

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 30th 2023

TVCJ Community News

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

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.

Did you forget us?

We rely on your membership fees for all our activities, from holiday observances to the teen program to zoom access for online events and much more. Please check to see if you have renewed your TVCJ membership this fall. As you know, we list suggested fees, but are happy to accept whatever works for your budget, because we value your participation more than your dues. You can find membership and payment information at <https://trivalleyculturaljews.org/join-us/>

Welcome New Members

Adriana Telias and Diego Rother and their children, Keren and Eyal.

Alex and Nicole Fabrikant and their children Gale and Sol.

Upcoming Events

Philosophers' Cafe Next Meeting 1/04/24

There's no philosophers' cafe in December, as it would fall on the first night of Chanukah. Instead, when you light your first candle at home, talk about how you can bring light to the world this coming year.

It's Not A Book Club! -- 01/07/24

Our members-only Not A Book Group will meet Sunday, January 7th at 3:00 p.m. at Judy and David's house to discuss *To Say Nothing of the Dog* by Connie Willis. It's a funny take on time travel. It's part of a series, but each can stand alone.

Tu B'Shvat 1/20/24



TRI-VALLEY CULTURAL JEWS * SECULAR * HUMANIST



LET'S FEED OUR COMMUNITY
TOGETHER

Join us for a Tu B'Shvat potluck and harvest!

Located in Pleasanton, CA

Saturday, Jan 20th

10am-12:30pm

Celebrate the birthday of the trees with us! Join us for our Tu B'Shvat Secular Seder and Potluck on Saturday, January 20th from 10:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. in Pleasanton, CA. We will be harvesting produce on behalf of our local food pantries, followed by a Secular seder and potluck. Nature crafts and schmoozing are optional! Our harvest will be outdoors, so please dress accordingly. Please bring a dish to share.

Repro Rights Shabbat

Save the date for our Repro Rights Shabbat on Saturday, February 10th at 2:00p.m. in Castro Valley.

Purim

Save the date for our Purim Celebration! Sunday, March 24th.

Upcoming Events Calendar

2024

1/4 Philosophers' Cafe
 1/7 JCS and It's Not A Book Club!
 1/20 Tu B'Shvat
 2/1 Philosophers' Cafe
 2/4 JCS
 2/10 Repo Rights Shabbat
 2/18 JCS
 3/3 JCS
 3/7 Philosophers' Cafe
 3/17 JCS
 3/24 Purim
 4/4 Philosophers' Cafe
 4/7 JCS
 4/21 Passover Family Day
 4/27 Community Passover Seder
 5/2 Philosophers' Cafe
 5/05 Last Class JCS
 5/26 Lag B'Omer
 6/6 Philosophers' Cafe
 6/9 Shavuos + Annual Meeting

Our 2 New Years in January

January has (at least) 2 New Years. There's the Gregorian New Year, January 1 and this year the Jewish New Year of the Trees falls in January. (Sometimes it is in February near the Lunar New Year celebrated in many East and Southeast Asian countries). What's the point of celebrating a New Year? In the case of Jewish New Years - there are four of them - the point changes with time and place. One of the geniuses of the Jewish traditions is that we can put new wine in old bottles - that is, we can use our traditions to mean what we need them to mean in our own time. We can do the same with the Gregorian New Year. It doesn't have to be a drunken revelry or a time for somber reflection and resolution-making. It could be a time that we recognize that New Year is just a day, a day like any

other day. A day in which we can revel or reflect - or just go about our daily business and plan to revel and reflect on another day.

Jewish Culture School

JCS 11/26/23

Our Jewish Culture School class on 11/26 was delicious! We made variable veggie latkes because Jews always use what they have. Some of our younger JCS students wrote a new Chanukah song that set to become an instant classic:

(to the tune of I'm a Little Teapot)

I'm a little dreidel spinning in the air

With all my symbols moving everywhere

When I get a gimme I am so glad

When I get a nun it's very sad

Join us for our next class on January 7th at 10:30a.m. to find out what Tu B'shvat is all about and how trees can even have birthdays anyway.

INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT

Next Religion Chats: January 10th, February 14th, March 13th.

