

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 September and October 2014

Sept. 9, 7:45 pm: TVCJ Planning Meeting. 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

Sunday Sept. 14, 10:30-12:30: Rosh Hashana event and Jewish Culture School. Please respond to the evite regarding this event, we must pre order supplies.

Saturday, Sept. 20, 4:00 -8:00 pm: General Havdalah and Movie Night, everyone welcome, at the King's home, 5210 Diane Lane, Livermore. A little ceremony, pizza, and a movie. Havdalah is \$7.00 for adults. The movie will be The Jazz Singer. A separate movie will play for the kids. Please respond to the evite or call 510-888-1404. An additional \$5 donation is requested from non-member adults. Bring a friend!

Wednesday Sept, 24, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm: Rosh Hashana at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore. Please respond to the evite or call 510-888-1404. Bring a friend! We will be collecting for the food bank.

Sunday, Sept. 28, 10:30 am-12:30 pm: Jewish Culture School, at the Ireland's, Castro Valley.

Sunday, Sept. 28, 10:45 am-12:15 pm: Philosphers' Café/Culture Chat 10:45 AM - 12:15 pm, Cafe Rumi, 4799 Heyer Ave., Castro Valley. This month's topic: "What's your favorite inspirational story?"

Sunday, October 12, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm: Sukkah raising party for adults and children at the home of Debby Seid and Tom Green, 795 Meadowlark in Livermore. Brunch potluck. We will be collecting food for food bank. Bring a friend. Please respond to the evite or call 510-888-1404.

October 14, 7:45 pm: TVCJ Planning Meeting. 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton. All members welcome.

Saturday Oct. 4, 2:00 – 5:00 pm: Yom Kippur, Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St, Livermore. Special guest speaker Amer Araim who teaches about the Middle East at DVC will discuss how the history of the Middle East created the current situations there. His book will also be available to purchase. At YK, we collect not only food for the food bank, but also donations for various charities, international, national and local. It is a Jewish tradition to empty your pockets into the various collection containers as you come in to the observance. In other times, collections were taken for the mitzvah fund for people who couldn't afford it, dowries for orphans, etc. This year we will be collecting for organizations that our members suggest.

Sunday, Oct. 26, 10:30 am-12:30 pm: Jewish Culture School, at the Ireland's, Castro Valley.

Sunday, Oct. 26, 10:45 am-12:15 pm: Philosphers' Café/Culture Chat, Cafe Rumi, 4799 Heyer Ave., Castro Valley. This month's topic: "What was one of your most life changing experiences?"

Message from the President

Why do people believe in god?

Do they want to avoid responsibility for their actions? Are they seeking an authority figure to give them guidance? Do they want the comfort of knowing that they will go somewhere when they die?

Many of the people I performed with in The Music Man over the summer come from local church choirs and are fairly religious. I had some very interesting conversations with one woman who was taken aback when she found out I did not believe in "the lord our savior." I found myself defending my position. "You don't believe that Moses led the Jews out of Egypt?" "No. I don't think there even was a Moses, he was just part of good story."

Ultimately we had some pretty good conversations. She wasn't trying to convert me. I think she was just trying to understand a foreign concept.

I would have been perfectly happy with our exchanges except for her parting thoughts on the subject, which was to say that even if I didn't believe, god still loves me. Although I know she meant every good intention by it, she will never realize how insulting a statement that was.

Should I have told her? Would it have made a difference? I don't even know if I could have come up with the words to convey my thoughts at the time. Maybe I should think about it more so I am better prepared the next time.

Who We Are

President	Kevin Coren 925-240-5612
Board Members	Judith Seid 925-485-1049 Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404 Noah King Amy Greenberg
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

Jewish Culture School

Jewish Culture School will kick off this year with a treat as we take a trip to Aran's Art Studio for an intro to Rosh Hashanah and painting of apple and honey dishes. From there we will be studying the history, geography and cultures of Israel. We like to teach fun phrases they can use in Hebrew, so if you have a favorite, let us and know and we can make it a "word of the week." As always we will be cooking each session. We will sing, dance, learn basic Hebrew and learn about the history, culture, geography and people of Israel. Please see the evite for the Rosh Hashanah painting. We know some new families are not able to attend the Rosh Hashana event and we look forward to seeing you at other events in the future! Thank you for letting us know!

