



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

January 2019/5779

Happy
New
Year

Editor: Allen Guth

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Upcoming Events

Sun Jan. 13 — Board Meeting

Fri Jan. 18, Tu B'Shvat, Daniel Brown, Feed People, Not Landfills

2019 Friday Shabbat Programs

Feb. 15, Laura DeMarco, Cleveland Then and Now

March 22, Purim (TBA)

April 12, Jo Steigerwald, Seeds of Literacy

May 10, Jan Ridgeway, Garden Valley Neighborhood Center

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.

Shabbat Dinner and Tu B'shvat Program Friday, Jan. 18, 2019

First Unitarian Church, 21600 Shaker Blvd.

Speaker: Daniel Brown, whose topic is entitled: "Feed People, Not Landfills"

An environmentalist, Mr. Brown is co-founder and executive director of Rust Belt Riders, working to divert food from landfills. A native Clevelander and graduate of DePaul University, Mr. Brown has been involved in community development, education, and public policy. In addition, he has served on the Cuyahoga Next Generation Council, and the Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition.

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

NOTE: We will be using a check-in list at all Shabbat programs. Your RSVP is important to help us plan for food and room set-up. Guests may attend two Shabbat programs at no charge.

RSVP by Wed. Jan. 16, to Peg Fishman at (440) 349-1330 or pegfishman@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.

CSJO Annual Conference May 24-27, 2019 Cleveland, Ohio

Plans are under way for the 49th CSJO Annual Conference, and registration will open up soon. We will be at the Ursuline College campus in Pepper Pike. I am sure those of you who have joined us there before will agree that the facilities are wonderful.

Our program line-up is shaping up nicely. We will be exploring Yiddish and learning about some very famous Jewish comedians and their impact on the larger society. You will have the opportunity to join in our Jewish jeopardy challenges.

The always informative and entertaining Bennett Muraskin will be this year's keynote speaker. Bennett is the author of three books: *Humanist Readings in Jewish Folklore*, *Let Justice Well Up Like Water* and *The Association of Jewish Libraries Guide to Yiddish Short Stories*. He is a co-author of *Celebrating Jewish Holidays*. His most recent publication is the booklet *Jews in the American Labor Movement*. Bennett works as a union representative for state college/university faculty in New Jersey. Bennett has facilitated workshops at previous conferences and has never disappointed us.

If you are interested in joining our great team of presenters by facilitating a workshop, we do have some spots available. Please contact sarah.csjo@gmail.com.

Terry Waslow
Executive Director, CSJO

The Rise of Anti-Semitism: A World-Wide Phenomenon

On Friday, December 7, the City Club of Cleveland featured Dr. Gunther Jikeli, who gave a data-driven talk about the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and the U.S.

Dr. Jikeli, a historian and sociologist of modern Europe with an interest in the history of anti-Semitism, is currently a visiting associate professor at Indiana University in Bloomington.

In 1990, there were 190 anti-Semitic attacks in Western Europe and the United Kingdom. Last year in the UK alone there were 1,400 incidents, 200 of which were of a violent nature. Only 25% of the attacks were reported to the police. In the U.S., anti-Semitic violence has not been a major factor until the incident at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, where 11 Jewish members were killed by a terrorist.

This antagonism toward Jews comes from the Far Right, the Far Left, and radical members of the Muslim community, the latter residing primarily in France and Germany. In Great Britain, anti-Semitism (or at least anti-Israeli rhetoric,) resides in trade unions and the Labor Party of Jeremy Corbin.

The rise of right-wing populist parties in Poland, Hungary, Austria and Germany pose a further threat to Jews. In Germany, there is a revisionist movement of history that minimizes the Holocaust. In the Muslim world, those who hold to Sharia law (not man-made law), fundamentally oppose the existence of a Jewish state. Although members of this group represent a minority of Muslims, their voices--like those of the Muslim Brotherhood-- are among the loudest.

Free speech advocates support the right of these groups to voice their opinions, but free speech should not allow for slander and violence toward others. Another danger, Dr. Jikeli pointed out, is that these radical positions toward Jews can drift and make their way into mainstream thought.

--Allen Guth

Jottings

JSC has made a donation of \$100 to the Hospice of the Western Reserve in memory of Howard Heuer. Howard, beloved eldest son of Rifke Feinstein, passed away on November 13 at the age of 58. We extend our condolences to the Heuer and Feinstein families.

Photo Gallery: Chanukah 2018



Speaker: Veronica Dahlberg,
Founder of HOLA



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)</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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