

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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September 30th 2023 TVCJ Community News

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

Gratitude for Ember: Instagram

Many thanks to Ember Ireland for managing the TVCJ Instagram account. You've gone above and beyond so many times and we've been lucky to have you. Thank you for sharing your time, your energy and your creativity.

TVCJ is an accepting, welcoming, diverse community of Cultural Jews and their families, affiliated with CSJO. Call or email us at (925) 399-8029 or culturaljews@gmail.com for an Evite or for more information about our community. You can find us at trivalleyculturaljews.org. Free to members, suggested \$15 donation per non-member adult if you are able. Masking is optional when social distancing is possible.

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

Upcoming Events

Sukkot Celebration and Potluck -- 10/01/23

Join us for our annual outdoor sukkah building on Sunday, October 1st at 10:30a.m. in Castro Valley! Please bring a branch to put on top of the sukkah, a fruit to hang as decoration and a dish to share. We will have crafts and fun for all.



Sukkot

Sukkot/Sukkis, which we celebrate together this year on October 1st, is one of those many Jewish holidays that has changed meaning throughout the centuries. Originally one of the three Ingatherings at which residents of Judea and Israel brought newly harvested food to the Temple for the priests, its function was eliminated with the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 c.e. But for long before that, Jews of the early diaspora - those exiled to current-day Iraq during the Babylonian exile - had transformed the holiday into a quasi-historical reenactment of the (mythical) wandering in the desert following the (mythical) exodus from Egypt. The temporary huts called sukkahs were built on top of buildings or on balconies and were meant to stand for the temporary shelters used in the wandering. Of course, in the desert, there were no trees to build the shelter and no leafy branches to cover the roofs. Desert people used tents made of animal hides. Nevertheless, this interpretation lasted until modern times. Now the building of the sukkah, a temporary shelter, directs us to think of those who have no permanent shelter. The remembrance of the harvest aspect of the holiday reminds us of those who don't have access to sufficient food. And the story of the wandering in the desert, looking for a home, sensitizes us to the plight of immigrants.

The vitality of the Jewish People relies on our continued re-interpretation of our traditions in ways that speak to us at different times in our history.

Philosophers' Cafe -- 10/5/23

What's the best decision you ever made? How do you know what you know? What makes a good friend? If these are the kind of discussions you might like to have with a group of friends, join us for Philosophers' Cafe, our monthly friendly discussion group. We meet on zoom on the first Thursday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to about 8:00p.m. or 8:15p.m.. We never know what the topic will be until we get there - so there's no homework. Join us Thursday, October 5th and find out the topic then. **Zoom ID 568 599 7884**. Look for the Evite.

It's Not A Book Club! -- 10/15/23

Our members-only not-a-book-group will meet October 15th at 3:00 p.m. to discuss Max Barry's *The 22 Murders of Madison May*. It's a quick and fun read. Look for the evite!

TVCJ Teen Group -- 10/29/23

Our teen group will be meeting on October 29th to make enrichment toys for the animals at Sulpher Creek. The group is open to those age 12 to high school graduation. Contact us for the location.

Board Meeting Updates:

The Board voted to allocate money for a TVCJ Teen Group. The group met once in August, and plans to meet again in October.

Upcoming Events Calendar

2023

10/1 Sukkah Raising
 10/5 Philosophers' Cafe
 10/15 JCS
 10/29 JCS
 11/12 JCS
 11/26 JCS
 12/10 Chanukah Party - mid
 afternoon

Winter Break

2024

1/7 JCS
 1/21 Tu B'Shvat
 2/4 JCS
 2/18 JCS
 3/3 JCS
 3/17 JCS
 3/24 Purim
 4/7 JCS
 4/21 Passover Family Day
 4/27 Community Passover
 Seder
 5/05 Last Class JCS
 5/26 Lag B'Omer
 6/9 Shavuot + Annual Meeting

Our Rosh Hashanah Family Day





Thanks to everyone who made our Rosh Hashanah Family Day a success: Elaine for handling so much of the clean up, Sarah and Jason for all their help with cooking and cleaning, Sarah and Mark for creating and running our beautiful sunprint activity, and Jamie for jumping in and running the crafts.

