

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 28th 2023

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 18 - Reproductive

Rights Shabbos

February 19 - JCS

March 2 - Philosophers' Cafe

March 5 - Purim

March 19 - JCS

March 26th - 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

Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

Date: February 2nd (First Thursday of each month)

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

Place: Zoom 568 599 7884

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

Join us for a friendly discussion on a topic to be announced at our Philosophers' Cafe - an hour free of daily tasks.

We regularly meet the first Thursday of each month for a multi-generational discussion on a topic chosen by a different participant each month. We never know what's coming up! Zoom ID 568 599 7884

Tu B'Shvat



Date: February 5th

Time: 10:30a.m.

Place: Creekside Park in Pleasanton

Cost: Free to members, \$15.00 per non-member adult if you are able.

Celebrate the birthday of the trees with us at our Tu B'Shvat Seder and Pot Luck. Join us for nature crafts and some schmoozing. **Please bring a dish to share.** Masks are optional outdoors when social distancing is possible.

What is Tu B'Shvat?

Tu B'Shvat is the perfect example of how change allows the continuity of Jewish life. The holiday is an ancient one, originally a tax day for fruit trees. When this became unusable (Jewish sovereignty over ancient Israel/Judah lasted only about 80 years), the holiday morphed into a celebration of the trees coming into bloom in the land of Israel, a place far from the Jews who observed this holiday. With the establishment of the Jewish settlements in Palestine in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the holiday became an occasion for donating to plant trees. This kept up after the establishment of Israel and in some communities continues to this day. But in more modern, non-Zionist communities, Tu B'Shvat has become our Earth Day – a day to celebrate nature and to recommit to its preservation. Our tree-planting is to save the environment for the whole world. It's new wine in old bottles. The reason we can celebrate the ancient holiday of Tu B'Shvat is that we continually reinterpret it to fit the needs of those celebrating in every time and place. Jewishness is a living tradition – and life means constant change. Our Secular Humanistic Judaism, with its embrace of the power of reinterpretation, is helping to keep the Jewish People alive.

By Judith Seid

Reproductive Rights Shabbos Gathering

Date: February 18th

Time: 5:30p.m.

Place: The Mogilefsky's home

Cost: \$10.00 per member, \$12.00 for non-members. For those who do not eat pizza, \$2.00 per member, \$4.00 for non-members.

The Supreme Court's decision to reverse Roe v. Wade this summer put access to abortion and birth control in jeopardy across America. Join us for the Shabbos we shouldn't have to have--the one where we discuss the Jewish Secular Humanist values surrounding reproductive health, rights and justice. We'll share our own personal stories around the

Mogilefsky fire pit and have some pizza and s'mores.

The program is not kid-centered and may not be appropriate for all children. Masks are optional outdoors when social distancing is possible.



Purim Celebration! Get ready to make some hamantaschen on March 5th at 10:30am.

Community **Passover** Seder on April 8th. Join us on Zoom for a Secular, Humanist Seder.

Kaleidoscope of Jewish People

February is Black History Month, so we are celebrating that our Jewish people includes those of every color and background. Did you know Darrin Bell the cartoonist is Jewish? So are actor Nell Carter, NFL player Jordan Dangerfield, Daveed Diggs (but you knew that already), lawyer Lani Guinier, comedian Tiffany Haddish, actor Rashida Jones, musicians Lenny Kravitz and Zoe Kravitz, writer Walter Mosley, basketball players Aulcie Perry, Jamila Wideman and Amar'e Stoudemire, comedian Maya Rudolph, hip-hop artist Y-Love and rapper Drake and many more in all walks of life. Not only do we come in all colors, we do everything!

By Judith Seid

Jewish Culture School Passover Open House: March 26th

Do you know a family who wants to learn more about Jewish Culture? Tell them about our Passover Jewish Cultural School Open House on March 26th. We'll learn about Passover traditions from around the world and make some homemade matzoh. Not getting our Evites? Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call us at **(925) 399-8029**.

[For more information about Jewish Culture School click here.](#)

Jewish Cultural School (JCS)



JCS 1/8/23

We traveled to China and heard the legendary story of how the Jews and the Chinese became friends. We made beautiful lanterns in celebration of the Chinese New Year and baked delicious fortune cookies, which we filled with sayings that are common in both Jewish and Chinese culture.

