

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews:

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

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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 May and June 2014

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

Saturday, May 3, 5-8:00 pm: General Havdalah and Movie Night, everyone welcome, 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. We'll be seeing Yentl. There will be a separate movie for kids. An additional \$5 donation is requested from non-member adults.

Sunday, May 18, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm: Lag B'omer picnic at 10:30 at Athan Downs Park in San Ramon. Potluck brunch and our traditional watermelon toss game. We encourage you to invite friends who might be interested in TVCJ or our Jewish Cultural School.

Sunday, June 1, 10:30: Jewish Culture School, followed by shavuot brunch. Look for your evite!

Wednesday, June 4, 7:00 pm: TVCJ Planning Meeting. 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

Sunday, June 8 – Last day of Jewish Culture School at 10:30 followed by Annual Meeting and, yes, yet another potluck lunch. All members are welcome at the annual meeting at which we elect our board and discuss our finances and schedule for the next year.

Jewish Culture School

Leading up to Pesach we learned about Crypto-Seders that the converso Jews did in Post-inquisition Spain. We even acted one out. The JCS kids made the matzo balls for our community seder and spent time learning to sing the four questions in Hebrew, Yiddish and English. They also made placemats for the event.

The next few classes we will talk about present day Sephardim and that will round out our year. Please contact us if you are interested in JCS for your child for next year!

~JI

Message from the President

As the treasurer and a negotiator for the union in my school district, I sometimes hear teachers refer to the union as “your union.” This attitude weakens our group. They should be referring to it as “OUR union.” The union draws its power from the involvement of its members. This is true of any organization, if people don’t participate, the organization loses its strength.

So, how have you been involved with TVCJ over the last year?

We have had 12 monthly meetings, 9 Havdalas, 7 Culture Chats, 5 movie nights, 14 Jewish Cultures School meetings, and celebrated 8 holidays. Each one of these events required planning and participation. We have a core group of people that tend to do most of the work and are the most likely to participate. We would love to have more people involved.

If you have missed some events, come out and join us. If there is a kind of event that you would like to see happen, help plan it; come to a planning meeting and share it.

We will be having our annual meeting on June 8. That is a perfect time to come, see what is happening, and learn how you can become more involved.

Hope to see you there, but you don’t have to wait until then, we have a havdala/movie night and Lag B’omer picnic coming up as well.

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

Livermore Wine Festival - Help Wanted!

Saturday and Sunday, May 3-4 – We have a booth at the Livermore Wine Festival! Amy Greenberg has put together publicity materials and we’ll also have a poster and our banner. We’ll be staffing the booth from 10-6 on Saturday and 10 - 5 on Sunday and we could use some help with set-up and break-down as well as staffing the booth. Set up starts at 7:30 Saturday, since we have to have cars off the street by 8, and break-down is at 5 on Sunday. Please let us know if you can help. 925-485-1049 or culturaljews@aol.com.

Mishpokha (Family)

Welcome to our newest members, Steve and Lynda Millman. Steve is a former member of our sister organization in Detroit. They live in San Ramon.

Happy May and June birthdays to: Lisa Halperin, Rebecca Ireland, Phyllis Looney, Leonore Kreit, Judy Seid, David Gates, Carol King, Eileen Alkin-Falgiano

In June we remember Janice Green, friend of Daryle Talvera, Eliza Haile Cloe, grandmother of David Gates and Bruce Enge, stepfather of Erin Edwards

TVCJ Kids in the Community

Michelle Coren was quoted in the Eye on the East Bay column in the Contra Costa Times! She spoke at the Antioch City Council hearing on the feeding of feral cats. Michelle brought a foster kitten to the hearing and spoke in favor of allowing the animals to be fed in public, reminding the council “they’re just helpless creatures and they can’t defend themselves against us.” Michelle is fostering kittens for her Bat Mitzvah community service project and has involved her entire family in the endeavor. Go, Michelle!

~JS



Purim

This year's Purim celebration was another smashing success. Thanks so much to all who volunteered to help, and to the tremendously talented cast of our annual Purim play.

Here are a couple of quotes from the gangster-theme play. King Ahasuerus is a mafia Don and Haman is the H-Man.

Quote one, Narrator: "As the Don's top advisor, it wasn't hard for him to make me feel like an undercooked matzah ball... totally sunk."

Quote two, a few lines of script, using your best gangster voice:

H-Man – There's a rival mob trying to move in on your turf. You have to show them that this is your town.

Don A. – Who would dare?

H-Man – They call themselves The Chosen, and we need to ice every last one of them before they cause any more trouble.

Don A. – The Chosen? We'll ice them alright. We'll ice them so good, they'll change their name to The Frozen, see?

H-Man doesn't react

Don A. - The frozen, see? *Pause* The frozen? 'Cause it rhymes with-

H-Man – Yeah, I get it.

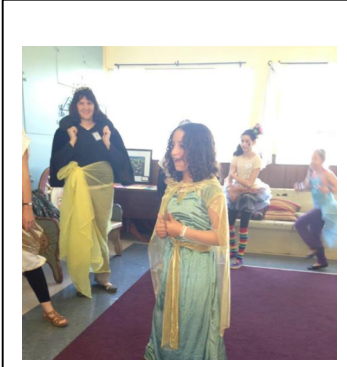
~NK

A HUGE thank you to Noah King for once again authoring the Purim play! ~MC

Pesakh Thank Yous

So many people helped make our annual community seder a success! Thanks to Kevin, Levi and Michelle Coren and David Gates for setting up. Thanks to Rick Randel for the boiled eggs, to Wendy Berenson for the charoses and to Amy Greenberg for shopping for everything else. Thanks to Ruthy Seid for leading the singing, to Jamie Ireland for taking reservations, copying the haggadah, dropping off food at the food bank and greeting. Thanks to Amy Greenberg for taking pictures, to Lynda Millman for somehow ladling out all the soup without spilling and to the people who helped to serve it. Thanks to Noah King for executing the interrupting question so perfectly. Thanks to the kids who found the afikomen and didn't bargain my pants off to redeem it. (They did get two pieces of chocolate for each kid there.) And thanks to everyone who cooked such delicious food and to all the participants for cleaning up.

~JS



This month in Jewish history:

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May 18, 1869 is the birthday of Rachelle Yarros the first woman admitted to the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Boston. She was born in Kiev but had to flee the Russian Empire when she was 18 because of her involvement in anarchist politics. She practices obstetrics and gynecology in Chicago and became a leader in the women's suffrage movement, the struggle for the right to birth control, and the eradication of venereal diseases.

June 15, 1914 is the birthday of Hilda Terra (born Theresa Hilda Fellman), the first woman admitted to the National Cartoonists Society. Her comic strip "Teena" ran from 1941-1964. She was an early pioneer of computer animation and in 1980 was awarded the Rube Goldberg award.

These wonderful little snippets of Jewish history are brought to you by Jewdayo! You can subscribe to a daily blast at jewishcurrents.org/jewdayo. While there, why not subscribe to *Jewish Currents*, the flagship Secular Jewish magazine?

~JS

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