



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

March 2018/5778

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Upcoming Events

Fri. Mar. 2 – Shabbat Dinner, Purim Program

Sun. Apr. 1 – Passover Seder

Sun. Apr. 22 – Board Meeting

2017-2018 Friday Shabbat Programs/Holidays

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.

with loved ones struggling with opioid dependence. Greg has more than 36 years of IT industry sales and management experience. In 1999 he founded e-Business Express, which was re-branded in 2015 as 216Digital Inc., a digital agency in Cleveland with a portfolio of over 500 clients.

Meet and mingle at **6:30 pm**

Purim/Shabbat Program at **6:45 pm**

Potluck Dinner: **7:00 pm**

Speaker: **8:00 - 9:00 pm**

RSVP by Thur. March 1 to

Lynn Salzbrenner [330-388-9393](tel:330-388-9393) or lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com .

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

Shabbat Dinner and Purim Program Friday, March 2

First Unitarian Church, 21600 Shaker Blvd.

Guest: Greg McNeil

Topic: Opioid Addiction

Greg founded Cover2 Resources after losing his son, Sam, to a heroin overdose in October, 2015. Cover2 is a nonprofit dedicated to providing education and advocacy for families

Passover Seder

You'll be receiving for information in the next few weeks, but briefly:

Passover will be celebrated on Sunday, **April 1, 5:30 p.m.**

Fellowship Hall

First Unitarian Church

21600 Shaker Blvd. E.

RSVP to Peg Fishman, (440)-349-1330 or pegfishman@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 for Passover to this worthy organization. Bring what you can to the **April 1 Passover celebration**. 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 at Marc's and Costco.

Our past food drives have been very successful, so we know you'll all come through on **Sunday, April 1**, First Unitarian Church, **5:30 p.m.**

– **Sandy Guth**

Addiction: On the Road to Recovery

JSC members Liela and Sid Brode bring us up to date on the progress grandson Yehuda is making in his battle to conquer alcoholism. Many of you know that Yehuda, Debbie's son, was a JSC bat mitzvah (1977), and has been in and out of treatment centers for many years.

The last treatment center was AZ Jerusalem House, and so far Yehuda, 20, is doing well. Living in Israel, he has a job, his own apartment and is considering education as a vocation. He's taking one day at a time.

The link below will take you to an article about AZ Jerusalem House originally published in the January 19 issue of the Cleveland Jewish News. Embedded in the link is a video that describes the organization and includes a shot of Yehuda with his name posted, a nice feature for those of you who have not seen him since he was a youngster.

Of course, AZ House needs financial help like so many non-profit organizations.

Click on this link for this inspiring story:
https://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/news/local-news/ex-cleveland-seeks-to-change-addiction-recovery-conversation-in-israel/article_a451fc6a-fb95-11e7-9925-a3b511d6e654.html

A Message from CSJO

Tayere khaveyrim, dear friends,

Some of us are having a preview of spring and, like the plants getting ready to bloom, some of us are feeling that renewed energy. In light of the horrific events that recently occurred and all the chaos that seems to continue, we all need that energy as we work to bring about a *bessere velt*, a better world. Our Jewish heritage reminds us of this responsibility.

CSJO Conference 2018

This year's conference theme is "Courage, Conviction and Jewish Resistance." We will have a weekend filled with inspiration and activity. When joining together, we know that we can accomplish so much more than when we plan in isolation. Come hear what like-minded folks are doing, share your thoughts and activities and plan for future actions.

Learn more about and register for the conference [here](#). You can download the brochure [here](#).

We will have a few presenters from outside our CSJO community who will come and share inspiring stories and update us on very pertinent information regarding their organizations and ongoing accomplishments.

