

# Tri-Valley Cultural Jews:

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

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Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org

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<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 January 2013

Wednesday January 2, 7:00 pm: TVCJ Planning Meeting. 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

Sunday, January 6, 10:30-12:30: Jewish Culture School, at the Ireland's, Castro Valley.

January 6, 10:45-12:15: Philosophers' Café/Culture Chat 10:45 AM - 12:15 pm, Cafe Rumi, 4799 Heyer Ave., Castro Valley. This month's topic: "Should we lie to keep our children out of jail?"

Saturday, January 12, 5:00 pm: General Havdalah and Movie night At the Berenson house, 49 Nead Place, San Ramon. A little ceremony, pizza, a movie for grown-ups, and a movie for kids, \$7.00 for adults. Please respond to the evite or call 510-888-1404

Sunday, January 20, 10:30-12:30: Jewish Culture School, at the Ireland's, Castro Valley.

Sunday, January 27, 10:30-12:30: Tu B'Svhat: More info coming soon!



## Movie Night: Between Two Worlds

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS is a personal essay film telling five riveting stories that go beyond political postures to reveal the passionate debates over identity and generational change inside today's American Jewish community:

- \* An incident at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival rips the local Jewish community apart with charges of anti-Semitism and self-hatred, McCarthyism and witch-hunts. Who is entitled to speak for a polarized Jewish community?
- \* The debate over ethnic/religious continuity threatens to widen the generation divide. Massive efforts are made to increase the Jewish birth rate and stop intermarriage, but young Jews choose new, hybrid and re-invented Jewish identities despite the outcry of traditionalists.
- \* America's leading Holocaust center starts to build a tolerance museum in Jerusalem – on a famous Muslim cemetery – and sparks a debate over the meaning and uses of history.
- \* Jewish neo-conservatives regularly complain that Jews earn like Episcopalians, but vote like African-Americans. We explore why American Jews have been on the left of the political spectrum – and weigh in on whether it's intrinsic in Judaism itself or explained by historical circumstances.
- \* Israeli politics divide Jews in America and in Israel. A younger generation of American Jews raised with liberal values is alienated by Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands. What happens when Jews are torn between their support for the state of Israel and their anger at Israel's violation of basic American Jewish ideals?

Snitow and Kaufman take us on a uniquely personal road-trip that reframes intensely polarized debates over tradition and change, loyalty and dissent inside one American ethnic community.

## Message from the President

This month I will revisit state testing. How do we know when a student has learned what we have taught them? I recently found out that several of my students did not know how to change percents to decimals, but the mistake they were making would give them the correct answer to most of the test questions they were given. If I give students work that is easy, so I can emphasize a new skill and build up to more difficult problems, they might bypass the skill and only use a shortcut. But, if I make the problem difficult, so they can't use the shortcut, they may find it too difficult to learn the new skill. Showing work is often the key to finding out what students truly understand. The state test however only checks whether they have hobbled the correct letter

## 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 open
Webmasters	Noah King 925-371-8585
JCS Teachers	Judith Seid, Jamie Ireland
Phone Chair	open
Family Shabbat/Havdalah Coordinator	– Amy Greenberg
Publicity	open
Movie Coordinator	Wendy Berenson 925-829-0554

## Hanukkah Party

Latkas, dreidels, candles and fun. The kids made edible dreidels and wax candles while the latkas were being made in the kitchen. Everyone enjoyed the latkas with the traditional apple sauce and sour cream, but also with Noah's wonderful smoked salmon topping (see below for the recipe). Thank you to Noah King and Solomon Ireland for cooking latkes, Amy Greenberg for doing the dreidel making activity, Jamie Ireland and Carol King for the candle making activity, Louis and Eileen Alkin-Fagliano for staying to clean up.

As is our tradition, the kids lit the menorah, this time dedicating each candle in the name of bravery: Rosa Parks for standing up for the rights of African Americans, Cesar Chavez who stood up for the rights of farm workers, Martin Luther King Jr. who stood up for the rights of all people to work together, Barak Obama for standing up for the rights of all Americans, Sojourner Truth who helped slaves to freedom, Harvey Milk for standing up for gay rights, Susan B. Anthony for standing up for women's rights, and Judah Maccabee for standing up for Jewish rights.

As is also our tradition, we collected items for a family in need. This year we collected items for a family from Afghanistan who recently immigrated to this country with nothing.

A wonderful time was had by all.



## Smoked Salmon Latke Topping

7 oz. smoked salmon, minced  
1/3 c. red onion, minced  
2 T. capers, minced  
4 t. lemon juice



Just combine all ingredients, and you're good to go. Spoon a little bit on top of a fresh, hot latke. We all found that if you put a little sour cream on the latke first, it's even better. Yum! =)

## In the Community

### Three Weddings and a Reception sponsored by Interfaith Interconnect

Sunday January 27, 2013, 7pm, Asbury Methodist Church, Livermore

Details will come later, but the basic format will be 1 1/2 hours of concert, called 'Sharing our Music: an Interfaith Concert', followed by a one-hour reception.

This will be a free event, and everyone is invited. We hope you will mark your calendars now. We'll be in touch with more details as they develop.

For more information, please contact: Interfaith Interconnect [interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com](mailto:interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com)  
[jackypoulsen9325@gmail.com](mailto:jackypoulsen9325@gmail.com)

## Music!

Klezmer Monday every Monday 6-8 p.m.. at Saul's Restaurant and Deli in Berkeley. 510 848-3354 for info.

Thursday, January 17 9-midnight. The Gonif's (celebrating their CD release) and Veretski Pass. At Starry :lough in Berkeley. Tickets \$8-12. 510 841-2082 or [starryploughpub.com](http://starryploughpub.com) for info.

Wednesday, January 23 7 p.m. Ellis Island Old World Folk Band at Le Bateau Ivre Café/Restaurant in Berkeley. 510 849-1100 or [lebateauivre.net](http://lebateauivre.net) for info.

Sunday, January 27 204 p.m. Klezmer Music at the Jewish Heritage Museum in the Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living in Danville. 925 932-0396 or [rcjl.org/museum](http://rcjl.org/museum) for info.

## This Month In Jewish History

January 11, 1912 saw the beginning of the Bread and Roses strike of textile workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts. The strike, led by the IWW, united thousands of (mostly) women textile workers from multiple ethnic backgrounds. The strike was named for the poem by James Oppenheimer that had just been published the month before. The term "Bread and Roses" had just been coined by Rose Schneiderman after the Triangle Fire in 1911. The poem says, "Hearts starve as well as bodies. Give us bread, but give us roses." You can hear IWW activist Utah Phillips singing a version at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hlS-26-9O4>. (Thanks to Jewdayo for the information. You can subscribe to a daily blast of Jewish history from Jewdayo at <http://jewishcurrents.org/>.)

## Jewish Music Festival

The Jewish Music Festival is coming up!

One “don’t miss” is Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 pm. And Monday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m. Veretski Pass presents a lecture and demonstration entitled “Busting the Myth of the Klezmer Revival” at the JCC East Bay in Berkeley. Tickets are \$15.

Another is Theodore Bikel and others on Thursday, March 7 from 8-10 p.m. at the Freight and Salvage in Berkeley. Tickets are \$30. Hear legendary Theo Bikel with a Bosnian Jewish accordionist and a Dutch singer of Yiddish songs.

There’s lots more - You can get all the information at [jewishmusicfestival.org](http://jewishmusicfestival.org).



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Pleasanton, CA 94588

