

# Where Does the Soul Go After It Departs This World?

JLI offers a new course in Lafayette on the spiritual side of existence

Submitted by Rabbi Dovber Berkowitz



Image provided

Some questions are universal to the human experience. Is there life after death? What happens to the soul after we die? What is it like for those who have traveled over to the Great Beyond? These are but a few of the questions addressed in the newest course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI).

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, JLI will present "The Journey of the Soul," the institute's new six-session course conducted by Rabbi Dovber Berkowitz of Chabad of Contra Costa at the Contra Costa Jewish Day School, 955 Risa Road in Lafayette. The course will also be offered at 10 a.m. at Chabad of Contra

Costa 1671 Newell Ave. in Walnut Creek.

"Journey of the Soul" provides spiritual insight into the soul's journey through life, death, and beyond, as well as ancient Jewish wisdom that sheds light on the philosophical, emotional, and practical aspects of coping with death and mourning.

"Science knows very little about the soul and what happens to it post mortem," said Berkowitz. "It's about what is truly valuable and meaningful in life, which is relevant to everyone, and many have expressed their curiosity to learn about the topic, so we're expecting a very good turnout."

Death of a loved one puts us in touch with our mortality, and often changes our perspective of life, explains Jay Lewis, manager of Gan Shalom Cemetery in Briones and managing funeral director of Sinai Memorial Chapel in Lafayette, which is a sponsor of the course. "Despite this daunting reality, I find that many people want to explore how Judaism addresses these important matters," Lewis said.

Professor Sheldon Solomon of Skidmore College, who co-authored the book "The Worm at the Core: On

the role of Death in Life," said, "This course strikes me as a very fine juxtaposition of ancient theological wisdom with contemporary empirical science. My sense is that this will be an interesting and rewarding educational and personal experience."

The course is being offered in joint sponsorship with the Washington School of Psychiatry, enabling medical and mental health professionals to earn up to 7.5 AMA, APA, CBBS, and ASWB continuing education credits for their participation.

Like all previous JLI programs, "Journey of the Soul" is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call (925) 269-9554 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Contra Costa in conjunction with Chabad of Contra Costa.

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
- ◆ LAMINATE

FAMILY -OWNED  
30 YEARS !

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd  
in Lafayette  
925-284-4440  
lamorindafloors.com



# Lamorinda Fifth-Graders Represent State in International Rabbit Show

Submitted by Allison Curletto



Bettina Curletto with her "Best in Show"-winning rabbit, Shocker



Ava and Bettina Curletto team quiz bowl event.

Ava and Bettina have been meeting with their Junior level teammates for study sessions to sharpen their skills and be ready for the big competition. The Curletto family will make the 600-plus-mile drive up to Portland starting Oct. 29. Instead of getting ready for trick-or-treating, the girls' Saturday and Sunday will be full of tests, quiz bowls and interviews with the results unveiled at the Youth Banquet on Tuesday night, Nov 3. Monday their rabbits are judged as well as some artwork and educational posters that they are submitting.

Ava and Bettina are also helping their breed specialty club. They belong to the National Jersey Wooly Rabbit Club. Ava is making the favors for the NJWRC Breed Award Banquet where breeders (adult and youth) from all over the world come together to celebrate improvements and learn from each other. Bettina is organizing the fundraising raffle for the club, which awards youth scholarships and education with the money it raises.

Both girls have been very successful with their rabbits. Ava is the current title winner of showmanship in her age group in all of California. She won this title at the California State Convention in Turlock in February 2015. Bettina's most recent win was the Best in Show award at the Contra Costa County Fair in May 2015 where her rabbit, Shocker, was chosen as the rabbit most close to perfection in the whole county. She won a large trophy, banner, ribbon and belt buckle.

# 'Girl Rising' Screening at Acalanes Oct. 30

Submitted by Samantha Taketa

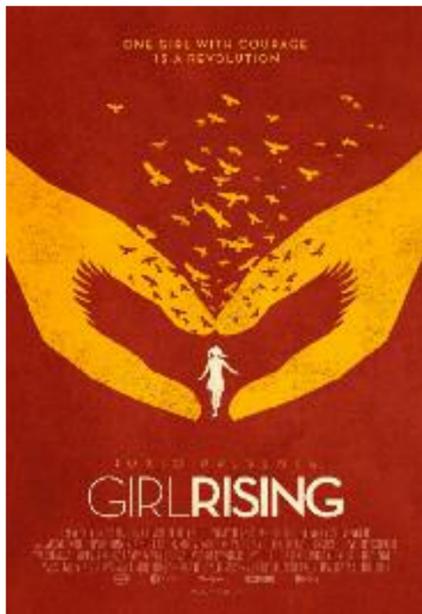


Image provided

The Acalanes High School Students for the Advancement of Global Education (SAGE) club is hosting a community screening of the groundbreaking film, "Girl Rising," at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30 in the school's Performing Arts Center. Girl Rising is a feature film narrated by Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and others, that tells the stories of nine incredible girls living in the developing world: ordinary girls who confront tremendous challenges and overcome nearly impossible odds to pursue their dreams. It is a moving testament to the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change lives, communities, nations and the world. The film is directed by Academy Award-nominated director Richard Robbins, and is rated PG-13 for mature content.

Acalanes' SAGE club is a student-led organization that works closely with Trust in Education to provide educational, economic and health care assistance to Afghan families and promote gender equality.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. Additional donations are welcome. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Trust in Education and to the Girl Rising Fund. To view trailers of the film, visit www.girlrising.com/see-the-film/about-the-film/.

We're here to help... 24/7



whenever and wherever you need us.

Care Indeed is here to provide you or your loved one with compassionate and professional service. We offer assistance with personal care, help with mobility and simple exercises, companionship, medication reminders, meal preparation, light housekeeping, shopping, and errands.

Our respectful, caring and highly skilled Caregivers are a vital health care resource; they are trained to document activities or services performed in a timely, specific, accurate and complete manner.



2121 N. California Blvd., Ste. 290  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
(925) 317-3080  
www.CareIndeed.com

# BAD INC. Bay Area Drainage, Inc.

## Are You Ready For El Niño?

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls
- Pavestone Driveway & Walkways

A General Engineering Contractor  
Locally owned and Operated  
Contractor LIC # 762208

925•377•9209



visit our website  
www.bayareadrainage.com