Topic: ***Nearly all religions have a version of "thou shalt not kill." How does your religion/ congregation deal with the reality of war?***

Confirmed speakers:

January 10th: Fr. Andy Lobban/St Bartholomew Episcopal and Rev. Sangye Hawke/Unitarian Universalist

February 14th: Rabbi Milder/Beth Emek and Omar Naisan/MCC.

March 13th: speakers pending

Interfaith Interconnect Facebook

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

Our Chanukah Celebration

Thank you to everyone who made our Chanukah Celebration special: to Judy and David for hosting, to Kevin, Noah and Solomon for cooking, and to everyone who brought chairs, tasty food and helped clean up. Our holiday was brighter because of you.



Hebrew Courses (In-Person and Online Options)

Register Here: <https://www.jccsf.org/program/hebrew/>

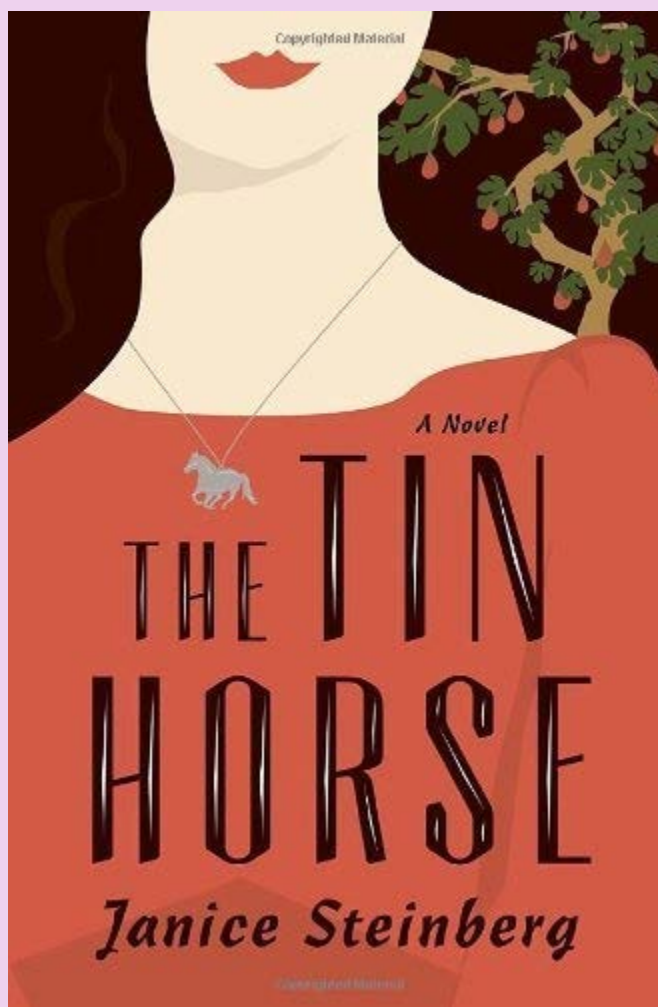
Please note the registration period closes on **Tuesday, January 2, 2024.**

Courses will begin **Monday, January 8th, 2024** and go through the week of **Monday, March 25, 2024.**

[Click here for more information on the courses.](#)

**BOOK REVIEW
THE TIN HORSE
BY**

JANICE STEINBERG



I particularly enjoyed reading this novel because it starts out in Boyle Heights, which was a mostly Jewish neighborhood in Los Angeles---and where I grew up. Reading it was like a walk down memory lane.

Our story takes place in the 1920s and 1930s. It involves a multi generational family---parents, grandparents and children who move into Boyle Heights from Europe. Included in the children are fraternal twin girls who are our main characters. These siblings are very different in their personalities and goals. They definitely had a sibling rivalry. Elaine was very studious and was college bound. Barbara was more extravert and was attracted to Hollywood.

When they were 18 Barbara disappeared and cut herself off from the entire family. What ensued was a decades long search for her involving family members, friends and even a private detective. In this search we learn about family secrets and the love lives of all involved.

The book was very well written and suspenseful. I definitely recommend it. [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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In December We Remember

Elfrida Erhard
Melvin Luborsky
Martin Salwen
Enye Seid
Yossl Seid
Benjamin Sczuchman
Stewart Silverman
Celia Zuckerman
Charles Zuckerman
Sam Zuckerman



December Birthdays

Isabel Gross
Ella King
Scott Pepper
Manda Pepper
Keren Rother Telias

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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