Rabbi Soloveitchik is widely viewed as one of the key leaders of Modern Orthodoxy. His oral and written work has exerted a broad influence on the form and nature of Orthodox communities, shaping a new ‘genus’ of mitzva-observant Jews, which have become an integral part of rabbinical, social, scientific, scholarly and educational endeavors in the modern world.

The conference will focus on Rabbi Soloveitchik’s *social and educational influence* vis-à-vis the Jewish world in general and Modern Orthodoxy in particular, both in Israel and the Diaspora.

**The Academic Committee**
Dr. Avinoam Rosenak (Chair), Prof. Ya’akov Blidstein, Dr. Aviad Hacohen, Prof. Hannah Kasher, Dr. Yehoyada Amir, Dr. Uzi Rehun, Prof. Aviezra Ravitzky, Prof. Shalom Rosenberg, Prof. Eliezer Schweid, Rabbi Prof. Naftali Rothenberg, Dafna Schreiber

Simultaneous translation is available in both Hebrew and English. All lectures held will be broadcast live over the Internet at the VLJI web site [www.vanleer.org.il](http://www.vanleer.org.il).

**Monday, December 29, 2003**

9:00-9:30 – **Registration**

9:30-10:00 – **Opening Session**
**Dr. Shimshon Zelniker**, Greetings
**Dr. Avinoam Rosenak**, Opening Remarks

10:00-12:00 – **Theoretical and Philosophical Studies**
**Chair: Rabbi Prof. Naftali Rothenberg**
**Dr. Hanoch Ben Pazi**, Psychoanalytical Aspects of Soloveitchik’s Philosophical Inquiries (Hebrew)
Dr. Moshe Meir, Rabbi Soloveitchik as a Mediator between Orthodoxy and Hermann Cohen’s Thought (Hebrew)
Prof. Reiner Munk, Joseph B. Soloveitchik on Hermann Cohen
Dr. Daniel Rynhold, Letting the Facts Get in the Way of a Good Thesis: Rabbi Soloveitchik’s Philosophical Methodology

12:00-12:15 – Break

12:15-13:45 – Education: Between Particularism and Universality
Chair: Tova Ilan
Prof. Michael Rosenak, Contemporary Jewish Education: Six Foci of Deliberation (Hebrew)
Rabbi Dr. Daniel Tropper, The Impact of a Great Personality in the Absence of a Personality Cult (Hebrew)
Dr. Jonathan Cohen, Soloveitchik and Berkovits: Conceptions of History in Modern Orthodoxy (Hebrew)

13:45-14:30 – Lunch Break

14:30-16:00 – The Concept of History and its Educational Implications
Chair: Prof. Hannah Kasher
Dr. Elie Holzer, A Critical Discussion of Rabbi Soloveitchik’s Hermeneutical Theory (Hebrew)
Jason Kalman, Job at the Crossroads: The Place of Soloveitchik’s Kol Dodi Dofek within the Exegetical History of the Book of Job
Dr. Jeffrey R. Woolf, History, Historical Awareness and Halakha in the Philosophy of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik (Hebrew)

16:00-16:15 – Break

16:15-18:15 – Panel Debate: Inherent Tensions in Modern Orthodoxy
Chair: Rabbi Prof. Naftali Rothenberg
Participants: Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, Rabbi Prof. Carmi Horowitz, Rabbi Dr. Aharon Lichtenstein, Prof. Aviezzer Ravitzky

Tuesday, December 30, 2003

09:00-11:00 – Aggada and Midrash: Social and Political Repercussions
Chair: Dafna Schreiber
Dr. Yoel Finkelman, Ta’amei HaMitzvot in Contemporary Orthodox Discourse: Between Rabbi Soloveitchik and Popular Religion (Hebrew)
Dr. Israel Rozenson, Soloveitchik’s Perception of Aggada: The Philosophical, Hermeneutical, Politico-Cultural Repercussions (Hebrew)
Dr. Yehoyada Amir, Rabbi Soloveitchik as a Cultural Agent and a Religious Leader: A Critical Review of The Lonely Man of Faith and Kol Dodi Dofek (Hebrew)
Dr. Kalman Neuman, “Modern Orthodoxy” or “Religious Zionism”: on the Acceptance of Rabbinic Authority (Hebrew)

11:00-11:15 – Break

Chair: Dr. Yehoyada Amir
Blu Greenberg, Rabbi Soloveitchik and the New Values for Women
Chana Kehat, Gender Relations and Gender Equality in Rabbi Soloveitchik’s Thought
Prof. Steven Wilf, Rabbi Soloveitchik and the Lawyers
Dr. Sarit Bensimhon-Peleg, The Responsibility for the Other: J.B. Soloveitchik and Universal Human Rights (Hebrew)

