



# The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

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

January 2017/5778

*Happy New Year!*

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## Upcoming Events

**Sun., Jan. 15** – Board Meeting

**Fri., Jan. 20** – Shabbat Program, Dennis Sutcliffe, p. 1

**Fri., Feb. 10** – Tu B'Shvat Program

## 2016-2017 Shabbat Programs Schedule Announced

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

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

March 10: Purim. Greg 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

**You're missing a name tag?** Let Lori Berenson know: 216-381-3323 or [lorib@berenson.net](mailto:lorib@berenson.net)

**Thanks to those of you who have contributed** to the JSC General Fund and the Falendar fund. We now have \$1,486.00 in these funds, which are used to assist victims of devastating acts of nature, such as Hurricane Katrina and the forest fires in California and Israel.

## Shabbat Program Friday, Jan. 20, 2017

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

Dennis Sutcliffe will speak to the JSC on Friday, Jan. 20, 2017. His talk is titled "Rabbi Abba Silver's Battle Against the Cleveland Nazis."

A lifelong Clevelander, Dennis attended Benedictine High School and received his undergraduate degree and MBA from Cleveland State University.

Dennis spent 28 years working for the Progressive Corporation in various finance and information technology positions. He retired in 2006.

His activities have included serving as a volunteer for the Western Reserve Historical Society. His programs generated thousands of dollars in revenue for the society and he was named volunteer of the Year for 2012. He is a local historian and master storyteller.

Meet and mingle at **6:15 pm**  
Shabbat program at **6:45 pm**  
Potluck dinner at **7:00 pm**  
Speaker at **8:00 – 9:00 pm**

**NOTE: We will be using a check-in list at all Shabbat programs. Be sure to check in at the entrance to Fellowship Hall.** 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.

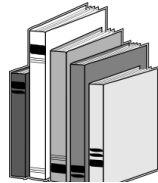
**RSVP by Wednesday, Jan. 18** to Lynn Salzbrenner (330-388-9393) or ([lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com](mailto:lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com)).

Last names **A-P and SM-Z** bring a side dish or salad for 6 (couples please bring enough for 12); **R-SH** 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.

### **JSC Discussion Group**

The next JSC Discussion Group, headed by Ken Weiss, will be on **Jan. 4th at 7:00 pm** at the Beachwood Library, 25501 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood. The topic is "Does Secular Humanistic Judaism have a future?" There will be excerpts from various video presentations. Check our website for more details. No RSVP necessary. Will see you there.

### **The Bookshelf**



*The Populist Explosion: How the Great Recession Transformed European and American Politics.* By John Judis. Columbia Global Reports. 2016. 182 pages. Acknowledgements. Further Reading. Notes. \$12.99.

**Respected political analyst John Judis** has written an insightful book on the rise of both right-wing and left-wing populism in the United States and Western Europe in the years since the "great recession," which started in 2008 with the housing mortgage crisis and which is not entirely over even today.

Since the Great Depression of 1929-1941, there have been two principal political eras in the United States and Western Europe. The first was the "social democratic consensus," which lasted

from 1933 to 1989. This period included the development of the modern social welfare state in the West as an alternative to Soviet Communism. The second was the "neoliberal consensus," which lasted from about 1990 through the present. This period is characterized by the rise of global capitalism, free markets, open borders, and the privatization of public institutions. This latter period has produced greater and greater accumulations of wealth in the hands of fewer and fewer people. According to Judis, the decline of standards of living and especially of wages led to the formation of "populist" parties on both the Right and the Left in Europe and the formation of populist tendencies within both the Democratic and Republican Parties in the United States.

This book was written before the Electoral College victory of Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election. However, in this informative book, we learn about the various left-wing populist parties like Syriza: The Coalition of the Radical Left in Greece and Podemos ("We can") in Spain. On the right, we have such parties as The National Front in France and Golden Dawn in Greece.

The right-wing parties have two themes: opposition to austerity measures and hostility to immigrants. Both the left and the right want to appeal to working people and the middle class, the two social classes most directly affected by austerity and the pruning of the safety net by governments that pursue privatization of public institutions. The book's discussion of populism in the United States focuses on the campaigns of Bernie Sanders on the left and Donald Trump on the right. This discussion is less satisfying because it often equates Sanders and Trump as being the same except that the candidates are at opposite ends of the political spectrum. This diminishes the differences between Trump and Sanders on issues like tax reform, public education, climate change, and other issues.

Recommended for anyone who is interested in the current political scene in the United States and Western Europe.

– **Mark Weber**

*Twenty-Six Seconds:**A Personal History Of The Zapruder Film*

By Alexandra Zapruder (Twelve, 2016) 472 pages. Notes. Index.

**When Abraham Zapruder, age 15, left Czarist Russia** on July 3, 1920 aboard the S. S. Rotterdam with his family and pulled into New York Harbor 9 days later, he didn't realize that this was just the beginning of an adventure of historic importance.

Forty-three years later, on Friday, November 22, 1963, now a family man with two children residing in Dallas, Texas, and operating a successful dress manufacturing business, Abe was eagerly awaiting the arrival of John F. Kennedy. America's youngest president was paying a visit to Texas to help round up votes in this Republican state in his second run for the presidency.

