



The JSC Newsletter

Newsletter of the Cleveland Jewish Secular Community

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Autumn Edition

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General Editor: Steve Shucard (steveshucard@hotmail.com) **Copy Editor:** Nora Kancelbaum
Contributors: Rifke Feinstein, Robert Frost, Audrey Halpern, Lynn Salzbrenner, Ellen Schwartz

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*But the mountains I raise
Elude my embrace,
Flowing over my arms
And into my face.*

*I may load and unload
Again and again
Till I fill the whole shed,
And what have I then?*



Welcome to Autumn!

Gathering Leaves

by Robert Frost

*Spades take up leaves
No better than spoons,
And bags full of leaves
Are light as balloons.*

*I make a great noise
Of rustling all day
Like rabbit and deer
Running away.*

*Next to nothing for weight,
And since they grew duller
From contact with earth,
Next to nothing for color.*

*Next to nothing for use.
But a crop is a crop,
And who's to say where
The harvest shall stop?*

October Shabbat Program Promises Stimulating Discussion

The **Friday, October 22** Shabbat program will feature as guest speaker Greg Coleridge, Director of the Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee, who will discuss "Creating Real Democracy: Human Rights Over Corporate Rights." The topic is one of particular interest in this election season and in the light of the recent Supreme Court decision to allow corporations to make unlimited campaign contributions to office seekers.

Mr. Coleridge is author of *Citizens over Corporations: A Brief History of Democracy in Ohio* and writer of the documentary "CorpOrNation: The Story of Citizens and Corporations in Ohio."

As always, the event will be held at the First Unitarian Church, located at 21600 Shaker Blvd. Members and friends will meet and mingle at 6:45 p.m., with dinner being served at 7:00. The lecture and discussion will start at 8:00.

Please bring **nutritious** and **nonperishable** canned or boxed food items for donation to a local food pantry. In the dire straits that so many of our neighbors find themselves in, the JSC would like to help out as much as it can.

The JSC provides the main course, challah, wine, drinks, and all serving utensils. The following assignments for potluck dishes have been made:

Last names A-S: Side dish for 10 – 12 people

Last names T-Z: Dessert dish for 10 – 12 people

If bringing a guest, please be sure your food contribution feeds 12 – 14 people.

Please bring a listing of ingredients for your potluck course.

2010-2011 Shabbat Programs	
Date*	Program
Oct. 22	Greg Coleridge, American Friends Service Committee. "Creating Real Democracy: Human Rights over Corporate Rights"
Nov. 19	Alex Luchenitser, Senior Litigation Counsel, Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "Recent Church-State Controversies"
Dec. 17	Mark Weber, delegate for Witness for Peace (a human rights organization working in Colombia). "Counting the Dead - Making the Dead Count"
Jan. 21	Barry Zucker, Beyond Pesticides, Ohio. "Fabulous Lawn Care"
Feb. 18	Movie Night: "The Case for Israel - Democracy's Outpost"
Mar. 18	Shabbat/Purim (no speaker)
Apr. 29	Alan Federman, J-Street. (Topic TBA)
May 20	Annabelle Weiss. "The Evolution of Yiddish"

***All programs are held on Friday evening.**

The Social Scene

Edie Todd, this year's chair of the Social Committee, reports that on **Sunday, October 17**, JSC members can attend a free film titled "From Holocaust to Freedom: A Journey To Cleveland," at the Cedar Lee Theatre. Show time is at 1:00 p.m., but seating is not reserved, so **plan to meet at the theatre at 12:30 p.m.** for good seating arrangements. Contact Edie at egmtodd@gmail.com for tickets and information.

We will get together at a nearby restaurant after the film. A separate e-mail will name the restaurant and provide directions.

The 90-minute film is being shown as a free community screening by the Mandel JCC's FilmFest. The film, which was directed and produced by Beachwood High School students, features the lives of local Holocaust survivors. The nephew of JSC members **Greg Malkin and Karen Tucker** participated in its making while a student at the high school.

There is a limited number of tickets available. Additional tickets can be obtained from the Mandel JCC or at the Cedar Lee 45 minutes before the show, if available.

* * *

On **Sunday, November 14, at 7:30 p.m.**, members will meet to attend a free presentation of the Mandel JCC Festival of Jewish Books and Authors at Siegal College, 26500 Shaker Blvd. Contact Edie at egmtodd@gmail.com for tickets and information.

