

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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February 25th 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

March 2 - Philosophers' Cafe

March 5 - Purim

March 19 - JCS

March 26th - JCS/Passover

Open House

April 8 - Community Passover

Seder

April 16 - JCS

April 30 - JCS

May 4 - Philosophers' Cafe

May 7 - Lag B'Omer

Congratulations!

Mazal tov to Judy Seid and David Gates on the birth of their new grandchild, Azaria Newman-Seid.

Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

Date: March 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.

Philosophers' Cafe, our monthly discussion on topics serious or lighthearted, met Feb. 2nd to discuss what fascism is, where it comes from, and what we can do about it. Join us on March 2nd for another discussion - the topic will be announced at the event, so there's no homework. Look for the zoom invite in your email.

PURIM

Join us for our Outdoor Purim Celebration! Get ready to make some hamantaschen, play some games and have a blast at our Purim Party on March 5th at 10:30am in Judy and David's backyard. Come dressed as a Purim character, or anything else, including your normal self. Bring some extra dress-up clothes for our game of Dress the Teachers where JCS kids will dress Jazz and Judy as a Purim character that we all have to guess.

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

You can make donations to TVCJ through Paypal or Venmo. Our handle is Tri-Valley Cultural Jews.

Masking is optional outdoors when social distancing is possible. To find out more, email culturaljews@gmail.com or call us at **(925) 399-8029** or find us at <https://trivalleyculturaljews.org>

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



Keeping Despair at Bay

I'm distraught and feeling on the verge of hopelessness about Israel's democracy. Israel is approaching 75, a time when you'd think a democracy would have had time to mature and become entrenched. But Israel's democracy, like those of so many other countries, is under attack. Israel is on the verge of becoming what the founders once hoped for – a nation like any other nation. It's looking more and more like Israel is becoming a nation like all the nations in its neighborhood and some more far away – an autocratic, theocratic, racist country. But before I decided to give up, I took a look at where the United States was at 75 years old.

The US in its current form dates from 1788 when the Constitution was ratified. Seventy-five years later – in 1863 – the country was deep into a Civil War, a conflict over human rights and the rule of law. That's almost exactly where Israel is now, engaged in a values-defining struggle over human rights and the independence of the judiciary.

The US came out of its war with a commitment to equal rights and equal justice, not always acted upon, but at least honored in principle. I'm clinging to a thread of hope that Israel can do the same.

By Judith Seid

Jewish Culture School Passover Open House

See why Jewish Cultural School is so much fun! Come to our Free Outdoor Passover Jewish Cultural School Open House on March 26th at 10:30am. We'll learn about Passover traditions from around the world and make some homemade matzoh. Our teachers, Jazz and Judy, will be there to answer all your questions and

lead kids in a fun craft they can take home. Jewish Cultural School meets twice a month for kids ages 5 to teen. Masks are required. Want more info? Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call us at **(925) 399-8029** or find us at <https://trivalleyculturaljews.org>

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

Jewish Cultural School (JCS)

JCS 2/19/23 We learned about Persian Jews and made some Purim-inspired mosaics. Our Persian Jeweled Rice was a hit!





Join Our Jewish Cultural School team!

We're looking for a fun, dynamic co-teacher to sing, dance, cook and teach about Jewish culture and history. JCS meets twice a month for ages 5 to teen. A curriculum will be provided. Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call **(925) 399-8029**.

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Us Round--Reproductive Rights Shabbat Song



Reproductive Rights Shabbos Gathering

Thanks so much to everyone who joined us around the Mogilefsky fire pit, and many thanks to Bret and Kelly for hosting and sharing their adorable menagerie with us.



TU B'SHVAT

The sun came out for our Tu B'Shvat celebration! Thanks to everyone who joined us to sing in the Birthday of the Trees.



**New in Our TVCJ Library
Dear Uli !**

By Peter H. Schweitzer

Dear Uli!

A rare glimpse at a German Jewish family through the letters they wrote their son, sent alone to America at age 16, and the new lives they built.



Peter H. Schweitzer

Dear Uli, a book of the letters sent by a German Jewish family to their son, who was sent to America alone at the age of 16 in 1937, is the history of the family of my colleague, Secular Humanistic Rabbi Peter H. Schweitzer. Peter has gathered the letters and interspersed them with family anecdotes and the history of the

Jews fleeing Hitler's Germany. It's a fascinating and personal glimpse into the real lives of these Jews and the decisions they had to make.

Open Position: Eden Interfaith Representative:

Meet 1x a month with other leaders at their location in Hayward and give Secular Jews a voice. Tasks involve representing TVCJ in Interfaith actions, reporting back to the board on Interfaith activities, and volunteering (or finding other volunteers) for actions you find important.

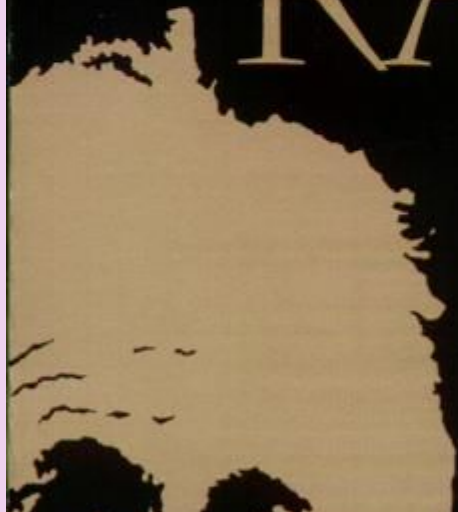
Tri Valley Cultural Jews Wants You! Join Our Board! Make Your Voice Heard!

