

SJE PROGRAM WASHINGTON, D.C. 2012

Thursday

11:45am-1:15pm **SJE Bioethics Group Steering Committee Meeting** *Farragut Square*

1:30-6:30pm Bioethics Group of SJE: Selected Papers *Independence DE*
Program Chair: Jonathan Cohen,
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati

1:30-2:30pm *Session 1: Dignity and End-of-Life in Jewish Bioethics*

Presenter: Leonard A. Sharzer, The Jewish Theological Seminary

Topic: "Is the *Goseis* Dead?"

Abstract:

In rabbinic literature the term *goseis* is used to refer to an individual whose death is imminent. In modern times, it has become a halakhic paradigm in end-of-life decision making.

I believe that in our era, the term should be applied only to those "actively dying," a distinct and recognizable phase of the dying process.

This paper will review the development of the concept of the *goseis* in rabbinic literature, analyze how this halakhic paradigm has been applied in modern responsa, and discuss whether it is an appropriate model for bioethical deliberations at the end of life.

Convener: Elliot Dorff, American Jewish University, Los Angeles

2:45-3:45pm *Session 2: The Self and Other in Jewish Bioethics*

Presenter: Y.M. Barilan, Tel Aviv University

Topic: "Self discipline within intimate relationship with the Other: the law and the virtue in Jewish ethics"

Abstract:

Christianity has taught that the Jews had lived under the yoke of the Law; whereas Jesus liberated humankind from the Law and taught by example the ways of the Christian virtues. I challenge the binary division between "law" v. "virtue" oriented religious ethics. Surveying mainstream rabbinic rulings on critical moral questions such as euthanasia and abortion, arguing that Jewish law itself directs the person to follow their virtue and conscience. Interestingly, Catholic teachings on the very same moral issues are stringent and formulated in legal language.

Convener: David Teutsch, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Philadelphia

4:00-5:00pm

Session 3: The Narrative Dimension

Presenter: William Cutter, The Kalsman Institute on Judaism & Health

Topic: “What Do Classic Texts Really Contribute to Contemporary Discourse?”

Abstract:

Richard Lanham once proposed that most people tend to look "through" narratives towards some external value or some behavioral norm, while paying less attention to what happens when you look at a narrative. Process over product, in other words, was urged by the UCLA professor, along with many others who have become interested in narrative ethics and law and ethics. But narrative study, in spite of young scholars like Wimpfheimer, Kraemer, Aryeh Cohen and Zoloth, and the elders like Nussbaum, Booth, etc., remains an elusive and sometimes paradoxical way of looking at "doing ethics". My paper will challenge traditional Jewish ethicists, to be sure, to examine the ways in which they have used narrative; but it will also urge professional scholars of narrative to acknowledge the limits of the search for clarity in the sue of narrative to arrive at ethical decisions. Above all, I will provide an inventory of "what happens" when one reads a narrative, to help us enrich our search for what is the "right" in bioethical situations.

Convener: Jonathan Cohen, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati

5:15-6:30pm

Session 4: Pain, Suffering, and Religious Meaning

Presenter: Aryeh Ballaban, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York

Topic: “Quality of Life, Pain Relief, and Presence of Mind: a Study of Nachum Ish Gamzu, Tractate Ta’anit 21a”

Abstract:

Judaism values the management and diminution of pain and considers it an integral part of the sacred obligation to heal. Yet, competing against this is the value of presence of mind, a component of one’s sense of humanity, mortality, and place in God’s world.

The hypothesis that informs this paper is that pain management and quality of life considerations reflect a struggle to balance and prioritize these competing Jewish values. My paper seeks to shed light on this balancing act. It does so by examining the narrative of and rabbinic commentary on the Talmudic character Nachum Ish Gamzu.

Presenter: Corey Helfand, Peninsula Sinai Congregation, Foster City, CA

Topic: “The Permissibility of Medicinal Marijuana in Jewish Law”

Abstract:

The use of marijuana, medicinal and recreational, raises numerous questions in Jewish tradition as well as for medical researchers. Jewish law does not overtly discuss the use of marijuana for the purpose of the alleviating pain and suffering. This paper focuses on the Jewish legal attitude toward the permissibility of using marijuana medicinally including: (1) The origins of marijuana, its side effects, and the way that marijuana is viewed in the 21st century medical world. (2) The halakhic (Jewish legal) sources pertaining to using marijuana medicinally, precedent for herbal medicine, the requirement to care for oneself, and the halakhic sources pertaining to smoking in Jewish law. (3) A comparison between the use of drugs and alcohol: immediate and long term side effects. (4) Examination of pain management and quality of life.

