

# Tri-Valley Cultural Jews:

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

(925) 485-1049

[Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org](http://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 September 2013

Rosh Hashanah, Wednesday Sept 4, 7 pm. Children are welcome. Bring a donation of canned or boxed food for the food bank. Free to members. \$15 for adult (over 13) non-members. (You can apply the \$15 to your membership if you decide you belong with us.)

First day of JCS and Introduction to TVCJ, Sunday, Sept. 8, 10:30-12:30. Bothwell Arts Center 2466 8<sup>th</sup> St, Livermore. Open house event for prospective members, students and their parents. Newcomers can meet members and parents will have a chance to ask questions and meet parents of students who have been attending. Children will have crafts and a baking project related to this year's theme. A bagel brunch will be provided.

Yom Kippur, Saturday, September 14, 2-5 pm.: Bothwell Arts Center 2466 8th Street, Livermore. We will meet for a Secular Yom Kippur ceremony of music and readings, discussion, and a little bit of fun after which we generally go out to dinner. Free to members. \$15 for adult (over 13) non-members. (You can apply the \$15 to your membership if you decide you belong with us.) There will also be an opportunity to make charitable contributions to various international, national and local agencies. We're also collecting canned and boxed goods for the food bank.

Sukkot, Sun, September 22, 10:30am – 12:30pm. 1817 Sinclair Drive, Pleasanton  
Potluck brunch. Bring a dish to share, a fruit or other decoration to hang in the sukkah and a branch for the roof (if you have one). Also collecting canned and boxed goods for food bank.



### Are You Looking for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah Program?

Three of our JCS students are beginning their bat mitzvah preparation this year. If you have a child who is 10-13 and interested in a secular bar or bat mitzvah, be sure to come to the first meeting of the year, Sept. 8, at the Bothwell Center, for more information on this meaningful program.

## Message from the President

My Summer Vacation:

I spent almost my entire summer entrenched in Fiddler on the Roof. At first, I was excited to have a principal part with a solo and to be performing with my son, Levi. As one of the token Jews, I was the authority on Jewish practices, but, of course, my background as a secular Jew, who grew up in a reform temple in LA had limited applications to early 20<sup>th</sup> century Jews in a Russian shtetl. What I didn't realize was how the story would grow on me. There is nothing inherently special about the character of Tevye, yet the way he deals with all the hardships he encounters makes him incredibly compelling. The story itself unfolds at a perfect pace where we see joys and humor interspersed with escalating sorrows and losses of long held traditions. Ultimately Tevye is separated from his three oldest daughters and his home, but he fights to hang onto the traditions that define who he is. This, of course, is all tied together with beautiful music that expresses the emotions of the characters in a fascinating way. Through the course of doing this show, I have come across many people who are equally enamored by it. If you are not, I encourage you to see it again, hopefully on stage, and take another look. There may be more there than you realized.

## Who We Are

President	Kevin Coren 925-240-5612
Board Members	Judith Seid 925-485-1049 Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404 Ya'el Seid-Green
Newsletter	Marisa Castaldini 925-240-5612
Webmaster	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

## Mishpokha (Family)

### Birthdays

Happy September birthdays to  
Sophia Ireland, Ed Looney, Anne  
Lubran, Ilan Seid-Green, Wendy  
Berenson Garcia

## What Did We Do This Summer?

First Wednesday: We had a booth at Pleasanton downtown's First Wednesday event twice this summer. Our booth featured a Jewish calendar for kids to color and lots and lots of information about our programs. We were delighted to meet a number of people and hope they will join us for the holidays this year and see if we're the right place for them. We used the terrific tent donated by the Coren-Castaldini family and have become pros at erecting it! Booth staffers were Jamie Ireland, Jerry Zwick, Leslie Zwick (who made lots of friends!), Ya'el Seid-Green, Marisa Castaldini and Judith Seid.

Sixteen TVCJ members (15 A's fans and one really happy Blue Jays fan) gathered at the Oakland Coliseum on Jewish Heritage Night July 30 to watch the Toronto Blue Jays trounce the Oakland A's. A good time and a lot of greasy food was had by all. Thanks to Solomon Ireland for arranging a fun outing!



Several families attended Fiddler on the Roof in Brentwood and the Ireland girls got an exclusive backstage tour.

**KlezCalifornia's NEXT exciting  
YIDDISH CULTURE FESTIVAL**

**October 26-27**

**The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, Berkeley**

Plan to enjoy this immersion in klezmer and Yiddish culture and tell friends/family! Our last Festival, at the JCC San Francisco in February 2012, attracted between four and five hundred people!

Headline performers/teachers will be the Strauss/Warschauer duo (from New York) and Veretski Pass (local), both internationally renowned bands. They will perform, and teach instrumental workshops and klezmer dancing. You will also enjoy Achi Ben Shalom (singing), Bruce Bierman (acting), Ken Blady (Jewish history) and Gerry Tenney (Kids' Program). All details will be in the September and October newsletters.

Want to volunteer before or during the Festival and be part of the action? Contact us at [info\[at\]klezcalifornia.org](mailto:info@klezcalifornia.org) or 415.789.7679 to offer your help.

**New Classes Offered at Interfaith Family, Bay Area**

**Love & Religion – Online**

Being part of an interfaith couple can be challenging, but you don't need to find the answers alone. This workshop offers a safe environment to work on your religious lives together. You can make Jewish choices while honoring the traditions of your spouse. This is a 4-session workshop that meets online with multipoint video conferencing and in-person (for dinner). Couples may participate before or after they are wed. Sign up online at: [www.interfaithfamily.com/bayarea](http://www.interfaithfamily.com/bayarea)

7:30-9:00pm    Thursdays: October 3, 10, 17 and 24

**Raising a Child with Judaism**

For parents thinking about whether and how to bring Jewish wisdom, traditions, and customs to their home, lives, and parenting. InterfaithFamily's one-of-a-kind class offers insights from Jewish tradition into major parenting situations like bedtimes and mealtimes. This online, work at your own pace, 8-week class provides additional opportunities to meet in person. The 8 lessons will positively impact the rhythm of your interfaith family's life! Sign up online

at: [www.interfaithfamily.com/bayarea](http://www.interfaithfamily.com/bayarea)    8-session online class begins on October 8, 2013

**Preparing Your Interfaith Family for Bar/Bat Mitzvah**

A one of a kind class for interfaith families to learn more about the history and traditions of this important life cycle event, as well as roles for all family members. An online, work at your own pace, 8-week class in which you will explore a variety of topics and connect with other local interfaith families. This is a non-judgmental, supportive and open forum for you to learn, experience, question, and share. Sign up online at: [www.interfaithfamily.com/bayarea](http://www.interfaithfamily.com/bayarea)

8-session online class begins on October 25, 2013

Rebecca Goodman, Director, InterfaithFamily/Bay Area

415.878.1998 ∴ [rebeccag@interfaithfamily.com](mailto:rebeccag@interfaithfamily.com) ∴ [www.interfaithfamily.com/bayarea](http://www.interfaithfamily.com/bayarea)

## Website of the Month

<http://jewishcurrents.org/the-origins-and-meanings-of-ashkenazic-last-names-12849>

### The Origins and Meanings of Ashkenazic Last Names

by **Bennett Muraskin**

“ Ashkenazic Jews were among the last Europeans to take family names. Some German-speaking Jews took last names as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but the overwhelming majority of Jews lived in Eastern Europe and did not take last names until compelled to do so. The process began in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1787 and ended in Czarist Russia in 1844.” Read more at the website listed above. Muraskin goes on to explain how modern Jewish names came to be.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews  
1817 Sinclair Drive  
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