

# News & Fun Activities

[View this email in your browser](#)

 Share  Forward  Tweet

## Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

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



 Share  Forward  Tweet

**\*\*Please share this with your friends by clicking on the Facebook, Email, or Twitter symbols above.\*\***

## ***October 12th, 2020***

### **TVCJ Community News**

### **Sophia's Bat Mitzvah**





Solomon and I wanted to publicly thank our TVCJ community for supporting Sophia through her Bat Mitzvah preparation. We couldn't be prouder of her and all the work she put in and the young woman she has become.

The projects she presented were very meaningful to her. The extensive family history that she researched took many hours of conversations with family members on both sides of our family and many sources to track down all the details. She really has a true sense of where she comes from and sees the importance of immigration to this country as a key piece in her becoming who she is today.

She loves cooking, so making a recipe book of foods she likes to eat throughout the year for each Jewish Holiday really speaks to one of her main interests. [Click here to see Sophia's recipe book.](#)

One of Sophia's many talents that was showcased here was her shofar-blowing. She demonstrated how she blows it as well as the history behind it. Impressive! Reading her Torah portion and learning about Moses at the end of his life was interesting as well.

Literacy is important to Sophia, so she built a Little Free Library for us to have in front of our house. Our neighborhood is enriched by her efforts.

It was wonderful to see so many from our TVCJ community at the event, our first Zoom ceremony, and Sophia did a great job. Luckily she loves making slideshows and presenting on the screen.

**Jamie Ireland**

## **October Havdalah**

**Date:** October 24th 2020

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

Our Havdalah is a short Secular, Humanistic ceremony in English with music. Bring a braided candle, wine and spices if you have them. We will have a Brit Mitzvah presentation and play virtual games.



## A Thank You to TVCJ

We received a lovely thank-you note from Eden UCC Church, through which members of TVCJ donated for an asylum-seeking family sponsored by the church. Members donated gift cards and cash of \$325, which will help this family buy clothing, school supplies, and other necessities for the children.

## Simchas Torah

If you're reading this newsletter right about the time you received it, it's the Jewish holiday of Simchas Torah (or close to it). Simchas Torah is the time that religious Jews finish reading the Torah and begin again immediately. It's a celebration of every ending containing a new beginning.

If you're like me – and everyone I've talking with for the past seven or eight months (or maybe 4 years) – you are yearning desperately for a new beginning, for an end to this pause in our normality, both as individuals and as a country. No matter how hard we wish it, the changes we want to see, the changes we are working towards, are not going to happen right away. It's really hard to keep trying when you don't see results.

If I were a different kind of rabbi, I'd have a nice neat answer for you. Some uplifting moral. Some lofty theme. But I'm not and I don't. All I can say is, life is not like reading the Torah. You don't get instant resets. You have to work for your new beginnings. It's not easy. It's not always successful. But we do know that if you don't actually do something, nothing will change. Your efforts may not be sufficient, but they are necessary. - **Judith Seid**

## Circle of Lights Gala



This gathering is an opportunity for us to celebrate United Religion's Initiative (URI) and the people that make our work for peace possible... YOU, the members of our Cooperation Circles! You'll have the chance to mingle and get to know other members and celebrate URI's 20th anniversary, including a premiere of the Visionaries documentary about URI's grassroots global efforts.

A unique virtual gala with two options to accommodate global time zones:

**Saturday October 17, 2020**

Virtual Gala Doors Open at 7:00 AM (Pacific Time)

**Wednesday October 21, 2020**

Virtual Gala Doors Open at 5:00 PM (Pacific Time)

To learn more details about the event and reserve your seat for free, please [click here](#). **Please reserve your seat by October 15th at the latest. Each person will need a unique email to register.**

This year's Circles of Light event will be on a unique online platform that allows for interaction at tables and other fun virtual spaces. This will be a community experience on a virtual platform different from Zoom, yet with similar controls. More details and participant information will be provided after registration.



**Change a Child's Life  
By Volunteering  
Just One Hour A Week**

Share the wonder of the written word, the magic of books, and the excitement of reading with a child, all online! Please join the Jewish Coalition for Literacy (JCL) as a volunteer reading tutor and make a difference in a child's life.

Online training sessions will focus on preparing volunteers to work with students using virtual learning tools and platforms, as well as providing tutors with online strategies to aid students with reading and comprehension skills.

**JCL Tutor Training Sessions:**

Wednesday, October 21st, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. or

Wednesday, November 18th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**\*Please note, fingerprinting is required by most school districts which may involve a fee.**



### **In October We Remember:**

Adina Senensieb  
Mary Gates  
Seymour Seid  
Taki Greenberg



We don't have any October Birthdays.

What is it about birthdays that make kangaroos unhappy?  
They only get to celebrate them in leap years.

### **Who We Are**

**Rabbi:** Judith Seid

**Madrikha:** Jamie Ireland

#### **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

Mark Shulewitz 510-846-9718

**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



