

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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August 24th, 2019



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TVCJ Community News

Join Our Castro Valley Hike

Date: Saturday, September 14th, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Meet at the Nike Classroom parking lot, 17930 Chabot Road, Castro Valley, CA
Carpooling is encouraged!

Hike details: We'll cover a 3.5-mile loop and a total elevation of close to 500 feet. Starting at the Nike Classroom parking lot, we'll start out along the Ten Hills Trail, then turn left onto the Cameron Loop Trail, and onto the East Shore Trail, which wraps around the lower part of the lake, and then back to the Nike Classroom.

Dogs are allowed off-leash in undeveloped areas and on a leash in developed areas. This Trail is popular for unleashed dogs so if your dog does not do well with other dogs, please keep that in mind. Also, there is deadly blue-green algae right now in the lake so dogs are not allowed to go in the water.

Driving Directions: This is a great staging area, but a little tricky to find. If you're coming from the San Leandro side of Lake Chabot Road, this road is just 50 feet past the main entrance to the Lake Chabot Marina on your left. From Castro Valley, it's just 50 feet before the Marina entrance on your right. You'll see a sign "East Bay Regional Park District, Public Safety Headquarters." Turn onto this road and drive up the winding road to the top of the hill. The parking lot will be on your left. Note: THIS IS NOT the entrance to the marina where you must pay a dog fee. If you end up there by mistake, ask for directions to the Nike Classroom.

Hike Lead: Leah, 650-223-9073

Our August Hike Urban Stairways in Oakland

Our hike led us through the secret stairways of Oakland. There are over 400 little-known staircases and pathways that wind up the East Bay landscape. These were originally built as shortcuts for an influx of hillside residents to get to streetcars post-1906 earthquake. We saw amazing views and beautiful houses. Thank you Peter Goldstein (not-pictured) for taking the photo.



Tri-Valley Cultural Jews Intro to Jewish Culture School



First Day of Jewish Culture School: September 8th, 2019

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

RSVP: culturaljews@gmail.com, or call 510-384-8756

Jewish Culture School is open to children ages 5-14 and culminates in a Brit Mitzvah ceremony.

Throughout this school year, students will be encouraged to discuss among themselves and with their parents topics related to these themes. The younger children will enjoy crafts related to the concepts; older children will learn the history and literature surrounding these Jewish ideas. Both classes will learn songs on these themes. And, of course, we'll still be cooking, dancing, and hearing Jewish folktales.

Come learn about the fun ways we teach Jewish Culture in a hands-on and engaging way! We enjoy singing, dancing, and cooking in a Secular Humanistic Jewish environment. **Students who attend this first day will paint mezuzahs and hear stories. Enrolled students paint for free; others pay \$10 per mezuzah. Space is limited... make your reservations now! RSVP to culturaljews@gmail.com, or call 510-384-8756 with any questions.**

The school-wide curriculum for the 2019-2020 (Jewish year 5780) will be "Jewish Ideas." We'll cover topics like Jewish views of Justice, Learning, Family, Being a Mensch, Israel or Diaspora and the Jewish Community. Our first session will be on September 8th from 10:30-12:30 at Aran's Art Studio in Castro Valley. All other sessions will be held in Pleasanton.

Board Meeting/TVCJ Planning

Date: Tuesday, September 10th 2019

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

Place: Ireland Home, [19663 Fremery Court, Castro Valley 94546-3540](https://www.google.com/maps/place/19663+Fremery+Court,+Castro+Valley,+CA+94546-3540)

All members are welcome

Havdalah Potluck and Game Night

Date: September 21st, 2019

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

Place: Berenson Residence, 49 Nead Place, San Ramon CA 94583

For More Information: 925-413-8474



Rosh Hashanah Observance



Date: Sunday, September 29th, 2019

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Place: Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore, CA

Cost: Free to members; \$20.00 per non-member adult.

Join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for Rosh Hashanah, the start of the Jewish New Year., We will start with Tashlich (4:30pm), a walk to the nearby creek to symbolically wash away our misdeeds of the past year. Then we will have a potluck dinner at the Bothwell Arts Center (5:30pm) followed by a secular humanistic Rosh Hashanah observance (7:00-8:00pm). This is a child friendly but not child-centered event.

