

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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November 20th, 2021

TVCJ Community News

Upcoming Events

Covid Update

Khevre -

As COVID case rates decline and vaccination availability expands, the TVCJ board has decided to begin holding in-door events once again! Starting in January, all participants must be vaccinated and masked while indoors. We intend to make most events available via Zoom as well.

Looking forward to seeing you in person!

Virtual Havdalah Dates

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00p.m. for November & December

11/20/21 Join us for a virtual Havdalah celebration! We'll have a short, Secular Humanistic ceremony, followed by a game of Jewish Scattergories.

Please check the Evite for the Zoom meeting ID and password.

12/18/21 We will have a short, virtual Secular Humanistic ceremony. More Information will be in the Evite.

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

Email: culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions.

Celebrate Chanukah with Us



Date: Sunday, November 28, 2021

Time: 10:30a.m. in person **or** 11:00a.m. on Zoom

Cost: Free to members; suggested donation \$10/non-member

Place: Mogilefsky's Home and Zoom. **Zoom Access will be available for the candle lighting ceremony at 11:00 am.** Look for the Evite for Zoom information.

Join us to celebrate the Festival of Lights at the Mogilefsy's home (**address to follow in evite**). Come for games, music, and a short secular, humanistic ceremony. Please bring a family dreidel to play--we want to see how many different dreidels can be

represented. Jelly donuts and gelt will be available to take home.

For our candle lighting ceremony, it is our tradition to dedicate each candle to someone significant from Jewish history, past or present. **Please consider who you and your family would like to dedicate a candle to. Masks are required for all in person attendants.**

Questions? Contact culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029**.

December 2nd Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

Day: First Thursday of each month (next one is December 2nd)

Time: 7:00p.m.

Place: Zoom (Please see Evite for Zoom information)

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

Philosophers' Cafe is a monthly discussion on topics variously serious and lighthearted - we never know what the topic will be until we show up on Zoom, so there's no homework. Join us the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at 568 599 7884 for an interesting discussion with interesting people. We discuss topics timely and ancient, serious and lighthearted. You never know what the topic will be until you show up, so 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**.

We Need Your Input. What Do You Want to Learn?

Do you ever wish you knew a little more about what religious Jews believe and do? Are you confused about what "Zionism" really means? Are you interested in where the Jews/Israelites/Hebrews really came from? How about the roots of our own Secular movement, Jews from places you didn't know Jews lived, or the weirdest stories of family disfunction every told? TVCJ is considering offering adult education classes. We anticipate that some would be a four-session course and some just a single session. We'll be asking members for their ideas, too - so please think about what you'd like to learn or participate in, and we'll be asking for your input shortly.

Jewish Culture School (JCS).



