



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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December 31st 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 Calendar

2023:

January 1 - JCS
January 5 - Philosophers' Cafe
January 22 - JCS
February 2 - Philosophers' Cafe
February 5 - Tu B'Shvat
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

January 5th, 2023 Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

Date: First Thursday of each month (next one is January 5th, 2023)

Time: 7:00p.m.

Place: Zoom 568 599 7884

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

Are you tired of talking about the weather and who has to drive to soccer?

Looking for an hour's worth of some real conversation about varied topics? Come to Philosophers' Cafe, our monthly online friendly discussion group, featuring topics weighty and lighthearted. You never know the topic beforehand, so there's no homework. This is a multi-generational event - come meet other members and friends of TVCJ the first Thursday of each month. Next meeting is January 5 at 7 p.m.



Save the date for TVCJ's Tu B'shvat Celebration February 5th--more details to follow in Evite.

Look for more info on TVCJ's February Repro Rights Shabbat--more details to follow in Evite.

This month in Jewish history:

January 14, 1858 is the birthday of Hannah Solomon, founder of the National Council of Jewish Women. Her mother founded Chicago's Jewish Ladies Sewing Society, making clothing for people who couldn't afford it and her father was a founder of the Zion Literary Society, a book discussion group for young people.

In 1893, Hannah was approached to support the Jewish Denominational Congress assembled for the World Fair. She said the women would join if they could be active members, not just supporters. When the men denied women equal participation, Hannah organized a separate women's congress, the NCJW. In its early years, the NCJW supported settlement houses and free clinics, and advocated for children in court.

Today, the NCJW is a leading voice for reproductive rights, voting rights, and immigrant and refugee support. You can read more at ncjw.org.

Jewish Cultural School (JCS)



JCS 11/27

We visited Argentina and made potato empanadas. We learned about the Yiddishe Gauchos and some kids heard a silly story about the time K'tonton went for a ride on a cleaver.



JCS 12/4

We visited the Caribbean today and made sweet potato latkes in honor of Chanukah. We talked about what our Jewish ancestors brought with them when they moved from place to place, and which of those things we would like to dedicate a Chanukah candle to. Many thanks to Jamie for frying up our latkes--they were delicious!

Our Chanukah 2022 Celebration

What a beautiful day to celebrate Chanukah! We had our upcycled menorah-making competition, a naming ceremony for Yanai, the youngest and most adorable member of our community, and dedicated each candle on our giant menorah to the things our ancestors brought with them when they came here. Many thanks to our glorious cooks: Mark and Solomon--the latkes were delicious!

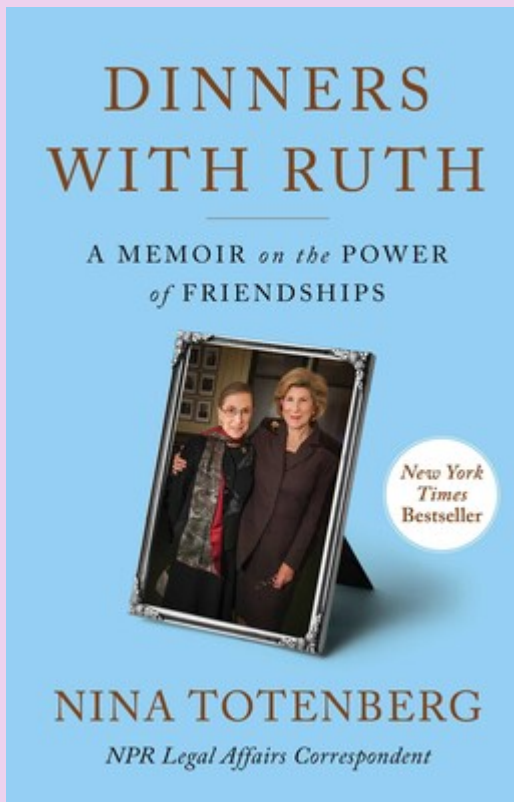






**Book Review
Dinners with Ruth:
A Memoir on the Power of Friendship
By**

Nina Totenberg



Many of us are familiar with the author of this book as the legal affairs correspondent on NPR. But most significant for this book is her life-long and extremely close friendship with Ruth Bader Ginsberg-before and after she became supreme court Justice. Nina Totenberg, along, with her husband and other close personal friends formed a great support group for each other through the good times as well as the tragic times. Their favorite activities when they got together involved sharing meals-hence the title.

Their devotion to each other was extreme. The strength and power of RBG was evident even when she was battling cancer. She never let it interfere with her work or with her dinners with Nina and the group. What an inspiration she was to millions of people both in this country and

abroad.

Besides learning more about the Supreme Court in this book, I gained a new admiration for RBG, her family and her friends.

