

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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January 29th 2022

TVCJ Community News



Would you like to donate to Tri-Valley Cultural Jews without spending a dime? Select Tri-Valley Cultural Jews on your AmazonSmile Charity List and a percentage of your Amazon purchases will be donated to Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. Here's how to set it up:

- Sign into your Amazon account. Click on "Account and Lists" on the right hand side and a white box will appear.
- In the white box you will see "Your Lists" and under "Your Lists" you will see "AmazonSmile Charity Lists".
- Click on "AmazonSmile Charity Lists" and go to the search box and search for Tri-Valley Cultural Jews and choose this as your charity.

FREE Covid Testing

No Appointment or Pre-Registration Needed

The Muslim Community Center (MCC) in Pleasanton will be providing free COVID testing in their parking lot through 2/13/22 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Available for anyone ages 4

and up. The test results are valid for travel. No appointment or pre-registration necessary. Your PCR nasal swab test results will be emailed to you in 24-72 hours. For more information www.mcceastbay.org/test

Upcoming Events

February 19th Havdalah

Join our February 19th Havdalah in honor of Black History Month. We will have a short, Secular Humanistic ceremony. **There will be more information in the Evite.**

Date: 02/19/2022

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

Cost: Free to members, suggested donation \$10.00 per non-member adult if you are able.

Email: culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions.

February 3rd Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

Day: First Thursday of each month (next one is February 3rd)

Time: 7:00p.m.

Place: Zoom (Please see Evite for Zoom information)

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

Philosophers' Cafe, our monthly friendly discussion group led by members, continues to be fun and stimulating. Last month Ellis Goldberg led a spirited discussion of the future of democracy. Although we did not completely solve this major problem of our time, thus freeing us all to do nothing but eat ice cream and go bowling, we did share our ideas, information and insights. Philosophers' Cafe is our monthly friendly discussion group, meeting on Zoom the first Thursday of each month.

Our topics are sometimes timely current events, sometimes personal stories,

sometimes ideas and issues. We'd love any of our members to lead a session - just think of something you'd like to hear people's stories or opinions about and let us know you're ready to lead. 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. We have discussion leaders lined up for February and March, but the rest of the year is open and waiting for you! Join us!

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

Purim

Purim is coming! Join us for our Purim Celebration at the Bothwell.

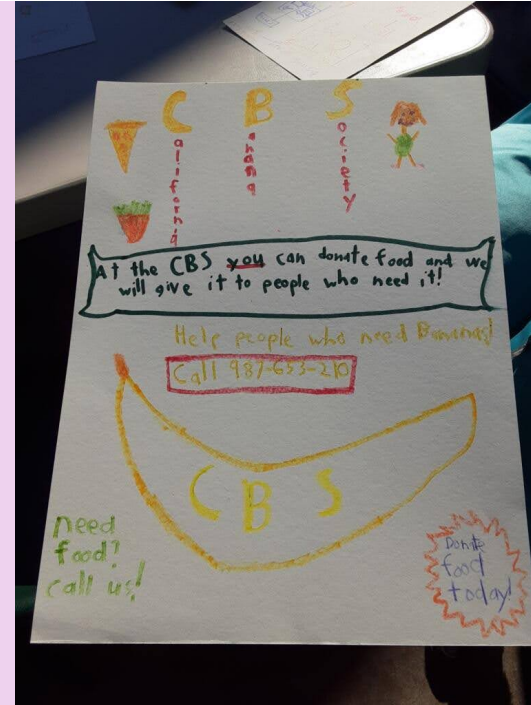
Date: 3/13/2022

Time: 10:30a.m.

Place: Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore, CA 94550

Email: culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions. **There will be more information in the Evite.**

Jewish Culture School (JCS)



We started off the Gregorian new year with another exciting lesson in Jewish Cultural School. We danced, we sang, we cooked red cabbage, and learned about the mutual aid societies that Jewish immigrants started in the early 1800s. We talked about the Landsmanshaftn: people from the same town who helped each other to find jobs, pay for cemetery plots, and get through tough times. Students designed their own aid societies and made posters for them. We also learned about our upcoming environmental holiday: Tu B'shvat. Our Word of the Week is Tzedakah.

Our Reproductive Rights Shabbat

Members and friends of TVCJ gathered online on January 21st to participate in Reproductive Rights Shabbat, a nationwide event spearheaded by the National Council of Jewish Women. We heard thoughtful readings connecting the ritual candles-lighting, wine and challah to various reproductive rights, after which Rabbi Judith Seid gave an overview of Jewish and humanist views on abortion. Following the presentation,

participants engaged in a conversation about their own beliefs and feelings about reproductive rights and freedoms.

Our Tu B'Shvat Celebration



Our Tu B'Shvat event at the Sulphur Creek Nature Center was so much fun. The Nature Center is located in a beautiful area of Hayward, sheltered by trees. Christine was a

wonderful host who introduced us to a few very special friends: a rosy boa, a banded dove, a bantam hen and a chinchilla. We were also able to crack plum seeds and pot them to take home. Happy Tu B'Shvat Everyone!

