

**We invite you to the next webinar
in the 2021-2022 research lecture series**

Jewish Ethics: The Marriage of Justice and Compassion

Rabbi Dr. Eugene Korn

**The lecture is based on Dr. Korn's new book,
*To Be a Holy People: Jewish Tradition and Ethical Values***

Respondent: Malcolm F. Lowe

Thursday, 27 January 2022

at 20:00 Israel time, 13:00 New York time, 19:00 Paris time

VIA ZOOM

Our lecturer, Eugene Korn, has been a friend of our Fraternity for some decades. After a lifetime of teaching and of working in American Jewish organizations, he retired to Jerusalem, where he continues to pursue his scholarly interests. One of them has for long been the area of Jewish ethics. His new book, *To Be A Holy People: Jewish Tradition and Ethical Values* (Urim Publications: Jerusalem and New York, 2021) combines a number of his previous articles in that area into a broader synthesis. In his introduction, he recalls how Jewish tradition was challenged in the Middle Ages by the widespread acceptance of Greek science and philosophy in the Christian and Islamic worlds, the environments in which almost all Jews lived. Great thinkers like Maimonides rose to that challenge and answered it in writings that themselves became a part of Jewish tradition.

Today, he argues, Jewish tradition faces a different challenge from its environment. “Those issues have lost their urgency today,” he writes, “but in their place stand contemporary ethical values and unprecedented visions that demand bold responses from Jewish tradition. Can age-old Jewish practices be justified in the face of our modern understanding of justice, equality and human flourishing?” He believes that the new challenge can be met and that the example of Maimonides and other great Jewish thinkers of the past can also provide inspiration for dealing with the series of contemporary ethical issues that his book addresses.

The Fraternity’s own Malcolm F. Lowe will give a short response.