



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

November 2016/5777

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Upcoming Events

Sun., Nov. 13 – Social Outing – Maltz Museum, p. 2

Fri., Nov. 18 – Operation Warmup, p. 2

Fri., Nov. 18 – Shabbat Program – Bert Stratton, Yiddish Music, p. 1

Sun., Nov. 20 – Board Meeting

2016-2017 Shabbat Programs Schedule Announced

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. G. Malkin: Teaching Kids To Be Capitalists

April 21: Lisa Schattinger: Ohio End of Life Options

May 19: Greg Coleridge: Getting Corporate Money Out of Elections

Shabbat Dinner and Program Friday, November 18, 2016

First Unitarian Church, Fellowship Hall,
21600 Shaker Blvd. E.

Speaker: **Bert Stratton**, whose topic is “Yiddish Music.” Bert started Yiddishe Cup in 1988. He plays clarinet, writes a blog – Klezmer Guy: Real Music and Real Estate – and publishes op eds about music and real estate (his day job) in the *New York Times*.

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 Wednesday, Nov. 16 to Lynn Salzbrenner (330-388-9393)
or (lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com).

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

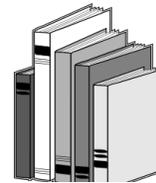
- **Adult waterproof winter coats, gloves and boots.**
- **New packaged socks and underwear for men, women and children.**
- **Winter hats for men, women and children.**
- **Adult hoodies (2XL and up)**

**Maltz Museum Current
Exhibition: This Light of Ours:
Activist Photographers from the
Civil Rights Era
Sunday, November 13, 1:45 P. M.**

The Social Committee is planning a get-together at the Maltz Museum's exhibition honoring the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s. The exhibition starts at 2:00 p.m, but plan to get to the Maltz by 1:45 p.m. There will be a docent. The charge will be \$10.00 each for those who are not members of the Maltz Museum. Checks are to be made payable to Maltz Museum and presented at the front desk by JSC members and guests. We will meet first at Corky's at **Noon** for lunch. Depending on the response, we will reserve the back room.

Location: Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, 2929 Richmond Road, Beachwood, OH 44122.
RSVP to Allen Guth at 216-291-5869 or allenguth@gmail.com so we can make reservations at Corky's.

The Bookshelf



Trouble in the Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict over Israel. By Dov Waxman.
Princeton University Press. 316 pages.
\$29.95 (hardcover) 2016.

Professor Dov Waxman is Professor of Political Science and Israel Studies at Northeastern University. His new book examines how American Jews feel about Israel. It is no secret that American Jews are bitterly divided over Israel. The fact that non-Orthodox Jewish religious groups (mainly Conservative and Reform as well as secular) have fewer rights in Israel than anywhere in the Western world, together with the almost half-century of Israeli military occupation of the West Bank, has sharply split American Jewish opinion in the U.S.

In reality, writes Professor Waxman, there are two Jewish communities in the United States. The first is older, more Republican, more Orthodox, and committed to shielding Israel from criticism and only marginally receptive to a two-state solution. The second is younger, more secular, less tribal, overwhelmingly Democratic, less institutionally-affiliated, and much more troubled by Israel's direction. Polls show that only 24% of Jews aged 18 to 29 believe that Israel is making a sincere effort to make peace with the Palestinians. Among Jews over the age of 50, the number of American Jews who believe this rises to 43%. Among the younger age category of American Jews, 25% feel that the U.S. government's support for Israel is excessive. Among American

Jews over the age of 50, that belief is held by only 5% of American Jews surveyed.

According to Waxman, his book's central thesis is that "an historic change has been taking place in the American Jewish relationship with Israel. The age of unquestioning and unstinting support for Israel is over. The pro-Israel consensus that once united American Jews is fast eroding and Israel is fast becoming a source of division rather than one of unity."

Whether one agrees with Professor Waxman's viewpoint or not, this book is a provocative look at an American Jewish community in transition.

