

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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August 27th 2022

TV CJ Community News

Like and share our FaceBook page:
<http://facebook.com/trivalleyculturaljews>

Mazel tov to Jaime Heiss and Mari Molina and their children Gabriel and Maya on becoming US citizens!

TV CJ PayPal Giving Fund Page

We now have a PayPal page where you can quickly and easily donate to Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. Simply scan the QR code or visit: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2326042>



Upcoming Events

If you need more information or have questions about anything in this newsletter, then please email culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029**.

Our Calendar

2022:

August 13 - Shabbos Gathering
August 28 - JCS open house
September 11 - JCS
September 25 - Erev Rosh Hashanah gathering
October 4 - Kol Nidre (evening) gathering
October 9 - Sukkah raising party
October 23 - JCS
November 6 - JCS
November 20 - JCS
December 4 - JCS
December 18 - Chanukah party (first light of Chanukah)

2023:

January 1 - JCS
January 22 - JCS
February 5 - Tu B'Shvat
February 19 - JCS
March 5 - Purim
March 19 - JCS
April 2 - JCS/Passover Open House
April 8 - Community Passover Seder
April 16 - JCS
April 30 - JCS
May 7 - Lag B'Omer

Jewish Culture School

Rosh Hashanah Jewish Culture School Open House...and Tell Friends!

Date: August 28th

Time: 10:30a.m.

Cost: FREE

Get ready for Rosh Hashanah with us! Join Tri Valley Cultural Jews for a free Rosh Hashanah Open House in Pleasanton and see what we do at Jewish Culture School. We'll sing, we'll dance, we'll do some crafts, we'll bake and there will definitely be apples and honey!

Find out what a Secular, Humanist Sunday School is all about! Geared towards kids Kindergarten through Brit Mitzvah (5-14) and their families. All are welcome! We are a great fit for interfaith, LGBTQIA+, multiracial, and intercultural families who are seeking a cultural connection to the Jewish community.

We meet outside with masks on to keep everyone safe. Kid centered, but open to everyone. **Bring a friend!** Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** for an Evite.

First Day of Jewish Cultural School

Date: September 11th

Time: 10:30a.m. to Noon

Join the adventure of Jews Around the World as we explore the customs, distinctive dress and holidays of Jews from Argentina to Yemen. Want to know how Jews traditionally earned a living in India? Or what foods are traditional for North African Jews to eat? Come learn, craft and cook with us!

If you know any families looking for a fun Jewish educational experience for their 5-14 year-olds, please have them email culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029**. We meet twice a month from 10:30a.m.-noon in Pleasanton. Classes are held outside with masks on to keep everyone safe.

[Click here to read more about our Jewish Culture School.](#)

My (Not So) Secret Agenda

I've been teaching Jewish School since I was in college and no matter what the curriculum was, it wasn't my first goal that the kids learn the material. It's great when they do, but most people don't remember what they learned in Jewish School. What they remember is how they felt, and that influences how they feel about being Jewish as they grow up. What I care about when I'm teaching Jewish school is that the children come away understanding that no matter their interests or personalities, there's a place for them in the Jewish community, and that being Jewish is fun and meaningful. At Jewish Culture School, we focus on the diversity of the Jewish people, a commitment to social justice, and a sense of community. If you know someone looking for that kind of Jewish education for their children, please tell them about TVCJ's Jewish Culture School.

- By Judith Seid



Rosh Hashanah

Date: September 25th

Time: Tashlich starts at 3:30p.m. and our ceremony begins at 4:30p.m.

Cost: Free to members, suggested donation \$15 per non-member adult if you are able.

Welcome the Jewish New Year through our Secular, Humanist Rosh Hashanah Celebration! We'll gather together on September 25th for a Tashlich walk, followed by our ceremony, which will be available on Zoom and in person.

Start your new year with our gift of apples, honey and a little challah for a sweet year! We'll meet outside with masks on to keep everyone safe. Please bring your own water bottle and sun protection.

Tashlich starts at 3:30p.m. and our ceremony begins at 4:30p.m. More details to follow in our Evite.

Located in Livermore. Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions or would like to be added to the evite list. Free to members, suggested donation \$15 per non-member adult if you are able.

Yom Kippur

Date: October 4th

Time: 6:30p.m.

Cost: Free to members, suggested donation \$15 per non-member adult if you are able.

Join us for a Secular, Humanist Kol Nidre on October 4th at 6:30p.m. We will have a beautiful outdoor observance with music, which will also be available for remote attendance on Zoom.

Not child-centered but children are always welcome. We'll meet outside with masks on to keep everyone safe. Please bring your own water bottle and sun protection.