Our Rosh Hashanah Celebration



Our Rosh Hashanah observance and potluck relied on so many people! Thanks to Jesse Pino for shopping and set-up, to Jazz Salwen Grabowski for planning and for rising from her sickbed to make sure we had supplies, to Jamie Ireland for being the greeter, to Noah King, Carol King, Joy Randel and Jesse Pino for reading, to Jeff Colvin, Rachel Rose and Maggie Pino for their personal stories of new beginnings, to Sophia Ireland for blowing the shofar, to Ember Ireland for round-leading, to Zhaomo Yang, Rachel Rose and Jamie Ireland for final clean-up, and to all those who came and sang.

Our Yom Kippur Kol Nidre

We're so grateful to the people who made our Kol Nidre event possible: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Jamie Ireland and Solomon Ireland, who came early to help set up and wrestle with the microphone that would not pair with our devices. Thanks also to Solomon Ireland for zoom control and Jamie Ireland for blowing the shofar and Jazz Salwen-Grabowski for wayfinding help and greeting. Special thanks to Derek Greenberg and Amy Greenberg for their beautiful rendition of Landslide. But where would we be without Judy's beautiful program? Reflective, uplifting and always on point—thank you for another beautiful Kol Nidre program.

La Familia's Caminos Program: Backpack Drive

Benefiting newly arrived immigrant students in Alameda County

Wow! TVCJ collected all of these school supplies to donate to LaFamilia to support immigrant students in Alameda County! Way to go! Thanks for participating in the backpack drive!



Off the Shelf: Book Challenges, Bans and Promoting Inclusive Literature



Sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League and American Association of School Librarians

Date and Time: Oct 3, 2023 4:00 PM

Location: This will be held on Zoom. The link to the meeting will be sent to you after you [Click Here to Register](#).

Book challenges and bans have been increasing across the country, both in schools and districts where laws have been passed, but also where no formal rules, restrictions or laws exist. When large scale book bans take place, it affects young people's ability to see themselves reflected in books. It also impacts their ability to gain an understanding of and empathy for people who are different than themselves, which contributes to antisemitism,

racism and all forms of bias.

Join ADL (Anti-Defamation League) and AASL (American Association of School Librarians) to learn more about book challenges and bans and explore actions that can be taken.

Panelists include children's book author Kelly Yang, librarian Dr. Jennifer Sturge, student Annika Singh, educator Andy Spoonamore-Gullion and Director of Development, Florida Freedom To Read and parent, Raegen Miller.

The event will be moderated by Sherasa Thomas, ADL's Education Director in Dallas.

Q&A will follow the presentation.



jewish film institute

September's Online Short

Natives **Directed by Jeremy Hersh**

Rachel and Anita, a young Manhattanite couple, are visiting Anita's parents on the Indian reservation she grew up on, for the first time as a couple.

Head over to [The Cinegogue](#) to read an exclusive JFI interview with director Jeremy Hersh and learn more about the film.

Contemporary Jewish Museum **RetroBlakesberg: The Music Never Stopped** **Music Icons Captured on Film**

Left to right: Prince, Björk, B.B. King, Fiona Apple, and Mick Jagger



See your favorite musicians through the lens of a master photographer. RetroBlakesberg: The Music Never Stopped invites you to travel through some of the most explosive moments in music history, tracing the evolution of San Francisco's unique music culture and its wide-reaching influence through photographs of legendary musicians and performances. [Click here to book tickets today!](#)

Community Celebration and Concert for RetroBlakesberg: The Music Never Stopped



[Click Here to Purchase Tickets](#)

SATURDAY, OCT 21 | 1-4PM

Don't miss a day of music, community, and electrifying photographs of your rock 'n' roll icons! Celebrating [RetroBlakesberg: The Music Never Stopped](#), enjoy live music by Lebo & Friends, featuring Steve Adams, Kellen Asebroek, Ezra Lipp, Elliott Peck, and more special guests. Plus, gain unique insights into the exhibition on gallery walkthroughs with artist Jay Blakesberg and exhibition co-curator Ricki Blakesberg.

INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT

++Save the date! Details to follow.

