



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

May/June 2018/5778

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Upcoming Events

Fri. May 18 – Shabbat Dinner/Program, p. 1

Sun. Jun. 3 – Board Meeting

Sun. Jun. 17 – Annual Meeting/Picnic

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., May 16 to
Lynn Salzbrenner [330-388-9393](tel:330-388-9393) or
lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com .

2017-2018 Friday Shabbat Programs/Holidays

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

Last names **A-D** and **H-Z** bring a side dish or salad for 6 (couples please bring enough for 12); **E-G** bring a dessert for 10 (couples please bring enough for 20). Please bring a list of ingredients and pre-cut and your own plates and utensils, if possible. This will help the environment. The community will provide chicken, challah, wine, drinks, and all serving utensils.

Shabbat Dinner Program Friday, May 18

First Unitarian Church, 21600 Shaker Blvd.

Guest: Robin Rood

Topic: The History of Jews and Chocolate

Robin Rood is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and has been working in the field of nutrition for 32 years. She has a master's in Nutrition Education from the University of Cincinnati and a master's in Judaic Studies from Siegal College. In 2016, she taught nutrition at the Loretta Paganini Cooking School in the Chef program, and in 2006, created a community weight loss program in partnership with Geauga Hospital and Geauga YMCA. Robin is the author of a number of textbooks on the subject of nutrition.

Annual Meeting/Picnic



The annual JSC picnic and meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 17**, at Geauga Park District's West Woods Park, 9465 Kinsman Rd. (Rt. 87), Turkey Ridge Shelter. The business portion of the outing

will start at **11:00 a.m.** Members will vote on the slate of officers and Board members that the nominating committee has identified.

Following JSC business, a great picnic lunch is planned--free for members.

If possible, please bring your own plates and silverware to help us reduce our trash and keep our environment "green."

President's Report

As our year draws to a close, I wanted to provide you with an update on our leadership for next year. All board members will be continuing in their positions except for two: Lynn Salzbrenner will be stepping down after serving another term as coordinator of Shabbat programs. She has done a superb job, and she has provided us with a very interesting lineup of speakers/programs each month. Allen Guth will continue on the board but he will be stepping down from one of his responsibilities: co-chair of our social committee. So, for our 2018-2019 year, we will be looking for a coordinator of Shabbat programs and co-chair of our social committee. I would like to thank Allen and Lynn for their service and to thank also all the other members of the board.

This year, our system of having small groups of members plan and run each of our holiday celebrations was very successful. Therefore, I'd like to ask if all those who worked on one particular holiday this past year would agree to work on this holiday again for one more year.

My thanks go to all members and friends of the Jewish Secular Community of Cleveland for your ongoing support.

– **Mark Weber**

CSJO Annual Conference 2018 "Courage, Conviction and Jewish Resistance"

FRIDAY, MAY 25 (4:00 PM) – MONDAY, MAY 28 (9:00 AM)

NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE CENTER
[7100 CONNECTICUT AVENUE](#)
CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815

We invite you to attend [CSJO's annual conference!](#) The conference center is situated on 12 beautiful acres in the Chevy Chase neighborhood, just minutes from Washington, D.C.'s museums and historic sites. While we normally meet on college campuses, this year our lodging is in a hotel with all the accompanying amenities, including an all-you-can-eat dining buffet.

The conference will open with our Shabbat gathering on Friday evening. The keynote addresses and workshops on Saturday and Sunday will, as always, be top-notch, presented by a mix of CSJO members and other knowledgeable speakers. On Saturday, we will all go for a twilight bus tour of the many monuments in Washington, D.C. As usual, Sunday's workshops culminate in our farewell dinner, which, in turn, is followed by the world-famous talent show where everyone has the opportunity to show off their many (or few!) talents.

