



# The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

[www.jewishsecularcommunity.org](http://www.jewishsecularcommunity.org)

April 2018/5778

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## Upcoming Events

**Sun. Apr. 1** – Passover Seder. p.1

**Fri. Apr. 20** – Shabbat Dinner/Program, p. 1

**Sun. Apr. 22** – Board Meeting

## 2017-2018 Friday Shabbat Programs/Holidays

**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.

## Passover Seder Celebration

Join JSC members and guests at our 2018 Passover celebration:

**Sunday, April 1, 2018**

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

Featuring Chuck Fink and the Songs of Passover

Meet and Mingle: **5:30 p.m.**

Seder: **6:00 p.m.**

Cost: Free for members; **\$20.00** for guests.

## Shabbat Dinner Program Friday, April 20

**First Unitarian Church**, 21600 Shaker Blvd.

**Guest:** Cantor Greg Gelender

**Topic:** Broadway Memories and Melodies

Cantor Gary Gelender has returned to Cleveland after serving as spiritual leader of a conservative synagogue in Pennsylvania, Congregation B'nai Abraham. He has served as a cantor for over 30 years in several synagogues in Cleveland.

Cantor Gelender holds a master's in Voice Performance from Cleveland State University and earned a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Kent State University. In addition to his cantorial positions, Cantor Gelender worked as a music specialist in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District for 24 years.

A lyric tenor and accomplished pianist, Cantor Gelender performs throughout the Cleveland, Akron, and Canton areas.

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., April 18** to  
Lynn Salzbrenner [330-388-9393](tel:330-388-9393) or  
[lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## 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**

## The Social Scene

**Now that spring here**, it's time to get out of that hibernation mode and enjoy the great outdoors.

Your Social Committee is planning a trip to Aurora, Ohio, on Sunday, May 6. We have set aside a block of seats for a matinee performance of that great Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, "The King and I." Contact your family and friends. The more the merrier!

Here's what you need to know:

The show will take place at the Aurora Community Theater Performance Arts Center, 115 E. Pioneer Trail, Aurora, Ohio.  
Date and Time: Sunday, **May 6, at 3 p.m**  
Group ticket rate: **\$14.00** per person

This musical will be a sell-out, so it's not too early to RSVP now! The cut-off date for reservations is April 18.

After the show, we'll all gather at a local Aurora restaurant for dinner and socializing. (more on this later.)

RSVP to Allen Guth, (216) 291-5869, [allenguth@gmail.com](mailto:allenguth@gmail.com), or Barb Smith, (440) 442-5380, [sbarmar@twc.com](mailto:sbarmar@twc.com)

Make your check payable to: Jewish Secular Community. Mail to Allen Guth, 1043 Piermont Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44121.

ACT NOW!

## CSJO Conference 2018

We have a [phenomenal conference](#) quickly approaching. Some highlights to share include Herb Silverman as an additional keynote speaker. Just a brief highlight about Herb: He is founder of the Secular Coalition for America, Secular Humanists of the Lowcountry in Charleston, S.C., and the Atheist/Humanist Alliance student group at the College of Charleston. Herb has published two books and written a number of articles for publications such as the *Washington Post*, *Huffington Post* and *Humanistic Judaism*, to name only a few. There is so much more to share about Herb, but I will let you find out directly when you hear him speak at the conference. Besides his keynote address, Herb will also be facilitating a workshop.

Also at the conference you will be able to view Lawrence Bush's photographic exhibit, "Resistance is the Lesson." We are very excited to display this exhibit and add it to CSJO's holdings. Come view it and see if this exhibit would be something you would want for your group.

May this Pesach find you inspired, energized and continuing the work of peace.

Until next time, zayt gezunt (be well)!

Terry Waslow  
Executive Director, CSJO  
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[267-625-2756](tel:267-625-2756)

## Theater in Israel: Alive and Well

**Roy Horovitz was a guest lecturer on March 12** at the Siegel College of Judaic Studies.

His subject, theater in Israel, was informative and entertaining and included videos of recent Israeli plays that accompanied his talk.

Horovitz, an accomplished director and actor residing in Israel, pointed out that Israelis support and attend more plays per capita than do people in any other country in the world. There are at least 50 stage presentations throughout the country on any given day. The Orthodox community does not participate in this love of theater.

