

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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September 25th, 2021

TVCJ Community News

Upcoming Events

October 7th Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

Day: First Thursday of each month (next one is October 7th)

Time: 7:00p.m.

Place: Zoom

Cost: Free to members, \$10.00 suggested donation for non-members.

If you'd like to discuss interesting topics, both serious and light-hearted, please sign on - we'll continue to meet on zoom. We discuss topics timely and ancient, serious and lighthearted. You never know what the topic will be until you show up, so there's no homework! If you have an idea you'd like to discuss, please let us know by emailing culturaljews@gmail.com and we'll schedule your session. Join us!

If you have questions, please contact Jazz at culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029**.

Seeking Eden Interfaith Representative

TVCJ is looking for a new representative to Eden Area Interfaith Council. As our representative, you would attend a monthly Interfaith meeting and report back to the TVCJ Board about any action items or community news that would affect our membership. Meetings are currently via zoom, but will one day resume in person at their location in Castro Valley. Eden Area Interfaith engages in many social action campaigns and you can find out more at <https://edeninterfaith.weebly.com/> Please contact us at culturaljews@gmail.com with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

Thank You

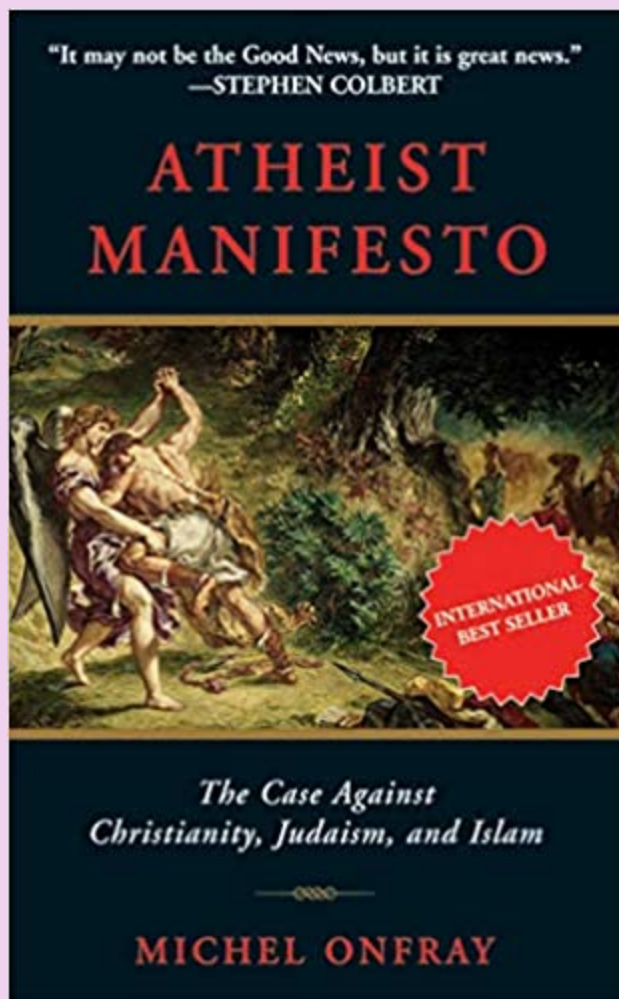
Thanks to the Gross-Llosa family for donating a box full of children's books to our library. Our terrific [Jewish Culture School](#) aides will be going through the box to determine which books are suitable for TVCJ and which we can donate to the local synagogue.

Interested in what's in our library? We're hoping the aides will be able to complete the project of cataloging it this year. [Click here to learn more about Jewish Culture School](#).

Book Review

[The Atheist Manifesto](#)
[The Case Against Christianity, Judaism, and](#)
[Islam](#)

By
Michel Onfray



I believe that while the ideas in this book may be upsetting to believers, it is an important read for those of us with secular ideas.

Also, discussed are the negative treatment of women, sexuality, and pleasure. Rewards for faith and obedience are obtained primarily in the “after life” instead of the current. Fundamentalists of these religions have not promoted rational and logical thought as much as they do obedience and belief.

The major books of the religions, i.e., the new and old testaments of the bible, as well as the Koran are examined. Evident in these books are professions of peace and love on one hand as well as hatred and violence against nonbelievers on the other hand —many times in the same book.

In this controversial book the author discusses the mostly negative aspects of the three major monotheistic religions. Chief among them are their hypocrisy, suppression of knowledge and rational thought, as well as the condemnation of nonbelievers.

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

Our Rosh Hashanah Celebration

Thanks to our holiday committee: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Sarah Rees and Judy Seid, for planning our Rosh Hashanah celebration. Thanks to the Dynamic Digital Duo of Noah King and Bret Mogilefsky. Noah did all the futsy technical things for the program and Bret figured out how to make it work on zoom and staffed our zoom video conference. Thanks to Jazz for making the challah for us to take home, to the readers: Mark Shulewitz, Sarah Rees, Jesse Pino, Solomon Ireland and Rachel Rose, and to everyone who helped set up and clean up. The prize for Traveled-The-Farthest-To-Sit-in-100° weather goes to Rachel and Zhaomo who edged out Marisa and Kevin this year. Thanks also to Sophia Ireland, our shofar-blower extraordinaire and thanks to Jamie Ireland for leading our reverse tashlikh.

Our Kol Nidre Observance

Many thanks to all those who helped make our Kol Nidre observance so meaningful.

