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Events and Updates

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Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

TriValleyCulturalJews.org

info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org

(925) 485-1049

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."



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July 2016

TVCJ Community Event Dates

Planning meeting: July 12th at 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the Seid-Gates home, 1817 Sinclair Drive, in Pleasanton. All members are welcome.

Havdalah: July 16th, from 5:00p.m. to 6:30p.m. at the Coren House, 720 Willow Creek Terrace, Brentwood, CA 94513. If anyone wishes to go and see Kevin and Levi in **Oliver** after the Havdalah they may

purchase tickets at thebrentwoodtheater.org and go to the play which starts at 7:00p.m. The play should be over by 9:00p.m. It is basically a family show, although there are some dark characters and some intense scenes.

Join Us on a Hike!

Sunday, July 24th @ 10 a.m.

Las Trampas Regional Wilderness

Ringtail Cat Trail Hike, 4.2 miles, Altitude Gain of 600', Mostly shaded, with views of Mount Diablo

Dogs are allowed.

Directions:

Go north on HWY 680. Exit at El Cerro. Cross under freeway. Turn right onto Danville Blvd. Then turn left onto Hemme Ave. Continue to the end. Park on the right, in the Ringtail Cat Staging Area. We'll meet right by the parking area.

Sunday, August 7 th @ 10 a.m.

Las Trampas Regional Wilderness

Del Amigo Trail Hike, 3.4 miles, Altitude Gain of 950', Mostly shaded, historic buildings (we can meander through the pastures and homestead of the late Eugene O'neill)

Dogs are allowed.

Directions:

Go north on HWY 680. Exit El Cerro. Cross under freeway. Turn right onto Danville Blvd. Take the 1st left on Del Amigo Road. Take the 4th right, where Del Amigo Road continues. Take the 1st left (still Del Amigo Road). It bears left, then bears right onto Starview Drive. Park on the right. We'll meet right by the chain link fence on the right side of the road where Starview Drive becomes Starmont Court.

Camping:

Our 2nd Annual camping trip is scheduled! **This event is for members only**, save the date - A group campsite was reserved August 12th through August 14th - Del Valle in Livermore. Families that participate will split the fee (\$300).

From the Regional Park website: The centerpiece of the park is a lake five miles long with a variety of water-oriented recreation, from swimming to windsurfing and boating, surrounded by 4,395 acres of beautiful land for hiking, horseback riding, and nature study. Del Valle also is the eastern

gateway to the Ohlone Wilderness Trail, 28 miles of scenic backcountry trail.

Castro Valley Pride Day:

July 9th 11:00a.m. to 5:00p.m., Santa Maria Avenue, Castro Valley

FREE Event Come Stop by Our Booth



Baseball:

Oakland A's Jewish Heritage Night is in August. It's too late to purchase tickets for this year's game.

Tickets need to be purchase far in advance. If you are interested in attending next year or want more information contact Solomon Ireland at

s.kireland@att.net



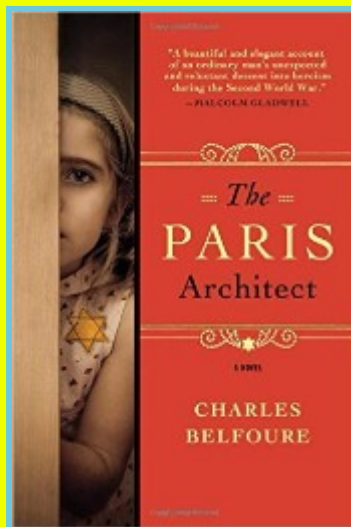
[Jewish Culture School](#)

Sundays 10:30a.m.- 12:30p.m., 1817 Sinclair Drive, Pleasanton

At JCS last time we had a fun "Jew"pardy review of Yiddish and wrapped up our year studying Jews in science. We also learned about shavuuous and made our own version of the 10 Commandments - since this is the holiday that traditionally commemorates the receiving of the commandments.

Next session starts September 11th.

Book Review



[The Paris Architect](#)

By
Charles Belfoure

This is a historical thriller that takes place in Paris during the German

occupation of World War II. The main character is a French architect who is offered a great deal of money to design a hiding place for the Jewish friend of a wealthy German industrialist. After first refusing, the architect is then offered a contract to design a large factory, which would be used to build armaments for the German war effort. After he finally accepts, he is offered more projects and gets more and more involved with collaborative efforts.

What we learn about are both the capitulation of the French under the Vichy government, and the extreme courage and emotional involvement of French citizens who literally risk their lives to hide Jews from the Nazis. This book is a total page-turner, and I would highly recommend it.

