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## Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

**TriValleyCulturalJews.org**

[info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org](mailto:info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org)

(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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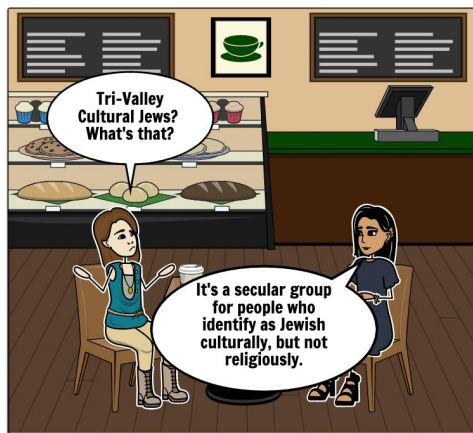
## *August 3, 2019*



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## TV CJ Community News

Please put our QR code on your phone. Anyone can use a QR reader to scan the QR code to ask us a question, join our mailing list or browse our website. Here is the link to the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews QR code: <https://bit.ly/TCVJinfo>



Comic and QR image by Noah King

## Hike with Us! Urban Stairways Hike Through Oakland

**Date:** Saturday, August 10, 2019

**Time:** 10:00a.m.

If time permits, we can join for lunch afterward at Crepevine on College Ave in Oakland.

There are over 400 little-known staircases and pathways that wind 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 3 to 4-mile urban loop hike through Upper Rockridge. Oakland will be much cooler than the Tri-Valley area, so this will be a great way to get your steps in without overheating.

[Click here to see 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. The views of the bay are spectacular!

There is free street parking alongside Brookside Ave, in between Broadway and Eustice Ave., across from the College Preparatory School. Carpooling is encouraged. For mapping purposes, you can use 6155 Brookside Ave, Oakland, CA 94618.

Dogs are welcome! Woof!

**Hike leader:** Leah, 650-223-9073

**Tri-Valley Cultural Jews  
Intro to Jewish Culture School**



**First Day of Jewish Culture School:** September 8th, 2019

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

**RSVP:** [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com), or call 510-384-8756

Jewish Culture School is open to children ages 5-14 and culminates in a Brit Mitzvah ceremony.

Throughout this school year, students will be encouraged to discuss among themselves and with their parents topics related to these themes. The younger children will enjoy crafts related to the concepts; older children will learn the history and literature surrounding these Jewish ideas. Both classes will learn songs on these themes. And, of course, we'll still be cooking, dancing, and hearing Jewish folktales.

Come learn about the fun ways we teach Jewish Culture in a hands-on and engaging way! We enjoy singing, dancing, and cooking in a Secular Humanistic Jewish environment. **Students who attend this first day will paint mezuzahs and hear stories. Enrolled students paint for free; others pay \$10 per mezuzah. Space is limited... make your reservations now! RSVP to [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com), or call 510-384-8756 with any questions.**

The school-wide curriculum for the 2019-2020 (Jewish year 5780) will be "Jewish Ideas." We'll cover topics like Jewish views of Justice, Learning, Family, Being a Mensch, Israel or Diaspora and the Jewish Community. Our first session will be on September 8th from 10:30-12:30 at Aran's Art Studio in Castro Valley. All other sessions will be held in Pleasanton.

## **Board Meeting/TV CJ Planning**

**Date:** Tuesday, August 13th 2019

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

**Place:** Ireland Home, [19663 Fremery Court, Castro Valley 94546-3540](#)

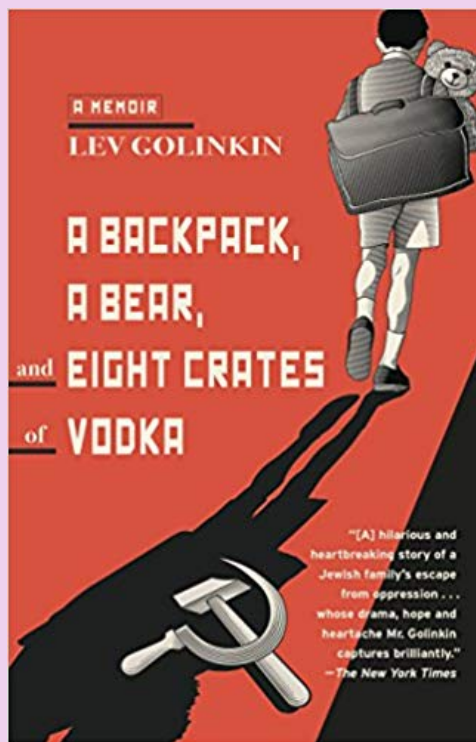
**All members are welcome**

## **BOOK REVIEW**

**A BACKPACK, A BEAR, AND EIGHT CRATES OF VODKA**

**By**

**Lev Golinkin**



In his memoir the author tells of his life as a Jewish boy in Russia before the breakup of the Soviet Union and his family's escape. It describes the family's odyssey through Vienna and Paris onto eventual settlement in New York. He tells of coming from a safe middle class life in Russia to poverty and peril on the dangerous journey. Impending pogroms and changes in attitudes toward Jews in Russia necessitated their departure. He recounts the hostility as well as the generosity of individuals he encounters in Russia and on the journey to escape. As an adult, he attempts to retrace his steps in order to thank those who helped, as well as to search for his true identity.

This memoir reads like a novel with humor, suspense and poignancy. I would highly recommend it. This book can be purchased on Amazon by [clicking here](#).

**Book Review by Jerry Zwick**

**Save The Date!**

**INTERFAITH  
INTERCONNECT**  
*of the Tri-Valley*

**7th Annual  
POTLUCK PICNIC\***

**in recognition of  
U.N. International Day of Peace**

**Sat., Sept. 21, 2019 ♦ 4-7 p.m.**  
*New Location This Year!*

**Muslim Community Center East Bay  
5724 Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton**

*Lots of activities for all ages! Bring a dish\* to share and join us as we eat, play, and converse with people from our diverse communities. (\*No Pork. Please list all ingredients in your dishes.) Adults & children of all ages welcome!*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Visit Interfaith Interconnect on Facebook  
Email us at [interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com](mailto:interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com)



### **In August We Remember:**

Lou Garcia  
John Gates



### **Happy August Birthdays:**

Elsa Grabowski  
Jamie Ireland  
Robert Pepper  
Joy Randel

### **Who We Are**

#### **Board Members:**

Karen Furst 925-784-1775  
Jazz Saluen-Grabowski 718-578-7876  
Ira Ehrlich 310-995-4149  
Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404  
Rebecca Ireland 510-888-1404  
Bret Mogilefsky 510-610-1956  
Joy Randel 925-362-3245

**Newsletter:** Joy Randel 925-362-3245

**Webmaster:** Noah King 925-371-8585

**JCS Teachers:** Judith Seid,  
Jamie Ireland

#### **Family Shabbat/Havdalah**

**Coordinator:** Scott  
Pepper 650-296-6295

**Movie Coordinator:** Wendy  
Berenson 925-829-0554

**Adult Programming:** Karen  
Furst 925-784-1775



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