

News & Fun Activities

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Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

TriValleyCulturalJews.org

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(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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May 23rd, 2017

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TVCJ Community Events and Dates

Come to Shavout

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will be hosting our annual Shavout celebration.

Date: Sunday, June 4th, 2017

Time: 12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.

Place: Seid-Gates Home: 1817 Sinclair Drive Pleasanton, CA 94588

Please bring: A dairy potluck dish and your favorite topping for blintzes.

ALSO bring your favorite book you've read in the past year (or just be ready to talk about it a little) -- we will get lots of good ideas for summer reading!

Here are our book reviews from past years:

<https://trivalleyculturaljews.wordpress.com/2016/06/26/tvcj-third-annual-book-review/>

<https://trivalleyculturaljews.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/tvcj-july-and-august-2015.pdf>

<https://trivalleyculturaljews.files.wordpress.com/2014/06/tvcj-july-aug-2014.pdf>

Annual Meeting

Date: Sunday, June 11th, 2017

Time: 11:00a.m. to 12:30p.m.

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

All members are welcome

Board meeting/TVCJ Planning

Date: Tuesday, June 13th, 2017

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

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

All members are welcome

Congratulations!

Isaac Passavoy and **Emma Greenberg** each auditioned for and earned a place in their school's jazz band. Isaac plays the trumpet and Emma plays the baritone saxophone.

Sierra Randel completed her 5 hour karate test and earned her 1st degree black belt.

Death Over Dinner

On April 29 ten members of TVCJ met at the home of Debby Seid and Tom Green for our first *Death Over Dinner* event. The theme of the evening was "To Be Happier Start Thinking More About Death". With the accompaniment of a delicious variety of potluck foods, the group reviewed various readings and videos.

These included:

- [To Be Happier, Start Thinking More About Death](#)
- [Top Five Regrets of the Dying](#)
- [A Good Goodbye \(video\)](#)
- [A Strange Relativity: Altered Time for Surgeon-Turned-Patient \(video\)](#)

Each one was followed by interesting discussion about the readings and our own experiences. It was an evening filled with good food, interesting readings/videos, good discussions and companionship.

At the end there was an interest in continuing the discussion by exploring Jewish beliefs and traditions around death in comparison with traditions of other religions including Buddhism and Catholicism. So a second *Death Over Dinner* event will be scheduled for this fall. Date to be determined.

Book Review: IN THE DARKROOM by Susan Faludi

This book is a memoir by a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author.

She tells about her reunion in 2004 with her 76-year-old estranged father in who was living in Hungary. Since she saw him last he had undergone sex reassignment surgery to become a woman. In addition, he became a photographer, an Alpine mountaineer, and an adventurer in the Amazon outback. He was also a Jewish fugitive during the Budapest holocaust, among other things.

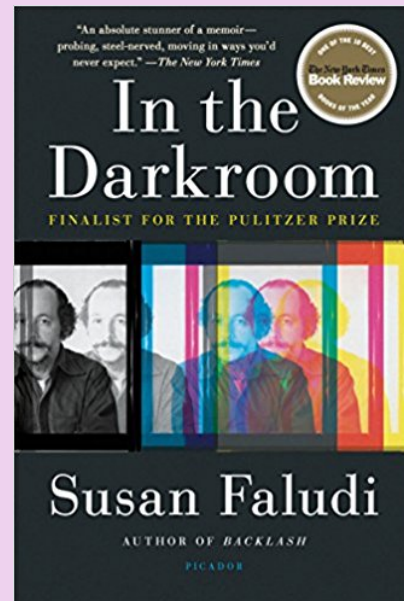
In the story of this reunion she learns about the many changes in his identity, as well as the identity changes and history of Hungary as a nation.

Furthermore, she explores the difficult relationships between him and her

mother and grandparents, who he saves from the holocaust.

This book reads more like a novel than a memoir. It was very well written and hard to put down. To purchase the book [click here](#).

Jerry Zwick



Jewish Cultural School (JCS)



This year our [Jewish Cultural School](#) theme is Jews in the Art World. Our culture school students created art in the style of Marc Chagall. They learned about the Jewish folklore in his images.



Who We Are

Board Members:

Judith Seid 925-485-1049

Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404

Noah King 925-371-8585

Happy May Birthdays to:

Lisa Halperin
Joey Mogilefsky
Bette Siegel
Rebecca Ireland
Rosita Gorel-Wong

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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