Mishpokha (Family)

Happy September Birthdays to: Sophia Ireland, Ed Looney, Anne Lubran, Ilan Seid-Green and in October to Larry Lubran

Yortseits: In September and October we remember: Seymour Seid, father of Judith Seid and Adina Senensieb, cousin of Judith Seid.

We remember Al Coren, father of Kevin Coren, father-in-law of Marisa Castaldini and grandfather of Levi and Michelle Coren, who passed away unexpectedly this summer at the age of 72. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Member news: Jamie Ireland went to Detroit to complete one of her courses for the Madrikha training through the International Institute of Secular Humanistic Judaism. This was a course taught by Rabbi Miriam Jerris. The topic was Philosophic Counseling and Guidance. Jamie says, "I found the course to be useful and interesting and through the exercise of having to present for 20 minutes on the emotional and legal ramifications of having children with special needs I rekindled a passion of mine that I may look into pursuing as a next career path in the near future."

KlezCalifornia

Yiddish Cultural Festival, November 1 – 2, at the Oshman Family JCC, PALO ALTO, With special guest artist, Joel Rubin, Clarinet, Featuring Veretski Pass, "Three Yiddish Divas", and much more! Music, song, dance, jams, lectures, master classes! Concert, workshops, and parties! Call 415.789.7679

Mondays, 6:00-8:00pm, Klezmer Mondays at Saul's.

01 September - to be announced

08 September - to be announced

15 September - Glenn Hartmann's Klezmer Playboys

22 September - Saul Goodman's Klezmer Band. At Saul's Restaurant and Deli, Berkeley. Entertainment free with minimum \$10 purchase. More info: 510.848.3354, Facebook.com/SaulsDeli/events

Starting Friday, September 6, 3:00-5:00pm, San Francisco Beginners' Yiddish classes, led by Rochelle Goldman. Two-hour sessions every other week sponsored by Workmen's Circle/*Arbeter Ring* of Northern California and KlezCalifornia. At the Main Public Library, San Francisco. No charge. More info: 650.577.1531, roshnman@yahoo.com.

Sunday, September 7, 5:15pm, Stanford Klezmer Band performs at Russian Fair, 3:00-7:00pm. Dancing will be led by Bruce Bierman. No charge. As Oshman Family JCC, Palo Alto. More info: 650.223.8609

Thursday, September 11, 12:30-1:30pm, The Gonifs: Jeanette Lewicki and Veretski Pass. At Yerba Buena Gardens, San Francisco. No charge.

Sunday, September 14, 10:00-6:00pm, KlezCalifornia booth at Solano Avenue Stroll. Join 250,000 people for this annual event and say "hello" at KlezCalifornia's booth between Ventura and Tulare Avenues. The Stroll is along Solano Avenue in Berkeley and Albany. No charge.

Sunday, September 21, 2:00-4:00pm, KlezCalifornia Flisik Yidish Salon. Bring an item that has a personal meaning for you or your family to show and talk about. Tell a joke, join in on a song. And talk about what you would do with five million dollars! For fluent Yiddish speakers. No charge. At a private home in San Francisco. More info: 415.789.7679, flisik@klezcalifornia.org.

Mondays, September 15 - December 22, 7:15-9:15pm, Reading Yiddish Texts, with Yael Chaver. Requirements: at least a year of college-level Yiddish language or the equivalent. Presented by Lehrhaus Judaica at the JCC East Bay, Berkeley. Registration begins mid-August. Tuition: \$210 / \$195 if registered by September 8. More info: 510.845.6420, lehrhaus.org.

Wednesdays, September 17 - December 17, 7:00-9:00pm, Intermediate Yiddish, with Jon Levitow. Presented by Lehrhaus Judaica at Congregation Kol Emeth, PALO ALTO. Registration begins mid-August. Tuition: \$300 (no-one turned away for lack of funds). More info: jnlvtw@comcast.net, 510.845.6420, lehrhaus.org.

Thursdays, September 18, October 2, October 23 - December 18 (not November 27), 7:00-9:00pm, Intermediate Yiddish, with Jon Levitow. At Congregation Kol Tefillah, SANTA CRUZ. Suggested contribution: \$300 (no-one turned away for lack of funds). More info: jnlvtw@comcast.net.

