



# The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

[www.jewishsecularcommunity.org](http://www.jewishsecularcommunity.org)

October 2016/5777

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## Upcoming Events

**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. 16** – Board Meeting

**Fri., Oct. 21** – Shabbat Program –Sharona Hoffman, p. 2

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

## 2016-2017 Shabbat Programs Schedule Announced

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 Hillel 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. **Contact:** Peg Fishman at (440) 349-1330 or [pegfishman@gmail.com](mailto: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 Jewish Secular Community.

**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.

**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](mailto: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. Contact Peg Fishman (see above.)

**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, October 21, 2016**

**First Unitarian Church**, 21600 Shaker Blvd.

Speaker: **Sharona Hoffman**, Professor of Law and author whose topic is "Aging with a Plan: How a Little Thought Today Can Vastly Improve Your Tomorrow."

Sharona Hoffman is the Edgar A. Hahn Professor of Law, professor of bioethics, and co-director of the Law-Medicine Center at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. She received her B.A. from Wellesley College, her J.D. from Harvard Law School, and an LL.M. in health law from the University of Houston..

Meet and mingle 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. Oct. 19** to Lynn

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

or [lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com](mailto:lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com) .

Last names **A-D and H-Z** bring a side dish or salad for 6 (couples please bring enough for 12); **E-G** 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.

## Community Service



### Once again it's the season of giving.

The National Council of Jewish Women is sponsoring Operation Warm-Up, a community collection of winter clothing for those in need.

You've been generous in the past years, so we know you'll do your part at the **November 18 Shabbat** when we'll be collecting the following:

- **Adult waterproof winter coats, gloves and boots.**
- **New packaged socks and underwear for men, women and children.**
- **Winter hats for men, women and children.**
- **Adult hoodies (2XL and up)**

## The Bookshelf



*Ronnie Gilbert: A Radical Life in Song*  
University of California Press. 2015. 272 Pages.  
notes, index, and photos

Ronnie Gilbert (1926-2015) is best known for her role as the female vocalist in the radical folk group known as the Weavers. She was born Ruth Alice Gilbert in 1926 in New York City. Her parents were Jewish immigrants from the Ukraine. Both her mother and father were

members of the Communist Party as well as union organizers.

In 1948 in Greenwich Village, as post-war McCarthyism was about to begin, Ronnie Gilbert joined with Pete Seeger (1919-2014), Freddie Hellerman (1927-2016), and Lee Hays (1914-1981) to form the Weavers. From the Weavers we get such folk songs as "On Top of Old Smoky," "Good Night Irene," "If I had a Hammer," "Kisses Sweeter than Wine," and "Tzena, Tzena, Tzena." During its short life as a folk group, the Weavers influenced the Kingston Trio; the Limeliters; Peter, Paul and Mary; and Bob Dylan. The Weavers were credited with beginning what became known as the "new folk revival" in the 1950's.

The group's members were accused by the House UnAmerican Activities Committee of being Communists because of their refusal to sign loyalty oaths. For this, they were blacklisted and were unable to book any engagements outside of a few appearances before union audiences. They formally disbanded in 1952 but returned in 1981 for a final reunion concert at Carnegie Hall. Later that year, the oldest of the group, Lee Hays, died. Ronnie Gilbert continued her performance career as an actress. One of her many associations was with Joseph Chaiken and the "Open Theatre."

My first awareness of the Weavers came in 1982, when I attended in Cleveland a showing of a documentary film, "The Weavers: Wasn't that a Time."

In *Ronnie Gilbert: A Radical Life in Song*, Gilbert vividly recounts her fascinating life of folk music, acting, and political activism. A fine book.

– Mark Weber

## Jewish Surnames: A Brief History

Other than aristocrats and wealthy people, Jews did not get surnames in Eastern Europe until the Napoleon years of the early 19th century. Most of the Jews from countries conquered by Napoleon -- Russia, Poland, and Germany -- were ordered to

adopt surnames for tax purposes.

After Napoleon's defeat, many Jews dropped these names and returned to "son of" names such as: MENDELSON, JACOBSON, LEVINSON, etc.

During the so called Emancipation, Jews were once more ordered to take surnames. In Austria the Emperor Joseph made Jews take last names in the late 1700s, Poland in 1821 and Russia in 1844. It's probable that some of our families have had last names for 175 years or less.

In France and the Anglo Saxon countries surnames went back to the 16th century. Also Sephardic Jews had surnames stretching back centuries. Spain, prior to Ferdinand and Isabella, was a golden habitat for Jews. They were expelled by Isabella in the same year that Columbus sailed for America.

The earliest American Jews were Sephardic.

