



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

www.jewishsecularcommunity.org

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Upcoming Events

Friday, Jan 29, Shabbat and Tu B'Shvat Programs p. 1

Sunday, Jan 31, Board Meeting, 10:30 AM

Virtual Shabbat and Tu B'Shvat Programs for January

This virtual event employs Zoom technology. See our website www.jewishsecularcommunity.org and click on Holidays and Events.

Date: January 29 at 7 p.m. RSVP by January 27 to pegfishman@gmail.com.

2020-2021 Fri. Shabbat Programs

Jan. 29, 2021. Sonny Simon, Cuyahoga County Councilwoman. "Cuyahoga County's Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags." (Karen)

Feb. 26, 2021. Gregg Philipson, lecturer, educator and collector. "Dr. Seuss Goes to War and Before." (Lynn)

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

April 23, 2021. Emma Renfrew, Development Director, Foundation Beyond Belief. (Lynn)

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

"Cuyahoga County's Ban on Single Use Plastic Bags"

Sunny Simon, Cuyahoga County Councilwoman

Happy New Year!

These three simple words are now more meaningful than ever. The definitions of "new" are "a change for the better," "refreshed," and "reinvigorated." We bid goodbye to 2020, a time dominated by the scourge of COVID-19, and welcome 2021, a year that promises a return to our lives a sense of "normal" thanks to the scientific breakthrough of the vaccines now available to all of us.

The Jewish Secular Community in particular is looking forward to the future. Elsewhere in this newsletter we describe our association with marketing consultant Jenna Langan. Utilizing social media, Jenna has devised a marketing plan that will attract new members to assure a bright, thriving future for the Jewish Secular Community.

JSC is Now On Social Media

With the help of our new Marketing Consultant, Jenna Langan, JSC is now on Facebook and YouTube. These platforms will help us digitally showcase all that we are doing as a group and help us stay more connected as we continue to meet virtually. More importantly, this will also help us gain and invite new members into our JSC community! We will be sharing posts weekly on Facebook and encourage you to like, comment and share anything that resonates with you. To follow and like us on Facebook, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/JSCcleveland>.

Our YouTube channel will feature past zoom Shabbat recordings and other highlights. To check out our YouTube, please visit https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB1pu7_EsH00w1pNrQeA15g

Globalism and the anti-Semitic Connection

The term "globalism" has been in the news over the past several years and has created its share of controversy, especially in its connection to anti-Semitism.

An article by Rachel Barenblat in the Jewish Forward states, "Globalism is a term with an anti-Semitic history, and it is often understood as a code word for 'Jews,' traumatizing many Jews over the years."

This is especially pertinent in the wake of a bomb attack several years ago at the home of George Soros, the prominent Jewish philanthropist who often espouses the globalist position.

The connection between globalism and the old anti-Semitic charge that Jews are not loyal citizens of any nation is a position fostered by the writings of Hitler.

Globalism is often equated with cosmopolitanism, a position taken by citizens of the wide world, holding that we are all an interconnected community and that we have ethical obligations to people who live differently from us.

A globalist, then, is someone who believes economic and foreign policy should be planned with the international community in mind, instead

of what is best for a particular country. A globalist looks at the world through a global lens, aspiring to be a citizen of the world and not where they happen to reside.

A view of the world from outer space shows that we're all interconnected, that what happens in one part of the world impacts other parts of the world. Pollution - or the COVID pandemic - knows no borders. We are all interconnected and are all responsible for and accountable to one another.

Barbara Smith, R.I.P.

Barbara Smith, a former member of JSC, passed away in November. Barbara served as social co-chair in 2017-18, and participated in numerous JSC activities. Our condolences to Marvin Smith and the Smith family.

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.

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 world-wide community of secular Jews*

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