– Mark Weber

A Jew in the South One Man's Unlikely Story

In the contentious history of the civil rights movement, a number of names come to mind, some heroes, others villains: the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Stokely Carmichael, Malcolm X, Gov. George Wallace, among others

An unlikely name that might be overlooked--but that played an important role in U.S. race relations--was the New York-born Harry Golden ne Hershel Goldhirst (1903-1981).

As a young man, Golden was convicted for investment fraud in the midst of the Great Depression, sending shock waves through Wall Street. Our country is the land of new starts, which is what Golden did upon his release from jail, picking up and heading to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he founded the *Carolina Israelite* newspaper in 1941, and spent the next 30 years as an outspoken advocate for civil rights and social justice, not any easy task in those times for a transplanted Northern Jew in the South.

With tongue-in-cheek, Goldman, ever the humorist (the Jewish Mark Twain?) wrote "The Vertical Negro Plan," calling for chairs to be taken away in public schools leaving only desks for students to use. "After all," reasoned Golden, "blacks and whites could stand in lines together at banks, post offices and grocery stores. It was only when the Negro "sits" that the fur begins to fly."

The story of this cigar-smoking, bourbon-loving raconteur is re-told in a new biography, *Carolina Israelite: How Harry Golden Made Us Care About Jews, the South, and Civil Rights*, by Kimberly Marlowe Hartnett (UNC Press, 2015.)

– Allen Guth

What You Should Worry About at Night

Over four years ago, long before the current presidential race, retired Supreme Court Justice David Souter gave a talk entitled "The Perils of Eroded Civic Knowledge."

Here are his prophetic words:

I think some of the aspects of current American government that people on both sides find frustrating is the inability of people to understand how government should function. This inability is a product of civic ignorance.

Jefferson said: "An ignorant people can never remain a free people." When asked what kind of government would the Constitution give us if adapted, Franklin said: "A Republic. If you can keep it."

I don't worry about losing our Republic form of government because I'm afraid of a foreign invasion. I don't worry about a military coup. What I worry about is that when problems are not addressed, the people will not know who is responsible. And when the problems get bad enough as might happen, for example, with another terrorist attack or another financial melt down, some one person might come forward and say "Give me total power and I will solve the problems." This is how and why the Roman Republic form of government fell. Augustus became Emperor not because he arrested the Roman senate, but because he promised he would solve all the problems that were not being solved.

I have enough faith in the American people to demand performance from those responsible. If we don't know, we will stay

away from the polls. And the day will come when somebody will come forward, and we will, in effect, say "Do what you have to do." This is the way democracy dies. If something is not done to improve the level of civic knowledge, that is what you should worry about at night.

**Leo Tobacman:
95 Years Young
Happy Birthday!**



Leo Tobacman
A World War II navigatsman
Congratulations now in order
No blame to him for our world's disorder

Leo Tobacman
Puns on puns with face deadpan
Talks no babble
When he wins at Scrabble

Leo, he walks slower
Of this he can be proud
Now patience and deliberation
Mark this man's gentle concentration

Leo's three "children"
Janet (now Shifra) Larry and Ken
3 grand and 2 great grands
Visit this man as best they can

Let's celebrate Leo now
Just ask Leo to show us how
He has had ninety-four years to practice
And take note, he's paid his taxes

So when I have finished my oration
Don't be bashful with your 'gratulation
As Leo, a retired engineer
Begins his awaited ninety-fifth year

– Jim Mayer

**Photo Gallery
October 21, 2016
Shabbat**



**Sharona Hoffman, our featured speaker
spoke about "Aging with a Plan"**

Photos by Ken Weiss

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 Debbie Schwab -- Good and Welfare, 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.

* * *

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> <hr/> <p>Name of Food</p> <hr/> <p>Brought by</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gluten Free (contains NO wheat, barley, rye, oats)</p> <p><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>
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– 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*

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