

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews:

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

(925) 485-1049

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 October 2013

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

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

Sunday, October 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: "What would a utopian society be like? Is it possible to create a utopian society?"

Saturday, October 12, 4pm – 7pm: Havdalah for everyone and Movie Night, everyone welcome, at the King Home - 5210 Diane Lane, Livermore, Ca 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.

Mark your calendars:

Nov 3, Jewish Culture School and Culture Chat

Nov 9, Havdalah at the Greenberg home, 4698 Shearwater Rd

Nov 17, Jewish Culture School

TBA: We will be joining 11 (and counting) Bay Area Congregations, 16 in Chicago, and 26 in Philadelphia, for the first nationwide Interfaith Family Shabbat to welcome interfaith families. TVCJ is already a very interfaith community and we welcome any new families who would like to join us for a special Shabbat.

Thank You!

Sukkah raising - Thank you to Jamie for bringing fun things for the kids to do to decorate the sukkah. Thanks to everyone for the decorations and delicious brunch and to David Gates for leading the sukkah building.

Yom Kippur - Thank you to the readers: Amy, Marisa, Kevin, Solomon, Noah and to Jamie for helping lead. Thanks to David for taking the kids outside and Judy for putting the program together.

Rosh Hashanah – Thanks to Kevin and Judy for preparing the program, the Irelands for setting up, the Greenbergs for cleaning up.

For first day/orientation – Thanks Carol for doing extremely fun things with the kids. Thanks to everyone who helped set up and cleanup and to Jamie for shopping.

We are growing! It was such a pleasure to see new faces at Rosh Hashana, first day and Yom Kippur. If we continue to grow like this, we will grow out of our shabbats/havdalahs at homes. We would love to find a central location, around Pleasanton, where we could use a room for our gathering. We need to be able to bring wine and candles, and either order food like pizza or bring potluck. If you have suggestions, please email CulturalJews@aol.com.

Please consider becoming a member. Homes are free, but renting space or using restaurants can cost.

Message from the President

We have many families. There are those we live with, those we work with, those we play with. One of my families suffered a tragedy today (Sept. 23). As most of you know I teach middle school. Today as a parent was turning out of the school exit, she didn't see that a student was coming from the right on his bicycle, and she hit him. Within two hours his life was over.

The fact that I was not personally acquainted with the student doesn't matter. Our school family had lost one of its members. The staff grieved together today and then went home and hugged our own kids. We will continue to deal with the grief and soon enough things will return to normal. Going through it together will be what helps things return to normal.

It is easy to get caught up in the regular grind and it is unfortunate that sometimes it takes tragic events to remind us not to take our families for granted. So, my TVCJ family, whatever you are going through right now, keep it in perspective, and give your kids, parents, brothers, sisters, friends... give your families a hug.

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

November birthdays: David Austin, Matthew Looney, Emma Greenberg, Amy Greenberg

Welcome new member, Bette Siegel from Castro Valley.

The Center for Inquiry, Northeast Ohio, announced that JSC member Roni Berenson, a secular humanism activist, is the recipient of this year's CFINO Humanism Award. Roni has an illustrious history of outspoken secular humanism, and has been an activist in many humanist causes for decades. Presented biennially since September 2001, the award honors Northeast Ohioans who have played a significant role in helping to foster a secular society based on science. Roni is also mom to our member, Wendy Berenson and Grandma to Allison.

The Holidays

So many holidays strung all together, it's hard to keep it all straight and to remember what happened in each one. Our Rosh Hashana celebration had us thinking about civil rights, the March on Washington fifty years ago, and what we can do in our own community. We wrote our resolutions, which were put together for an exercise during Yom Kippur. There was a common theme of wanting to participate in more civic events and volunteer in the community in addition to the usual resolutions of self-improvement through exercise and eating better. We enjoyed listening to a speaker from the Volunteer Center of the East Bay, "the place where volunteers and nonprofits connect." If you go to VolunteerEastBay.org or call 925-472-5760 you can find out about the thousands of volunteer opportunities in our community.

Sukkot found us in Pleasanton with a delicious potluck. The adults shared stories about the dishes that we brought while the kids sat underneath the sukkah and heard a story about the holiday.

Thank you to all who came to these events, shared your food and your stories, and brought food for the food pantry. There were about 15 bags of groceries for the food pantry, last we checked.

Can you read this? That means you can help a child who can't.

Jewish Community Relations Council | 121 Steuart St. #301 | San Francisco | CA | 94105

In just one hour a week you can help a student learn to love reading. Take part in this rewarding *tikkun olam* program and help a child succeed. Join the Jewish Coalition for Literacy as a volunteer reading tutor and make a difference in a child's life. Sign up for a free tutor training workshop at www.jclread.org or by calling one of the numbers below:

** Please note: fingerprinting is required by some school districts, which involves a fee. Information will be provided at the training session.*

East Bay: 510-318-6474, Monday, November 11, 1:00-4:00 pm @ Kehilla Community Synagogue, 1300 Grand Avenue, Piedmont. Monday,

December 9, 6:00-9:00 pm @ Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette

Peninsula: 650-847-1718

Thursday, October 3, 6:00-9:00 pm @ Boys & Girls Club - Moldaw Zaffaroni Clubhouse, 2031 Pulgas Avenue, East Palo Alto

Wednesday, November 13, 1:00-4:00 pm @ Peninsula JCC, 800 Foster City Blvd., Foster City

Thursday, December 12, 1:00-4:00 pm @ Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto

Art of Living

JFCS/East Bay's annual gala fundraiser is coming up on Sunday, October 6, 2013. Our featured speaker this year will be world-renowned musician, actor, and storyteller, Theodore Bikel.

Please join Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay for the seventh annual Art of Living gala event. All funds raised will go directly to supporting the range of vital programs JFCS/East Bay provides in our East Bay community. The featured speaker/performer this year is world-renowned musician, actor, and storyteller, Theodore Bikel. This will be a show not to be missed! To purchase tickets, please visit <http://www.jfcs-eastbay.org/event/art-living-2013>, (510) 704-7480.

Klezcalifornia Yiddish Culture Festival, Sat & Sun, October 26 & 27, at the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, Berkeley. Co-sponsored by Tri-Valley Cultural Jews and many others. Two wonderful days of Yiddish culture and klezmer music for everyone.

- Saturday 8:00-10:30pm: Klezmer Concert and Dance Party, with the internationally renowned Strauss/Warschauer Duo (from New York) and Veretski Pass. Followed by a dance party with klezmer dance master Deborah Strauss and live music.
- Sunday 1:00pm: *Once I had a Fiddle: Yiddish Songs and Klezmer Music of Life and Love.* Yiddish Song Performance by the Strauss/Warshauer Duo.
- Sunday Workshops 2:00-3:30, 3:45-5:15:
For teens and adults: Playing in a dance band, singing, Jewish history, acting, playing klezmer music, & dancing
For kids 6-12: Tastes of Yiddish Culture
- Sunday 5:30pm: Finale Music & Dance Party, with music by featured bands and workshop participants with dancing led by Deborah Strauss.
- Sunday 8:00pm: Afterparty with Yiddishe Serenaders, Orchestra Euphonos, Nine Nine Nine, at Subterranean Arthouse.

Bring your friends and family to this fabulous, hands-on community *simkheh!* (celebration!). More Festival information (including detailed program, registration fees, and scholarship application) at www.klezcalifornia.org or call 415.789.7679. Discount passes available until October 22. Celebrate Yiddish Culture! Invite friends on Facebook.



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Pleasanton, CA 94588

