

# 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 December 2013

**Wednesday December 4, 7:00 pm: TVCJ Planning Meeting.** 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

**Sunday, December 15, 10:30-12:30: Jewish Culture School,** at the Ireland's, Castro Valley.

**Sunday, December 15, 10:45-12:15: Philosphers' Café/Culture Chat** 10:45 AM - 12:15 pm, Cafe Rumi, 4799 Heyer Ave., Castro Valley. This month's topic: "What is the morality of putting your belief system onto your children?"

### Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, January 5, 10:30-12:30: Jewish Culture School

Sunday, January 5, 10:45-12:15: Philosphers' Café/Culture Chat

Saturday January 11, Family Havdalah and Movie Night

Sunday January 19, Tu B'Shevat event – more info coming soon!

## We Need Your Input

### Did you read this newsletter? Did you read past newsletters?

If you find receiving the newsletter valuable, please email us at [CulturalJews@aol.com](mailto:CulturalJews@aol.com) and put YES in the subject line. Or put NO if you feel it is not useful and it's better to just receive the evites as events arise. Feel free to expand.

If people find the newsletter helpful, then we will continue. But if it seems that evites or forwarding emails from JCC, KlezCalifornia, the Contemporary Jewish Museum etc. would work just as well, then we'll discontinue.

If we don't hear from anyone, then we'll assume that no one actually read this and we'll have our answer. So thank you for taking a minute to email.

## Message from The President

We have entered “The Christmas Season.” That time of year when we are supposed to be more charitable and when we are bombarded by capitalism at its most extreme. Some people love this time of year, others, not so much.

It starts with Thanksgiving, a holiday I loved when I was growing up. Getting together with family was the best part, but I also liked that it was an American holiday, not a religious holiday. I felt like it was a holiday for everyone.

It’s not the same now. Travelling for Thanksgiving is often more trouble than it’s worth and my family doesn’t get together the way we used to, so we have to develop our own traditions.

This year was the third year in a row that we volunteered at the Brentwood Street Feast. We got to be a part of a community effort to provide food and used clothes to needy families. The whole family enjoyed it and it was a great positive experience. This will be our tradition for years to come.

I don’t know if I’m being too picky here, but the only downside to the street feast was the prayer when it began and the guitarist singing religious songs. I realize that there was a church that was one of the sponsors, but why can’t I be charitable without having religion thrown at me? It’s not going to stop me from doing it again, but it just takes away a bit of my enjoyment.

## Who We Are

President	Kevin Coren 925-240-5612
Board Members	Judith Seid 925-485-1049 Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404 Ya’el Seid-Green
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

## Mishpokha (Family) Birthdays

Happy December birthday to Ella King

## Yortseits

In December we remember...

Alice Calder, mother of Jacky Poulsen

Sue Greenblum, aunt of Phyllis Looney

Yossel Seid, grandfather of Judith Seid

Irving Shapiro, uncle of Phyllis Looney

Sam Zuckerman, grandfather of Judith Seid

## TV CJ Chanukah Party

Our Chanukah party this year was cozy but fun; many of our usual attendees were off enjoying the long Thanksgiving weekend, or recovering from their long travels. Thanks to Solomon, Kevin and Noah for making delicious potato latkes. The kids of JCS put on a hilarious play and sang songs in Judeo-Spanish (Ladino) from their studies of the Sephardic Jews in Spain. Adults and kids competed in making menorahs out of recycled materials; the kids won hands down. We tried something new this time and had a gift exchange. And most importantly, we brought gift cards to go to the family we are sponsoring through the Jewish Children’s and Family Services.



## A Note from KlezCalifornia

Please consider making a gift to KlezCalifornia this month. We add enjoyment to **YOUR** life with Yiddish-inspired culture, including wonderful klezmer music, which makes you feel so happy and energized!

When you've come to our events or read our newsletter, you've experienced a friendly, *heymish* community enjoying Yiddish-inspired culture. **With your help, we can do even more.** We have read that people interested in Yiddish culture - even KlezCalifornia members like you -- are more likely to donate to a hospital, school or synagogue, so we want to get you in the mood:

**Support a hospital?** KlezCalifornia revives your soul with music, dance, language and literature, with learning and inter-generational experiences. The best health care!

**Support a college?** KlezCalifornia presents and publicizes programs with great teachers who help you explore East European Jewish culture. We have "departments" of language, history, literature, music, dance, and ethnomusicology! Four hundred people enjoyed our "college" classes at the 2013 KlezCalifornia Berkeley Festival on October 26-27!