Help guide the direction of our dynamic Secular, Humanist Organization by joining the Board. The Board meets monthly from 7:00pm-8:30pm on Zoom to make decisions about events and other TVCJ initiatives. Board membership is open to any TVCJ member, including recently Brit Mizvah-ed teens. Please email us at culturaljews@gmail.com or call **(925) 399-8029** if you would like more info about serving on the Board.

BOOK REVIEW EINSTEIN ON RACE AND RACISM By

Fred Jerome and Rodger Taylor

EINSTEIN
ON RACE
AND
RACISM

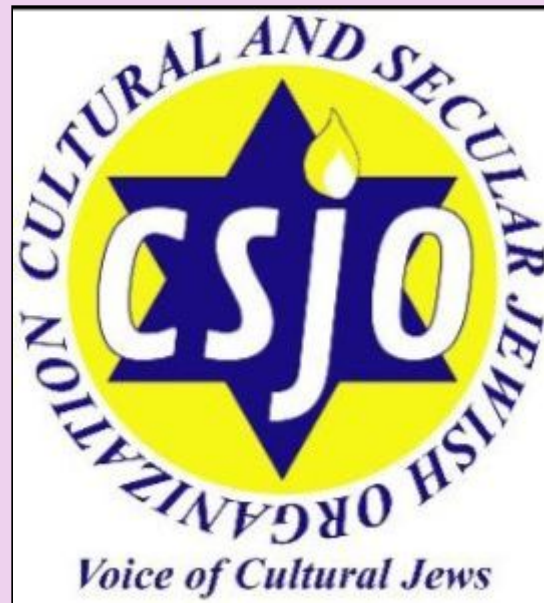


Most people know Albert Einstein as one of the greatest mathematician and scientists who ever lived. However, this non-fiction biography focuses on different aspects of his life. It discusses his many activities and writings relative to fighting racial prejudice and social injustice both in this country and in Europe. We learn about his partnership with such luminaries as W.E.B Du Boise and Paul Robeson. All were targets of the FBI due to their suspected (but unfounded) anti-American activities.

Einstein was truly a man of the people. At all hours he could be found walking casually in the Black areas near Princeton and talking to residents young and old about their issues and problems. He truly cared about the people he came in contact with including political dignitaries, fellow scientists, students, as well as people in the neighborhood.

This book was very well written. It taught me a great deal about the time in which he lived including the racial and religious prejudices that were prevalent at the time. [If you are interested in purchasing this book, then you can find it on Amazon by clicking here.](#)

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick



Join The CSJO Craft And Hobby Club

CSJO is planning to start a members only "Craft and Hobby Club" at the beginning of March. We will meet once or twice a month (we can decide this later). We will sit by our computer, join a Zoom gathering so all can see what everyone is working on and schmooze as we stitch, draw, paint, write, scrapbook or work on any other activity you pursue. It could be for an hour or as long or short as we wish.

A suggested date and time will be discussed to accommodate both coasts. A possible solution is the following: Meet the second Sunday of every month; one month at 1pm PST/4pm EST and the next month at 11am PST/2pm EST. Again, dates and times will be discussed at our initial gathering.

If you are interested in helping to establish this group or have questions, please email Joan at yoninajohan@yahoo.com. Your hosts will be Jordi Shuster and Joan Kurtz. Our initial gathering will be March 5th at 11am PST/2pm EST. Once we get your email, we will forward you the Zoom link. Looking forward to seeing you and all the things you are working on.

Interfaith Interconnect

Virtual Religion Chat: Wednesday, March 8th, 5:00-6:00 p.m. Optional breakout discussion groups 6:00p.m.-6:30p.m. Zoom room opens at 4:45p.m.

Topic: How does your religion adapt itself to reflect changing times?

Speakers: Rev. Steve Wilde, First Presbyterian Church, Livermore; Hosai Mojaddidi, Muslim Community Center East Bay, Pleasanton.

Online via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81770052038> **Meeting ID: 817 7005 2038 All are welcome!**

March 8th is the second in a series of three on this topic. The series will conclude April 12th with an in-person meeting planned.

Link to video recording of our February 8th Religion Chat with Rev Sangye Hawke and Rev Kwame Assenyoh: <https://youtu.be/9XyXtpIKdiw> .



Would you like to be a tutor for the Jewish Coalition for Literacy (JCL). Bay Area kids need our help! By devoting one hour or more each week, you can help children in grades K-5 attending underserved local public schools develop their literacy skills and bounce back from three years of massive educational and social disruption.

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)

The Jewish Coalition for Literacy is an initiative of the JCRC Bay Area. Inspired by Jewish values of social justice, JCL mobilizes volunteer tutors and supports parents and also child and family serving organizations to help emerging and struggling Bay Area readers. JCL envisions a society in which all children can read and are inspired to reach their full potential. Thank you for spreading the word and helping to make a difference in a child's life.



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 February We Remember

Donald Wright
Jeanette Maddon
Dena Luborsky
Benjamin Gorman
Rachel Hubbard
Elinor Peel



February Birthdays

Derek Greenberg
Phoebe Shulewitz
Yana Markey

Who We Are

Rabbi: Judith Seid **925-485-1049**

Madrikha: Jamie Ireland

Board Members:

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Jamie Ireland

Rebecca Ireland

Bret Mogilefsky

Jesse Pino

Rachel Rose

Newsletter: Joy Randel

Webmaster: Noah King

JCS Teachers: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid

Holiday Coordinator: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Movie Coordinator: Bret Mogilefsky

Joke: Can February March? **Answer:** No, But April May.



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