



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

November 2017/5778

Editor: Allen Guth

Photographer: Audrey Halpern

Copy Editor: Nora Kancelbaum

Contributors: Mark Weber

Upcoming Events

Fri. Nov. 17-- Shabbat Program, p. 1

Fri. Nov 17 – Kosher Food Bank, p. 2

Sat. Nov. 18 – Social Outing, p. 2

Sun. Dec. 3-- Board Meeting

Guest speaker: Patrick Kearns, whose subject is “The Infrastructure of Compassion”

Patrick Kearns is the Executive Director of the Refugee Response. He has worked in Southeast Asia for the past 14 years working with the education program of Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy. More recently, Patrick acted as the Director of World Education in Thailand and Myanmar. He is a graduate of Miami University, Oxford, OH.

Meet and mingle at **6:15 pm**

Shabbat program & potluck dinner at **6:30 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 toward JSC membership dues. After the first two Shabbats, guests should also bring a side dish or dessert.

RSVP by Wed. Nov. 15 to
Lynn Salzbrenner [330-388-9393](tel: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.

2017-2018 Friday Shabbat Programs/Holidays

Nov. 17 Patrick Kearns. Refugee Response.

Dec. 15 Noah Budin. Songs of Chanukah.

Jan. 26 Tu B'Shvat. Doreen Schreiber.
Treating Solid Waste.

Feb.16 TBA

Mar. 2 Purim. Greg McNeil. Opioid Addiction.

April 20 Cantor Greg Gelender. B'way
Memories and Melodies.

May 18 Robin Rood, Nutritionist Dietician

Shabbat Dinner and Program Friday, Nov. 17, 2017

First Unitarian Church, 21600 Shaker Blvd.

We need YOU to help with Shabbat each month. You can greet those who attend, or you might want to lead the candle lighting and Shabbat program. If you want to participate, contact Lynn Salzbrenner [330-388-9393](tel:330-388-9393) or lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com

The Social Scene

Tired of all the frustrating news coming out of Washington, D.C., lately?

If yes, then join us on **Saturday, November 18**, at the Winking Lizard Tavern and Restaurant, 25200 Miles Road, in Bedford Heights for an enjoyable evening out. Your JSC Social Committee has reserved a private room that will hold as many members and guests as we can get to sign up. After dinner, which starts at **5:30**, we'll play BINGO (only 25 cents per game) and socialize. We had a BINGO night a few years ago to great success.

It's not too early to SIGN UP NOW. Contact Barb Smith at 440-442-5380 or sbarmar@twc.com; or Allen Guth at 216-291-5869 or allenguth@gmail.com.

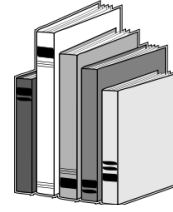
Community Service

The Kosher Food Bank has asked JSC for a helping hand, so we're planning to donate (*Tzedekah*) kosher food items to this worthy organization. Bring what you can to the **November 17** Shabbat. The Bank has specifically requested kosher protein foods like canned tuna and salmon, fresh produce and grains 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.

Good & Welfare

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. Be sure to send Debbie good news, too.

The Bookshelf



The Citizenship Papers: Essays by Wendell Berry. (Berkeley, California: Counterpoint Books, 2014) 189 pages.

I thoroughly enjoyed this collection of nineteen essays by the novelist, poet, and essayist Wendell Berry. Known for his novels called the Port William Membership series and for his poetry, Wendell Berry is best known for his classic *What Are People For? The Citizenship Papers* is a ringing call to arms in defense of rural America, with its closeness to the land and to a place called "home."

In one of his seminal essays, he compares "the rational mind" unfavorably to what he terms "the sympathetic mind." He asserts that the rational mind seeks to standardize local communities around "one size fits all" while the sympathetic mind embraces the diversity and localism of small towns. The rational mind seeks to create large mechanized and automated corporate farms that treat all of agriculture as if it were simply a giant assembly line. The rational mind asserts that what matters is how to grow and harvest cash crops at the absolutely lowest cost, regardless of its impact on the local community. The sympathetic mind identifies with the moderately-paced life and values of the small town and farm life.

All of Berry's nineteen essays make for provocative reading as they go against the conventional thinking on rural life offered up by self-proclaimed "specialists" in the Department of Agriculture. Berry saves some of his strongest views for the corporations that have been pushing for a uniform farm policy that calls for the replacement of the family farm with large corporate farms that employ immigrant workers in slaughter houses that make for some of the dirtiest and most low-paying work in the United States.

Throughout these essays, Wendell Berry emerges as the closest thing we have to a prophet of responsibility and self-reliance...two of the values of rural America he strives to preserve. He writes with passion and compassion. We ignore his warnings at our peril.

