

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)

Our mission statement: A Secular Humanistic community serving those who identify with the Jewish People through family, culture and history, rather than through religion.



**TRI-VALLEY
CULTURAL JEWS**
secular + humanist

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TVCJ is an accepting, welcoming, diverse community of Cultural Jews and their families. 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.

Events are free for members. For most events, we suggest a \$15 donation for non-member adults. For High Holiday services, the suggested donation is \$25 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** (you can also scan our QR code below.)

July 25th, 2026 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Jewish Film Institute ***San Francisco Jewish Film Festival*** **Now Through 8/2/26**

More information about the *Jewish Film Festival* can be found at
<https://jfi.org/>

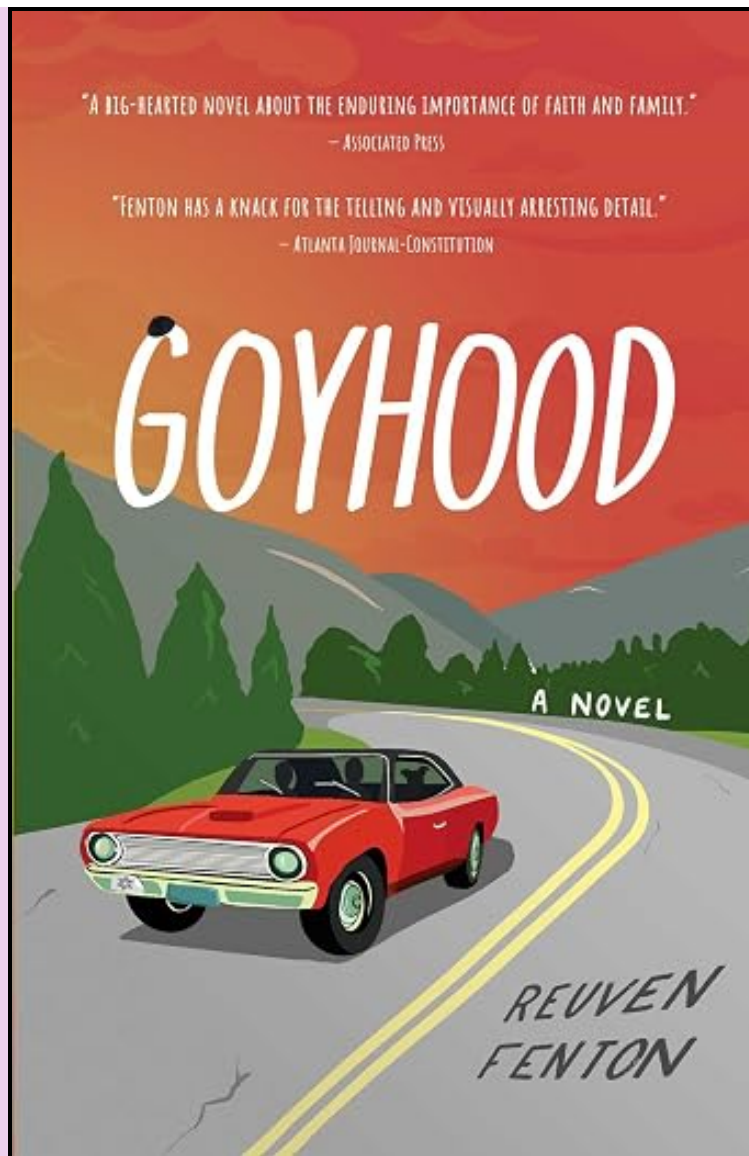
Philosophers' Cafe - 08/06/26 7:00 pm

We're going live! Philosophers' Cafe, our friendly discussion group, will meet in person Thursday, August 6 at 7 p.m. at Judy and David's house, 690 S K St in Livermore. We'll be second-guessing *The Ethicist* from the New York Times. We'll bring some meaty questions and talk about how we might answer them. We'll also be deciding about the optimal mix of online and in-person meetings.

In addition, we're choosing topics for the next year's discussions. If you'd like to weigh in, email us at culturaljews@gmail.com for the list of possible topics we've generated so far.

Non-members are welcome to attend a couple of Philosophers' Cafes before we ask you to join.

