

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."



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

August 28th, 2021

TVCJ Community News

Upcoming Events

Member News

Mazal tov to Jaime Heiss, who has completed his master's degree in data science.

Our very own Rebecca Ireland has started a new chapter of the Secular Student Alliance at Castro Valley High. Secular Student Alliance empowers secular students to proudly express their identity, build welcoming

communities, promote secular values, and set a course for lifelong activism. [To find out more about Secular Student Alliance click here.](#)

Jewish Culture School

[Jewish Culture School](#) (JCS) has a new program for JCS grads! Our new program combines helping out at [Jewish Culture School](#) and doing community service projects. Our new high-school aides will create videos on topics in our curriculum for use with our kids, they'll catalog our library, and they'll work on greening our community through our partnership with Dayenu, an organization that encourages ecological awareness in the Jewish community. In addition, they will sing and dance with our students, encouraging them to participate. We welcome Colin and Sophia into our new program. We have room for one more, so let us know if you are interested! Rebecca Ireland will continue as our senior aide and assistant song leader. Teachers are Judith Seid and Jazz Salwen-Grabowski. You can find us at www.trivalleyculturaljews.org.

[Click here for more information on Jewish Culture School.](#)

[Click Here if you would like to know information about our Brit Mitzvah program.](#)

If you have questions, please contact

Jazz at culturaljews@gmail.com or call **(925) 399-8029**.

Updated: Rosh Hashanah

Date: Monday, September 6th, 2021

Cost: Free to members, suggested donation \$10.00 per non-member adult if you are able.

Meeting Place & Time: 2:00p.m. Please refer to the schedule below. We will gather at the **Bothwell Arts Center**, 2466 8th St, Livermore, CA 94550, (West End Room)

Given the current COVID situation, the Board has decided to forgo the potluck dinner portion of our Rosh Hashanah celebration. To this end, and to allow people to make alternative dinner arrangements, we will start our Tashlich walk earlier. **Masks are required for all attendants.** We hope to see you there!

Updated Times:

2:15p.m. - 3:15p.m. Tashlich walk to the creek and back

3:15p.m. - Outdoor Rosh Hashanah Ceremony (The Ceremony will also be available for others to join via Zoom.)

Apples and honey after the Ceremony

Not child-centered but children are always welcome. Look for the evite to

RSVP or email Jazz at culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions.

Updated: Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre)

Date: Wednesday, September 15th, 2021

Time: 7:00p.m.- 8:00p.m. Join us for our beautiful outdoor observance of this day of reconciliation.

Meeting Place: **Bothwell Arts Center**, 2466 8th St, Livermore, CA 94550, (West End Room)

Cost: Free to members, \$10.00 suggested donation for non-members.

We will have a short Humanistic ceremony with music. **Masks are required for all attendants. Please bring your own folding chair and water bottle if possible.** Not child-centered but children are always welcome. Look for the evite to RSVP or email Jazz at culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions.

Updated: Annual Sukkot Building

Date: September 19th, 2021

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Place: **Pino-Akin Household - Outdoor location** (Address will be in the Evite)

Cost: Free to members, \$10.00 suggested donation for non-members.

Please a branch to put on top of the outdoor sukkah, and a fruit to hang as decoration. In light of the current COVID conditions, we will forgo our potluck this year. **Masks are required for all attendants. Please bring your own folding chair and water bottle if possible.**

We will have games and crafts and fun for all. Look for the evite to RSVP or email Jazz at culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions.

October 7th Philosophers' Cafe

Day: First Thursday of each month (next one is October 7th)

Time: 7:00p.m.

Place: Zoom

Cost: Free to members, \$10.00 suggested donation for non-members.

New board member Rachel Rose led a terrific Philosophers' Cafe discussion in August. The theme was Tradition and Identity Creation. Rachel introduced the topic with some definitions of customs, culture and traditions as well as a personal story about deciding which traditions and

customs to follow. The definition of culture is that it is any set of things which a group of people does for any reason other than it's the best way to do it. A lively discussion ensued and we heard a lot of fascinating personal histories.

If you'd like to discuss interesting topics, both serious and light-hearted, please sign on - we'll continue to meet on zoom. We won't meet in September, but we'll continue in October. We discuss topics timely and ancient, serious and lighthearted. There are no rules and there's no homework! If you have an idea you'd like to discuss, please let us know by emailing culturaljews@gmail.com and we'll schedule your session. Join us!

If you have questions, please contact
Jazz at culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029**.

TVCJ Board

Note on Smoke: For the upcoming outdoor holiday celebrations, the Board will monitor the air quality. At 6:00p.m. the night before, if the air quality index (AQI) is projected to be above 100 during the event, we will move the event to Zoom and send out instructions.

