

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews:

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

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Upcoming Events for June and July 2010

Annual Meeting, JCS play and bagel brunch- Sunday, June 6, 10:30 meeting, 11:00 play. Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St. in Livermore.

Family Havdalah and introduction to TVCJ and Jewish Culture School- Saturday, June 12, 5 p.m. at the Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St. in Livermore. We'll have our usual short ceremony and pizza, but we are inviting any families with young children who might be interested in Tri-Valley Cultural Jews or the Jewish Culture School to come as our guests. Please invite your friends and anyone whom you think might be interested! Please let us know you are coming, so we can have enough food. 510-888-1404.

Planning Meeting- July 14, 7 p.m. the home of Judith Seid and David Gates. 1817 Sinclair Drive, Pleasanton, all members welcome.

Family Havdalah and Pool Party- July 10, home of the Looneys, 7504 Hillsboro Ave., San Ramon, 925-803-0574.

Family Havdalah- August 7, 6 pm, home of the Corens, 720 Willow Creek Ter., Brentwood, 925-240-5612. Come early and visit the u-pick fruit stands!

Jewish Culture School News

Our May 16 meeting was very busy with practicing for our play “Shrewd Todie and Lyzer the Miser”, talking about Shavuot and then making blintzes. We used the recipe found in Judith Seid’s book *God-Optional Judaism*. Thanks so much to Carol King for her help with the cooking. It would have been impossible without her help.

At JCS Sunday May 23rd, we practiced our play and it is coming along nicely (to be performed on June 6th at the Bothwell Center). The younger class did a review activity to recap the year. We did a role play where Jack (a statue of a shtetl scholar) portrayed a priest coming to the town of Lublin to learn about Jewish culture there. Each child was interviewed by him and shared what they liked about the culture of the town. One member taught him the common greeting -Sholem Aleichem- Aleichem Sholem- which he practiced with each person he met. He also learned that in the town they spoke Yiddish, they got their milk from goats to make their own cheese, they traded candlesticks for goats, they celebrated Shabbat with candles and that they donate money on Shabbat. They also taught him that there is a Rabbi that teaches people in the town and resolves conflicts among the people. All of us were engaged in this wrap-up activity; it might make a reappearance as a start-up activity for next year...

JCS will end with our play on June 6 and resume in August. Have a great summer and thanks to all the wonderful kids who got up on Sunday mornings, shared their weeks, added to our “we’re all heart” project, cooked and tried foods (even if they didn’t think they’d like it) and participated in activities.

Message from the President

Now's your chance to get involved! Actually, you've always had the chance to get involved, but the annual meeting is coming up and that's a great time to see what's going on. In reading this newsletter you may have noticed a lot of the same names popping up, these are the people that are involved. They get a lot out of this organization, but they cannot do it all. Get involved! Tri-Valley Cultural Jews needs you and you will get more out of being in it.

Who We Are

President	Kevin Coren 925-240-5612
Board Members	Judith Seid 925-485-1049 Phyllis Looney 925-803-0574 Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404
Newsletter	Marisa Castaldini 925-240-5612 Phyllis Looney 925-803-0574 Ed Looney 925-803-0574
Webmasters	Noah King 925-371-8585 Solomon Ireland 510-888-1404
JCS Teachers	Judith Seid, Jamie Ireland
Phone Chair	Phyllis Looney
Family Shabbat/Havdalah Coordinator	– Jamie Ireland

BOOK REVIEW

I highly recommend "The Little Book" by Selden Edwards

It's hard to describe this novel: it has time-travel, historical figures, wars, romance. Edwards apparently spent 30 years polishing the book, and it is very entertaining. Part of the book takes place in 1897 Vienna, and we meet Freud, Mahler, Mark Twain, Buddy Holly. We visit two world wars, and the book asks the intriguing question: if you knew what was coming, could you murder 8-year-old Adolf Hitler?

Apparently, at least according to this author, fin-de-siecle Vienna was the seedbed for the virulent anti-semitism that infected Europe and much of the world.

-Karen Inkelis

In honor of Shavuot, the holiday of Jewish texts, we recently held an adult Shabbat and Shavuot blintze dinner. Seven people attended and discussed our favorite books.

Here's a list of what came up:

Beggars in Spain by Nancy Kress

Kristin Lavransdatter by Sigrid Undset

The Gambler by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Prayer for Owen Meaney by John Irving

World According to Garp by John Irving

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

Open by Andre Agassi

The Autobiography of Henry VIII by Allison Weir

The History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters by Julian Barnes

The Sotweed Factor by John Barth

If you read any of these or other books and would like to write a review, send it to our email.

Mishpokha (family)

Happy Birthday to Phyllis Looney, Lenore Kreit, Judy Seid, David Gates, Karen Sutton, Carol King.
Our birthday wishes to all the June and July birthdays!