Over the years, Abe took many home movies of his growing family, and in 1962, purchased a new 8 mm Bell & Howell 414 PD Director Series movie camera from Peacock Jewelry on Elm Street in downtown Dallas. Abe was especially impressed with its wide-angle and zoom setting. The power came from the mechanism inside the camera that the operator winds up to make it ready to film. When set at "full wind" the camera runs uninterrupted for seventy-three seconds, ideal for capturing any image.

On that fateful Friday, Abe was anxious to get to Dealey Plaza early to get the best view of the motorcade carrying his beloved president. His business, Jennifer Juniors, was just around the corner on Elm Street. However, he mistakenly left his camera at home and didn't want to retrieve it, but his assistant, Lillian, insisted that he go back and get the camera. After all, this was a visit from President Kennedy! Finally, camera in tow, Abe made his way to Dealey Plaza and set himself up on a four foot high concrete abutment. He spotted the approaching convertible limo with the magic couple--Jackie in pink and a smiling President Kennedy waving to the cheering crowds. Abe re-cranked the Bell & Howell to "full wind" and started filming . . .

The rest is history, a history fraught with guilt and conflicting feelings for the Zapruder family—especially for son Henry, an attorney. Through the years (Abe died in 1970), the Zapruders were hounded by members of the media for the rights

to publish the film. LIFE magazine was awarded the rights to publish selected frames in a special issue of the magazine—for \$25,000. LIFE also was given exclusive rights to a copy of the complete 26 second film—for an additional \$125,000. The Zapruder family retained the rights to the original film which was stored in a vault in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The Zapruders donated \$25,000 to the family of J.D. Tippit, the Dallas police officer who was fatally shot by Lee Harvey Oswald. (The remaining \$125,000, retained by the Zapruder family, was kept low key but was another source of their conflicted feelings, remembering the anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia.)

In the 1990's, the government, believing that the original film belonged to the American people, made a move to "take" the film, employing the government's right to exercise the power of eminent domain. The Constitution, however, stipulates that the individual or parties involved must be compensated. What is the Zapruder film worth? There was no precedent for a film that was seized in this way. The case went to arbitration and after several months of intense negotiations by lawyers on both sides, CNN reported on August 3, 1999, that the Zapruder family was awarded \$16 million for the JFK assassination film.

The film clip remains a source of controversy to this day. The individual frames of the film pose, to some, many unanswered questions as to whether Oswald acted alone or was part of a conspiracy, throwing a shadow over the findings of the Warren Commission.

In the coming decades, what tolls will time and the elements take on this 26-second strip of film residing in the vaults of the National Archives? This is another story that awaits to be told about Abraham Zapruder's haunted home movie.

"Twenty-Six Seconds" is a compelling, well-documented account as told by Abraham Zapruder's granddaughter of someone who, in his own words, "was at the wrong place at the wrong time."

– Allen Guth

## What Does CSJO Do for JSC?

Last month's JSC Newsletter told you of CSJO's newly announced affiliation with the Secular Coalition of America.

As an affiliate of CSJO, we have the right to ask, How does JSC benefit from this association? CSJO provides JSC, and other affiliates around the country with helpful information and materials related to:

- Membership growth and services
- Adult Programming
- Adult Education
- Volunteering
- Management & Administration
- PR, publicity and outreach
- Youth Involvement
- Celebration and Observances
- Community Service
- Affiliates' Newsletters
- CSJO annual conference information
- CSJO annual financial reports
- And more . . .

As stated in December's Newsletter, our affiliation with CSJO and the Secular Coalition of America, gives us a national voice related to issues that are important to us, from women's right to choose to ensuring the continued viability of Israel and Jews throughout the world in an era of instability and threat.

## JSC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party

Set aside Sunday, **June 25**. That's when we are celebrating JSC's 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY at Dino's at Acacia (formerly the Acacia Country Club.) It's going to be a real bash with great food, drinks, entertainment and a program that will highlight the past fifty years of JSC! Look for more announcements in the coming months!

## Jottings

**Adam Fishman**, son of Peg and Ron Fishman, is engaged to Rebecca Miner, originally from Fairview Park, Ohio

Adam is employed as a software engineer at

Decision Desk in Lakewood, Ohio. Rebecca is store manager at Brooks Brothers at Tower City. Both reside in downtown Cleveland and are avid Cavs and Indians fans, as well as active members of Playhouse Square Partners.

Wedding date to be announced.

Mazel tov to Peg and Ron!

\* \* \*

Here's a note to JSC from Diane Weiner, Volunteer Manager of Montefiore:

"We at Montefiore wanted to take a moment and thank you for your participation with our residents on Sunday, December 25. Our residents were thrilled participating with you for Bingo, making their day a little brighter. They always enjoy visitors and especially so when the holiday season approaches. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Jewish Secular Community for many years to come."

JSC volunteers on Christmas Day were: **Marlit Polsky, Nora Kancelbaum, John Szcus, Barbara and Marvin Smith, and Sandy and Allen Guth.**

\* \* \*

**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.

**Photo Gallery:  
Chanukah Celebration  
December 23, 2016**



Noah Budin sings the songs of Chanukah



Photos by Audrey Halpern

**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 style="text-align: center;">Name of Food</p> <hr/> <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> meat products)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vegan</b> (<b>NO</b> meat or dairy 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 style="text-align: center;"><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*

## JSC Leadership Contacts 2016 - 2017

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