

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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June 26th, 2021

TVCJ Community News

Upcoming Events

July 1st Philosophers' Cafe

Our June Philosophers' Cafe focused on what we need to make us happy. It was fascinating to hear about a dozen of us talking about improving the world, loving, having community, enjoying nature and so many other things. One participant made an important distinction between contentment and

happiness, saying that we can't be content with the state of justice in the world, but we can be happy working for justice. Philosophers' Cafe meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. on zoom. We discuss a variety of important and lighthearted topics - we never know what the topic will be, but it is always interesting. Join us!

Day: First Thursday of each month (next one is July 1st)

Time: 7:00p.m.

Place: Zoom

Cost: Free to members, \$10 suggested donation for non-members.

If you have questions or are not on the evite list, please contact Jamie at culturaljews@gmail.com or call 925-399-8029.

July Havdalah

Do you have a Favorite Yiddish Phrase?

Gomolkes Ken Men Nit Makhn Fun Shney

Date: Saturday, July 24th, 2021

Time: 7:00p.m. to 8:30p.m.

Place: Zoom

Cost: We ask non-member adults to give a donation of \$10 if you are able to support our programming (donation link on the evite).

We will have a short Humanistic Havdalah ceremony and then share some of our favorite Yiddish phrases. Did you learn some growing up? Or recently on Duolingo? Come to share or to learn...it should be an entertaining discussion. Look for the Zoom ID on the evite. **If you have questions or are not on the evite list, please contact Jamie at culturaljews@gmail.com Hope to see you there.**

Jewish Culture School

We're excited to be planning [Jewish Culture School](#) for the coming year. We hope to meet outside and resume our usual activities - cooking, singing and dancing together. Dates and curriculum for both younger and older age groups coming soon! Jewish Culture School provides a welcoming community for kids ages 6-14 who want to learn about Jewish culture and history and have some fun, too. **(We do allow 5 year-olds to come, but we ask that their parents stay. Also, we don't charge for 5 year olds.)**

[Click here for more information on Jewish Culture School.](#)

[Click Here if you would like to know information about our Brit Mitzvah program.](#)

If you have questions, please contact us at culturaljews@gmail.com

Brit Mitzvah

Why doesn't Tri-Valley Cultural Jews use the terms "Bar Mitzvah" and "Bat Mitzvah?" Find out why we say "Brit Mitzvah," what that means and what a Secular Brit Mitzvah is all about.

[Click Here to Look at Our Website](#)

[Click Here to Find Out Information About Our Brit Mitzvah Program](#) or

If you have questions, please contact us at culturaljews@gmail.com



Upcoming Holiday Celebrations



Rosh Hashanah

Erev Rosh Hashanah (Monday night September 6th)
4:15p.m.- 5:15p.m. Tashlich walk to the creek and back
5:15p.m.- 6:00p.m. dinner
6:00p.m. Rosh Hashanah ceremony

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur (Wednesday September 15th)
7:00p.m.- 8:15p.m. Yom Kippur ceremony

