

# 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) 399-8029

**Affiliated with the Cultural and Secular Jewish Organization**

**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 5th, 2020***

### **TVCJ Community News**

#### **Have You Had an Important Event?**

If you have an important event this past year such as Academic Awards, Retirements, New Jobs, Death or Births, then please let Judy know by sending an email to [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com). Please put your name and the words "important events" in the subject line of your email.

# TVCJ Shofar Blowing Contest



## Jewish Month of Elul

It's the Jewish month of Elul, the only Jewish month with no holidays. The only month you're not scurrying around cooking for the holiday, cleaning for the holiday, inviting friends and family, making sure you have whatever holiday supplies you need for your household's traditions. The only month you have time to sit and think, to contemplate, to plan.

Well, that's the theory. In reality, Elul is often a really busy month. Some families go on vacation – and that takes a whole other level of planning. Some families are trying to prepare for the start of the school year, buying clothes and supplies, meeting teachers, visiting classrooms. For others, the press of work, family and volunteer activities doesn't let up at all. (Don't even think about the pressures Jewish professionals are under to plan and write holiday observances.) The time for contemplation is sparse.

But soon, on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we will be asking ourselves to make commitments for the future, to give up old grudges and accept new challenges. And how can we do that if we haven't been thinking about it for at least a little bit? Luckily, our brains are marvelous things. Now that you've read this, your brain has been triggered to make room for these ideas. You might not need to make any conscious effort at all. You're welcome!

## Virtual Havdalah

**Date:** Sept. 12th, 2020

**Time:** 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

**Place:** Look for our Evite or email [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com)

for the link to the zoom event or if you have any questions.

Our Havdalah is a short Secular, Humanistic ceremony in English with music. Bring a braided candle, wine and spices if you have them. Josephine will present one of her Brit Mitzvah projects.



Please join us virtually for a Secular, Humanistic Rosh Hashanah observance as we start our fall holiday season. Tashlich will be included in the observance as the ritual of shedding the misdeeds of the last year.

**Date:** Saturday, September 19th, 2020

**Time:** 4:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.

**Place:** Contact us at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) and we will send you the link to the evite for the zoom event.

**Cost:** Members are welcome to attend free of charge. Non-adult members- we ask a suggested donation of \$10, if you are able. This year after operating costs are covered, we will send to donations to the First Nations Development Institute to help with Coronavirus relief. We will have other opportunities during the observance for all to donate as well.

Children are welcome though it will not be child-centered. If you'd like to make a challah to eat during the observance make it sweet for the new year by adding a quarter cup of melted butter, 2 T sugar and about a cup of raisins during kneading.

If you have any questions please contact us at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com).



**Date:** September 27th, 2020

**Time:** 6:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.

**Place:** Look for our Evite or email [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) for the link to the zoom event or if you have any questions.

**Cost:** \$10 suggested donation for non-member adults, if you can to cover our costs.

Our secular observance will have readings in English and include music. We will be collecting donations for the Jewish Federation Wildlife Emergency Fund as our social action component.

## Sukkot

One of the most enjoyable, family-friendly holidays in the Jewish calendar is just around the corner—Sukkot! The harvest holiday of Sukkot starts the evening of October 2nd. On this holiday, we usually come together to build a sukkah in a member's yard. Of course, this year we are not gathering, but that doesn't mean we can't make sukkahs and eat in them. Judy Seid and David Gates will open their back-yard sukkah to one member family at a time to come bring a picnic and eat in the sukkah. You can make an appointment for any time from Saturday, October 3rd through Friday, October 9 as well as Sunday, October 11th. email [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com)

Since we can't be together in person this year, let's be together on-line. We would love for you to build your own sukkah at home, and post a picture to our Facebook page.

A traditional sukkah is a temporary structure with a loosely thatched roof through which you can see the stars -- but don't worry, we aren't sticklers for the rules and we encourage artistic liberties. Be creative and have fun! Here are some ideas to get you going:

The classic backyard sukkah is always a hit!

Don't feel like getting out your hammer? Maybe you can get resourceful with tarps or sheets.

No backyard? How about a porch sukkah?

If you're short on yard space or the air outside is smoky, how about a sukkah-like fort or tent in your living room?

If your house is feeling too crowded these days, maybe you can think small... a lego sukkah? An origami sukkah?

Whatever you choose to do, don't forget to decorate! Paper chains, painted murals, curly ribbons, small paper stars-- have fun and make it festive!

