

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 November 2013

Wednesday November 6, 7:00 pm: TVCJ Planning Meeting. 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

Sunday, November 3, 10:30-12:30: Jewish Culture School, at the Ireland's, Castro Valley.

Sunday, November 3, 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 will happen to Jews in the United States over the next 25 years?"

Saturday, November 9, 6 pm – 8 pm: Interfaith Havdalah, everyone welcome, at the Greenberg Home -4698 Shearwater Rd Pleasanton 94566, Ca A little ceremony, pizza, \$7.00 for adults. Please respond to the invite or call 510-888-1404. We are 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.

Sunday, November 17, 10:30-12:30: Jewish Culture School, at the Ireland's, Castro Valley.

Sunday December 1, 10:30 am -12:30 pm: Chanukah party, Bothwell Arts Center 2466 8th St, Livermore, Ca. See below for more information.

Jewish Culture School

We're so proud of our JCS students! We were discussing the position of Jews in Spain under the Romans and Judy asked about Jews owning slaves, as everyone else did in those days.

Our kids were emphatic that they should not. "We were slaves, so we should know better," was their response.

At JCS we made garbanzo salad and continued with our new tradition of sharing how we filled buckets (ours and of others) in the weeks since our last class. We talked about what culture is and then made a timeline of events about the history of Jews in Spain

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

There was a recent Pew research poll about Jews in America. One of the major findings was that the Jewish community is becoming more secular. This confirmed what I already felt is true. I think more and more Jews are embracing their culture while eschewing religion. What also may be true is that more are admitting they feel this way.

The study found that most Jews tend to be very tolerant about the level of belief other Jews feel. Most feel that working on the Sabbath or not believing in god does not exclude them from being Jewish, although believing Jesus is the messiah does. In fact, the cultural aspect of Judaism tends to outweigh the religious aspect.

The poll found Jews tend to be more educated and earn more money than the general population. Also, Jews tend more to the left politically.

One of the things the poll found that I think will ensure Jews stay around for many years is the sense of pride we have in being Jewish. We see this all the time. We are always identifying famous Jews, whether it's in music, movies, politics, or just people you meet.

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

TV CJ Chanukah Party - December 1

Our traditional Chanukah party is a group effort with crafts for the kids and adults in the kitchen cooking latkes.

We are also participating again in the Holiday Giving Program, sponsored by JFCS/East Bay, who will assign us a family to “adopt” and for whom we can purchase gifts to help them get started. The Holiday Giving Program serves newcomer refugees and immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Iran, Iraq, and Latin America, as well as low-income families in need in Oakland.

We won't know who the family is until the week prior to Chanukah so if you would like to bring an actual gift you can email us at that time for age and gender of family members. Or, JFCS is requesting gift cards so that families can have more autonomy and purchase what they need themselves. We will have a wrapping station available to wrap and label the gifts. In addition, we will, along with other Bay Area congregations, be collecting money for the food bank. For every \$1 you donate, the food bank can buy \$4 worth of food, so please be generous. (See flyer.)

Another new activity – a gift exchange among ourselves. Please bring a wrapped gift for someone of your similar age range adults for adult and child for child and we will play a gift exchange game. Please keep the gifts a reasonable price, between \$10 and \$15.

Our JCS students will be performing a skit and songs for us during the event as well as doing a menorah lighting ceremony.



New exhibitions at The Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco

These exhibitions explore utopia and the role of the kibbutz in the creation of a new, better world.

Work in Progress: Considering Utopia presents new work by three artists and encourages visitors to consider the concept of utopia both in a Jewish context and from a contemporary perspective that emphasizes community and participation. Two videos and five photographs by Oded Hirsch feature members of the artist's kibbutz engaging in communal activities. Ohad Meromi's striking sculptural installation inspired by the Chadar Ochel [dining hall] of the kibbutz encourages discussions about the meaning of utopia today, and Elisheva Biernoff's interactive magnet painting allows visitors to construct their own utopian vista. The companion exhibition, *To Build & Be Built: Kibbutz History* explores and celebrates the kibbutz as it starts its second century. The exhibition focuses on the growth and development of these unique communities which helped create the infrastructure and culture of the State of Israel, and which are now transforming themselves as Israel becomes increasingly urban and capitalistic. The influence of the kibbutz on national and Bay Area culture—including many summer camps, youth movements, and "intentional communities"—is also addressed.

Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay - Job Announcement

The Director of Refugee & Immigrant Services, Barbara Nelson, is retiring later this year. We are seeking excellent candidates to consider for this key position in our agency, overseeing our ongoing multi-faceted work with refugees from Afghanistan, Bosnia, Congo, the Former Soviet Union, Iraq, Iran, and Uganda, as well as non-refugee immigrants from Mexico and Central America. The right person will have considerable relevant experience and an exceptional level of multicultural sensitivity and communication skills. They could come from any number of disciplines: social work, psychology, public health, education or others. Please consider who might be interested in this position and pass the attached job announcement along to them.

Andrew "Avi" Rose, LCSW
Executive Director

Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay
2484 Shattuck Ave., Suite 210, Berkeley, CA 94704, Direct Phone: (510) 704-7480 X833
Agency Phone: (510) 704-7475, Fax: (510) 704-7494, Email: awrose@jfcs-eastbay.org
Web: www.jfcs-eastbay.org

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

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

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Pleasanton, CA 94588

