

News & Fun Activities

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Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

TriValleyCulturalJews.org

info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org

(925) 399-8029

Affiliated with the Cultural and Secular Jewish Organization

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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October 3rd, 2020

TVCJ Community News

Sukkot

One of the most enjoyable, family-friendly holidays in the Jewish calendar is just around the corner—Sukkot! The harvest holiday of Sukkot starts the evening of October 2nd. On this holiday, we usually come together to build a sukkah in a member's yard. Of course, this year we are not gathering, but that doesn't mean we can't make sukkahs and eat in them. Judy Seid and David Gates will open their backyard sukkah to one member family at a time to come bring a picnic and eat in the sukkah. You can make an appointment for any time from Saturday, October 3rd through Friday, October 9 as well as Sunday, October 11th.

email culturaljews@gmail.com

Since we can't be together in person this year, let's be together on-line. We would love for you to build your own sukkah at home, and post a picture to our Facebook page.

A traditional sukkah is a temporary structure with a loosely thatched roof through which you can see the stars -- but don't worry, we aren't sticklers for the rules and we encourage artistic liberties. Be creative and have fun! Here are some ideas to get you going:

The classic backyard sukkah is always a hit!

Don't feel like getting out your hammer? Maybe you can get resourceful with tarps or sheets.

No backyard? How about a porch sukkah?

If you're short on yard space or the air outside is smoky, how about a sukkah-like fort or tent in your living room?

If your house is feeling too crowded these days, maybe you can think small... a lego sukkah? An origami sukkah?

Whatever you choose to do, don't forget to decorate! Paper chains, painted murals, curly ribbons, small paper stars-- have fun and make it festive!

Then, take a picture of your family enjoying your sukkah and post it to your Facebook page between Oct. 2 and Oct. 9. Tag our group by writing @TriValley Cultural Jews in the message section. Now we will all be able to see the creative sukkot our friends created!

Finally, as Sukkot is a harvest holiday, we hope you will consider a donation to Dig Deep Farms, which provides fresh food for those in need. Especially now, when so many are out of work, your donation can really help. You can donate by clicking here [**Dig Deep Farms**](#).

[Click Here to Like our FaceBook page trivalley cultural jews](#) (and follow us on [Instagram by Clicking Here](#))! When you see our posts, please share them so that other Cultural, Secular and Humanistic Jews can find us! **Please also go to the web page and share our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur posts.** Since we're on zoom this year, there's plenty of room for all. We can't wait to see your smiling faces in your sukkot!

Sophia's Bat Mitzvah

Date: October 10th, 2020

Time: 10:00a.m. to 12 Noon

Place: Zoom Video Chat (Please go to link in the Evite)

Hello friends and family,



Please join us as we celebrate all of Sophia's hard work becoming a Bat Mitzvah. We look forward to seeing you all on Zoom as we celebrate this special day together! We will watch her ceremony together on Zoom. **If you would like to drive by from 2-4pm;to congratulate Sophia in person let us know since we can not have a proper party.** (with masks and at a distance, of course)