– Mark Weber

talking about the weather or something equally mundane. "Jewed down" was (and is?) an accepted form of speech among a certain portion of the population, which makes it all the more dangerous and lethal.

– Allen Guth

Growing Up in St. Petersburg, Russia

Russia occupies 1/6 of the world's land mass, stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean. It has a long history of isolation (and distrust) from Europe and the rest of the Western world.

In 1703, to open the long-closed window to the West, Peter the Great founded what is now St. Petersburg. Located on the banks and delta islands of the Neva River at the head of the Gulf of Finland, the city was laid out along classical lines by French and Italian architects. The magnificent buildings of pale pastel green and pink facades with porticoes featuring European-inspired pilasters, columns and plastered heads of mythic animals and people--are all reflected in the glittering waters of the River Neva.

Joseph Brodsky (1940-1996), poet and essayist, tells the story of the city of his birth in a collection of essays (*Less Than One*, Farrar Straus Giroux, 1986, 501 pages.)

As a Jew, Brodsky felt compelled to deny his heritage even as a youngster in grade school. He writes: "I was ashamed of the word 'Jew' itself--in Russian 'yevrei'. All this is not to say that I suffered as a Jew at the tender age of seven; it's simply to say that my first lie had to do with my identity."

This experience struck a chord in my own life at school growing up on Cleveland's west side. In my 7th grade math class, the teacher (who looked very old to me at that time) illustrated a verbal math problem using the term "Jewed down." I was dumbstruck, and a few of my friends in the class room were embarrassed for me. But when you're a youngster in the 7th grade back in the late 1940s, you're not going to complain or take action. The teacher's remarks were not vindictive in any way but were nonchalantly tossed off like she might have been

Jottings

Meet **Alva Dworkin**, who joined JSC last year. Here is her story:

Alva was born, raised and married to Leo Dworkin in the Detroit area, and so she calls herself an alien here in Cleveland. Some of the people at Myers Senior Residence where she lives, refer to her as "Detroit."

Alva moved to Cleveland to be close to her family. Daughter Debbie and son-in-law Allan Ross have two children. Alva's son, Jeffrey, has three children, all pursuing careers around the country. "Amazing young people," says great grandmother Alva of her brood.

Alva attended Detroit's Case Technical High School majoring in art and graduated from Wayne State University with a master's degree in Art Education. She loved making art but did not enjoy teaching it in Detroit. After obtaining a second masters in Human Development, Alva was able to direct nursery schools and did so part time for over twenty years while raising her children. In addition, Alva worked for the State of Michigan as a consultant in nursery schools and daycare centers.

Before moving to Cleveland, Alva was president of the Sholem Aleichem Institute, a secular organization, and taught Yiddish for many years. She finds Cleveland an amazing city with its abundance of cultural institutions, and is impressed with the diversified and educational programs offered at our Friday night Shabbats.

"All in all, I think I'll work on becoming a Clevelander," says Alva.

Please fill out the following food identification label and bring it along with your 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) <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> |
|---|

– 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 2017 - 2018

President

Mark Weber, 440-519-0220*
laboraction2000@gmail.com

Vice President

Allen Guth, 216-291-5869*
allenguth@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dorothy Werblow, 216-408-2840*
werblow@aol.com

Secretary

Edie Todd, 440-338-1169*
egmtodd@gmail.com

Friday Night Shabbat Programs

Lynn Salzbrenner, 330-388-9393
lynsalzbrenner@gmail.com

Madrikh

Mark Weber, 440-519-0220
laboraction2000@gmail.com

Holidays

Suzette Cohen, 440-449-1078*
suzettecohen@yahoo.com

Peg Fishman, 440-349-1330*
pegfishman@gmail.com

Jim Mayer, 216-371-9937*
jim.mayer69@gmail.com

Barbara Smith, 440-442-5380*
sbarmar@att.net

John Szucs, 216-392-3194*
Jszucs1937@gmail.com

Spike Radway, 216-691-1949
teamspike@mac.com

Christi Carlson, 216-691-1949
christicarlson@mac.com

Membership

Bobbie Varble, 440-498-4747
nanagramps@icloud.com

E-mail Postmaster

Scott Radway, 216-691-1949
teamspike@mac.com

Newsletter

Allen Guth, 216-291-5869*
allenguth@gmail.com

Social

Barbara Smith, 440-442-5380*
sbarmar@att.net

Allen Guth, 216-291-5869*
allenguth@gmail.com

Community Service

Sandy Guth, 216-291-5869*
allenguth@gmail.com

Publicity

Sandy Guth, 216-291-5869*
allenguth@gmail.com

Good & Welfare

Debbie Schwab
440-248-3030

*Member of JSC Board of Trustees