



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

April 2019/5779

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Upcoming Events

Sun. Apr. 21 – Passover Seder

Sun Apr. 28 — Board Meeting

2019 Friday Shabbat Programs

April 12, Jo Steigerwald, Seeds of Literacy,
and Christopher Richards, Seeds West

May 10, Jan Ridgeway, Garden Valley
Neighborhood House

Passover Seder Celebration

Join JSC members and guests at our 2019
Passover celebration:

Sunday, April 21, 2019

Fellowship Hall
First Unitarian Church
21600 Shaker Blvd. E.
Shaker Heights, OH

**Featuring Chuck Fink and the songs of
Passover**

Meet and Mingle: **5:30 p.m.**

Seder: **6:00 p.m.**

Cost: Free for members, **\$20.00** for guests.

RSVP by Friday, April 17, by contacting Peg
Fishman, 440-349-1330 or
pegfishman@gmail.com

Shabbat Dinner and Program Friday, April 12, 2019

First Unitarian Church, 21600 Shaker Blvd.

Speakers: Jo Steigerwald, Development
Director, Seeds of Literacy and Christopher
Richards, Site Coordinator, Seeds West

Topic: Illiteracy in the Cleveland area, and
efforts to confront it.

Sixty-six percent of adults in Cleveland are
considered to be functionally illiterate.
Seeds of Literacy and its adult students are
changing that reality.

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., April 10, to Peg Fishman at
(440) 349-1330 or pegfishman@gmail.com.

Last names **E-Z** bring a side dish or salad
for 6 (couples please bring enough for 12);
A-D 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.

Does JSC Have a Future?

By Mark Weber

For six of the last eight years, I have been president of JSC. I have enjoyed my time in office, but all things must come to an end. We need someone to step forward and assume the mantle of president for the next two-year term. We have asked seven people and all of them have turned us down. Please consider stepping forward and assuming this critical responsibility.

An organization that cannot find one of its members to step up and be president is an organization the future of which is in serious doubt. Help us ensure that JSC will continue.

Please step forward and help JSC! Contact Allen Guth of the nominating committee at allenguth@gmail.com

CSJO 2019 Cleveland Conference Taking Shape

You will want to set aside **May 24-27**, the dates that our umbrella organization--the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations (CSJO)--is holding its annual conference at Ursuline College in Pepper Pike. The theme of the Conference: Jews in Comedy: So Funny You Could Platz!

The Conference will open with an Oneg Shabbat hosted by JSC on Friday evening, **May 24, 5 p.m.** The Keynote address and workshops take place on Saturday and Sunday, **May 25 and 26.** Keynote speaker is Bennett Muraskin, author of four books and former adult education director of the Jewish Cultural School and Society in Northern New Jersey. The workshops include such topics as: A Jewish Mother and Daughter, Fanny Brice, The Limits of Jewish Humor and more! Saturday evening is set aside for dinner and entertainment, which starts at **5:45 p.m.**

For the complete Conference schedule and Registration forms, please click on the following link:

www.csjo.org/csjo-2019-registration

Understanding AIPAC

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is a pro-Israel lobbying organization that was founded more than 50 years ago. AIPAC is bi-partisan and does not raise money for candidates running for office, but its members do with AIPAC's strong support. (*New York Times*, March 5)

AIPAC's strength has always been an impressive system of local volunteers assigned to cultivate each Senator and House member. AIPAC activists say the work they put into building relationships -- more than campaign contributions -- is responsible for the organization's success.

The *Times* article continues: "Today AIPAC boasts 17 regional and satellite offices, a gleaming headquarters building near the Capitol, and an annual budget so hefty that its chief executive, Howard Kohr, earned more than \$1 million in salary and benefits in 2016. Traveling to Israel on a trip financed by AIPAC's education arm is practically a rite of passage for freshman members of Congress."

Over the years, some of the congresspersons who have incurred the disfavor of AIPAC, based on their anti-Israeli positions, have included Paul Findley, an Illinois House member, and Senator Charles Percy, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Both were subsequently defeated in office.

More recently, Representative Ilhan Omar, a freshman Democrat from Minnesota, made front page news when she suggested that pro-Israel activists "push for allegiance to a foreign country." Subsequently Omar tweeted: "It's all about the Benjamins, baby," a reference to the \$100 bill featuring the image of Benjamin Franklin. Two other Democratic freshmen that have been critical of Israel are Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York.

Stephen Fiske, a long-time backer of AIPAC offered this prediction in the *Times* article: "These are people who, in my opinion, will not be around in several years."

--Allen Guth

Jottings

The following letter from **Marcia Rosenthal** was published in the February 22 *Cleveland Jewish News*:

This letter is in response to the article "Aging Out," by *Cleveland Jewish News* columnist Ruchi Koval on Jan. 25.

In our youth-oriented culture, one is made to feel less than perfect for having wrinkles, gray hair or other visible signs of aging. But what should be more acceptable is who we really are as human beings. Yes, we are capable of learning and growing and loving all our lives and yes, life is fleeting and days do matter.

I am grateful that I had a career working with the senior population. It was from their aggregate of years and experiences I learned so much, most importantly that aging is not a crime, nor is it a sin. It is a gift, a very precious gift that many do not receive.

So thanks, Ruchi, for this sensitive, compassionate article. As I have often said, I am not afraid of getting old. I am afraid of not getting old.

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Our condolences to JSC member **Gladys Reydman** on the loss of her daughter, Sally, who passed away at the age of 58 on March 10. As Gladys said, "Sally will always live in my heart."

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.

Photo Gallery: March 22, 2019 Purim Celebration



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 <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 2018 - 2019

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