

TVCJ Happenings [View this email in your browser](#)

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

TriValleyCulturalJews.org

info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org

[\(925\) 399-8029](tel:(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.



Like Or Share Our Facebook Page

<https://www.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](tel:(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.

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

August 31st 2024

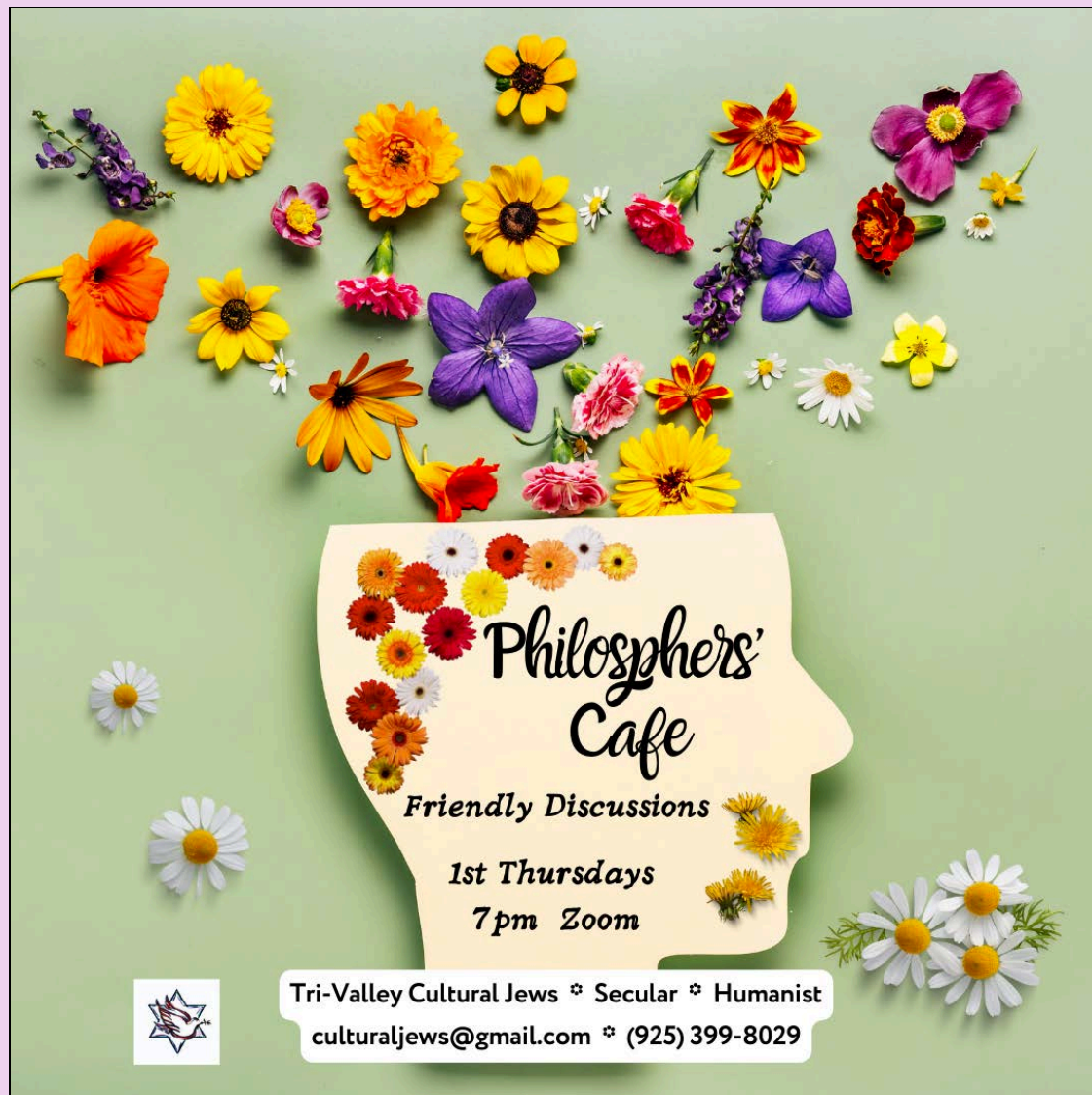
The San Francisco Jewish Film Festival has had another successful year and is grateful to TVCJ for being a community partner.

