

**Etz Hayim at HHB Lifelong Learning Presents:**

***The New Jewish Canon: Ideas & Debates, 1980-2015***

**Facilitated by Rabbi David Wise**

Is it legitimate to refer to a period that began barely 40 years ago as history? How can one even study it from such close proximity in time? That's what *The New Jewish Canon*, edited by scholars Yehuda Kurtzer and Claire Sufrin, dares to do. Whether you think of the ideas and episodes addressed in the book as history or as current events, we will see that the period from 1980-2015 was an exciting one in the Jewish world. The sources in this volume will continue to influence and inspire Jewish ideas for the foreseeable future.

We'll begin by looking at selections from each of the four major sections by which the book is divided. Then we will move to a more focused thematic model.

We will meet on Monday evenings from 8:00-9:15 PM in a hybrid manner; you can participate in person or in my regular Zoom meeting space. For the best experience, all are encouraged to read the pages that we will address in advance of the session (at the very least, the primary sources, if not the reflection essay). Dates are subject to change and any changes will be announced.

Below is the plan for our journey through this volume together. We will not read every entry in the book, so if something isn't on the syllabus, feel free to read it on your own.

1. November 8—*Introduction: The State of Jewish Ideas: Towards a New Jewish Canon* (Yehuda Kurtzer and Claire Sufrin), pp. xvii-xxvii
2. November 15—*Jewish Politics and the Public Square*
  - a. Michael Walzer, *Exodus and Revolution*, pp. 3-9
  - b. Jonathan Woocher, *Sacred Survival*, pp. 17-23
  - c. Peter Beinart, *The Failure of the American Jewish Establishment*, pp. 108-112

- d.* Daniel Gordis, *When Balance Becomes Betrayal*, and Sharon Brous, *Lowering the Bar*, pp. 113-117
3. November 29—*History, Memory, and Narrative*
- a.* Yitz Greenberg, *The Third Great Cycle of Jewish History*, pp. 176-180
  - b.* Haym Soloveitchik, *Rupture and Reconstruction*, pp. 189-193
  - c.* *Dabru Emet*, pp. 199-203
  - d.* Ruth Wisse, *How Not to Remember and How Not to Forget*, pp. 215-220
  - e.* Yossi Klein Halevi, *Like Dreamers*, pp. 221-225
4. December 6—*Religion and Religiosity*
- a.* Joseph B. Soloveitchik, *Halakhic Man*, pp. 229-233
  - b.* David Hartman, *A Living Covenant*, pp. 245-251
  - c.* Abraham Joshua Heschel and Susannah Heschel, *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity*, pp. 287-292
  - d.* Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg, *Genesis: The Beginning of Desire*, pp. 271-276
  - e.* Arthur Green, *Radical Judaism*, and Daniel Landes, *Hidden Master*, pp. 305-312
5. December 13—*Identities and Communities*
- a.* Menachem Mendel Schneerson, *Letter to the Jewish Community of Teaneck*, pp. 321-325
  - b.* Letty Cottin Pogrebin, *Deborah, Golda, and Me*, pp. 357-362
  - c.* Yaakov Levado, *Gayness and God*, pp. 381-386
  - d.* Ruth Calderon, *The Heritage of all Israel*, pp. 427-431
  - e.* Rick Jacobs, *The Genesis of Our Future*, pp. 432-436
6. December 20—*Theme: Intermarriage*
- a.* Steven M. Cohen and Jack Wertheimer, *Whatever Happened to the Jewish People?*, pp. 90-96
  - b.* Jonathan Sarna, *American Judaism: A History*, pp. 204-209
  - c.* Paul Cowan with Rachel Cowan, *Mixed Blessings*, pp. 346-351
  - d.* Barry Kosmin, *Highlights of The National Jewish Population Survey and Pew Research Center*, pp. 363-369
  - e.* Noah Feldman, *Orthodox Paradox*, pp. 409-414
7. January 3—*Theme: Feminism*
- a.* Rachel Adler, *In Your Blood, Live*, pp. 260-265

- b. Mendel Shapiro, *Qeri'at HaTorah by Women*, pp. 289-294
  - c. Blu Greenberg, *On Women and Judaism*, pp. 326-329
  - d. *Nice Jewish Girls: A Lesbian Anthology* and *On Being a Jewish Feminist*, pp. 337-345
  - e. Judith Plaskow, *Standing Again at Sinai*, pp. 352-356
- 8. January 10—*Theme: Holocaust Memory*
  - a. David Hartman, *Auschwitz or Sinai?*, pp. 125-129
  - b. Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, *Zakhor*, pp. 130-134
  - c. Elie Wiesel, *Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech*, pp. 166-170
  - d. Naomi Seidman, *Elie Wiesel and the Scandal of Jewish Rage*, pp. 194-198
  - e. Deborah Lipstadt, *Denying the Holocaust* and Yaffa Eliach, *There Once Was a World*, pp. 181-188
- 9. January 24—*Theme: Israel and Jewish Power, part 1*
  - a. George Steiner, *Our Homeland, Our Text*, and Judith Butler, *Remarks to Brooklyn College on BDS*, pp. 10-16
  - b. Benny Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited*, and Ari Shavit, *Lydda, 1948*, pp. 24-33
  - c. Irving Greenberg vs. Meir Kahane, *Public Debate at HIR*, pp. 34-39
  - d. *Kahan Commission Report*, pp. 148-154
  - e. Moshe Halbertal, *The Goldstone Illusion*, pp. 103-107
- 10. January 31—*Theme: Israel and Jewish Power, part 2*
  - a. Amos Oz, *In the Land of Israel*, pp. 155-159
  - b. David Biale, *Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History*, pp. 160-165
  - c. Aharon Lichtenstein, *On the Murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin z"l*, pp. 57-62
  - d. Aviezer Ravitzky, *Messianism, Zionism, and Jewish Religious Radicalism*, pp. 63-69
  - e. Matti Friedman, *An Insider's Guide to the Most Important Story on Earth*, pp. 118-122