13:15-13:45 – Lunch Break

13:45-15:45 – Social and Cultural Influences
Chair: Dr. Shmuel Wygoda
Prof. Chaim I. Waxman, Thought, Socio-culture and Structure: Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik as the Leader of Modern Orthodoxy in the U.S. (Hebrew)
Rabbi Dr. Shaull Farber, The Boston Career of Rabbi Soloveitchik (Hebrew)
Prof. Jeffrey S. Gurock, The State of Twentieth-Century American Orthodoxy before Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik
Prof. Mervin F. Verbit, The Changing Cultural Context of Contemporary Orthodoxy

15:45-16:00 – Break

16:00-18:00 – Rabbi Soloveitchik and the World of Erudition
Chair: Yoske Achituv
Dr. Aviad Hacohen, The Legal Methodology of Rabbi Soloveitchik: What’s New? (Hebrew)
Dr. Menachem Kovacs, Rabbi Soloveitchik as the Melamed
Rabbi Dr. Avraham Walfish, Brisk at the Crossroads: Between Text and Concept (Hebrew)
Rabbi Dr. Shlomo Pick, Rabbi Soloveitchik and the Academic Study of Talmud and its Implications

18:00-18:15 – Break

18:15-20:15 – Panel Debate: Modernity and the Halakha
Chair: Dr. Avinoam Rosenak
Participants: Prof. Izhak Englard, Rabbi Prof. David Hartman, Rabbi Yuval Sherlo

Wednesday, December 31, 2003

09:30-11:00 – Education and Halakha
Chair: Dr. Uzi Rebhun
Prof. Michael Zvi Nehoray– Rabbi Soloveitchik on the Limits of Human Freedom (Hebrew)
Dr. Moshe Sokolow, Developing a Tefillah Curriculum based upon the Writings of Rabbi Soloveitchik (Hebrew)
Dr. Dvir Abramovich, Rabbi Soloveitchik’s Social and Educational Influence in Australia

11:00-11:15 – Break

11:15-12:45 – Between Judaism and Christianity
Chair: Prof. Ya’akov Blidstein
Dr. Christian M. Rutishauser, Is Soloveitchik’s Conception of Halakhic Existence Open to a Jewish-Christian Encounter?
Dr. Eugene Korn, Rabbi Soloveitchik and Theological Dialogue in Light of Contemporary Christian Theologies
12:45-13:30 – Lunch Break

13:30-15:00 – The Various Streams of the Jewish Thought with reference to the Writings of Rabbi Soloveitchik
Chair: Dr. Kimmy Caplan
Prof. Lawrence Kaplan, Rabbi Soloveitchik’s Lonely Man of Faith in Contemporary Modern Orthodox Thought
Prof. Hannah Kasher, Soloveitchik’s Writings and the Israeli Reader (Hebrew)
15:00-15:15 – Break

15:15-17:15 – Inter and Outer Evolutions according to Soloveitchik’s Doctrine
Chair: Prof. Rachel Elior
Dr. Joseph Turner, The Relevance of Philosophical Discussion to Non-Orthodox Jewish Thought in Rabbi Soloveitchik’s Halakhic Mind (Hebrew)
Prof. Alan Brill, Triumph without Battle: The Dialectic Approach to Culture of Brunner and Barth in the Thought of Rabbi J. B. Soloveitchik
Rabbi Dr. Aryeh Strikovsky, Translation of the Discourse of Faith into Contemporary Modern Language (Hebrew)
Rabbi Reuven Ziegler, Personal Revelation in Philosophical Discourse: New Insights from Rabbi Soloveitchik's Archives

17:15-17:30 – Break

17:30-19:00 – Final Session
Chair: Dr. Avinoam Rosenak
Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, Three Doors Rabbi Soloveitchik Opened But Did Not Walk Through: The Future of Modern Orthodoxy
Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein, The Rav from a Distance: Retrospective Reflections (Hebrew)

Participants

Dr. Dvir Abramovich, Centre for Jewish History and Culture, University of Melbourne, Australia
Yoske Achituv, Ya’akov Herzog Center for Jewish Studies, Ein Tzurim
Dr. Yehoyada Amir, Department of Jewish Thought, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Hebrew Union College
Dr. Hanoch Ben Pazi, Department of Philosophy, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan and Kibbutzim College of Education, Tel Aviv
Dr. Sarit Bensimhon-Peleg, Department of Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Prof. Ya’akov Bliderstein, Department of Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Prof. Alan Brill, Jewish Thought, Yeshiva University, New York, USA
Dr. Kimmy Caplan, Department of Jewish History, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan
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Prof. Rachel Elior, Department of Jewish Thought, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Prof. Izhak Englard, Supreme Court Judge (Retired)
Rabbi Dr. Shaul Farber, Director, ITIM
Dr. Yoel Finkelman, Senior Research Fellow, ATID
Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, President, Jewish Life Network, Steinhardt Foundation
Blu Greenberg, Founding President, Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, USA
Prof. Jeffrey S. Gurock, Jewish History, Yeshiva University, New York, USA