



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

March 2017/5778

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Upcoming Events

Fri., Mar. 10 – Purim. pg. 1

Sun., Mar. 26 – Board Meeting

Fri., Apr. 14 – Passover Seder

2017 Shabbat Programs Schedule Announced

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

Purim/Shabbat Dinner and Program Friday, Mar. 10, 2017

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

JSC member Greg Malkin will speak to the JSC on Friday, Mar. 10, 2017. His talk is titled "Teaching Kids To Be Capitalists."

Greg holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from MIT and a Master's degree in Education from Ursuline College. He founded Technical Software, Inc. in 1983 and

sold the business to a public company in 2000. Several years later, he started Young Entrepreneur Institute (YEI), which focuses on K-12 entrepreneurship education both locally and around the world based out of University School. Greg has won numerous awards due to his efforts for YEI including Teacher of the Year by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship.

We will celebrate Purim with a new Magillah by Jim Mayer. There will be poems and songs and special gifts. Costumes are welcome! JSC will provide the hamentashen, and you will provide the groggers (Styrofoam containers, please!)

Meet and mingle at **6:30 pm**
Purim/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, Mar. 8 to Lynn Salzbrenner ([330-388-9393](tel:330-388-9393)) or (lynnalsalzbrenner@gmail.com).

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

V-Z 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



The Kosher Food Bank has asked JSC for a helping hand, so we're planning to donate (*Tzedekah*) kosher food items for Passover to this worthy organization. Bring what you can to the **March 10** Shabbat. The Bank has requested kosher for Passover matzah, matzah meal, plus protein foods like canned tuna and salmon, fresh produce and other jar and canned goods. Heinen's in University Heights has a large kosher food section, but you can find kosher foods at other Heinen's locations as well as Marc's and Costco.

Our past food drives have been very successful, so we know you'll all come through on Friday, March 10.

The Bookshelf



War Against War: The American Fight for Peace: 1914-1918. By Michael Kazin. Simon and Schuster. 2017. Acknowledgments. Key Events. Abbreviations. Notes. Readings. Index. 378 pages.

I.

Every November at something called "Veterans Day" but was once called Armistice Day, we remember the soldiers who died fighting in World War I. However, historian Michael Kazin reminds us that we should also honor those brave Americans who stood up to oppose our nation's drift to war.

Professor Kazin has given us a compelling study of those in the United States who stood up and opposed war and militarism. It is a sketch of the American Peace movement before the Great War (1914-1918). The study brims with life and with memorable sketches of such remarkable women as Jane Addams, Lillian Wald, Carrie Chapman Cott, and Crystal Eastman. Each of these women were social reformers in their own right who then lead the fight against American entry into World War I.

We also learn about such political figures as Senator Robert LaFollette of Wisconsin, Congressman Claude Kitchen (D-NC), who was the leader of the Democratic Caucus in the House of Representatives, and industrialists such as Andrew Carnegie and Henry Ford, who were, despite their many other faults, genuinely opposed to American entry into the "war to end all wars."

II.

Once War was declared by Congress in April of 1917, President Wilson turned on his fellow citizens in the peace movement. Led by Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer and Postmaster General Albert Burleson, offices were raided, peace publications were banned from the mails, immigrant peace activists were arrested. Several died in police custody while several thousand were deported. Anti-war speakers were attacked by either the police or by "patriotic" mobs. Socialist orator Eugene V. Debs was arrested in 1918 for an anti-war speech he gave in Canton, Ohio. Debs was convicted under the Espionage Act and sentenced to 16 years in prison. The self-righteous Wilson refused all pleas to pardon Debs. In 1921, after Wilson left office in disgrace, the new president, conservative Republican Warren Harding pardoned Debs and invited him to the White House. His health broken by prison, the newly-freed Debs would die four years later in 1926.

For an insightful study of those Americans who opposed our entry into World War I, I recommend this book. For a similar study of the British peace movement, I suggest Adam Hochschild's fine book, *To End All Wars*.

– **Mark Weber**

Anti-Semitism on Rise in U.S.?

Abraham Foxman, retired national director of the Anti-Defamation League, spoke in Cleveland last year and stated that anti-Semitism, although rising globally, was leveling off in the U.S.

Fast forward to February 2017. The Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery in University City, Missouri, was vandalized by an unknown hate group where 170 headstones were toppled at the historical burial site. Happily, a local Muslim group raised money and helped restore the cemetery.

The Mandel Jewish Community Center in Beachwood was among ten community centers threatened on Monday, Feb. 20, and dozens more threats were recorded in recent weeks according to *The Plain Dealer* of Feb. 25.

Michael Meng, associate professor of history at Clemson University, explains that what we are witnessing today is part of the history of how violence against Jews has unfolded, that perpetrators "target a symbolic space and by targeting that symbolic space, they make it clear they are targeting the entire Jewish community." Prof. Meng points out in a recent interview in the *Washington Post* that in 19th-century Russia the outburst of violence against Jews took the form of vandalizing cemeteries, synagogues and Jewish-owned stores.

Aaron Breitbart (no relation to the right-wing news site) has written that whenever there is an upswing in bigotry against one group of people, all people can fall victim to this movement.

– **Allen Guth**

JSC's 50th Anniversary Party

Set aside Sunday, **June 25**. That's when we are celebrating JSC's 50th 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

By the time you read this, **Linda Klein** will be recuperating from complete reverse shoulder surgery that took place on February 27. Linda hopes to be back in shape to continue working on her award-winning gardens that will start blooming this Spring. By the way, in October of last year, Linda became a great grandmother. "Johnny," Linda says, "would have had his first great grandchild, Harley Klein Stefanchik. a beautiful little girl."

* * *

Suzette Cohen, like Linda is equally creative in her own way: She has three paintings on display at the community art exhibition--Eyes to the Sky, The Art of Astronomy at the West Woods Nature Center, 9465 Kinsman Rd. (Rt. 84) Russell Twp., Feb. 12 - April 24, from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily. This is an awesome show and well worth the trip.

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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 meat products)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Vegan (NO meat or dairy 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><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*

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