



# The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

[www.jewishsecularcommunity.org](http://www.jewishsecularcommunity.org)

December 2017/5778

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## Upcoming Events

**Fri. Dec. 15--** Chanukah/Shabbat Program, p. 1

**Fri. Dec. 15** – Operation Warmup, p. 2

**Sun. Dec. 3--** Board Meeting

**Sun. Dec. 25** – Christmas at Montifiore, p.2

## 2017-2018 Friday Shabbat Programs/Holidays

**Dec. 15** Irwin Weinberger. Songs of Chanukah.

**Jan. 26** Tu B'Shvat. Doreen Schreiber. Treating Solid Waste.

**Feb.16** TBA

**Mar. 2** Purim. Greg McNeil. Opioid Addiction.

**April 20** Cantor Greg Gelender. B'way Memories and Melodies.

**May 18** Robin Rood, Nutritionist Dietician

## Chanukah, Shabbat Dinner and Program. Friday, Dec. 15.

**First Unitarian Church**, 21600 Shaker Blvd.

**Guest: Irwin Weinberger** from Yiddish Cup, who will entertain us with "The Songs of Chanukah."

Meet and mingle at **6:15 pm**

Shabbat program & potluck dinner at **6:30 pm**

Chanukah program at **8:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Delicious latkes will be served. Bring dreidels if you have them and your own menorah for the candle-lighting ceremony.**

**RSVP by Wed. Dec. 13** to Lynn Salzbrenner [330-388-9393](tel:330-388-9393) or [lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com](mailto:lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com).

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

We need YOU to help with Shabbat each month. You can greet those who attend, or you might want to lead the candle lighting and Shabbat program. If you want to participate, contact Lynn Salzbrenner [330-388-9393](tel:330-388-9393) or [lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com](mailto:lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com)

## Community Service



### 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 **December 15 Chanukah/Shabbat** when we'll be collecting the following:

- **Adult waterproof winter coats, gloves and boots.**
- **New packaged socks and underwear for men, women and children.**
- **Winter hats for men, women and children.**
- **Adult hoodies (2XL and up)**

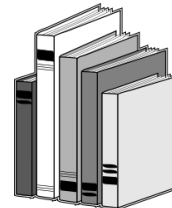
### Christmas at Montefiore

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 **December 25**, Christmas day, to help transport residents to and from the Chapel and participate with them in the planned program. This will allow the non-Jewish staff at

Montefiore to spend the holiday with their families. The hours: **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** To sign up, contact **Sandy Guth**, JSC Community Chair, **216-291-5869**.

## The Bookshelf



*No Country for Jewish Liberals* by Larry Derfner. Charlottesville, VA. Just World Books, Inc. 2016. 260 pages.

Just World Books ([www.JustWorldBooks.com](http://www.JustWorldBooks.com)) has just added a new title to its offering of books on international issues of vital concern. In this new volume, Israeli journalist Larry Derfner gives us his personal and political story of life in contemporary Israel. Born in Los Angeles to parents who were Holocaust survivors, he was active in the social movements of the 1960's before his move to Israel in 1985. He worked as a feature writer and columnist for *The Jerusalem Post*. After his politically-motivated firing from *The Post*, he continued as an op-ed columnist for *Haaretz*. He and his wife Philippa and sons Alon and Gilad live in Modi'in, Israel.

Derfner has always had a kind of "love-hate" relationship with Israel. In his words: "I love the country but hate its policies toward the Palestinian Arabs." He describes how the three Israeli bombing campaigns against Gaza in 2008-2009, 2012, and 2014 helped to turn him into a bitter opponent of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Israeli control and blockade of Gaza. He notes that the last bombing campaign in 2014 (Operation Cast Lead) killed more than 2,200 Palestinians, including 700 children.

He has not always been a critic of Israel. In the 1980's, he supported the second Lebanese War because he felt that Hezbollah's attacks against Jewish farmers in Northern Israel could not be tolerated. However, today, he sees Israel as being in a

moral crisis over the continued occupation of the West Bank and over Israel's resulting isolation in the world. He wants the occupation to end, and he sees BDS (Boycott, Divestiture, and Sanctions) as a nonviolent way to pressure Israel to do it.

Toward the end of the book, he poses the following existential question to his fellow Israelis: "If someone or something treated us the way we treat the Palestinians, what should we do?" Indeed, what should we do?

– **Mark Weber**

## **Anti-Semitism on the College Campus**

Last month the subject of anti-Semitism on college campuses was examined by members of the House Judiciary Committee and a panel of witnesses who gave testimony on the pervasiveness of anti-Semitism at the university level--or the perceived pervasiveness of this movement.