Keynote speakers: Saturday May 26 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Jordan Shuster has proudly represented the CSJO Youth for the past two years as the Youth Representative to the Executive Committee. She has been attending CSJO conferences since 2010 and is a graduate of the Jewish Children's Folkshul in Philadelphia, PA. Jordi will graduate from Drexel University in June 2018 with B.S. degrees in Civil Engineering and Architectural Engineering, and she plans to transition one day into a career as an engineering librarian. In her (admittedly limited) spare time, Jordi can be found reading, singing, and walking shelter dogs as a volunteer for the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

Herb Silverman is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the College of Charleston, founder of the Secular Coalition for America, founder of the Secular Humanists of the Lowcountry in Charleston, SC, founder of the Atheist/Humanist Alliance student group at the College of Charleston, and a recipient of the American Humanist Association Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1990, a colleague pointed out that atheists were ineligible to hold public office in South Carolina. After an eight-year battle, Herb

won a unanimous decision in the South Carolina Supreme Court, that struck down this religious test requirement. He has written for the Washington Post, Huffington Post, The Humanist, Free Inquiry, Humanistic Judaism, and other magazines and blogs. Herb has appeared in a number of debates on topics that include: Can we be moral without God? Does God exist? Is America a Christian nation? He has also debated at Oxford University in England on the topic, Does American Religion Undermine American Values? Herb's books include *Candidate Without a Prayer: An Autobiography of a Jewish Atheist in the Bible Belt* and *An Atheist Stranger in a Strange Religious Land*. You can browse a collection of his public speeches and debates here, and visit his website at www.herbsilverman.com.

[DOWNLOAD THE CONFERENCE BROCHURE HERE](#)

To register by mail, download the [conference registration form](#). View the registration package options by [clicking here](#).

If you are registering for a youth under the age of 18 (teens 13 – 17), you must complete, sign and mail an Emergency Medical Form and Declaration of Responsibility to the conference registrar. You must also provide a copy of the youth's birth certificate. Download the documents and mailing instructions by [clicking here](#).

– Terry Waslow
Executive Director of CSJO

The Bookshelf



POGROM:
KISHINEV AND THE TILT OF HISTORY
by Steven J. Zipperstein
(Liveright Publishing 2018) 261 pages

The Holocaust is one of the tragedies of the 20th century, forever embedded in the minds of both Jews and non-Jews alike.

Except for scholars, the average person may not be aware of the uprising that took place over a 3-

day period in the provincial city of Kishinev in April of 1903--a precursor of the Holocaust.

Kishinev, the capital of Moldova located in the far reaches of the Russian empire, was the scene of what is now regarded as a pivotal event in the history of modern anti-Semitism, leading to the rise of Zionism, and a symbol of the worldwide racism that was to come.

During the 3 days of violence fomented by the surrounding anti-Semitic populace, 49 Jews were slaughtered, 600 raped and wounded, and more than 1,000 Jewish-owned homes and stores were ransacked and destroyed. Kishinev would become the prototype of the modern-day pogrom.

The Kishinev pogrom pushed political groups to organize, leading the United States to allow the relatively unrestricted immigration of Jews.

The events of Kishinev have passed into mythology and, as such, have created a cloud over the true history of these riots. Prof. Zipperstein, the Daniel E. Koshland Professor in Jewish Culture and History at Stanford University, after years of research, has revealed, for example, a letter from the Ministry of the Interior of the Imperial Russian government that turns out to be a forgery. The letter purportedly supported the creation of the Kishinev pogrom.

In addition, Prof. Zapperstein's research shows that the Russian army, stationed near-by, was called upon to quell the attacks and, in fact, did respond though not enough to stop the slaughter.

The mythology still persists: the Haganah, the Jewish paramilitary organization that became the core of the Israeli army, was created largely in reaction to the Kishinev riots. And there are those who draw a connection between the Kishinev pogrom and the race riots in 20th century United States.

Historical facts have been unable to demythologize the pogrom of Kishinev.

– Allen Guth

Jottings

Following is a letter from Mark Weber (with Don Bryant) that was published in the April 22 Plain Dealer.

The right to peaceful protest is recognized by all democratic nations. If so, Israel is not behaving as a democracy.

On March 30, Israel army snipers fired across the border to Gaza on a crowd of thousands protesting for their Right of Return. Eighteen Palestinians were murdered and 800 wounded. Hundreds suffered tear gas inhalation.

Cleveland Peace Action condemns the premeditated murder and violence by Israeli snipers against Palestinians marching non-violently inside their tiny walled-in Gazan ghetto and seeking their "Right of Return" under international law.

Common decency demands an end to Israel's blockade so Gaza's 1.8 million people can receive vital shipments of food, medicine and supplies; an investigation into the murders of Gaza residents; and rebuilding Gaza with an international aid program giving special attention to schools and hospitals.

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.

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)</p> <p><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</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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