Convener: Leonard Sharzer, The Jewish Theological Seminary, New York

7:00-9:00pm

SJE Board Meeting

Washington Boardroom

Friday

7:15-8:45am

Breakfast with an Author

Constitution CDE

Buffet opens at 7:15; Discussion 7:45-8:45 (Pre-registration is required.)

Agnew Cochran, Elizabeth, *Receptive Human Virtues: A New Reading of Jonathan Edwards's Ethics* (Penn State University Press, 2010)

Facilitator: Maria Kenney, Durham University

Beach-Verhey, Timothy A., *Robust Liberalism: H. Richard Niebuhr and the Ethics of American Public Life* (Baylor University Press, 2011)

Facilitator: Daniel A. Morris, University of Iowa

Bretherton, Luke, *Christianity and Contemporary Politics: The Conditions and Possibilities of Faithful Witness* (Wiley Blackwell, 2010)

Facilitator: Charles Mathewes, University of Virginia

Camosy, Charles C., *Too Expensive To Treat? Finitude, Tragedy, and the Neonatal ICU* (Wm B Eerdmans Press, 2010)

Facilitator: Richard Sparks, St. Anthony Hospital, Old St. Mary's Church, Chicago

Curran, Charles, *The Social Mission of the U.S. Catholic Church: A Theological Investigation* (Georgetown University Press, 2011)

Facilitator: Ramón Luzárraga, University of Dayton

De La Torre, Miguel A., *Latina/o Social Ethics: Moving Beyond Eurocentric Moral Thinking* (Baylor University Press, 2010)

Facilitator: Sharon Higginbotham, Duquesne University

Douglas, Mark, *Believing Aloud: Reflections on Being Religious in the Public Square* (Cascade Books, 2010)

Facilitator: James Calvin Davis, Middlebury College

Guevin, Benedict, Jozef Zalot, *Catholic Ethics in Today's World, Revised Edition* (Anselm Academic Press, 2011)

Facilitator: Romanus Cessario, OP, Saint John's Seminary

Hunt, Mary E., Diann L. Neu (Ed.), *New Feminist Christianity: Many Voices, Many Visions* (SkyLight Paths Publishing, 2010)

Facilitator: Mary Vianney Bilgrien, Loyola University, New Orleans

Lee, Daniel E., Elizabeth J. Lee, *Human Rights and the Ethics of Globalization* (Cambridge University Press, 2010)

Facilitator: Tyson-Lord Gray, Vanderbilt University

Messer, Neil, *Respecting Life: Theology and Bioethics* (SCM Press, 2011)

Facilitator: Andrea Vicini SJ, Boston College

Mittleman, Alan, *A Short History of Jewish Ethics* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011)

Facilitator: Geoffrey Claussen, Elon University

Mott, Stephen, *Biblical Ethics and Social Change, Second Edition* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

Facilitator: David W. Gill, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary

Pava, Moses L., *Jewish Ethics in a Post-Madoff World* (Palgrave/MacMillan, 2011)

Facilitator: Michael Barilan, Tel Aviv University

Peterson, James C., *Changing Human Nature: Ecology, Ethics, Genes, and God* (Wm B Eerdmans Press, 2010)

Facilitator: Donna Yarri, Alvernia University

Scharen, Christian, Aana Marie Vigen (Ed.), *Ethnography as Christian Theology and Ethics* (Continuum, 2011)

Facilitator: Angela D. Sims, St. Paul School of Theology

Stivers, Laura, *Disrupting Homelessness: Alternative Christian Approaches* (Fortress Press, 2011)

Facilitator: John Raines, Temple University

Weithman, Paul, *Why Political Liberalism? On John Rawls's Political Turn* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

Facilitator: Felicia George, University of Denver, Iliff School of Theology

7:45-8:45am

Interfaith Breakfast

Latrobe

9:00-10:30am

Plenary

Constitution AB

Speaker: Andrew Bacevich, Department of International Relations, Boston University

Topic: "The Sources of American Conduct"

Abstract:

In his 1947 essay "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," the American diplomat George F. Kennan sought to describe the "political personality" of Soviet Power -- in essence explaining why the Soviet Union behaved as it did in the world. My presentation will attempt something similar for the United States today. Kennan found his explanation in "ideology and circumstances." My presentation will include those factors while adding several others, among them identity, culture, political economy, and inertia.