BOOK REVIEW ***GOYHOOD: A NOVEL*** **BY** **REUVEN FENTON**



Mayer and his brother David are middle aged twins. However, they are dissimilar in a number of significant ways: Mayer is a serious orthodox Jew, while his brother has rejected the religion and has adopted a happy-go lucky life style. Mayer is married to a religious lady; while David is single.

The mother of the twins finds out that she is dying. So she writes them a letter which will shatter their identities. The letter was not opened until after she dies. It states that she was never Jewish, but raised the boys to be Jewish so that they would have a better life. Mayer decides to keep his orthodox life style, while David decides to stay the way he is, and feels that they are now free to adopt any religion, or none.

They became friends with a young lady who has a significant influence in both of their lives. Their young lady friend tells them that she has always wanted to hike the Appalachian Trail. The twins reluctantly decide to accompany her out of fear for her

safety. They used this odyssey to clarify their religious beliefs and to solidify their relationships.

This book talked about the importance of family and friendships. It also had a great deal of humor as well as serious discussions of religious identities. I enjoyed this book and would recommend it.

[If you would like to purchase this book from Thriftbooks click here.](#)

[If you would like to purchase this book from Barnes and Noble click here.](#)

Book Review By Jerry Zwick

[Jewish Culture School](#) - Starts 8/16/26



Exploring Jewish Scientists in Our New Year of Jewish Culture School

What do astronomy, medicine, environmental science, and world-changing discoveries have in common? Jewish history!

This year at Tri-Valley Cultural Jews' Jewish Culture School, students will travel through time to meet the Jewish scientists who helped shape our world. Along the way, they'll discover what life was like for Jewish communities across different countries and centuries, learning how Jewish culture has evolved.

In addition to history, we'll also roll up our sleeves for hands-on science activities! Jewish Culture School offers a fun, engaging, and welcoming way for children ages 6 through 14 to explore Jewish culture beyond a religious framework. Throughout the

year, students experience Jewish music, dance, cooking, literature, ethics, holidays, and social justice while building friendships. The program culminates in a personalized Secular Brit Mitzvah for students who choose that path.

Whether your family is new to Jewish Culture School or you've been part of our community for years, we'd love to welcome your child this fall. And if you know a family looking for an inclusive way to help their children connect with Jewish culture, please invite them to join us.

Classes start **August 16th** in Castro Valley, CA.

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

Interfaith Interconnect

Save the Date! Interfaith Concert - 8/30/26

You are invited to Save-The Date!

Sharing Our Music: An Interfaith Concert

Sunday, August 30, 4:00pm, reception to follow

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore

Our leadership committee is in process of confirming presenters for this free interfaith event.

Please share the invitation with family, friends, and neighbors. All are welcome!

Please email Interfaith Interconnect with any questions:

Interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com

Celebrate Rosh Hashanah with Your TVCJ Community

Saturday, 9/12/26, 4:30p.m.



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SECULAR ROSH HASHANAH CELEBRATION

SAT SEPT 12TH
4:30PM CEREMONY
5:30PM POTLUCK
LIVERMORE

We hope you'll join us for Tri-Valley Cultural Jews' Annual Rosh Hashanah Celebration on Saturday, September 12, beginning at 4:30PM in Livermore, and welcome the new year surrounded by friends, family, and community.

Together we'll mark the Jewish New Year with an uplifting one-hour ceremony featuring music, readings in English, and thoughtful reflections on renewal, hope, and the year ahead--all through the lens of Secular Humanistic Jewish values. After the ceremony, we'll gather around the table for one of our favorite traditions: a community potluck with apples, honey, and good conversation.

Thinking about joining us for the first time? Or celebrated with us for years? Join our warm, welcoming community ready to celebrate with you. Families are encouraged to attend, and while the program isn't designed specifically for children, kids are always welcome.

At TVCJ, we believe Jewish community is strongest when everyone feels they belong. We welcome people of all backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, family

structures, and levels of Jewish experience.

Please remember to reserve your spot so we can plan for everyone. A suggested donation of \$25 per non-member adult helps support our programs, but everyone is welcome regardless of their ability to contribute.

If you know someone who's looking for an inclusive, meaningful way to celebrate the Jewish New Year, we'd love for you to invite them along. The more people around the table, the sweeter the new year will be!

