

News & Fun Activities

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Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

TriValleyCulturalJews.org

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(925) 485-1049

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."



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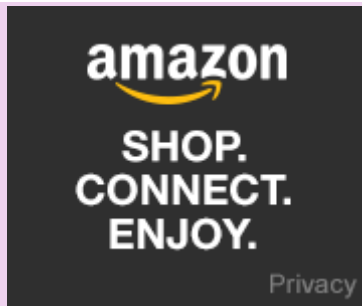
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March 1st, 2017

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TV CJ Community Events and Dates



East Bay International Jewish Film Festival 2017 In Livermore - March 2nd and March 5th, 2017

Please join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for the East Bay International Jewish Film Festival at the Vine Theater in Livermore, March 2 and March 5, 2017 – movies are listed below.

On March 5th, TVCJ is organizing a dinner between the two movies (Abulele & Fanny's Journey):

Dinner Location: Zephyr Grill, 1736 First St, Livermore, CA (next door to the theater)

Dinner Time: 6:00pm

Please let us know if you plan to go to dinner with us, by responding to the Evite that was sent out so we can reserve enough table space.

Movie Information: **Movie attendees are responsible for purchasing their own tickets.** Tickets are available online www.eastbayjewishfilm.org, by phone (925.240.3053), or at the door on the day of the movie. Student prices are available.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 7:30 PM

REMEMBER - Christopher Plummer and Martin Landau play Holocaust survivors in the same residential home. After Plummer's wife dies, Landau gives him marching orders to confirm the real identity of one of four elderly men who immigrated to North America from Germany after WWII. One of them is the SS guard who killed their families in Auschwitz. For mature audiences.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 4:30 PM

ABULELE - The meaning of empathy is at the heart of this beautiful, family-friendly drama about an invisible, shaggy-haired "creature" monster who befriends children who are experiencing a life challenge. Suitable for grades 4 and up.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 7:30 PM

FANNY'S JOURNEY - Courage comes in all sizes...and ages. When a group of Jewish youngsters get separated from the resistance fighter who was helping them leave war-torn France in 1943, 13 year-old Fanny must step up and lead them to safety. A beautiful, lyrical film about bravery, faith and perseverance. Suitable for grades 8 and up.

Purim Celebration



Date: Sunday, March 12th, 2017

Time: 10:30a.m. to 12:30p.m.

Place: Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore, CA

Cost: Free for TVCJ members; \$10 for non-members (which can be applied to a membership if someone wishes to join).

Please join us at our annual Purim festivities! We will bake delicious hamantaschen, have crafts, games, and fun for all ages, and present our annual Purim skit. Attendees are welcome to come dressed as their favorite Purim character.

Board meeting/TVCJ Planning

Date: Tuesday, March 14th, 2017

Time: 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

Place: Seid-Gates home, 1817 Sinclair Drive, in Pleasanton.

All members are welcome

Come to Our Next Hike! Urban Stairways Through Oakland!

Date: Saturday, March 18th, 2017

Time: 10:00a.m. to Noon (Meet at 10 am. We will leave by 10:15 am. If you are running late, please call Leah at [650-223-9073](tel:650-223-9073).)

Place: Meet at the south west corner of Brookside & Broadway -

Rain cancels the hike

Details: Urban Stairways Hike Through Oakland

There are over 400 little-known staircases and pathways that wind quietly unnoticed up the East Bay landscape. These were originally built as shortcuts for an influx of hillside residents to get to streetcars post-1906 earthquake. We'll explore some of these staircases on a challenging 4-mile urban loop hike through upper Rockridge.

Here's a [map](#) of the loop we'll make. The route begins at Broadway and Brookside Avenue, covering a total of eleven pathways and staircases, climbing 800 feet through a mix of century-old homes and modern mansions. We'll wind along ridgeline roads accented by charming Victorian street lamps. So you are sure to get your heart pumping, while enjoying spectacular views of the bay. There is free street parking near Brookside Ave and Broadway. Carpooling is encouraged.

For those who want to stay for lunch, we'll be rewarding ourselves with some noshies (and maybe a cocktail) at nearby Calavera (<http://calaveraoakland.com/>).

For any questions, please contact Leah, [650-223-9073](tel:650-223-9073) (cell).

Adam King's Bar Mitzvah



Congratulations to Adam King! Mazel Tov on your becoming a Bar Mitzvah!

Here's what Adam wrote about his projects for his Bar Mitzvah. ...



The first project I did was reading a book about a Jewish boy named Yanek who survived the Holocaust. It was called Prisoner B-3087, by Alan Gratz. When I read it, I learned about the lives of Jews who were captured by the Nazis. It made me feel sad because they were treated so badly. I can't imagine how hard it was on them, but the book gave me some idea. I also admire Yanek's stamina and courage. If I ever found myself in a similar situation to his, I do

not think I could survive like he did. I made an online Google Map charting out all the different places that Yanek went. For each one I had to research where it was and then place it on my map. Then I attached a paragraph that I wrote about each to the corresponding map location, and I added a couple of photos as well.



