



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

September 2016/5777

Editor: Allen Guth

Photographer: Audrey Halpern

Copy Editor: Nora Kancelbaum

Contributors: Lynn Salzbrenner, Spike Radway

Upcoming Events

Fri., Sept. 16 – Shabbat Program – Professor Margery Koosed, p 2

Sun., Sept. 18 – Board Meeting

Mon., Oct. 3, 10:00 a.m. – Rosh Hashanah, p.1

Tues., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. – Erev Yom Kippur, p.1

Wed., Oct. 12, 4:00 p.m. – Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast & Program, p. 2

Sun., Oct. 23, 11:00 a.m. – Sukkot Celebration, p.2

2016-2017 Shabbat Programs Schedule Announced

Sept. 16: Margery Koosed. Update on Death Penalty

Oct. 21: Sharoan Hoffman. Aging with a Plan

Nov. 18: Bert Stratton: Yiddish Music

Dec. 23: Noah Budin: Songs of Chanukah

Jan. 20: Dennis Sutcliffe: Abba Silver and the Nazis

Feb. 10: Tu B'Shvat Brett Jones. The Green Economy

March 10: Purim. TBA

April 21: TBA

May 19: TBA

The Holidays

ROSH HASHANAH

Schnurmann House Service Center
1229 Drury Lane, Mayfield Heights

Mon., October 3, 10:00 a.m.

Please join us in this New Year celebration that will highlight and express the unity and cohesiveness of our secular community.

Rosh Hashanah program to be followed by luncheon.

RSVPs are necessary and must be received by Wed., **Sept. 28.** **Contact:** Peg Fishman at (440) 349-1330 or pegfishman@gmail.com.

The Rosh Hashanah program and lunch are "gratis" for members. For guests, there is a customary fee of **\$20.00**, which can be credited toward a JSC membership. If paying by check, make it payable to JSC.

Directions: The Schnurmann House Service Center is located on Drury Lane, which is off of SOM just north of the Eastgate Shopping Center. (Look for Rite Aid and Fifth Third Bank on the corner.)

EREV YOM KIPPUR

First Unitarian Church
21600 Shaker Blvd. E.

Tuesday, October 11, 7:30 p.m.

The Kol Nidre will be played. Feel free to bring a personal reflection (poem, reading). Please keep it brief (3 minutes or less) and non-theistic. There will be time to share memories about deceased loved ones.

NOTE: Holiday programs are free for JSC members. For non-members, a customary donation of **\$15.00** (per person) is requested. If paying by check, please make it payable to Jewish Secular Community. This fee can be credited toward a JSC membership.

YOM KIPPUR BREAK-THE-FAST & PROGRAM

First Unitarian Church
21600 Shaker Blvd. E.

Wednesday, October 12, 4:00 p.m.

RSVP required by **Friday, October 7.**

Contact Peg Fishman at (440) 349-1330 or pegfishman@gmail.com.

Break-The-Fast is free for JSC members. For non-members, a customary donation of **\$20.00** is requested. If paying by check, please make it payable to Jewish Secular Community. This fee can be credited toward a JSC membership.

SUKKOT CELEBRATION

Home of Edie and Walker Todd
1164 Sheerbrook Dr., Chagrin Falls, OH

Sunday, Oct. 23, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Schedule: **1.** 11:00 a.m., meet, mingle, and set out dishes for the buffet; **2.** 11:30, Sukkah building and decorating; **3.** 12:00, secular celebration of Sukkot; **4.** 12:30, buffet lunch

RSVP required by Thursday, Oct. 20. Call Peg Fishman at (440) 349-1330

Directions:

Take extension Route 422 East, exit at the sign for Aurora/Bainbridge/South Russell. Turn left as you exit the expressway onto State Route 306 North, then turn left onto Sheerbrook Drive. Sheerbrook Drive is about 3 miles north of Route 422 exit. **OR**

Take State Route 87 East (continuation of South Woodland); turn right onto State Route 306 South. Sheerbrook Drive is about 3 miles south of Route 87.

NOTE: The sign for Sheerbrook Drive is on the lower part of the sign that says "Chagrin Lakes Club." Members and Guests:

Please pull into the driveway, drop off your food and other items, then park on the street.

BYOC (Bring your own chair); also gourds, winter squash and other decorations for the Sukkah.

JSC will supply grilled frankfurters, etc.

For potluck lunch:

Bring for 10-12 people.

Please list ingredients.

A-J—casserole, soup or stew

K-V—salad or vegetable side dish

W-Z—dessert.