Love, Jamie and Solomon

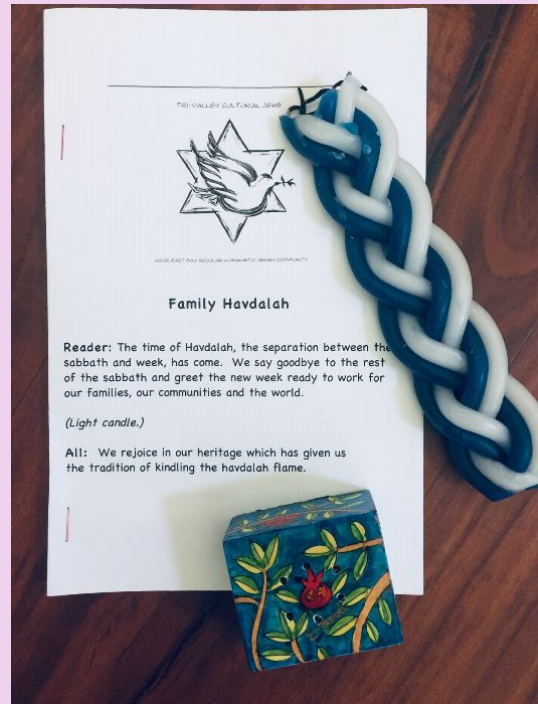
October Havdalah

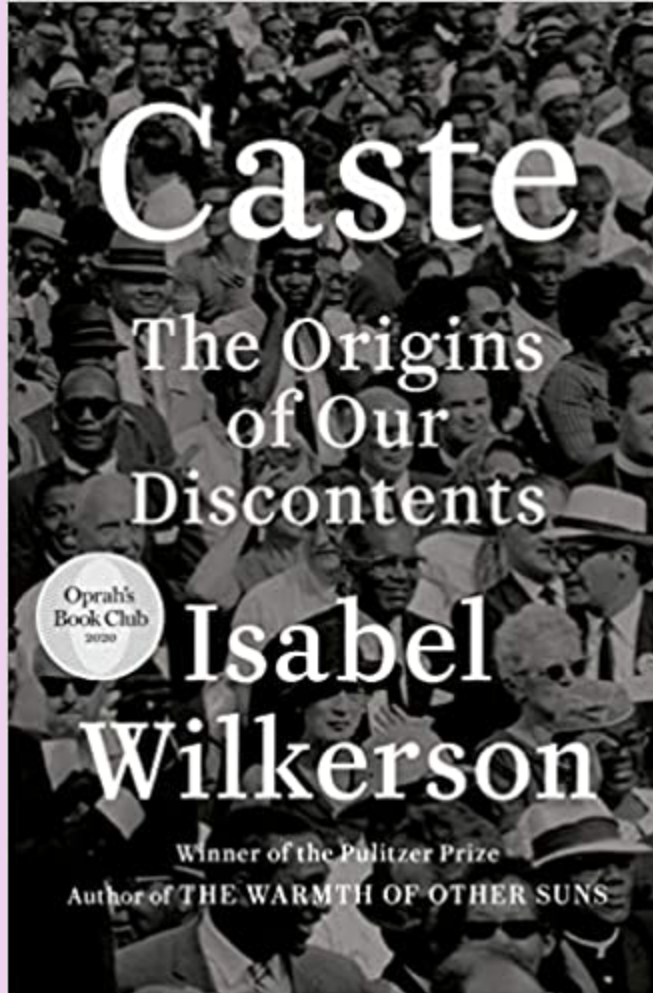
Date: October 24th 2020

Time: 7:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

Place: Look for our Evite or email **culturaljews@gmail.com** for the link to the zoom event or if you have any questions.

Our Havdalah is a short Secular, Humanistic ceremony in English with music. Bring a braided candle, wine and spices if you have them. We will play virtual games and have a Brit Mitzvah presentation.





Book Review

CASTE The Origins of Our Discontents By Isabel Wilkerson

This book is a historical account of the nature and origins of caste systems.

Those covered existed in India, between the Brahmin and the Dalit; the United States, between the blacks and whites, during the slavery and Jim Crow eras; and in Germany between the Jews and Nazis, during the holocaust. It discussed the origins, similarities and differences between the three systems. It covered the psychological and physical residuals of castes, even in modern times.

The author, who is Black, tells of her own experiences with racism in this country, which are remnants of the Southern caste system. It also talked about the experiences of those who tried to escape from the caste into which they were born, with varying degrees of success. She has also traveled to Europe, and India to get background information.

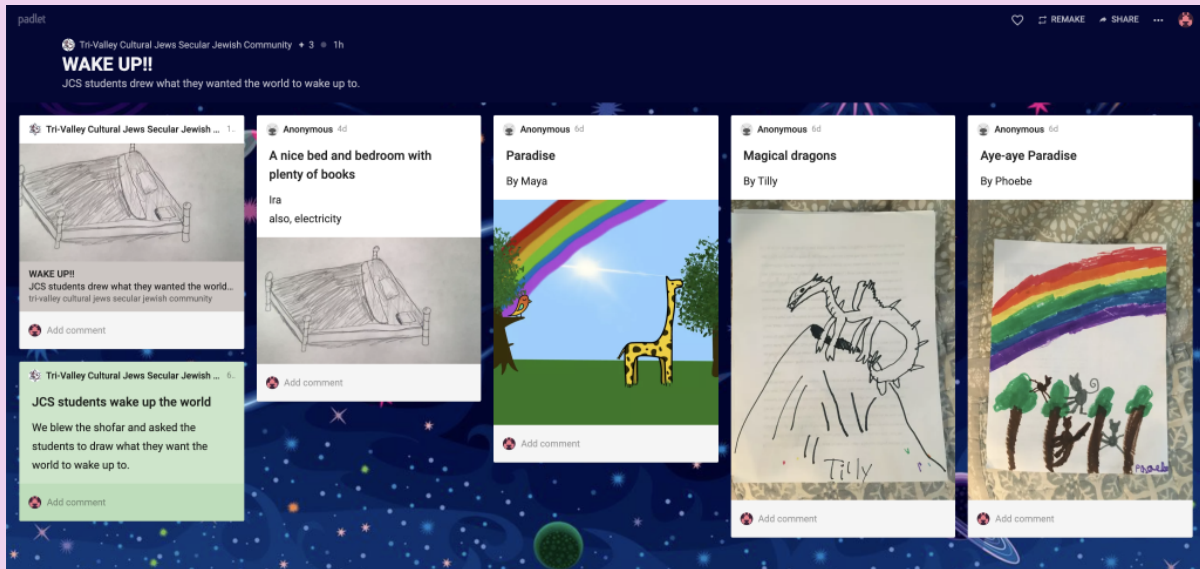
This book is very authoritative and extremely well written. I can understand why it has been on top of the L.A. Times Non Fiction Best Sellers list for several weeks.