We are not completely finished with the program planning, so updates will be forthcoming. If you would like to facilitate a workshop, we have a bit of flexibility left. Please contact our events planner Sarah Waslow-Washington at sarah.csjo@gmail.com. This is promising to be a weekend filled with camaraderie and inspiration. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Annual Election

It is almost time for our annual election. There is time to nominate candidates for the following board positions: Vice Chair, Treasurer and two Adult Members at Large. Please contact Karen Knecht at knechtfour@aol.com or me (reply to this email or contact congress@csjo.org) with your nominations so that they can be

included on the slate. The terms are for two years. If you have any questions regarding the positions, please contact any current board members.

Speaking of current board members, you can now find them on our website. Each member of the board is listed with their position and a brief biography. Please [check it out!](#)

Pesach

Pesach is fast approaching. As you begin to think about the holiday, remember that we have a wonderful children's book available. You can get copies directly from [our E-Store](#) or contact me directly and I will make sure you get them before the first seder.

Jewish Cemetery Vandalism

About this time last year, there were a number of Jewish cemeteries vandalized. The incidents were reported in the national news. At one Philadelphia cemetery, 275 headstones were toppled. In response, CSJO donated funds to assist with the restoration project. Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to represent CSJO at a luncheon and presentation at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia updating funders and volunteers as to the efforts to restore the Mt. Carmel Cemetery. CSJO contributed to the \$260,000 raised and 300 volunteers that were part of this project. As a result of the response, the 275 headstones were restored along with other repairs that were made, including the development of new security measures.

This presentation was emotional for those families directly impacted by seeing the damage that occurred to their family members' headstones and also tapped deep feeling for those who took part in the restoration. Cemeteries are a repository of our families' and communities' history. This presentation also highlighted the need for ongoing efforts to restore and maintain some of the older and more isolated Jewish cemeteries.

Enjoy the revelry of Purim and, until next time, *zayt gezunt* (be well)!

Terry Waslow
Executive Director, CSJO
congress@csjo.org
[267-625-2756](tel:267-625-2756)

The Bookshelf



WHAT YOU DID NOT TELL

by Mark Mazower

(Other Press 2018) 379 pages

We are all victims (or beneficiaries) of the times in which we live.

Max Mazower, the principal subject of this book, researched and written by his grandson, was born in 1874 in Russia during the reign of the Tsar. His place of birth was Gradno, a town of 35,000 in the Pale of Settlement located in the northwestern part of the country.

By the late 19th century, the Pale's Jewish population accounted for 95% of the empire's 4 million Jews. The majority lived in squalor and poverty. Gradno was a disease-ridden shantytown that had hovels for homes inhabited by as many as 15 people. They endured crumbling walls and the stench of puddle-filled alleys.

When Max was 14 years old, his father Isif died, forcing Max to become the sole bread winner, supporting his mother and 4 siblings.

The book contains a photo of Max as a young man in his twenties. He is wearing a tan tweed suit tightly buttoned up. His eyes do not make contact with the camera. He is warily looking off to one side. He looks like a man with a secret. Secrets invite speculation. What was Max hiding?

By the turn of the century, Tsarist authorities felt the presence of enemies all around them. The city of Vilna, where the Mazowers now resided, was teaming with revolutionaries. The most zealous belonged to the Bund, the largest and most powerful labor movement in the Russian Empire. Max, at 25, was an active member of the directorate that ran the organization. To reach the masses, the Bund used Yiddish since most of the Jews in the Pale did not speak Russian.

In February of 1901, Max was arrested and was sentenced to 3 years of exile in the remote village of Uyarsko 3,000 miles east of Vilna. The enterprising Max escaped a few months later and made his way to Germany.

Max learned many skills as an active revolutionary, skills that included solving the problems of distribution, supply and communications--an organizer par excellence. After another arrest exiled him to Siberia--he escaped once again--he decided that henceforth he would put his resourcefulness and administrative abilities toward building a new life in a new homeland.

