



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

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Upcoming Events

Sun., Jan. 12 — Board Meeting

Fri., Jan. 17 – Shabbat, Brian Johnson, Ph.D.

2019-2020 Fri. Shabbat Programs

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."

Shabbat Dinner and Program Friday, Jan. 17, 2020

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

Topic: "Theatrical Portrayals of Nazis Can Cause Us to Forget Nazism's True Evil."

Speaker: Brian Johnson, Ph.D. is a professor of Humanities at Cuyahoga Community College where he teaches in the Mandel Scholars Academy. He was the co-organizer of an international conference on evil at Case Western Reserve University in 2014 (*Evil Incarnate*). Dr. Johnson is the author of the monograph "The Nazi Card: Nazi Comparisons at the Beginning of the Cold War" and is co-editor of the essay collection, "The Function of Evil Across Disciplinary Contexts."

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., Jan. 15, 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.

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

The Social Scene

Spring is just around the corner. At the end of March, we're planning to tour the Keller Art Gallery in Little Italy, operated by JSC member Jerry Keller. More details and date will be announced in the March Newsletter. In the meantime, we welcome your ideas for a social outing. Contact Marcia Rosenthal with your ideas and become part of her social committee, which will meet on Sunday, January 12 in the early afternoon. Details to follow. Be a part of the Social Committee. Contact Marcia at 216-245-6299, or sunchoke@sbcglobal.net

How Did Gyorgy Schwartz Become George Soros?*

The billionaire George Soros is both famous (and infamous) not only for his great wealth (current estimate: \$8 billion), but for his involvement in controversial issues. Over the years, Soros has donated more than \$32 billion to his philanthropic agency, the Open Society Foundations, supporting a variety of liberal causes.

How did George Soros, born Gyorgy Schwartz in 1930, in Budapest, Hungary, a survivor of Nazi Germany-occupied Hungary, become the figure that he is today?

Soros grew up in a prosperous non-observant Jewish family that was always uncomfortable in its roots. His father, Tivadar, was a prominent lawyer, and his mother, Elizabeth, owned a successful silk shop. Soros's family changed their name from the German-Jewish Schwartz to Soros in increasingly anti-Semitic Hungary. The family survived the war by purchasing documents to say they were Christians. Young Soros lived through the Siege of Budapest (1945) in which Soviet and German forces fought house-to-house through the city.

In 1947, Soros immigrated to England and became a student at the London School of Economics. He held a number of low-level jobs but realized they held no future for

him. Years later, in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, he revealed what turned out to be a life-changing decision. He wrote to every managing director in every merchant bank in London and eventually landed a position.

In 1956, Soros moved to New York City where over the next few years he held posts with various Wall Street investment firms. It was during this period that Soros developed the theory of reflexivity based on the ideas of his tutor at the London School of Economics, Karl Popper. Reflexivity maintains that market values are often driven by the fallible ideas of participants and not only by the economic fundamentals of any given situation. This leads to markets of cycles of boom and bust, in contrast to the equilibrium predictions of more neoclassical economics.

Soros established his own Double Eagle fund which eventually became the well-known Quantum Fund. In 2013, the Quantum Fund made \$5.5 billion the most successful hedge fund in history. Since its inception in 1973, the fund has generated \$40 billion.

Soros is known as "The Man Who Broke the Bank of England" because of his short sale of \$10 billion worth of pound sterling which made him a profit of \$1 billion during the 1992 Black Wednesday UK currency crisis

The Open Society Foundations is the world's largest private funder of independent groups working for justice, democratic government and human rights, according to its prospectus. Here are a few of its causes:

- It has funded scholarships for black African university students and for East European dissidents to study in the West.
- A Reuters story established a link between Soros and the Occupy Wall Street protests.
- In the 2004 election, Soros donated over \$23 million to various 527

Groups (tax exempt) These groups aimed to defeat President George W. Bush.
- Soros donated millions to the super PAC backing President Obama's reelection in 2012, and to SuperPAC Priorities USA Action, which supported Hillary Clinton's bid for the presidency in 2016.

Soros's other progressive causes could fill several JSC Newsletters. What they all have in common is a controversial figure whose beliefs and activities have generated both rampant admiration and hateful criticism.

A pipe bomb was placed in the mailbox of Soros's Katonah, New York, home on October 22, 2018. The package was discovered by a caretaker, who removed it and notified authorities. Four days later, Cesar Sayoc was arrested in Florida on suspicion of mailing the bomb.

--Allen Guth

* Sources:

M.T. Kaufman, "Soros: The Life and Times of a Messianic Billionaire" (Knopf); Wikipedia

Norman Krumholz 1927-2019

Former JSC member Norman Krumholz passed away on Saturday, December 21, at Casey House, Montgomery Hospice, in Rockville, Maryland, after suffering complications following a stroke.

As planning director for the city of Cleveland (and later as a professor at CSU), Norman became a widely known advocate for equity planning, which holds that planners should work to improve life for the city's poorest residents rather than serve powerful interests in big development projects." For example, as a member of the city planning commission, he struck to his principles and voted "no" on the \$50 million renovation of Public Square.

Our condolences to the Krumholz family.

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Lois Klein 1930-2019

Lois Klein passed away on Saturday, December 14. Lois was a longtime JSC member, and enjoyed our holiday and Shabbat events, especially savoring the vegetable lasagna served at our pot luck dinners. Lois resided at Wiggins Place in Beachwood where she continued teaching Mah Jongg, which she had been doing since 2002.

Like all of us, Lois had her personal setbacks: she lost her husband, "Buddy," and sons Evan and Paul, yet she always managed a smile and a positive vibe.

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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.

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 Elaine Sherman -- Good and Welfare, 216-245-6211, or momsherm@sbcglobal.net -- and Elaine will get out a personal, "Hope You're Feeling Better" greeting. Be sure to send Elaine good news, too.

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 2019 - 2020

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