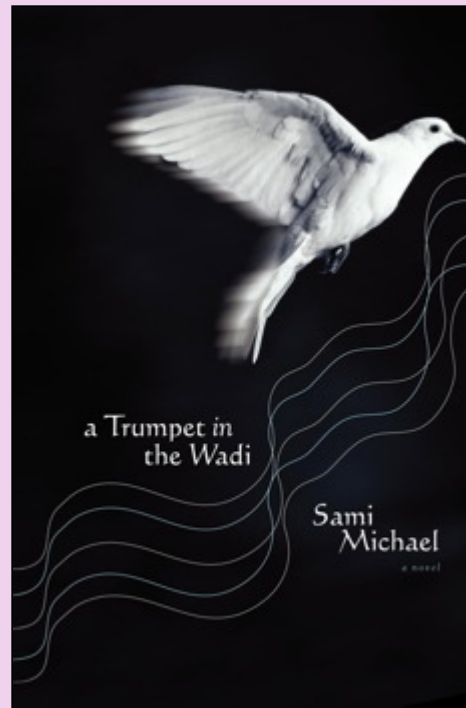


JCS 1/22

We imagined that we were traders along the silk road traveling between Venice and China and our craft was painting cloth, which is a traditional Jewish art in Central Asia. We learned a Tu B'Shvat song (with only three words - our specialty!) and heard Central Asian music while we cooked. Many thanks to Jamie for not letting our bulgar burn!

**BOOK REVIEW
A TRUMPET IN THE WADI**

**By
Sami Michael**



This novel takes place around the Israeli and Lebanese War. Huda and her Arab family live in an apartment house in the Wadi, an area in Egypt. Alex is a Jewish man who moves into a storage area of the roof of their building. He is in the habit of playing his trumpet every night.

They eventually fall in love and have designs on marriage. But as you can imagine, there are a number of obstacles. Primarily, Alex's mother is vehemently opposed to this, mainly because she hates Arabs (and almost everyone else) who she considers the enemy. Huda's family likes Alex, but recognizes the difficulties of a mixed marriage in this area. However, they are in favor of the marriage. Moreover war breaks out in Lebanon and Alex is conscripted before the wedding.

This book highlights the many prejudices that have existed between the Arabs and Israelis. You find yourself rooting for this couple and hoping that they can overcome these roadblocks. I found this book very well written and the characters are compelling. I would definitely recommend it. [**If you are interested in purchasing this book, then you can find it on Amazon by clicking here.**](#)



jewish film institute

January's Online Short Oil & Water

Directed by Michael Esealuka

Produced by Tikkun Olam Productions, Frontline Media Network, and Healthy Gulf

Two black towns in coastal Louisiana, one year after Hurricane Ida's landfall. They face escalating storms, coastal land loss and fossil fuel development, but remain committed to rebuilding their historic communities.

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



EAST BAY

INTERNATIONAL JEWISH

FILM FESTIVAL

Delighted to return to a brick-and-mortar theatre? Still want to watch films from the comfort of your home?

This year, the choice is yours:

IN-THEATRE: February 25th - March 2nd at the Century 16 in Pleasant Hill and March 23rd & 26th at the Vine Cinema in Livermore.

Seats must be reserved in advance for films screening at the Century 16.

VIRTUAL: March 11th - 24th. Binge the best in contemporary international cinema from the comfort of your own home through Eventive, our ticketing and virtual festival platform.

Please [click here](#) which will help you to purchase your pass or tickets, reserve your seats or virtual films, stream your content at home, and more.

Need more information? [click here](#).

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 January We Remember

Hillel Cohen
Charles Roy Colvin

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



January Birthdays

Marisa
Castaldini

Mary Frances Colvin

Kevin Coren

Levi Coren

Tom Green

Colin Mogilefsky

Mitch Morrison

Salwen-Grabowski

Movie Coordinator: Bret

Mogilefsky

Joke: Why are elevator jokes so classic and good? **Answer:** They work on many levels.



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