



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

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Upcoming Events

Fri., Feb. 7 – Sunny Simon/Tu B'shavat Celebration, p1

Sun., Feb. 9 — Board Meeting

2019-2020 Fri. Shabbat Programs

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 Tu B'shavat Program Friday, Feb. 7, 2020

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

Topic: "Cuyahoga County's New Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags"

Speaker: Sunny Simon, Cuyahoga County Councilwoman. Ms. Simon has served on the Council since 2011, was the inaugural Vice President, and is currently Chair of the Education, Environment and Sustainability Committee. The talk will be preceded by a Tu B'shavat Seder.

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

Shabbat/Tu B'shavat program at **6:30 pm**

Potluck dinner at **7:00 pm**

Speaker **8:00 - 9:00 pm**

RSVP by Wed., Feb. 5, to Peg Fishman at (440) 349-1330 or pegfishman@gmail.com.

Last names **A-Sh** and **W-Z** bring a side dish or salad for 6 (couples please bring enough for 12); **Sm-V** 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."

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.

Racial Color Blindness: Fact or Myth?

Today's headlines remind us that racism remains a dark side of American society and beyond.

JSC member Cindy Goldberg is no stranger to racism and the ills it creates. As Cindy writes in the January 2020 publication of the American Association of University Women (AAUW-HHL-Branch):

We didn't know it but I guess I lived in what is now called a progressive family. I'm a first generation American and our focus was not on race as we understand it today. Our focus was on survival. The horror of World War II was still swirling around us when I was born. My parents experienced fear having just come out of the great economic depression to find out that Hitler was trying to exterminate all of my people and certainly we had lost most if not all of our relatives who remained in Europe. Until the end of World War II, my family knew that death could be at our door.

I was raised to be a proud American forever grateful for the sacrifice of the nation in the war effort. I was, within reason, raised to feel relatively safe here. I was told the policeman was my friend. Today we know this blind trust cannot be shared by all.

After World War II, there was some good news. Our family was a loyal Brooklyn Dodger family. Jackie Robinson was our hero. We talked about how he wasn't treated right by the crowd and other players, but he was our hero and he withstood every test

My favorite doll was soft, made of cloth and, to an adult eye, of another race. Did I think I had a black doll? No, my doll was just something I loved beyond words. I think my family, without knowing it, was trying to raise me color blind. I went to an integrated high school in Harlem. I had friends who were varied in race and culture, and when they came to my home their backgrounds were a non-issue. It was not discussed. They were just my friends and were welcome.

Today there is a different perspective. I would like to share the article from the *Charlotte Parent*, August 27, 2018, by Liz.Rothaus Bertrand. (You

can Google this site.) The article suggests that rather than denying differences in race and culture, we discuss and recognize their impact on our lives.

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Anti-Semitism: The Continuing Story

Anti-Semitism has been the subject of countless news articles, television reports and even topics of discussion at our Friday night Shabbat programs.

The JSC community includes members who escaped from the terrors of anti-Semitism from their native homelands of Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

What it means to be a Jew and the challenges this imposes are very much a part of our DNA, a 2,000 year-old story that is still with us today.

Anti-Semitism takes many forms, from the harassment a young person might encounter on the campus or playground, to the violence of the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, or the attack on the Hasidic community in Monsey, New York.

According to recent reports in the *Washington Post* and Associated Press, those who perpetuate these acts of violence toward Jews do not represent a single political ideology. For example, the prime suspects in recent incidents were two black men, a black woman, a Hispanic man, and a white man. The racial demographics of these incidents tend to match the demographics of the communities where the attacks occurred.

The majority of anti-Semitic incidents involve vandalism or harassment. Most Jews are difficult to identify as Jews--except for Hasidic men with the traditional black hats, long beards, and black suits that do not permit them to "blend in." However, Jewish institutions are easy to find such as synagogues, offices, and other places where Jews congregate, says Jack Levin of the

Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict at Northeastern University.

Most Jews in our new century have not experienced direct violent attacks or even harassment, but the rising tide of anti-Semitism nationally and world-wide has had a significant impact on their morale.

Just as climate change will be (hopefully) dealt with in the future by young people, so the new generation of Jews will meet the challenges of anti-Semitism: young people like Shashana Blum, 20 year-old junior at the City College of New York who, in a recent *New York Times* article, stated that "I am proud of my Jewish heritage and will not be afraid and in hiding."

— Allen Guth



Kathe Mayer

**Photo Gallery:
December 27 Chanukah**



Rifke Feinstein, Nora Kancelbaum and Cindy Goldberg



Guest Speaker: Jackie Herriman



Don and Elaine Sherman



Guest Speaker: Marilyn Burns

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>
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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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