olam he-zeh v’olam ha-ba
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The 28th Annual Symposium on Jewish Civilization took place on October 25 and October 26, 2015, in Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska. The title of the symposium, from which this volume also takes its name, is “olam ha-zeh v’olam ha-ba: This World and the World to Come in Jewish Belief and Practice.”

Anyone who reads carefully and has a phenomenal memory (that sounds a lot like me!) will observe that the symposium has formally changed its name yet once again. Rather than take its name from the expanding list of academic sponsors, the symposium now proclaims in its title what it does—and has always done: provide an opportunity for the exchange and interchange of information about a different aspect of Jewish civilization each year.

Thankfully, our major sponsors remain: the Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization at Creighton University; the Kripke Center for the Study of Society and Religion, also at Creighton; the Harris Center for Judaic Studies at University of Nebraska-Lincoln; the Schwalb Center for Israel and Jewish Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha; and the Jewish Federation of Omaha.

As in past years, much of the success of this symposium is due to the unwavering support of colleagues: Dr. Ronald Simkins, of the Kripke Center; Drs. Jean Cahan and Sidnie White Crawford, of the Harris Center; and Drs. Moshe Gershovitz and Curtis Hutt, of the Schwalb Center. Colleen Hastings, administrative assistant for the Klutznick Chair and the Kripke Center, continues her invaluable contributions at all stages in the planning and implementation of the symposium and in preparing this volume for publication. I also offer warm thanks to Kasey De Goey, staff assistant for the Schwalb Center, who ensures, among many other things, that the Sunday morning symposium session at University of Nebraska at Omaha runs smoothly. Equally efficient and dependable is Mary Sue Grossman, who is affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Omaha.

With this volume, we are completing eight years in our ongoing relationship with the Purdue University Press. Its staff, under the previous director Charles Watkinson and his successor Peter Froehlich, continues to make us feel welcome in every possible way. We look forward to many more years of collaboration with the press.

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And others.

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