

# Tri-Valley Cultural Jews:

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

(925) 485-1049

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 December 2011

**Sunday, Dec. 4:** Jewish Culture School 10:30 a.m. in Castro Valley. We are actively looking for new students, particularly those 10 and older. We have a 2-year Bar/Bat Mitzvah program that is now accepting students. If you know anyone who has kids the right age and who might be interested, please let them know about Jewish Culture School!

**Wednesday, Dec. 7** – Planning meeting, 7:00 p.m. at 1817 Sinclair Drive, Pleasanton. All members welcome.

**Sunday, December 18** – Chanukah party! 10:30 a.m., Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St. in Livermore. Bring your gift for our adoptive family, a potato, and donation of boxed or canned food. We'll have games and crafts for adults and kids, latke making (and eating!) and, of course, our candle lighting ceremony.

This year we are "adopting" The Zila Family from Bosnia through the Jewish Family and Children's Services holiday giving program. The Zilas lived through the war in Bosnia and lost many family members. They left their country and lived as refugees in Germany until they were able to come to the U.S. They wanted a better life for their children. The father works, and the mother stays home with her children. The children, a 12-year old boy and a 9-year old girl, are doing very well in school.

Some suggestions on the family wish list include:

**Boy – 12-years old:** Color: red. Likes: Legos and games. Size: 14/16. Shirt or sweater, pajamas, jacket, board game, school supplies, backpack, queen sheet set, queen blanket, gift card to iTunes, Barnes and Noble, Old Navy or Target.

**Girl – 9-years old:** Color: green. Likes: singing and dancing. Size: 10/11. Shirt or sweater, pajamas, jacket, board game, school supplies, backpack, full sheet set, full blanket, lotion/soap, gift card to iTunes, Barnes and Noble, Old Navy or Target.

**Mom, Dad and household:** gift card for Target or Safeway, sheet set (king), queen blanket, fuzzy couch throw, tea kettle, silverware, photo album, sweet treat for family.

**Gently used items desired, *only if available*:** vacuum, toaster, blender, juice maker, electric mixer, computer or laptop, iPod, food processor, DVD player, kid's bike.

Please let us know what you would like to provide and bring it to the Chanukah party on December 18 (or give gifts to someone who can bring it) by emailing [CulturalJews@aol.com](mailto:CulturalJews@aol.com) or calling 925-485-1049. If you are not able to shop, please consider a donation with which we can buy Safeway gift cards or other things.

## Hello from CSJO

At the CSJO board meeting in November, the Social Action committee, co-chaired by Ethan Wasserman and Adam Beardsley, drafted two statements that were unanimously approved by the CSJO board. The following are the statements.

### Statement #1

The Social Action Committee of The Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations, CSJO, is a federation of North American organizations dedicated to the continuity of the Jewish people and to their culture. Because of our commitment to our traditional Jewish beliefs in humanism, compassion for all peoples, and social justice we support the concept of a United Nations resolution to admit Palestine as a member state under the condition that Palestine recognizes Israel's right to peacefully co-exist as a Jewish state and have full diplomatic relations with Israel.

In 1989, CSJO resolved to support a two-state solution. In the intervening years, there has been no realistic advancement towards this goal. We would therefore support a United Nations resolution that would guarantee a secure and peaceful future for both Israel and Palestine.

Here is a link to the 1989 statement of the social action committee of CSJO:

<http://www.csjo.org/pages/socialaction/middleeast.htm>

### Statement #2

The Social Action Committee of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations (CSJO) is a federation of North American organizations dedicated to the continuity of the Jewish people and to their culture. Because of our commitment to our traditional Jewish beliefs in humanism, compassion for all peoples, and social justice, we support the Occupy action currently underway in many North American cities and the tenets of the Occupy movement which have given rise to these actions.

We support the basic tenets of the occupy movement which includes stopping corporate greed which has led to the following problems:

- the housing crisis
- the loss of jobs through outsourcing overseas
- anti-unionism
- anti-environmentalism
- the lack of universal health care
- student debt
- the unfair distribution of wealth
- the inequitable tax system

and other related issues that impact our society.

