

# News & Fun Activities

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## Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

**TriValleyCulturalJews.org**

[info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org](mailto:info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org)

(925) 485-1049

**Affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations**

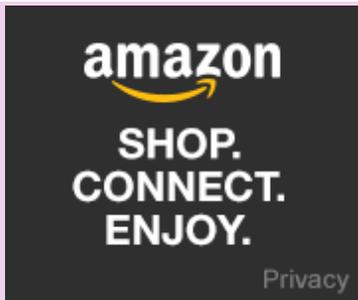
**Our mission statement:** "A Secular Humanistic community serving those who identify with the Jewish People through family, culture and history, rather than through religion."



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## December 2nd, 2017



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## TVCJ Community News and Important Dates

### Congratulations Jamie Ireland

Jamie Ireland graduated from the Leadership Program of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism. Here's what she wrote about her experience:

Have you ever taken courses that you felt were designed for you? Well, I have. Having been a long-time CSJO-er it was nice to be certified as a Madrikha earlier this month in Detroit in a beautiful ceremony at the Birmingham Temple. As my certification suggests, now I may legally perform all of the similar duties as a minister, priest or rabbi- pretty cool! As a Secular Humanist Leader, I can be the legal officiant at weddings, conduct memorials and other ceremonial functions and engage in moral counseling upon request.



During my 5-year leadership program I learned about the history of the Secular movement, the history behind our holiday and life cycle celebrations, as well as educating our youth and managing our organizations. Much of my studies reinforced ideas that I knew but bolstered my knowledge in these areas. But there was new learning as well when I took courses on Sephardic and Israeli Jewry. My favorite, because I knew the least-therefore learned the most- was the course with hands-on practical skill learning of philosophic guidance and counseling.

As a teacher of our Jewish Culture School and serving on the board I have been active in our Tri-Valley Cultural Jews community since its inception 12 years ago. I wanted to have more background knowledge of our movement and as a lifelong-learner, I knew there was always more to learn so I went for it, tackling the feat of this program that I

had heard of as a teen and now I have completed it...it feels so good to accomplish this long-held goal.

## Secular Rabbis and Jewish Leaders Ordained

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Farmington Hills, Michigan, November 10th, 2017

The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ) celebrated the graduation of 3 new Leaders and ordained 2 new rabbis this past Friday at The Birmingham Temple Congregation for Humanistic Judaism. An honorary ordination of a recently deceased Rabbinic student was also observed.

The newest leaders, known as Madrikhim/ot in Hebrew and Vegvayzer in Yiddish, are **Jamie Ireland** (San Francisco Bay Area), Mary Raskin (Portland, OR), and Jeffrey Schensnol (Phoenix, AZ). They joined over 60 other leaders certified since the founding of the IISHJ in 1985. Rabbi Joysa Winter (Philadelphia) and Rabbi Jeremy Kridel (Washington DC) are the newest of the almost 50 Secular Humanistic Jewish Rabbis ordained worldwide to date. These leaders and clergy are tasked with shepherding the movement into the future.

Especially moving was the posthumous ordination of David J. Steiner as honorary rabbi. The certificate was accepted by his son Itamar who shared how much it would have meant to his father. Steiner was a polymath with skills as varied as cow midwifery and documentary filmmaking. The next evening, his award-winning documentary film, "Saving Barbara Sizemore," was screened in tribute.

The ordination ceremony took place the Birmingham Temple, the flagship congregation of the over 50- year-old Secular Humanistic Jewish movement, as well as numerous current leaders of the movement from around the U.S. and the world.

Luminaries in the audience included Rabbi Miriam Jerris, Rabbi of the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ); Richard Logan, President of the SHJ; Paul Golin, Executive Director of the SHJ; Rabbi Adam Chalom, Dean – North America of the IISHJ, Rabbi Sivan Maas, Dean-Israel of Tmura-IISHJ; Jay Cohen, President of the IISHJ; Terry Waslow, Chair, Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations (CSJO), and Rabbi Jeffrey Falick, Rabbi of the Birmingham Temple.

Secular Humanistic Judaism and the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism  
Secular Humanistic Judaism is a cultural Jewish identity lived through a human-focused non-theistic philosophy of life. Secular Humanistic Jews believe that Judaism is the evolving civilization of the Jewish people, created, lived and recreated in response to the needs and beliefs of each generation. In our days, we believe in the power of people to understand their world and to influence it for the better. We celebrate human freedom and responsibility for our choices and actions. And we know that if justice is to exist in our world, we must create it together.

The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism is the intellectual and educational arm of the Secular Humanistic Jewish Movement. The Institute presents and promotes the

philosophy of Secular Humanistic Judaism by exploring Jewish cultural identity through academic inquiry and by training Leaders and Rabbis of the movement in North America and in Israel. Information about the Institute and its programs is available at its website, <http://www.iishj.org>, or by contacting [info@iishj.org](mailto:info@iishj.org) or 847-777- 6907.



(From left to right, Madrikha Mary Raskin, Madrich Jeffrey Schesnol, Rabbi Jeremy Kridel, Rabbi Joysa Winter, Rabbi Adam Chalom, Rabbi Sivan Maas, **Madrikha Jamie Ireland**, Rabbi Miriam Jerris)

For more information, contact, Rabbi Adam Chalom, [achalom@iishj.org](mailto:achalom@iishj.org), 847-602-4500.

