



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

Happy New Year!

January 2018/5778

Editor: Allen Guth

Photographer: Audrey Halpern

Copy Editor: Nora Kancelbaum

Contributors: Nora Kancelbaum, Alva Dworkin

Upcoming Events

Sun. Jan. 21-- Board Meeting

Fri. Jan. 26—Tu B'Shvat, p. 1

2017-2018 Friday Shabbat Programs/Holidays

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

Feb. 16 Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Malta

Mar. 2 Purim. Greg McNeil. Opioid Addiction.

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

May 18 Robin Rood, Nutritionist Dietician, The History of Jews and Chocolate.

Tu B'Shvat, Shabbat Dinner and Program. Friday, January 26.

First Unitarian Church, 21600 Shaker Blvd.

Guest: Doreen Schreiber

Topic: Recycling Roadshow – Waste Reduction and Recycling in Cuyahoga County.

Doreen Schreiber is currently the Business Recycling Specialist for The Cuyahoga County

Solid Waste District in Garfield Heights, Ohio. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, she has been in the waste and recycling industry for 10 years, working for a large national waste hauling and recycling company as well as in the hazardous waste and wastewater treatment industry. Doreen received both her Bachelor of Science Degree and Master of Science Degree from The Ohio State University.

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

Shabbat/Tu B'Shvat & potluck dinner at **6:30 pm**
Speaker: **8:00 - 9:00 pm**

RSVP by Wed. Jan. 24 to
Lynn Salzbrenner [330-388-9393](tel:330-388-9393) or
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.

NOTE: At the December Shabbat/Chanukah celebration, a number of JSC members left the program early well before the songs of Chanukah concluded. If you have to leave our programming early, please sit in the rear of Fellowship Hall, causing less disruption.

A Word or Two About Yiddish

Yiddish is an unusual language. Although it has its origins in ancient Germany and is a Germanic language, it has been and still is the language of our people. It is spoken in all corners of the earth. Until the advent of the Holocaust and then the establishment of Israel, Yiddish flourished. Before then, Yiddish, along with the Torah and the celebration of our many holidays, was one of the binding forces of our people; we were a Diaspora people. There were remarkable Yiddish poets, writers and theater performers throughout the world. It was not unusual to travel to some distant land and be able to connect with a Yiddish speaker. There were synagogues in every European country and on every continent. And wherever Jews lived enabled the acquisition of new words and dialects into the language.

Perhaps, because of the Holocaust, Israeli leaders decided that Yiddish would not be the language of Israel. Its association with the tragedies of that ominous event in our history necessitated the use of Hebrew as the major spoken language there. Recently, however, the country has begun to encourage the use of Yiddish, realizing its error in discouraging its prominence. However, the very Orthodox Jews everywhere have always spoken it fluently and have used it as a major means of commerce.

Currently, there is a resurgence of Yiddish language usage in this country and elsewhere. It probably will never be the major means of commerce and communication among our people, but there are new young writers, musicians and entertainers who create in Yiddish. Mention should be made of the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts, where thousands of Yiddish books have been collected, digitized and preserved, and where Yiddish scholars and performers continue the work of their ancestors and create in today's world. Also, colleges and universities everywhere have instituted Judaic studies in their programs.

In Menorah Park both Myers and Wiggins, Temple Emanuel and Park Synagogue there are ongoing Yiddish group meetings where Yiddish

songs are sung and the language is joyfully recalled. So many profound and useful idioms and expressions are brought out and examined. We have gone beyond the Borsht Belt of yesteryear in today's world, and we are creating and reexamining the past usage of this remarkable language.

– Alva Dworkin
Edited by Rifke Feinstein

A Letter to The Federation

I sent the following letter to the Jewish Federation of Cleveland because of its positive response to President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. I had help from my daughter, Barbara, a 1978 JSC bat mitzvah and a writer and editor in Brooklyn, New York.

I have been a contributor to the Jewish Federation of Cleveland for more than 50 years. I have recently made my annual pledge. However, in light of the Federation's welcoming the official recognition by President Trump of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, I cannot in good conscience honor this pledge and request that it be canceled.

Peace between Israel and the Palestinian community is a great hope for me. Central to any discussion of peace is a recognition that Palestinians view East Jerusalem as their capital. Whether or not one agrees, we have to acknowledge that Trump's pandering to his conservative base serves no diplomatic purpose. On the contrary, his inappropriate official announcement was bound to result in anger, violence, and death.

The United States must be an honest broker in the Middle East. Any attempt to take sides in the Israeli/Palestinian dispute just lessens the prospects for peace.

While it is indeed part of the Federation's mission to support the Jewish state, your mission statement also expresses a goal to "encourage our members to fulfill the responsibility of *tikkun olam*, to make the world a better place." I do not see how Trump's announcement in any way makes the world a better place, and I can't fathom how the Federation can think otherwise.

– **Nora T. Kancelbaum**

How to Access the JSC Facebook Page

1. The JSC Facebook page can be found by clicking on or typing the following web address: <https://www.facebook.com/jewishsecularcommunityCLE/>
2. If that's too much typing, you can simply go to the Facebook site (www.Facebook.com) and then next to the "F" in the blue banner at the top of the page, type in Jewish Secular Community of Cleveland and it will come up. Actually, as you type, it may come up before you finish.
3. Or you can go to the JSC website (www.jewishsecularcommunity.org) and on the right side you will see the JSC logo – click on that and it will take you to the Facebook page.

On The Mend

I am exactly one month into recovery, and I have just started reducing the pain medication, which means that I am mostly pain-free. My knee is still swollen, and this may last up to 6 months (it varies with the individual). I walk a lot, with light use of a cane. I do my home exercises; on January 5, 2018, I will start physical therapy at Peter B Lewis at Cedar Road (spa: champagne and caviar every time :-).

I have been able to manage my dressing and hygiene without much help almost from the beginning. However, Rifke has been of tremendous help (her workload has increased a lot).

– **Hans Leander**

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.

Photo Gallery: December 2017 Chanukah



Photos by Audrey Halpern

Thanks to all who called or emailed me after I blacked out at the Shabbat. I'm having tests as well as some med changes. I expect I'll be in pain for a while, but I'm thankful nothing was broken. A special thanks to Don Sherman, Lori Berenson and Arnie Pearl. I am deeply grateful.

– **Audrey Halpern**

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