prize

The winner of the 2012 essay prize was Stefan Goltzberg, for his essay, "Is the Bible a Fiction?" His essay has been accepted for publication by *Faith and Philosophy*.

The deadline for the 2013 essay prize is coming up on November 24th.

Membership and Initiatives

The APJ currently has over three hundred members, and new members are joining every day. Please spread the word!

The members of APJ executive committee are presently working on several major initiatives. If you have any ideas for new activities or ways to improve the APJ's current activities, please let us know: we welcome feedback. Also, the APJ is continuously seeking new revenue streams and we welcome any suggestions or donations.