Tom Segev, historian and weekly columnist for *Ha'aretz*, an Israeli newspaper, will speak on his book, *Simon Wiesenthal: The Life and Legend*. The book is a new and fully documented biography of Wiesenthal and includes his role in the capture of Adolf Eichmann. Expect an intriguing and fascinating evening! A dessert reception will follow the presentation. Through the generosity of a grant from Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, there is no charge for the event.

A limited number of tickets is available, but Edie has obtained 30 for our group. Additional tickets and information can be obtained from the Mandel JCC.

* * *

Although details are still to be worked out, Edie has several other activities planned for the coming months:

- ✓ Chanukah party
- ✓ New Year's Eve party at a member's home.
- ✓ Theater party at Dobama
- ✓ Private viewing of the Progressive Insurance Company's art collection
- ✓ Lecture at the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame on Jewish contributions to Rock 'n Roll
- ✓ Movie Night for members

Of course, most events will be preceded or followed by a restaurant meal!

Men's Discussion Group

The Men's Discussion Group has developed a solid circle of participants, but new group members are always welcome.

The group's next meeting will be on **Thursday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m.** at the home of **Hans Leander** located at 320 Claymore Blvd., Richmond Hts. The topic for the evening will be announced prior to meeting.

In September, the group met at the home of Stan Tager. Participants compared the (de)merits of the private and public sectors of the American economy. The discussion was lively and inconclusive.

2010-2011 Schedule of JSC Board Meetings*

October 17

November 21

December 19

January 16

February 20

March 20

April 10

May 15

*Board meetings are held monthly on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. at Heinen's in Pepper Pike (Chagrin and Lander Rds.).

Member Notes

Family and friends recently celebrated **Roni Berenson's** 80th birthday. However, it was with deep sadness that we learned of the sudden passing on of Lou Garcia, Roni and Elliott's son-in-law and daughter Wendy's husband. The Jewish Secular Community extends its

deepest condolences to the Berenson family.

* * *

The Community warmly welcomes new members **Sandra Arndt** and **Irene Tenenbaum**. Sandra is a former member who has decided to return to the JSC family. In future issues of the *JSC Newsletter* we hope to provide a more in-depth introduction.

* * *

Thanks to **Judy and Sheldon Herzog** as well as **Harvey Schwartz** and Marcia Rosenthal for helping to set up the Solon Community Center.

* * *

Cindy Goldberg invites members to join a blog that has been started by the Heights Hillcrest Lyndhurst (HHL) Branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women). The blog can be accessed at <http://aauwhhl.wordpress.com/>

Holidays Observed by JSC

The JSC observed Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot with formal programs, meals, and some traditional ritual.

The Rosh Hashana program was held on September 9 at the Church of the Western Reserve in Pepper Pike. The Erev Yom Kippur observance took place at the Shaker Lakes Nature Center on the evening of September 17. The following day, the Community gathered at the Solon Community Center to participate in a discussion, led by Mark Weber, that called on the Community to reflect on the changes that have taken place in the organization over the years and to consider the kind of Community we want to be as we move forward. The discussion was followed by the JSC's traditional break-the-fast meal.

On Sunday, September 26, JSCers marked the harvest festival of Sukkot by raising a *sukka* and sharing a potluck lunch at the home of **Walker and Edie Todd** in Chagrin Falls.



Photo by Audrey Halpern
From left to right, Hans Leander, Irv Bayer, Cindy Goldberg, and Greg Malkin team up to construct the *sukka*.



Photo by Audrey Halpern
Rifke Feinstein reads a portion of the service in front of the completed *sukka*.

Community Service Opportunities

Nora Kancelbaum, co-chair of the Community Service Committee, announces three volunteer activities in

October in which JSCers can participate. Two involve some physical exertion; one can be done sitting.

Sunday, October 3, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.: Community-Wide Cemetery Preservation Project at Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery at Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery, 3740 Ridge Road, Brooklyn Heights.

Volunteers will weed, rake, prune and beautify the cemetery grounds.

The Federation needs volunteers for this family-friendly *mitzvah*. It is held every fall, always (except for this year) before Rosh Hashana. It is traditional for Jews to visit graves of their loved ones before the holidays, but because of a scheduling problem, it is being held Oct. 3 instead.

Please notify Nora Kancelbaum (216-283-2562; nkancelbaum@gmail.com) if you would like to participate. If so, you will receive all necessary information including a registration form to send to the Federation. We will plan carpooling.

The JSC has been a presence at this event for several years and we hope to have good representation this year as well. Bring your grandchildren!