Looking for a Meaning Way to Observe Kol Nidre?

Sunday, 9/20/26, 5:30p.m.

Jewish but not religious?

TVCJ Secular Humanistic

YOM KIPPUR

Sept 20th 5:30pm Livermore

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If you're searching for a way to mark the beginning of Yom Kippur that reflects your cultural and humanistic Jewish values, we invite you to join your Tri-Valley Cultural

Jews community for our Kol Nidre observance at 5:30 PM on Sunday, September 20, in Livermore.

Together, we'll welcome Yom Kippur with an evening of music, readings, and quiet reflection on forgiveness, renewal, and the year that has passed. Our program offers a thoughtful and meaningful way to connect with the holiday through a Secular Humanistic Jewish perspective.

While the program is designed for adults, families are welcome, and quiet activities will be available to help keep children engaged.

Please reserve your spot so we can plan for everyone. A suggested donation of \$25 per non-member adult helps support our programs, but everyone is welcome regardless of their ability to contribute.

If you know someone who's been looking for a meaningful, welcoming way to observe Kol Nidre, we hope you'll invite them to join us. Sharing this special evening with friends--old and new--is one of the best ways to begin the Day of Atonement.

Raise a Sukkah with Your TVCJ Community!

Sunday, 9/27/26 10:30a.m. to Noon



One of the most joyful traditions of the fall is building a sukkah together--and we'd love for you to be part of it!

Join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews in Livermore on Sunday, September 27 at 10:30 AM for a fun-filled Succos celebration as we gather to raise and decorate our community sukkah, share a delicious potluck brunch, and enjoy a relaxing morning with friends old and new.

Succos celebrates the harvest and reminds us to appreciate both the comforts we enjoy today and the resilience of those who came before us. Building a sukkah together is a wonderful hands-on way to connect with these traditions while creating something beautiful as a community.

Help make our sukkah unique by bringing a leafy branch for the roof, a fruit to hang as decoration, or both! Then join us for good food, great conversation, and the simple pleasure of being outdoors.

There will be activities for all ages--if you've never helped raise a sukkah before, this is the perfect opportunity--we'll build it together.

The event is free for TVCJ members. A suggested donation of \$15 per non-member adult helps support our community programming, but everyone is welcome regardless of their ability to contribute.

UC Davis Hibel Lab Research Inviting Jewish Moms of Children Born Around 10/7/23

UC Davis Hibbel Lab

Calling All Jewish Moms

We are inviting Jewish moms living in California with children born around the time of the October 7th attack to participate in a study on the experiences of Jewish identity, culture, and antisemitism

Mishpacha Project

Requirements:

Jewish mom aged 18 or older, residing in California, with a biological child **born between September 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023**

Participation Involves:

filling out a 60-minute survey with questions on Jewish identity, family cultural practices, and experiences with antisemitism



Compensation:

eligible participants will receive a \$20 Amazon gift card

How to Get Involved:

contact us at HibellLab@ucdavis.edu to confirm eligibility and receive the survey link

Games, Snacks & Schmoozing: Time Well Spent!



What a great day to get together to play games, enjoy delicious snacks, and, of course, spend plenty of time schmoozing! Members gathered in June for a wonderful afternoon of laughter, friendly competition, and community. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the gathering so much fun.

A very special thank you to Judy and David for graciously opening their home for such a delightful event. We appreciate your hospitality and all the work that went into making the afternoon so much fun!



TVCJ is on Bluesky now.
@tvcj2.bsky.social. Check it out.

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 July We Remember

Allen Lee Coren
Dolores King
Mitch Morrison
Bunny Simmel

July Birthdays

Gale Fabrikant



Solomon Ireland

Noah King

Rick Randel

Who We Are

Rabbi: Judith Seid 925-485-1049

Madrikha: Jamie Ireland

Board Members:

David Gates

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Jamie Ireland

Noah King

Rachel Rose

Diego Rother

Judith Seid

Keren Tellias

Newsletter: Joy Randel

Webmaster: Noah King

JCS Teachers: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid

Treasurer: Judith Seid

Secretary: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Holiday Coordinator: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Movie Coordinator: Bret Mogilefsky

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