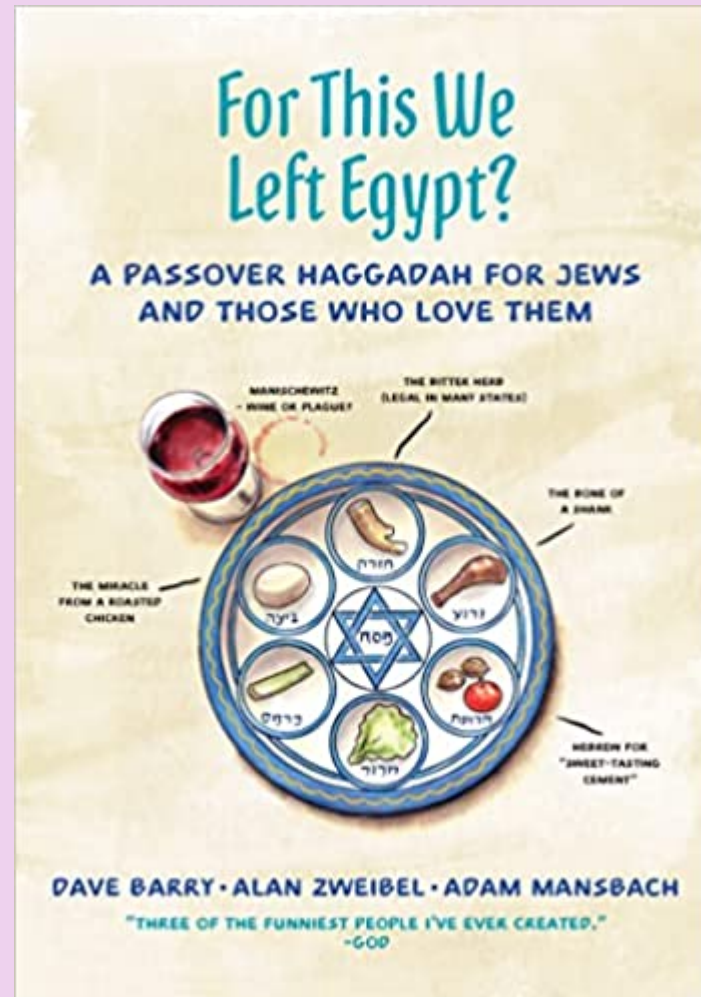
This week at Jewish Culture School, we talked about Jews in early America. Discussion centered around the Founders' ideals of religious freedom, and how it took time for the rights enjoyed by Christians to become available to Jews. We talked about some Jewish heroes and philanthropists - Did you know that the first Jewish Commodore of the US Navy was court-martialed six times and dismissed twice for fighting anti-semitism, before eventually achieving the Navy's highest rank!?

The kids also tried out games that early American children played as they settled into their new home: making and dressing paper dolls, and playing Graces, a game of flinging hoops using sticks. We also enjoyed 'giant latke' potatoniks, and learned a new Hannukah song.

[If you want to learn more about Jewish Culture School click here.](#)

Book Review
For This We Left Egypt?
A Passover Haggadah for Jews and Those
Who Love Them

By Dave Barry, Alan Zweibel, Adam Mansbach



After the 2 years we've been through I thought we needed a good laugh. So hopefully here it is. This book has the two qualities I love most in a book: First, it is short and second, it is funny. It describes the various aspects of the traditional Passover Seder, but not in a serious or accurate way. It talks about the preparation for the Seder, the foods, the wine, the liturgy and the symbolism involved with all of it. If you have never attended a traditional Seder, (as I have in my youth) you probably will never want to after reading this book. But you

will get a good laugh. [If you would like to buy *For This We Left Egypt?* on Amazon Click Here.](#)

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

East Bay Jewish Film For World AIDS Day

Film: ***Who's Gonna Love Me Now?*** Streaming on Eventive

Cost: **Get FREE Tickets and Watch the Trailer**

Israeli filmmakers Tomer & Barak Heymann dig deep into the themes of manhood, religion, family and sex in this documentary about Saar Maoz, an HIV-positive gay man who is torn between his "out" life as a member of the London Gay Men's Chorus and his desire to reconnect with his Jewish Orthodox family in Israel. The film captures the journey of a man striving to maintain his true self as he navigates two very different worlds.

Dates and Time: Nov 30th , 12:00 AM PST – Dec 02, 11:59 PM PST

Register and Get FREE tickets and watch a trailer at:

<https://www.eastbayjewishfilm.org/event-details/whos-gonna-love-me-now>



jewish film institute

November Online Short film of the Month

8 Nights of Christmas

Written & Directed by Max Rogoff



About the Short

Elise, a young Jewish girl, struggles to find meaning in her traditional Hanukkah celebration in a world centered around Christmas festivities. [Click Here to watch 8 Nights of Christmas and a separate video message from the director Max Rogoff.](#)



In November We Remember

Jerry Kranz

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



November

Birthdays

Emma Greenberg
Karen Furst
Amy Greenberg
Kelly Mogilefsky
Alexander Pepper
Monika Poxon

Webmaster: Noah King

JCS Teachers: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid

Holiday Coordinator: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Movie Coordinator: Bret Mogilefsky

Joke: Why couldn't the leopard play hide and seek? Because the leopard was always spotted.



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