

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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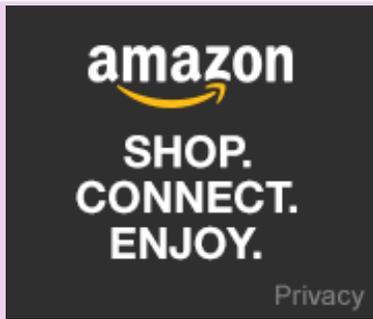
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December 1, 2018



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TVCJ Community News

Come to Our Events

Hanukkah Party!



Date: Saturday, December 8th, 2018

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

Place: A member's house in Castro Valley. To RSVP and get directions call 510-282-4261

Cost: \$10.00 per adult non-member, Members are FREE

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

Our celebration this year will be at a member's house in Castro Valley. To RSVP and get directions call (510) 282-4261 or respond to the Evite.

Board meeting/TVCJ Planning

Date: Tuesday, December 11th, 2018

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

Place: Ireland Home, [19663 Fremery Court, Castro Valley 94546-3540](#)

All members are welcome

Judith Seid: Judaism Unbound - God? Optional



[Judith Seid](#), author of [God-Optional Judaism: Alternatives for Cultural Jews Who](#)

[Love Their History, Heritage, and Community](#), joins co-hosts Dan Libenson and Lex Rofeberg for a conversation about God, from the perspective of Secular Humanistic Judaism.

[Click Here to Listen to Judith Seid talk on Judaism Unbound](#)

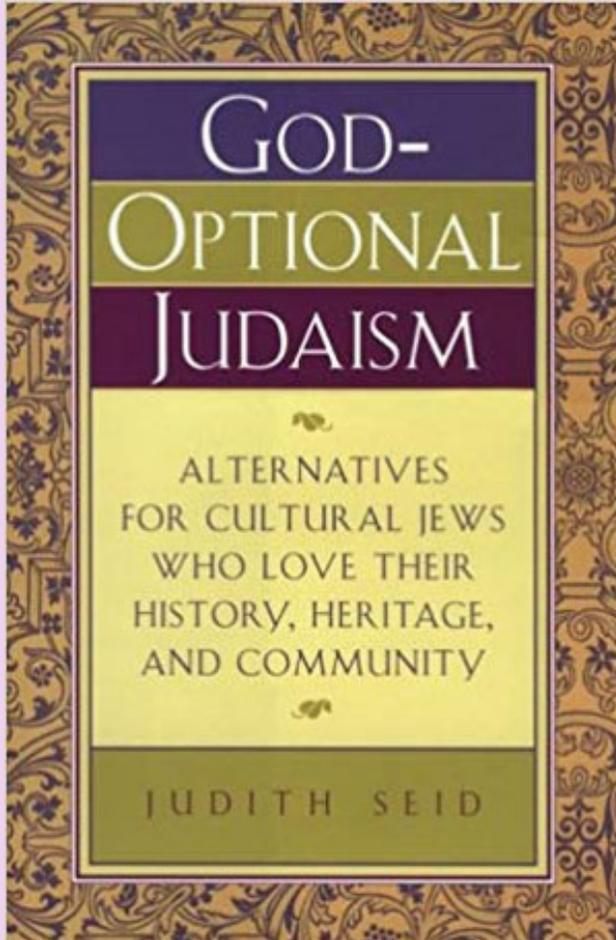
(0:01 - 14:44): To begin the episode, Seid explores the ways in which Secular Humanistic Jews reject ideas of supernatural power. Relatedly, she looks at the evolution, within Secular Humanistic Judaism over time, of the term “spirituality.” She claims that, contrary to the framing of many, it is not necessarily true that God has historically been located at the core of Jewish practice. She talks about the vast diversity (and sheer quantity) of Jewish Secularist groups in the early 20th century, and considers how Secularist and Humanistic Jewish ideologies came together to form Secular Humanistic Judaism.

(14:45 - 30:09): Seid further examines the realms of religion and culture, along with the role that authority plays in distinguishing the two. She argues that relating to Jewish tradition and practice through the lens of “cultural language,” rather than authority, may be an important shift. Seid also discusses how Secular Humanistic Jews re-map the traditional idea of God, and blessing, into different, contemporary forms. She also emphasizes that, in many Secular Humanistic communities, there are people who do believe in God — it’s just that they find something other than theism in these communities that adds to their lives.

(30:10 - 48:18): Shifting gears, Seid explores some of the challenges facing her movement today, along with obstacles to inspired forms of Jewish life in the 21st century more generally. Along with the two co-hosts, she re-visits a frequent Judaism Unbound theme, asking what Judaism’s relationship could be, or should be, to the duality of the individual vs. the community. To close the episode, she calls on Jews of all stripes to customize Judaism in ways that most deeply speak to their passions, such that they can be — completely and unabashedly — their authentic selves. [Click here to purchase her book God-Optional Judaism: Alternatives for Cultural Jews Who Love Their History, Heritage, and Community.](#)

Learn more about Judith Seid by reading her [bio](#), accessible by [clicking here](#). Learn more about the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism by visiting

www.IISHJ.org.



Early Bird Discount Extended to December 15th

J-West

West Coast Conference of
Cultural, Humanistic, and
Secular Jews



A World of Jewish Music

Come learn, enjoy and sing!