We Need A Home Fund

Last year, a staunch supporter of Secular Jewish education, Ethel Seid, died. In her honor, a \$20,000 matching fund has been established to rent a space for TVCJ to keep an office and supplies, hold small gatherings, and host our Jewish Culture School. Donations (tax-deductible if you itemize) can be made to TVCJ by check, PayPal or Venmo. Please note that your donation is earmarked for the We Need A Home Fund. The first \$20,000 of donations will be matched, and we will start our hunt for dedicated space. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Philosophers' Cafe 9/05/2024



Our friendly on-line member-led discussion group will meet Thursday, September 5th for an hour-long chat - subject to be announced at the time. Join us at 7:00 p.m. at 568 599 7884. We talk about subjects both serious and light-hearted, but always enjoy ourselves.

Sunday Morning Chat - 9/8/2024

We're expanding our friendly discussion group! Along with our First Thursday Philosophers' Cafe on zoom, we're holding a monthly discussion that's more convenient for our JCS parents to attend - during the first JCS meeting of each

month. Parents and other members will meet at Inklings Coffee and Tea (530 Main St. in downtown Pleasanton, 2 miles from JCS) and get to know each other while discussing topics suggested by participants. The first Sunday Chat will be held September 8th starting just after JCS drop-off at 10:30a.m. We'll skip October, which is too full of Jewish holidays, and meet again November 3rd and December 1st. See you there!

TVCJ Members Not A Book Club - 9/29/2024





NOT A
BOOK
CLUB

SEPTEMBER 29TH 3PM 2024



TRI-VALLEY
CULTURAL JEWS

culturaljews@gmail.com
(925) 399-8029

TVCJ's NOT a Book Club is our chance to read something we might not have otherwise picked up. Join us for our discussion of *The Rose Code*, by Kate Quinn. See

you on Sunday, September 29th at 3:00p.m.! More location info is available in our Evite.

TVCJ Members Hike - September 14th





HIKING
WITH
**TRI-VALLEY
CULTURAL JEWS**

**FRIENDLY WALKS
WITH FRIENDLY PEOPLE**



Tri-Valley Cultural Jews ✧ Secular ✧ Humanist
culturaljews@gmail.com ✧ (925) 399-8029

Join us for a TVCJ members hike at Lake Chabot on **September 14th**. Arrive at meeting place by **8:45a.m.**; Begin hike at 9:00a.m.-11:30am (est). Meet at Lake Chabot Marina near the flower garden by the cafe and bathrooms. Parking on the street is free and then walk into the park; parking within the gate is \$5, \$2 fee for dogs.

The hike is kid and dog friendly, on-leash. It can be a little crowded with people and dogs at the beginning. The hike is an easy out-and-back trail. The first 1.5 miles or so is paved with small rolling hills. Then it is on a wide dirt path (no single-track). There is a narrow suspension bridge over a floodplain; this can be avoided by those with dogs or trouble with stairs. The rest of the hike is flat with a nice view of the lake. We will turn around at the end of this stretch before a big hill begins. Distance is approximately 6 miles, easy to turn around earlier if individuals or the whole group chooses.

Weather **may** be warm; the flat area is in the sun. Bring a hat, water, and a snack if desired. There are drinks, ice cream, and food at the marina cafe if you would like a treat at the end.

It takes some preparation and planning on our part so please make sure you register and definitely plan to be there.