Current TVCJ Mask Policy

Our events bring together people from different geographical areas and include many young, unvaccinated, and vulnerable people. Based on the survey results as well as growing concerns over the Delta variant and changing government guidance, the TVCJ Board has decided on the following policies for upcoming events:

- Events will be held outdoors; in poor weather, events will be held virtually.
- All event attendees must wear masks except when eating.
- Family groups will maintain 6' distance while eating.

We will continue to monitor new guidance and trends in the pandemic's progression, and will make changes to these policies as needed.

CSJO 2021 Annual Conference Presentations

On Memorial Day weekend 2021, CSJO celebrated its 51st annual conference. To view the presentations [click here](#).

Interfaith Interconnect

Religion Chat

Date: Wednesday, September 8th, 2021

Time: 5:00p.m.- 6:15p.m. via Zoom. Meeting room opens at 4:45p.m.

Topic: How Does Your Faith Approach Health Issues? **One of the speakers will be Caryl Shill of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Our second speaker is pending.** Come to hear some of the ways different religions' beliefs, traditions, practices, and rituals address topics such as nutrition, addiction, mental health, and contagion. Afterwards, there will be time for questions. All are welcome!

[Click Here to go to the Zoom Link](#)

[Click Here for More Information on their Facebook page](#)

[Click here](#) to see the video from our August 11th Religion Chat: Rabbi Larry Milder and Dr. Abdul-Mun'im Jitmoud speak on the topic of forgiveness in Judaism and Islam.



JEWISH FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

EAST BAY



We've reached a critical and urgent moment.

With the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan, the situation in the country has turned chaotic. An emergency evacuation of Afghans who worked alongside the U.S. military over the past twenty years is now taking place. These people and their families are being targeted by the Taliban, and our country has an obligation to offer them safety and refuge. Some planeloads of refugees have arrived in Fort Lee, Virginia, and this month, JFCS East Bay has already welcomed 40 people to begin their new lives in the East Bay. We are currently waiting for 23 people more people to arrive from Fort Lee, and have accepted the cases of another 33 who are still in Afghanistan. The number and pace of resettlement is like nothing we've seen in recent years.

JFCS East Bay is here and ready to uphold the Jewish values of welcoming the stranger and caring for the vulnerable, as our staff and volunteers work to resettle these interpreters, drivers, and other workers and their families.

Our country has not undertaken a refugee evacuation of this size since the Vietnam War. It is therefore time for JFCS East Bay to put our 144-year history of refugee resettlement into hyperdrive.

Our Refugee Services team will need a significant amount of support to pull off the demands of the next few weeks and months. This is an all-hands-on-deck moment. We are one JFCS East Bay, and this is the time to come together in service to our newest community members.

It's time to mobilize. Here are some ways you can get involved and support our immediate refugee needs:

VOLUNTEER: [Please click here and fill out our Community Sponsorship Groups form.](#) These groups of 4 to 6 volunteers will assist our case managers with tasks such as airport pickups, signing up refugees for their social services benefits, helping register children for school, providing ESL language support, and other related needs.

DONATE: Your financial donations are needed now more than ever to ensure we have the proper staffing to support new refugees. [Please click here to make a donation to JFCS East Bay.](#)

SUPPORT: Please consider purchasing something from our [Amazon Wish List.](#) [Click Here to see the Amazon Wish list.](#) These items are shipped to our office in Concord and put directly into the hands of refugees.

Thank you so much for joining us in this urgent effort. Together, we can replace fear and displacement with a new home and renewed hope.

Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund **[Here I am Initiative](#)**

Today, JCRC and the Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund are thrilled to announce the launch of our new [Here I Am](#) initiative, pushing back against antisemitism by demonstrating the vibrancy, diversity and values of the Bay Area Jewish community.

The initiative will be centered around video storytelling, empowering individuals to share their experiences of encountering antisemitism and other forms of hate levelled against diverse Jewish individuals as a means of educating the community about Jewish allyship in this difficult moment.

[Click here to find out about the Here I am Initiative.](#)

[Click here to join the Here I Am initiative! Whether you're Jewish or an ally, record your video, and make your story heard.](#)



In August We Remember

Frances Shapiro Colvin
John Gates
Lou Garcia
Susan Durfee Hudson



August Birthdays

Elsa Grabowski
Jamie Ireland
Genoveva Llosa
Dani Noy
Robert Pepper
Joy Randel

Joke: How does the moon cut his hair? Eclipse it!

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

Rachel Rose 808-494-8586

Newsletter: Joy Randel

Webmaster: Noah King

JCS Teachers: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid

Holiday Coordinator: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Movie Coordinator: Bret Mogilefsky



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