[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

**You're invited! Save the date for our first Religion Chat
in 2023! Virtual Religion Chat**

Date: Wednesday, January 11th, Virtual Religion Chat

Time: 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., Optional breakout discussion groups 6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Place: Online via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85664369063>. Meeting ID: 856 6436 9063

Zoom room opens at 4:45 p.m..

Topic: Choose a particular holiday, holy day, feast, or other celebration that you observe in your faith or culture. What is its significance to you and how do you celebrate it?

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

Instead of our usual 2-speaker format, any participants who wish to share a brief response (under 3 minutes) to the topic may do so.

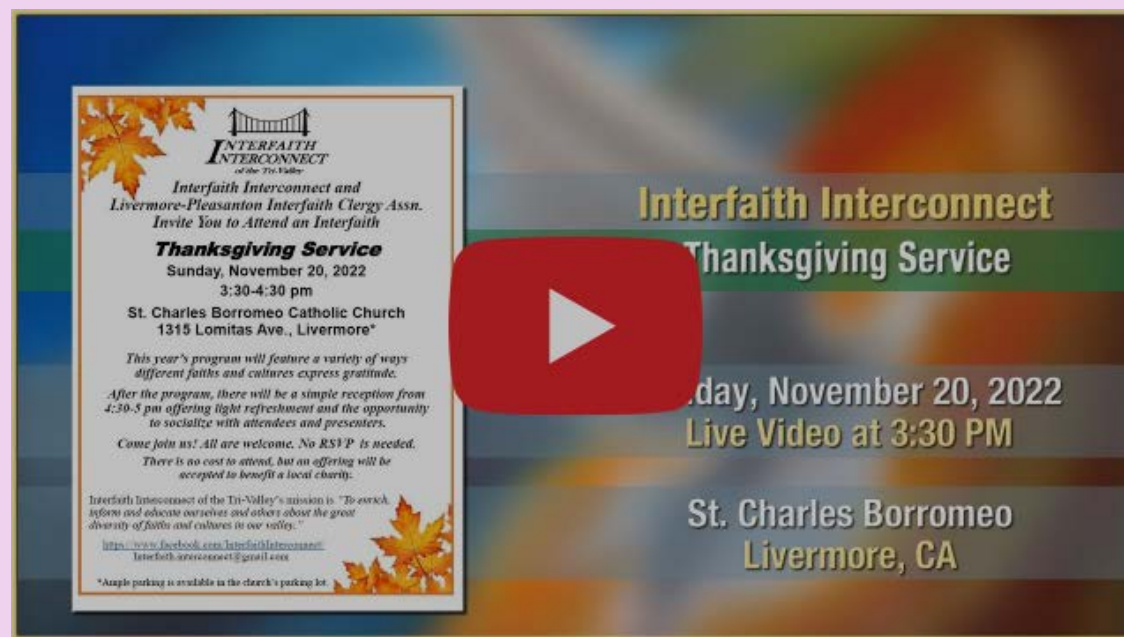
All are welcome!

NO RSVP is need. For more information, check the Interfaith Interconnect

Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect/>

Email: interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com

In case you missed our Interfaith Thanksgiving Service in November, here is the video.



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.*"

We at Interfaith Interconnect Wish You Joyful Holidays and a Happy, Healthy New Year. We look forward to having you join us for Religion Chat in 2023!

Interfaith Interconnect Leadership Committee

Hebrew Winter Term @ JCCSF Please Register by January 2nd

Shalom! The JCCSF invites you to register for the winter session of Hebrew classes by **January 2, 2023**.

The next session begins the week of **January 9th** and ends the last week of March 2023.

Why Study Hebrew?

There are many reasons to learn a new language – to better understand a culture, for personal growth, to connect with a family member abroad, or to prepare for a business trip or vacation. Start or continue your Hebrew language journey with online and in-person classes taught by native-speaking instructors.

Not Sure Which Class to Take?

All those starting at the beginning should register for our introductory class, Modern Hebrew Kita Alef I. This class is only offered in person for the winter 2023 session.

All other class levels are offered online via Zoom.

[Click here to explore all our class options and register through our website.](#)

We look forward to seeing you in class!

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 December We Remember

Elfrida Erhard
Melvin Luborsky
Martin Salwen

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

Benjamin Sczuchman
Enye Seid
Yossl Seid
Stewart Silverman
Celia Zuckerman
Charles Zuckerman
Sam Zuckerman

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



December Birthdays

Isabel Gross
Ella King
Manda Pepper
Scott Pepper

Joke: Two windmills are standing in a field. One asks, "What's your favorite style of music?" The other says, "I'm a big metal fan."



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