



*“Tell Me About
the God You
Don’t Believe
In...”*

A TISCH CELEBRATING
THE LIFE AND WORK
OF NEIL GILLMAN
ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS 5TH YAHRZEIT



Neil Gillman

Louis Finkelstein

Moses Zucker

H. Louis Ginsberg

Robert Gordis

David C. Kogen



“When I think about my life, my rabbinate, my soul, my theology, my teaching, and the way that I live my Judaism—they have all been enriched immeasurably by Neil Gillman. I will be eternally grateful.”

Rabbi Mychal Springer, RS '92





Lawrence N. Jones

Neil Gillman

Bernard Mandelbaum

Jessica Feingold

Joseph Brodie



“Neil’s definition of “Jewish time”: sitting at Purim seudah with his grandmother when she sighs and says to the assemblage: *Nu kinderlach*, time to start preparing for Pesach!”

Rabbi Marim D. Cherry



When I was a teen, Rabbi Gillman spoke passionately against our movement's mistake of creating an "infantilizing" Judaism. He insisted that leaders and institutions empower others to "do Jewish" and make meaning for themselves and their families.

Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, RS '99



“Back in 1968, Neil z”l was one of the first of the JTS team to look out for me in the Mechina program. I recall him fondly. זכרונו לברכה.”

Rabbi Norbert Weinberg, RS '74



“Neil understood education as an essentially moral activity. He was not trying to raise disciples who would see as he did, but trying to help nurture life-artists, who would take what he had to offer and turn it into something uniquely their own.”

Rabbi Joshua Gutoff, RS '88



“Yes, Neil was running The Rabbinical School. Yes, he was responsible for the details of its administration. Yes, he had to worry about our housing and food scholarships. But, those were ultimately but trivial details. What he *really* worried about was whether we, all of us, each and every one of us, were grappling with the theological issues with which rabbinic education at The Jewish Theological Seminary was confronting us.”

Rabbi Joel Roth, RS '73



During my freshman year in college, Neil Gillman spent a Shabbat teaching at our Hillel. I remember him telling us that religion isn't supposed to be easy. On the contrary, in significant ways, serious religion is hard. Anyone who has read my work—and not just my book on revelation—will see the deep influence Neil continues to have on me.

יהי זכרו ברוך ותחי תורתו לעד.

Dr. Benjamin Sommer



Joseph Brodie

David Kogen

Neil Gillman

Among Neil's many teachings that inspired and shaped me, one which stands out is that all rituals - especially life cycle rituals - help to guide us through and to sanctify the chaotic threshold experiences of our lives.

Rabbi Dan Ornstein, RS '89





“Rabbi Gillman was a mentor to me during rabbinical school and when I was on the JTS faculty teaching liturgy and writing my commentary on the siddur (which should appear in 2023), he again was a wonderful sounding board and guide.”

Rabbi Jeffrey Hoffman, RS '81





Neil Gillman

Father Ch. F. Mooney

H. Louis Ginsberg

Jessica Feingold

“Students came to the seminary because they were searching for religious meaning, and Neil was the one who took that challenge seriously.”

Rabbi Ira Stone



JTS The Jewish
Theological
Seminary

“At my JTS Reb School interview, where Rabbi Gilman was a panelist, the “sketchy” impact of my being in a fraternity at The Ohio State University came up. Unexpectedly Rabbi Gilman chimed in that at McGill University, he too was in a fraternity. This admission astonished several on the rabbinic panel. ‘You!!?’ one blurted out. “You’re so anti-establishment!” He nonchalantly replied, “I was young. It was a thing to do and I turned out alright.”

Rabbi Fred Benjamin, RS '87

Dining Hall

Dedicated in hono

Rut... Bert Ma



Rabbi Gillman with the Torah

ADRIENNE WEISS, 1989





“I found the
theology because I
was hungry for it
and went looking
for it.”

