

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) 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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January 9th, 2021

TVCJ Community News

Member News

We look at some accomplishments from [Brit Mitzvah program](#) graduates.

From Issac:

- I got a job at a bike shop which I enjoy greatly and I have been continuing to work there for almost a year and a half.
- I reached the life scout rank in boy scouts.

From Sierra:

My senior year of high school, I interned at Forest Home Farms in San Ramon. It is a historical farm that is used for educational purposes, like field trips and tours. I helped them research the Backyard Wilderness garden on their property and get a grant for its renovation. I also helped with tasks such as calculating the age of the trees on the farm, designing signage for new historical displays, and leading activities for the public. I also started the design of a nature map for guests to use on a self-guided tour. Unfortunately, I had to stop working there in March because of the pandemic.

From Michelle:

My proudest accomplishment of the last few years is being in the best physical and mental condition of my life. Also, I did my laundry.

From Colin:

I went to a program at UC Berkeley to learn about programming in advanced web development which is something I'm definitely interested in, and I hope to be a TA for this year.

From Alex:

I do MUN (Model United Nations) as a club and did my first MUN conference at the SFMUN and got a verbal award.



Zol Zayn Sholem

Learn an easy Yiddish song about peace, freedom and friendship.

Upcoming Events

January Havdalah

We will be having our short secular, humanistic observance. If you would like to participate have a braided candle, glass of wine/juice, and spices.

Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021

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

Zoom meeting ID : 568 599 7884 If a password is requested, enter 123123.

If you have questions, please contact Jamie at culturaljews@gmail.com

Tu B'shvat

Zoom meeting ID : 568 599 7884 If a password is requested, enter 123123. **If you have questions, please contact Jamie at culturaljews@gmail.com**

Tu B'Shvat has become a "Jewish EarthDay" where we focus on our environment and our member Leah Morrison will speak to us about her journey making a zero-waste household and she will give us tips. We will also have a short Tu B'Shvat seder.

On Tu B'Shvat it is traditional to eat the 7 species of Israel so we invite you to make a dish that incorporates one or more of the following: olives, grapes(raisins), figs, dates, citrus, almond, carob and share with us what you make at the event and we will collect recipes to distribute.

We ask non-member adults to give a donation of \$10 if you are able to support our programming. **Anything above \$10 and member donations will be donated to the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights in San Francisco Bay Area.**

February Purim/Havdalah

Date: Saturday, February 27th, 2021

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

Zoom meeting ID : 568 599 7884 If a password is requested, enter 123123. If you have questions, please contact Jamie at culturaljews@gmail.com

We ask non-member adults to give a donation of \$10 if you are able to support our programming. **Anything above \$10 and member donations will be donated to the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights in San Francisco Bay Area.**

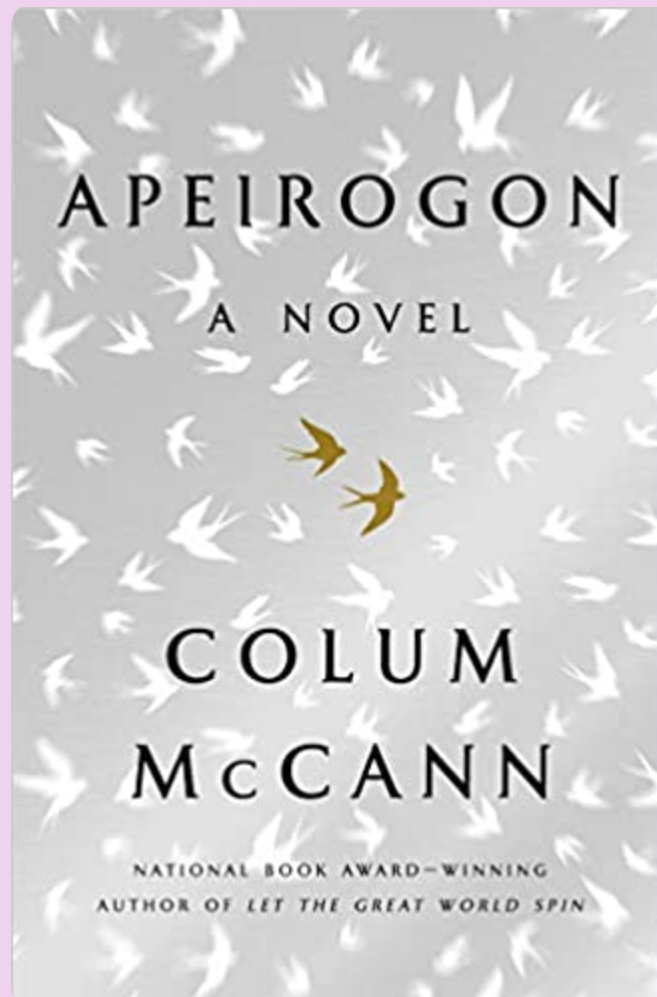
Philosophers' Cafe

Thanks to Eileen Alkin-Fagliano for leading the January Philosophers' Cafe, a discussion of our relationship to Israel. The questions and answers were

Philosophers' Cafe is held the first Thursday of each month and the topics vary from intense to light, and there's no homework! We find out the topic when we sign on. Join us next month!

When: First Thursday of each month at 7:00p.m.

Zoom meeting ID : 568 599 7884 If a password is requested, enter 123123. **If you have questions, please contact Jamie** at culturaljews@gmail.com



BOOK REVIEW

COLUM MCCANN

The title of this novel "Apeirogon" refers to a geometric figure with an infinite number of sides. It discusses the many sides of the Israeli and Palestinian conflict.

The main characters are an Israeli citizen named Rami, and an Arab Palestinian named Bassam. The only thing they have in common is that they both had daughters who were killed by the other side. They meet at an organization called the Parents Circle. It is made up of Israelis and Palestinians who faced the same tragedy. The two become close friends and speak around the world about the endless conflict.

There are two aspects of the book that I found difficult: first was the graphic description of the jail time experienced by Bassam, and second, the author's style in which he skipped around to the different characters and time frames. The latter led to confusion for me at times and I found it somewhat difficult to follow. However, on the whole, the book was well worth reading because it provided new insights into the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the occupation, as well as the emotions of the families on both sides. No permanent solutions were arrived at.

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick



In January We Remember

Hillel Cohen
Charles Roy Colvin

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



January Birthdays

Marisa Castaldini
Mary Frances Colvin
Kevin Coren
Levi Coren
Tom Green
Colin Mogilefsky
Mitch Morrison

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

Joke: Why did a seagull fly over the sea?
Because if it flew over the bay, it would be a baygull.



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