In general there were five types of names (people had to pay for their choice of names; the poor had assigned names):

1-- Names that were descriptive of the head of household:

Examples:

HOCH (tall)  
KLEIN (small)  
COHEN (descendant of Aaron on the male line)  
BURGER (village dweller)  
SHEIN (good looking)  
LEVI (Levite)  
GROSS (large)  
SCHWARTZ (dark or black)  
WEISS (white)  
KURTZ (short)  
GROSSBARD (big beard)  
GELBART (yellow beard)

2 -- Names describing occupations:

Examples:

HOLTZ (wood)  
HOLTZHOCKER (wood chopper)  
GELTSCHMIDT (goldsmith)  
SCHNEIDER (tailor)  
KREIGSMAN (warrior)  
MALAMED (teacher)  
EISEN (iron)  
FISCHER (fisherman)  
SCHMUCKLER (jeweler)

3.-- Names from place of origin:

Examples:

BERLIN  
FRANKFURTER  
DANZIGER  
OPPENHEIMER  
DEUTSCH (German)  
POLLACK (Polish)  
BRESLAU  
MANNHEIM  
CRACOW  
WARSHAW  
KOENIGSBERG

4. -- Bought names:

Examples:

GLUCK (luck),  
ROSEN (roses),  
ROSENBLATT (rose paper or leaf),  
ROSENBERG (rose mountain),  
ROTHMAN (red man),  
DIAMOND  
KOENIG (king),  
SPIELMAN (spiel is to play),  
LIEBER (lover),  
BERG (mountain),  
WASSERMAN (water dweller),  
KIRSHENBLATT (cherry [colored] paper),  
STEIN (stone, stoneware, beer mug).

5-- Assigned names (usually undesirable):

Examples:

PLOTZ (to die),  
KLUTZ (clumsy),  
BILLIG (cheap)  
BARDAKI (bordello operator)  
SCHEINSKOPF (shiny head)  
BECKMESSER (knife beak)  
MONCHARSH (monk's arse)

Original Birth Names of Jewish Performers:

Woody Allen --- Alan Stewart Koenigsberg  
June Allyson --- Ella Geisman  
Lauren Bacall --- Betty Joan Perske  
Jack Benny --- Benjamin Kubelsky  
Irving Berlin --- Israel Baline  
Milton Berle --- Milton Berlinger  
Joey Bishop --- Joseph Gottlieb  
Karen Black --- Karen Blanche Ziegler  
Victor Borge --- Borge Rosenbaum  
Fanny Brice --- Fanny Borach  
Mel Brooks --- Melvin Kaminsky  
George Burns --- Nathan Birnbaum  
Eddie Cantor --- Edward Israel Iskowitz  
Jeff Chandler --- Ira Grosse  
Lee J. Cobb --- Amos Jacob

Tony Curtis --- Bernard Schwartz  
 Rodney Dangerfield --- Jacob Cohen  
 Kirk Douglas --- Issue Danielovich Demsky  
 Melvyn Douglas --- Melvyn Hesselberg  
 Bob Dylan --- Bobby Zimmerman  
 Paulette Goddard --- Marion Levy  
 Lee Grant --- Lyova Geisman  
 Elliot Gould --- Elliot Goldstein  
 Judy Holliday --- Judith Tuvim  
 Al Jolson --- Asa Yoelson  
 Danny Kaye --- David Daniel Kaminsky  
 Michael Landon --- Michael Orowitz  
 Steve Lawrence --- Sidney Leibowitz  
 Jerry Lewis --- Joseph Levitch  
 Peter Lorre --- Lazlo Lowenstein  
 Elaine May --- Elaine Berlin  
 Yves Montand --- Ivo Levy  
 Mike Nichols --- Michael Peschkowsky  
 Joan Rivers --- Joan Molinsky  
 Edward G. Robinson --- Emanuel Goldenberg  
 Jane Seymour --- Joyce Penelope Frankenburg  
 Simone Signoret --- Simone-Henriette Kaminker  
 Beverly Sills --- Belle Silverman  
 Sophie Tucker --- Sophia Kalish  
 Gene Wilder --- Gerald Silberman

*Thanks to Neil Naftolin for this article.*

**Greg Malkin:  
 Finalist Ernst & Young  
 Entrepreneur of the Year**

The Ernst & Young (EY) Entrepreneur Award, founded in 1986, is a global competition that encourages the start-up of businesses encompassing a wide range of fields, including the launching of retail and consumer products, technology, emerging energy, digital media, etc.

Greg Malkin was a finalist in the competition for this award in 2016. He founded the Young Entrepreneur Institute (YEI) in 2005 at University School. To quote from the EY website: "Malkin realized through his volunteer work with Junior Achievement and ECity that he wanted to teach entrepreneurship to others, especially those from low income situations."

YEI stresses the importance of experiencing entrepreneurship early in life, making such subjects as math and writing more relevant to students. YEI focuses on perseverance, hard work, managing adversity and problem solving as some of the characteristics required for success in life.

Every year, YEI helps empower educators in hundreds of schools and organizations to help them launch and expand their programs. For example, the 2015 Teen Tech Tank video pitch competition drew entries from 17 high schools. The five winners pitched their ideas to a team from TV's "Shark Tank." What an experience for young entrepreneurs!

Congratulations, Greg!

## **Jottings**

**When you're having some medical issues**, it's nice to get a little cheering-up. If you know of a JSC member who fits this description, contact our Sunshine Lady, Debbie Schwab--440-248-3030--and Debbie will get out a personal, "Hope You're Feeling Better" greetings.

