

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 November 2012

Wednesday November 7, 7:00 pm: TVCJ Planning Meeting. CANCELLED

Sunday, November 11, Jewish Culture School CANCELLED

Upcoming Dates for December:

JCS: Dec. 2 (in Castro Valley),)

Culture Chat: Dec. 2 (in Castro Valley)

Family Havdalah: Dec. 8 at Coren home, Brentwood

Chanukah party and JCS at Bothwell Dec 16

HELLO FROM CSJO!

The reports I've received from a number of communities highlight the successful Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur programs that were held, incl. in the Cleveland community, where I participated.

The next CSJO board meeting will be held on November 10-11, 2012. Amongst other things, we will be voting on the first set of proposals from the CSJO Restructuring Study. Any approved changes will be implemented during the year of 2013. The December 2012 CSJO newsletter will give an account of the approved changes and their implementations.

The December 2012 issue will be the first for our new editor, Steve Shucard from Cleveland. He is working with Hans Leander to get off to a good start, and they have also gotten good input from a former editor ...

If anyone has an issue they would like to have brought up at the board meeting, please let either Terry Waslow, Chair (tcww@comcast.net) or me (rifke@bronxbobbe.com) know what it is and, if possible, it will be put on the agenda. I say "if possible", because our agenda is quite full already, but we will try hard. Here are some of the important items on the agenda: 2013 Budget, Restructuring of CSJO, Conference 2013, IISHJ, Social Action, Membership, Fund raising.

I always look forward to hearing from you ... our communities and members.

Be well!

Rifke
CSJO Exec. Comm.

Message from the President

The API scores came out this month. For those of you who are unaware, these are the scores that each school gets based on how their students do on the state testing each spring. These scores are used as a way to give a number that expresses how good the school is. They affect funding, housing prices, and the very education that goes on in the school.

Here's how: If the scores are good, real estate agents and city officials advertise the scores and the district or school becomes more popular, making housing in higher demand causing prices to go up. Then, of course the school will get more revenue because the property taxes are higher. Schools with high API scores are eligible for more grants than schools with lower API scores.

If the scores are too low, the school could face state takeover. When this occurs, the school goes into "Program Improvement" or PI and drastic measures may be taken. Large numbers of teachers or administrators may be fired. The school may be restructured in a way that cuts out all electives leaving the entire day working on Language Arts (Reading/Writing) and Math.

So, do these scores really tell us the quality of the school? Are there no other factors in the population of a school that affect test scores? Does a poor score really mean that the teachers and administrators are doing a bad job? Does a high score really mean they are doing a good job?

I will likely continue this topic in other newsletters. I welcome your feedback.

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 open
Webmasters	Noah King 925-371-8585 Solomon Ireland 510-888-1404
JCS Teachers	Judith Seid, Jamie Ireland
Phone Chair	open
Family Shabbat/Havdalah Coordinator	– Amy Greenberg
Publicity	open
Movie Coordinator	Wendy Berenson 925-829-0554

Mishpokha (family)

Happy November birthdays to: David Austin, Molly Austin, Debra Witters, Judy Ganz, Zachary Lai, Matthew Looney, and Bo Frank

Good luck to Michelle Coren who will compete in the Level 4 Nor. State Gymnastics Championships!

Our thoughts go out to David Gates, Judy Seid and their family in the recent passing of David's mother, Mary Gates.

Adult Shabbes

A lively group of TVCJ friends and members met for an adult shabbes and discussion of the propositions on Oct. 19. We were joined by two members of Bend the Arc Progressive Jewish Partnership who brought information and a voter's guide. Most of those present already supported Prop. 30 and discussed how the budget cuts would affect them personally and in their work lives. Most of us committed to discussing this proposition in particular with others who might be undecided.

Then we went through each proposition discussing the pros and cons. Several of us had particular knowledge to share about certain propositions, which was helpful in helping those of us with less understanding of any specific one. The most difference of opinion surrounded Prop. 37, GMO-modification labeling, but nobody considered the issue crucial enough to try to persuade others any further than just stating reasons for our opinions.

The evening felt useful and interesting, and, needless to say, the desserts were delicious.

