



# The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

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

December 2019/5780

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## Upcoming Events

**Fri., Dec. 27** — Chanukah/Shabbat Program,  
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**Sun., Jan. 12** — Board Meeting

## Shabbat Dinner and Chanukah Program Friday, Dec. 27, 2019

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

**Topic:** “Friendship Force and Citizen  
Diplomacy.”

**Speakers:** Jackie Herriman and Marilyn  
Burns of Friendship Force NE Ohio. Marilyn  
is the current president and Jackie is a past  
president. Friendship Force International is a  
non-political, non-religious, and non-profit  
organization dedicated to promoting global  
understanding through travel.

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., Dec. 25**, to Peg Fishman at  
(440) 349-1330 or [pegfishman@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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

## 2019-2020 Fri. Shabbat Programs

**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.”

## Executive Committee Proposal

At the December 27 Chanukah/Shabbat program, you will have the opportunity to cast your vote on the following proposal:

**We are proposing to have an Executive Committee of four trustees established for voting purposes at the monthly trustee board meetings. We believe that this is necessary because the trustee turnouts have been less than is required for a majority vote of the trustee board.**

NOTE: Our bylaws specify a board of Directors of 11 members but we have evolved in to an 8 member board. Our last two board meetings have been attended by 4 officers of the potential eight. We are uncomfortable making decisions in this way so we would like to be accepted as an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and with agreement of  $\frac{3}{4}$  attending be able to make decisions for the whole Board.

## My Volunteer Gig

Most Fridays after my morning exercise class, like Superman, I sneak into not a phone booth but the ladies' room, change my clothes (fortunately, the class is such that I don't break a sweat), walk to the rapid, and go downtown to spend three hours at a place I hadn't heard of 10 years ago.

The place is Court Community Service. CCS is a non-profit organization to whom the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and several municipal courts refer people who are convicted of an offense and who are "sentenced" to do community service in lieu of going to jail or paying a fine. It began with a grant from the Cleveland Foundation in 1985. It is run by a staff of six employees (five on Fridays) and numerous (mostly Jewish) volunteers during the week. The volunteers see the clients and work with them to find a suitable placement. We see people with offenses ranging from driving a car with a suspended license to breaking and entering to assault, carrying a concealed weapon, and other serious offenses.

Why so many Jews involved in CCS? In 1988, when the grant ran out, it became a non-profit and created a board that included Peggy Wasserstrom, who rounded up the people she

knew to volunteer. I met her years later along with a current board member, Elisabeth Plax, both of whom suggested CCS to me. I just learned that Steve Mattlin, the current president, is also Jewish.

CCS has a database of about 300 non-profit agencies to whom we send the clients, including churches, housing projects, thrift stores, a literacy program, and social service agencies. So, while our clients are paying their debts to society, they are helping community organizations with free labor. This is a win-win situation, which is why I enjoy being at CCS on Fridays. I meet people with whom I would never have been in contact otherwise but who occasionally tug at my heartstrings with their stories of how they ended up in the court system. Some never seem to extricate themselves from the system and have a thick file of prior arrests, but we do our best to get them into a place where they can fulfill at least one obligation.

Unfortunately, in the past few years, the number of clients we service has gone down, apparently because police officers are not stopping and arresting as many people as in the past. This is true nationally, according to an article in the *Wall Street Journal*. But I keep going even though sometimes I make phone calls when there are no clients to see. I believe it's all worthwhile.

— Nora Kancelbaum

## 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**.

### **Photo Gallery: November 15 Shabbat**



Linda Klein and Elliott Berenson



Diana Packer, Marcia Rosenthal, Eunice Berko  
and Lois Gross



Mike and Bobbie Varble



Our President, Jim Mayer



Guest Speaker: Dr. Roy Berko

**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"/> <b>Gluten Free</b> (contains <b>NO</b> wheat, barley, rye, oats) <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 <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

<p><b>President</b> Jim Mayer, 216-371-9937* <a href="mailto:jim.mayer69@gmail.com">jim.mayer69@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Vice President</b> Allen Guth, 216-291-5869* <a href="mailto:allenguth@gmail.com">allenguth@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> Greg Malkin, 440-247-7692* <a href="mailto:gsmalkin@yahoo.com">gsmalkin@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Edie Todd, 440-338-1169* <a href="mailto:egmtodd@gmail.com">egmtodd@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Friday Night Shabbat Programs</b> Lynn Salzbrenner, 330-388-9393* <a href="mailto:lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com">lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Madrikh</b> Mark Weber, 440-519-0220 <a href="mailto:laboraction2000@gmail.com">laboraction2000@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Madrikha</b> Rifke Feinstein, 216-481-0850 <a href="mailto:rifke@bronxbobbe.com">rifke@bronxbobbe.com</a></p>	<p><b>Holidays</b> Holiday Coordinator Ellen Schwartz, 440-449-4418* <a href="mailto:eschwa7500@yahoo.com">eschwa7500@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>John Szucs, 216-932-3194 <a href="mailto:jszucs1937@gmail.com">jszucs1937@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Spike Radway, 216-691-1949 <a href="mailto:teamspike@mac.com">teamspike@mac.com</a></p> <p>Christi Carlson, 216-691-1949 <a href="mailto:christicarlson@mac.com">christicarlson@mac.com</a></p> <p>Lynn Salzbrenner, 234-284-9056 <a href="mailto:lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com">lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Lois Gross, 216-321-9234 <a href="mailto:ljwg216@gmail.com">ljwg216@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Membership</b> Sandy Guth, 216-291-5869* <a href="mailto:allenguth@gmail.com">allenguth@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>E-mail Postmaster</b> Scott Radway, 216-691-1949 <a href="mailto:teamspike@mac.com">teamspike@mac.com</a></p> <p><b>Newsletter</b> Allen Guth, 216-291-5869* <a href="mailto:allenguth@gmail.com">allenguth@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Social</b> Marcia Rosenthal, 216-245-6259* <a href="mailto:sunchoke@sbcglobal.net">sunchoke@sbcglobal.net</a></p> <p><b>Community Service</b> Sandy Guth, 216-291-5869* <a href="mailto:allenguth@gmail.com">allenguth@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Publicity</b> Sandy Guth, 216-291-5869* <a href="mailto:allenguth@gmail.com">allenguth@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Good &amp; Welfare</b> Elaine Sherman, 440-349-1524 <a href="mailto:momsherm@sbcglobal.net">momsherm@sbcglobal.net</a></p>
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\*Member of JSC Board of Trustees