By Jerry Zwick

Jewish Culture School

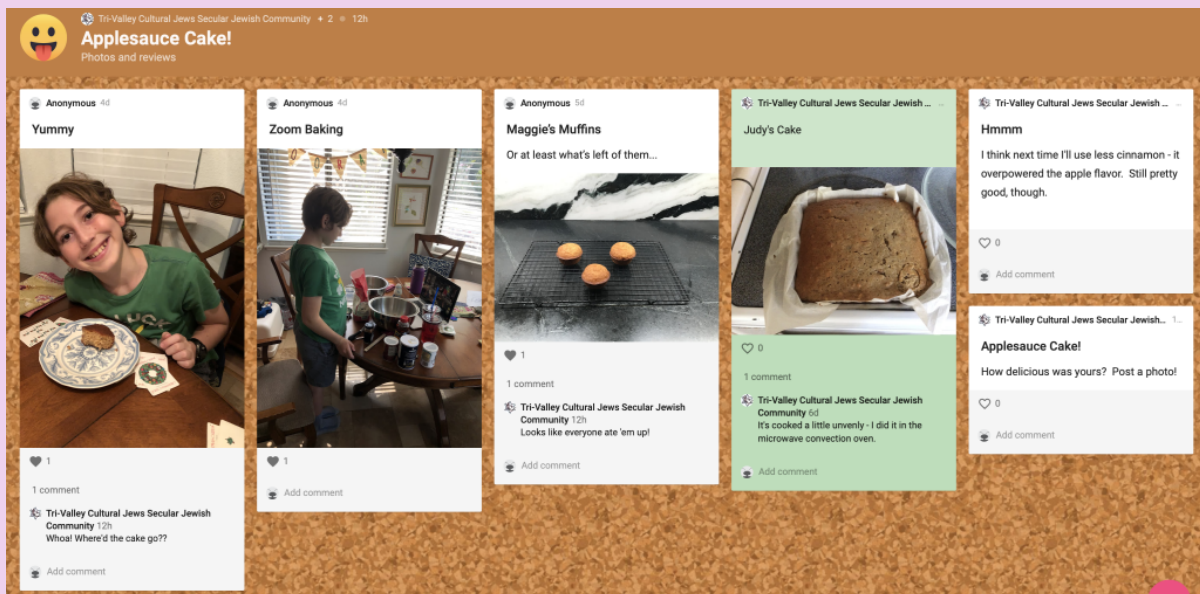
The Sound of the Shofar

The sound of the shofar is meant to wake us up so we can look at ourselves and the world around us and decide how to change in the coming year. We asked the Jewish Culture School students to make pictures of what they wished the world would wake up to in the coming year. Here are some of their pictures:



Applesauce Cake

Jewish Culture School students made applesauce cake for Rosh Hashanah apart/together on zoom! Everyone's was delicious!



High Holidays



This year we met on Zoom for the High Holidays. During Rosh Hashanah, we sang and enjoyed each other's company. Tashlich was included in the observance as the ritual of shedding the misdeeds of the last year.

During our Yom Kippur/ Kol Nidre program, Lupita Barattino, a representative of La Familia Counseling spoke about the support La Familia Counseling gives to the community. Lupita is currently collecting gift cards and cash donations to support families that need food assistance and/or are out of work.

If you would like to give to La Familia Counseling, then please send donations to:

La Familia Counseling / Cultura y Bienestar
 Attention: Lupita Barattino
 3278 Constitution Drive #16
 Livermore, CA 94551
gbarattino@lafamiliacounseling.org
 (925) 273-4220

Thank You

Thanks to all those who volunteered to read for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and to Amy and Derek Greenberg for singing. And also, thanks to Paul Grabowski for hosting a very interesting Philosophers' Cafe discussion on the Philosophy of Physics.

Who We Are



In October We Remember:

Adina Senensieb
Mary Gates
Seymour Seid
Taki Greenberg



We don't have any October Birthdays.

How do pickles celebrate their birthdays? They relish the moment.

Rabbi: Judith Seid

Madrikha: Jamie Ireland

Board Members:

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski 718-578-7876

Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404

Rebecca Ireland 510-888-1404

Bret Mogilefsky 510-610-1956

Jesse Pino 925-605-6003

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Holiday Coordinator: Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404

Movie Coordinator: Wendy Berenson 925-829-0554



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