Mondays, September 29 - December 1, 7:00-9:00pm, Reading Yiddish Literature, with Jon Levitow. Presented by Lehrhaus Judaica and Congregation Etz Chayim, PALO ALTO. Tuition: \$300 (no-one turned away for lack of funds). More info: jnlvtw[at]comcast.net, 510.845.6420, lehrhaus.org.

Wednesdays, October 1 - December 10, 7:00-8:30pm, Intermediate Yiddish, with Danny Luzon. Presented by Lehrhaus Judaica at JCC East Bay, Berkeley. Tuition: \$120 / \$100 if registered by September 18. More info: 510.845.6420, lehrhaus.org.

Currently on view at The Contemporary Jewish Museum:

Project Mah Jongg

Through October 28, 2014

Explore the fascinating history of Mah Jongg and its impact on cultural identity, fashion and style. A cultural hybrid, with roots in China and widely adopted by Jewish women, the exhibition provides insight into the history and imagery of the game, exploring connections between Chinese and Jewish cultures, with beautiful tiles, mythical origins, and communal spirit.

Designing Home: Jews and Midcentury Modernism

Through October 6, 2014

In the aftermath of World War II, as the hub of world Jewry shifted from Europe to America, many Jewish émigré architects and designers were welcomed and embraced into the creative communities that sprang up around the US. The story told in *Designing Home* provides insight into Jewish assimilation into American society, exploring some of the physical Jewish contributions to the history of a distinctly modern American domestic landscape, as well as examining broader cultural and social themes.

PUBLIC PROGRAM for Mah Jongg lovers:

Secrets of the Set

Sunday, September 14, 1:30–4:30

Free with Museum admission; limited time and space available, advance registration required, first come first serve.

Bring your mahj set and hear the tales your tiles might tell while spinning some of your own! In this “Antiques Roadshow” style event, American mah jongg scholars and enthusiasts Toby Alice Salk and Annelise Heinz historically analyze your mahj sets and encourage you to share your stories. Participants will be video recorded for a short film.

Jews for Dim Sum: Build Tiles, Eat Snacks

Thursdays Aug 21 & Sept 18, 6-7pm

Free with Museum admission

Project Mah Jongg artist Imin Yeh, and artist /pastry chef Leah Rosenberg share stories as they roll out limited edition screen printed mah jongg snack boxes. The noshes inside are inspired by retro 1950s snacks that American women nibbled while playing mah jongg. Surprises like coins, temporary tattoos, and more also included. Limited edition boxes with an original treat for purchase at the event.

For more details, go to thecjm.org or info@thecjm.org or 415.655.7881 during Museum hours.

Contact: Elizheva Hurvich, Jewish Community Liaison, ehurvich@thecjm.org, 415-655-7857

San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Topic: Discovering My German-Jewish Heritage, Speaker: Diane Ober, Sunday, September 14, 2014

Rhoda Goldman Plaza, 2180 Post Street, San Francisco

parking information on Web site

Doors open 1:00 p.m.; program begins 1:30 p.m.

From detailed records kept by the Nazis, Gestapo, and German State, Diane was able to discover how her family fared under Nazi rule, from deportation to escape to the Shanghai ghetto and to life in America.

There will be time before and after the talk to brainstorm with others about your genealogy questions.

Coffee and tea will be served. Meetings are free and everyone interested is welcome to attend. For more information visit <http://www.sfbajgs.org/>.

Book review (sort of):

Mixed-Up Love: Relationships, Family and Religious Identity in the 21st Century
by Jon M. Sweeney and Michal Woll.

People, I tried. I really tried. I wanted to be interested in Michal Woll, whom my friends in Ann Arbor think highly of, and her self-described bad-Catholic husband. I wanted to do my clerical duty by reading all the books about intermarriage. But I just couldn't do it. I could find no sympathy for the characters at all. It's not because I can't feel for people unlike me - I read science fiction after all, and usually cheer for the most alien characters - but I truly could find no sense in which I would have anything at all to say to these people. It was too boring and I have other things to do - mow the lawn, cut my fingernails, sleep - any of which would be more scintillating. I made it halfway through out of duty, but I guess I'm just not that dutiful.

Negative two stars - don't bother.

~Judy Seid

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