

# News & Fun Activities

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## Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

[TriValleyCulturalJews.org](http://TriValleyCulturalJews.org)

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(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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***January 12th, 2019***



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## **TVCJ Community News**

**TuB'Shvat  
Family Friendly/Kid-Friendly Event**



LARPD Ranger Amy will lead the group on a hike along the Arroyo del Valle. We will look for the plants and animals that call this area home. We are sure to find lots of cool bugs and other creatures along the way!

We plan to walk rain or shine so please dress appropriately and wear comfortable shoes.

**Please bring a potluck dish to share. We have members that are dairy-free and gluten-free so please indicate on an index card your ingredients.** Potluck at Noon (rain or shine)

**Date:** Sunday, January 27th, 2019

**Time:** 10:30am – 12:30pm

**Place:** Sycamore Grove Park Parking Lot, 1051 Wetmore Rd, Livermore, CA 94550

**Cost:** FREE for members, \$10.00 per non-member adult

If you have any questions please call Joy at 510-898-8789.

**Board meeting/TV CJ Planning**

**Date:** Tuesday, February 12th, 2019

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

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

**All members are welcome**

## Message From the President

I've never been a big fan of resolutions, but as we enter a new calendar year I do believe it can be helpful to set goals for the coming twelve months. I'd like to share with you all some goals that I've been thinking about for 2019, both for the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews community and for myself.

For TVCJ, I'd like to see our membership increase by at least 10%. We currently count 20 households among our members, so this would mean adding only two or more additional families. Our group is very engaged, but we are small; more members would bring both greater diversity and greater resources. I'd encourage all of our current members to consider if any friends or colleagues could be interested in this community and potentially invite them to an upcoming event. The Board of Directors will also continue to discuss ways that we can increase our recruitment efforts.

On a more personal note, I'm trying to spend more time reading. I've unfortunately fallen out of the habit, and am feeling the need to set aside some quality time for it. My goal is to read at least one book a month, ideally starting to make a small dent in the large stack accumulating on my desk.

Whatever goals you may have set for the year, I wish you the best in achieving them!

**Scott Pepper**

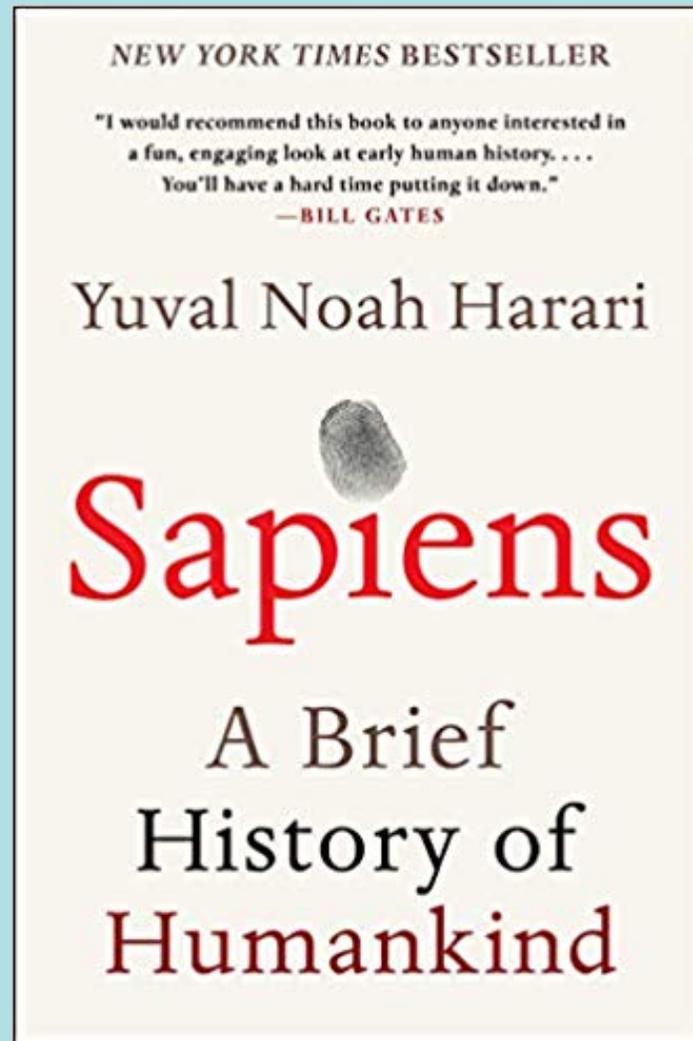


**Derek Greenberg's Band Opens for Sean Lennon**



TVCJ member, Derek Greenberg, had the opportunity to perform at the iconic SF Fillmore for their New Year Eve show. Derek was the leader (vocals and song writing) of an obscure rock band called Beanpole. Back in the 1990's, Derek recorded quirky music with his friends and several members of the band Primus. The leader of Primus, Les Claypool had always wanted to get Beanpole music out into the world. As luck would have it, Les teamed up with Sean Lennon (son of John and Yoko) and played these old recordings to him. Sean instantly loved the feel of Derek's music and he released the Beanpole album on his label in 2018. The Claypool Lennon Delirium headlined the NYE show and asked Beanpole to be the opening act. Derek got the band back together and put on a lively show to the sold-out audience. A highlight for Derek was meeting Yoko Ono after the show. You can find the music on all streaming sites (Spotify or Apple Music) or [click here to purchase at Amazon](#).

**Book Review**  
Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind  
**By**  
**Yuval Noah Harari**



This is an amazing book that tells us the history of Homo sapiens from prehistory to possible future history, exploring our successes and failures.

Harari covers The Cognitive Revolution, The Agricultural Revolution, The Unification of

Humankind and The Scientific Revolution. While the scope of the book is all encompassing, it is very readable and in many instances quite humorous. Furthermore, it is extremely authoritative, as evidenced by a very large section of footnotes.

The author is a secular Israeli Jew who has a PhD in history from the University of Oxford, and he lectures at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who would like a clearer picture of where we came from, how we developed, and what may be in store for the future.

If you would like to purchase the book or look at the reviews [click here](#).

**Book Review by Jerry Zwick**

## **Coat Drive Update**

TVCJ is part of the Eden Area Interfaith Council. TVCJ donated 233 coats/jackets as part of Eden Area Interfaith Council coat drive for unaccompanied immigrant minors. There are more than 450 in the Hayward school district, and the coat drive will benefit unaccompanied kids all over Alameda County. Alameda County has the second highest percentage of unaccompanied immigrant youth in California (after Los Angeles County); and this number continues to rise.



## **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/>



Yahrzeit Memorial

### **In January We Remember:**

Goldie Chavenson



### **Happy January Birthdays:**

Marisa Castaldini  
Mary Frances Colvin  
Kevin Coren  
Levi Coren  
Tom Green  
Colin Mogilefsky  
Mitch Morrison  
Jacky Poulson  
Albert Rothman

## **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  
Berenson 925-829-0554

**Adult Programming:** Karen  
Furst 925-784-1775



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