

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews:

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

(925) 485-1049

Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org

CulturalJews@aol.com

<http://trivalleyculturaljews.wordpress.com/>



Affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations

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

Upcoming Events for February 2012

Wednesday, February 1: Planning meeting. 7 p.m. 1817 Sinclair Dr. in Pleasanton. All members welcome. If you would like to be more involved in TVCJ, this is the place to start! Please call 925-485-1049.

Sunday, February 5: Tu B'Shvat celebration and seder, 10:30-12:30. We'll start with our own Tu B'Shvat seder at 10:30 a.m. We will go on an edible plant hike, do some dip-netting and then pick up trash along the shoreline. Be sure to wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty – and old shoes! Please reply to the Evite. If you didn't get one, but would like to come, call Jamie at 510-888-1404.

Friday, February 10: 6 -8 pm, Family Shabbat at the Ireland home, 19663 Fremery Court, Castro Valley. A little ceremony, pizza, hanging out and everyone gets home in time for bed. \$7 for adults, kids eat free. Please respond to Evite or call Jamie at 510-888-1404.

Sunday, February 19: Jewish Culture School 10:30 a.m. in Castro Valley.

Sunday, February 19: Philosophers' Café. 10:45 AM - 12:15 pm, Cafe Rumi, 4799 Heyer Ave., Castro Valley. This month's topic will be: *How do we balance social responsibility with consumerism and convenience?* Join us for this lively discussion!

Friday, February 24: Shabbat and adult education. 7 p.m. in Livermore. Please reply to the Evite. If you didn't get one, and would like to come, call Judy at 925-485-1049. We'll have a potluck dinner and make shabbes, then learn about the Jewish classical texts – what they are, what's in them, and how they came to be authoritative. Suitable for 13 and up.

Save the Date...

Sunday, March 4 – Purim party. More information in next newsletter.

Wed., March 7 - Planning Meeting. 7 pm. 1817 Sinclair Drive, Pleasanton. All members welcome.

Saturday, March 10 – 4 p.m., movie and family Havdalah. More info. in next newsletter.

Sunday, March 18 - Jewish Culture School 10:30 – 12:30.

Sunday, March 18 - Philosophers' Café.

Message from the President

We had a great Philosophers' Café last month. It was wonderful to have some new people join us, and we look forward to seeing everyone in February. Our topic was whether humans are basically competitive or cooperative, and we concluded that not only are we both, it is necessary to be both. The competitive nature allows us to achieve more, but we have to work together to do that. In some cases, we try to compete against ourselves, sometimes we compete as individuals, and sometimes we compete as teams. When we work as a team we have to be cooperative, but also, just to live in society you have to have some sense of community or cooperation to survive.

Mishpokha (family)

Birthdays: Micki Cooper, Bob Cooper, David Cooper

Movie Night and Havdalah

Our movie for the month of January was *The Infidel*. It centers around a Muslim man who, upon his mother's death, learns that he was adopted as an infant, and that his biological parents were Jews. We found the movie to be quite entertaining and humorous, while at the same time delivering a message about self-acceptance and the ties that bind us all together. Although unrated, the movie was definitely not for children. We played a separate child-friendly movie in another room for the younger kids who attended. We combined this event with our monthly family Havdalah and enjoyed our potluck. All are welcome to attend our next movie night. Our upcoming events are posted on our website calendar.

Jewish Culture School

Last Sunday at JCS, we learned about the Jews in the Caribbean. We made Barbados sugar fingers because Jews were sugar producers, and we learned that the first rum distilleries were run by Jews. The first Jew to land there was Christopher Columbus' translator Luis de Torres. We made up our own song about the Jews in the Caribbean and figured out what our names would have been using the traditional naming techniques of using either the place you were born or using both the last names of the parents.

Africans were slaves on sugar plantations
Jews were not allowed to own land
They were the first rum makers in the Caribbean
They also processed sugar

Jews, Jews, Jews of the Caribbean

Luis de Torres was a Jew
The first to settle in Cuba!
A lot of Jews changed their names
Because of the Inquisition

Jews, Jews, Jews of the Caribbean

Jews were expelled from Catholic countries
Jews went to other places
English and Dutch were the first to arrive there
This is the end of our song.

