

# News & Fun Activities

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## Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

**TriValleyCulturalJews.org**

[info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org](mailto:info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org)

(925) 485-1049

**Affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations**

**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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## April 25th, 2017

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## TV CJ Community Events and Dates

### Board meeting/TV CJ Planning

**Date:** Tuesday, May 9th, 2017

**Time:** 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

**Place:** Seid-Gates home, 1817 Sinclair Drive, in Pleasanton.

**All members are welcome**

### Come to Our Lag B'Omer Event



Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will be hosting our annual Lag B'Omer picnic potluck.

**Date:** Saturday, May 13th, 2017

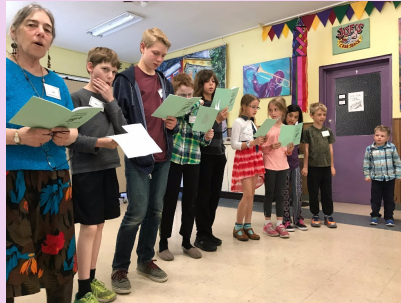
**Time:** 10:30a.m. – 12:30p.m.

**Place:** Athan Downs Park, 2975 Montevideo Dr. in San Ramon.

***Please bring:*** a picnic dish to share, an outdoor toy (frisbee, ball, etc.), and be ready to participate in in our fun and hilarious annual watermelon toss.

### Our Passover Seder

Wow what a wonderful turn-out for our annual Passover Seder! I'd like to thank everyone who helped out!



Thank you to Amy and Karen who shopped, to Wendy and Rick for cooking, to Leah for taking reservations and Noah for PR. Thank you Solomon for helping me format and print the new hagaddahs and to Amy for last minute runs to the store, to Joy, Kevin, Levi, Emma, Rebecca, Amy, and Judy setting up that afternoon and all who cleaned up. Thank you Ruthy for our music. Thank you also to Mitch for hiding the afikomen, Carol and Noah for greeting, Manda for taking pictures and Kelly for taking the book donations to Jewish Coalition for Literacy. And Judy for answering all my questions and making sure I had everything done. ( I hope I didn't forget anyone!)

Passover is one of my favorite holidays and I love our community celebration where everyone comes together and connects us to Jews all over the world and throughout history who have sat down to tables like ours and made the seder their own.

Rebecca was pleased to get a lot of signatures on her petition to oppose child labor in the chocolate industry. Thank you all for supporting her in community service project for her Bat Mitzvah.

Sophia's impressions of the seder....her favorite seder plate food is the orange, she liked looking for the afikomen and she said the dinner and dessert were yummy!

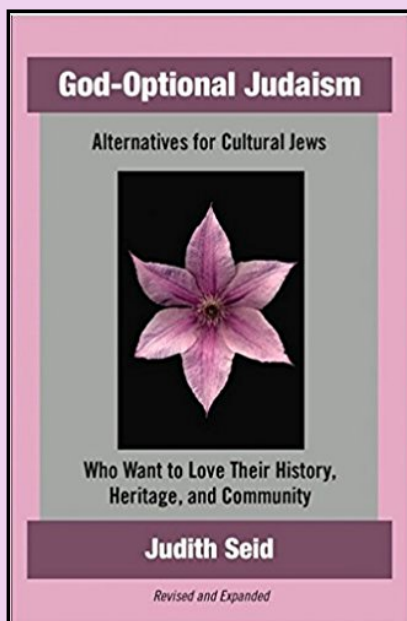


By,  
Jamie Ireland

## **An Author in Our Community**

### **Revised Edition: *God-Optional Judaism* *Alternatives for Cultural Jews Who Love Their History, Heritage, and Community***

Written By Rabbi Judith Seid



[Click Here to Buy it Now!](#) **God-Optional**

**Judaism** is a wonderful, chock-full resource for families and individuals who want to find their place in the Jewish world without necessarily believing in God. Funny, accessible, and open-minded the book touches on key elements of Jewish history and philosophy, all of the major holidays (food recipes included!), and contemporary issues of intermarriage, education, conversion, feelings toward Israel, and spirituality.

**Secular Humanistic Rabbi Judith Seid is a life-long Secular Jew and has been an organizer and active member of thriving Secular Jewish communities in Michigan,**

**Maryland, and California.**

### **For TVCJ Members Only**

**EVENT FULL - Sorry, We are no longer able to take sign-ups.**

***Death Over Dinner – To Be Happier Start Thinking More About Death***

**Date:** Saturday, April 29, 2017

**Time:** 5:00pm – 8:00pm

**Place:** Livermore, CA

Let's talk about the thing we so often try to avoid -- end of life. Talking about life and death helps us articulate and affirm who we are and what we ultimately care about, leaving us better able to appreciate life and to approach death.

*Death Over Dinner* will be a structured discussion over a potluck dinner, with prompts from readings and videos.

There is a maximum of 10 participants, on a first come first serve basis. We'll keep a waiting list for those interested if more than 10 people reply.

## **San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society (SFBAJGS), Oakland**

**Topic:** Reclaim the Records: Using Freedom of Information Laws for Genealogical Research

**Speaker:** Brooke Schreier Ganz

**Date:** Sunday, May 21, 2017

**Time:** 1:00p.m.

**Place:** Oakland Family Search Library

4766 Lincoln Avenue

Oakland, CA 94602

**Cost:** Free

Reclaim the Records is a not-for-profit group filing the Freedom of Information requests to get "off limits" genealogy records released back to the public and put online for free. Light kosher refreshments will be served. Everyone interested is welcome to attend.

## **Jewish Cultural School (JCS)**

This year our Jewish Cultural School theme is Jews in the Art World. We learned about Sonia Delaunay an artist known for her bold colors and geometric shapes. Sonia Delaunay's life touched so many Jewish events in modern history. She was born into the thriving Secular Jewish world in Odessa, home of Yiddish and Hebrew writers and the early Zionist movements. As a girl, she moved to St. Petersburg during a time that few Jews were allowed in major Russian cities. She studied art abroad and did not want to return to the Russian empire after the pogroms of 1903-1905, so she moved to Paris, which was the center of artistic life, and

home to many Jewish artists. She survived the second world war in Free France.

After learning about Jewish history through the life of Sonia Delaunay, the students created art based on her techniques.



### Happy April Birthdays to:

Jeffrey D. Colvin  
Allison Berenson Schiffman  
Ya'el Seid-Green  
Jerry Zwick  
Michelle Coren

### In April We Remember:

Regina Seid  
William Haughn  
Norma Mogilefsky

## Who We Are

### Board Members:

Judith Seid 925-485-1049  
Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404  
Noah King 925-371-8585  
Joy Randel 925-362-3245  
Amy Greenberg 925-989-9826  
Karen Furst 925-784-1775

**Newsletter:** Joy Randel 925-362-3245

**Webmaster:** Noah King 925-371-8585

**JCS Teachers:** Judith Seid,  
Jamie Ireland

### Family Shabbat/Havdalah

**Coordinator:** Amy Greenberg

**Movie Coordinator:** Wendy  
Berenson 925-829-0554

**Adult Programming:** Karen  
Furst



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