Saturday, October 9, about 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.: Help set up and serve a community meal at Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Euclid. (If you can do fewer hours, that's OK, too.)

Saturday, October 16, 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Answer calls from WCPN contributors during fund-raising event. No physical exertion is required. We will work on carpooling.

For more information or to sign up, please call or e-mail Nora Kancelbaum (216-283-2562; nkancelbaum@gmail.com).

In December, JSCers will be invited to perform their annual volunteer work at Montefiore on Christmas Day.

CSJO News

Rifke Feinstein, Executive Director of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations, writes, "Labor Day weekend was very special this year in Vancouver, BC. The Peretz Centre for Secular Jews hosted a West Coast regional conference. In 2009, sisters Shoshana and Yael Seid Green put on the first annual West Coast conference in Northern California. It was so successful that the Peretz Centre agreed to host the second annual conference."

Rifke says, "I felt very privileged to be part of this year's conference which was, again, very successful. Kudos to the Peretz members who worked so very hard to produce this fine, diverse, and very well attended conference."

On the mission of the CSJO, Rifke states in the *CSJO Newsletter*, "The Congress of Secular Jewish Organization's unity of purpose is a secular expression of our Jewish heritage, with particular emphasis on the cultural and ethical aspects of Jewish learning."

Yes, Fellow Members, There Is a JSC Lending Library

At Mark Weber's suggestion, the JSC Board has voted to make the Community's library accessible to members and to fund materials to make it a user-friendly circulating library. The collection will be housed at the Unitarian Church, where we hold our monthly dinner and speaker program. Under consideration is a plan to update the collection.

Defining Secularism and Humanism

During the discussion preceding the Yom Kippur break-the-fast, a question arose about the distinction between "secular" and "humanistic." Is the JSC a strictly secular organization or should it be considered secular-humanistic? The following dictionary definitions may help to answer such questions.

secularism: indifference to or rejection or exclusion of religion and religious considerations (Merriam-Webster online dictionary)

humanism: a doctrine, attitude, or way of life centered on human interests or values; especially: a philosophy that usually rejects supernaturalism and stresses an individual's dignity and worth and capacity for self-realization through reason (Merriam-Webster online dictionary)

secular humanism: humanism, with regard particular to the belief that humanity is capable of morality and self-fulfillment without belief in God (Oxford online dictionary)

JSC Board Notes

During Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, the JSC collected \$600 in donations.

Rosh Hashana services were attended by 85 members and friends. The Erev Yom Kippur program had 96 attendees, and the discussion and break-the-fast had 60 and 55 participants, respectively. The JSC will reserve a larger room next year.

The JSC Mission

The Jewish Secular Community, affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations and the International Federation of Secular Humanistic Jews, 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 2009 - 2010

President*

Allen Guth, 216-291-5869
thelanguagesource@neohio.twcbc.com

Vice President*

Edie Todd, 440-338-1169
egmtodd@gmail.com

Treasurer*

Greg Malkin, 440-247-7692
jsc@gregmalkin.com

Secretary*

Sue Berlin, 216-464-8780
sueberlin@roadrunner.com

Friday Night Shabbat Programs*

Lynn Salzbrenner, 330-463-0149
lynnsalzbrenner@gmail.com

Shabbat Setup*

Judy & Sheldon Herzog, 216-381-0651
shell9@sbcglobal.net

Madrikh

Mark Weber, 440-519-0220
lastdetective@yahoo.com

CSJO Delegate

Renee Lipson, 440-646-9337
lipsonrenee@gmail.com

Holidays*

Rifke Feinstein, 216-481-0850
rifke@bronxbobbe.com

Ellen Schwartz, 440-449-4419
eschwa7500@yahoo.com

Membership*

Beverly Feingold, 440-442-3686
bfeingold@sbcglobal.net

Sharon Shucard, 330-425-3234
steveshucard@hotmail.com

E-mail Postmaster

Scott Radway, 216-691-1949
teamspike@mac.com

Newsletter*

Steve Shucard, 330-425-3234
steveshucard@hotmail.com

Enid German-Beck, 216-921-2127
Duane_enid@hotmail.com

Social*

Edie Todd, 440-338-1169
egmtodd@gmail.com

Community Service*

Nora Kancelbaum, 216-283-2562
nkancelbaum@gmail.com

Harvey Schwartz, 440-449-4418
eschwa7500@yahoo.com

Publicity, Sunshine*

Sandy Guth, 216-291-5869
thelanguagesource@neohio.twcbc.com

*Member of JSC Board of Trustees