The panel consisted of representatives of colleges and universities ranging from American University in Washington, D.C., to 3 campuses of the University of California. Other testifying witnesses included spokespeople from the Anti-Defamation League and the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects Jewish students and other religious minorities from discrimination based on race, color or national origin. However, this act of Congress was not intended to impinge upon the freedom of speech as guaranteed by the First Amendment, even if the language spoken or literature distributed is hateful toward minorities.

Today the classical definition of anti-Semitism is open to interpretation. In past centuries, the meaning was unmistakable: prejudice against Jews as a people. Since the establishment of the State of Israel, however, those who oppose the policies of the Israeli government as they relate to the Palestinian people are considered by Jewish hardliners to be anti-Semitic. Rabbi Andrew Baker of the American Jewish Committee, a member of the panel, considers the demonization of Israel as a new form of anti-Semitism. Question: should the policies of the government

of Israel implicate all Jews? The "old" definition attributed to Jews "imaginary" powers; powers that, in fact, Jews did not possess, stated Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. "Since the establishment of the State of Israel, the 'powers' are now real," he testified.

The pro-Palestinian position taken by both students and faculty is prevalent on a number of college campuses. They support the BDS movement--to boycott, divest and sanction Israel. How prevalent is this movement on the college level? The representative from the Anti-Defamation League pointed out that anti-Semitic incidents increased by 67% in 2017 over the comparable period in the previous year.

On the other hand Barry Trachtenberg of Wake Forest College warns against falling prey to all the headlines, and thinks that the typical Jewish student feels safe on the majority of college campuses.

So, how much of a factor is the anti-Jewish movement on the typical college campus? It depends on who you talk to, and what your definition of anti-Semitism is.

– **Allen Guth**

## **Jottings**

**Leslie and Jerry Keller** have rejoined the JSC after a hiatus of several years. Their daughter, Sheila, was B'Nai Mitzvahed with Jedd Wolpaw and Julie Olzesewski in 1992. Sheila now works for the National Education Association in Denver and is married to a third-year law student. They had their first child, Simon, 11 months ago. The Kellers' son, Sam, also attended our religious school and lives in Cleveland with his 8-year-old son, Riley.

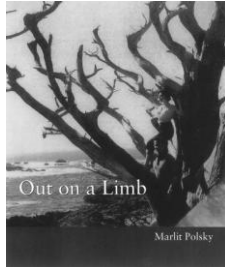
Jerry is a glass artist with a studio/gallery on Murray Hill. Keller Art Glass, established in 1973, does residential, commercial, and liturgical glasswork, and is on display at the Cleveland Museum of Art gift shop or at the Keller Gallery. Contact information: [Kellerartglass.com](http://Kellerartglass.com)

Leslie is a modern dancer and has taught at Oberlin, CWRU and numerous venues around town. She currently works with seniors at the Cleveland Heights Recreation Center and with dementia patients at nursing homes throughout the city.

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Many of you have read and enjoyed **Marlit Polsky's** two previous books, *Rouge Hags* and *America at Last*. Her new publication, *Out on a Limb*, is a sequel to *America at Last* and chronicles her remarkable story from early adulthood to the present. Some of the chapters, says Marlit, include First Loves, Family Struggles, Drama Unlimited, and Last Loves as well as both somber and comical anecdotes.

The discounted price to JSC members: \$15.00. See Marlit at the next Shabbat service to place your order.

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**Lori Guth Moffett**, daughter of Sandy and Allen Guth, has passed along information about the upcoming Jewish Meditation Project of Columbus. This silent meditation retreat takes place on December 15-17 at Hope Springs Institute (2 hours south of Columbus). Sound as if this might be something you or your family might want to explore? Here's the link for all the information:  
<https://www.jewishmeditationcolumbus.org/retreat-sign-up>

## 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.

## Photo Gallery: November 2017 Shabbat



Guest speaker: Patrick Kearns



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

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Food Identification</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____<br/>Name of Food</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____<br/>Brought by</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gluten Free</b> (contains <b>NO</b> wheat, barley, rye, oats)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vegetarian</b> (contains <b>NO</b> animal products)</p> <p>Contains other allergens, including: <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Fish <input type="checkbox"/> Soy<br/><input type="checkbox"/> Shellfish <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Nuts <input type="checkbox"/> Peanuts <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please list carefully as those with allergies can have<br/>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*

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