

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) 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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November 7th, 2020

TVCJ Community News

Member News

We are proud of Jewish Culture School grad Emma Greenberg. She's not quite old enough to vote yet, but she volunteered to be a poll worker this year.

Women's March



Rebecca, TVCJ board member and JCS alumna, organized and led a Women's March in Castro Valley on October 17th. 50 members of the community marched and chanted on our 2 mile route. The March was fighting for economic, racial, and gender justice and to oppose the Supreme Court seat confirmation before

the election. 1,2,3,4 we won't take it anymore 5,6,7,8 no more violence, no more hate!

Jewish Culture School **Why We Teach Jewish History**

In our older class, we're learning about the history of Jews in Eastern Europe. We think this is important partly because it's just good to know your history. But even more important is that history gives us a way to look at the present through Jewish eyes.

Our class just studied the Chmielnitski massacres of 1648 and the resulting Shabatai Zvi messiah movement. After that, we looked at the beginning of Chassidism and the response to it. When we looked at the Chmielnitski massacres, we discussed the meaning of "pogrom" and looked at the ways various groups benefit from scapegoating others. We looked at several other pogroms against different groups on different continents to understand the forces that pit people against each other and what the role of government is in these instances. The story of Shabatai Zvi gave us the opportunity to discuss how ideas can spread and how people change their minds about what they believe. The study of the Chassidic movement is the study of how people can transfer their allegiance from a set of ideas and principles to a charismatic leader, a particularly timely question. It also let us discuss what needs Chassidism fills and whether those needs still exist, how people make important decisions, and which elements of communal life such as the Chassidim life can be useful in our community today.

Our hope is that when confronted with contemporary problems and issues, our students will have the knowledge from our own history of how similar problems and issues affected us in the past, and how the various responses to those problems can inform which responses might be useful today. We hope that knowledge of their Jewish history will help our students to become enlightened and thoughtful citizens of the world.

Judith Seid

November Havdalah

Date: Saturday, November 14th
2020

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

Place: Zoom meeting ID: **568 599
7884**

If a password is requested, enter
123123

We will be having our short secular,
humanistic observance. If you'd like
to participate, then have a braided
candle, glass of wine/juice, and
spices. If you have questions, please
contact Jamie at
culturaljews@gmail.com



Hanukkah Celebration

Date: Friday, December 11th

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

Place: Zoom meeting ID: **568 599 7884**

If a password is requested, enter **123123**

Cost: Non-member adults we ask for a donation of \$10.

Come join us for a secular humanistic menorah lighting and naming ceremony.
Bring your menorah and candles. We will also play dreidel virtually. Please
contact Jamie at culturaljews@gmail.com if you have any questions.

October 13th Board Meeting Decisions

- We received \$265 in donations from Rosh Hashanah. The board made the decision to donate \$100 to First Nations; the rest of the donations went to our expenses to hold this event.
- The board made the decision to take the first \$10 from non-members for TVCJ and donate the remainder to the charity of the year.

The board opened up the decision to all members to vote on a charity of the year from the following charities:

- First Nations
- Eden Church of Christ asylum support activity
- La Familia Counseling
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, SF Bay Area
- Other organizations proposed by members

Bret will poll members to vote for which donation target they'd like to see us adopt, or make an alternative suggestion.



Change a Child's Life By Volunteering Just One Hour A Week

Share the wonder of the written word, the magic of books, and the excitement of reading with a child, all online! Please join the Jewish Coalition for Literacy (JCL) as a volunteer reading tutor and make a difference in a child's life.

Online training sessions will focus on preparing volunteers to work with students using virtual learning tools and platforms, as well as providing tutors with online strategies to aid students with reading and comprehension skills.

JCL Tutor Training Session:

Wednesday, November 18th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Register for this **FREE*** online training session at: jclread.org/sign-up

***Please note, fingerprinting is required by most school districts which may involve a fee.**

Who We Are



In November We Remember

Jerry Kranz



November Birthdays

Karen Furst

Amy Greenberg

Emma Greenberg

Kelly Mogilefsky

Alexander Pepper

Monika Poxon

What did the tiger say to her cub on his/her birthday? It's roar birthday!

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

Mark Shulewitz 510-846-9718

Newsletter: Joy Randel 925-362-3245

Webmaster: Noah King 925-371-8585

JCS Teachers: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid

Holiday Coordinator: Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404

Movie Coordinator: Wendy Berenson 925-829-0554



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