In 1909, living in Dresden, he saw an ad in the local newspaper. The Yost Typewriter Co., an American concern, was looking for a marketing manager for its London office. The typewriter in those years was to industry what the laptop is today: indispensable. He was interviewed, hired, and within a few years, with his resourcefulness, Russian connections, and knowledge of both English and Russian, was a resounding success.

Historical events of the ensuing years--Hitler's invasion of Europe and a world-wide depression--took their toll on Max and his family. By the late '30s, living in England with his wife Frouma and 3 children, Max finally had a semblance of what could be called a "normal" life, settling down in Highgate, a middle-class suburb north of London.

Max's life--a revolutionary on the run from Russia to Germany and finally to England, just one step ahead of his pursuers--was not a life that encouraged his role as an attentive father. His son, André, from another marriage, led a wayward life with no discernible skills or prospects, finally ending up in Argentina. His daughter, Ira, found some success in the fashion industry and as a writer of romance novels, but succumbed to suicide in her later years. Only William showed the tenacity of his father and found success in the corporate world of London.

Max died in 1952 at the age of 78. Under historical conditions that would have defeated most, Max Mazower managed to keep the family ship upright in the turbulent waters of the twentieth century.

– Allen Guth

Jottings

The movement March For Our Lives, organized by local high school students, will take place on Saturday, **March 24** from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Public Square. This is a first step to take some meaningful action on gun control. To take part in this march and for more information, check out the following link: [Cleveland March For Our Lives](#) .

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Debbie Schwab, our Good and Welfare chair, is usually on the receiving end of news from JSC members. Now Debbie has some good news: Her son Jeff became engaged to Rebecca Sisson on New Year's Eve. Jeff resides in Austin, Texas, and works for the automotive division of GE. Rebecca is a geneticist with Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Jeff plans to return to Cincinnati. The wedding date? The young couple are still working out the details.

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I am sure that we have all noticed the tremendous amount of trash that we generate from our Shabbat dinners. If JSC members would be willing to bring their own place setting, that would help to reduce the trash and save a bit of money for our group!

– Lynn Salzbrenner

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 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

<p>President Mark Weber, 440-519-0220* laboraction2000@gmail.com</p> <p>Vice President Allen Guth, 216-291-5869* allenguth@gmail.com</p> <p>Treasurer Dorothy Werblow, 216-408-2840* werblow@aol.com</p> <p>Secretary Edie Todd, 440-338-1169* egmtodd@gmail.com</p> <p>Friday Night Shabbat Programs Lynn Salzbrenner, 330-388-9393 lynsalzbrenner@gmail.com</p> <p>Madrikh Mark Weber, 440-519-0220 laboraction2000@gmail.com</p>	<p>Holidays Suzette Cohen, 440-449-1078* suzettecohen@yahoo.com</p> <p>Peg Fishman, 440-349-1330* pegfishman@gmail.com</p> <p>Jim Mayer, 216-371-9937* jim.mayer69@gmail.com</p> <p>Barbara Smith, 440-442-5380* sbarmar@att.net</p> <p>John Szucs, 216-392-3194* Jszucs1937@gmail.com</p> <p>Spike Radway, 216-691-1949 teamspike@mac.com</p> <p>Christi Carlson, 216-691-1949 christicarlson@mac.com</p> <p>Membership Bobbie Varble, 440-498-4747 nanagramps@icloud.com</p>	<p>E-mail Postmaster Scott Radway, 216-691-1949 teamspike@mac.com</p> <p>Newsletter Allen Guth, 216-291-5869* allenguth@gmail.com</p> <p>Social Barbara Smith, 440-442-5380* sbarmar@att.net</p> <p>Allen Guth, 216-291-5869* allenguth@gmail.com</p> <p>Community Service Sandy Guth, 216-291-5869* allenguth@gmail.com</p> <p>Publicity Sandy Guth, 216-291-5869* allenguth@gmail.com</p> <p>Good & Welfare Debbie Schwab 440-248-3030</p>
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*Member of JSC Board of Trustees