Respondent: Robin Lovin, Southern Methodist University

Convener: Lisa Cahill, Boston College

10:30-11:00am **Break** *Independence A*

11:00am-12:30pm **Concurrent Session I** *Independence DE*

Speaker: Ezekiel Emanuel, University of Pennsylvania

Topic: "Judaism and Bioethics—What is the Link?"

Respondents: Tom Beauchamp, Georgetown University

Elliot Dorff, American Jewish University

Convener: Aaron Mackler, Duquesne University

12:30-2:00pm **Lunch**

2:00-3:30pm **Concurrent Session II** *Independence DE*

Topic: "Recent Trends in Thinking about War: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives"

Panelists:

Lisa Cahill, Boston College (SCE)

Reuven Firestone, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles (SJE)

Sohail Hashmi, Mount Holyoke College (SSME)

Abstract:

The focus of this panel will be recent developments in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim thinking about war. Each panelist will identify salient issues related to this focus. The presentations will be followed by discussion among the panelists and with the audience.

Convener: John Kelsay, Florida State University

3:30-4:00pm **Break** *Independence A*

4:00-5:30pm **Concurrent Session III** *Independence HI*

Presenter: Julia Watts Belser, Missouri State University

Title: "Suffering Rabbis and Other Animals: Theorizing the Connections between Animal Ethics, Worker Justice, Gender and Suffering in Bavli Baba Metsia 83b-85a"

Abstract:

This paper articulates Jewish feminist animal ethics in conversation with an extended passage from the Babylonian Talmud, Baba Metsia 83b-85a. I show how the text parallels the suffering of animals, laborers, women, and rabbis, while also addressing worker exploitation, violence, and vulnerability. The text concludes with the famous story of Rabbi Yehudah and the calf, a story often extracted from its context to support Jewish animal protection. Yet, I suggest that the larger passage helps us theorize important interconnections—and I argue for a more integrated ethical approach to issues of animal suffering, gender violence, disability ethics, and worker exploitation.

Respondent: Celia Deane-Drummond, University of Notre Dame

Convener: Aaron Gross, University of San Diego

4:43pm	Shabbat candle-lighting	<i>On your own</i>
5:45-6:45pm	SCE Presidential Address SCE President: Stanley Hauerwas, Duke Divinity School Topic: “Bearing Reality”	<i>Constitution AB</i>
7:00-7:45pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Services <i>Followed by Kiddush and Hamotzi</i> (Please bring your own <i>siddur</i> .) All are welcome	<i>McPherson</i>
8:00-9:30pm	Shabbat Dinner (Pre-registration required for dinner.)	<i>Independence HI</i>

Saturday

7:15-8:45am Breakfast with an Author *Constitution CDE*
Buffet opens at 7:15; Discussion 7:45-8:45 (Pre-registration is required.)

Allman, Mark J., Tobias L. Winright, *After the Smoke Clears: The Just War Tradition and Post War Justice* (Orbis Books, 2010)

Facilitator: Stephen Lammers, Lafayette College

Biggar, Nigel, *Behaving in Public: How to do Christian Ethics* (Wm B Eerdmans Press, 2011)

Facilitator: Roberto D. Sirvent, Hope International University

Bucar, Elizabeth M., *Creative Conformity: The Feminist Politics of U.S. Catholic and Iranian Shi'i Women* (Georgetown University Press, 2011)

Facilitator: David Clairmont, University of Notre Dame

Evans, Abigail Rian, *Is God Still at the Bedside? Medical, Ethical, and Pastoral Issues in Death and Dying* (Wm B Eerdmans Press, 2011)

Facilitator: Enda McDonagh, Pontifical University, Maynooth (Emeritus)

Faust, Halley S., Paul Menzel (Ed.), *Prevention vs. Treatment: What's the Right Balance?* (Oxford University Press and the American Public Health Association Press, 2011)

Facilitator: Jonathan Crane, Emory University

Guroian, Vigen, *The Melody of Faith* (Wm B Eerdmans Press, 2010)

Facilitator: Brent Waters, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Haddorff, David, *Christian Ethics as Witness: Barth's Ethics for a World at Risk* (Cascade Books, 2011)

Facilitator: G. Clarke Chapman, Moravian College

Kao, Grace Y., *Grounding Human Rights in a Pluralist World* (Georgetown University Press, 2011)