Shabbat Dinner and Program Friday, Sept. 16, 2016

First Unitarian Church, 21600 Shaker Blvd.

Speaker: **Margery Koosed**, Professor of Law, whose subject is Death Penalty: Time for Reform or Abolition?

Prof. Koosed is a graduate of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and holds a Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University School of Law. She is a Professor Emeritus at the Univ. of Akron School of Law and has authored and edited many volumes on the subject of capital punishment.

Please note earlier start time.

Meet and mingle at 6:15 pm

Brief presentation about our new logo, website and Facebook page at 6:30 pm

Shabbat program at 6:45 pm

Potluck dinner at 7:00 pm

Speaker 8:00 - 9:00 pm

NOTE: We will be using a check-in list at all Shabbat programs. Your RSVP is important to help us plan for food and room set up. Guests may attend two Shabbat programs at no charge. After that, the guest fee is \$20 for each Shabbat. The guest fee may be applied towards JSC membership dues. After the first two Shabbats, guests should also bring a side dish or dessert.

RSVP by Wed. Sept. 14th to

Lynn Salzbrenner [330-388-](tel:330-388-9393)

[9393](tel:330-388-9393) or lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com .

Last names **E - Z** bring a side dish or salad for 6 (couples please bring enough for 12);

A - D bring a dessert for 10 (couples please bring enough for 20). Please bring a list of ingredients and pre-cut if possible. The community will provide chicken, challah, wine, drinks, and all serving utensils.

We need YOU to help with Shabbat each month. You can greet those who attend, or you might want to lead the candle lighting and Shabbat program. If you want to participate, contact Lynn Salzbrenner 330-388-9393 or lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com

Shabbat Programs

Mark Weber and I are co-chairing the Shabbat committee this year and are looking forward to the upcoming season. As you may imagine, it takes a fair amount of planning to organize an interesting and pleasant evening for all. Therefore, we have two requests to ensure a smooth evening each month.

Please RSVP by the Wednesday before the Shabbat. You will receive four email reminders, and it is simple to hit the reply link to respond. New this year, you can RSVP through our new website, if you prefer. Do it as soon as you know you will be attending! It is essential that we know how many people are attending so that we can have the correct number of tables and chairs set up and plan for the right amount of food. While you may think that just adding one more person is no big deal, it is a problem when we have 10 or 12 people show up without letting us know! Ordering and paying for extra food to estimate how many people will show up who have not RSVP'd is a wasteful use of JSC membership dues. We also don't want to run out of food. This has been a problem most years. If this continues to be a problem, we may ask those who show up without RSVPing to wait until everyone else has taken their food before going through the food line.

Please be sure that your food contribution is large enough to serve the correct number of people. Side dishes should feed 6 people (couples should bring a side dish that serves 12). Desserts should feed 10 people (couples should bring a dessert that serves 20). We want to make sure that we have enough food for the people at the end of the food line, so we are asking couples to bring double the contribution of a single person. If you bring a guest, they do not need to bring a

food contribution the first two times they attend Shabbat. After that, the guest fee is \$20/Shabbat and they will be asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

As always, we appreciate speaker suggestions! If you have heard a good speaker, let us know. We have a few unfilled spots for this season, and are always collecting ideas for next year.

– Lynn Salzbrenner

The Social Scene

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL, SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

We're planning to attend the Jewish Film Festival--Sunday, Sept.11, Cedar-Lee Theater.

- We picked a series of short films--8 in all, ranging in length from 3 minutes to 18 minutes, and covering a range of subjects:

-- A Jewish girl's memories of living with Muslims in 1960's Casablanca

-- The amazing life of Jack Pashkovsk from his humble beginnings as a Russian immigrant to his years as a film photographer in Hollywood during its golden years

-- An examination of a Parisian family and their fears for their future in France

And more!

FIRST, we'll all meet at JACK'S DELI at 11:30 a.m. Then it's off to the CEDAR-LEE Theater for the 2:00 p.m. movie.

(NOTE EARLIER TIMES FROM PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT.)

THIS SHORT FILM SERIES will sell out quickly. So make your reservations NOW.

RSVP to Allen Guth, (216) 291-5869. Or allenguth@gmail.com. Make your check payable to: JSC in the amount of \$7.00 per person. (Group rate!) Mail to Allen Guth, 1043 Piermont Rd., Cleveland OH 44121.

