

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.

September 28th 2024

Upcoming Events


Not a Book Club - 9/29/2024

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 3pm!


This special group is a perk for our members. Want to find out more about who we are and what we do? Email us at culturaljews@gmail.com or call **(925) 399-8029** if you have questions or want to find out more about our community. You can find us at www.trivalleyculturaljews.org

TVCJ MEMBERS ONLY



NOT A
BOOK
CLUB

SEPTEMBER 29TH 3PM 2024



TRI-VALLEY
CULTURAL JEWS

culturaljews@gmail.com
(925) 399-8029

Rosh Hashanah - 10/2/2024

Celebrate
Rosh Hashanah

Wed Oct 2nd
Livermore CA

6:30pm Potluck
7:30pm Ceremony

TRI-VALLEY
CULTURAL JEWS
secular + humanist

CULTURALJEWS@GMAIL.COM
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Jewish but not religious? Start your new year off with us at our Annual Rosh Hashanah Celebration on Wednesday, October 2nd in Livermore. We'll share a potluck dinner at 6:30pm, with an hour-long ceremony of readings in English and music at 7:30pm. Not child-centered, but child-friendly. Zoom option available for the ceremony starting at 7:30pm.

Yom Kippur - 10/12/2024



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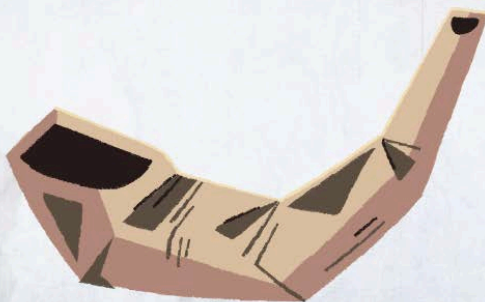
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TVCJ Secular Humanist

YOM KIPPUR

Ceremony + Discussions

Oct 12th 2-5pm Livermore



On Saturday, October 12, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will hold a Yom Kippur gathering featuring music, readings and discussions. The event will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Livermore. **Reservations are required**; email culturaljews@gmail.com. Suggested donation: \$25/non-member adult. All are welcome, regardless of ability to donate.

Rabbi Judith Seid will lead a short ceremony of repentance and forgiveness at 2 p.m. Discussion sessions following will include mental health, forms of governance, education and invasive/endangered species during which participants will be encouraged to examine how they can have impacts on these social problems in the year to come. The afternoon will conclude with a remembrance (nizkor) ceremony. Quiet activities will be available for children for whom the afternoon might be inappropriate.

Sukkos - 10/20/2024

SUKKOT CELEBRATION

Oct 20th
10:30-12pm
Pleasanton

You are always welcome

- Sukkah Raising
- Potluck
- Crafts



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Celebrate Succos with us! Succos is a fall holiday that celebrates the harvest with the tradition of building a temporary shelter called a sukkah. As is our tradition, we'll build our sukkah and spend the morning schmoozing and decorating it. It is also traditional to share a meal under the sukkah, so we invite you to bring a potluck brunch dish to share. The fun starts on Sunday, October 20th at 10:30am 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.

The Weirdest Book In The Torah

Join our adult education program for a close look at Leviticus and related texts. We'll figure out when the text was written and explore the priestly battles over precedence. We'll ask why schmaltz is kosher when the text says not to eat fat. We'll notice possibly the first instance of punitive damages and ask why priests have to wear the cloth of Egypt. We get to find out the origin of the term "scapegoat" and of the holiday of Yom Kippur and what other gods the ancient Hebrews were worshipping. And we'll read the first instance of "ethnic cleansing" that led to some of the worst right-wing atrocities carried out in Israel. There are also some benign sections and laws about how society should act shattered in with absurdities and very very specific instructions about how to cut your hair. There's so much more! It's fascinating. We'll meet in person with a zoom option every **Monday evening at**

7:30 p.m. for six sessions starting **November 4th**. Let us know if you're interested in attending! Call or email us at **(925) 399-8029** or **culturaljews@gmail.com**.

What's New About A New Year.

Well, another new year is upon us. And, as I do every year, I wonder "what's so new about it?" The world continues to turn on its axis. The sun continues to rise each day (although I do note that every day is hotter than the same day in years past) and set each night, randomly creating a more or less beautiful scene in the sky.

Babies are born and old people die and governments make war while the people want only peace. (I hear myself starting to sound like Kohelet.)

So, what's so new? What changes? George Bernard Shaw said that if you can't change yourself, you can't change anything. I don't think that's entirely true, but it is true that the only thing we have the absolute power to change is ourselves. That self-change, however, can spark others. If I change myself – if I decide to do more to help others, to make a bigger difference in the world – to adopt a dog or a child or a cause – I can make change, I can make the coming year something new, I can make a better world.

By Judith Seid

Our TVCJ Members Hike

A group of TVCJ members hiked 6 miles at Lake Chabot in Castro Valley on Saturday, September 14. We took the East Trail through the oak trees along the water, crossed the bridge, and followed the trail around Honker Bay. We enjoyed the day, and plan to arrange more hikes in the future.



First JCS at Aran's Art Studio

Our Jewish Culture School students painted these beautiful cups at our special first day event at Aran's Art Studio in Castro Valley. They can now use them for kiddush at shabbos, or for Elijah or Miriam at Passover. We hope they'll be part of special memories for years to come!



Jewish Culture School (JCS)

What a great start to the new year! Our first class was a terrific introduction to our year of looking at Jewish history through art--we worked on our community agreements that will guide us through the year, learned about mosaics of Noah's ark, baked delicious apple upside down cakes, and made some collages. Many thanks to Elaine who helped out so much and stayed to clean up!





Our Rosh Hashanah Family Day

What a beautiful day to get in the Rosh Hashanah mood! We made mini loaves of challah, and mini apple crisps (delicious!), and decorated our own paper shofars, and honeycombs with what makes our lives sweet. Extra special thanks to our aide, Sophia, to Jason and his kids who showed up early and stayed late to help set up and clean up, and to Jamie who jumped right in and helped all over!



BOOK REVIEW
Letters To My Palestinian Neighbor
By
Yossi Klein Halevi

New York Times Bestseller

Letters to
My Palestinian
Neighbor



Yossi Klein
Halevi

Author of Like Dreamers

The author was born in New York and moved to Israel when he was in his 20s. He wanted to see what it was like for a Jew to live next to Arabs and what it would take to bring peace to the region. He did this with a series of letters to his anonymous Palestinian neighbor. He asks what it would take for each side to develop a greater measure of respect for the other. For this to take place, each side would need to know more of the other's story and to be aware of the other's pain and suffering as well as its triumphs and successes.

One of the drawbacks of this book is that it was written in 2018. Since then the conditions in Israel and Palestine have changed drastically with the advent of the current war and horrible bombings of Gaza and Israel. I would hope that the author decides to update this book to include the current conditions. Another issue I have is that in a number of parts of the book he discusses religious issues. Being a secular Jew, I feel that he could have left these out. But this is my personal bias.

On the whole I felt that this was a good read. It provided us with a good picture of the issues that divide the Israelis and Palestinians, as well as what can be done to improve the situation. [Click here if you would like to purchase this book on Amazon.](#)

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

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!

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>

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
10/12 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 Shavuot + Annual Meeting 10:30am-Noon



In September We Remember

Lynn Zizlavsky

Sam Zuckerman



September Birthdays

Sophia Ireland

Jane Morrison

Mathilda Shulewitz

Adriana Telia

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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