Rosh Hashanah Family Day - 9/22/2024

Free Rosh Hashanah Family Day

May it be sweet as honey



Cooking Crafts Music
Sept. 22nd 10:30-12
PLEASANTON, CA



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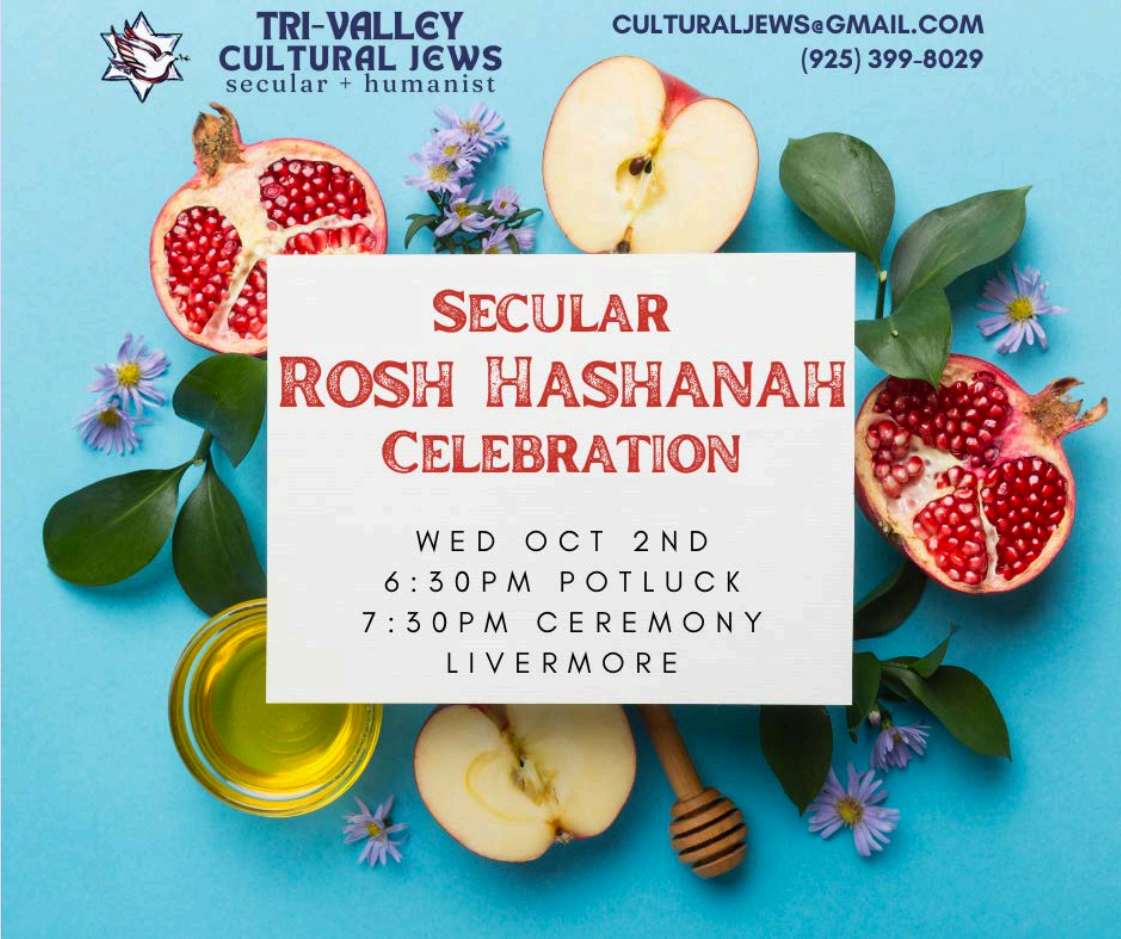
Got apples and honey? Get in the Rosh Hashanah mood at our Free Family Day on September 22nd from 10:30a.m.-12:00p.m. We're cooking, crafting and making the music that makes this time of year special. Come see what Jewish Culture School is all about. Located in Pleasanton, CA.

Rosh Hashanah - 10/2/2024



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**SECULAR
ROSH HASHANAH
CELEBRATION**

WED OCT 2ND
6:30PM POTLUCK
7:30PM CEREMONY
LIVERMORE

Join us for a sweet start to the new year at our Annual Rosh Hashanah Celebration on Sunday, October 2nd in Livermore. We'll share a potluck dinner at 6:30p.m., with an hour-long ceremony of readings in English and music at 7:30p.m. Not child-centered, but child-friendly. Zoom option available for the ceremony starting at 7:30p.m. Please see Evite for location information and more details.

