

# 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 November and December 2014

**Sunday, Nov. 9, 10:30-12:30: Jewish Culture School**, at the Ireland's, Castro Valley.

**Tuesday Nov. 11, 7:45 pm: TVCJ Planning Meeting**. 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

**Friday Nov. 14, 7:30-9:30 pm: Interfaith Shabbat**, Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St, Livermore.

Please invite anyone you think might be interested. We'll have a short ceremony and then a discussion and a candle-making craft for kids. Dessert potluck (members) - free to guests. We're hoping one of our Bat Mitzvah students will make a challah. (If you're going to, please let Jamie know.)

**Sunday Nov. 23, 10:30-12:30: Jewish Culture School**, at the Ireland's, Castro Valley.

**Sunday Nov. 23, 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: "?"

**Sunday, Dec. 7, 10:30-12:30: Jewish Culture School**, at the Ireland's, Castro Valley.

**Tuesday Dec. 9, 7:45 pm: TVCJ Planning Meeting**. 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

**Saturday, December 20, 6:00-8:00 pm: Chanukah Havdalah** at the Ireland home. 9663 Fremery Ct, Castro Valley. Please bring a potato and a dish to share.

### Jewish Culture School

In September at JCS we started our study of Israel by finding it on a map and talking about what we already know about Israel and asking questions we would like answered during our course of study. We also made applesauce cake to start our year off to a sweet start. We learned some Israeli dancing and the songs we were going to sing at Yom Kippur.

On October 26 at JCS we shared things with connections to Israel. Adam brought his grandfather's "chal" necklace. Jamie shared her Israeli-made shoes. Joey and Colin brought a USB drive and a Kindle- both invented in Israel. Rebecca brought Shabbat candles and Sophia showed an Israeli candle holder. Ella brought a box of crayons to symbolize the variety of people who live in Israel.

We made hummus and ate it on pita.

We learned about ancient Israel. The older group compared the Bible story of ancient Israel to the historical and literary evidence. The younger group made a timeline to see that many people have lived in Israel since ancient time. We found it on a map and talked how small a country it is (smaller than New Jersey!).

We have new pen pals! A CSJO member is spending a year in Israel and helped us find a 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade class to correspond with.

We also added to the Hebrew letters we can read. We learned 2 new letters each class. So far, we know aleph, lamed, resh, and shin.

## Holidays

Rosh Hashana: At this time for new beginnings, our theme was looking at the past and carrying the good things into the future. We met at the Unitarian Church and had songs, interesting readings and discussions.

Thank you to Judith Seid for leading the singing and putting the programs and readings together. Thank you David Gates and Judy for setting up and to everyone for participating and cleaning up. Thanks also to Amy Greenberg for doing the shopping and Karen Furst for helping with the apples. A special thank you to Michelle Coren for blowing the Shofar.

Yom Kippur: Thank you to David Gates for set-up, to Noah King for publicity, to Marisa Castaldini and Jamie Ireland for greeting, to all the readers and to everyone for helping to clean up. A special thanks to Derek Greenberg for his heartfelt leading of "Keep Me In Your Heart."

Thank you to Kevin Coren and Judith Seid for putting together the Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur programs.

Sukkot: The sukkah-raising was a ton of fun!

The younger kids heard a story under the sukkah while the parents and older kids participated in a boisterous sing-down. We were delighted to see new faces. Thanks to Debby Seid and Tom Green for hosting, to Marisa Castaldini and Amy Greenberg for coming up with crafts for the kids, to Jamie for bringing and reading the story, and to all who brought delicious food, branches and decorations for the sukkah.

## Who We Are

President	Kevin Coren 925-240-5612
Board Members	Judith Seid 925-485-1049 Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404 Noah King 925-371-8585 Amy Greenberg
Newsletter	Marisa Castaldini 925-240-5612
Webmasters	Noah King 925-371-8585
JCS Teachers	Judith Seid, Jamie Ireland
Family Shabbat/Havdalah Coordinator	– Amy Greenberg
Publicity	open
Movie Coordinator	Wendy Berenson 925-829-0554

## Mishpoka (Family)

November birthdays: Matthew Looney, Emma Greenberg, Karen Furst, Amy Greenberg  
Kelly Mogilefsky

December birthday: Ella King

December yortseits:

Celia and Sam Zuckerman, Yossl Seid, grandparents of Judith Seid  
Alice Calder, mother of Jacky Poulsen  
Sue Greenblum and Irving Shapiro, aunt and uncle of Phyllis Looney

After several years of ballet, Ella began “en pointe” classes this month.

Ella and Adam will be in The Nutcracker at The Bankhead Theater this December.

Welcome to new members Jeffrey Colvin, Mary Frances Colvin and Karen Furst. Jeffrey and Mary Francis live in Pleasanton. Karen lives in Livermore. Welcome also to Bret, Kelly, Colin and Joey Mogilefsky. Joey and Colin will be joining us at Jewish Culture School.

We're delighted to welcome them and hope to see them at many activities in the future.

Special thanks to Wendy Berenson for making our name tags.



## In the Community

**Yiddish Culture Festival:** Saturday and Sunday, November 1 & 2. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. For more information, see <http://www.klezcalifornia.org/November1&2, 2014>

**Bay Area Keshet** would like you to meet their new Bay Area Regional Manager, Rebecca Carieti. Rebecca has worked in social change movements around the globe including Haiti, the Middle east, and the U.S. Much of her work has been at the intersection of anti-racism, economic justice, and political rights, as well as justice more broadly. More information at <http://www.keshetonline.org/work/sfbay/>



## This Month In Jewish History

This month in Jewish history:

On November 8, 1935, the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) was founded. Among its founders were Jewish labor leaders Sidney Hillman (Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union), David Dubinsky (International Ladies Garment Workers Union) and Max Zaritsky (Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers.) The CIO was open equally to African-American and European-American workers and did not exclude communists and other radicals until the McCarthy era.

On December 4, 1496, Jews and Muslims in Portugal were ordered to convert to Catholicism or be expelled from the country within eleven months. Sixty thousand Jews who had fled from the expulsion from Spain four years earlier were again forced to make the decision between conversion and exile.

Many were forcibly converted and others went to Brazil and the Caribbean. On the five hundredth anniversary of the expulsion, Portuguese president Mario Soares formally apologized for the persecution.

## Message from the President

Every Monday our school meets in the Gym for “Huddle.” We have announcements and presentations. This week the class that presented talked about identity and specifically finishing the sentence “I am...”

Some of the students in the class shared what they had previously written and some had put their statements on poster paper. The staff, and later the students, were invited to write on the posters as well. I wrote the first things that came to mind: “I am a teacher, I am a runner, I am a father, I am a husband.” Later, when I heard some of the other things, I felt like I had just written some surface things. I didn’t go any deeper. Actually, after I was done writing, I thought about putting “I am a Cultural Jew and I am an atheist,” and I wondered what kind of havoc would have ensued had I done that (probably very little).

In any case, it gave me a chance to think about some of the things that are part of my identity. Maybe you will too.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews  
1817 Sinclair Drive  
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