## **Come to Our Events**

### **Board meeting/TV CJ Planning**

**Date:** Tuesday, December 12th, 2017

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

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

All members are welcome

## Hanukkah Party!



**Date:** Friday, December 15th, 2017

**Time:** 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

**Place:** The Mogilefsky's Home, 18929 California Street, Castro Valley

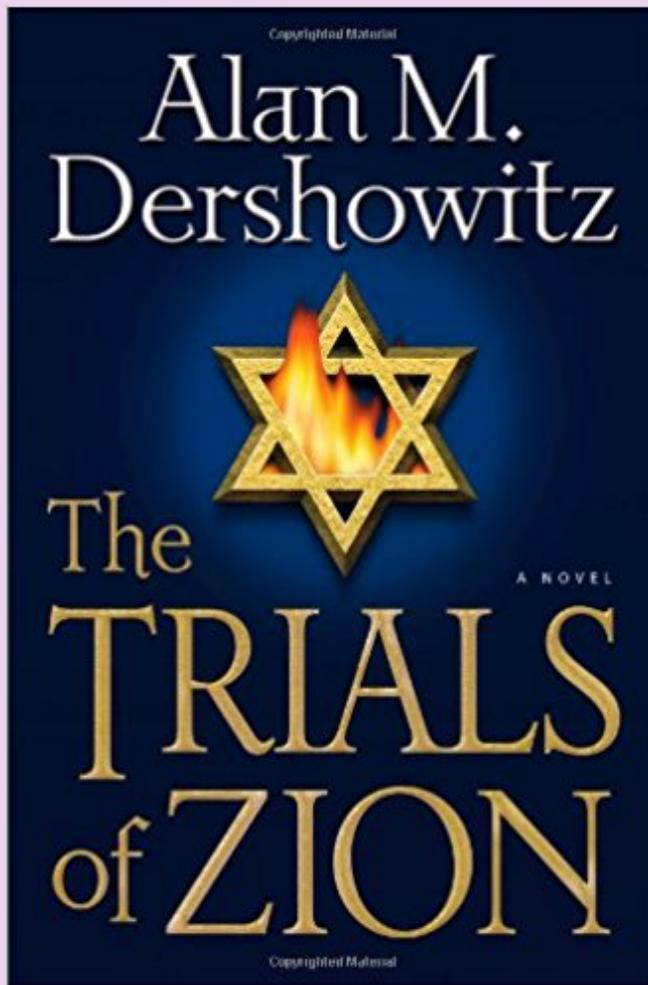
**Cost:** \$5 per adult non-member. members are FREE of charge

**RSVP** to Amy at [catandchickens@gmail.com](mailto:catandchickens@gmail.com).

Join the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for an evening of latkes, light, music and yummy food. Bring your menorah, and gather as we light our candles together, sing traditional holiday songs, and eat the freshly fried latkes pouring from the kitchen. We blend traditional celebrations with new.

## Book Review

TRIALS OF ZION  
By  
Alan M. Dershowitz



This is a suspenseful novel written by the famed attorney who is an expert in Israeli history and politics. It is the story of a Jewish American lawyer who is the daughter of a famed criminal defense attorney. They both come to the defense of a young Palestinian who is accused of a horrendous crime. She and her father go to Israel and become embroiled in political, historical, and legal issues involving major players in the Middle East. The book has elements of intrigue, romance and history. The story was a definite page-turner that I found hard to put down.

**Book Review by Jerry Zwick**

### Jewish Culture School

The older class learned about various times in Jewish history that Jews were refugees, and compared Jewish experiences to those of Rohingya, Syrian, Afghani and Colombian refugees today.

The younger class learned the names of body parts in Yiddish. They can do "Head, shoulders, knees and toes" all in Yiddish! It's fun to know that in Yiddish, toes are called



"finger fun fus," which means "foot fingers."

Jewish Culture School is an engaging hands-on experience for kids ages 5 to 14. We meet two Sundays a month for discussion, cooking, dancing and singing together. Interested, or know someone who might be?

[Check out our website by clicking here.](#)

**Call us** at 925-485-1049 or

**Email:** [jcs@tri-valleyculturaljews.org](mailto:jcs@tri-valleyculturaljews.org)





**Lovin' Harmony Trio in Concert  
Under One Tent: Contra Costa & Tri-Valley's Jewish  
Book & Arts Festival**



**Date:** December 10th, 2017

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** The Reutlinger Community, 4000 Camino Tassajara, Danville, CA 94506

**Cost:** Suggested Donation \$10.00

This San Francisco Bay Area-based musical trio specializes in tight-harmony vocal interpretation of jazz and pop standards from the swing era thru the 1960's. With beloved standards from the Great American Songbook, Broadway show tunes and Hanukkah favorites, this show will be a dynamic mix of trio, duet and solo numbers. Sponsor: The Reutlinger Community.

## **In December We Remember:**

Alice Calder  
Sue Greenblum  
Benjamin Sczuchman  
Enye Seid  
Yossl Seid  
Irving Shapiro  
Stewart Silverman  
Celia Zuckerman  
Charles Zuckerman  
Sam Zuckerman



## **Happy December Birthdays:**

Ella King  
Manda Pepper  
Scott Pepper

## **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**

**Coordinator:** Kelly Mogilefsky

**Movie Coordinator:** Wendy Berenson 925-829-0554

**Adult Programming:** Karen Furst



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