

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."



September and October 2015

TVCJ Community Event Dates

Planning Meeting: Tuesday, Sept 8, 7:30-9:00 pm, at the Seid-Gates' home, 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

Rosh Hashanah: Sunday, September 13, 6:00 pm – 8:30pm, Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St, Livermore. We will ring in the new year with readings and songs followed by challah, apples and honey. Those who are interested can meet at 5:00 and do a short walk to do a Tashlich observance prior to the main event. Please respond to the evite. \$20/non-member adult.

Kol Nidre: Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St, Livermore. Music, readings, memorial ceremony. Please respond to the evite. \$20/non-member adult.

Sukkot: Sunday, September 27, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, potluck brunch at the Seid Gates home, 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. Bring canned/boxed food for the food bank and a branch to decorate.

Planning meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

Mark Your Calendar for New Events

Hiking in Danville: Sunday, September 20, 10 am, Sycamore Valley Short Ridge. 2 mile, 1 hour. 2101 Holbrook Drive Danville. The Short Ridge Preserve is located within a region of rolling hills and valleys south of Mt. Diablo. This habitat supports gopher snakes, racers, Northern Pacific rattlesnakes, acorn woodpeckers, scrub jays, black-tailed titmouse, Western bluebirds, Northern orioles, lazuli buntings and loggerhead shrikes.

Adult Programming: Jewish Perspectives on Medical Ethics: Sunday October 18, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore. No charge to members, but please register at reservations@tri-valleyculturaljews.org. \$15 at the door.

Hiking in San Ramon, Sunday, October 25, 10 am, Bishop Range Regional Preserve. 2.1 miles, 1 hour. 2761 Morgan Drive, San Ramon. Visit Bishop Ranch and see the changing of the seasons. This is a great park to visit when you only have a short time to hike. The black oaks and big leaf maples burst with color during the fall. Climb to the ridge's top to get a great vista of the San Ramon Valley. Watch for animals such as deer, red-tailed hawks and turkey vultures. The climb is steep in the beginning, but the view is well worth it.

Jewish Culture School

Dates

Sundays

10:30 am -12:30 pm

September 13, Rosh Hashanah,
Bothwell Center, Livermore
September 27, Sukkot, 1817 Sinclair
Dr, Pleasanton
October 4, 1817 Sinclair Dr.,
Pleasanton
October 18, 1817 Sinclair Dr.,
Pleasanton

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, Karen Furst
Newsletter	Marisa Castaldini 925-240-5612
Webmaster	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
Adult Programming	Karen Furst

Thank You

Thanks to Karen and David Furst for their generous contribution.

Thanks to Amy Greenberg for arranging our camping event and to all the families who pitched in, brought food, watched kids, sang songs and played guitar.

Thanks to Karen Furst for setting up the adult programming.

Thanks to Leah Morrison for leading the upcoming hikes and the ice cream social (a big success that will be done again).

If you would like to plan a gathering, just say the word. We'll need to check the calendar for conflicts and send out an evite. If you would like to host a Shabbat or Havdalah, but would prefer to not host in your home, booking an alternate site or activity would be perfectly fine.

Rosh Hashanah with Preschoolers!

TVCJ is starting a new PRESCHOOL program to explore the Jewish holidays in a secular way. Holiday crafts, activities and food. Apples and Honey for the new year!

A great way to spend Grandparent's Day- bring your grandparents along to do crafts together.

Sunday- Sept.13 10:30-11:30 at the Ireland Home-
19663 Fremery Ct. Castro Valley

Call 510-888-1404 if you have questions. Cost: \$7 per child.

Jewish Culture School

We are excited to announce our theme, Jewish History through Science, and that we will continue our study of Jewish languages by teaching some conversational Yiddish.

Members' Corner

BOOK REVIEW

The Last Jew, by Noah Gordon

This is an historical novel, which takes place during the time of the Spanish Inquisition, circa 1492. At this time by order of Spanish royalty, Jews were required to leave Spain or convert to Catholicism. Many who refused were killed.

The main character, Yonah, is the 15-year-old son of a famous Jewish silversmith. His father and brother were killed by the inquisitors. He is determined to honor his father's memory by secretly remaining a Jew, thus becoming a Marano.

He wanders throughout Spain learning various jobs and ultimately becomes a respected physician. On his journey he encounters both hostile and sympathetic characters. He is always hiding his Jewish identity while he struggles to solve his family's mysteries.

This book is very entertaining, while giving us a picture of what life was like during this tragic period of Jewish history.

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

Mishpoka (Family)

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

In September and October we remember Seymour Seid, father of Judith Seid



New in Our Library

In Their Footsteps: Memories of an Immigrant's Child
by Pearl Lipsky Krupit

Small stories, engagingly told, about growing up in New York as the daughter of Jewish immigrants who came to America from Eastern Europe in the 1920s, as so many of our own grandparents and great-grandparents did. A quick, easy, charming read, accessible to young adults as well as adults.

Special Adult Event

During the coming year Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will periodically present special events with a focus on the interests of adults in our community. The events may be lectures, movies, potlucks, visits to museums, etc. Based on the results of a survey we determined that the best time for the most people will be on Sunday afternoons. The first event will be a speaker October 18th, 4:00 pm, Bothwell Arts Center.

Topic: Jewish Perspective on Medical Ethical Dilemmas

Advances in medical technology extend our life spans and enhance the quality of our lives. At the same time, these advances often raise vexing ethical dilemmas. In this session Rabbi Seid-Valencia will discuss Jewish perspectives of contemporary bio-ethical dilemmas. He will look at Jewish medical ethics in issues such as defining life and death, and the role of palliative care.

Presenter Name: Rabbi Hugh Seid-Valencia

Jewish Community Liaison, VITAS Innovative Hospice Care

Message from the President

Who knew our small town could offer two theater performances featuring Jewish kids? And that two Jewish “kids” would get to be in them?

My acting hobby is continuing this fall with a performance in “Brighton Beach Memoirs.” This semi-autobiographical play by Neil Simon is a short look at a Jewish family in New York in 1937. The rise of Hitler is unsettling, but the family has internal issues to deal with. The story is told by Eugene, a 15-year-old sports fan and aspiring writer who is dealing with adolescence. I get to play the father, Jacob, the overworked head of the family. Performances will be October 16-18 and 23-25. It’s a small cast of very talented people I have worked with before, so it should be a lot of fun.

Levi’s acting hobby also continues in “13 The Musical.” You can imagine what it is about: Jewish kid from New York moves to small-town Indiana and has to face middle school. Levi gets to channel his inner jerky jock. A very funny show about fitting in and standing out. The show will be the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 20-22.

Stay tuned for evites and possible group tickets. We’ve had Shabbat in the woods. How about Havdalah at the theater? Just for fun, we will send out evites to see “Brighton Beach Memoirs” on Saturday Oct. 17, 7:30 pm and “13 The Musical” on Saturday November 21, 8 pm. They will include the links to buy tickets and we’ll plan a place to meet beforehand.



A great time was had by all at the Oakland A's Jewish Heritage Night ball game.



Camping in Petaluma.
We had tacos, pancakes,
s'mores, singing,
swimming, and generally
enjoying each other's
company for a lovely
weekend.

