

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 July and August 2013

Wednesday, July 3 and August 7, 7:00 pm: TVCJ Planning Meeting at our booth at the Pleasanton First Wednesdays Street Fair. All members welcome. We will need help setting up between 5:00 and 5:45. Please come and help out and stay awhile!

Saturday, July 13, We have a booth at Castro Valley Pride Festival (we'll be contacting you for staffing help!) followed by 6:00 pm: Havdalah for Everyone, King home, 5210 Diane Lane, Livermore, 94550. A little ceremony, pizza, \$7.00 for adults. Please respond to the evite or call 510-888-1404. All members welcome.

Saturday, August 17, 6:00 pm: Havdalah for Everyone, 49 Nead Place San Ramon . A little ceremony, pizza, \$7.00 for adults. Please respond to the evite or call 510-888-1404. All members welcome.

Sept 8 – First day of Jewish Culture School, and introduction to TVCJ (Come and learn the new name!)

J-West Conference

August 31st and September 1st at University Place Hotel in Portland, OR. Keynote: The Future of Jewish Communities by Marc Blattner, Portland Federation President and CEO. Workshop topics: How to Plan a Green and Just Simcha, What floats YOUR boat?, Preparing for the High Holidays, Stories from Jewish Portland, Jewish pop & rock sing-a-long And many more!

If you have any questions, please contact the conference organizers at: info@kolshalom.org, jwestmeetup@ymail.com or the Kol Shalom office 503-459-4210.

See the attached registration packet for complete information.

We're Changing Our Name!

Weigh in! Suggest names, pieces of names, combinations of names. Here's a start: East Counties Jewish Freethinkers. Cultural Jews of the Greater East Bay, Kehillat Hilonim, East Bay Secular Jews. Send us an email.

CulturalJews@aol.com

Anyone can suggest a name - or several names, but only members can vote. (If you'd like to join, please let us know! We'd be delighted to welcome you into our community.)

Are You Looking for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah Program?

Three of our JCS students are beginning their bat mitzvah preparation this year. If you have a child who is 10-13 and interested in a secular bar or bat mitzvah, be sure to come to the first meeting of the year, Sept. 8, at the Bothwell Center, for more information on this meaningful program.

Message from the President

I am writing this message on June 26. This is a historic day. The Supreme Court struck down DOMA, The Defense of Marriage Act. There is still a lot of prejudice in our country, but this will open the door for many same sex couples to marry and enjoy the same rights as all other married couples.

It blows my mind that this was even called The Defense of Marriage Act. It didn't defend marriage from anything. It only limited people's rights. Luckily The Supreme Court recognized that.

Who We Are

President	Kevin Coren 925-240-5612
Board Members	Judith Seid 925-485-1049 Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404 Ya'el
Newsletter	Marisa Castaldini 925-240-5612
Webmaster	Noah King 925-371-8585
JCS Teachers	Judith Seid, Jamie Ireland
Phone Chair	open
Family Shabbat/Havdalah Coordinator	– Amy Greenberg
Publicity	open
Movie Coordinator	Wendy Berenson 925-829-0554

What It Means to be a Cultural Jew

Amy Greenberg

I grew up in a traditional Jewish household in Long Island. We celebrated the High Holy days, lit the Menorah and over-ate during our Passover Seder. For my family, the Shul was an important part of our Jewish identity. It was the place where you do your Bat Mitzvah, get married or complete Kaddish.

My parents joined an Orthodox Synagogue in our community because they offered the best deal on Hebrew School and High Holy Day seats. My family did not practice or follow Orthodox traditions (we'd drive our car to services and park it across the street from the Synagogue and break the fast with bacon). It was "normal" for me to not have an integrated Jewish experience. You did the "official" rituals in the temple, done exclusively in Hebrew, which I do not understand, and lived a Jewish life at home.

As I grew into adulthood, I knew that I wanted to still honor my Jewiness but that I did not want the god baggage. I tried less dogmatic temples and found them close but not quite right to my beliefs. There was still that "pay no attention to that man behind the curtain" business.