January 18-20, 2019

La Quinta Inn, Hayward, California

LEARN about Jewish Musical Theater. Sephardic and Middle Eastern Jewish music, Jewish composers, and much more.

ENJOY a great opportunity to learn about and promote Jewish cultural and history through music that moves and inspires us.

SING the songs that express our Jewish values.

[Tri-Valley Cultural Jews \(TVCJ\)](#) in conjunction with the [International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism \(IISHJ\)](#) is organizing the upcoming J-West conference. J-West is a 2-day gathering of people from the network of Secular Humanistic Jewish organizations on the West Coast of the U.S. and Canada. The theme of the conference is A World of Jewish Music. Come join us and meet other like-minded people from across the West Coast.

Featuring:

[Cantor Jonathan Friedmann, Ph.D.](#) – Professor of Jewish Music History, Academy of Jewish Religion

[Dr. Andrea Fishman](#) – Founder and director of Flor de Kanela Sephardic Music Ensemble

[Dr. Ezra Donner](#) – Composer, conductor, pianist and teacher.

[Cantor Deborah Davis](#) – Lead singer for Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble

Full Weekend Includes: Friday night/Shabbat dinner, 2 days of conference events, lunches, dinners and evening entertainment.

Individual day registration also available.

[Click here for full conference information](#)

[Click here to register online](#)

Hotel Reservation Information: La Quinta Inn

20777 Hesperian Blvd. Hayward, CA

(510) 732-6300

Friday, January 18 – Sunday, January 20

Double room: \$89.00/day plus tax. Breakfast included.

Just tell them "J-West Conference" to get the conference rate.

Questions? Email us at CulturalJews@gmail.com

Reel Talk



East Bay International Jewish Film Festival Tri-Valley Cultural Jews is a co-sponsor

You can see the latest Jewish Films and where you can find them here: <https://www.jewishworldcinema.org/films>

The list of films is continuously updated so bookmark the page or sign up for the Reel Talk newsletter by sending an email to eastbayjewishfilm@hotmail.com.

The Jewish World Cinema is the parent organization of the East Bay International Jewish Film Festival.

Hayward Chamber of Commerce, City of Hayward,
and Eden Area Interfaith Council Present

LIGHT UP THE SEASON

Mark Your Calendar Now! Save the date!
JOIN THE FUN!



Saturday, 1 December
3:30 - 6:30pm
Hayward City Hall Rotunda
and along B Street



BRING YOUR FAMILY AND PROMOTE INTERFAITH SPIRIT!



Our Eden Area Interfaith Council is once again collaborating with the Hayward Chamber of Commerce and City of Hayward staff in creating a family-oriented, inclusive and diverse Light Up the Season event.

Last year we created beautiful banners that brought forward the late fall/winter celebrations of 6 faith traditions that centered on the theme of light.

In our continuing efforts to educate our Eden Area community about our diversity and communality, this year we will provide an art activity for children. Children will have the opportunity to decorate smaller versions of our holiday celebration banners.

We also will have a display of children's books that describe the various winter celebrations/festivals. We will provide a bibliography handout and the books can be purchased at our locally owned book store, Books on B, located on B street in downtown Hayward.

EAIC will be contributing to the music program held in the Hayward Rotunda during the event. Our very own Sikh Punjabi School children's choir will be singing a few songs. So let's make sure they have a large and supportive audience.

Your presence and participation in this event will help to demonstrate that celebratory times of the year need to be inclusive to promoting peace, understanding and harmony.



Eden Area
Interfaith
Council



Everyone Counts!

The 2019 Homeless Count (AKA Point in Time Count or Homeless Census) will be held **Wednesday, January 30, 2019.**

Locally known as EveryOne Counts!, the Point-In-Time Count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness records the number of people staying in shelters and transitional housing on a given night in late January each year and estimates the number of people who are unsheltered (living outdoors) every two years. Conducting this Count is a requirement of receiving federal homeless assistance funds. Most importantly, it gives our community and policy makers useful and critical data for strategic, program, and policy and fiscal planning.

We need 500 volunteers that will work in teams to complete the visual count of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in every city throughout Alameda County. Two to three volunteers will be matched with a Guide (a person with current or recent experience of homelessness) to conduct a visual tally of people who are homeless in a specific geographic area. We are inviting everyone to participate. Government, non-profit and faith-based organizations, businesses, community and advocacy groups, and local residents are all needed to help us in this important task.

For more information and to signup to volunteer:

<http://everyonehome.org/everyone-counts/>



In December We Remember:

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

Who We Are

Board Members:

Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404
Rebecca Ireland 510-888-1404
Joy Randel 925-362-3245
Karen Furst 925-784-1775
Scott Pepper 650-296-6295

Newsletter: Joy Randel 925-362-3245

Webmaster: Noah King 925-371-8585

JCS Teachers: Judith Seid,
Jamie Ireland

Family Shabbat/Havdalah Coordinator: Scott

Pepper 650-296-6295

Movie Coordinator: Wendy

Charles Zuckerman
Sam Zuckerman

Berenson 925-829-0554
Adult Programming: Karen
Furst 925-784-1775



Happy December Birthdays:

Ella King
Scott Pepper
Manda Pepper



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