



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

February 2018/5778

Editor: Allen Guth

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Upcoming Events

Fri. Feb 16 – Shabbat Dinner and Program, p.1

Sun. Feb. 25 – Board Meeting

Fri. Mar. 2 – Purim Celebration

Sun. Apr. 1 – Passover Seder

2017-2018 Friday Shabbat Programs/Holidays

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

Mar. 2 Purim. Greg McNeil. Opioid Addiction.

April 1 Passover. Songfest with Chuck Fink

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

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

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.

Shabbat Dinner and Program Friday, February 16

First Unitarian Church, 21600 Shaker Blvd.

Guest: Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley

Topic: America's International Standing and Why It Is Important

Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, a 30-year diplomat, was the longest serving U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Malta. Other positions held include: advising the Commander of U.S. cyber forces on our foreign policy priorities; building coalitions to expand our counter-terrorism programs and coordinating the largest evacuation of American citizens from a war zone since World War II.

Meet and mingle at **6:30 pm**
Shabbat Program at **6:45 pm**
Potluck Dinner: **7:00 pm**
Speaker: **8:00 - 9:00 pm**

RSVP by Wed. Feb. 14 to
Lynn Salzbrenner [330-388-9393](tel:330-388-9393) or
lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com .

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

We are asking your help and participation in the following volunteer opportunity:

The Mandel JCC has a Senior Lunch Plus Program for individuals over the age of 60 who need special assistance. The program is offered six days a week, and offers participants a hot, nutritious lunch and activities such as crafts, exercise, bingo, entertainment and trips.

These lunch programs are held at the Warrensville Community Apartments, 1500 Warrensville Center Rd. in Cleveland Heights (the intersection of Warrensville and Mayfield Roads.)

We hope you can help out. Please contact me at [216-291-5869](tel:216-291-5869) or allenguth@gmail.com. I will then set up a date in the coming weeks, depending on your response.

– Sandy Guth

A Message from CSJO

Hope everyone is getting ready for our 48th annual conference. It looks to be an exciting event. This year our theme is "Courage, Conviction and Jewish Resistance." We have some exciting workshops lined up with topics ranging from Jewish heretics to Klezmer music. We are working to confirm a number of relevant organizations to give us information about their missions and current actions. We have reached out to our Jewish members of Congress and are working with them to see if their schedules will afford them the opportunity to participate.

A tour of Washington, D.C., will be included in this sensational weekend. The accommodations this year are superb. The rooms are hotel-like rather than dorm rooms, and the cafeteria food is very good, with both high quality and quantity. I think you will be very happy with this year's event. I will be sure to send you updates as we finalize the program. Looking forward to seeing you May 25-28 at the 4-H Club Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland!

Until next time, zayt gezunt (be well)!

Terry Waslow
Executive Director, CSJO

Heading South?

Have you ever visited the Deep South of Colonial Savannah and Historic Charleston? Here's your chance.

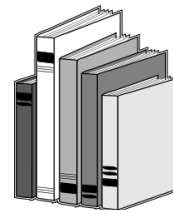
The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ) is sponsoring a 2-day trip to Savanna and Charleston on April 13-15, 2018.

To quote from the IISHJ website:

"A place, a people and a unique perspective on the world. Savannah and Charleston are made of history: the home of Revolutionary statesmen, early Jewish communities, slavery and expanding freedoms. Your host, Rabbi Adam Chalom, brings it all into focus with his thoughtful perspective.

For more information visit:
<https://iishj.org/shalom-yall/>

The Bookshelf



HITLER, MY NEIGHBOR
by Edgar Feuchtwanger with Bertil Scali,
translated from the French by Adriana
Hunter
(Other Press) 209 pages

Edgar Feuchtwanger, a bright 5-year-old, led the good life with his family in the Munich of 1929: leisurely summer vacations spent at the lake; piano lessons for Edgar emphasizing the works of Mozart and Chopin; quietly listening in to guests of his father, Ludwig, an editor, that included Thomas Mann and other German literary notables.

That year--1929-- a new resident moved into the neighborhood across the street from the Feuchtwangers into a nine-room apartment on the third floor of No. 16 Prinzregentenplatz.

Young Edgar would sometimes see the new arrival's silhouette in the window or pass him on the way to school close enough to note his icy-blue eyes.

Never in their wildest dreams (or nightmares) would the Feuchtwangers have suspected that the newly-arrived resident--Adolph Hitler--would forever change their lives.

