

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

Like and Share on Facebook

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 located near the bottom of this email.)

September 26th, 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to new members, Yuliya and Eli Kosminsky and baby Daniel.

Huge thanks to Jamie Ireland and Jazz Salwen-Grabowski for taking over the writing, producing and leading of our fall holiday observances.

Upcoming Events

Sukkah Raising 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 join us! On Sunday, September 27 at 10:30am in Livermore, we'll raise and decorate our community sukkah, share a delicious potluck brunch, and enjoy a relaxed morning with friends old and new.

Succos is a celebration of the harvest and an opportunity to appreciate the comforts we enjoy. Building a sukkah together is a hands-on way to connect with these traditions while creating something beautiful as a community.

Help make our sukkah special! Bring a leafy branch for the roof and a piece of fruit to hang as decoration. There will be activities for all ages, and no sukkah-building experience is required! If you've never helped raise a sukkah before, this is the perfect opportunity to learn and pitch in--we'll figure it out together.

Free to TVCJ members, with a suggested donation of \$15 per non-member adult helps support our community programming, but everyone is welcome regardless of their ability to contribute.

We hope you'll join us and help us build something wonderful together!

International Day of Peace

Sunday, 9/27/26 2:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.

Eden Area Interfaith Council annual collaboration with East Bay Regional Parks and the United Nations Association, East Bay Chapter.

There will be a great lineup of interfaith, intercultural music, traditional blessings, speeches, children's activities, and much more!



2026 UN International Day of Peace

"Invest in Peace for Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day"

Sunday | September 27 | 2pm - 4pm

Lake Chabot Regional Park

17600 Lake Chabot Rd., Castro Valley

Join us at the Peace Pole for an intentional gathering

Enjoy music & activities
Connect with community organizations
Engage in youth-led dialogue & performances
Celebrate youth & community voices on peace

In partnership with:



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
East Bay Chapter



Eden Area Interfaith Council

For more information contact
emarchena@ebparks.org



Philosophers' Cafe - Thursday, 10/01/26 7:00p.m.

Philosophers' Cafe, our friendly discussion group, will meet on zoom Thursday, October 1st at 7:00p.m. The topic is "What is the one thing we could do to make America a better place?" If you have ideas, please join us!

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

Hanukkah is Coming! - Saturday, 12/05/26 4:30p.m.

A festive poster for a Hanukkah celebration. The background is a light blue textured surface. In the top left, two stars (one blue, one white) hang from thin lines. The word "Hanukkah" is written in a large, blue, cursive font, and "Celebration" is in a large, white, outlined font below it. A blue banner with white text reads "Sat Dec 5th 4:30pm". Below the banner, "Livermore CA" is written in a simple black font. To the right, there are images of Hanukkah food: a small white bowl of white sauce with a green herb garnish, several golden-brown latkes, and a large donut topped with powdered sugar and a red cherry. A wooden dreidel is also visible. At the bottom right, there are several white candles in a holder and a small bowl of oil. The text "LATRE MAKING MUSIC" and "COMMUNITY CRAFTS" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom left is the logo for Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, which features a stylized menorah and the text "TRI-VALLEY CULTURAL JEWS secular + humanist". To the right of the logo, the website "WWW.TRIVALLEYCULTURALJEWS.ORG", email "CULTURALJEWS@GMAIL.COM", and phone number "(925) 399-8029" are listed.

Hanukkah
Celebration

Sat Dec 5th 4:30pm

Livermore CA

LATRE MAKING MUSIC
COMMUNITY CRAFTS

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

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We know--we're still celebrating the fall holidays, but it's not too early to start looking forward to Hanukkah!

Join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews on Saturday, December 5 at 4:30pm in Livermore for a fun, relaxed Hanukkah celebration. We'll cook latkes together, play games, schmooze with friends, and enjoy a delicious community potluck.

Bring a dish to share and your favorite latke topping--whether you're a sour cream traditionalist, an applesauce enthusiast, or ready to introduce us all to something new.

Suggested donation is \$15 per non-member adult, if you're able.

More details and RSVP info will be available in the Evite, so for now, Save The Date!

Interfaith Interconnect of the Tri-Valley Invites You to an In-Person Religion Chat

Topic: *"What does your religion teach about the presence of evil in the world?"*

Day/Time: Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 7-8 p.m.

Optional informal discussion following, 8-8:30

Presenters: Farhad Sabetan, Baha'i Faith and Gaurav Rastogi, Hindu.

Location: Cornerstone Fellowship, 348 N. Canyons Parkway, Livermore 94551.

Church is at intersection of N. Canyons Parkway and Independence Drive.

Ample parking in lot.

Doors open at 6:45pm.

Flyer is attached.

All are welcome!

Please email us with any questions: Interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com

[Jewish Culture School](#)