We remember Janice Green, a friend of Daryle Talavera, and Eliza Haile Cloe, grandmother of David Gates. Bruce Enge, stepfather of Erin Lowther and Papa to his grandchildren.

Be sure to send us your family's news!

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who made this year, school, newsletter and events possible. Judy Seid and Jaime Ireland tirelessly plan and lead JCS, always with a smile. Noah King mans the Facebook page among many other tasks, Phyllis and Ed Looney for printing and mailing the newsletter in addition to communicating with Bothwell Center, The Kings, Looneys, Corens, Irelands, Lowthers, Silversmiths, and Suttons for hosting family havdalahs, Shabbats, and general helpfulness, Judy and David Gates for opening their home for Jewish Culture School, everyone who attended, brought food, shared ideas. Without the people in this community, there would be no TVCJ!



In the Community

Community events sponsored by KlezCalifornia:

Tuesday, June 1, 7:30pm "A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs," a talk by David Lehman with songs performed by Sharon Bernstein. Jewish Community Library, San Francisco. No charge. More info: www.bjesf.org.

Thursday, June 3, 6:00-7:30pm, Let's Go Dance, with Kugelplex and dance leader Bruce Bierman, on Jessie Street in San Francisco.

Friday, June 4 - Sunday, June 6, Eric Bendix (from North Carolina) teaches klezmer couple dances at Statewide 2010, an annual three-day folk dance event, in Sonoma. More info: www.statewide2010.com.

Sunday, June 6, 7:00-9:00pm, Pamelakh Yidishe Salon, at a private home in Oakland. No charge. More info: PamelakhSalon@klezcalifornia.org or 415.789.7679.

Saturday, June 12, 2:30-3:30pm, Red Hot Chachkas perform at the free Fairfax Festival. More info: www.fairfaxfestival.com.

Saturday, June 12 - Sunday, June 13, noon - 11:00pm, San Francisco Free Folk Festival 2010. Workshops include Jewish Folk Songs (Lil Rev), Klezmer Scales & Melodies (Aaron Seeman & Mike Penn), Yiddish Songs of Love & Work (Mark Levy), and Klezmer Dancing (Yael Schy & Ellis Island Old World Folk Band). Red Hot Chachkas perform Sunday 5:50-6:30pm. More info: www.sffolkfest.org/2010.

Sunday, June 13, 2:30pm, Annual concert of the Jewish Folk Chorus of San Francisco, at Lick-Wilmerding High School, San Francisco. More info: www.jewishfolkchorussf.org or 510.220.6325.

Sunday, June 20, 3:00-5:00pm, Simcha Dance Jam. See story above.

Sunday, June 20, 3:00-4:00pm, Accidental Klezmer performs at Palo Alto World Music Day. More info: www.pamusicday.org.

Wednesday, June 23, Klezmer music and dancing at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, Berkeley. Bruce Bierman dance leader, band TBA. Doors open 7:30pm, dance lesson 8:00pm, show and dancing at 8:30pm. \$10. More info: www.ashkenaz.com or 510.525.5054.

Sunday, June 27, 6:30-9:30pm, Dinner and klezmer dance party at Tannourine Restaurant, San Mateo. Delicious Lebanese food (with vegetarian options), klezmer music by Jeanette Lewicki and Friends, and dancing with Bruce Bierman. Reservations: 650.638.1960. More info: www.tannourinecuisine.com.

Jewish Community Center

The Contra Costa Jewish Community Center is proud to announce three new exhibits: colorful and vibrant artwork by Michael Yashar, a beautiful and vast collection of Ketubot, and Traditions: From Generation to Generation, an eclectic collection of Judaica from the local community. The exhibits will be at the Contra Costa JCC's Friedkin Art Gallery, Gallery 925, and Tice Valley Gallery from May 12, 2010 through September 17, 2010.

Didja Know?

June in Jewish history:

Canadian Jews received equal rights June 5, 1832

On June 10, 1727, Isaac Miranda was appointed the first Jewish judge in America.

June 26, 1904 was the birthday of Peter Lorre. Didn't know he was Jewish, didja?

On June 27, 1902, the New York Yiddish Newspaper "Die Yidishe Velt" (The Jewish World) published its first issue.

2 fun websites from KlezCalifornia:

· Check out the song of the week at <http://yiddishsong.wordpress.com>

· Fiddler on the Roof in Japanese: www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIJcaJxuOgc

Sholem Community (our sister organization in L.A.) activist Jeffrey Kaye had an excellent Op-Ed article in the March 23 Los Angeles Times, "America's fickle welcome mat," tracing the effect of economic cycles on attitudes toward immigration. Here's the link:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-kaye23-2010mar23,0,5809816.story>

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