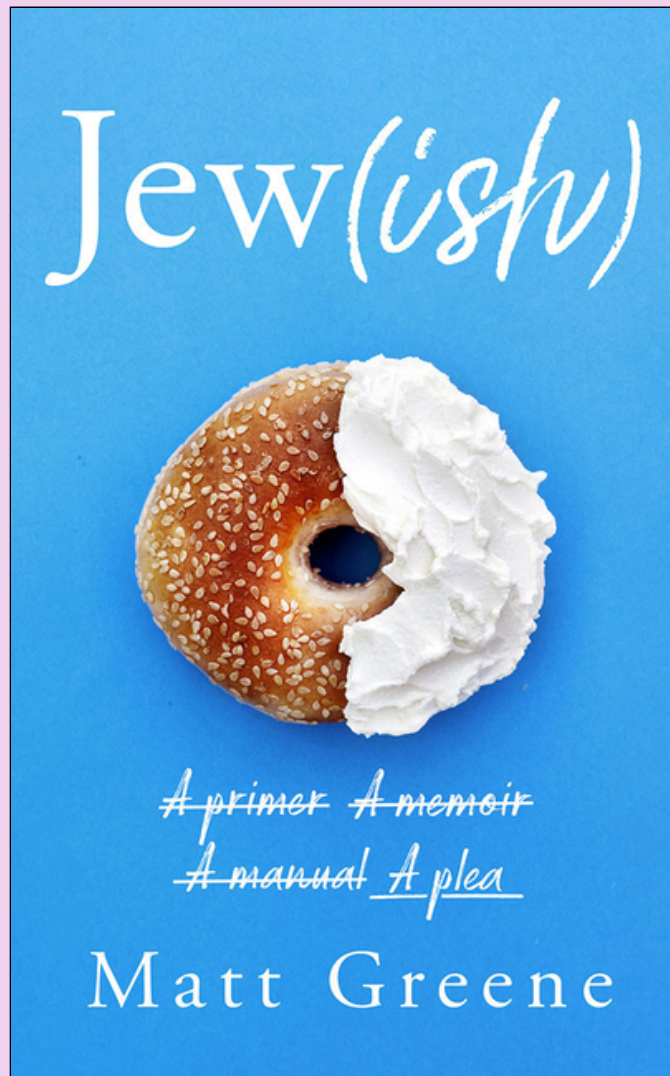
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: Sunday, November 19th, 3:30p.m.- 4:30p.m., followed by a simple reception.

Interfaith Interconnect Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect/timeline>

Open Position: Eden Interfaith Representative

Meet 1x a month, the first or second Tuesday of the month at 7:00p.m, 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.

BOOK REVIEW JEW(ISH): A PRIMER, A MEMOIR, A MANUAL, A PLEA BY MATT GREENE



The Jewish author of this book is wrestling with similar dilemmas that many of us in the Jewish secular community have faced and possibly are facing. His non-Jewish wife is having a baby. How to raise the child? While he comes from a Jewish but not a religious home, many issues present themselves. Dealing with these is consuming a major part of his thinking.

For example: Should the child have a Jewish name? How about a circumcision for a boy? What about a Jewish education; Should he instill in him a love for Israel? What should he teach him about the holocaust? These and many other questions are plaguing him. The author has not dealt with these issues as he grew up. But now reality has set in. Should he raise the boy as a modern or traditional Jew?

This book is well written and has a lot of humor as well as serious issues in it. However, there are two things that make it problematical: first, it takes place in England and many of us are not familiar with British culture and governmental policies. Second, the book in Chapter 8 describes the Holocaust in a somewhat graphic way that some of us might find difficult and painful to read. But aside from these, I found it a good read. [If you are interested in purchasing this book, then you can find it on Amazon by clicking here.](#)

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

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>



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Yahrzeit Memorial

In September We Remember

Lynn Zizlavsky
Sam Zuckerman



September Birthdays

Sophia Ireland
Jane Morrison
Wendy Berenson Garcia
Evangeline Pepper
Ira Ehrlich
Ilan Seid-Green
Mathilda Shulewitz

Who We Are

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

Madrikha: Jamie Ireland

Board Members:

David Gates

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Jamie Ireland

Kai Mogilefsky

Rachel Rose

Judith Seid

Newsletter: Joy Randel

Webmaster: Noah King

JCS Teachers: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid

Holiday Coordinator: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Movie Coordinator: Bret Mogilefsky

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