



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

April 2017/5778

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Upcoming Events

Fri., Apr. 14 – Passover Seder, p. 2

Fri., Apr. 21 – Shabbat Celebration, p.1

Sun., Apr. 23 – Board Meeting

2017 Shabbat Programs Schedule Announced

April 21: Lisa Schattinger: Ohio End-of-Life Options

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

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, April 19 to Lynn Salzbrenner (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.

Shabbat Dinner and Program Friday, April 21, 2017

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

Speaker: Lisa Schattinger, Ohio End-of-Life Options.

Topic: Why We Need A Death-With-Dignity Law In Ohio

Meet and mingle at **6:30 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

Passover Seder Celebration

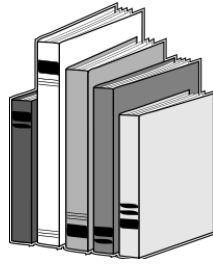
Join JSC members and guests at our 2017 Passover celebration:

Friday, April 14, 2017
Fellowship Hall
First Unitarian Church
21600 Shaker Blvd. E.
Shaker Heights, OH

Meet and Mingle: **5:30 p.m.**
Seder: **6:00 p.m.**
Cost: Free for members; **\$20.00** for guests.

RSVP by Friday, April 7, by contacting Peg Fishman, 440-349-1330 or pegfishman@gmail.com

The Bookshelf



Depression Folk: Grassroots Music and Left-Wing Politics in 1930's America. By Ronald D. Cohen. University of North Carolina Press. 2016. Photos. Notes. Index. 201 pages.

Professor Cohen, emeritus professor at the Northwest campus of Indiana University, has written a compelling, engaging, and highly readable account of how what we call “folk music” came to play an increasingly pivotal role in the politics of the labor movement and the American left during the 1930's.

In this absorbing book, Professor Cohen provides us with some fine thoughts on the complex cultural history of folk music in the United States. The author deals with the musicians, government agencies, and record companies that had a lasting impact during the 1930's and beyond. He covers a myriad of musical styles and performers, and he weaves this into a fascinating story that began in 19th century labor politics and popular music culture, following the rise of trade unionism and Communism to the subsequent Red Scare and the increasing power of the conservative movement in the country.

However, he makes certain to connect the larger historical movements and ideologies with the popular music traditions of those times, especially the folk music tradition in its many different forms of expression. Professor Cohen also includes detailed looks at some of the notable musicians of the period such as Pete Seeger, Big Bill Broonzy, and Woody Guthrie. The author uses the roots of American folk music as a lens through which to see politics and culture of the 1930's. Through its entanglement with left-wing politics, American folk music became synonymous with protest and sharing the troubles of ordinary people through song. Recommended!

– **Mark Weber**

"We Just Knew It Was The Right Thing To Do"

—Nancy Wurzel

Volunteering, giving of your time and resources to the community at large comes naturally to Don Sayre and Nancy Wurzel, long-time JSC members.

Don and Nancy carry on a family tradition of philanthropy that goes back generations: Nancy's grandfather helped build a psychiatric hospital in the 1930's in Philadelphia, Nancy's hometown. Clevelanders are familiar with Shoes for Kids (now known as Shoes and Clothes for Kids) founded by Morrie Sayre, Don's father.

Don and Nancy recently created a donor fund--the Sayre/Wurzel Activities Fund for Stone Gardens, where Don's mother resides and leads an active life.

For the whole story of this inspiring couple, see the recent Menorah Park Campus News: sgavanditti@menorahpark.org

– **Allen Guth**

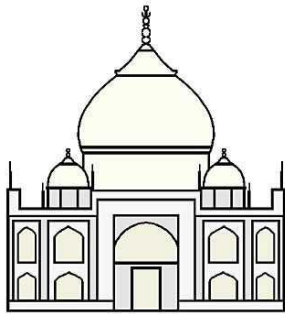
JSC's 50th Anniversary Party

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

Thanks to all of you who contributed kosher-for-Passover food items at the March Shabbat. We collected 4 large cartons of foodstuffs and dropped them off at the Kosher Food Pantry on Lee Road, which were then distributed to needy members of the Cleveland community. The people who run the Kosher Food Pantry were very grateful for the generosity of the Jewish Secular Community.

India: A Magical and Mystical Land



On February 28, I left on my second visit to India. From the moment I came back from my first trip in 2008, I knew that I would be returning. I tried to get someone to accompany me, it didn't work out, so I joined a group with Overseas Adventure Travel. I was a loyal customer as this was my 10th trip with them.

It's a very long flight but worth every minute. India has a population of 1.3 billion. That's wall-to-wall people any way you slice it. The Indian people are over 80% Hindus. They are born to a life of good works because they need to do good karmas to reach nirvana after at least 9 reincarnations. Hinduism is the oldest religion in the world (over 5,000 years) and is considered a "way of life" rather than a religion since there are no rules or rituals that are mandatory. Singing and dancing a la Bollywood is an important part of Hinduism. There is only one unknowable god, but there are about 3,500 gods and goddesses in the life of a Hindi.

India is very poor but it is on its way in leaving behind this third world status in the world economy. India is in the midst of becoming a cashless society. This is necessary if the country is to achieve all its goals. All sales are now made in cash thereby avoiding the tax man. If, however, merchants are forced to deposit these funds into the banks, then the government can collect taxes thereby improving the economy. This accountability would put a damper on the petty corruption that exists throughout Asia. Without a decrease in corruption, there will never be efficiencies and progress in the courts, law enforcement, the military and daily life.

Continuing our journey, Varanazie (formerly Bernares) is a holy city. The people come to this

city on the Ganges to die and be cremated. Vananzie has many ashrams for the care of the elderly. This is as close as India comes to offering nursing home and hospice care. Seniors are taken care of by family members, too.

We learned about the infamous caste system, which is officially outlawed, but a people's culture sometimes overrides the laws of the land. Caste is a part of Hinduism and is based on one's occupation.

Arranged marriages predominate in India and is accepted by many. A young Indian will say in defense of this practice, "Why not? Who knows me better than my parents and siblings?"

We all attended a home-hosted dinner. Our group of 5 dined with a retired army colonel and his wife. They have a son who lives in Mumbai with his family. Every month the grandmothers changed their homes so that they can spend meaningful time with their grandchildren. This is a custom in situations where the children live in a different city. I think we in the West can learn something from this custom.

Yes, we visited highlight spots such as the Taj Mahal and some of the monuments and forts that are one thousand years old, but the opportunity to learn about another culture was the true highlight of my trip to India.

– Dorothy Werblow

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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.

Photo Gallery: Purim, March 10, 2017



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>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 <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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