



JEWISH SECULAR COMMUNITY OF CLEVELAND

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 19: Virtual Shabbat Program 6:45 PM

Sunday, March 21: Board Meeting 10:30 AM

Sunday, March 28: Passover Celebration 5:30 PM

MARCH VIRTUAL SHABBAT:

Don't miss this month's special guest speaker and discussion on Friday, March 19. Lisa Griffis is a photo editor, graphic designer and business owner. Lisa will provide invaluable tips on how to rescue your precious photos, even those you thought were beyond salvaging. This virtual event will be held utilizing Zoom technology. For more information, visit our website, www.jewishsecularcommunity.org/resources/shabbat-programs. RSVP by March 17 to pegfishman@gmail.com or on our website.

2021 VIRTUAL SHABBAT PROGRAMS

March 19, 2021: Lisa Griffis, photo editor, graphic designer and business owner. "Rescue Your Photos." (Lynn)

April 23, 2021: Marcy Darnovsky, Ph.D. "Use Gene Editing to Treat Patients, Not Design Babies" (Lynn)

May 21, 2021: Hannah Servedio, Field Organizer for NARAL, Ohio. "Reproductive Rights in Ohio." (Karen)

To learn more & RSVP, visit jewishsecularcommunity.org.



JEWISH SECULAR COMMUNITY OF
CLEVELAND PRESENTS:

PASSOVER SEDER CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021, 5:30 PM

The songs of this Festival of Freedom will be recited as poetry, telling a story as true today as it was 2,000 years ago. This event will be done virtually over Zoom. For details and to RSVP visit jewishsecularcommunity.org.

RSVP by March 24 on our website or contact Peg Fishman at pegfishman@gmail.com, (440)-349-1330



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We want to start featuring part of what makes JSC so great — our members! This month's #MemberSpotlight is for Roberta (Rifke) Feinstein, who has been a member of JSC for over 50 YEARS.

When asked why others should join JSC she responded, "The JSC is a welcoming community; people not only learn about Jewishness, but learn how to celebrate it."

If you would like to be featured, please email marketing@jewishsecularcommunity.org for more details.



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JSC positively impacted my life by introducing me to now lifelong friends who have enriched my life by their experiences.

My favorite thing about JSC is the people who belong to the community.. they are bright and involved in various communities in Cleveland which makes them very interesting. Our programs very often revolve around their activities and many people attend these programs to learn more about JSC and the general Cleveland community.

RIFKE FEINSTEIN

JSC Member for 50 + years



ISRAEL: THE PROMISED LAND

Promise to Whom? Promised to the Jews who came first? Or the Arabs, who were there last? For thirteen centuries, between 1200 B.C. and the second century A.D., the Jews lived in and often ruled Israel. The Jews' domination was long but not eternal. The Romans invaded (A.D. 66-73 and 132-135), killed or expelled much of the Jewish population and renamed the land Palaestina. There remained a substantial Arab population in the Jordan hills and beyond. By 1881, the population of Palestine consisted of 450,000 Arabs and 25,000 Jews.*

For the Jews in Palestine, Zionism was a movement of national liberation after centuries of untold suffering; for the Arabs, Zionism was an intolerable assault by the colonial West against sacred ground and Islam itself. Even now politicians and scholars betray prejudices and passions in the details they select when discussing the U.N. Partition Plan of November 20, 1947, that led to the war that followed.

This long and conflicted history has had its impact on the thoughts and feelings of both Jew and Gentile alike.

Included in this former group is journalist Benny Morris, a long-time observer of the Israel-Palestinian conflict and current professor of history at Ben-Gurion University.

A liberal Zionist, Morris' position over the years has evolved. In 1988, Morris published "The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem" in which he described how and why sixty percent of the Palestinians were uprooted and their society destroyed. Morris told a far more complex story of these events than many Jews were prepared to accept.

However, in a 2004 interview with the publication "Ha'aretz," Morris did a flip-flop. Disappointed that the Arabs rejected a 2-state solution, Morris spoke of a deep problem in Islam; of a world in which life doesn't have the same value as it does in the West. The Arabs belong to a tribal culture in which revenge plays a central part.

In an article Morris wrote for the "Jerusalem Post" in 2007, he considered a "transfer" of Palestinians to surrounding Arabic countries (like Jordan and Lebanon), a solution that Morris admitted was perhaps too Draconian.

This shifting of attitudes--this ambivalence-- on the part of Morris, reflects the shifting opinions of many Jews and non-Jews in the on-going Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

-Righteous Jews: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict. (Vintage Books)

- Allen Guth

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

If you have had both vaccinations, there is a community service opportunity available. The Cleveland Kosher Food Bank delivers kosher food every week to four apartment buildings in the Heights area. There is little person-to-person contact. Deliveries are made between 1:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. every Tuesday.

Details: The volunteer goes to the assigned apartment building where a van unloads shopping carts that hold 8-10 bags of groceries, each of which has the name and apartment number of the person who will get the delivery. The volunteer moves the cart down the hall and drops off the bags, knocks on the door, announces, "Kosher delivery," and leaves. It is not necessary to wait until someone opens the door. The people receiving the groceries are expecting them. If there are more bags to be delivered, the volunteer returns to the van to get more.

There are four buildings where deliveries are made: two on Warrensville Center Road, one behind University Square (where Macy's is), and one across from Hillcrest Hospital.

Volunteers do not have to commit to a regular schedule.

If you are tired of zooming and listening to podcasts, think about taking advantage of this volunteer opportunity. Call me at 216-283-2562 to let me know if you are interested.

Nora Kancelbaum

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Looking to stay virtually connected with us? We encourage you to like, comment and share anything that resonates with you on our Facebook page. To follow and like us on Facebook, please visit www.facebook.com/JSCcleveland.

Did you miss one of our past Zoom Shabbat recordings? You can now find them on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB1pu7_EsH00w1pNrqAe15g

ED FEIL, 1924-2021

Former JSC member Ed Feil passed away on February 5 at age 96. Ed established Edward Feil Productions and for 50 years created award-winning films. His son, also named Ed, was a B'nai Mitzvah graduate of the JSC School. Ed and Naomi (Mimi) moved to Eugene, Oregon, some years ago to be near their children. Our condolences to Naomi and the Feil family.

CALLING ALL WRITERS!

The editorial policy of the newsletter is 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 Ellen Schwartz -- Good and Welfare, 440-449-4418, or eschwa7500@yahoo.com -- and Ellen will get out a personal "Hope You're Feeling Better" greeting. Be sure to send Ellen good news, too.



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 worldwide community of secular Jews

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