

Dr. Mordecai Kaplan to speak on Religion, Humanism

February 9, 1970

Dr. Mordecai M. Kaplan, who served as Dean of the Teachers Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America for 35 years, will speak on "Religion in the Key of Humanism" at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 18, at the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Kaplan, sponsored by the UCSD Guest-in-Residence program, will speak in the main dining hall on the Revelle College campus. He is also scheduled to meet with members of the Jewish Student Association at 4:00 p.m. in the Revelle Informal Lounge.

The 88-year-old philosopher, considered to be the outstanding Jewish thinker in America, is in San Diego for the month of February to conduct a series of lectures, classes and informal discussions. He has been named as the first Scholar-in-Residence of Congregation Beth Israel, Third Avenue at Laurel Street.

Dr. Kaplan, who was once branded a heretic for his revision of the Jewish prayer book, is the founder of the Reconstructionist movement in Judaism and initiator of the "bat mitzvah" for girls that parallels the traditional "bar mitzvah" of 13-year-old Jewish males.

He is the author of a dozen volumes on religion, education, history and contemporary affairs and is the father of the concept of the "Jewish Center."

Dr. Kaplan received degrees from City College of New York, Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He served as Rabbi for Congregation Kehillath Jeshurun from 1903 to 1909, as founder and Rabbi of the Jewish Center from 1917 to 1921, and a founder and Rabbi of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism from 1922 to 1944.

He founded the "Reconstructionist" Magazine in 1935 and the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation in 1940.