It was not always this way. Over the centuries, it would be difficult to name a Jewish playwright of any significance, the exception being Arthur Miller in the 20th century. Jews left writing for the stage to non-Jewish writers.

However, this situation is changing. In the last few decades, many important playwrights have emerged in Israel, whose works deal with themes that play an important and meaningful role in Israeli daily life. The subjects include Secularism vs. Orthodoxy, living with the pressures of the Palestinian presence, and dealing with cancer. This last subject took the form of a musical set in a hospital ward. The upbeat lyrics defied this dreaded disease that knows no borders.

– **Allen Guth**

## The Bookshelf



**EVICTION: POVERTY AND PROFIT  
IN THE AMERICAN CITY**  
by Matthew Desmond  
(Crown Publishers 2016) 418 pages

**Today's headlines cry out about poverty in  
America**, where millions of citizens face

the challenges of feeding their families and surviving another day.

One of the most daunting challenges is the rise of evictions and homelessness facing these families.

This study--awarded the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction--examines these issues as they have unfolded over the past several years in the city of Milwaukee.

At one time, evictions were not a significant issue and where they did occur, were met by resistance. In the height of the Depression, it was not unusual for neighbors to confront the U.S. Marshalls directly, sitting on the evicted family's furniture to prevent its removal.

Today, eviction is a specialty, and proponents have it down to a science. There are sheriff squads whose full-time job is to carry out evictions and foreclosure orders. There are moving companies specializing in evictions. There are data-mining companies that sell landlords tenant screening reports listing past evictions and court filings. These days housing courts swell, forcing commissioners to settle cases in hallways and makeshift offices where most tenants don't bother to show up. Low income families have grown used to the rumble of moving vans and finding their belongings lining the curb.

In Milwaukee, the majority of poor renting families spend well over half their income on rent and keeping the lights on. In many cases, their income comes from the government in the form of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or federal housing vouchers.

The average monthly rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in Milwaukee at the time of this study was \$600 in a safe neighborhood. The average monthly rent in one of the city's poorest neighborhoods was not significantly less, only about a \$50 difference. Poor tenants have not much of a choice--if they want to feed their children. Slum landlords keep the rents high (and unaffordable), willing to deal with the hassle of evictions due to missed rental payments.

Tenants who pay their full rent on time each month are able to take advantage of legal protections to keep their housing safe and inhabitable. Not only can they summon building inspectors without fear of eviction, but they also have the right to withhold rent until the proper repairs are made. However, if they should fall behind in their rent, these legal protections disappear.

In the 1960s and '70s, based on a study by anthropologist Carol Stack in *All Our Kin*, destitute families often relied on extended networks of kin to get by. But large-scale social transformations--the crack epidemic, the rise of the black middle class, and the increase in the prison population--have frayed the family safety net in impoverished communities.

Sherenna Tarver and her husband Quinton are slum landlords in Milwaukee with an estimated net worth of \$2 million. Every month they collect \$20,000 in rent--going door-to-door since their tenants don't have checking accounts. The monthly mortgage payments on their 36 inner-city properties, all filled with tenants at or below the poverty level, is \$8,500. After paying the water bill, the couple nets around \$10,000 each month. Were any of these funds used to maintain their dilapidated properties rife with collapsing ceilings and burst water pipes? Not if they could get away with avoiding these expenditures.

In the words of Sherenna Tarver: "The 'hood is good. There's a lot of money to be made there."

– Allen Guth

### **Robert W. Goldberg, Ph.D. 1944-2018**

Robert (Bob) Goldberg, a member of the Jewish Secular Community since 1995, passed away on Wednesday morning, March 28. Bob retired in 2016 after 42 years of federal service, including 34 years as the VA Psychology Director of Training. He will be remembered by many JSC members as an engaging conversationalist with a wit as sharp as a tack. Our condolences to Cindy, Amy, Mark, and the entire Goldberg family.

### **Photo Gallery: Purim 2018**



Purim Dragon aka Spike Radway



Guest Speaker: Greg McNeil  
His subject: The Opioid Crisis

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

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| <p>Food Identification</p> <hr/> <p>Name of Food</p> <hr/> <p>Brought by</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gluten Free</b> (contains <b>NO</b> wheat, barley, rye, oats)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vegetarian</b> (contains <b>NO</b> animal products)</p> <p>Contains other allergens, including: <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Fish <input type="checkbox"/> Soy</p> <p><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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