The descent into fascism, however, was not immediate. It took place over a number of years, but was clearly described in *Mein Kampf*, Hitler's blueprint for the future.

The family started to notice people saluting Hitler in the street outside the apartment with outstretched arms like gladiators before a Roman emperor.

In the election of 1930, Hitler won 18% of the vote, increasing the Nazi party's power in the Reichstag. By 1933, the Nazis controlled 230 seats in the parliament, becoming the largest political force in Germany. Hindenburg appointed Hitler chancellor. That same year, more than 100,000 children, all in uniform, chanted Hitler's name at the Hitler Youth National Congress in Potsdam. Hindenburg appointed Hermann Göring president of the Reichstag. Joseph Goebbels spread his anti-Semitic propaganda in the pages of *Der Angriff*. However, Ludwig, Edgar's father, was not worried. "This is 1933! No one wants a dictatorship!"

In 1933, the SA, a group of thugs headed by Ernst Röhm, became part of the police force. Edgar's mother was now questioning whether the family should leave Germany, but Ludwig was still dubious. Other countries, he reasoned, were experiencing the financial crisis of the '30s and did not look favorably upon foreigners entering their country and taking their jobs. France? England? Where would Edgar go to school? He spoke only German. The U.S. was a long way away, and visas were hard to get. Ludwig considered Palestine a desert, hot in the summer and cold in the winter, and the family would become farmers, working the land, and dealing with Arab anti-Semitism. Ludwig reasoned that the family should remain in Germany.

In 1935, Germany increased the strength of its air force, the Luftwaffe, and of its navy, the Kriegsmarine, actions that were in clear violation

of the Treaty of Versailles, but the West took no action.

In 1936, German authorities issued an edict determining who is a true Aryan and who is not: If you have at least three grandparents of the Jewish faith, you are fully Jewish. If you have only one or two that meet this description, you are a "crossbred" Jew, or "half Jew." The German word for this: *Mischling*--of "mixed blood."

In 1938, Germany invaded and annexed Austria as western Europe watched from the sidelines.

Just as the conditions in Germany were deteriorating for Jews, so were conditions on a personal level for Edgar. His non-Jewish friends at school began to ignore him. Rosie, his nanny since he was an infant, left the household. And his father stopped going to the office because his job was eliminated.

The lack of action on the part of western Europe was reflected in the absence of decisiveness on the part of Edgar's father. Ludwig was an intellectual, a thoughtful, Hamlet-like character who weighed all facets of a problem before (if ever) taking action.

The fateful day came when the decision was made for him. On a chilly morning in November, 1938, Edgar was abruptly awakened by a loud hammering on the apartment door. The Gestapo broke in, arresting his father and hauling him out of the apartment amid the screams of his frantic mother.

It was one week later that the family found out that Ludwig was being held in Dachau. One month past and Ludwig was released and came home "a shriveled little man with a shaven head and a thin body, his eyes sunken in dark, sockets, his gray face patched with purplish bruises."

Finally in 1939, the Feuchtwangers were granted a family visa to Great Britain due to the efforts of Uncle Heinrich, who fought valiantly from Paris, contacting relatives in Palestine and France to amass the 1,000 pounds to purchase the visa.

In February 1939, Edgar, now fifteen years old, left Germany first, making the journey alone. He took the train across Germany and the Netherlands, a boat over the English Channel, and then by rail again to London. His parents followed 10 days later.

Edgar Feuchtwanger is now 94 years old. He taught history at the University of Southampton until he retired in 1989.

A day does not go by that Edgar doesn't think about his infamous neighbor across the street at No.16 Prinzregentenplatz.

– Allen Guth

Jottings

On December 9, Scott (Spike) Radway, was one of 30 participants who graduated from the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program of Cuyahoga Community College.

The program's purpose is to teach small businesses how to grow and prosper, which is an essential component to the future of N. E. Ohio. Spike describes his experience as a "bonding" and learned that the problems and challenges of different businesses are very similar.

For more information, check out:

<https://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/content/tncms/live/>

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We want to thank the family of long-time member Irv Bayer for a generous \$2,000 legacy gift to the Jewish Secular Community. Irv, who passed away in August at the age of 92, was a member of JSC since 2006 and could be counted on to attend many of our holiday celebrations and Shabbat programs that were an important part of Irv's life.

Once again our condolences to the Bayer family.

Photo Gallery: Tu B'Shvat January 2018



Guest Speaker: Doreen Schreiber



Photos by 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*

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