Located in Livermore. More details to follow in the Evite. Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions or would like to be added to the evite list. Free to members, suggested donation \$15 per non-member adult if you are able.

Sukkot

Date: October 9th

Time: 10:30a.m.

Want help building your Sukkah this year? Host our community Sukkah Gathering at 10:30a.m. on October 9th! Contact us at culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** to volunteer.

Another Circle `Round the Sun

New years are funny things. They are pretty arbitrary - any day can start a new year. So why do we bother with them? Sometimes, as with the Jewish New Year, they signify some seasonal event - in ancient times, the start of the lambing season and later the start of the rainy season. The Christian New Year starts just as the days are getting longer, giving a bit of cheer and hope during the cold months that immediately follow it. Some East Asian new years come at springtime, as flowers bloom and crops begin to grow. But in modern times, we don't feel as connected to the land and we have electricity for light. So why do we keep on observing a new year? Do we have some human need to demarcate a "start-over?" Do we just like to celebrate having survived another circle `round the sun? Or are we celebrating an attachment to what our ancestors did and what people all over the world are doing? Why do you celebrate the new year?

- By Judith Seid

November 3rd Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

Date: First Thursday of each month (next one is November 3rd)

Time: 7:00p.m.

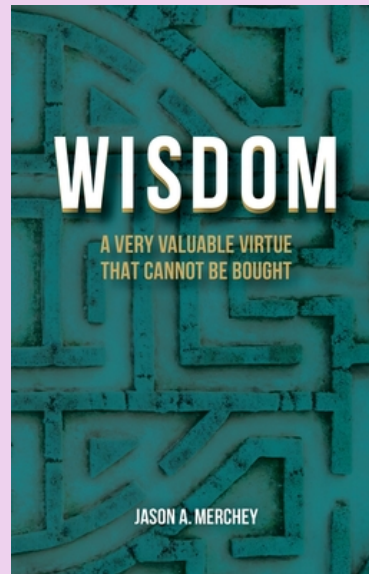
Place: Zoom (The Zoom link will be in the evite you should receive soon.)

Cost: Free to members, \$15.00 suggested donation for non-members.

Our last Philosophers' Cafe until November featured a spirited discussion on professional army (what we call all-volunteer) vs conscripted army, the merits of universal service, and what is feasible in America. We discussed an efficient army vs an equitable army, and the rights of individuals vs the needs of society. We had the benefit of participation from someone who had served in the military, someone who was exempted from service, and someone who was prepared to go to Canada to avoid being drafted. Philosophers' Cafe is an event in which people of different generations can participate on an equal basis. Look for the evite for our November zoom gathering. The topic, as always, can be serious or lighthearted and will be revealed at the event.

BOOK REVIEW

Wisdom: A Very Valuable Virtue That Cannot Be Bought By Jason Merchey



I am departing from my usual Jewish oriented theme of book reviews to bring you a report on a book that transcends all beliefs, secular and religious. Notwithstanding, the author states that he grew up in a secular Jewish household. This book explores the nature of wisdom. The author says that wisdom is not a commodity, but a process. It is how we live our lives.

Wisdom has many components, such as: love, kindness, altruism, generosity, insight, intuition; as well as empathy and compassion, among others. What wisdom is not is important also: it cannot necessarily be attained merely by age, education or experience alone. What seems to be paramount is understanding our values and our attempts to live by them as much as possible. We must not be afraid of failure, because only through failure can we learn and attain a higher level of wisdom.

For the most part I found this book to be very readable. Although some parts contain some esoteric philosophical concepts, these are balanced by humor and down to earth political and practical ideas. Every chapter ends with quotations by a wide variety of writers and thinkers. I found this book to be extremely valuable. It helped me reevaluate many of my ideas and ways of looking at life. I think that most of us will be pleasantly surprised about how much wisdom we have attained so far. It also contains a blueprint of how we can achieve more. Again, this is definitely a process, but an extremely important one. [This book can be found on Amazon by clicking here.](#)

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

UN Peace Day Observance Sept 18th

<https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect/>



Invites you to join us for an
Ice Cream Social
in commemoration of the
UN Day of Peace

UNITED Day OF PEACE



Sun., September 18, 2022 ♦ 3:30-5:00 pm

**Asbury United Methodist Church Courtyard
4743 East Ave., Livermore, CA**

There will be a short program with time for attendees to converse with one another before and after the program.

Jack Quigley, Music Minister, Center for Spiritual Living Livermore Valley, will provide music during the event.

*<https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect>
Interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com*



In August We Remember

Frances Shapiro Colvin
Lou Garcia
John Gates
Susan Durfee Hudson



August Birthdays

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

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

Joke: Why do seagulls fly over the sea? **Answer:** Because if they flew over the bay, then they would be bagels!



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