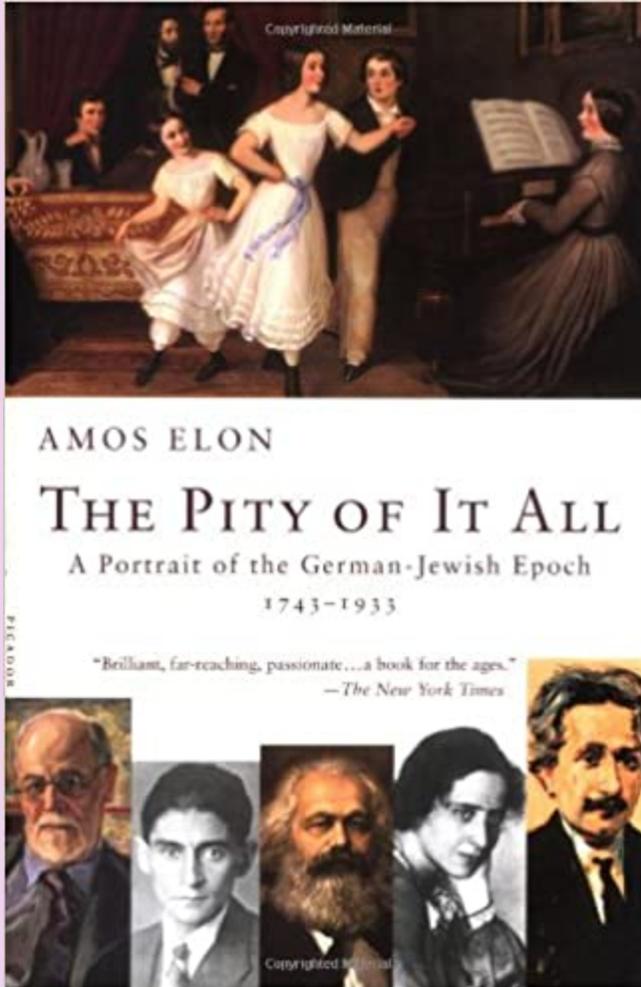
**Then, take a picture of your family enjoying your sukkah and post it to your Facebook page between Oct. 2 and Oct. 9. Tag our group by writing @TriValley Cultural Jews in the message section. Now we will all be able to see the creative sukkot our friends created!**

Finally, as Sukkot is a harvest holiday, we hope you will consider a donation to Dig Deep Farms, which provides fresh food for those in need. Especially now, when so many are out of work, your donation can really help. You can donate by clicking here [Dig Deep Farms](#).

**Like our Facebook page** (trivalley cultural jews) and follow us on Instagram! When you see our posts, please share them so that other Cultural, Secular and Humanistic Jews can find us! **Please also go to the web page and share our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur posts.** Since we're on zoom this year, there's plenty of room for all. We can't wait to see your smiling faces in your sukkot!

## **TVCJ members Surprise!**

TVCJ members were delighted to find packets of shabbat and havdalah supplies - and a recipe for challah - at their front doors in early August. Thanks to Ira and Maggie Pino for putting the packets together, to the Akin-Pino, Ireland and Seid-Gates families for delivering them, and to Jamie Ireland for mailing those out of our "delivery area."



## **Book Review** **THE PITY OF IT ALL** **By** **Amos Elon**

This book is a historical account of German Jewry from the time of the Middle Ages to the rise of Nazism. What stands out is how the Jews in Germany so often became accepted then reviled depending on shifting economic and political conditions.

The author discusses the important figures in German Jewish politics, poetry, philosophy and the arts. So many of these famous people were admired and accepted, but only to a degree. Once their Jewishness (religious or secular) was considered, their total acceptance was curtailed. Religious bigotry often raised its ugly head. Many tried to gain acceptance by converting to Christianity, but this often didn't work once their origins were discovered.

The amazing thing was that Germany was once considered one of the most progressive and orderly societies in Europe. It welcomed Jews and Jewish contributions. Yet, as we know, it later degenerated into one of the most violently anti-Semitic countries of the world.

This book extremely informative, authoritative and well written, if somewhat long. I would highly recommend it.

**Reviewed by Jerry Zwick**

# Zingeray, free Yiddish classes, new course on Jewish radicals then and now

## SF Jewish Folk Chorus ZINGERAY - Sunday, Sept. 6, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

The Jewish Folk Chorus of San Francisco presents our 2nd Zingeray-sing-along of Yiddish Songs via Zoom. Sing with Cantors Linda Hirschhorn and Sharon Bernstein, Achi Ben-Shalom, and Janice Rubin - in Yiddish, Hebrew, and other languages! **FREE** event - **RSVP REQUIRED to: [info@jewishfolkchorussf.org](mailto:info@jewishfolkchorussf.org)**

## Workers Circle/Arbeter Ring FREE bi-weekly Zoom Yiddish classes - beginning Sept. 11th

Two levels, Beginners Yiddish I and II, will be taught by Andrew Kuznetsov every other Friday afternoon, through December. Instruction in reading, writing, conversation.. For more information, times, and registration, contact coordinator **Sharon Wilensky: [bigwilensky@sonic.net](mailto:bigwilensky@sonic.net)**

## A new course via Zoom - four Sundays Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25, 10:30 am-11:45 am "Do We Still Want Bread and Roses? American Jewish Radicals Then and Now"

[Click Here to Buy Tickets](#)

Taught by author, professor emerita of sociology and WC/AR board member Elaine Leeder, co-sponsored by Hamaqon and WC/AR of Northern California  
Connections between earlier and current activism.

**Week 1:** Our Radical Foremothers and Forefathers

**Week 2:** Theories of Social Change

**Week 3:** Roles Jewish radicals have played in Civil Rights and Black Lives Matter

**Week 4:** Jews and Contemporary Social Movements

[Click Here to Buy Tickets](#)

blayb gezunt un shtark (stay healthy and strong)



## In September We Remember:

Lynn Zizlavsky  
Sam Zuckerman

## Who We Are

### Board Members:

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski 718-578-7876  
Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404  
Rebecca Ireland 510-888-1404  
Bret Mogilefsky 510-610-1956  
Jesse Pino 925-605-6003  
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**Newsletter:** Joy Randel 925-362-3245

**Webmaster:** Noah King 925-371-8585

**JCS Teachers:** Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid



**Holiday Coordinator:** Jamie  
Ireland 510-888-1404  
**Movie Coordinator:** Wendy  
Berenson 925-829-0554

## Happy September Birthdays:

Ira Ehrlich  
Wendy Berenson Garcia  
Ilan-Green  
Sophia Ireland  
Jane Morrison  
Evangeline Pepper  
Mathilda Shulewitz



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