We urge the North American "occupied" cities to accommodate the occupiers with compassion, dignity and non-violence. We stand in solidarity with the Occupy movement.

I would be happy to hear from you on these issues!

Sholem!

Rifke Feinstein  
Executive Director, CSJO

## 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

## Message from the President

Community service. This is part of my son's bar mitzvah work, as well as a component of his teen theater group. My school now requires students to do community service and most high schools have it as a graduation requirement. The problem is getting kids (and adults) to do it. Some embrace helping others while others find it difficult to motivate themselves. I want to raise my children to understand the importance of giving back to the community, but if I push them into doing things they can't stand, they may not continue. I also have to remember that they may not like to do the same things I do. The thing to do is to help them find something they enjoy. An article I recently read mentioned a book and website "1000mitzvahs.org" which may have some ideas. You might want to check it out too.

## Mishpokha (family)

### **Birthdays:**

Happy Birthday to Ella King and Adam Newman!

### **Yortseits:**

In December, we remember Celia Zuckerman, Charles Zuckerman great-uncle of Judith Seid, Alice Calder mother of Jacky Poulsen, Sue Greenblum aunt of Phyllis Looney, Yossl Seid grandfather of Judith Seid, Irving Shapiro uncle of Phyllis Looney, Benjamin Sczuchman great-uncle of Judith Seid, Enye Seid great-aunt of Judith Seid, Sam Zuckerman grandfather of Judith Seid

### **And....**

Ella and Adam King will be in Livermore's Bankhead Theater's production of *The Nutcracker*.

Here's the link to the dance company's website, where all dates are listed:

[valleydancetheatre.com](http://valleydancetheatre.com).

And here's the link to the Bankhead's ticket sales:

<http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org/>

Ella is in all of both weekends' shows, as a soldier: Dec. 10, 11, 16, 17, and 18. Adam is in all the second weekend's shows as a rosehip (a partner dance): Dec. 16, 17, and 18. Break a leg kids!

## Interesting Website

**The Ger Mandolin Orchestra** is a living recollection of the Jewish mandolin orchestra (1920-1930) in Poland's Gora Kalwaria (*Ger*, in Yiddish), created by Bay Area resident (and KlezCalifornia member) Avner Yonai. The eleven-member band traveled to Poland in September and performed in Gora Kalwaria as well as in Warsaw. A video about the project is at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJdBG0jzxhg&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJdBG0jzxhg&feature=youtube_gdata_player). More info: [germandolin\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:germandolin[at]gmail.com) (Thanks to Avner Yonai).

## This Month in Jewish History

On the 16 of Kislev in 1947 (Dec. 13 this year, but November the year it happened), the UN General Assembly approved Resolution 181, a plan for the partition of the remainder British mandate territory of Palestine (after the carving out of Jordan) into a Jewish and an Arab state. The plan includes religious rights in both states and an economic union between them that included a joint currency. Each state would have been divided into three non-contiguous territories and Jews in the Arab territories/Arabs in Jewish territories could opt to be citizens of the other state, while keeping their residences. You can read the resolution at <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/un/res181.htm>. The map at wikipedia nicely shows what the resolution describes. Jerusalem would be separately administered by a governor representing the UN and not a citizen of either state.

Some interesting provisions (verbatim):

Women may vote and be elected to the Constituent Assemblies.

Guaranteeing to all persons equal and non-discriminatory rights in civil, political, economic and religious matters and the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion, language, speech and publication, education, assembly and association;

Preserving freedom of transit and visit for all residents and citizens of the other State in Palestine and the City of Jerusalem, subject to considerations of national security, provided that each State shall control residence within its borders.

The Commission shall appoint a preparatory economic commission of three members to make whatever arrangements are possible for economic co-operation, with a view to establishing, as soon as practicable, the Economic Union and the Joint Economic Board, as provided in section D below.

Freedom of conscience and the free exercise of all forms of worship, subject only to the maintenance of public order and morals, shall be ensured to all.

No discrimination of any kind shall be made between the inhabitants on the ground of race, religion, language or sex.

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