I did not know that there was such a thing as Secular, Cultural and/or Humanistic Judaism. Somehow, I stumbled upon the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for a Rosh Hashanah service. We felt welcomed and more aligned to my personal beliefs and practices. My daughter did a heritage project in 2nd grade and this piqued her curiosity on her Jewish and Japanese identity. She attends the Sunday Cultural School and wants to pursue her Bat Mitzvah. She really enjoys the friends and teachers from class. I believe that this journey will be meaningful and fits with her view of the world.

Mishpokha (Family)

Birthdays

Happy July and August birthdays to Solomon Ireland, Noah King, David Handeli, and Jamie Ireland

Yortseits

In July and August we remember Bunny Simmel, grandmother of Solomon Ireland, great grandmother of Sophia and Rebecca Lou Garcia, husband of Wendy Berenson and John Gates, father of David Gates

Fiddler on the Roof

TVCJ is making a group outing to see Fiddler on the Roof, in Brentwood. Kevin and Levi Coren are both in the show. Group showtime is July 28, 2:00 pm matinee. Allan E Jones Performing Arts (Liberty High School), 850 Second St., Brentwood. Please email kevinandmarisa@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in joining us. The show plays July 19 through Aug. 4 so there are many opportunities. This is just the group outing with a possible group rate. You can order your own tickets at TheBrentwoodTheater.org

In The Community

Sunday, July 21: Utilizing the Jewish Community Library as a Genealogical Resource San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Topic: Utilizing the Jewish Community Library as a Genealogical Resource

Speaker: Judith Baston

Sunday, July 21, Rhoda Goldman Plaza, 2180 Post Street, San Francisco 94115
Doors open 1:00 p.m., program begins 1:30 p.m.

Judy Baston, volunteer staff at the Jewish Community Library (JCL) for the past 20 years, will discuss the many ways in which the JCL's 30,000+ volume collection can aid in Jewish genealogical research. Parking information is available at <http://www.sfbajgs.org/>.

From the Contemporary Jewish Museum: "We hope you will Visit this CJM this summer."

Bring a group for a tour, plan a meet up with friends, attend a public program, take a "stay-cation" at the museum!

Exhibitions *Beyond Belief: 100 Years of the Spiritual in Modern Art, Highlights from SFMOMA's collection & Beat Memories: The Photographs of Allen Ginsberg*

Outstanding Programs

- The Allen Ginsberg Festival**, Thursday, Jul 11–Sunday, Jul, 14 (ginsbergfestival.com)
- Wonder Tours**, lead by a spiritual thought leaders
- Beat Generation Instawalk**, Sunday, Aug 4

Booking a private tour is easy. Contact me with your preferred date, time, and approximate number of visitors. Let me help you plan your visit.

I look forward to seeing you at the CJM.

L'shalom,

Elizheva Hurvich, MA, Jewish Community Liaison

Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission Street | San Francisco, CA 94103, t 415.655.7857 f 415.655.7815 ehurvich@thecjm.org, thecjm.org

A's Jewish Heritage Night on 7/30 - Giveaway Item Announced!

The A's 3rd Annual Jewish Heritage Night is quickly approaching on July 30 – we hope to see you here! I am happy to announce this year's giveaway item will be an Oakland A's Yarmulke that features the Athletics spelled out in Hebrew. Pictures of the yarmulke will be available on the A's website soon. In addition to the giveaway, tickets for the event will include a food item served in the Westside Club.

Groups of 25 or more people will qualify for discounted tickets. If you're interested in going, please email Solomon Ireland at (s.kireland@att.net) by July 14. To purchase individual tickets, please visit www.oaklandathletics.com/Jewish.

Anywhere You Look: Secular Jewish Culture
From Hershl Hartman, hershl@earthlink.net

From the L.A. Times, the photo accompanies the story of the conviction (finally!!) of Italy's Silvio Berlusconi for paying for underage sex.

What does that have to with Secular Jewish culture? Check out the handwritten sign at the right.



It carries the chorus lyrics of an internationally famous song, Bella Ciao (Goodbye, Pretty One). There are dozens of renditions on YouTube, ranging from the Red Army chorus to demonstrators in Turkey two weeks ago. It was the anthem of the anti-fascist partisans in Italy during WW II.

So what? The melody was derived from...(wait for it...drum roll)...a Yiddish folktune, adapted into klezmer!!!

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bella_ciao

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews
1817 Sinclair Drive
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