New Lehrhaus Courses (Most are Free)

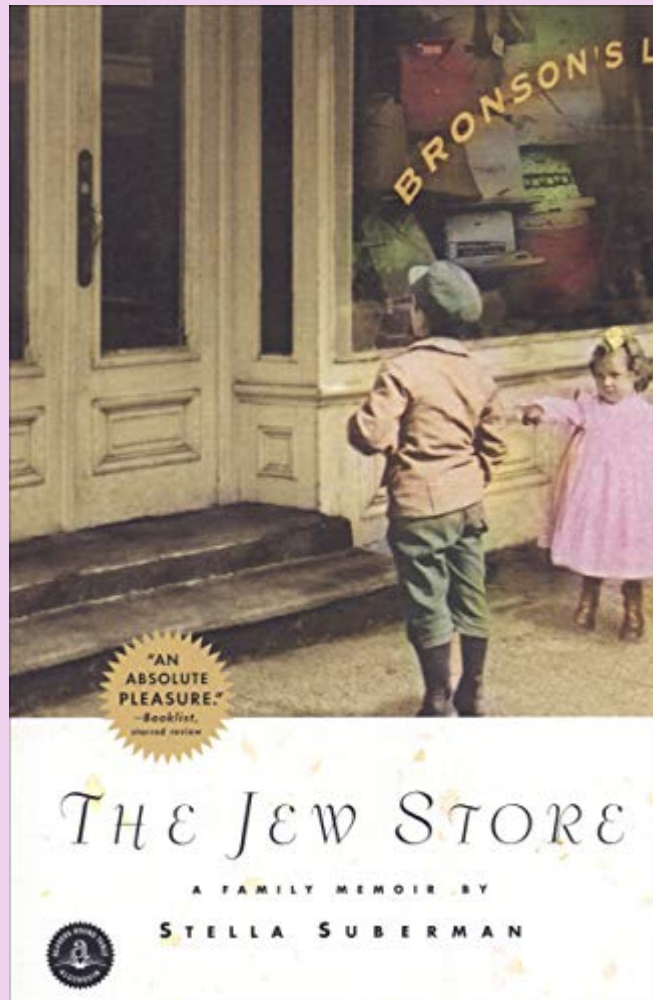
The Lehrhaus Board has decided to make most courses free of charge for the Winter 2022 semester. If you would like to sign up, then log in to newlehrhaus.org

--and click "**LEARN WITH US**" at the top of the home page. Then you'll discover the full rainbow of Jewish learning that begins this month. When you sign up for a course, just click the number of attendees and complete your registration, making sure to include your name and email address since most all programs remain online only.

BOOK REVIEW

**The Jew Store:
A Family Memoir
By**

Stella Suberman



Are you as shocked by the title as I was? It turns out that there have been very many of these Jew stores all over the South. These are stores owned by Jewish people in small towns where the Jewish owners are the only Jews in town. The author's family owned and operated one of them and this is their true story.

The author's parents emigrated to this town from Russia by way of New York. The big city was too over whelming for the father who was told that there was great opportunity in the South to make a good living. When the family moved to the small

town they had a variety of issues to deal with. First, after the father bought a dry goods store, he had to deal with getting customers. This was complicated by the fact that the population was not always welcoming to the first Jewish people to live there, and their prejudices were abundant. Also, the mother was determined to keep her traditional Jewish ways, while the rest of the family were more inclined to adapt to the ways of the town. Furthermore, the daughter falls in love with a Christian boy and eventually the issue of marriage is discussed. Mother wants the family to move back to New York where both children can meet Jewish mates. Family conflict ensues.

These and other issues make the lives of Jews in a small southern Christian town extremely challenging and interesting. .book was very well written, and I would highly recommend it. [Click here to find this book on Amazon.](#)

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

Interfaith InterConnect Religion Chat

Topic: "What holy books or other texts are important to your religion?"

Date: Wednesday, February 9th 2022

Time: 5:00p.m. via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87498643652>

Optional breakout groups 6:00p.m. to 6:30p.m.

Speakers: Rev. Ellie Kilpatrick of Unitarian Universalist Church Livermore and Mr. Bruce Bird, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For more information go to the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect/>



jewish film institute

January's Online Short - The Polaroidist

[Click Here to Watch The Polaroidist](#)

About the Film:

Ariel Sokolovsky, an orthodox Jew from Moldova, sells polaroid cameras in Boston - while his friend, Daniel, follows him around with a camera. They end up in a Chanukah parade "with menorahs on the roof" and discuss such subjects as the connection between Judaism and polaroids, and whether carrots should be kept in the refrigerator.

About the Director:

Julie Masis is a freelance journalist and the editor and publisher of the Russian Boston Gazette. Her articles have also been published in the Times of Israel, the Jerusalem Post, the Boston Globe, and in other newspapers and magazines.



Yahrzeit Memorial
In January We

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

Remember

Hillel Cohen
Charles Roy Colvin



January Birthdays

Marisa Castaldini
Mary Frances Colvin
Kevin Coren
Levi Coren
Tom Green
Colin Mogilefsky
Mitch Morrison

Bret Mogilefsky 510-610-1956
Jesse Pino 925-605-6003
Rachel Rose 808-494-8586

Newsletter: Joy Randel

Webmaster: Noah King

JCS Teachers: Jazz Salwen-
Grabowski, Judith Seid

Holiday Coordinator: Jazz
Salwen-Grabowski

Movie Coordinator: Bret
Mogilefsky

Joke: Why are there no ponies in the choirs? Their voices are a little too horse.



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