Jerry Zwick

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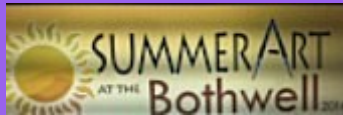


[TVCJ Third Annual Book Review](#)

Summertime and the living can be a little boring if you don't have a good book... Peruse our recommendations and find something to read in the shade. You'll find a book for just about every reading "taste" out there.

You can click on any title to be taken to an Amazon page to order that book.

Amy read, or rather listened to, *[Unfaithful Music and Disappearing Ink](#)* by Elvis Costello. It was great to hear about how he crafted his art, worked with other legendary musicians, and even convinced Paul McCartney to dust off an old guitar. Amy loved hearing Elvis tell his own story on the audio version. [Click here to see more book recommendations.](#)



Bothwell Arts Center - Summer Art:

2466 8th Street Livermore, CA, 94550

SUMMER ART at the Bothwell is sure to be your child's summer highlight! These crazy creative art lessons are taught by professional artists at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. Summer Art at the Bothwell has two age groups: 7-10 year olds and 11-18 year olds.

Each week has a different theme, and many different media will be used: watercolor, acrylic, collage, mixed media, clay, chalk, pencil—oils and spray paints for the older group, some craft projects included for the younger group. Multiple fun projects will be created: canvas, paper, sculptures, fabrics, murals, and more.

An artists' reception will take place at the end of the week where family and friends are invited to see the works on display, and the artists get gallery experience. Perfect for the budding artist wanna-bes and the serious art

In July we remember:

Bunny Simmel, Allen Lee Coren

Happy July birthdays to:

Rick Randel, Solomon Ireland, Noah King, and Issac Passovoy

Who We Are

President: Kevin Coren 925-240-5612

Board Members:

Judith Seid 925-485-1049

Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404

Noah King 925-371-8585

Joy Randel 925-362-3245

Amy Greenberg

Karen Furst

Newsletter: Joy Randel 925-362-3245

Webmaster: Noah King 925-371-8585

JCS Teachers: Judith Seid, Jamie Ireland

Family Shabbat/Havdalah

Coordinator: Amy Greenberg

Movie Coordinator: Wendy

Berenson 925-829-0554

Adult Programming: Karen Furst

students looking to stretch their depth of knowledge, techniques and portfolio pieces. Fun themes; serious art! The day runs 10 am - 4 pm.

June 27 - July 1 *Pirates and Mermaids*: Including exploring the world of the ocean, undersea and coastal themes

July 18 - July 22 *Dragons and Legends*: Classic and imaginary themes that span the centuries.

July 25-July 29 *Superheroes and Villains*: Figure drawing and painting with a flair for fun.*

Older students will have the freedom to explore and experiment based on their individual interests.

Registration is \$300 up to May 15; \$350 after May 16. \$50 sibling discount! [Register Here](#)

Message From the President

The one thing constant is life is change right? People change, circumstances change, technology changes, and the President of TVCJ is changing. For several years now I have been the President of TVCJ. This really didn't mean a whole lot, as the board generally does things by consensus, but technically we needed a president and I ended up with the job.

Mostly, my responsibilities were to write the agenda and run the meetings. That was probably the easiest part of my job. The hard work at the meetings are the notes taken by the secretary, at least that's the way I look at it.

Still this job did have some other parts to it. There is always a gift to give to the bar or bat mitzvahs and the president usually presents that. I enjoyed doing this because I got to be a part of those wonderful ceremonies. I remember at my own bar mitzvah, being given a gift from

the temple association by somebody I had met that morning. Our group tends to have much more meaning to it, so I was glad that, when giving that gift, I wasn't a stranger to our new adult member and I could say something personal about them.

At some of our events, I would welcome the group at the beginning of an event. Also, I would occasionally be needed to make a "final" decision about something. Probably the most difficult part of my job was writing this message. I am not a writer. When talking, I tend to yammer on too long about things, but that's different from writing. When writing this column, I would often stare at a blank screen for a long time with no idea of what to write about. Other times, I would type a bunch of stuff and then erase it all and start fresh.

The most difficult thing about this was the lack of feedback. I guess nobody complained, so that is a good thing, but I very rarely heard anything about it all. It left me wondering if anyone had even read it. That's not a bad thing, because often I wasn't sure why anyone would even care about what I had written.

Maybe I am a writer. These sound like things I would expect writers to go through. In any case, this will be my last President's message. I'm not sure who will take on the President's Message. It might turn into "Message from the Board." I am pretty sure that submissions will be accepted from any TVCJ member who would like to contribute. Our organization is better when more people participate, so if you have something to contribute, please do. Also, let people know that you read what they wrote.

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