Facilitator: K. Christine Pae, Denison University

May, William, *Testing the National Covenant: Fears and Appetites in American Politics* (Georgetown University Press, 2011)

Facilitator: Jermaine M. McDonald, Emory University

Miller, Richard B., *Terror, Religion, and Liberal Thought* (Columbia University Press, 2010)

Facilitator: Paul T. Nelson, Wittenberg University

Novick, Tzvi, *What is Good, and What God Demands: Normative Structures in Tannaitic Judaism* (Brill, 2010)

Facilitator: Emily Filler, University of Virginia

Porter, Jean, *Ministers of the Law: A Natural Law Theory of Legal Authority* (Wm B Eerdmans Press, 2010)

Facilitator: Joshua Mauldin, Southern Methodist University

Shadle, Matthew A., *The Origins of War: A Catholic Perspective* (Georgetown University Press, 2011)

Facilitator: James Gubbins, Salem State College

Teutsch, David, *A Guide to Jewish Practice: Everyday Living* (RRC Press, 2011)

Facilitator: Louis Newman, Carleton College

Tran, Jonathan, *The Vietnam War and Theologies of Memory: Time and Eternity in the Far Country in the series "Challenges in Contemporary Theology"* (Wiley Blackwell, 2010)

Facilitator: Mark Ryan, Georgian Court University

Wogaman, J. Philip, *Christian Ethics: A Historical Introduction, Second Edition* (Westminster John Knox, 2011)

Facilitator: Patrick Flanagan, St. John's University, NY

9:00-10:30am

Plenary

Constitution AB

Speaker: Stephen Carter, Yale Law School

Topic: “The Violence of Peace”

Respondents: Daniel Bell, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
William Werpehowski, Villanova University

Convener: M. Cathleen Kaveny, University of Notre Dame

10:30-11:00am	Break	<i>Independence A</i>
10:45am-12:30pm	Shabbat Service Including discussion of Parashat Vayechi (Genesis 47:28 - 50:26) (Please bring your own <i>siddur</i> .) Service is in Hebrew, All are welcome	<i>Farragut Square</i>
12:30-2:00pm	Shabbat Lunch (Pre-registration required.)	<i>Franklin & McPherson</i>
2:00-3:30pm	Concurrent Session IV: War Ethics	<i>Wilson/Roosevelt</i>

Presenters:

1. **Daniel H. Weiss, University of Cambridge**

Title: “Individual Violence, Collective Violence, and Direct Divine Sanction in Classical Rabbinic Literature”

2. **Noam Zohar, Bar Ilan University**

Title: “Double Effect, Double Intention and Commanders' Responsibility: A Jewish Perspective”

Abstract:

This session explores various ways in which Jewish tradition differentiates between legitimate and illegitimate types of killing. Daniel Weiss’s paper focuses on classical rabbinic literature, arguing that the value of individual human life, alongside the Temple’s destruction and prophecy’s cessation, leads these texts to a sharp distinction between individual and collective forms of taking life, preserving the former while suspending the latter. Noam Zohar’s paper applies Jewish textual sources to questions of contemporary warfare, arguing for the responsibility of armed forces to establish norms that protect individual noncombatant lives, even when such precautions might put combatants at greater risk. Together, both papers point to distinctive and perhaps surprising relations between individual and collective in Jewish ethics.

Convener: Louis Newman, Carleton College

3:30-4:00pm	Break	<i>Independence A</i>
4:00-5:30pm	Concurrent Session V	<i>Constitution E</i>
Presenter: Ronit Irshai, Bar Ilan University		
Title: “Rape in Jewish Law”		

Abstract:

This paper, part of a larger study exploring the treatment of rape in Jewish law (halakhah), will focus on rabbinic readings of the biblical sources. How did the Talmud understand the crime of rape? Did the rabbis see rape only as a property offense? What distinguishes rape from seduction? What is the meaning of the Talmudic statement: “an act performed under compulsion may have terminated with her consent”? Can a husband rape his wife? The paper will also consider modern halakhic approaches and a feminist critique that follows the path of Catharine MacKinnon, who identifies sexual vulnerability as a main instrument of patriarchal dominance.