For more information: (925) 485-1049

Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre Observance



Date: Tuesday, October 8th, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Place: Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore, CA

Cost: Free to members; \$20.00 per non-member adult.

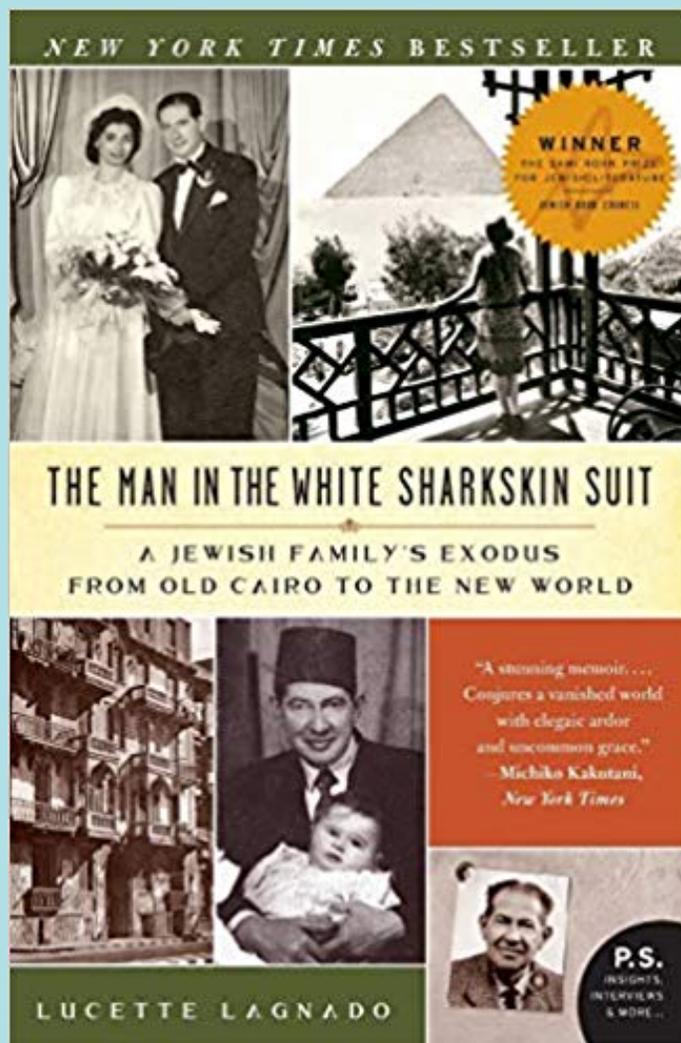
For more information: (925) 485-1049

Join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for a secular, humanistic observance of Yom Kippur. We will be holding Kol Nidre services. This will be a program of readings in English, with discussion and music. It is a child friendly but not child-centered event.

BOOK REVIEW

The Man in the White SharkSkin Suit:
A Jewish Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New
World

By
Lucette Lagnado



This memoir tells about the author's childhood in Cairo, Egypt up to her adulthood in America. She discusses her complicated family relationships, as well as what her life was like in Egypt, Paris and New York in the 1940s through the present. As part of an orthodox Jewish family, she felt she was an outsider wherever she lived.

Because her father, to whom she was very close, was extremely conservative religiously and culturally, her life was complicated as the family attempted to adapt to new ways and environments. Her mother and siblings all had issues in this regard and followed different paths. Because they went from extreme wealth in Egypt to severe poverty in America, life was always a challenge.

I found this memoir to be very moving and could relate to various family members. The writing style of the author was quite engaging and made me want to continue to discover what would happen next. I would highly recommend this book. [Click here to purchase this book on Amazon.](#)

Book Review by Jerry Zwick

Who We Are



In August We Remember:

Lou Garcia
John Gates



Happy August Birthdays:

Elsa Grabowski
Jamie Ireland
Robert Pepper
Joy Randel

Board Members:

Karen Furst 925-784-1775
Jazz Saluen-Grabowski 718-578-7876
Ira Ehrlich 310-995-4149
Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404
Rebecca Ireland 510-888-1404
Bret Mogilefsky 510-610-1956
Joy Randel 925-362-3245

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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