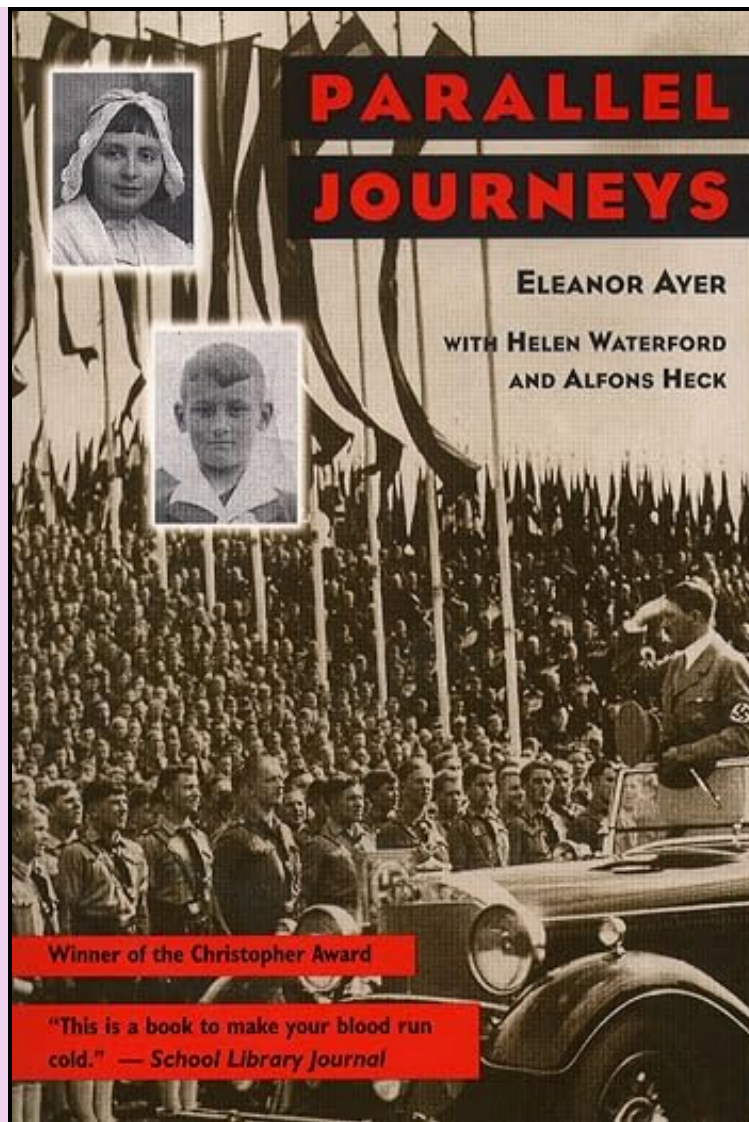


At our latest Jewish Culture School class we explored Yom Kippur through Sholem Aleichem's funny and thought-provoking story about the kapoiris chickens. We then traveled back to ancient Persia to learn about Jewish contributions and innovations in astronomy. The students even made their own quick astrolabes to explore how people studied the skies long before modern technology.

And, of course, we started and finished with food! In honor of the scientists and scholars we were learning about, we made a delicious kuku sabzi, a Persian herb-filled dish that gave us another tasty connection to Jewish history and culture.

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

BOOK REVIEW
PARALLEL JOURNEYS
BY ELEANOR AYER



This is a true story that takes place during World War II mostly in Germany. Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck are two teenagers that lived close to each other but didn't know each other while they were young.

Alfons was a precocious young man who was looking for acceptance by his friends and family. To gain this acceptance he joined the Hitler Jung at the age of nine. This was a group of young men who vowed allegiance to Hitler, and follow his orders explicitly, even if it meant death. He gained quite a reputation for being a committed soldier and totally loyal to the Reich. Even to the point of meeting Hitler and having a discussion with him. This helped him rise through the ranks.

Helen was a typical Jewish teenager devoted to her family and friends. As it turns out, Helen grew up to become a talented interior designer. So she has enough money now to marry her boyfriend. However, if she would do so it would be against the wishes of both sets of parents due to financial worries. So these issues along

with the dangerous attacks by the Nazis against the Jews made life extremely difficult at this time.

I enjoyed this book except for the graphic parts that described life in the concentration camps and the senseless killings of Jews in the streets. These parts are difficult to read, but are essential.

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

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

Book Review By Jerry Zwick

Our Rosh Hashanah Celebration!





What a wonderful Rosh Hashanah celebration we had! Thank you to everyone who joined us in welcoming the new year. It was a warm, joyful afternoon filled with music, reflection, good food, and plenty of time to connect with one another.

A special thank you to the Oddfellows for hosting us and making their space available for our celebration.

So much goes into making an event like this happen, and we are grateful to everyone who pitched in, Judy, David, Tai, Peter, Ya'el, and Debby helped with setup, getting everything ready before our guests arrived. Karen not only did the shopping but also

made a last-minute supply run when we discovered we needed a few more things. Solomon welcomed everyone as our greeter, and Tai was our elevator operator.

Thank you to Jamie for taking so much time out of her summer to put together our program, to Maggie, Sophia, and Tai for handing out wine, juice, and challah during the ceremony. Adiana and David made sure we had some great photos to remember the night, and Sophia and Tai gave us some wonderful shofar blowing.

We were also delighted to have our friends from Camp Gilboa join us and lead us in some wonderful dances. They brought a lot of energy and fun to the afternoon, and we hope we can do it again soon!

Most of all, thank you to everyone who came and helped make the celebration feel like a true community gathering. We're looking forward to carrying that spirit with us into the new year.

Thank You for a Meaningful Yom Kippur





Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Yom Kippur observance. We're grateful for the thoughtful reflections, beautiful music, and sense of community that made the evening so meaningful.

A special thank-you to Peter, Tai, Judy, and David for all their help with setup; Karen for warmly welcoming everyone as our greeter; and the Livermore Odd Fellows for hosting us.

We're also grateful to David, Derek, Carol, Noah, and Karen for sharing their voices through the readings, and to Judy for leading our beautiful music. Thank you to Derek and Amy for their moving rendition of Bridge Over Troubled Water.

Finally, thank you to everyone who stayed to help clean up, pitch in, and make the evening special. It truly takes a community to create an event like this and we're so glad to have shared Yom Kippur with 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>



September We Remember

Lynn Zizlavsky

Sam Zuckerman

September Birthdays



Sophia Ireland
Jane Morrison
Adriana Telias

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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Our mailing address is:

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

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