In the Community

Thurs. Nov 8, 4:30- pm – 6:30 pm, 121 Steuart St, SF Real Issues and Real Hopes: A Dialogue on Muslim-Jewish Relations. Rabbi Dr. Ron Kronish and Mr. S. A. Ibrahim. Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Anti Defamation League. Free. Reservations Required. To RSVP email Isabel at iduartegray@jcrc.org

Saturday, November 3, 7:30pm, Theodore Bikel Live in Concert. At The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, Berkeley. Presented by Graduate Theological Union's Center for Jewish Studies. Tickets: \$18 General / \$15 JCC or Magnes Members/Seniors/ \$12 Students. More info: brownpapertickets.com/event/270077.

Sunday, November 4, 2:00pm, Captives of the Dawn: Remembering Soviet Yiddish Culture, Center for Jewish Studies' annual Taube Conference in Eastern European Jewish Culture and History. Panel discussion, keynote address, performance of Yiddish songs by the Nigunim Chorus. At The Magnes, Berkeley. No charge. More info: [cjs\[at\]gtu.edu](mailto:cjs@gtu.edu), 510.649.2482.

The Oy Way: Following the Path of Most Resistance, Presentations by Harvey Gotliffe

Tuesday, November 6, 7:30pm, Congregation Beth David, Saratoga .

Sunday, November 11, 12:00noon, Silicon Valley Holocaust Survivors Association, *Chai* House, San Jose.

Tuesday, November 13, 7:00pm, Alef Bet Judaica Bookstore, Los Gatos.

Saturday, November 17, 2:00pm, Inklings Books, Capitola.

More info: See several boxes above re October 28 presentation.

Tuesday, November 13, 1:00pm, Ellis Island Old World Folk Band at Contra Costa County Library, Hercules. No charge. More info: 510.529.8753 (Ellis Island), 510.245.2420 ([library](http://library.ccclib.org/locations/Hercules.html)),ccclib.org/locations/Hercules.html.

Saturday, November 17, 7:30pm, Celebration of the life of George Gershein, with Ronit Widman-Levy and Nurit Jugend. At JCC of the East Bay, Berkeley. Tickets: \$15 General / \$12 JCC Members/Seniors/Students. More info: [HERE](#).

Sunday, November 18, 3:00pm, Yiddish Sing-Along with Achi Ben Shalom. At Piedmont Gardens, Oakland. Admission: \$10. More info: [mail\[at\]nigunim.org](mailto:mail[at]nigunim.org).

Sunday, November 18, 5:30pm, Hava Nagila (the movie), followed by a performance by Veretski Pass, part of Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival. At Camera 12, San Jose. Tickets: \$15/ \$20 at the door. More info: [HERE](#).

Tuesday, November 27, 7:00pm. Gallery opening event: Hollywood Stars Reading "The Jewish Daily Forward" with photographer Phil Stern. Exhibit continues through January 2013. Opening event free, but reservations required. All photographs are available for purchase. More info: jccsf.org/katzsnyder. Rsvp to [arts\[at\]jccsf.org](mailto:arts[at]jccsf.org) or 415.292.1233.

Thursday Nov. 29, 8:00pm, Hardly Strictly Klezmer Chanukah Kickoff with Red Hot Chachkas, Kugelplex, Charming Hostess at Freight & Salvage, Berkeley. Tickets: \$20.50 advance/ \$22.50 at door. More info: thefreight.org/hardly-strictly-klezmer-0.

This Month in Jewish History (courtesy of Jewdayo)

November 7 is the anniversary of the beginning of the Palmer Raid in 1919. The raids, authorized by the Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer and his assistant, J. Edgar Hoover, arrested and held over 10,000 people without trial and deported several hundred including many many Jews. Among those arrested was Emma Goldman. One of the targets was the Brownsville Labor Lyceum in Brooklyn where socialist Jews had a cooperative bakery, a bank and tenant organizations. *You can read Jewdayo at jewishcurrents.org/blog/jewdayo where you can also subscribe to the daily email.*

Website of the Month

A New York Jew in China: Reporter Ross Perlin is a regular videographer for the *Forverts* newspaper.

Watch his interesting video, What do Chinese People Think of Jews?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjwW3mMxw_g&feature=youtube_gdata_player.

Yiddish with English subtitles (Thanks to Ethel Zivotofsky)

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

