

# Tri-Valley Cultural Jews:

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

(925) 485-1049

Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org

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<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 March 2012

**Sunday, March 4: PURIM PARTY!** 10:30 am – 12:00 pm at the Bothwell Center, 2466 8<sup>th</sup> St. in Livermore. Games, hamentashn, costume parade and a new way to tell the Purim story. A great time for all ages. Free to members, \$5 suggested donation non-member adult.

**Wednesday, March 7:** 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! Since it's Purim, we'll have hamentashn! Please call 925-485-1049.

**Saturday, March 10:** Family Havdalah and movie night, 4 pm – 8 pm at the Berenson Home, 49 Nead Place, San Ramon, 925-829-0554. We will be watching *The Chosen*.

**Sunday, March 18:** Jewish Culture School. 10:30 a.m. in Castro Valley.

**Sunday, March 18:** Philosophers' Café. 10:45 AM - 12:15 pm, Cafe Rumi, 4799 Heyer Ave., Castro Valley. We will revisit last month's topic: How do we balance social responsibility with consumerism and convenience? Join us for this lively discussion!

### Save the Date

Community potluck second seder Saturday, April 7. We use our non-religious haggadah. Child-friendly.

Levi Coren's Bar Mitzvah is April. 28. It's a ceremony followed by a potluck lunch. This is the first bar mitzvah we will celebrate in our community – a milestone!

### 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

## Hello From CSJO

I am happy to announce the site of the 2012 CSJO conference...Rutgers, Newark, NJ !!! The conference will, as usual, take place during the American Memorial Day weekend which is May 25-28, 2012.

Plans are well under way for interesting and fun topics that will be presented during that weekend. All information will be published in newsletters and the CSJO website at [www.csjo.org](http://www.csjo.org). Do visit the website to be updated about the conference, and about the upcoming International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ) Colloquium to be held during the week-end of April 20-22, 2012 at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, U.S.A.

I look forward to keeping you updated on all of the upcoming CSJO news...and weather, when important!

Enjoy Purim!

All the best,

Rifke

### Message from the President

I enjoyed our Tu B'shvat celebration. We had a beautiful day to take a walk along the path and look for creatures in the water. Related to Tu B'shvat, I would like to recommend an excellent book which is being made into a movie coming out soon. *The Lorax* is my favorite Dr. Seuss book. I don't know how the movie will be and apparently some of the product tie-ins would make Theodore Geisel turn over in his grave, but the book is a great tale of how the repercussions of greed can lead to the destruction of the environment and that there is always hope for the future.

### Mishpokha (family)

March birthdays:

Adam King, Leonard Kreit and Karen Inkelis' grandson Rylan.

Yortseits:

In March, we remember Rebecca Friedman – grandmother of Jamie Ireland, Roy Calder – father of Jacky Poulsen, Doris Handler - mother of Eleanor Pemper, and Teibel Barach – great-aunt of Judith Seid.

### Jewish Culture School

At the last JCS we studied North Africa. We made Moroccan Carrot Salad, learned the Debka dance, and learned a new song. We also learned about Jews in Libya, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia.

### **Tu B'shvat**

For Tu B'shvat, we met at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center for our seder where we learned about our responsibilities to take care of our earth and we renewed our commitments to recycle and compost what we can. We made new year resolutions along those lines as well. It is better to reuse than recycle if possible, because we learned that much of our waste is sent to China on ships to be processed. Also the things we do recycle should be cleaned, as there are restrictions on how much non-recyclable matter can be accepted with the recyclables. Did you know that if there is too much food waste mixed in with the items, the bacteria that forms can ruin a whole load of recyclables thus putting the efforts to waste? Lastly, we walked along the canal and looked at the many living plants, birds, and tiny creatures all around us.

### Purim

Purim – the other side of Halloween. On Halloween, kids dress up and go from house to house begging for treats. On Purim, kids dress up and go house to house delivering treats! It is traditional to exchange plates of “shalakh mon-es” full of hamentashn, fruit, nuts or other goodies. Each family would have its own specialty and everyone in the neighborhood would end up with some of each. A similar tradition among Christians is the Christmas cookie exchange. People are pretty much the same, aren't they?

### Adult Shabbat

We had our first adult Shabbat in quite a while recently. We enjoyed a potluck and a discussion on the history of the Torah and the Haftorah. This not only benefited Levi for his bar mitzvah but the adults in the room as well. This may lead to a “Jewishness 101” series in the future – keep an eye out for announcements.

### Parents Getting Older? What's Your Game Plan?

You're invited to a free workshop by experienced Elder Care Professionals who will provide tips, suggestions and resources for adult children concerned about their aging parents.