**Support youth education?** We have launched a new program, "*Tam: Tastes of Yiddish Culture for Kids*", to enrich Jewish education with Yiddish culture. We will create 40-minute activities for each grade K-12, present each three times in religious and Jewish day schools, then offer the program to all Jewish youth programs. We will bring Yiddish culture to where young Jews are, rather than continuing to hope that large numbers will find their way to us.

**Support a *shul*?** At our singing events, you can learn traditional religious songs in Yiddish or secular ones. Either way, you'll feel closer to Jewish tradition. Because of KlezCalifornia's work the past decade, we now all enjoy a visible, thriving Yiddish-inspired community in the Bay Area, and beyond. KlezCalifornia's work has changed the old paradigms (Such as: We are "obligated" to keep Yiddish alive. Yiddish "takes away" from Jewish commitment to Israel and to Hebrew. Except for *Hasidim*, only secular Jews are interested in Yiddish.) into a new paradigm: Yiddish-inspired culture enhances Jewish life and brings people together for multi-generational fun.

**YOU**, together with other Contributing Members, are essential to KlezCalifornia's support! KlezCalifornia relies on those with a fondness for klezmer music and Yiddish culture to sustain everything we do. May we count on you for a (tax-deductible) gift right now to keep our community thriving and growing with Yiddish inspiration?

You can donate with a credit card or mail a check to KlezCalifornia, 1728 Allston Way, Berkeley 94703. The more you give, the more we can do together.

Check out the website to see the benefits for donors (parties, Honor Wall, Yiddish theater video, "The Oy Way" exercise book, beautiful note cards) .

If you like, think of a donation as *Hanukkah/Khanikeh/Chanukah gelt* for KlezCalifornia! We look forward to hearing from you.

*Mit varemeh grusn* (with warm greetings),

Judy Kunofsky, Executive Director, and Gerry Tenney, President

[klezcalifornia.org](http://klezcalifornia.org)    [info\[at\]klezcalifornia.org](mailto:info[at]klezcalifornia.org)    415.789.7679

## Events with KlezCalifornia

Hungry for Yiddish, Thursday, December 12

**Thursday, December 12, 8:00pm, Hungry for Yiddish: A Mitzvah Project.** Proceeds will be donated to the Berkeley Food Pantry, which provides hunger relief in Berkeley and Albany.

8:00pm: Yiddish song with **Heather Klein's Inextinguishable Trio.**

9:00pm on: Klezmer dance party, with music by **Saul Goodman's Klezmer Band** featuring Mike Perlmutter, Dmitri Gaskin, Ilana Sherer, Jack Hanley, and friends. **Bruce Bierman** will lead dancing.

At Subterranean Arthouse, Berkeley. Co-presented by KlezCalifornia. Tickets: \$10-\$20 sliding scale donation, no one turned away for lack of funds. More info: [subterraneanarthouse.org](http://subterraneanarthouse.org), [heatherklein.net](http://heatherklein.net).

Hardly Strictly Klezmer, Tuesday, December 17

**Tuesday, December 17, 8:00pm, Hardly Strictly Klezmer, with Red Hot Chachkas, Glenn Hartman & The Klezmer Playboys** (Sheldon Brown, Stu Brotman, Aaron Kierbal), **Rob Reich & Ben Goldberg Duo.**

At Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, Berkeley. Co-sponsored by KlezCalifornia. Tickets: \$20.50 advance/\$22.50 at door. More info: [thefreight.org/hardly-strictly-klezmer-1](http://thefreight.org/hardly-strictly-klezmer-1)

Community Events - December

Put these exciting events on your calendar now. You can always check out KlezCalifornia's long-term calendar at [klezcalifornia.org/events](http://klezcalifornia.org/events).

**Mondays, 6:00-8:00pm, Klezmer Mondays at Saul's.** At Saul's Restaurant & Delicatessen, Berkeley. Entertainment free with minimum \$10 purchase. More info: 510.848.3354, [Facebook.com/SaulsDeli/events](https://www.facebook.com/SaulsDeli/events).

Dec 02 - **Adama Chanukah party**

Dec 09 - **Yiddish Modern: Jeanette Lewicki, Richard Saunders**

Dec 16 - **Saul Goodman's Klezmer Band:** Mike Perlmutter, Dmitri Gaskin, Jack Hanley

Dec 23 - **Ellis Island Old World Folk Band**

Dec 30 - **Nine Nine Nine**

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