Sukkot

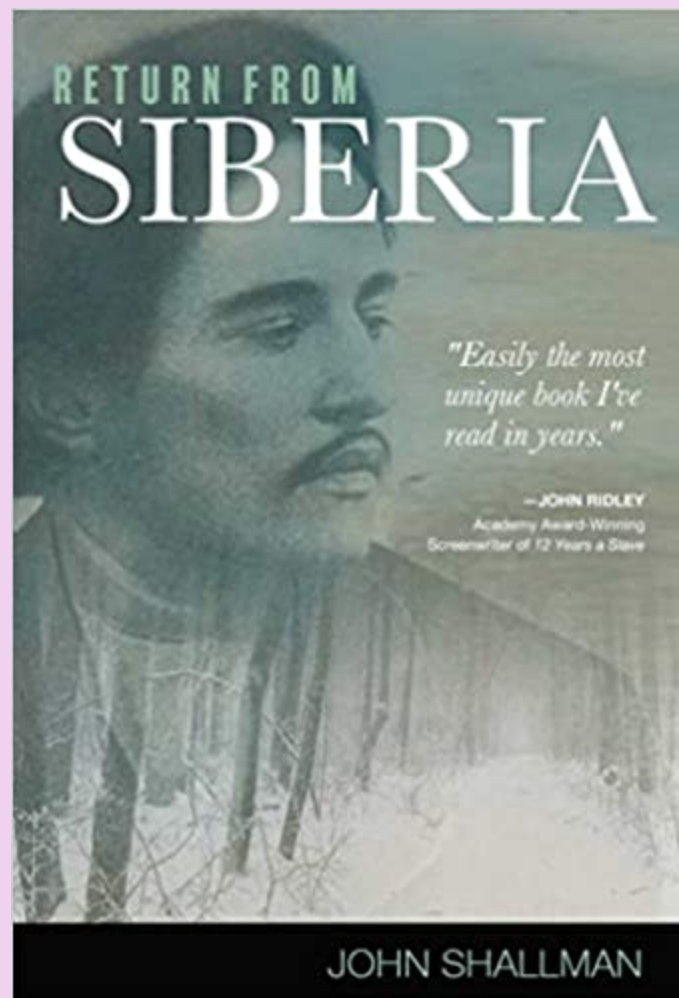
Sukkot raising (Sunday September 19th)

Please contact Jamie at culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you want to be the host household for this event.

Fighting Climate Change

Our board made the decision to join Dayenu, a Jewish organization fighting climate change. There is more information at this website Dayenu .

BOOK REVIEW **RETURN FROM SIBERIA** **By** **John Shallman**



This is a true saga of the author's great grandfather who was exiled to Siberia near the time of the Russian revolution. His story was told in a 100 year old manuscript that was found in his attic after his death. He was sent to Siberia because of his pro-revolutionary ideas and political activities.

In Siberia he suffered horrible brutality, as well as near-death experiences. After receiving much help, mostly from strangers, he escaped and wound up in America, where he continued his struggles to lift up exploited workers. His efforts brought him in conflict with some family members, while others continued his legacy.

The book brings out many of the similarities in the political environment of Russia leading up to World War I and present day American politics.

The manuscript that told his story was written entirely in Yiddish. It was translated with the help of staff at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts (also by Hershl Hartman, who is one of the founders of the Sholem Community of Los Angeles).

I found this book extremely inspirational and well written. I would recommend it to all. [Return from Siberia can be purchased on Amazon by clicking here.](#)

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

Interfaith Interconnect Religion Chat

Date: July 14th

Time: 7:00p.m.- 8:15 p.m. via Zoom.

Topic: How Does Your Faith Approach Health Issues? What are your community's traditions and rituals involving topics such as nutrition, addiction, mental health, and contagion? How does your faith promote health today?

[Click Here for More Information on their Facebook page](#)

Our June Havdalah

Our Juneteenth/Pride Month havdalah celebrated civil rights in America. We noted that the braided candle and the blended spices represent the ideas that cultural diversity is a strength, but that there are things we all have in common. After our short ceremony, participants shared their experiences in various movements for civil rights. We have some members with fascinating stories! TVCJ sponsors a shabbes or havdalah gathering monthly, sometimes with a theme, sometimes with a movie, and sometimes just as an opportunity to get together.

Death Over Dinner

Death Over Dinner, our long-running (and, unfortunately, still full) group of members who get together to discuss books, podcasts and articles relating to end of life issues - and everything else -, will meet July 10th.

A Way to Raise Money for Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

New in the Amazon app

Sign up to generate donations while you shop, at no extra cost

amazon smile



Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Tri-Valley Cultural Jews" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

- 1. Open the Amazon app on your phone*
- 2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features*
- 3. Select "Tri-Valley Cultural Jews" as your charity*
- 4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app*



Yahrzeit Memorial

In June We Remember

Eliza Haile Cloe
Augusta Gorman
John Mogul



June Birthdays

Eileen Alkin-Fagliano

Who We Are

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

Rachel Rose 808-494-8586

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

David Gates

Greg Gorel

Vicki Hudson

Carol King

Bret Mogilefsky

Thelma Poxon-Hudson

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Judy Seid

Movie Coordinator: Wendy

Berenson 925-829-0554

Joke: What do computers eat for a snack? Microchips!



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