Thanks to Bret Mogilefsky for handling the zoom video conference. Thanks to Jazz Salwen-Grabowski and the Ireland family for setting up and everyone for helping clean up. Thanks to Sophia Ireland and Sam Ruben for seeing us out with the amazing Tekiah Gedolah. (Sophia won that one!) Special thanks to Derek and Amy Greenberg for their lovely presentation of the song One Leaf. Thanks to Rebecca Ireland for helping to lead the group singing. Thanks to our readers, David Gates, Derek Greenberg, Jamie Ireland, Rebecca Ireland, Jazz Salwen-Grabowski and Eileen Alkin-Fagliano. Our community shows up!

Celebrating Sukkot



TVCJ celebrated Sukkot on Sunday, September 19th at the Pino-Akin household. We made paper chains with the names of "ushpizin" - people we would like to invite

under our sukkah. All the little kids used power tools, as is our tradition. [Click here to see more pictures taken during our Sukkot celebration.](#)

Rebooting Jewish Life

Reboot is an arts and culture non-profit that reimagines and reinforces Jewish thought and traditions. As a premier research and development platform for the Jewish world, we catalyze our Reboot Network of preeminent creators, artists, entrepreneurs and activists to produce experiences and products that evolve the Jewish conversation and transform society.

[Click Here to see Rebooting Jewish Life Events.](#)

[Click Here to Listen to Rebooting Jewish Life Podcasts.](#)

[Click Here to Watch Rebooting Jewish Life Videos.](#)

Interfaith Interconnect Religion Chat

Date: Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

Time: 5:00p.m.- 6:15p.m. via Zoom. Meeting room opens at 4:45p.m.

Topic: What spiritual practices or rituals do you use to enrich your daily life?

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88394176632>

For this meeting, instead of our usual 2-speaker format, all participants who wish to share a brief (under 3 minute) response to the topic are invited to do so. Note that we will not record this Religion Chat. All are welcome!

If you missed our September Chat, How Does Your Faith Approach Health Issues? with speakers Rev. Heather Leslie Hammer, United Methodist Church and Caryl Shill of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, here is a link to the recording. <https://youtu.be/eqBVM3HEGQk>

Some of our other Chats are posted on the Videos page of Interfaith Interconnect Facebook.

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



jewish film institute

September Short Film: [Zoe's Dumpling Crisis](#) (10 minutes)

About The Short

For International Food Week at school, Zoe enlists the help of her Grandmothers. One from Russia, the other from Turkey. Two Grandmothers, one kitchen, and an international dumpling dish. [Click here and scroll down to see Zoe's Dumpling Crisis.](#)

For a list of all Online Monthly Shorts, visit the [Online Shorts Page](#) on the Jewish Film Institute Website.

Hebrew Classes for Adults

The Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, JCCSF, is excited to announce that the Fall term of online Hebrew classes for adults at the JCCSF will begin on September 27th and are open to students of all levels seeking to start, continue or perfect their study on the modern Hebrew language.

[Click here and scroll down to register for classes or find out more information.](#)

East Bay International Jewish Film Festival (EBIJFF) Year Round Film Subscription

For \$120, (EBIJFF) will automatically add all year-round events from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 to your virtual "library" on our streaming platform. While this subscription does not include a pass to the annual EBIJFF, it will provide you with outstanding monthly programming that you can't get elsewhere, as well as a marked discount of more than \$40 over individual ticket purchases.

[Click here to purchase a film subscription](#)

The year-round, virtual programming will include more than 18 events, including these outstanding films and speakers:

- *Five Around the World with Fred* events
- *The Midnight Orchestra*, a film that expands on Moroccan-Jewish life and generational divides with humor and heart
- *The Jewish Philip Roth in Cinema* with film historian Dr. Eric Goldman
- The insightful, upbeat documentary *The New Jew*
- The heart-warming film *The Optimists* plus a conversation with the two main subjects of this Israeli documentary about multi-nation cooperation on environmental issues (date TBD)
- *Conversations with Galit: How to Read a Film with film critic Galit Roichman* (date TBD)
- *The Cinema of Émigrés from pre-WWII Europe: Lubitsch, Wilder & Preminger* (date TBD)

Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity

The Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity is a California organization that connects clergy and people of faith to the work of social justice. They work to make the criminal justice system more just, and the immigration system more fair and humane.

[Click here to learn more about *Youth Voices Say: Stop ICE Transfers*](#)

[Click here to find out about *Public Witness: Prayer Vigils*](#)

[Click here to find out about *the Accompaniment Team and other ways you can volunteer*](#)

Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund Here I am Initiative Videos

[Click here to view Here I am videos uploaded in the last month.](#)

[Click here and join Here I am and submit your own video.](#)

Today, JCRC and the Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund are thrilled to announce the launch of our new [Here I Am](#) initiative, pushing back against antisemitism by demonstrating the vibrancy, diversity and values of the Bay Area Jewish community.

The initiative will be centered around video storytelling, empowering individuals to share their experiences of encountering antisemitism and other forms of hate levelled against diverse Jewish individuals as a means of educating the community about Jewish allyship in this difficult moment.

[Click here to find out about the Here I am Initiative.](#)

[Click here to join the Here I Am initiative! Whether you're Jewish or an ally, record your video, and make your story heard.](#)



In September We Remember

Lynn Zizlavsky
Sam Zuckerman

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



Newsletter: Joy Randel
Webmaster: Noah King
JCS Teachers: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid
Holiday Coordinator: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski
Movie Coordinator: Bret Mogilefsky

September Birthdays

Ira Ehrlich
Wendy Berenson Garcia
Ilan Seid-Green
Sophia Ireland
Jane Morrison
Evangeline Pepper
Mathilda Shulewitz

Joke: What do you call a bear without any teeth? A gummy bear.



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