How Did We Get Our New Website? — All About GiveCamp



*The Electronic Media Committee. JSC Team Members:
Spike Radway, Lori Berenson, Ron Fishman,
Dorothy Werblow and Paula Stone.*

The Jewish Secular Community has a new attractive, functional and mobile-friendly web site. If you have not visited our new site, you should!

You may be wondering how we managed to get such a wonderful website created for our community. Well, it's all because of GiveCamp! So now you must be wondering – what is GiveCamp? (Spike describes it as TzedakahCamp).

GiveCamp is a weekend-long event where software developers, designers, database administrators, project managers and creative professionals donate their time to create software and web-based applications for non-profit organizations. The Cleveland GiveCamp event is part of a national initiative thought up by a Microsoft executive in 2007. There are nearly 30 GiveCamps throughout the country benefiting hundreds of nonprofits every year. The Cleveland event takes place at the LeanDog Boat (former Hornblowers) and Burke Lakefront Airport on the shores of beautiful Lake Erie.

The event is entirely volunteer-driven and some of the volunteers take the “camp” part of GiveCamp literally, pitching tents and staying all weekend. Great meals are provided (Spike gained almost 5 pounds), and there are many opportunities to network with professionals from around the world. Overall, it's a great opportunity for people to work together, develop new friendships, and do something important for the community.

There are a variety of projects completed during GiveCamp weekend. The only limitation is that

the project should be scoped to be able to be completed in a weekend. Everything is turned over to the nonprofits at the end of the weekend (developers cannot ask for payment), and the nonprofits are responsible for maintenance moving forward.

The first Cleveland GiveCamp took place in 2010 with more than 100 volunteers, 21 nonprofits and nearly \$250,000 worth of work donated during the course of the weekend. It was the largest first-time GiveCamp in the country and has grown to include more than 200 volunteers, around 20 nonprofits and \$625,000 in free development work each year since 2012.

The Jewish Secular Community has had a website for many years, but it was difficult to manage, visually out-of-date, and not usable on mobile devices. Spike Radway has been the webmaster for the last few years and was able to successfully avoid updating the site until our determined president Paula Stone relentlessly pushed the issue. Earlier this year, Spike, Paula and Lori Berenson met with our previous web developer to improve the JSC website. We realized that we would need a lot of planning meetings and a large budget to accomplish our goals.

Then Spike suggested GiveCamp since he was familiar with it from working with the Cleveland Digital Publishing Users Group, another non-profit organization. We carefully filled out the application and were later approved as one of 20 non-profits to participate. Examples of worthy non-profits included the Euclid Hunger Task Force, Gordon Square Arts District, Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates, and Working Animals Giving Service for Kids. We were very excited! We knew what this meant – that we were going to get a new, attractive, functional, and mobile website that we could update easily.

Spike and Paula started preparing weeks ahead of GiveCamp to create an outline of what we wanted on our website. By the time GiveCamp came around on the weekend of July 29th, we added Ron Fishman and Dorothy Werblow to our “JSC Camp” and created our new website! Spike spent over 24 hours at GiveCamp, and between Lori,

Paula, Ron and Dorothy, the rest of the committee easily spent 50 hours at GiveCamp. Our dedicated team of 6-8 talented web professionals/menches worked very hard to give us a fabulous new website using a popular tool called Wordpress. Each team member probably donated at least 25 hours each working on our website! A real value to JSC.

Since Give Camp we have been working very hard to add and edit content on the website. There is still more work to do, but we have a really good foundation. We want the website to be a useful tool for current members, and also help to attract new and younger members who can help keep our group going – and growing – for many years to come.

We will show off new features of the website in the months to come and also introduce you to our new Facebook page, which is another tool to publicize our community.

Please don't hesitate to ask us if you have any questions about our website or Facebook, and please let us know if you find something that should be corrected. We know JSC members are not shy about making corrections!

To see our new website go to <http://www.jewishsecularcommunity.org/>.

– Spike Radway

Celebrating the Contributions of Mickey Stern



On Sunday, July 31, 2016, more than 150 people gathered at the Cleveland Botanical Center to honor JSC member Mickey Stern, one of the founders of Preterm, a provider of abortion care and sexual health services. Speakers praising Mickey's contributions included her three children, friends, and Board Members of Preterm.