## **Calling All Writers**

The editorial policy of the newsletter will be nonpartisan, balanced, and receptive to opposing points of view. Items of opinion do not represent the "official" position of the JSC or its Board of Trustees. We welcome attributed letters with comments, rebuttals, or new information. Subject only to space, time, interest to fellow members, and editorial constraints, your article, told in your own words, will be gratefully accepted.



### Photo Gallery: Shabbat September 16, 2016



Professor Margery Koosed, Our Featured Speaker



Spike Radway

Lori Berenson



Karen Tucker

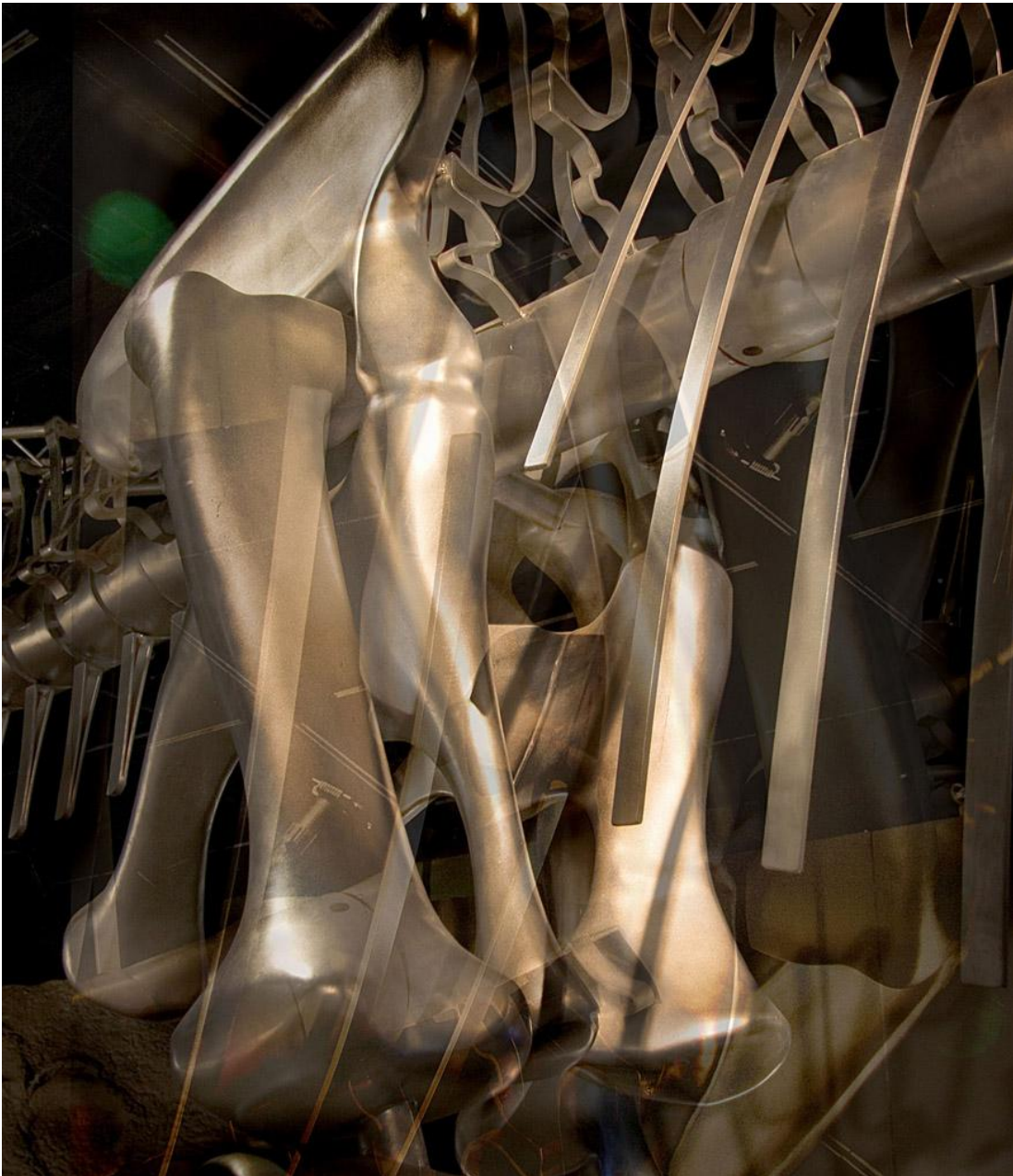
Beverly Feingold



Lauren Smith

Spike Radway

Photos by Audrey Halpern



**“Them Bones” by Audrey Halpern,  
currently on display at Mandel JCC, one of  
forty-eight photos that were accepted by the show.**

**Please fill out the following food identification label and bring it along with your potluck 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> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of Food</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brought by</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gluten Free</b> (contains <b>NO</b> wheat, barley, rye, oats)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vegetarian</b> (contains <b>NO</b> animal products)</p> <p>Contains other allergens, including: <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Fish <input type="checkbox"/> Soy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shellfish <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Nuts <input type="checkbox"/> Peanuts <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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

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\*Member of JSC Board of Trustees