

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews:

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

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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 June/July 2012

Sunday, June 3: Jewish Culture School 10:30

Sunday, June 3: Philosophers' Café/Culture Chat 10:45 AM - 12:15 pm, Cafe Rumi, 4799 Heyer Ave., Castro Valley. Topic to be announced at the chat.

Weds., June 6 – TVCJ Planning Meeting 7 pm. 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

Sunday, June 10: Jewish Culture School 10:30. This is our last day of JCS for the school year. Join us next year as we study Jewish Life Cycles and Holidays.

Annual meeting is Sunday, June 10: 12:30. We'll bring in lunch to Jamie's house. We need to vote on the board and approve the checking account signers and discuss the budget and outreach.

Saturday, June 30: 6-8 pm, Family Havdalah at the King's house. 5210 Diane Lane, Livermore. A little ceremony, pizza, socializing and home at a reasonable time. \$7.00 for adults. Please respond to the evite or call 510-888-1404.

Saturday, July 7: The Looney family pool party/Havdalah. Details to follow in the evite.

Weds., July 11: TVCJ Planning Meeting 7 pm. 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

SAVE THE DATE: August 3-5 in the East Bay. J-West, the west coast gathering of Secular, Humanistic and Cultural Jews.

Jewish Culture School

On May 20th, we ventured to Turkey and the Balkans. We made almond fritters which are a Jewish/Greek traditional food. We also made leather pouches, as leatherwork was one of the few jobs Jews were allowed to have in the region. We also learned "*Buen Shabbat*" a song in Ladino which was one of the languages spoken by these Sephardic Jews. Thank you to the Corens and the Kings for helping prepare the food and project, as well as cleaning up.

Message from the President CSJO Conference Report

My weekend started at 4:15AM on Friday, when I got up to catch my plane to New Jersey. Three flights, two delays, and one plane change later, I landed in Newark at 11PM Eastern time. It was a long day. I stayed with a college friend who lives about 40 minutes from Rutgers. Saturday morning I made the drive in my friend's car to the conference.

After breakfast I went to the first talk. How could I resist Jews in Rock and Roll? The term Rock and Roll was around before, but it was radio announcer Alan Freed who coined it as a musical term. We spent an hour and a half listening to rock music and exploring its history through the lens of the Jews who have been there the whole time.

Other workshops I went to included *The Current State of Unions*, *Ashkenazic Last Names*, *Jews in Babylonia*, *Jewish Holidays and Food*, *A Jewish Perspective on The War on Women*, and *Jewish Economic Philosophy and the 99%*.

I took something away from each of these workshops; new information, new ideas, new questions. It was fun to hear some competing theories during the talk on Babylonia.

In one of the keynote addresses and during the board meeting, I learned that our group is not the only one struggling with trying to keep our numbers up.

At the business meeting, I got a new perspective of the affiliates from around the country and in Canada. There are other groups around our age and size. Some groups revolve only around their schools, while others are adults only. As our representative, I got to highlight our successful holidays, the introduction of Culture Chat/Philosophers' Café, and our first Bar Mitzvah.

This is my third CSJO conference, the other two being west coast conferences, but the workshops are only a small part of what goes on. There is a huge amount that goes on between the sessions and during the meals. You can sit next to anyone there and know that you have something in common and something to talk about. The talent show is always amazing. It includes a lot of talent and some things that aren't really talent, but fun anyway.

It was a great experience. We have J-West so people can have a similar experience without traveling. I hope you come, it will be worth it.

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

Mishpokha (family)

Mazal Tov to Lisa Sciandra and Andrew Bronstein on the birth of their daughter, Nora Cate (Liora Shiri), sister to Samuel.

In June we remember Janice Green, friend of Daryle Taleveras and Eliza Haile Cloe, grandmother of David Gates.

Happy June birthdays to Jo-Ann Jacobson, Phyllis Looney, Lenore Kreit, Karen Sutton, Carol King, Eileen Alkin-Fagliano, Kirstie Wang, Judith Seid and David Gates.

Congratulations to Matthew, son of Ed and Phyllis Looney for his 7-year commitment of hard work and dedication to earn his first degree black belt in karate!

Matthew also received the School-Wide Award from his English teacher for being an "outstanding student, scholar and participant." It was a wonderful surprise to find out that Matthew received special recognition, in part, for his performance in the reenacted *To Kill A Mockingbird* project in that class. There were about 40 students from each high school grade to receive an award that night. We are extremely proud of him and enjoy standing beside him as he navigates his way through his life and high school.

In the Community

Jewish Heritage Night with the Oakland A's, June 19

Join the A's for our second annual Jewish Heritage Night in our special Plaza Infield seating area. All participants that purchase a special ticket for this event from the link below will receive an exclusive A's Jewish Heritage Scarf and a traditional Jewish food item served in the Westside Club.

For more information, or discounts for groups of 25+, please contact Josh Feinberg at (510) 563-2205 or jfeinberg@oaklandathletics.com.

Please note, you must purchase a special ticket for this event to receive the giveaway item and food item.

JFCS/East Bay's Holocaust Survivor Memoir Workshop

JFCS/East Bay's Holocaust Survivor Memoir Workshop will be hosting a reading of recent work on Sunday, June 3 in our Berkeley office. For full details, you can link to our website here: <http://jfcs-eastbay.org/event/holocaust-survivors-memoir-reading>.

J-West Conference, August 3-5, Hayward

Secular, Humanistic and Cultural Jews Celebrating Jewish Culture and Social Action.

Workshops, music and community in action! Past conferences have been held in Foster City, Vancouver BC, and Seattle, WA. Don't miss this opportunity to attend the conference in your own backyard! Check out the website for updates on the exact time and place where the conference will be held:

<http://j-west.net/>

Do you have any ideas for workshops? Let us know! We'll definitely be calling on the community for help that weekend – schlepping, greeting, copying, etc. If you have any questions, comments, or wish to volunteer, please contact the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews at (925) 485-1049 or TellMeMore@Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org

This month in Jewish history

June 21 is the yortseit of Mickey Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Cheney, civil rights workers who were murdered in Meridian Mississippi in 1964. Schwerner and Goodman were Jews who went south from New York because they felt their Jewish heritage mandated their participation in the civil rights movement. Jews supported the movement in different ways; the largely Jewish needle trade unions took the lead in fighting for the unionization of black workers over the objections of the AFL. The ADL and AJC filed amicus briefs on behalf of school integration in 1954. And Jews, a meager 3% of the US population at the time, made up a full 30% of those northerners who went south to work for civil rights during Freedom Summer.

DID YOU KNOW... You can now choose to "follow" the TVCJ website/blog and automatically receive email notifications and updates whenever we add new and important information. To do so, simply visit our site at <http://trivalleyculturaljews.wordpress.com/> and click on the "Follow" button in the lower right hand corner. You'll be prompted to enter an email address. That's all there is to it, and from now on you'll never miss an important update again.

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