



News & Fun Activities

[View this email in your browser](#)

 Share  Forward  Tweet

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."



 Share  Forward  Tweet

****Please share this with your friends by clicking on the Facebook, Email, or Twitter symbols above.****

November 26th 2022

TVCJ Community News

Like and share our FaceBook page:
<http://facebook.com/trivalleyculturaljews>

Upcoming Events

If you need more information or have questions about anything in this newsletter, then please email culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029**.

Our Community

Please welcome new member Bud Gerstman, who lives in Aptos and has joined us a couple times already for Philosophers' Cafe.

December 1, 2022 Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

Date: First Thursday of each month (next one is December 1st)

Time: 7:00p.m.

Place: Zoom (The Zoom link will be in the evite you should receive soon.)

Cost: Free to members, \$15.00 suggested donation for non-members.

Philosophers' Cafe is back! Our monthly friendly discussion group is a place where people of any generation can come to talk about topics both weighty and lighthearted. The program is led by

a different member each month. We meet on zoom for an hour or so on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Suggested donation for non-members is \$10. Join us at 568 599 7884.

Chanukah Celebration

Date: December 18th, 2022

Time: 10:30am

Welcome the light with us at our annual Chanukah Celebration! Save your recyclables for an epic Upcycled Menorah competition. Play a little dreidel, sing a few songs, and more holiday fun. Details to follow in our Evite.



TVCJ Teen

It's happening. West Coast Secular junior high/high school age people are forming a community of their own! There's a Discord channel and plans to meet for fun/mutual support/connection, etc. We've invited kids from the Secular Jewish schools in Seattle and LA to join the zoom sessions starting in November with introductions and a discussion of encountering Christian proslytizing at school. In December, local teens are invited to test their ingenuity against grown-ups and kids in a sustainable menorah-making contest using objects that would ordinarily be

discarded or recycled. Save your toilet paper rolls, styrofoam packing materials and anything else you think you could use and bring them to the Chanukah party December 18.

Please [Click Here](#) and fill out the google form so Rebecca Ireland, who is organizing, can send you notifications and let you know what's next!

Our Shabbos Gathering

Shabbos on the patio was so much fun! We played an excellent game of Curses!





jewish film institute

November's Online Short Loud Whisper

Warning: Brief mentions of childhood sexual abuse. May not be appropriate for everyone.

Directed by Natalie Eichengreen

Aharon went through ongoing sexual abuse as an ultra-orthodox youth in a Yeshiva in Bnei Brak. A decade later, he has come out and is living as a secular homosexual. The silence he kept inside is bursting in his fashion collections.

Head over to [The Cinegogue](#) to watch the film and read an exclusive JFI interview with the director.

Our Calendar

2022:

August 13 - Shabbos

Gathering

August 28 - JCS Open House

September 11 - JCS

September 25 - Erev Rosh

Hashanah gathering

2023:

January 1 - JCS

January 5 - Philosophers' Cafe

January 22 - JCS

February 2 - Philosophers'
Cafe

February 5 - Tu B'Shvat

October 4 - Kol Nidre
(evening) gathering
October 9 - Sukkah raising
party
October 23 - JCS
November 3 - Philosophers'
Cafe
November 6 - JCS
November 12 - Shabbos
November 20 - JCS
December 1 - Philosophers'
Cafe
December 4 - JCS
December 18 - Chanukah
party (first light of Chanukah)

February 19 - JCS
March 2 - Philosophers' Cafe
March 5 - Purim
March 19 - JCS
April 2 - JCS/Passover Open
House
April 6 - Philosophers' Cafe
April 8 - Community Passover
Seder
April 16 - JCS
April 30 - JCS
May 4 - Philosophers' Cafe
May 7 - Lag B'Omer

Jewish Cultural School (JCS)

JCS students learned about Ethiopian Jews and cooked a delicious Ethiopian lentil stew. [Click Here](#) to learn more about Jewish Culture School.



