

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews:

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

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Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org

CulturalJews@aol.com

<http://trivalleyculturaljews.wordpress.com/>



Affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations

Our mission statement: "A Secular Humanistic community serving those who identify with the Jewish People through family, culture and history, rather than through religion."

Upcoming Events for Mid-August and September 2011

Friday, August 26: Family Shabbat 6:00 p.m. at Wendy Berenson's home, 49 Nead Place in San Ramon. A short ceremony, pizza, chat and play before everyone gets home in time for bed. \$7/adult for pizza. Kids free. Please let us know you are coming by responding to the evite or calling Jamie at 510-888-1404.

Wednesday, September 7. Planning meeting. 7:00 p.m. at the home of Judith Seid and David Gates, 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

Sunday, September 11: Welcome to Jewish Culture School! 10:30 am to noon. An introduction to the school for parents, prospective parents and their kids. We'll have activities for the children, a light brunch, and an introduction to Secular Jewishness and the Jewish Culture School for parents and grandparents. This year's topic is Jews Around the World. If you've been thinking about joining, please attend this event. If you have friends who might be interested, please invite them, too. Do let us know you're coming so we won't run out of bagels. 925-485-1049 or CulturalJews@aol.com. Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St. in Livermore. (JCS meets twice a month in Castro Valley).

Saturday, September 17: Family Havdalah. 6:00 p.m. at the home of Jamie and Solomon Ireland, 19663 Fremery Court in Castro Valley. A short ceremony, pizza, chat and play before everyone gets home in time for bed. \$7/adult for pizza. Kids free. Please let us know you are coming by responding to the evite or calling Jamie at 510-888-1404.

Sunday, September 25: First Day of Jewish Culture School. 10:30 to 12:30 am. 19663 Fremery Court in Castro Valley.

Wednesday, September 28: Rosh Hashanah observance. 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, 1893 N. Vasco Road. This is where we had our very first meeting as a group in 2005! It will be a non-religious ceremony of music and readings followed by a reception with honey cake, apples and honey, and special Rosh Hashanah challah. \$10/adult non-member of TVCJ. We will be collecting canned and boxed food for the food bank.

Ad hoc fall holiday pick-up band and chorus: If you like to sing and/or play an instrument and you're planning on attending our Rosh Hashanah and/or Yom Kippur observances, you might like to join our ad hoc holiday pick-up band and chorus. We'll get you the music and will have a couple of rehearsals prior to the events. We will lead most of the songs, but we might actually perform one that most people won't know at each holiday. Interested? Let us know by calling 925-485-1049 or e-mailing CulturalJews@aol.com.

Message from the President

I don't know how history will view the 2011 debt ceiling crisis, but I consider it a symptom of a more and more dysfunctional government. I have heard some talk about brinkmanship, but this goes beyond waiting to the last minute to make a deal. The TEA Party people were successful in placing a strangle hold on the system by refusing to compromise. In fact, they made compromise look like weakness. It's like a game of chicken, with two cars speeding towards each other. If one person doesn't veer off, they both die and everybody loses, but the one who veers off saves everyone. I hope the TEA Party supporters realize that by refusing to ever compromise our country is headed for a serious crash.

Who We Are

President	Kevin Coren 925-240-5612
Board Members	Judith Seid 925-485-1049 Phyllis Looney 925-803-0574 Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404
Newsletter	Marisa Castaldini 925-240-5612 Phyllis Looney 925-803-0574 Ed Looney 925-803-0574
Webmasters	Noah King 925-371-8585 Solomon Ireland 510-888-1404
JCS Teachers	Judith Seid, Jamie Ireland
Phone Chair	Phyllis Looney
Family Shabbat/Havdalah Coordinator	– Jamie Ireland
Publicity	Kristie Wang. 925-596-0416
Movie Coordinator	Wendy Berenson 925-829-0554

Mark Your Calendars....

Saturday, October 8: Yom Kippur observance. 1-4 p.m. at the Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St. in Livermore. Program of readings and music, followed by workshop sessions and a memorial ceremony. \$10/adult non-member of TVCJ. We will be collecting canned and boxed food for the food bank. There will also be an opportunity to donate to various charitable organizations.

Sunday, October 16: 10:30 a.m. Sukkah-raising party/JCS at the home of the Frank/Wang family in Livermore. Bring a dish to share, a branch (if you have one) and a fruit or other decoration for the sukkah. We will also be collecting canned and boxed food for the food bank.

Sunday, October 23: Trip to Angel Island. JCS and any interested adult friends or members of TVCJ. If you are interested in coming along, please call Jamie at 510-444-1808.

Havdalah Pool Party

July's Havdalah-pool party at the Looney's home was enjoyed by many adults and kids.

Whether we were enjoying appetizers, swimming, socializing, and trying our hand at ping-pong, a good afternoon was had by all. After a short ceremony, we had pizza and a dessert bar that included bread pudding and brownie sundaes. See a few pictures on Pages 3 and 4.

Mishpokha (family)

Happy August and September birthdays to Jamie Ireland, Andrew Newman, Rebecca Newman, Sophia Ireland, Arnold Jacobson Ed Looney, Anne Lubran, and Wendy Berenson Garcia.

In August, we honor the yortseits of John Gates, father of David Gates and Lou Garcia, husband of Wendy Berenson Garcia.

If you have a yortseit you'd like us to remember, please let us know, 925-485-1049 or CulturalJews@aol.com.

In The Community

September 2 – 5 (Labor Day weekend), JewWest Conference in Seattle. There's still time to register for a great weekend of music, workshops and camaraderie with like-minded non-religious Jews. You can find all the information you need at <http://jew-west-2011.org/>

Thursday, September 8, 8:00pm, Red Hot Chachkas and Vocolot in "Hardly Strictly Klezmer, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, Berkeley. Tickets: \$20.50 advance/ \$22.50 at door. More info: thefreight.org, 510.644.2020.

Wednesday, September 14: Targeting Terrorists: An evening with Counter-terrorism expert Amos Guiora. 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. For tickets, www.ljfed.org/trivalley or 510 318 6453. \$12 in advance, \$18 at the door. Cosponsored by Beth Emek, TVCJ, Chabad and other Tri-Valley Jewish organizations.

Contra Costa Jewish Book Festival (Nov. 5-11, Nov. 13, Nov. 16) and the East Bay Jewish Film Festival (March 10-18, 2012).

Didja Know? Veyst Vos?

Rosh Hashanah was not the original Jewish new year. There were four different new years, including the new year of the trees, the new year for animals, the new year for kings (which was at Rosh Hashanah), and the new year of the year, which was at Pesakh. The fall new year is important for farmers, since this is when the rain comes. The spring new year was important for herders, since this is when the lambs are born. As the Israelites became farmers rather than herders, the fall new year attained more importance and became the religious new year during the priestly period, although Nisan the month of Pesach, remains the first month of the year. Yes, that's right. Our new year starts on the first day of the seventh month. Go figure.



This Month in Jewish History

In August, 1861, the Army abolished flogging following the Navy, which abolished flogging in August of 1850 largely due to the efforts of the Jewish Captain Uriah P. Levy.

The 26th of Elul, which comes in late September this year, marks the anniversary of the murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the Olympic Village in Munich. A popular movie was made about the Israeli agents who hunted down the perpetrators. Much was made in the movie of the mixed feelings and angst of these agents, but the actual agents who participated in the hunt reported no such mixed feelings at all.





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