Respondent: Kathryn Blanchard, Alma College
Convener: Judith Kay, University of Puget Sound

5:44pm **Havdallah** *On your own*

8:00-9:30pm SJE Saturday Evening Session *Independence G*

Presenter: Ryan Dulkan, Washington University in St. Louis

Title: “The Exegetical Story as the Arena for Classical Jewish Ethics: The Case of Humanity’s Creation in Genesis Rabbah 8”

Abstract:

Classical rabbinic Judaism focuses on humanity’s creation in Genesis 1:26 as a key text upon which to play out a host of ethical dilemmas, including questions concerning human nature, the balance between strict justice and grace, between truth and love, and concerns for limits upon divine sovereignty. This paper analyzes a key cycle of exegetical stories in *Genesis Rabbah 8*, arguing that these texts favor notions of compassion and grace over truth and strict justice. This paper suggests that rabbinic sources favor the narrative over discursive forms of discourse when confronting fundamental problems of human nature and conduct.

Respondent: Julia Fleming, Creighton University
Convener: Laurie Zoloth, Northwestern University

Sunday

7:15-8:45am Breakfast with an Author *Constitution CDE*
Buffet opens at 7:15; Discussion 7:45-8:45 (Pre-registration is required.)

Austin, Victor Lee, *Up with Authority: Why We Need Authority to Flourish as Human Beings* (T and T Clark/Continuum, 2010)

Facilitator: Gerald S. Vigna, Alvernia University

Brandt, James M., *Selections from Christian Ethics (Friedrich Schleiermacher)* (Westminster John Knox, 2011)

Facilitator: Paul Martens, Baylor University

Calian, Carnegie Samuel, *The Spirit-Driven Leader: Seven Keys to Succeeding under Pressure* (Westminster John Knox, 2010)

Facilitator: Joshua Daniel, University of Chicago

Finn, Daniel (Ed.), *The True Wealth of Nations: Catholic Social Thought and Economic Life* (Oxford University Press, 2010)

Facilitator: William George, Dominican University

Hollenbach, David (Ed.), *Driven from Home: Protecting the Rights of Forced Migrants* (Georgetown University Press, 2010)

Facilitator: Thomas Schubeck, John Carroll University

Merkle, Judith, *Being Faithful: Christian Commitment in Modern Society* (T and T Clark/Continuum, 2010)

Facilitator: Jan Jans, Tilburg University

O'Brien, Kevin J., *An Ethics of Biodiversity: Christianity, Ecology, and the Variety of Life* (Georgetown University Press, 2010)

Facilitator: Kathryn Blanchard, Alma College

Rubio, Julie Hanlon, *Family Ethics: Practices for Christians* (Georgetown University Press, 2010)

Facilitator: David Elliot, University of Notre Dame

Springs, Jason A., *Toward a Generous Orthodoxy: Prospects for Hans Frei's Postliberal Theology* (Oxford University Press, 2010)

Facilitator: Jacob Goodson, College of William & Mary

Wadell, Paul J., Patricia Lamoureux, *The Christian Moral Life--Faithful Discipleship for a Global Society* (Orbis Books, 2010)

Facilitator: Mindy Makant, Duke University Divinity School

Wall, John, *Ethics in Light of Childhood* (Georgetown University Press, 2010)

Facilitator: Mary Doyle Roche, College of the Holy Cross

7:45-8:45am

SJE Business Meeting

Renwick

Open to all SJE Members

9:00-10:30am

SJE Plenary

Constitution AB

In conjunction with SCE

Speaker: Michael Walzer, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ

Topic: "Conceptions of Peace in the Hebrew Bible"

Respondents: Daniel Statman, Haifa University

Glen Stassen, Fuller Theological Seminary

Convener: Jonathan Crane, Emory University

11:00am-12:30pm

Concurrent Session VI

Cabin John/Arlington

Presenter: Alexander Green, University of Toronto

Title: “Between Maimonides and Spinoza: Constructing an Ethics of War and Peace in the Jewish Tradition”

Abstract:

My paper will explore the possibility of constructing a virtue ethics of war and peace in the Jewish tradition. While respecting important legal distinctions and principles, another means of discerning the limits of war and peace is to analyze the character trait of “courage” in the works of Maimonides and Spinoza and how it functions within their hermeneutical teaching on ethics. By attempting to grasp the Jewish view of war and peace through the virtue of courage one is able to comprehend it within the larger theoretical framework of the relationship of knowledge, the emotions and the goals of human life.

Respondent: Geoffrey Claussen, Elon University

Convener: Alan Mittleman, Jewish Theological Seminary