Hello From CSJO

Dear Friends,

I am reverting from my usual "Hello from CSJO" as I am compelled to write about the civil/women's rights movement in Israel. We need to support our sisters (and brothers) in Israel who are protesting the abuse of their rights by the Haredi sect. What is happening in Israel, an originally secular country, is a shanda. The abusive treatment of a young girl, the insult to an award-winner who was prevented to come on stage to accept her award because she was a woman, forcing women to sit at the back of buses, and segregating sidewalks between women and men are all shameful acts. We look to the Jewish communities in the U.S. and Canada to condemn the behavior exhibited by fundamentalists.

Happy January/February
Rifke

A Sad Loss

The world has lost a treasure. We are sad to tell you that internationally renowned Yiddish singer **Adrienne Cooper, ז"ל**, who grew up in Oakland, passed away in New York last week and was buried in Lafayette's Oakmont Cemetery. In addition to touring, recording, and working with social justice groups, she served as executive officer for external affairs for the National Workmen's Circle/*Arbeter Ring*. Adrienne taught at KlezCalifornia's first two festivals (2003 and 2004), served on our Advisory Council, and had accepted our invitation to co-lead (with Sharon Bernstein) the Sing-Along at the upcoming Yiddish Culture Festival. We mourn her loss.

To hear Adrienne singing, go to:

[youtube.com/watch?v=WByLXh7IIcw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WByLXh7IIcw) (*Vos Vet Blaybn*)

[youtube.com/watch?v=QDqQ70_Krlc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDqQ70_Krlc) (*Drey, Dreydl, and Friling*)

[youtube.com/watch?v=vudV5k4W-TY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vudV5k4W-TY) (*Gezang far a Beser Velt*)

This Month in Jewish History

On February 23, 1896, Tootsie Rolls were first offered for sale by Leo Hirschfeld. This and more fun information can be found at jewishcurrents.org/blog/jewdayo. Jewish Currents is the Secular Jewish periodical you should all be subscribed to.

Who We Are

President	Kevin Coren 925-240-5612
Board Members	Judith Seid 925-485-1049 Phyllis Looney 925-803-0574 Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404
Newsletter	Marisa Castaldini 925-240-5612 Phyllis Looney 925-803-0574 Ed Looney 925-803-0574
Webmasters	Noah King 925-371-8585 Solomon Ireland 510-888-1404
JCS Teachers	Judith Seid, Jamie Ireland
Phone Chair	Phyllis Looney
Family Shabbat/Havdalah Coordinator	Jamie Ireland
Publicity	open
Movie Coordinator	Wendy Berenson 925-829-0554

KlezCalifornia Yiddish Culture Festival at JCC San Francisco February 18-20

This year's big event features more than 50 participatory workshops covering the spectrum of Yiddish-inspired culture and klezmer music. Study with top notch teachers and performers, including The Klez-X! All ages and musical backgrounds welcome! Whether you're an instrumentalist, singer, dancer, Yiddish speaker, Russian speaker, or simply someone interested in klezmer music, Yiddish literature, Eastern European Jewish history, or the interaction of musical cultures, there's plenty for you at the Yiddish Culture Festival!

Festival highlights:

Four **FREE workshops** *Shabes* (Saturday) afternoon.

* **The Klez-X reunion concert** (with Daniel Hoffman from Israel) Saturday at 8:00pm, **followed by dance party with klezmer dance master Steve Weintraub** from Chicago.

* **Lunchtime Cabarets** Sunday & Monday, MC'ed by Achi Ben Shalom.

* **Youth program for ages six and up**, led by Gerry Tenney, including klezmer ensemble, crafts, Yiddish stunts & dances with Steve Weintraub.

* **Finale music and dance party** Monday at 4:30pm.

Check out the schedule and workshops at klezcalifornia.org/events/2012-sf or call 415.789.7679. The Klez-X concert tickets are on sale at jccsf.org. See instructions for buying tickets, passes, and meals at klezcalifornia.org/events/2012-sf/registration or call the JCCSF box office at 415.292.1233.

A Festival Workshop Pass (which does not include the concert) is \$130 adults, \$120 JCCSF members, \$75 teens, \$50 youth 6-12. Such a deal! If you are able to attend only part of the time, you may buy tickets for individual workshop sessions for \$25 adults, \$22 JCCSF members, \$15 teens, \$10 youth 6-12. Some partial scholarships are available; see website for details.

Check out our new and improved website. Leave a message on the blog, search the calendar to see what's coming up, read the latest and archived newsletters.

<http://trivalleyculturaljews.wordpress.com/>

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews
1817 Sinclair Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