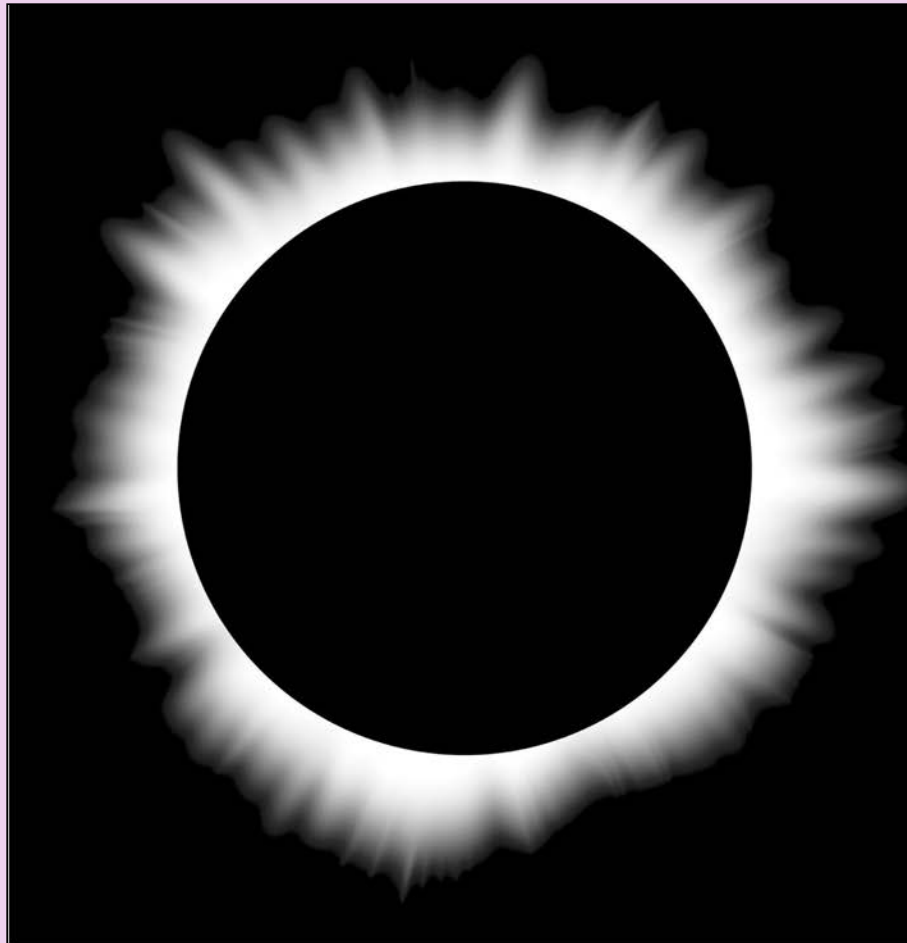


This Month In Jewish History

On December 17, 1962 General Ulysses S. Grant issued "Order No. 11" which expelled all Jews from areas in the southern and border states that he had conquered. President Abraham Lincoln countermanded that order, and the Jews were allowed to remain.

Book Review
Religion for Atheists
A Non-Believer's Guide to the Uses of Religion

By Alain de Botton



Religion for Atheists

A Non-Believer's
Guide to the
Uses of Religion

Alain de Botton

Author of
*The Consolations
of Philosophy*

"A serious but
intellectually wild
ride. . . . One has to
appreciate his pluck
as much as his
lucid, enjoyable
arguments."

—*The Miami Herald*

The main premise of this book is that we in the secular world should not be averse to using some of the ideas of religions that are to our benefit and vice versa. To our detriment secularists discount what the religious world has developed over the centuries even though some ideas can be very valuable. And we may use them without actually believing in the religious doctrines.

Some of the ideas religions have developed are building of community, developing lasting relationships, promoting kindness along with many others. The secular world has excelled in science, technology, business and education. Each realm should not be afraid to inculcate the best ideas from the other without buying in totally to the other.

The book was an interesting read, but it contained a number of esoteric parts that I found hard to follow. Nevertheless it contained many interesting and valuable parts that we could all benefit from.

[If you are interested in purchasing this book, then you can find it on Amazon by clicking here.](#)

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

Interfaith InterConnect of the Tri-Valley Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

Date: Sunday, November 20th, **In-person**

Time: 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., simple reception following 4:30p.m.-5p.m.

Place: St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 1315 Lomitas Avenue, Livermore

Topic: This year's program will feature a variety of ways different faiths and cultures express gratitude.

Cost: FREE, but an offering will be accepted to benefit a local charity.

After the program, there will be a simple reception from 4:30p.m.-5:00p.m. offering light refreshment and the opportunity to socialize with attendees and presenters.

Livermore-Pleasanton Interfaith Clergy Association is planning the service. Ample parking in the adjoining lot. All are welcome. **NO RSVP is need.** For more information, check the Interfaith Interconnect Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect/interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com>

Interfaith Interconnect of the Tri-Valley's mission is "*To enrich, inform and educate ourselves and others about the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our valley.*"

TVCJ PayPal Giving Fund Page

We now have a PayPal page where you can quickly and easily donate to Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. Simply scan the QR code or visit: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2326042>





In November We Remember

Jerry Kranz



November Birthdays

Karen Furst

Amy Greenberg

Emma Greenberg

Kelly Mogilefsky

Alexander Pepper

Monika Poxon

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

Webmaster: Noah King

JCS Teachers: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid

Holiday Coordinator: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Movie Coordinator: Bret Mogilefsky

Joke: What kind of music do balloons hate? **Answer:** Pop.



Copyright © 2022 Tri Valley Cultural Jews, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

