



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

November 2019/5780

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Upcoming Events

Fri., Nov. 15 Shabbat, Roy Berko, Ph. D.,
“Yes, Words Matter.”, pg. 1

Fri., Nov. 15, Operation Warm-Up, pg. 2

Sun., Nov. 24 — Board Meeting

Shabbat Dinner and Program

Friday, Nov. 15, 2019

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of
Cleveland, formerly First Unitarian Church
(Fellowship Hall), 21600 Shaker Blvd (east),
Shaker Hts.

Topic: “Yes, Words Matter.”

Speaker: Roy Berko, Ph.D., “Yes, Words
Matter.” By examining the development of
language, the research concerning the
communication of the #Me Too movement
and of President Donald Trump, Dr. Roy
Berko will attempt to lead us to an
awareness that our language and actions
come from our own backgrounds,
experiences, and perceptions, and that
words matter.

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**

RSVP by Wed., Nov. 13, to Peg Fishman at
(440) 349-1330 or pegfishman@gmail.com.

Last names **A-G** and **M-Z** bring a side dish
or salad for 6 (couples please bring enough
for 12); **H-L** 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.

2019-2020 Fri. Shabbat Programs

Nov. 15, Roy Berko, Ph. D., “Yes, Words Matter.”

Dec. 27, Jackie Herriman and Marilyn Burns,
“Friendship Force and Citizen Diplomacy.”

Jan. 17, Brian Johnson, Ph.D., “Theatrical Portrayals
of Nazis Can Cause Us to Forget Nazism’s True
Evil.”

Feb. 7, Sunny Simon, “Cuyahoga County’s New Ban
on Single-Use Plastic Bags.”

Mar. 6, Steve Cagan, “Colombia After The Peace
Treaty.”

Apr. 3, Emma Renfrew, “Foundation Beyond Belief.”

May 1, Hannah Servedio, “The Fight for
Reproductive Rights in Ohio.”

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



Once Again, It's the Season of Giving

The National Council of Jewish Women is sponsoring Operation Warm-Up, a community collection of winter clothing for those in need.

You've been generous in the past years, so we know you'll do your part at the **November 15 Shabbat** when we'll be collecting the following:

- New/gently used Coats (XL-5XL only)
 - New/gently used Boots
 - New men's and women's Underwear
 - New Men's and Women's Socks
 - New/gently used Scarves, Gloves and Winter Hats
- (No Hoodies or Sweat Shirts)

Christmas at Montefiore

Over the years, JSC members have given of their time volunteering at Montefiore. If you have not participated, consider helping in a number of ways: You can be a wheelchair escort transporting residents to a number of activities; you can lead activities such as sing-alongs, bingo, book discussions or current events; you can help assist in the Posh Nosh Café Snack Shop and McCart Gift Shop. Without volunteers to staff them, these important amenities would not be available to residents.

Let's continue the JSC tradition and volunteer on Wednesday, **December 25**, Christmas day, to help transport residents to and from the chapel

and participate with them in the planned program. The hours: **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** To sign up, contact **Sandy Guth**, JSC Community Chair, **216-291-5869**.

Some Holiday Thoughts

The following is a reprint of a talk given by Rifke Feinstein at our Rosh Hashanah celebration. For those of you who were not present, you will find these words inspiring.

This has been a tough year in the United States and around the world: unanswerable wars, political unrest, persecution of minority groups, trade wars, floods and weather conditions that have ruined lives and property.

Those of us who are of a certain age, like me, have lived through worse in these United States: 4 wars, 2 economic depressions, McCarthyism, assassinations, opposition to and protests against immigrants...Jews, Italians, Chinese, Irish...virulent discrimination against African Americans along with lynchings and then... civil rights uprisings. And with all these problems came new laws that were beneficial to most Americans.

We all struggled and we got through those very hard times. It was hard, very hard! There were good leaders and terrible leaders. Ordinary people rose up against the terrible leaders and terrible times. Unions were organized, women got the right to vote, education became a priority and rules and laws were passed that made education, voting rights, farm aid easier to obtain.

Things changed and then changed again. People took to the streets and to the ballot boxes. People who had never marched or rung bells or made phone calls to their elected leaders started doing just that. People worked hard and their goal was to see further change. Things change and we never really know when the change will actually come. I use these words as consolation to myself and to others to remind ourselves how far the United States has come from those terrible times.

And now, my friends, I know that all of us can't wait to vote again, but I have to say that we all have to do more in the next year than we've ever done before to make sure that as many people as possible, besides all of us in this room today, go to the ballot boxes!

Here we are on Rosh Hashana, the beginning of the Jewish New Year. As we listen to the shofar, a call to action, let us think about what we as individuals and as group members can commit to doing. If we explore the idea of potential and action, we can see many possibilities. We come together as a community of Secular and Humanistic Jews to commit to corrective actions in the context of extended family. We come here today not to look to the divine, but as humans to see how we can use our own power to modify our behavior, how to redesign ourselves to improve our community. We come together to act on our potential to become *more*.

It is a perfect time to reach deeply and take the abstract and make it concrete. What will we commit to today? How will we, as individuals and as a community, build our legacy? How will we contribute to the world at large and how will we ensure that others may learn from our values and traditions?

Today is made for seizing opportunities to make this life better. It is about taking action to ensure we continue to grow and prosper in the direction of justice and well-being, and to teach these values so that we can continue to come together as an extended family.

Pledge to act with your intellect and emotions. Openly display your commitment to make a difference, to have a positive impact, to refuse to accept negativity, to help create peace and justice. AND, AGAIN, VOTE!

This holiday is not a remedy for our ills, but a roadmap for a way of being that invites us to see ourselves and our extended family with compassion and to continue our journey in a meaningful way. May this year bring us the strength and wisdom to support each other to build a *besere, shenere velt*, a better, and more beautiful world!

Shalom, and again, gut yontiff!

Tragedy Inspires Continued Activism

Members of the Pittsburgh Tree of Life Congregation, victims of a racist attack one year ago, will speak at Temple Emanu El, 4545 Brainard Road, Orange Village, on **Monday, November 18**. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., panel discussion with Q and A at 7 p.m. Dessert reception to follow. Free and open to the community. No backpacks or purses. **RSVP: info@teecleve.org or (216) 454-1300.**

Do You Identify As Nonreligious?

If so, check out the Foundation Beyond Belief website and take a comprehensive survey asking for your thoughts as a member of the secularist/humanist community

Like other groups, nonreligious people face stigmatization which can impact their lives, and yet they are not included in federal surveys on issues like education, health and housing.

Foundation Beyond Belief is working to support this comprehensive data collection which will examine the life experiences of humanists, atheists, and other nonreligious groups.

Act now--the survey closes November 22nd. Visit: **SecularSurvey.org** to participate.

Thanks to Nadelane Joseph and Mark Finkenbine for bringing this survey to our attention.

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 <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>
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– 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 2019 - 2020

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*Member of JSC Board of Trustees