Another project that I decided to do was cooking a Jewish meal. So one night my dad helped me make Chicken Paprikash for dinner. Because some of my family is Hungarian, I decided to make a Hungarian Jewish dish that would combine the two sides of my family heritage. When I made my meal, I learned that my great-grandmother used to make it for my grandpa, but he told me that it was a different recipe. I created a Google Slide presentation about the making of my meal. Each slide shows a different step of the process with a photo and an explanation of the

step.

I play the drums, and for one of my projects I decided to learn a Jewish song along with my friend Isaac who plays the trumpet. The song that I chose is Hava Nagila because I really like it and thought it would be fun to learn. To prepare, we found the appropriate sheet music.



As with many other things in Jewish culture, there were a lot of different versions of the song. We had to find one that was at our skill level but would still be a challenge. We met together at my house multiple times to practice the song.

We even went to my music studio and one of the instructors helped us to make it sound better by jazzing it up a bit.

Amy Greenberg presented to Adam his Bar Mitzvah gift on behalf of the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews.



Tu B'Shevat



Our Tu B'Shevat (Jewish Arbor Day) celebration was educational and fun! Our guest speaker Jan Pinkerton-Spieth is a member of the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association. She gave an interactive talk, we participated in a honey tasting. Jan also brought a beehive with worker bees and their queen. Afterwards we enjoyed a potluck.



Our Official Statement on Syrian Refugees

As Jews, we know all too well the suffering of war, oppression and hatred. Our people have been refugees over and over, in every time and place. We know what happens when refugees are refused admittance to safe countries, as happened to our people in the 1930s and 1940s, when xenophobia, fear and hatred denied European Jews safe haven.

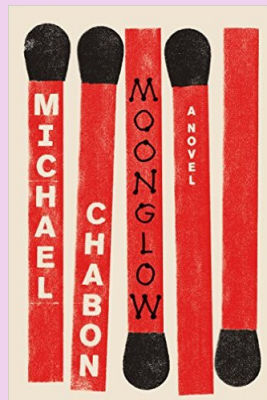
Today's refugees are Syrians, almost half a million of whom are displaced from their homes, terrorized by their own government, and victims of internecine hatred. Thousands have been waiting in miserable refugee camps while they have been vetted for up to two years by the American government. Those refugees have already been deemed safe to admit to America.

We call on the American government to admit Syrian refugees. We call on the American people to welcome them.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. Member community of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations.



TVCJ members joined the HIAS, a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) refugee protection organization, rally in support of refugees at the Mountain View Civic Center, one of many rallies all over the country.



Book Review

MOONGLOW

By
Michael Chabon

Moonglow is a book that is hard to describe: it is partly a novel, partly an autobiography, it's "fictionally non fiction". "It's a lie that tells the truth, and it's secrets that are revealed."

For the most part it consists of the author's interviews with his dying grandfather who describes his very adventuresome, exciting and colorful life as a rocket designer and model maker during and after World War II.

He starts by talking about his childhood in the Jewish slums of South Philadelphia. He then tells of his time in Walkil Prison where he served a sentence for attempted murder. He further describes his time in the military when he was tasked with finding and capturing Wilhelm Von Braun's documents, which outlined the Nazi rocket program before the Russians got to them. Throughout, he talks about his marriage to Chabon's mentally ill grandmother. Finally, he describes his life in an assisted living facility where he meets the last love of his life.

The book was extremely well written and a real page turner. My only criticism is that it jumped around from character to character, rather than following a linear progression. Never the less, I would highly recommend it.

Jerry Zwick

Jewish Culture School (JCS)

Our culture school students made seder plates. We will all be ready for Passover.



For TVCJ Members Only

Death Over Dinner – To Be Happier Start Thinking More

About Death

Date: Saturday, April 29, 2017

Time: 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Place: Livermore, CA (more information to come)

This event is only open to members of Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Let's talk about the thing we so often try to avoid -- end of life. Talking about life and death helps us articulate and affirm who we are and what we ultimately care about, leaving us better able to appreciate life and to approach death.

Death Over Dinner will be a structured discussion over a potluck dinner, with prompts from readings and videos.

There is a maximum of 10 participants, on a first come first serve basis. We'll keep a waiting list for those interested if more than 10 people reply.

More information to come soon in an Evite.



Happy March Birthdays to:

Adam King
Sierra Randel
Leslie Zwick
Debbie Seid
Leonard Kreit

In March We Remember:

Rebecca Friedman
Doris Handler
Teible Barach
Edward Looney, Senior

Who We Are

Board Members:

Judith Seid 925-485-1049
Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404
Noah King 925-371-8585
Joy Randel 925-362-3245
Amy Greenberg 925-989-9826
Karen Furst 925-784-1775

Newsletter: Joy Randel 925-362-3245

Webmaster: Noah King 925-371-8585

JCS Teachers: Judith Seid,
Jamie Ireland

Family Shabbat/Havdalah

Coordinator: Amy Greenberg

Movie Coordinator: Wendy
Berenson 925-829-0554

Adult Programming: Karen
Furst



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