Mickey has always been devoted to social justice, beginning in 1952 when she helped to organize a protest of the execution of Julius and Ethel

Rosenberg. She joined the League for Peace and Freedom in 1957. In 1968, she traveled to Washington to hear Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. From 1965 to 1970, Mickey and her late husband Al were at the center of the anti-Vietnam War movement. Between 1972 and 1973 Mickey helped run a hotline with other women from Cleveland Women's Counseling (CWC). In its first year, they provided abortion counseling and referrals for 700 women. They focused on finding clinics that provided a high standard of medical care and counseling. An emergency loan fund was established to help pay for the procedure and travel costs. When abortion became legal following the Roe v. Wade ruling in 1973, the CWC thought their work would end. However, no other agencies stepped forward to take up their work. After months of planning (with her brother, JSC member Sid Brode, serving as the first accountant), Preterm opened its doors on March 15, 1974 and was the first non-profit abortion provider in the area. Mickey served as assistant director for 4 years and then joined the Board of Directors. She served on the Board for much of the next 30 years and is currently an emeritus board member. Preterm has continued to grow and expand its services for the past 42 years, thanks to the vision and dedication of Mickey Stern.

(This article is a summary of information written by Preterm)

– Lynn Salzbrenner

JSC Jottings

Our sympathy goes out to Alan Cohen. Alan's daughter, Patricia Cohen, passed away July 28th at the age of 55. Pat, called Twinkie by family and friends, was a special needs educator. A board member of the NEOEA and OEA, Pat had retired from the Deepwood Foundation.

The memorial service was held on Wednesday, August 3 at 2:00 PM at the Shaker Historical Society. There was no visitation.

Memorial donations may be made to Special Olympics.

Please fill out the following food identification label and bring it along with your dish. This will allow members to:

- determine whether or not they can or want to eat the food that you brought, due to allergies, sensitivities, or general likes/dislikes
- talk to you about the dish you brought
- thank you if they love the dish you brought
- ask you for the recipe

<p>Food Identification</p> <hr/> <p>Name of Food</p> <hr/> <p>Brought by</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gluten Free (contains NO wheat, barley, rye, oats) <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian (contains NO animal products)</p> <p>Contains other allergens, including: <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Fish <input type="checkbox"/> Soy <input type="checkbox"/> Shellfish <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Nuts <input type="checkbox"/> Peanuts <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p><i>Please list carefully as those with allergies can have severe and harmful reactions.</i></p>

– Lori Berenson

The JSC Mission

The Jewish Secular Community, affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations, is a non-profit cultural and educational organization whose purpose is to:

- ✧ *Encourage Jewish identification in a non-theistic setting that draws inspiration from the traditional Jewish sources and values*
- ✧ *Educate adults in the history, culture, and tenets of Judaism*
- ✧ *Celebrate and observe Jewish holidays and life cycle events*
- ✧ *Contribute to the betterment of our society through social action and volunteerism*
- ✧ *Provide a link to a world-wide community of secular Jews*

JSC Leadership Contacts 2016 - 2017

President

Paula Stone, 440-461-3383*
pmstone118@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Ken Weiss, 216-991-7926*
kmweiss@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Dorothy Werblow, 216-408-2840*
werblow@aol.com

Secretary

Edie Todd, 440-338-1169*
egmtodd@gmail.com

Friday Night Shabbat Programs

Lynn Salzbrenner, 330-388-9393
lynsalzbrenner@gmail.com

Mark Weber, 440-519-0220
laboraction2000@gmail.com

Madrikh

Mark Weber, 440-519-0220
laboraction2000@gmail.com

Holidays

Suzette Cohen, 440-449-1078*
suzettecohen@yahoo.com

Peg Fishman, 440-349-1330*
pegfishman@gmail.com

Jim Mayer, 216-371-9937*
jim.mayer69@gmail.com

Barbara Smith, 440-442-5380*
sbarmar@att.net

John Szucs, 216-932-7118*
Jszucs1937@gmail.com

Spike Radway, 216-691-1949
teamspike@mac.com

Christi Carlson, 216-691-1949
christicarlson@mac.com

Membership

Lori Berenson, 216-381-3323
lorib@berenson.net

Arnie Pearl, 216-701-0697
apearl@email.org

E-mail Postmaster

Scott Radway, 216-691-1949
teamspike@mac.com

Newsletter

Allen Guth, 216-291-5869*
allenguth@gmail.com

Social

Barbara Smith, 440-442-5380*
sbarmar@att.net

Allen Guth, 216-291-5869*
allenguth@gmail.com

Community Service

Sandy Guth, 216-291-5869*
allenguth@gmail.com

Publicity

Sandy Guth, 216-291-5869*
allenguth@gmail.com

Good & Welfare

Debbie Schwab
440-248-3030

*Member of JSC Board of Trustees