

News & Fun Activities

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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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September 26th, 2017

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TVCJ Community Events and Dates

Yom Kippur

Please join us for a program of readings in English and music.

Kol Nidre: Friday, September 29th, 2017
7:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

Regular Service: Saturday, September 30th
2:00p.m. to 5:00pm.

Place for Kol Nidre & Regular

Service: Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St, Livermore, CA 94550

Cost: FREE for Members, Kol Nidre Non-Members \$10.00, Yom Kippur Non-Member \$20.00



During our Yom Kippur Celebration, we will have breakout learning/study sessions on working in local interfaith organizations, confronting our privilege, the Enlightenment-historical and personal, and storytelling. We will also be collecting donations for hurricane relief. Afterwards those who are interested will go to dinner together at 5:30 pm at El Charro in Livermore (186 Maple St, Livermore, CA 94550).

Sukkot

Please join us for our annual Sukkot celebration. We will build a sukkah and enjoy a potluck brunch to celebrate our harvest holiday.

Date: Sunday October 8th, 2017

Time: 10:30a.m. to 12:30p.m.

Place: Ireland Home - 19663 Fremery Ct. Castro Valley 94546

Cost: Free for Members, Non-Members \$10.00

Please bring:

- a dish to share (we have members with allergies, so please label ingredients)
- a branch for the roof of the sukkah
- a piece of fruit or gourd to hang

If you have one, also bring your hammer and/or power drill so you can pitch in and help build our sukkah!

Board meeting/TVCJ Planning

Date: Tuesday, October 10th, 2017

Time: 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

Place: Seid-Gates home, 1817 Sinclair Drive, in Pleasanton.

All members are welcome

Havdalah & Movie Night **Billy Crystal's HBO special – "700 Sundays"**

Date: October 14th, 2017

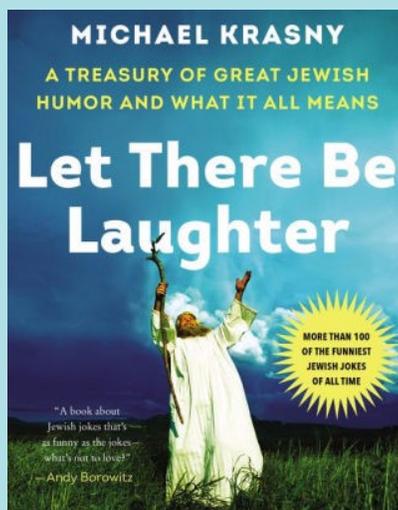
Time: 4:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

Place: Berenson-Garcia Home, 49 Nead Place, San Ramon

Bring: Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Cost: \$2.00 for members 13 and over, and \$4.00 for non-members.

BOOK REVIEW



***LET THERE BE LAUGHTER A
TREASURY OF GREAT JEWISH HUMOR
AND WHAT IT ALL MEANS***
BY MICHAEL KRASNY

Two of my favorite activities are laughing and learning. This book allows me to do both. It is a collection of Jewish jokes and humorous stories, as well as an explanation of what each of them means in terms of the Jewish experience and culture. The jokes are hilarious and the explanations are extremely insightful. I found myself laughing all the way through

the book—even though I've heard some of the jokes previously. My biggest challenge was trying to remember my favorites in order to share them. The author is the host of the "Forum with Michael Krasny". It is broadcasted on KQED, an NPR station in the Bay Area.



Jewish Coalition for Literacy

It only takes a little to open up a child's world. Children who struggle to read by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school before high school graduation. Limited literacy means limited opportunity for too many California students. But this is an issue we can tackle. The Jewish Coalition for Literacy offers a practical and meaningful solution and we need your help to reach more kids and improve their futures. Please consider becoming a volunteer tutor and help us make a difference. [Click Here to go to the JCL website](#) for information about the upcoming volunteer training sessions.

Jewish Cultural School

We had a great time at Jewish Culture School on September, 24th. Our new aide this year is Adam King, who is great help with our diverse-age group. We made apples latkes, which were delicious. We welcomed two new students David and Leo. Thanks to Jonathan Maltz (Leo and Davids father) for frying them for us. The older class read six Jewish quotes about social justice and discussed what they meant and how they could carry out social justice in their daily lives. The students debated whether it was better or more practical to help the oppressed or stop the oppressor. The class will be studying Jewish participation in American social justice movements. We will talk about immigrant rights, gay rights, women's rights, the anti-war movement, economic justice, the labor movement, women's suffrage and abolition. We also practiced some songs for the Yom Kippur observance.

The younger group started the year off by singing our traditional greeting song, Shalom Aleichem, they also made apple latkes and they learned how to say members of our family in Yiddish and made New Year cards for our family members.

Rosh Hashanah



The TVCJ Rosh Hashanah event was an enjoyable and meaningful experience for all who attended. We celebrated the New Year together with music, readings, and the sounding of the shofar. To put us in the right mindset for improving ourselves and the world around us, we discussed what true friendship meant and wrote resolutions on how we can be both better friends and better Americans. The evening ended with a reception featuring apples, honey, and a variety of delicious cakes.

Scott Pepper

Thanks to:

- Karen Furst for organizing.
- David Gates, Scott Pepper and Evangeline Pepper for setting up.
- Karen Furst, Leah Morrison and Judith Seid for baking.
- Derek Greenberg for leading "Lean on Me"
- Everyone for helping to clean up afterwards.

Our September Hike



On Sunday, Sept 17th, a group of us went on a hike in Dublin (Martin Canyon Creek Trail). We were treated to an expansive view of the Tri Valley. Leah offered great information along the way. Let us know some of your favorite Tri Valley hiking locations. Stay tuned for our next hike in October!

Death Over Dinner #2

A group of ten of us met at Mary Frances and Jeffrey Colvin's home to do as the title of this event and article suggests- discuss death while enjoying an excellent potluck dinner. Our Jewish community encompasses people of diverse backgrounds and experiences. We were able to examine not only the diversity of Jewish belief regarding death (and the implications for life), but the diversity of Catholic and Buddhist belief as well. This was the second time we have met as a group, and have thoroughly enjoyed the company and conversation. We have enjoyed it so much that it has become a regular dinner group, our third meeting already having been scheduled.

Although our little group can't accommodate any additional participants (such a group really does need to be limited to 8-10 people to allow for intimate conversation), any of us are happy to consult and/or provide the resources that we have used to set up a new Death Over Dinner group. If you are interested in exploring what may initially seem to be a "grisly or morbid" (to use my mother in law's words) topic, but really isn't, feel free to reach out to us through the Tri Valley Cultural Jews board. You could also check out the website resource that we used to start this process, deathoverdinner-jewishedition.org. Creating an opportunity to examine the philosophical and practical connections between life and death, not to mention creating an amiable and engaging dinner community, has proven to be a very enjoyable experience!

Tom Green



Happy September Birthdays to:

Wendy Berenson Garcia
Ilan Seid-Green
Sophia Ireland
Anne Lubran
Ed Looney
Jane Morrison

Who We Are

Board Members:

Judith Seid 925-485-1049
Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404
Noah King 925-371-8585
Joy Randel 925-362-3245
Amy Greenberg 925-989-9826
Karen Furst 925-784-1775

Newsletter: Joy Randel 925-362-3245

Webmaster: Noah King 925-371-8585

JCS Teachers: Judith Seid,
Jamie Ireland

Family Shabbat/Havdalah

Evangeline Pepper

Coordinator: Kelly Mogilefsky

Movie Coordinator: Wendy
Berenson 925-829-0554

Adult Programming: Karen
Furst



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