Yom Kippur - 10/12/2024



Join us for an afternoon of thoughtful discussion and reflection at our Yom Kippur Observance on October 12th from 2:00p.m.-5:00p.m. in Livermore. After a short ceremony in English, we'll break into discussion groups on a variety of interesting topics. We'll end with a memorial ceremony and those who would like to go to dinner together can gather afterward. We will have art materials available for children, but the afternoon may be longer than suitable for them. Suggested donation of \$25 per non-member adult. More location info to follow in our Evite.

Sukkos - 10/20/2024



Celebrate Sukkot with us! We'll build our Sukkah and spend the morning schmoozing and decorating it. The fun starts on October 20th at 10:30a.m. in Pleasanton. 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.

Suggested donation of \$15 per non-member adult. More location info to follow in our Evite.

New Year of Jewish Culture School (JCS)

A new year of JCS is starting! Stay tuned for more updates about our lessons on Jewish History through Art. [Click here to learn more about Jewish Culture School.](#)

**TRI-VALLEY
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JEWISH CULTURE SCHOOL

MUSIC ● COOKING
HISTORY ● DANCE

STARTS AUGUST 25TH

Kindergarten - Brit Mitzvah (5-14)

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BOOK REVIEW
**AN ATHEIST STRANGER IN A STRANGE
RELIGIOUS LAND**
Selected Writings from the Bible Belt
By
Herb Silverman

AN **ATHEIST** STRANGER IN A STRANGE RELIGIOUS LAND



Selected Writings from the Bible Belt

HERB SILVERMAN

Herb Silverman is the founder of the Secular Coalition of America. He wrote this book as a sequel to his first book: *Candidate Without a Prayer*. This book describes his 1990 run for governor of South Carolina, mainly to challenge this states unconstitutional ban on secular persons holding public office. He was unsuccessful in this endeavor, (he is a mathematician, not a politician) but succeeded getting the ban overturned. He was asked what he would do if in the unlikely event he won the election. He famously stated that he would "demand a recount."

In the latest book he discusses subjects such as, Atheism, separation of church and state, Fox News, prayer in schools, presidential politics, etc. The author enables us to reaffirm our secular beliefs, while showing respect and sensitivity to those with religious beliefs. He writes in a humorous, down to earth, and very readable style. The book is filled with stories, anecdotes, jokes and serious discourse.

I would highly recommend both books and am looking forward his future writings.

[Click here to purchase this book on Amazon.](#)

Book Review By Jerry Zwick

2024/2025 TVCJ Calendar

8/1 Philosophers' Cafe
8/24 TVCJ Members Not a Book Club
8/25 First Day of JCS, location Aran's Art Studio
9/5 Philosophers' Cafe
9/8 JCS
9/8 Sunday Morning Chat
9/14 TVCJ Members Hike
9/22 RH Family Day 10:30am-Noon
9/29 TVCJ Members Not A Book Club
10/2 Erev Rosh Hashanah
10/3 Philosophers' Cafe
10/12 Yom Kippur 2:00pm-5:00pm
10/20 Sukkah Raising 10:30-Noon
11/3 JCS
11/7 Philosophers' Cafe
11/17 JCS
12/1 JCS

12/5 Philosophers' Cafe
12/15 JCS
12/21 Chanukah Party, time TBA
1/5 JCS
1/19 JCS
2/2 JCS
2/16 Tu B'Shvat, time TBA
3/2 JCS
3/16 Purim
3/30 Passover Family Day 10:30am-Noon
4/13 Passover Seder
4/27 JCS Last Day
5/18 Lag B'Omer 10:30am-Noon
6/1 Shavuos + Annual Meeting 10:30am-Noon

Joke: What kind of car does an egg drive?

Answer: A yolkswagen.

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 below.



or

visit: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2326042>



In August We Remember

Frances Shapiro Colvin

Lou Garcia

John Gates

Susan Durfee Hudson



August Birthdays

Zachary Arkhipov

Tai Grabowski

Jamie Ireland

Genoveva Llosa

Joy Randel

Who We Are

Rabbi: Judith Seid 925-485-1049

Madrikha: Jamie Ireland

Board Members:

David Gates

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Jamie Ireland

Maggie Pino
Sophia Ireland
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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Our mailing address is:

Contact Us at culturaljews@gmail.com or [925-399-8029](tel:925-399-8029)

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