Same content, three locations and dates to choose from:

3/13 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm in Oakland

4/10 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in Lafayette

5/3 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm in Berkeley

For more information visit the JFCS/East Bay website at [www.jfcs-eastbay.org/aging\\_parents](http://www.jfcs-eastbay.org/aging_parents)

RSVP: [rtufel@jfcs-eastbay.org](mailto:rtufel@jfcs-eastbay.org) or 510.558.7800 ext. 352

Sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay , AgeSong and The Reutlinger.

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Rob Tufel, MSW, MPH

Director of Adult Services

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Parents Getting Older? What's Your Game Plan?

Workshops for Adult Children: [www.jfcs-eastbay.org/aging\\_parents](http://www.jfcs-eastbay.org/aging_parents)

### **Some of the Best Films You Will See in 2012 are at the... 17<sup>th</sup> Annual East Bay International Jewish Film Festival March 10 - 18**

CineArts in Pleasant Hill, Orinda Theatre and the Vine Cinema in Livermore!

Featuring award-winning and Bay Area premieres from Israel, France, England, South Africa, Poland, Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic.

To purchase tickets online and to see the entire line-up, go to [www.eastbayjewishfilm.org](http://www.eastbayjewishfilm.org).

Presented by the Jewish Federation of the East Bay in partnership with local synagogues and Jewish organizations.

## The 27<sup>th</sup> Jewish Music Festival, March 1 - 25, 2012

[www.jewishmusicfestival.org](http://www.jewishmusicfestival.org), Tickets: / 866-558-4253 | Info: 510-848-0237 x119

Discounts Available for Groups, Seniors and Students

Concerts in Berkeley, Oakland, and San Francisco: The Festival opens with the exclusive Bay Area appearance of Israel's leading hip hop / funk band Hadag Nahash at the New Parish in Oakland. Other highlights include the Bustan Quartet, a virtuosic Arab-Jewish ensemble from Israel with Taiseer Elias, one of the leading oud players in the Middle East, Zohar Fresco, Israel's top percussionist, Amir Milstein and Emmanuel Mann, all from the former Bustan Avraham Ensemble, the group that put Middle Eastern and Western classical fusion on the world music map; the neo-klezmer clarinet wizardry of the Michael Winograd Ensemble with Judith Berkson, the world premiere of the avant garde jazz project, Ben Goldberg's Orphic Machine with the Ben Goldberg Ensemble, including Carla Kihlstedt, Myra Melford, Rob Sudduth, Ches Smith, Ron Miles, Kenny Wollesen, Jeff Parker and Greg Cohen. Holy Harmony in San Francisco includes emerging singer / songwriter Talia Cooper, Grammy-winner Frank London of the Klezmatics in Babel / Ashkenaz, with Yair Dalal, an Israeli of Iraqi background and Jewlia Eisenberg, bringing together liturgical melodies of East and West; and the West Coast ensemble debut of Songs of Wonder, setting the Yiddish poetry of the late Jewish philosopher Abraham Joshua Heschel to gorgeous new music by Pharoah's Daughter founder, Basya Schechter, recently released on John Zorn's Tzadik CD label.

Andrew Gordon-Kirsch

*Community Outreach Coordinator*

27th Jewish Music Festival

(w): 510.848.0237 x118

(c): 510.459.3135

[outreach@jewishmusicfestival.org](mailto:outreach@jewishmusicfestival.org)

Join JMF on Facebook

2/25 - Fundraiser with Michael Alpert and Julian Kytasty

3/1 - Hadag Nahash

3/3 - Michael Winograd and Judith Berkson

3/4 - Ben Goldberg Ensemble

3/15 - Emmanuel Witzthum

3/22 - Bustan Quartet

3/25 - HOLY HARMONY (Basya Shechter, Babel/Ashkenaz, Bustan Quartet)

**Check 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/>**

A favorite potluck recipe: **African Peanut Stew** (goes by many similar names, just do a search online and you'll find many variations.

Ingredients:

- 3 clove(s) garlic
- 2 cup(s) (loosely packed) fresh cilantro leaves and stems
- 1 can(s) (28 ounces) diced tomatoes
- 1/2 cup(s) creamy or chunky peanut butter
- 2 teaspoon(s) ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon(s) ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon(s) ground red pepper (cayenne)
- Salt
- 1 cup(s) water
- 3 pound(s) sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 2-inch chunks
- 1 can(s) (15 to 19 ounces) garbanzo beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 package(s) (16 ounces) frozen whole or cut green beans

Saute the garlic (onion, too, if you like) with a little water, add the spices, add all the other ingredients (except the green beans) and let cook until the sweet potatoes are tender. Can be done on a stove in about an hour, or slowly in a crockpot. It's done when you decide the sweet potatoes are done. Add the green beans towards the end to keep them crisper.

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